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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JOHN PAUL MICHA, M.D.,
Plaintiff,
v.
SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF
CANADA, etc., et al.,
Defendants.

Case No. 09-CV-2753-JM (JMA)
**ORDER DENYING APPLICATION TO
PERMIT TELEPHONIC APPEARANCE
AT THE EARLY NEUTRAL
EVALUATION CONFERENCE
[Doc. 17];**
**ORDER RESCHEDULING EARLY
NEUTRAL EVALUATION
CONFERENCE**

On April 12, 2010, Defendant Sun Life Assurance Company of Canada, U.S. (“Sun Life”) filed an application to permit telephonic appearance at the Early Neutral Evaluation (“ENE”) Conference. Doc. 17. Plaintiff John Paul Micha, M.D. and Defendant Group Disability Benefits Plan for Gynecologic Oncology Associates Partners, LLC each filed objections to the application. Because Sun Life has not demonstrated good cause for a telephonic appearance by its client representative at the ENE Conference, the application is **DENIED**.

In order to permit the personal appearance of Sun Life’s client representative, the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference presently scheduled for April 26, 2010 is rescheduled for **June 2, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.** in the chambers of the Honorable Jan M. Adler, United States Magistrate Judge, Room 1165, U.S. Courthouse, 940 Front Street,

1 San Diego, California.

2 Pursuant to Rule 16.1(c) of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for
3 the Southern District of California, **all named parties, all counsel, and any other**
4 **person(s) whose authority is required to negotiate and enter into settlement shall**
5 **appear in person at the conference**, shall be prepared to discuss the claims and
6 defenses, and shall be legally and factually prepared to discuss and resolve the case at
7 the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference. **The individual(s) present at the Early**
8 **Neutral Evaluation Conference with settlement authority must have the unfettered**
9 **discretion and authority on behalf of the party to: 1) fully explore all settlement**
10 **options and to agree during the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference to any**
11 **settlement terms acceptable to the party (*G. Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph***
12 ***Oat Corp.*, 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir. 1989)), 2) change the settlement position of**
13 **a party during the course of the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference (*Pitman v.***
14 ***Brinker Int'l, Inc.*, 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003)), and 3) negotiate a**
15 **settlement without being restricted by any predetermined level of authority (*Nick***
16 ***v. Morgan's Foods, Inc.*, 270 F.3d 590, 596 (8th Cir. 2001)).**

17 Governmental entities may appear through litigation counsel only. As to all other
18 parties, appearance by litigation counsel only is not acceptable. Retained outside
19 corporate counsel shall not appear on behalf of a corporation as the party who has the
20 authority to negotiate and enter into a settlement. **The failure of any counsel, party or**
21 **authorized person to appear at the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference as**
22 **required will result in the immediate imposition of sanctions.**

23 All conference discussions will be informal, off the record, privileged, and
24 confidential.

25 Counsel for any non-English speaking parties is responsible for arranging for the
26 appearance of an interpreter at the conference.

27 Although the submission of statements is not required in advance of the Early
28 Neutral Evaluation Conference, parties may submit concise statements if desired. If a

1 statement is submitted, it shall be provided to chambers no later than one week prior to
2 the scheduled conference.¹ If the parties submit statements in connection with the Early
3 Neutral Evaluation Conference, they may either do so on a confidential basis or may
4 exchange their statements.

5 Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure shall apply to this case. All
6 discovery shall be stayed until after the Rule 26(f) conference, unless otherwise
7 permitted by Rule 26(f) or court order.


8 In the event the case does not settle at the Early Neutral Evaluation Conference,
9 the parties shall also be prepared to discuss the following matters at the conclusion of
10 the conference:

- 11 1. Any anticipated objections under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1)
12 to the initial disclosure provisions of Rule 26(a)(1)(A-E);
- 13 2. The scheduling of the Rule 26(f) conference;
- 14 3. The date of initial disclosures and the date for lodging the discovery plan
15 following the Rule 26(f) conference; and
- 16 4. The scheduling of a Case Management Conference pursuant to Rule
17 16(b).

18 Questions regarding this case may be directed to the Magistrate Judge's law
19 clerk at (619) 557-5585. **Counsel shall also familiarize themselves with Magistrate
20 Judge Adler's Chambers Rules, which are posted on the Court's website.**

21 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

22 DATED: April 14, 2010

23 
24 Jan M. Adler
25 U.S. Magistrate Judge

26
27 ¹Statements under 20 pages in length, including attachments and exhibits, may be
28 delivered directly to chambers, e-mailed to efile_adler@casd.uscourts.gov, or faxed to (619)
702-9939. Statements exceeding 20 pages in length, including attachments and exhibits, must
be delivered directly to chambers.