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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

CHARLOTTE BEER,  
  
Plaintiff,  
  
v.  
  
METROPOLITAN LIFE INSURANCE  
COMPANY *et al.*,  
  
Defendants.

Case No.: 18-CV-702-BEN(WVG)

**ORDER GRANTING JOINT  
MOTION TO CONTINUE;  
AMENDED NOTICE AND ORDER  
FOR EARLY NEUTRAL  
EVALUATION CONFERENCE AND  
CASE MANAGEMENT  
CONFERENCE**

**[Doc. No. 25.]**

The parties’ joint motion to continue the October 24, 2018 Early Neutral Evaluation (“ENE”) and Case Management Conference (“CMC”) is GRANTED. The prior Order is VACATED and dates therein are reset below.

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that an ENE of your case and CMC will be held **on November 19, 2018, at 2:00 p.m.**, before United States Magistrate Judge William V. Gallo, Edward J. Schwartz U.S. Courthouse, 221 West Broadway, Second Floor, San Diego, California. The attorneys and parties are to alert chambers of their arrival via the call button in the second floor elevator lobby.

1           Additionally, **on October 26, 2018, beginning at 12:00 p.m.**, the Court will hold  
2 an attorneys-only telephonic status conference with each party separately.<sup>1</sup> The purpose  
3 of this confidential, off-the-record teleconference is for the Court’s benefit in assessing  
4 each party’s concerns, challenges, and whether the Court can assist in alleviating these.  
5 **On or before October 23, 2018**, each attorney intending to participate shall lodge, via  
6 electronic mail addressed to efile\_Gallo@casd.uscourts.gov, (1) the name of each attorney  
7 who will participate and (2) a telephone number at which each attorney may be reached  
8 directly without fail at the time of the conference.

9           **I. EARLY NEUTRAL EVALUATION CONFERENCE**

10           The following are mandatory guidelines for the parties preparing for the ENE  
11 Conference.

12           **1. Purpose of Conference**

13           The purpose of the ENE is to permit an informal discussion between the attorneys,  
14 parties and the settlement judge of every aspect of the lawsuit in an effort to achieve an  
15 early resolution of the case. All conference discussions will be informal, off the record,  
16 privileged and confidential. Counsel for non-English speaking parties is responsible for  
17 arranging for the appearance of an interpreter at the conference.

18           **2. Personal Appearance of Parties Required**

19           All parties, adjusters for insured defendants, and other representatives of a party  
20 having full and complete authority to enter into a binding settlement, and the principal  
21 attorneys responsible for the litigation, must be present **in person** and legally and factually  
22 prepared to discuss settlement of the case. See S.D. Cal. Civ. L. R. 16.1(c).

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27 <sup>1</sup> The Court will contact the first party and proceed to contact the remaining parties one at  
28 a time. Each call may be short or lengthy. Counsel are required to be available for the  
Court’s call beginning at the appointed time and remain available until they are called.

1           **3.     Full Settlement Authority Required**

2           In addition to counsel who will try the case, a party or party representative with full  
3 settlement authority<sup>2</sup> must be present for the conference. In the case of a corporate entity,  
4 an authorized representative of the corporation who is not retained outside counsel must be  
5 present and must have discretionary authority to commit the company to pay an amount up  
6 to the amount of the plaintiff’s prayer (excluding punitive damage prayers). The purpose  
7 of this requirement is to have representatives present who can settle the case during the  
8 course of the conference without consulting a superior.

9           Unless there are extraordinary circumstances, persons required to attend the  
10 conference pursuant to this Order shall not be excused from personal attendance. Requests  
11 for excuse from attendance for extraordinary circumstances shall be made in writing at  
12 least one week before the conference. Failure to appear at the ENE conference will be  
13 grounds for sanctions.

14           **4.     Settlement Proposal and Response Required**

15           **No later than September 28, 2018**, Plaintiff shall submit to Defendants a written  
16 settlement proposal. **No later than October 3, 2018**, Defendants shall submit a response  
17 to Plaintiff’s settlement proposal. All parties shall be prepared to address in their ENE  
18 Statements, and discuss at the ENE conference, the settlement proposal and response.

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21           <sup>2</sup> “Full authority to settle” means that the individuals at the settlement conference must be  
22 authorized to fully explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any settlement  
23 terms acceptable to the parties. *Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp.*, 871 F.2d  
24 648 (7th Cir. 1989). The person needs to have “unfettered discretion and authority” to  
25 change the settlement position of a party. *Pitman v. Brinker Intl., Inc.*, 216 F.R.D. 481,  
26 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003). The purpose of requiring a person with unlimited settlement  
27 authority to attend the conference includes that the person’s view of the case may be altered  
28 during the face to face conference. *Id.* at 486. A limited or a sum certain of authority is  
not adequate. The person with full settlement authority must be able to negotiate a  
settlement without being restricted by any predetermined level of authority. *Nick v.*  
*Morgan’s Foods, Inc.*, 270 F.3d 590 (8th Cir. 2001).

1           **5. ENE Statements Required**

2           In accordance with the Court’s Chambers Rules, each party shall exchange its  
3 settlement Statement with all opposing parties. Additionally, in accordance with the  
4 Court’s Chambers Rules, each party shall submit a confidential or non-confidential  
5 Statement to the Court. **Both the exchange of Statements between the parties and**  
6 **submissions of Statements to the Court shall occur on or before October 12, 2018.** The  
7 Statement each party submits directly to the chambers shall be five pages or less and shall  
8 outline the nature of the case, the claims, the defenses, and the parties’ positions regarding  
9 settlement of, and attempts to settle the case. **All Statements must comply with the**  
10 **Court’s Chambers Rules.**

11           The parties shall meet and confer in good faith prior to the ENE Conference, and  
12 verify that they have done so in their respective ENE Conference statements, outlining the  
13 substance of their discussions and negotiations.

14           **6. Time Allotted**

15           The Court generally allots two hours for ENEs. Counsel should be prepared to be  
16 succinct and to the point. Requests for additional time must be made in writing in the  
17 party’s ENE statement, accompanied by a short explanation.

18           **7. New Parties Must Be Notified by Plaintiff’s Counsel**

19           Plaintiff’s counsel shall give notice of the ENE Conference to all parties responding  
20 to the Complaint after the date of this Notice.

21           **8. Requests to Continue an ENE Conference**

22           Civil Local Rule 16.1(c) requires that an ENE take place within 45 days of the filing  
23 of the first answer. Requests to continue ENE conferences are rarely granted. Counsel  
24 seeking to reschedule an ENE must first confer with opposing counsel. The Court will  
25 consider formal, written ex parte requests to continue an ENE conference when  
26 extraordinary circumstances exist that make a continuance appropriate. In and of itself,  
27 having to travel a long distance to appear at the ENE conference is not an extraordinary  
28 circumstance. **Absent extraordinary circumstances, requests for continuances of the**

1 **ENE conference may not be considered unless submitted in writing no less than seven**  
2 **calendar days prior to the scheduled conference.**

3 Please refer to the undersigned's Chambers Rules for additional guidance regarding  
4 the areas which must be addressed in the request.

5 The parties shall be prepared to engage in good faith settlement discussions with the  
6 Court and opposing parties during the ENE Conference. Failure to engage in good faith  
7 settlement discussions may result in the imposition of sanctions.

8 **II. CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE**

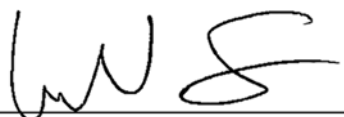
9 Given the delay in convening the ENE Conference, the parties shall also be prepared  
10 for a Case Management Conference on **November 19, 2018** at **2:00 p.m.** Accordingly, the  
11 Court issues the following orders:

- 12 1. The Court previously ordered that the Rule 26(f) conference was to be completed  
13 before August 30, 2018;
- 14 2. The Court previously ordered that initial disclosures pursuant to Rule  
15 26(a)(1)(A)-(D) were to occur before September 5, 2018; and
- 16 3. A joint discovery plan shall be lodged with Magistrate Judge Gallo on or before  
17 **October 12, 2018**.<sup>3</sup>

18 Questions regarding this case may be directed to the undersigned's Research  
19 Attorney at (619) 557-6384. Please consult the undersigned's Chambers Rules, which are  
20 available on the Court's website, before contacting chambers with any questions.

21 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

22 DATED: September 11, 2018

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25 Hon. William V. Gallo  
26 United States Magistrate Judge

27 <sup>3</sup> Counsel shall review the undersigned's Chambers Rules for guidance on completing the  
28 proposed discovery plan. Counsel are further advised to consult the Chambers Rules of  
the District Judge assigned to this case for case timeline preferences, if any.