

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ROBERT VON MERTA,

No. C 09-00753 PJH (JCS)

Plaintiff(s),

**NOTICE OF REFERENCE; ORDER TO
MEET AND CONFER AND FILE JOINT
LETTER**

v.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO, ET AL.,Defendant(s).

TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD:

The above matter has been referred to Magistrate Judge Joseph C. Spero for resolution of Defendants' Motion for Protective Order [Docket No.38], Plaintiff's Motion to Compel and for Sanctions [Docket No. 40], and all future discovery matters.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that lead trial counsel for both parties shall meet and confer **in person** in Courtroom A **no later than May 20, 2010**. Counsel shall contact the undersigned's Courtroom Deputy, Karen Hom, at (415) 522-2035 to arrange a date and time for the meet-and-confer session.

In the event that counsel are unable to resolve the matters at issue in the Motions, lead trial counsel shall provide a detailed Joint Letter to the Court within five (5) calendar days of their meet-and-confer session. This Joint Letter shall include a description of every issue in dispute and, with respect to each such issue, a detailed summary of each party's final substantive position and its final proposed compromise on each issue.

LAW AND MOTION HEARING PROCEDURES

Civil law and motion is heard on Friday mornings, at 9:30 a.m., Courtroom A, 15th Floor,

United States District Court, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102.

In the event a **future discovery dispute** arises, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that before filing any discovery motion before this Court, the parties must comply with the following:

1. Lead trial counsel for both parties must meet and confer *in person* regarding the matter(s) at issue. This meeting shall occur after other efforts to resolve the dispute, such as telephone, e-mail, teleconference, or correspondence, have been unsuccessful. Once those efforts have proved unsuccessful, any party may demand a meeting of lead trial counsel to resolve a discovery matter. Such a meeting shall occur within ten (10) calendar days of the demand. The locations of the meetings shall alternate. The first meeting shall be at a location selected by counsel for Plaintiff(s). If there are any future disputes, the next such meeting shall be held at a location to be determined by counsel for Defendant(s), etc.
2. Within five (5) calendar days of the in-person meeting between lead trial counsel referred to above, the parties shall jointly file a detailed letter with the Court, which will include the matters that remain in dispute, a detailed substantive description of each side's position on each such issue, and a description of each side's proposed compromise on each such issue. In the absence of permission from the Court, the letter may not exceed five (5) pages.
3. After the Court has received the joint letter, the Court will determine what future proceedings, if any, are necessary.

In the event that the parties continue to be unable to resolve the matters regarding the timing and scope of discovery, the Court will consider what future actions are necessary. These actions may include the following: (1) sanctions against a party failing to cooperate in the discovery process and meet and confer in good faith, as required by this Order, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, and the Local Rules of this Court; and/or (2) requiring the Chief Executive Officers of each party to attend the in-person, meet-and-confer sessions described above. The Court is not entering either of these matters as an Order of the Court at this time, and fully expects counsel to meet their obligations under this Order and under the Local Rules.


JOSEPH C. SPERO
United States Magistrate Judge