



1 1 at 3. It is for this reason that the court limited discovery and sent the case (at the parties' request)  
2 to early mediation. The case did not resolve at mediation. (Certificate of Mediation, ECF No. 37.)  
3 But the summary-judgment motion is too early given that the parties have just begun discovery and  
4 their contract dispute is not a straight legal issue. Moreover, the point of the court's case-  
5 management process was to start settlement talks, see what else the parties needed to know, manage  
6 discovery toward eliminating any uncertainties about the fact landscape, and have a settlement  
7 conference with a magistrate judge before summary judgment. As discussed at the hearing, that will  
8 be the process going forward.


9 The court also grants the motion for leave to file an amended complaint. It is true that the court  
10 set a scheduling order with a tight deadline for amending the pleadings. That deadline was generated  
11 by an algorithm in the court's scheduling chart. (*See* 1/30/15 Order, ECF No. 33 at 2.) The parties  
12 did not ask for it. (*See* Initial Case-Management Statement, ECF No. 23 at 5.) And the court's intent  
13 was to put the case on hold (except for document discovery) to try to explore settlement first. (*See*  
14 1/30/15 Order, ECF No. 33 at 3.) Under Rule 15(a)'s liberal standard (the standard that the court  
15 intended to apply until some reasonable period after mediation), certainly amendment is appropriate.  
16 And given the context of the court's management of the case, Arlie also meets Rule 16(b)'s good-  
17 cause standard.

18 **CONCLUSION**

19 The court denies Barg Coffin's summary-judgment motion without prejudice and grants Arlie's  
20 motion to amend its answer. This disposes of ECF Nos. 25, 36, and 41.

21 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

22 Dated: May 28, 2015

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25 LAUREL BEELER  
26 United States Magistrate Judge  
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