Stip. Re: Summ. Judg. Mots. and Case Schedules and Order, Nos. 4:17-cv-1864-HSG, 4:16-cv-5544-HSG

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WHEREAS, the parties filed a joint status conference statement on April 9, 2021 in these related cases, *Berman et al v. Microchip Technology Inc.*, No. 4:17-cv-01864-HSG (*Berman*), and *Schuman et al v. Microchip Technology, Inc.*, No. 4:16-cv-05544-HSG (*Schuman*), which addressed how to move these cases forward efficiently following the Ninth Circuit's memorandum disposition in *Berman* (*Berman* Dkt. 137; *Schuman* Dkt. 154);

WHEREAS, the Court on April 14, 2021 terminated the parties' then pending cross-motions for summary judgment in *Schuman* (*Schuman* Dkt. 156), pursuant to agreement of the parties;

WHEREAS, the Amended Scheduling Order in *Berman* and *Schuman* set a dispositive motion hearing deadline of January 13, 2022 (*Berman* Dkt. 140; *Schuman* Dkt. 157);

WHEREAS, the parties filed and briefed cross-motions for partial summary judgment in *Berman* in the fall of 2021, which the Court took under submission on October 6, 2021 (Dkts. 145, 163, 165, 166, 168);

WHEREAS, Defendants contend that they interpreted the Court's standing order on successive summary judgment motions as applying only to motions addressing the same claim, and that before the Ninth Circuit appeal and remand, Plaintiffs had previously filed, and the Court entertained, two motions for partial summary judgment in *Berman* addressing different claims. Accordingly, on December 9, 2021, 35 days before the dispositive motion hearing deadline per Civil Local Rule 7-2(a), Defendants in *Berman* filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Plaintiffs' First Cause of Action – For Equitable Relief (Dkt. 171), as to which Defendants contend they had not previously moved for summary judgment, and Defendants in *Schuman* filed a Motion for Summary Judgment (Dkt. 163), noticing both motions for hearing on January 13, 2022;

WHEREAS, on December 10, 2021, Plaintiffs in Berman filed an Administrative Motion to

¹ Plaintiffs continue to maintain that their pre-appeal motions in *Berman* did not address different claims and were filed with prior notice to the Court. Plaintiffs first moved for partial summary judgment in *Berman* on both claims for relief, and the Court granted judgment on Plaintiffs' denial of benefits claim and granted judgment as to liability on their breach of fiduciary duty claim. Then, after Plaintiffs' counsel discussed with Defendants' counsel how to resolve the remaining remedy issues and informed the Court of their intention, Plaintiffs filed a subsequent motion for summary judgment seeking interest and surcharge as a remedy for the breach of fiduciary duty claim.

Strike Defendants' Second Motion for Partial Summary Judgment or in the Alternative to Stay Briefing before Defendants had responded to Plaintiffs' meet and confer voicemails and email sent earlier that afternoon² (Dkt. 172);

WHEREAS, the parties conferred the following Monday after an exchange of emails over the weekend, and reached an agreement in principle to file a Stipulated Request and Proposed Order regarding Summary Judgment Motions and Case Schedules, under which Plaintiffs would withdraw their "Motion for Administrative Relief" and the parties would request the Court stay further briefing and hearing on Defendants' December 9, 2021 motions in both cases and would request a modification of the Scheduling Order to vacate the currently pending dates in both cases, and then, after the Court resolved the parties' submitted cross-motions for partial summary judgment in *Berman*, the parties would meet and confer to propose a schedule for filing and briefing dispositive motions as to any remaining issues in *Berman* and *Schuman*;

WHEREAS, on December 13, 2021, while the parties were exchanging drafts of the Stipulated Request and Proposed Order regarding Summary Judgment Motions and Case Schedules in both cases, the Court in *Berman* granted Plaintiffs' Administrative Motion to Strike Defendants' Second Motion for Partial Summary Judgment or in the Alternative to Stay Briefing (Dkt. 173);

WHEREAS, the parties have been in discussions regarding possible mediation, which are still ongoing;

WHEREAS, the parties have met and conferred regarding the pending summary judgment motions and case schedules in these two related cases and have agreed that the most efficient way to proceed, subject to the Court's approval, is: (1) for the Court to vacate the deadlines set forth in the Amended Scheduling Order in these cases (*Berman* Dkt. 140; *Schuman* Dkt. 157) and to stay further briefing or proceedings on Defendants' December 9, 2021 summary judgment motion in *Schuman* until after it decides the parties' pending cross-motions for summary judgment in *Berman* (Dkts. 145, 163, 165, 166); and (2) for the parties to meet and confer promptly after the Court rules on the cross-

² Defendants contend they did not have the opportunity to meet and confer prior to the filing as they were in the process of researching and drafting a written response to the unexpected two voicemails (left 2.5 hours before the filing) and one email (sent 2 hours before the filing), which they still sent shortly after the filing.

motions in *Berman*, and to propose to the Court a new briefing schedule: (a) in *Berman*, to the extent any issues remain to be decided that can be resolved by further motions for summary judgment, which the parties have agreed not to oppose as improperly successive; and (b) in *Schuman*, with the parties either filing new cross-motions for summary judgment or, if Defendants choose to stand on their December 9, 2021 motion (Dkt. 163), for the filing of plaintiffs' opposition and cross-motion and the parties' subsequent reply and opposition briefs.

THEREFORE, the parties stipulate and request the Court to order as follows, based on the good cause described above:

- 1. Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment in *Schuman* (Dkt. 163) is taken off calendar. All further summary judgment motions and briefing in *Berman* and *Schuman* are stayed until after the Court resolves the cross-motions in *Berman* that are currently under submission (Dkts. 145, 163, 165, 166);
- All deadlines in the Amended Scheduling Order in *Berman* and *Schuman* (*Berman* Dkt. 140; *Schuman* Dkt. 157) are vacated; and
- 3. Within 14 days after the Court resolves the currently pending cross-motions for summary judgment in *Berman*, the parties shall meet and confer and propose a case schedule for such further proceedings, including a schedule for briefing dispositive motions in both cases based on any issues that may remain in both cases after the Court's decision on the pending cross-motions for summary judgment in *Berman*.

1	Dated: December 16, 2021	Respectfully submitted,
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1		ORDER	
2	Pursuant to the parties' stipulation, it is SO ORDERED.		
3	1.	Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment in Schuman (Dkt. 163) is taken off	
4		calendar. All further summary judgment motions and briefing in <i>Berman</i> and <i>Schuman</i>	
5		are stayed until further order of this Court.	
6	2.	All deadlines in the Amended Scheduling Order in both Berman and Schuman (Berman	
7		Dkt. 140; Schuman Dkt. 157) are vacated.	
8	3.	Within 14 days after the Court resolves the currently pending cross-motions for	
9		summary judgment in Berman (Dkts. 145, 163, 165, 166), the parties will meet and	
10		confer and propose a case schedule for further proceedings in both cases, including	
11		dispositive motions on any issues that may remain in both cases.	
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14	Dated: 12/1	7/2021 Haywood S. Sill J. THE HONORABLE HAYWOOD S. GILLIAM, JR.	
15 16		United States District Court Judge Northern District of California	
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