

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

SANGITA R. PATEL, et al.,

Plaintiff,

v.

MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC  
REGISTRATION SYSTEM, INC., et al.,

Defendant.

No. 4:13-cv-01874 KAW (EDL)

NOTICE OF SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE AND SETTLEMENT  
CONFERENCE ORDER

TO ALL PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD:

The above matter was referred to Chief Magistrate Judge Elizabeth D. Laporte for Settlement Conference. You are hereby notified that the conference is scheduled for **JULY 10, 2014** at **9:30 AM**, Courtroom E, 15th Floor, Federal Building, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California 94102. If the above date is not possible for the parties and counsel, or if the parties believe that settlement discussions would be more productive at a different time, counsel shall confer with each other and then contact Chief Magistrate Judge Laporte's Courtroom Deputy **within a week** at (415) 522-3694 to determine whether it is possible and appropriate to reschedule the conference.

**Lead trial counsel or a party without a lawyer** shall appear at the Settlement Conference with the parties and with the person or persons having **full authority** to negotiate and to settle the case. In all cases in which a party is insured, the carrier's claims representative and attorney, if any, with **full authority** to negotiate up to the limits of coverage shall also attend the Settlement Conference. In cases where settlement authority rests with a governing body, counsel or a party without a lawyer, shall advise the Court and opposing party by letter at least 72 hours prior to the conference, of the manner in which the governing body will appear.

1 Personal attendance by counsel or a party without a lawyer will not be excused under any  
2 circumstances and personal attendance by a party will rarely be excused. Permission for a party to  
3 attend by telephone may be granted, in the Court's discretion, upon written request made at least two  
4 weeks in advance of the conference, **if** the party lives and works outside of the Northern District of  
5 California **and** the Court determines that personal attendance would constitute a hardship and is not  
6 needed in order to have an effective settlement conference. The nature of the hardship must be  
7 explained. A copy of the written request must be served on all other parties. Any objection to the  
8 request must be submitted within forty-eight (48) hours of receipt. Both the request and objection may  
9 be submitted in letter form either by mail or facsimile to (415) 522-2002. If telephone attendance is  
10 allowed, the party must be available throughout the entire conference.

11 **On or before JUNE 30, 2014 at 12:00 p.m., the parties shall deliver directly to the**  
12 **Magistrate Judge a Confidential Settlement Conference Statement which should not be filed with**  
13 **the Clerk of the Court or served upon other parties.**

14 The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages of  
15 text exclusive of exhibits. (Parties are encouraged to include as exhibits any key documents and  
16 deposition excerpts). The Confidential Settlement Conference Statement shall include the following:

- 17 1. A brief statement of the facts of the case.
- 18 2. A brief statement of the claims and defenses including, but not limited to, statutory or  
19 other grounds upon which the claims are founded, a candid, forthright evaluation of the parties'  
20 likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses and a description of the major issues in dispute.
- 21 3. A list of the key facts in dispute and a brief statement of the specific evidence relevant  
22 to those facts.
- 23 4. A summary of the proceedings to date and any pending motions.
- 24 5. An estimate of the out of pocket expenses, attorney's fees and time to be expended for  
25 further discovery, pretrial and trial.
- 26 6. The relief sought, including an itemization of damages.
- 27 7. The party's position on settlement, including present demands and offers and a history  
28 of past settlement discussions.

8. If there have been no prior settlement discussions, plaintiff must serve a demand letter outlining its theories for recovery, supporting facts and damages in writing **at least 7 business days before** the conference, and defendant must respond in writing **at least 3 business days before** the conference.

It is not unusual for conferences to last several hours or at times, all day. No participant in the settlement conference will be permitted to leave the settlement conference before it is concluded without the permission of the settlement conference judge.

Parties are encouraged to participate and frankly discuss their case. Statements they make during the conference will not be admissible at trial to prove or disprove liability in the event the case does not settle. The parties should be prepared to discuss such items as their settlement objectives, any impediments to settlement that they perceive, whether they have enough information to discuss settlement and, if not, what additional information is needed and the possibility of a creative resolution of the dispute.

Any request to continue the settlement conference shall be submitted in writing as soon as possible after consultation with the opposing party. **The request must demonstrate a compelling reason for a continuance**, and state whether the opposing party(ies) agree or oppose the request. Any party who objects to the continuance should submit a written response within 2 business days. Submission by facsimile is acceptable at facsimile number (415) 522-2002. **Courtesy copies of any electronically filed documents must be delivered to chambers as provided in Civil Local Rule 5-1(e)(7).**

The parties shall notify Chief Magistrate Judge Laporte's Courtroom Deputy **immediately** at (415) 522-3694 if this case settles prior to the date set for settlement conference.

Dated: May 20, 2014

*Elizabeth D. Laporte*

ELIZABETH D. LAPORTE  
United States Chief Magistrate Judge