Ortiz et al v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc

Doc. 54

On January 26, 2011, following a Case Management Conference, the Court ordered, *inter alia*, Defendant Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. "make a Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) witness available for deposition on a narrow set of topics required by Plaintiffs for mediation." Jan. 26, 2011 Minute Order & Case Management Order (dkt. no. 50). These topics concern whether and the extent to which Defendant can implement technology, such as video phones and video remote interpreting, in its stores to provide effective communication to deaf and hard of hearing workers there. The Court also extended the deadline for completing mediation until March 1, 2011. *Id*.

On January 31, 2011, Defendant responded to Plaintiffs' December 28, 2010 interrogatories and document requests, which covered topics that overlapped the topics for the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition. After reviewing Defendant's responses and conferring with Defendant's counsel William Allen on February 4, the parties agreed that Plaintiffs had sufficient information on the topics at issue to proceed with mediation without the deposition. Continuing the deposition will also allow the parties to focus on mediation, which is scheduled for February 16, 2011.

In light of the foregoing, and subject to approval by the Court, the parties agreed to continue the Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) deposition until after the mediation. Specifically, the parties agreed to continue the deposition to March 3, 2011 in San Francisco, CA.

Under the January 26, 2011 Case Management Order, Plaintiffs' deadline for filing the class certification motion is July 14, 2011, and the non-expert discovery cut-off is December 23, 2011. The parties do not believe that the continuance of this deposition to facilitate the mediation will impact their ability to meet these deadlines, and Defendant has agreed not to use the continuance as an argument in any way against further discovery by Plaintiffs. Accordingly, the parties submit that there is good cause for this short continuance and jointly request that the Court modify its Case Management Order by allowing Defendant to produce the witness on or before March 3, rather than during the week of February 7. A declaration from Mr. Allen in support of this request is enclosed.

26

27

28

1	Dated: February 8, 2011	Claudia Center
2		Jinny Kim Rachael Langston
3		THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY-EMPLOYMENT LAW CENTER
4		Joshua Konecky
5		SCHNEIDER WALLACE COTTRELL BRAYTON KONECKY LLP
6		/s/ Jinny Kim
7		JINNY KIM
8		Attorneys for Plaintiffs Gabriel Ortiz, Andrew Gonzales, Landon Mickey
9		Miller, and Joe Huynh
10		
11	Dated: February 8, 2011.	AKIN GUMP STRAUSS HAUER & FELD LLP Donald Livingston
12		William Allen Teresa W. Ghali
13		
14		
15		/s/ Teresa W. Ghali TERESA GHALI
16		
17		Attorneys for Defendant HOME DEPOT U.S.A., INC.
18		
19	ECF CERTIFICATION	
20	Pursuant to General Order No. 45 X. (B), I attest that concurrence in the filing of this	
21	document has been obtained from Plaintiffs' counsel.	
22	Dated: February 8, 2011.	/ /T W Cl 1
23		/s/ Teresa W. Ghali TERESA GHALI
24		
25		
26		
27		
28		
		3

DECLARATION OF WILLIAM F. ALLEN

- I, William F. Allen, declare,
- 1. I am an attorney in good standing licensed to practice in the District of Columbia, and have been admitted *pro hac vice* in *Ortiz v. Home Depot U.S.A., Inc.*, Case No. C 09-03485 LHK (N.D. Cal.). *See* dkt. no. 41. I am senior counsel at the law firm of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, attorneys for defendant Home Depot U.S.A. Inc. My office is located at 1333 New Hampshire Avenue NW, Washington, DC. I make this declaration based on my own personal knowledge and, if called to do so, could and would competently so testify in court.
- 2. On January 26, 2011, the Court ordered Defendant Home Depot U.S.A., Inc. to "make a Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) witness available for deposition on a narrow set of topics required by Plaintiffs for mediation." Jan. 26, 2011 Minute Order & Case Management Order (dkt. no. 50). These topics concern whether and the extent to which Defendant can implement technology, such as video phones and video remote interpreting, in its stores to provide effective communication to deaf and hard of hearing workers there. The Court also extended the deadline for completing mediation until March 1, 2011. *Id.*
- 3. On January 31, 2011, Defendant responded to Plaintiffs' December 28, 2010 interrogatories and document requests.
- 4. After reviewing Defendant's responses and conferring with me by telephone on February 4, Plaintiffs' counsel Jinny Kim and Josh Konecky agreed that they had sufficient information to proceed with mediation and agreed to continue the Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6) deposition provided that Defendant made the designated witness available in San Francisco on a date certain. It is Defendant's view that continuing the deposition until after the mediation will allow the parties to focus on mediation, which is scheduled for February 16, 2011.
- 5. On February 4, I offered three dates for the first week of March. On February 7, Mr. Konecky accepted March 3 as the new deposition date.
- 6. The parties do not believe that the continuance of this deposition to facilitate the mediation will impact their ability to meet the current discovery and motion practice deadlines. In

The parties stipulate that Defendant may produce the Fed. R. Civ. 30(b)(6) witness regarding communication technology for deaf and hard of hearing workers on or before March 3, 2011. PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED this 25th day of February, 2011. United States District Judge