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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ANN WATSON,
Plaintiff,
v.
LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY,
Defendant.

Case No. [14-cv-03841-WHO](#)

CIVIL PRETRIAL ORDER

A bench trial has been set in this matter for May 16, 2016, beginning at 8:00 A.M. A Pretrial Conference has been set for April 18, 2016 at 2:00 P.M.

The following scheduling deadlines and hearing dates have been set:

- Deadline to amend/add parties:** April 15, 2015
- Discovery cutoff:** July 2, 2015
- Expert disclosure:** September 11, 2015
- Expert rebuttal:** October 9, 2015
- Expert discovery cutoff:** December 11, 2015
- Dispositive Motions filed by:** January 13, 2016
- Dispositive motions heard by:** February 17, 2016

1. Pretrial Conference and Statement

Not less than 28 days prior to the Pretrial Conference, counsel shall exchange (but not file or lodge) the papers described in Civil L.R. 16-10(b)(7), (8), (9) and (10), and any motions in limine.

At least 21 days before the Pretrial Conference, lead trial counsel shall meet and confer with respect to:

- Preparation and content of the joint pretrial conference statement;

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- Resolution of any differences between the parties regarding the preparation and content of the joint pretrial conference statement and the preparation and exchange of pretrial materials to be served and filed pursuant to this Order. To the extent such differences are not resolved, the parties will present the issues in the pretrial conference statement so that the judge may rule on the matter during the Pretrial Conference; and
- Settlement.

At least 14 days prior to the Pretrial Conference, the parties shall file a joint pretrial conference statement containing the following information:

a. The Action

(i) Substance of the Action. A brief description of the substance of claims and defenses which remain to be decided.

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

b. The Factual Basis of the Action

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

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

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

(iv) Stipulations. A statement of stipulations requested or proposed for pretrial or trial purposes.

c. Disputed Legal Issues

(i) Points of Law. Without extended legal argument, a concise statement of each disputed point of law concerning liability or relief, citing supporting statutes and decisions setting

1 forth briefly the nature of each party's contentions concerning each disputed point of law,
2 including procedural and evidentiary issues.

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

5 d. Trial Preparation

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

9 (ii) Exhibits, Schedules and Summaries. A list of all documents and other items to
10 be offered as exhibits at the trial, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, with a brief
11 statement following each describing its substance or purpose and the identity of the sponsoring
12 witness. Unless otherwise ordered, parties will indicate their objections to the receipt in evidence
13 of exhibits and materials lodged and that counsel have conferred respecting such objections.

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

17 (iv) Use of Discovery Responses. Counsel shall cite possible presentation at trial
18 of evidence, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, through use of excerpts from
19 depositions, from interrogatory answers, or from responses to requests for admission. Counsel
20 shall indicate any objections to use of these materials and that counsel has conferred respecting
21 such objections.

22 (v) Further Discovery or Motions. A statement of all remaining discovery or
23 motions, including motions in limine.

24 e. Trial Alternatives and Options

25 (i) Settlement Discussion. A statement summarizing the status of settlement
26 negotiations and indicating whether further negotiations are likely to be productive.

27 (ii) Consent to Trial Before a Magistrate Judge. A statement whether reference of
28 all or part of the action to a master or magistrate judge is feasible, including whether the parties

1 consent to a court or jury trial before a magistrate judge, with appeal directly to the Ninth Circuit.

2 (iii) Amendments, Dismissals. A statement of requested or proposed amendments
3 to pleadings or dismissals of parties' claims or defenses.

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

6 **2. Witnesses**

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

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

17 **3. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law**

18 In non-jury cases, each party shall file at least fourteen days prior to the Pretrial
19 Conference proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on all material issues. The Court
20 requests that the parties hyperlink each proposed Finding of Fact to any supporting evidence.
21 Proposed Findings shall be brief, written in plain English, and free of pejorative language,
22 conclusions and argument. Parties shall deliver to Chambers copies of Proposed Findings of Fact
23 and Conclusions of Law on a CD/DVD in Word format, with a label including the name of the
24 case, the case number and a description of the submission.

25 **4. Exhibits**

26 a. Provide Copies of Exhibits to Other Parties. Each party shall provide every other
27 party with one set of all proposed exhibits, charts, schedules, summaries, diagrams, and other
28 similar documentary materials to be used in its case in chief at trial, together with a complete list

1 of all such proposed exhibits. Voluminous exhibits shall be reduced by elimination of irrelevant
2 portions or through the use of summaries. Each item shall be pre-marked with a trial exhibit
3 sticker (“Trial Exhibit No. __”), not deposition exhibit label, and defendant’s exhibit numbers shall
4 be sequenced to begin after plaintiff’s exhibit numbers. If there are numerous exhibits, they
5 should be provided in three-ring binders with marked tab separators. All exhibits which have not
6 been provided as required are subject to exclusion.

7 b. Stipulations re Admissibility. At least fourteen days prior to the Pretrial
8 Conference, the parties shall make a good faith effort to stipulate to exhibits’ admissibility. If
9 stipulation is not possible, the parties shall make every effort to stipulate to authenticity and
10 foundation absent a legitimate (not tactical) objection.

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

15 d. Provide Copies of Exhibits to Court. One set of exhibits shall be provided to the
16 Court in Chambers on the Friday prior to the trial date, in binders, marked, tabbed, and indexed in
17 accordance with Local Rule 16-10(b)(7). Exhibits shall be identified as follows:

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
TRIAL EXHIBIT 100

CASE NO. _____

DATE ENTERED _____

BY _____

DEPUTY CLERK

1 Blocks of numbers shall be assigned to fit the needs of the case (e.g., Plaintiff has 1-100,
2 Defendant has 101-200). The parties shall not mark duplicate exhibits (e.g., plaintiff and
3 defendant shall not mark the same exhibit; only one copy of the exhibit shall be marked).

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

7 **5. Motions In Limine**

8 Any party wishing to have motions in limine heard prior to the commencement of trial
9 must file them at least fourteen days prior to the date set for the Pretrial Conference. All motions
10 in limine shall be contained in one document, limited to 25 pages pursuant to Civil L.R. 7-2(b),
11 with each motion listed as a subheading. Opposition to the motions in limine shall be contained in
12 one document, limited to 25 pages, with corresponding subheadings, and shall be filed at least
13 seven days prior to the Pretrial Conference. No reply papers will be considered. The motions will
14 be heard at the Pretrial Conference or at such other time as the Court may direct. Nothing in this
15 provision prevents a party from noticing its motions in limine regularly for hearing on or prior to
16 the final date for hearing dispositive motions. No leave to file under seal will be granted with
17 respect to motions in limine.

18 **6. Other Pretrial Matters**

19 a. Status Conferences. Any party desiring to confer with the Court may, upon notice
20 to all other parties, arrange a conference through the Courtroom Deputy, Jean Davis, at 415-522-
21 2077 or whocrd@cand.uscourts.gov.

22 b. Settlement Conferences. Parties wishing to arrange a settlement conference before
23 another judge or magistrate judge may do so by contacting the Courtroom Deputy.

24 c. Daily Transcripts. Should a daily transcript and/or realtime reporting be desired,
25 the parties shall make arrangements with Debra Campbell, Court Reporter Supervisor, at 415-522-
26 2079 or Debra_Campbell@cand.uscourts.gov, at least 14 calendar days prior to the trial date.

27 **7. Trial Matters**

28 a. The normal trial schedule will be from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (or slightly longer to

1 finish a witness) with two fifteen minute breaks. Trial is usually held from Monday through
2 Friday.

3 b. Ordinarily, the Court will set fixed time limits for each side at the Final Pretrial
4 Conference.

5 c. Expert witnesses are limited to the scope of their expert reports on direct
6 examination. F.R.C.P. 26(a)(2) and 37(c).

7 d. Parties must meet and confer to exchange any visuals, graphics or exhibits to be
8 used in opening statements. Unless otherwise agreed, the exchange must occur no later than
9 Wednesday before the trial. Any objections not resolved must be filed in writing by Thursday
10 before trial. The parties shall be available by telephone Friday before trial to discuss the issue
11 raised with the Court.

12 e. The parties shall disclose the witnesses whom they will call at trial on any given
13 day by at least 2:00 p.m. the court day before their testimony is expected. Failure to have a
14 witness ready to proceed at trial will usually constitute resting.

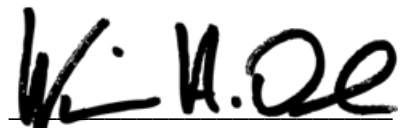
15 **8. Miscellaneous**

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

17 b. Please DO NOT call Chambers. If you need to contact the Courtroom Deputy,
18 please call (415) 522-2077 and leave a message if the deputy is not available, or email
19 whocrd@cand.uscourts.gov.

20 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

21 Dated: December 9, 2014

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23 William H. Orrick
24 United States District Judge

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