

United States District Court Vorthern District of California

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consolidate more than 170 lawsuits filed by plaintiffs' counsel and presently assigned to 2 eighteen different judges in this district. Each of the four plaintiffs, as well as Wells 3 Fargo Bank, N.A., one of the named defendants, have responded, to which Experian and 4 Equifax have jointly filed a reply. The Court deems the matter suitable for determination 5 on the parties' respective written submissions, VACATES the hearing scheduled for 6 February 17, 2017, and hereby rules as follows.

Pursuant to Rule 42 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a district court may consolidate actions that "involve a common question of law or fact," see Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a), and has "broad discretion" to decide whether consolidation is appropriate, see Investors Research Co. v. U.S. Dist. Court for Central Dist. of California, 877 F.2d 777 (1989).

12 This Court, having read and considered the papers filed in support of and in 13 opposition to the motion, is in accord with a number of judges in this district who have 14 denied similar motions. <u>See, e.g., Vizcaino v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc., No.</u> 15 3:16-cv-5703-TEH (N.D. Cal. January 31, 2017); Gonzalez v. Experian Information 16 Solutions, Inc., No. 3:16-cv-5678-HSG (N.D. Cal. January 4, 2017). In particular, 17 although each of the actions asserts claims based on alleged violations of the Fair Credit 18 Reporting Act, the Court finds any potential efficiency attributable to having such actions 19 heard by a single judge would be outweighed by the various procedural delays resulting 20 from the reassignment of a large number of cases pending at varying stages of the proceedings, coupled with the considerable burden placed on such jurist in adjudicating 22 not only any common issue raised therein but all individual issues as well.

Accordingly, the motion to consolidate is, in each of the above-titled cases, hereby DENIED.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

26 Dated: February 10, 2017

**Jnited States District Judge** 

**Northern District of California** United States District Court

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