

1 (8/2013)

**PRETRIAL INSTRUCTIONS**  
**Honorable Susan Illston**

2  
3 **COUNSEL SHALL MEET AND CONFER IN GOOD FAITH IN ADVANCE OF COMPLYING**  
4 **WITH THE FOLLOWING PRETRIAL REQUIREMENTS.**

5 **1. PRETRIAL CONFERENCE and STATEMENT** - The parties shall comply in all respects  
6 with F.R.Civ.P 16. The statement is due **fourteen days** prior to the Pretrial Conference. The parties  
shall file a joint pretrial conference statement containing the following information:

7 **a. The Action**

8 (1) **Substance of the Action.** A brief description of the substance of claims  
9 and defenses which remain to be decided.

10 (2) **Relief Prayed.** A detailed statement of all the relief claimed, particularly  
11 itemizing all elements of damages claimed as well as witnesses, documents or other evidentiary material  
to be presented concerning the amount of those damages.

12 **b. The Factual Basis of the Action**

13 (1) **Undisputed Facts.** A plain and concise statement of all relevant facts not reasonably  
14 disputable, as well as which facts parties will stipulate for incorporation into the trial record without the  
necessity of supporting testimony or exhibits.

15 (2) **Disputed Factual Issues.** A plain and concise statement of all disputed factual  
issues which remain to be decided.

16 (3) **Agreed Statement.** A statement assessing whether all or part of the action may be  
17 presented upon an agreed statement of facts.

18 (3) **Stipulations.** A statement of stipulations requested or proposed for  
pretrial or trial purposes.

19 **c. Disputed Legal Issues**

20 (1) **Points of Law.** Without extended legal argument, a concise statement of each  
21 disputed point of law concerning liability or relief, citing supporting statutes and decisions setting forth  
briefly the nature of each party's contentions concerning each disputed point of law, including  
22 procedural and evidentiary issues.

23 (2) **Proposed Conclusions of Law.** If the case is to be tried without a jury, unless  
otherwise ordered, parties should briefly indicate objections to proposed conclusions of law.

24 **d. Trial Preparation**

25 (1) **Witnesses to be Called.** A list of all witnesses likely to be called at trial, other than  
26 solely for impeachment or rebuttal, together with a brief statement following each name describing the  
substance of the testimony to be given.

27 (2) **Exhibits, Schedules and Summaries.** A list of all documents and other items to be  
28 offered as exhibits at the trial, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, with a brief statement  
following each, describing its substance or purpose and the identity of the sponsoring witness. Unless

1 otherwise ordered, parties will indicate their objections to the receipt in evidence of exhibits and  
2 materials lodged and that counsel have conferred respecting such objections.

3 (3) **Estimate of Trial Time.** An estimate of the number of court days needed for the  
4 presentation of each party's case, indicating possible reductions in time through proposed stipulations,  
5 agreed statements of facts, or expedited means of presenting testimony and exhibits.

6 (4) **Use of Discovery Responses.** Counsel shall cite possible presentation at  
7 trial of evidence, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, through use of excerpts from  
8 depositions, from interrogatory answers, or from responses to requests for admission. Counsel shall  
9 indicate any objections to use of these materials and that counsel has conferred respecting such  
10 objections.

11 (5) **Further Discovery or Motions.** A statement of all remaining discovery or motions,  
12 including motions in limine.

13 **e. Trial Alternatives and Options**

14 (1) **Settlement Discussion.** A statement summarizing the status of settlement  
15 negotiations and indicating whether further negotiations are likely to be productive.

16 (2) **Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge.** A statement whether reference of  
17 all or part of the action to a master or magistrate judge is feasible, including whether the parties consent  
18 to a court or jury trial before a magistrate judge, with appeal directly to the Ninth Circuit.

19 (3) **Amendments, Dismissals.** A statement of requested or proposed amendments to  
20 pleadings or dismissals of parties, claims or defenses.

21 (4) **Bifurcation, Separate Trial of Issues.** A statement of whether bifurcation or a  
22 separate trial of specific issues is feasible and desired.

23 **2. WITNESSES**

24 a. **Jury Trials.** The Pretrial Conference Statement shall include the witness list required  
25 in part by 1(a)(4)(A) above. In addition, in the case of expert witnesses, the summary shall clearly state  
26 the expert's theories and conclusions and the basis therefore and shall be accompanied by a curriculum  
27 vitae; if the expert has prepared a report in preparation for the testimony, a copy thereof shall be  
28 furnished to opposing counsel. Witnesses not included on the list may be excluded from testifying.

b. **Non-Jury Trials.** In non-jury cases, any party may serve and lodge with the Court a  
written narrative statement of the proposed direct testimony of each witness under that party's control  
in lieu of a summary. Each statement shall be marked as an exhibit and shall be in a form suitable to  
be received into evidence.

**3. JURY INSTRUCTIONS**

a. **Joint Set of Instructions.** The parties shall jointly prepare a set of jury instructions, and  
shall file an original and two copies of same **fourteen days** prior to the Pretrial Conference. The  
submission shall contain both agreed upon instructions (which shall be so noted), and contested  
instructions, all in the order in which they should be read to the jury. Where contested instructions are  
included, they should be annotated both with the proponent's authority for seeking the instruction and  
the opponent's reason for opposition. Counsel shall deliver to Chambers a copy of the joint submission,

1 on a CD/DVD in **WordPerfect** format. The label shall include the case number and a description of  
2 the documents.

3 b. **Substance and Format of Instructions.** The instructions shall cover all substantive  
4 issues and other points not covered by the Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions. Each  
5 requested instruction shall be typed in full on a separate page and citations to the authorities upon which  
6 the instruction is based shall be included. Instructions shall be brief, clear, written in plain English and  
7 free of argument. Pattern or form instructions shall be revised to address the particular facts and issues  
8 of this case.

9 c. **Preliminary Statement and Instructions.** If the parties wish to have a preliminary  
10 statement read to the jury, and/or preliminary instructions given to the jury, they shall jointly prepare  
11 and submit to the Court, **fourteen days** prior to the pretrial conference, the text of the statement and  
12 instructions, clearly marked.

13 d. **Voir Dire and Verdict Forms.** Each party shall serve and file proposed questions for  
14 jury voir dire and a proposed Form of Verdict not later than **fourteen days** prior to the Pretrial  
15 Conference.

#### 16 **4. FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

17 In **non-jury cases**, each party shall serve and lodge with the Court **fourteen days** prior to the  
18 Pretrial Conference, proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on all material issues. Proposed  
19 Findings shall be brief, written in plain English and free of pejorative language, conclusions and  
20 argument. Parties shall deliver to Chambers copies of proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of  
21 Law on a CD/DVD in **WordPerfect** format. The label shall include the name of the parties, the case  
22 number and a description of the documents.

#### 23 **5. EXHIBITS**

24 a. **Provide Copies of Exhibits to Other Parties.** Each party shall provide every other  
25 party with one set of all proposed exhibits, charts, schedules, summaries, diagrams and other similar  
26 documentary materials to be used in its case in chief at trial, together with a complete list of all such  
27 proposed exhibits. Voluminous exhibits shall be reduced by elimination of irrelevant portions or  
28 through the use of summaries. Each item shall be pre-marked with a trial exhibit sticker (not deposition  
exhibit label), defendant's exhibit numbers shall be sequenced to begin after plaintiff's exhibit numbers.  
If there are numerous exhibits, they should be provided in three-ring binders with marked tab separators.  
All exhibits which have not been provided as required are subject to exclusion.

b. **Stipulations re Admissibility.** **Fourteen days** prior to the Pretrial Conference, the  
parties shall make a good faith effort to stipulate to exhibits' admissibility. If stipulation is not possible,  
the parties shall make every effort to stipulate to authenticity and foundation absent a legitimate (not  
tactical) objection.

c. **Objections to Exhibits.** In addition to the exhibit list, counsel shall confer with  
respect to any other objections to exhibits in advance of the Pretrial Conference. Each party shall file  
and serve a statement briefly identifying each item objected to, the grounds for the objection and the  
position of the offering party **fourteen days** prior to the date set for the Pretrial Conference.

d. **Provide Copies of Exhibits to Court.** Three sets of exhibits shall be provided to the  
Court on the **Friday prior to the trial date**. Each set shall be in binders, marked, tabbed and indexed  
and shall be **delivered/mailed directly to Chambers**. Parties are to comply with Local Rule 16-

1 10(b)(7).

2 e. **Disposition of Exhibits after Trial.** Upon the conclusion of the trial, each  
3 party shall retain its exhibits through the appellate process. It is each party's responsibility to make  
4 arrangements with the Clerk of Court to file the record on appeal.

5 **6. MOTIONS IN-LIMINE**

6 Any party wishing to have motions in limine heard prior to the commencement of trial must file  
7 and serve same no later than **fourteen days** prior to the date set for the Pretrial Conference. Any party  
8 opposing such a motion in limine shall file and serve its opposition papers no later than **seven days** prior  
9 to the Pretrial Conference. Reply papers are not required. The motions will be heard at the Pretrial  
10 Conference or at such other time as the Court may direct. Nothing in this provision prevents a party  
11 from noticing its motions in limine regularly for hearing on or prior to the final date for hearing  
12 dispositive motions. **NO LEAVE TO FILE UNDERSEAL WILL BE GRANTED WITH RESPECT  
13 TO MOTIONS IN-LIMINE.**

14 **7. OTHER PRETRIAL MATTERS**

15 a. **Status/Discovery Conferences.** Any party desiring to confer with the Court may, upon  
16 notice to all other parties, arrange a conference through the Courtroom Deputy,  
17 Ms. Tracy Forakis (415-522-2028).

18 b. **Settlement Conferences.** Any party wishing to arrange a settlement conference before  
19 another judge or Magistrate Judge may do so by contacting the courtroom deputy.

20 c. **Daily Transcripts/Realtime Reporting.** If a daily transcript and/or realtime reporting  
21 is needed, the parties shall make arrangements with Debra Campbell, Court Reporter Supervisor, at  
22 (415) 522-2079 or Debra\_Campbell@cand.uscourts.gov, at least **fourteen days** before trial commences.  
23 If transcripts will be requested immediately after trial, arrangements must be made with the court  
24 reporter at least **fourteen days** before trial commences.

25 **8. MISCELLANEOUS**

26 a. The Court takes a photograph of each witness prior to the witness' testimony.

27 b. Please **DO NOT** call Chambers. If you need to contact the courtroom deputy, please  
28 call the number above and leave a message if the deputy is not available.