

United States District Court
Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

PHILLIP RACIES,
Plaintiff,
v.
QUINCY BIOSCIENCE, LLC,
Defendant.

Case No. 15-cv-00292-HSG

**ORDER ON MOTIONS FOR
JUDGMENT AS A MATTER OF LAW
AND MOTION TO DECERTIFY THE
CLASSES**

Re: Dkt. Nos. 268, 269, 271

Pending before the Court are the following motions: (1) Defendant’s motion to decertify the class, Dkt. No. 269; (2) Defendant’s motion for judgment as a matter of law, Dkt. No. 268; and (3) Plaintiff’s motion for judgment as a matter of law. The Court held a hearing on the motions on February 14, 2020. Dkt. No. 298. After carefully considering the parties’ papers and oral arguments, the Court **GRANTS** Defendant’s motion to decertify the class; **DENIES** Defendant’s motion for judgment as a matter of law; and **DENIES** Plaintiff’s motion for judgment as a matter of law.

I. BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Phillip Racies filed this consumer class action on January 21, 2015, bringing claims under California’s Unfair Competition Law, Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 17200 et seq. (“UCL”), and Consumers Legal Remedies Act, Cal. Civ. Code §§ 1750 et seq. (“CLRA”). The operative complaint alleges that Defendant Quincy Bioscience, LLC, made false, misleading, and deceptive statements about its brain health supplement, Prevagen. See generally Dkt. No. 21 (“FAC”). Specifically, the FAC claims that Defendant’s representations that Prevagen products “‘improve[] memory’ and ‘support[]: healthy brain function, sharper mind, and clearer thinking’” were false and misleading. FAC ¶¶ 23–25.

1 On December 15, 2017, the Court certified the following class for both Plaintiff's UCL
2 and CLRA claims:

3 All California consumers who, within the applicable statute of limitations
4 period, purchased Prevagen Regular Strength, Prevagen Extra Strength, or
5 Prevagen Mixed Berry Chewable.

6 Dkt. No. 148 at 12.

7 During trial, Plaintiff testified that he purchased Prevagen because he was "dealing with
8 some memory recall issues" and wanted to purchase a Prevagen product to "help me with those
9 issues, focus, memory, recall." Dkt. No. 137 ("Trial Tr. Vol. 1") at 136:25-137:10. Plaintiff
10 testified that he believed Prevagen could help him because of "what it says on the box. It says it
11 targets enhancing memory and improving brain functioning. It -- yeah, so it looked like it was
12 targeted right for what I was feeling I needed help with at that time." Id. at 137:11-18. In
13 response to a question as to what "specifically" about the Prevagen product appealed to him,
14 Plaintiff stated:

15 A: ... That it addresses memory problems. It improves memory,
16 focus, recall. It -- it seemed like a -- a relatively natural supplement.
17 I remember the jellyfish reference, said clinical studies done on it, I
18 think a blind placebo.
19 I believe I got the impression in a relatively short amount of time I
20 would -- I would experience improvement in my memory.

21 Id. at 140:17-23. Plaintiff further explained that he purchased the "Regular Strength" Prevagen
22 product, and that he purchased a Prevagen product instead of another branded supplement because
23 the Prevagen product "seemed like it was focused on what I was looking for and had the -- the
24 things that convinced me to try it." Id. at 141:4-6.

25 The Court admitted into evidence Plaintiff's receipt, which shows a purchase of an item
26 listed as "Prevagen Brn Cell Protect Cap 30S" for \$27.99 on September 25, 2014, from a
27 Walgreens in San Rafael, California. Trial Ex. 3. He testified that the product was a 30-day
28 supply of Prevagen, and he took it for about nine consecutive days. Id. at 142:19-21, 144:7-11.
While Plaintiff kept the receipt, he no longer had the purchased Prevagen bottle. Id. at 143:11-22;
see also Dkt. No. 282 ("Trial Tr. Vol. 2") at 192:9-193:11.

1 During cross-examination, Defendant questioned Plaintiff about whether he purchased a
2 Prevagen product that said “Improves Memory” on the front, or a product that said “Brain Cell
3 Protection,” given his receipt:

4 Q: Again, Exhibit 3 is the receipt from the purchase, correct?
5 A: That’s correct.
6 Q: I’d like you to focus in on the top portion of that exhibit. Do you
7 see where it says “Prevagen Brn Cell Protect”?
8 A: I do.
9 Q: And isn’t it the case, Mr. Racies, that the bottle of Prevagen you
10 purchased did not say “Improves Memory” on the front, but instead,
11 said “Brain Cell Protection”? Isn’t that correct?
12 A: I -- I couldn’t honestly tell you at this point.

13 Trial Tr. Vol. 2 at 193:16–194:2.

14 The evidence shows that the label with the front claim of “Brain Cell Protection” makes
15 the following representations:

16 As we age, we lose calcium-binding proteins that protect our brain
17 cells. This protein loss affects our ability to learn, retain memories,
18 think and concentrate.
19 Prevagen (Apoaequorin) replaces these proteins in the body and
20 helps protect our cells during this natural process of aging.
21 Originally discovered in jellyfish, Prevagen is now made in a
22 controlled scientific process, so no jellyfish are harmed.

23 Id. at 299:20–23, 300:1–12; Trial Ex. 536. There is no mention of “Improves Memory” on the
24 label. See Trial Ex. 536. Mark Y. Underwood, President of Quincy, did not remember when
25 Quincy first started selling the product with the “Brain Cell Protection” label or when Quincy
26 stopped using that particular label. Id. at 299:9–13.

27 At the end of Plaintiff’s case-in-chief, the parties moved for judgment as a matter of law
28 under Rule 50. Dkt. No. 283 (“Trial Tr. Vol. 3”) at 510:2–17. The Court took the motions under
29 advisement and deferred ruling. Id. For Defendant’s case-in-chief, Defendant requested that the
30 Court take judicial notice of the fact that September 24, 2014 was a Wednesday, and closed its
31 case. Id. at 510:20–511:10.

32 On January 14, 2020, after deliberating for a few days, the jury was unable to come to a
33 unanimous decision. Dkt. No. 296. The Court declared a mistrial and dismissed the jury. Dkt.
34 No. 285 (“Trial Tr. Vol. 5”) at 681:7–682:4.

1 **II. MOTION TO DECERTIFY THE CLASS**

2 **A. Legal Standard**

3 An order certifying a class “may be altered or amended before final judgment.” Fed. R.
4 Civ. P. 23(c)(1). “A district court’s order respecting class certification is ‘inherently tentative’
5 prior to final judgment on the merits.” *Officers for Justice v. Civil Serv. Comm’n*, 688 F.2d 615,
6 633 (9th Cir.1982); see also Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(c)(1)(C). “In considering the appropriateness of
7 decertification, the standard of review is the same as a motion for class certification: whether the
8 Rule 23 requirements are met.” *Bowerman v. Field Asset Servs., Inc.*, 242 F. Supp. 3d 910, 927
9 (N.D. Cal. 2017) (citation omitted). The burden of proof remains on the plaintiff. *Id.* (citing
10 *Marlo v. UPS*, 639 F.3d 942, 947 (9th Cir. 2011)).¹ The manner and degree of evidence required
11 for the plaintiff to meet his burden depends on the stage of the litigation. *Wash. Envtl. Council v.*
12 *Bellon*, 732 F.3d 1131, 1139 (9th Cir. 2013) (citation omitted). As the Ninth Circuit has
13 acknowledged, “the manner and degree of evidence required at the preliminary class certification
14 stage is not the same as at the successive stages of the litigation—i.e., at trial.” *Sali v. Corona*
15 *Reg’l Med. Ctr.*, 909 F.3d 996, 1006 (9th Cir. 2018) (quotation omitted).²

16 **B. The Court’s Class Certification Order**

17 The Court first recounts the relevant key holdings from its December 15, 2017 order
18 certifying the class. See generally Dkt. No. 148. The Court found that the evidence presented at
19 the class certification stage suggested that Plaintiff was motivated to purchase Prevacen based on
20 “representations that the product ‘[i]mproves memory’ and ‘[s]upports healthy brain function,’” a

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23 ¹ The Court notes that other district courts in this circuit have found that the party seeking
24 decertification bears the burden of demonstrating that the elements of Rule 23 have not been
25 established. See, e.g., *Zakaria v. Gerber Prod. Co.*, No. LACV1500200JAKEX, 2017 WL
26 9512587, at *16 (C.D. Cal. Aug. 9, 2017), *aff’d*, 755 F. App’x 623 (9th Cir. 2018); *Cole v. CRST,*
27 *Inc.*, 317 F.R.D. 141, 144 (C.D. Cal. 2016); *Rosales v. El Rancho Farms*, No. 09-cv-00707, 2014
28 WL 321159, at *4 (E.D. Cal. Jan. 29, 2014). While the Ninth Circuit has not affirmatively
articulated the burden of proof for decertification, in *Marlo*, the panel held that the district court,
in its order decertifying the class, “properly placed the burden on [the plaintiff] to demonstrate that
Rule 23’s class-certification requirements had been met.” *Marlo*, 639 F.3d at 947. In any event,
the Court does not find that this distinction would change its analysis.

² For example, the Ninth Circuit has recognized that numerous courts in this circuit have
concluded that during the class certification stage, it is appropriate to consider evidence that may
ultimately be inadmissible at trial. *Sail*, 909 F.3d at 1004 n.2.

1 “[s]harper mind,” and “[c]learer thinking.” Id. at 4 (citing Dkt. No. 145, Ex. K at 85:6–20, 88:11–
2 20). The Court held that because Prevagen is “not marketed for uses other than improving brain
3 health and memory,” the representations about these purported benefits were a “substantial factor”
4 in “Plaintiff’s—and all consumers’—purchasing decisions.” Id. Thus, the Court found that
5 Plaintiff satisfied the typicality requirement under Rule 23(a).

6 Relatedly, the Court found that Plaintiff had satisfied the predominance requirement. With
7 respect to reliance, Plaintiff had made a sufficient showing that the challenged representations
8 about Prevagen would be material to a reasonable consumer, and that at a minimum, everyone
9 who purchased Prevagen would have been exposed to the same brain health claims that appeared
10 on its products. Id. at 6–7. Accordingly, Plaintiff was entitled to a presumption of reliance, which
11 is an essential element of both the UCL and CLRA claim. Id.

12 **C. Discussion**

13 Defendant moves to decertify the class based on the following: (1) Plaintiff does not
14 satisfy the typicality and adequacy requirements because he was not exposed to the same brain
15 health benefits as the California class members; (2) individualized issues of reliance predominate
16 as Plaintiff could not identify the representations that he saw or relied upon when purportedly
17 purchasing the Prevagen product; (3) Plaintiff failed to set forth any evidence satisfying the “full
18 refund” damages model; and (4) Plaintiff’s counsel is inadequate. Dkt. No 269 at 1.

19 **i. Typicality**

20 Defendant contends that the Court’s finding of typicality at the class certification stage was
21 not borne out by the evidence at trial, as Plaintiff failed to put in any evidence “whatsoever as to
22 the representations (if any) on which he actually relied.” Dkt. No. 269 at 2. Notably, Plaintiff
23 makes only a cursory attempt to refute this. He argues that “Plaintiff’s testimony at trial is a
24 virtual carbon copy of what he testified to at his deposition.” Dkt. No. 273 at 1. According to
25 Plaintiff, there was evidence of “what the key representations were on the label” and that they
26 “remained consistent throughout the Class Period,” based on Plaintiff’s testimony and Mr.
27 Underwood’s testimony “admitt[ing] that the ‘Improves Memory’ claim ... began sometime in
28 2013.” Id. at 2. Further, Plaintiff argues that the “Brain Cell Protection” label makes “very

1 similar Brain Health Representations, such that Plaintiff’s claims are typical no matter which
2 Product label Plaintiff saw.” Id.³

3 The Court agrees with Defendant. During class certification, Plaintiff argued that “[e]very
4 package of Prevagen sold to consumers throughout the Class periods conveys the same affirmative
5 health message ... that Prevagen ‘improves memory’ and ‘supports: healthy brain function, shaper
6 mind, and clearer thinking.’” Dkt. No. 123 at 5. As support, Plaintiff attached the labels he
7 claimed were at issue, showing that the challenged representations were prominently displayed on
8 the front of the packaging. Dkt. No. 123-8, Ex. G. And Plaintiff, during his deposition, was
9 presented with the product label and asked about those same representations. Dkt. No. 145, Ex. K
10 at 85:6–20 (Plaintiff testifying that the front of the product label states that it “Improves memory.
11 Supports healthy brain function. Shaper mind. Clearer thinking.”). At the class certification
12 stage, the Court found that Plaintiff relied on those specific representations, and that those
13 representations were a substantial factor in “Plaintiff’s—and all consumers’—purchasing
14 decision.” Dkt. No. 148 at 4. Because the claims were “reasonably coextensive” with those of the
15 proposed class members, the Court concluded that Plaintiff satisfied the typicality requirement.
16 Id.

17 Fatal to Plaintiff’s maintenance of class certification following trial is that Plaintiff
18 ultimately was equivocal as to whether he saw and relied on the representations on which he
19 claims the other class members relied. As Defendant notes, “Plaintiff did not introduce a single
20 Prevagen bottle or package into evidence—including any product with the label that states
21 ‘Improves Memory.’” Dkt. No. 269 at 2; see Brockey v. Moore, 107 Cal. App. 4th 86, 100 (2003)
22 (“[T]he primary evidence in a false advertising case is the advertising itself.” (citation and
23 quotations omitted)). Instead, for reasons unknown to the Court, Plaintiff failed to present any of
24 the critical label evidence submitted in support of his class certification motion at trial. The only
25 label in the trial record is a Prevagen product with “Brain Cell Protection” as the front label. Trial
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27 ³ Because of the overlap in issues, the Court addresses Plaintiff’s arguments from his opposition to
28 Defendant’s motion for judgment as a matter of law and his motion for judgment as a matter of
law in this section to the extent relevant in deciding the motion to decertify the class.

1 Ex. 536. Plaintiff’s receipt lists “Prevagen Brn Cell Protect” as the product purchased. Trial Ex.
2 3. Critically, the “Brain Cell Protection” label does not contain any of the representations Plaintiff
3 claimed other class members saw.

4 Plaintiff’s attempt to draw parallels between the representations made on products with the
5 “Brain Cell Protection” label and products with the “Improves Memory” label fails. Dkt. No. 273
6 at 2; Dkt. No. 272 at 9. He relies on Trial Exhibit 355, see Dkt. No. 272 at 9 and Dkt. No. 271 at
7 3, which was a sales deck apparently reflecting a presentation made by Quincy to a pharmacy.
8 Trial Tr. Vol. 2 at 279:16–280:11. The first page includes photos of the product with the
9 “Improves Memory” label. Trial Ex. 355. However, this exhibit was never shown to Plaintiff for
10 him to verify that those labels were the ones he saw when he purchased Prevagen. Instead,
11 Plaintiff used this exhibit with Mr. Underwood in an attempt to establish the retail price for
12 Prevagen products. Trial Tr. Vol. 2 at 280:13–282:14. And Plaintiff’s conclusory assertion that
13 the representations are similar does not make it so. A review of the Brain Cell Protection label
14 shows that there is no representation that Prevagen “‘improves memory’ and ‘supports: healthy
15 brain function, shaper mind, and clearer thinking.’” See Dkt. No. 123 at 5. Instead, the Brain Cell
16 Protection label makes representations about the product “replac[ing] [calcium-binding proteins
17 that protect our brain cells]” and “help[ing] protect our cells during this natural process of aging.”
18 Id. The Court disagrees that the Brain Cell Protection label makes representations “very similar”
19 to the challenged representations. Dkt. No. 273 at 2.⁴

20 Given the (seemingly inexplicable) absence of the actual label containing the challenged
21 representations, Plaintiff relies on his and Mr. Underwood’s testimony. He argues that because
22 Mr. Underwood testified that the “Improves Memory” representations began in 2013, Plaintiff
23 could not have purchased a Prevagen product with the “Brain Cell Protection” tagline. Dkt. No.

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25 ⁴ Deepening the mystery, Plaintiffs’ counsel included all of the labels they relied upon at the class
26 certification stage on their exhibit list—but then simply chose not to offer them in evidence at
27 trial. Compare Dkt. Nos. 222-1 at 2; 266; 267 with Dkt. No. 123-8 (labels submitted in support of
28 motion for class certification). Notwithstanding counsel’s claim at the motion hearing that he
thought the introduction of the slide deck (about which Plaintiff was not questioned at all, and
about which counsel only questioned Mr. Underwood as to pricing issues) was “sufficient,” the
Court continues to find the way this transpired “exceedingly odd.” Dkt. No. 299 (transcript of
February 19, 2020 motions hearing) at 5-6.

1 273. But while Mr. Underwood testified that he believes the Prevagen products with the
2 “Improves Memory” tagline started shipping in 2013, see Trial Tr. Vol. 2 at 296:25–297:3, there is
3 no evidence that this would have precluded a Prevagen product with the tagline “Brain Cell
4 Protection” from being available in retail stores as well. Mr. Underwood confirmed this in his
5 testimony. Id. at 297:11–15 (“Q: Mr. Underwood, is it possible that a retailer in the state of
6 California could have a bottle of Prevagen on the shelf that said “jellyfish fight aging,” “brain cell
7 protection,” “clearer thinking,” “improves memory” at the same time? A: Certainly.”). Instead,
8 this simply underscores that Plaintiff may not have been exposed to the same representations as
9 the rest of the Class, as he effectively acknowledged in his testimony.⁵

10 Nor does Plaintiff’s vague testimony establish that he saw the same alleged
11 misrepresentations that are on the products that were the basis of certification being granted. To
12 be clear, the Court is not requiring Plaintiff to recite verbatim the precise language of the alleged
13 misrepresentations. Plaintiff testified that he believed Prevagen could help him because of “what
14 it says on the box. It says it targets enhancing memory and improving brain functioning.” Trial
15 Tr. Vol. 1 at 137:11–18. He claims that he remembers the “jellyfish reference, [] clinical studies,
16 [and] I think a blind placebo.” Id. 1 at 140:17–20. “I believe I got the impression in a relatively
17 short amount of time I would -- I would experience improvement in my memory.” Id. at 140:21–
18 23. But the evidence at trial suggesting that Plaintiff might have purchased a product that did not
19 contain the challenged misrepresentations, see Trial Exs. 3 and 536, and Plaintiff’s admission,
20 when confronted, that he could not remember whether he actually purchased the product that said
21 “Improves Memory” or “Brain Cell Protection,” See Trial Tr. Vol. 2 at 193:23–194:2, are fatal to
22 the maintenance of this case as a class action.⁶

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24 _____
25 ⁵ The Court rejects Plaintiff’s wholly unsubstantiated speculation that Walgreens may have simply
26 described the product as “PREVAGEN BRN CELL PROTECT” in its inventory even though that
27 may not have been the product Plaintiff purchased. See Dkt. No. 273 at 2. No evidence
28 whatsoever was introduced to support this claim.

⁶ Plaintiff’s string-cited cases are distinguishable and do not support his position. See Dkt. No.
272 at 8 n.3; Dkt. No. 273 at 2 n.2. None of these cases address the unique scenario here, where
the evidence suggested that Plaintiff may have purchased a product with a different label, and
Plaintiff testified that he “couldn’t honestly tell” the jury and the Court whether the product he
purchased was the one containing the key alleged misrepresentations.

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The Court thus decertifies the class because, based on the trial record, Plaintiff fails to fulfill the typicality requirement of Rule 23(a)(3), the adequacy requirement of Rule 23(a)(4), and the predominance requirement of Rule 23(b)(3).⁸

III. DEFENDANT’S MOTION FOR JUDGMENT AS A MATTER OF LAW

As the Class has been decertified, the Court now turns to Defendant’s motion for judgment as a matter of law with respect to Plaintiff’s individual claim.

A. Legal Standard

“[A] party must make a Rule 50(a) motion for judgment as a matter of law before a case is submitted to the jury.” *Equal Emp’t Opportunity Comm’n v. Go Daddy Software, Inc.*, 581 F.3d 951, 961 (9th Cir. 2009). “Judgment as a matter of law is warranted ‘when the evidence presented at trial permits only one reasonable conclusion.’” *Peralta v. Dillard*, 744 F.3d 1076, 1085 (9th Cir. 2014) (citations and quotations omitted). “In other words, ‘[a] motion for judgment as a matter of law is properly only if no reasonable juror could find in the non-moving party’s favor.’” *Torres v. City of Los Angeles*, 548 F.3d 1197, 1205 (9th Cir. 2008) (quoting *El-Hakem v. BJV Inc.*, 415 F.3d 1068, 1072 (9th Cir.2005) (alterations in original)). The Court must view all evidence “in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, and all reasonable inferences must be drawn in favor of that party.” *Id.* at 1205–06 (citation omitted). “A jury’s inability to reach a verdict does not necessarily preclude a judgment as a matter of law.” *Headwaters Forest Def. v. Cty. of Humboldt*, 240 F.3d 1185, 1197 (9th Cir. 2000), vacated on other grounds, 534 U.S. 801 (2001).

B. Discussion

Defendant moves for judgment as a matter of law on the basis that Plaintiff failed to prove damages to a reasonable certainty, and Plaintiff failed to introduce any evidence that Plaintiff saw and relied on the challenged representations.

⁸ Because the Court finds that the class no longer satisfies the typicality or predominance requirements, and that Plaintiff is not an adequate class representative, the Court need not address Defendant’s other arguments.

1 To prevail on his CLRA claim, Plaintiff must prove that he actually relied on the alleged
2 misrepresentations. *Marolda v. Symantec Corp.*, 672 F. Supp. 2d 992, 1002 (N.D. Cal. 2009)
3 (“California state and federal courts considering [CLRA] claims have required plaintiffs to
4 demonstrate the statutory causal connection by showing that they have acted in reliance on the
5 alleged misrepresentation.”) (collecting cases). Reliance is proved “by showing that the
6 defendant’s misrepresentation ... was ‘an immediate cause of’ the plaintiff’s injury-producing
7 conduct.” *In re Tobacco II Cases*, 46 Cal. 4th at 326 (citation and quotations omitted). But
8 reliance “cannot be inferred or presumed where a consumer has never heard or seen the deceptive
9 representations.” *Withers v. eHarmony, Inc.*, No. CV 09-2266-GHK RCX, 2011 WL 8156007, at
10 *2 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 4, 2011) (citing *Mirkin v. Wasserman*, 5 Cal.4th 1083, 1095 (1993)).

11 While the Court found Plaintiff’s case at trial underwhelming, viewing all evidence in the
12 light most favorable to Plaintiff, the Court finds that Defendant is not entitled to judgment as a
13 matter of law on Plaintiff’s individual CLRA claim. Many questions remain as to what product
14 Plaintiff bought, the circumstances under which he bought it, and what the label said. But as to
15 the individual claim, the Court cannot say that judgment as a matter of law is warranted under the
16 deferential standard. Moreover, Plaintiff did introduce evidence of his own damages, as
17 Defendant appears to effectively concede, and that was sufficient now that the class has been
18 decertified. See Dkt. No. 268 at 4 (“Other than a single receipt purportedly reflecting Plaintiff’s
19 own purchase ... Plaintiff failed to submit evidence at trial of a single specific retail sale of
20 Prevagen to a California consumer.”).⁹

21 **IV. CONCLUSION**

22 The Court **GRANTS** Defendant’s motion to decertify the class. Dkt. No. 269, **DENIES**
23 Defendant’s motion for judgment as a matter of law, Dkt. No. 268, and **DENIES** Plaintiff’s
24 motion for judgment as a matter of law, Dkt. No. 271.


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26 _____
27 ⁹ Plaintiff’s motion for judgment as a matter of law, Dkt. No. 271, is also **DENIED**. Making all
28 inferences in Defendant’s favor, the trial evidence did not compel the conclusion that any
representation was false, or that the product does not work as represented (though the Court views
the efficacy of the product as very much an open question that apparently continues to be explored
in pending law enforcement investigations).

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The Court **SETS** a telephonic case management conference for May 12, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. to discuss a plan for finally resolving this case. The parties do not need to file any case management statement before the conference, but should meet and confer before then on this topic.¹⁰ All counsel shall use the following dial-in information to access the call: Dial-In: 888-808-6929/Passcode: 6064255. For call clarity, parties shall NOT use speaker phone or earpieces for these calls, and where at all possible, parties shall use landlines. The parties are further advised to ensure that the Court can hear and understand them clearly before speaking at length.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 5/4/2020


HAYWOOD S. GILLIAM, JR.
United States District Judge

¹⁰ On April 30, 2020, Plaintiff's counsel Stewart Weltman filed a motion to withdraw. Dkt. No. 308. While Defendant does not oppose the motion, it does not indicate whether Mr. Racies agrees to the withdrawal. Mr. Weltman should be prepared to discuss this issue at the conference as well. If Mr. Racies agrees to the withdrawal, counsel may submit a statement to that effect signed by Mr. Racies anytime before May 12.