

United States District Court
Northern District of California

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

TANYA NICOLE POWELL,
Plaintiff,

v.

EXPERIAN INFORMATION
SOLUTIONS, INC., et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 15-cv-02999-SBA

**ORDER FOR PRETRIAL
PREPARATION**

Pursuant to Rule 16(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("FRCP"), IT IS
HEREBY ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

**A. DEADLINE FOR JOINDER OF PARTIES/AMENDING THE
PLEADINGS**

The deadline for the joinder of other parties and to amend the pleadings is
October 1, 2015.

B. DISCOVERY CUT-OFF

All discovery, except for expert discovery, shall be completed and all
depositions taken on or before March 18, 2016. The parties are responsible for scheduling
discovery so that motions to resolve discovery disputes can be heard before the above
discovery cut-off.

C. EXPERT DESIGNATION AND DISCOVERY

Plaintiff shall designate any experts by March 18, 2016; defendant by
March 18, 2016; rebuttal disclosure by April 8, 2016. Any expert not so named may be
disallowed as a witness. No expert will be permitted to testify to any opinion, or basis or
support for an opinion, that has not been disclosed in response to an appropriate question or
interrogatory from the opposing party. Expert discovery shall be completed by April 29,
2016.

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D. MOTION CUT-OFF

All dispositive motions shall be *heard* on or before July 13, 2016, at 1:00 p.m. *The parties must meet and confer prior to filing any motion.* The movant shall certify to the Court in its moving papers that it has complied with this requirement. Should the parties fail to meet and confer, the Court may decline to entertain the motion.

THE COURT DOES NOT RESERVE MOTION HEARING DATES. The parties are advised to check Judge Armstrong's calendar at www.cand.uscourts.gov/sba, under Scheduling Information to determine the next available hearing date, particularly in the case of a dispositive motion. The parties are advised *not* to wait until 35 days prior to the law and motion cut-off date to file and serve their motion. As the Court's law and motion calendar tends to fill quickly, there is *no* guarantee that a hearing date within the law and motion cut-off date will be available. You **MUST** submit a hard copy of all motion papers filed in E-FILED cases in order to be placed on calendar.

Page Limits: All noticed motions (other than motions for summary judgment) and any opposition thereto, shall not exceed **fifteen (15) pages** in length, exclusive of the table of contents, table of authorities, exhibits and declarations, if required. Reply briefs may not exceed **ten (10) pages** in length. Motions for summary judgment are subject to the page limits set forth in Civil Local Rule 7.

Meet and Confer Requirement: All parties are required to meet and confer in good faith before filing any motion or any non-stipulated request with this court, and to certify that they have complied with this requirement.

Failure to Oppose: The failure of the opposing party to file a memorandum of points and authorities in opposition to any motion shall constitute a consent to the granting of the motion.

Summary Judgment: Parties are limited to filing one motion for summary judgment. Any party wishing to exceed this limit must request leave of Court. Separate statements of undisputed facts will not be considered. Joint statements of undisputed facts are not required, but are helpful if agreed upon.

Hearing on Motions: Note that pursuant to Civil L.R. 7-1(b), the Court may, in its discretion, adjudicate motions *without* oral argument.

E. MANDATORY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

All parties are ordered to participate in a mandatory settlement conference during the following time period: July 18, 2016 to August 12, 2016.

F. PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

1 All Counsel who will try the case shall appear for a pretrial conference
2 on September 28, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. All Counsel shall be fully prepared to discuss all
3 aspects of the trial. Failure to file the requisite pretrial documents in advance of the pretrial
4 conference may result in vacation of the pretrial conference and/or the imposition of
sanctions. ***ALL PARTIES WITH SETTLEMENT AUTHORITY ARE REQUIRED TO
ATTEND THE PRETRIAL CONFERENCE.***

5 **G. PRETRIAL PREPARATION DUE: August 15, 2016**

6 Prior to the date pretrial preparation is due, Counsel shall meet and
7 confer in good faith in advance of complying with the following pretrial requirements in
8 order to clarify and narrow the issues for trial, arrive at stipulations of facts, simplify and
9 shorten the presentation of proof at trial, and explore possible settlement. In addition,
Counsel shall meet and confer regarding anticipated motions in limine, objections to
10 evidence, jury instructions, and any other matter which may require resolution by the Court.
The following items 1 through 8 below shall be filed and served by the above-referenced
11 date.

12 **1. Joint Pretrial Statement**

13 Counsel are required to file a pretrial conference statement
14 containing the following information:

15 **(a) The Action**

16 **(i) Substance of the Action.** A brief description of the
17 substance of claims and defenses which remain to be decided

18 **(ii) Relief Prayed.** A detailed statement of all the relief
19 claimed, particularly itemizing all elements of damages claimed as well as witnesses,
documents or other evidentiary material to be presented concerning the amount of those
20 damages.

21 **(b) The Factual Basis of the Action**

22 **(i) Undisputed Facts.** A plain and concise statement of
23 all relevant facts not reasonably disputable, as well as which facts parties will stipulate for
24 incorporation into the trial record without the necessity of supporting testimony or exhibits.

25 **(ii) Disputed Factual Issues.** A plain and concise
26 statement of all disputed factual issues which remain to be decided.

27 **(iii) Agreed Statement.** A statement assessing whether
28 all or part of the action may be presented upon an agreed statement of facts.

1 (iv) **Stipulations.** A statement of stipulations requested or
2 proposed for pretrial or trial purposes.

3 (c) **Disputed Legal Issues**

4 (i) **Points of Law.** Without extended legal argument, a
5 concise statement of each disputed point of law concerning liability or relief, citing
6 supporting statutes and decisions. Unless otherwise ordered, parties should cite to briefs
7 served and lodged setting forth briefly the nature of each party's contentions concerning each
8 disputed point of law, including procedural and evidentiary issues.

9 (ii) **Proposed Conclusions of law.** If the case is to be
10 tried without jury, unless otherwise ordered, parties should briefly indicate objections to
11 proposed conclusions of law lodged with this Court.

12 **2. Trial Briefs**

13 Each party shall serve and file a trial brief which shall briefly
14 state their contentions, the relevant facts to be proven at trial, and the law on the issues
15 material to the decision.

16 **3. Findings of Fact**

17 In non-jury cases, each party shall serve and lodge with the
18 Court proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law on all material issues. Findings shall
19 be brief, clear, written in plain English and free of pejorative language, and argument.

20 **4. Witnesses**

21 Each party shall serve and file with the Court a list of all persons
22 who may be called as witnesses. The list shall include a summary of the substance of each
23 witness' proposed testimony.

24 **5. Designation of Discovery Excerpts**

25 Each party expecting to use discovery excerpts as part of its case
26 in chief shall serve and lodge with the Court a statement identifying (1) by witness and page
27 and line, all deposition testimony and (2) by lodged excerpt, all interrogatory answers and
28 request for admissions to be used as part of its direct case. Each interrogatory answer
intended to be offered as an exhibit shall be copied separately and marked as an exhibit. The
original of any deposition to be used at trial must be produced at the time of trial, as well as
a copy for the Court. Counsel shall indicate any objections to the use of these materials and
advise the Court that counsel has conferred respecting such objections.

6. Jury Instructions

1 The parties shall file a joint set of proposed jury instructions as
2 to those instructions on which the parties have reached agreement. As to any disputed
3 instructions, each party shall separately submit its "proposed" instruction(s) supported by a
4 memorandum setting forth the authority for its use. Responses or objections to any
5 "proposed" jury instruction shall be filed no later than the date of the pretrial conference.
6 All instructions shall be written in plain English which is comprehensible to jurors, concise
7 and free of argument, and shall be organized in a logical fashion so as to aid jury
8 comprehension, and are also to be provided on a CD in a word format. The Court's practice
9 is to utilize, whenever possible, instructions found in the Ninth Circuit Manual of Model
10 Jury Instructions.

11 **7. Jury Voir Dire and Verdict Forms**

12 Each party shall submit proposed questions for jury voir dire and
13 a proposed form of verdict.

14 **8. Exhibits**

15 Each party shall provide every other party one set of all exhibits,
16 charts, schedules, summaries and diagrams and other similar documentary materials to be
17 used at the trial together with a complete list of all such exhibits. The Court requires one
18 original version of exhibits (as described above) for the Clerk and two copies (one for the
19 Bench and one for the witness stand). All such versions of the exhibits, including the
20 originals, should be indexed into a binder for easy and quick reference by all parties. The
21 first page of each binder should have a copy of the exhibit list (see attached) appropriately
22 completed with each exhibit description and its designated number. Plaintiffs shall refer to
23 their exhibits numerically and Defendants shall label theirs alphabetically. Exhibit labels are
24 also attached for your convenience. Exhibits should be brought to Court on the first day of
25 trial.

26 **9. Motions in Limine and Objections to Evidence**

27 Each party anticipating making motion(s) in limine and/or
28 objection(s) to any testimony or exhibits expected to be offered shall file and serve a
statement briefly identifying each item objected to and the grounds for the objection. The
parties must meet and confer prior to filing any motion in limine and objection to evidence.
The movant shall certify to the Court in its moving papers that it has complied with this
requirement.

NOTE: All motions in limine submitted by each party shall be
set forth *in a single memorandum*, not to exceed **ten (10) pages** in length. Responses to the
motions in limine shall be set forth in a single memorandum, not to exceed **ten (10) pages**
in length. Reply briefs shall not exceed **six (6) pages**. No motions in limine will be considered
unless the parties certify that they met and conferred prior to the filing of such motion. Any

1 request to exceed the page limit must be submitted prior to the deadline for these briefs and
2 must be supported by a showing of good cause, along with a certification that the applicant
has met and conferred with the opposing party.

3 (a) **Motions/Objections due: August 22, 2016**

4 (b) **Opposition due: August 29, 2016**

5 (c) **Reply due: September 7, 2016**

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7 **H. TRIAL DATE**

8 Trial before a jury will begin on **October 17, 2016, at 8:30 a.m.**, for an
9 estimated 4 trial days, or as soon thereafter as the Court may designate. The parties are
10 advised that they must be prepared to go to trial on a trailing basis. The trial will take place
11 at 1300 Clay Street, 2nd Floor, Courtroom 210, Oakland, California, 94612 (located inside
the U.S. Bankruptcy Courthouse). The Court's trial hours are from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.,
12 with two fifteen-minute breaks. *On the first day of trial all parties are required to have
someone in Court with full Settlement Authority.*

13 **I. TRANSCRIPTS**

14 If transcripts will be requested during or immediately after the trial,
15 arrangements must be made with the Court Reporter Coordinator (Telephone No. 510-637-
16 3534) at least one week prior to the commencement of trial commences.

17 **J. STATUS AND DISCOVERY CONFERENCES**

18 Any party desiring to confer with the Court may, upon notice to all
19 other parties, arrange a conference through the courtroom deputy (Telephone No. 415-522-
4158). Conferences may be conducted telephonically, upon request (preferably in writing).

20 **K. SANCTIONS**

21 Failure to comply with this order may result in the imposition of
22 sanctions pursuant to FRCP 16(f).

23 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

24
25 Dated: October 2, 2015

26 
SAUNDRA BROWN ARMSTRONG
27 United States District Judge
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