

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO

Civil Action No. 08-cv-01998-MSK-KMT

JOANNA MARTIN, an Individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

SEARS, ROEBUCK AND CO., a New York Corporation,

Defendant.

PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pursuant to Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiff Joanna Martin (“Martin”) and Defendant Sears, Roebuck, and Co. (“Sears”), through their respective attorneys of record, agree that this Order shall govern the handling of documents, depositions, deposition exhibits, responses to any discovery requests, including responses to interrogatories, document requests and requests for admissions, inspections, examinations of premises, facilities and physical evidence, and any other information produced, given or exchanged by and among the parties and non-parties to this action in this case.

RECITALS

A. Martin has sued Sears for sexual harassment, retaliation, and constructive discharge in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Sears denies all liability on these claims.

B. Some of the information the parties may seek or develop through discovery in this case may contain or consist of information that the party producing or developing will claim is confidential, proprietary or trade secret information, and, therefore entitled to protection under one or more of the provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c) or other source of statutory or common law protection.

C. Nothing in this Proposed Order is intended, nor shall it be construed, as either a waiver or an admission that any documents or information are admissible or contain either confidential, proprietary business information, or trade secrets. This Proposed Order is simply a procedural framework to facilitate the discovery processes and/or provide protections concerning documents and information exchanged between and among the parties and non-parties in this case. No part of this Order shall be used in this action or any other action as evidence that any party has either waived or admitted to any claims solely by virtue of the act of designating documents or information as confidential, personal or proprietary business information, and/or trade secrets.

D. Based on these recitals and the terms of disclosure that follow, the parties have agreed to this Proposed Order to facilitate the efficient production of information that the producing party may claim is entitled to confidential treatment, while at the same time protecting

the parties' interests in the confidential treatment of that information and the full and fair disclosure of discoverable information in this action.

DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Order, the following definitions shall apply:

“Discovery Material” means all documents, depositions, deposition exhibits, responses to any discovery requests, including responses to interrogatories, document requests and requests for admissions, inspections, examinations of premises, facilities and physical evidence, witness interviews, and any other information produced pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or otherwise given or exchanged by and among the parties and non-parties in this action.

“Confidential Discovery Material” means Discovery Material designated as “Confidential” under the terms of this Order.

“Producing Party” means any party or non-party to this action producing Discovery Material.

“Designating Party” means any Producing Party or other party to this action who wishes to designate or has designated Discovery Material as Confidential Discovery Material.

“Objecting Party” means any party to this action who objects to the designation of Discovery Material as Confidential Discovery Material.

TERMS

Discovery Material.

1. Any party may designate any Discovery Material as “Confidential” under the terms of this Order if the party in good faith believes the Discovery Material meets the standards for protection set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). The burden shall be on the Designating Party,

when and if challenged, to prove that such Discovery Material contains non-public, proprietary, commercially sensitive, competitively sensitive, trade secret, financial, medical, personal, or other information deserving the protections provided for in this Order. Confidential Discovery Material may include, but is not limited to, the following types of information:

A. Non-public information relating to Sears' business operations, policies, and procedures;

B. Any material of a confidential nature, including, without limitation, product specifications, product designs, product development plans, research and development plans and data, market surveys and analyses, customer lists, customer profiles, customer purchase information, customer complaint and satisfaction information, price information, personally identifying information, policies, financial information, marketing information, compensation information, plans and formulae and personnel information;

C. Medical and financial records; and

D. Any other material qualifying for protection under Fed. R. Civ. P.

26(c)(7).

2. Confidential Discovery Material, and information derived therefrom, shall be used solely for purposes of this action and shall not be used for any other purpose, including, without limitation, any business or commercial purpose or in connection with any other proceeding or litigation.

Designation Procedure.

3. The designation of Discovery Material as “Confidential” for purposes of this Order shall be made in the following manner by any Designating Party:

A. In the case of documents (apart from recorded testimony), by stamping, imprinting or affixing a label on each and every page to be designated “Confidential” with the applicable legend “Confidential” or “CONFID,” or by typing the word "Confidential" or “CONFID” or imprinting or affixing a label with the word "Confidential" or “CONFID” next to or above any response to an Interrogatory or Request for Admission. With respect to documents which have previously been disclosed, by giving written notice to opposing counsel designating the specific information as confidential within fifteen days of the date the document was disclosed or within fifteen days after the Court approves this Protective Order, whichever is later.

B. In the case of depositions or pretrial testimony, by a statement on the record, by counsel, at the time of such disclosure that said testimony is “Confidential.” Such testimony may also be designated by written notice from counsel for the Designating Party to the court reporter and counsel of record for all other parties, specifying by page and line number the material to be classified as confidential. To be effective, such notice must be sent within 30 days of the date on which the reporter mails a copy of the transcript to counsel for the Designating Party, or, if such counsel has not ordered a transcript, within 30 days of the date that the reporter notifies counsel that the original transcript is available for review. In either event, counsel shall direct the court

reporter and/or counsel to affix the appropriate confidentiality stamp to any portion of the original transcript, and to that portion of all copies of the transcript, and those portions of the transcript so designated shall be deemed Confidential Discovery Material.

C. In the case of mutually agreed upon joint witness interviews (should any be agreed to), by a statement of counsel during the interview in the presence of other counsel attending, if any, and, following the interview, by a letter to such counsel, if any, that such interview or any portion thereof is “Confidential.”

D. In the case of any other production of Discovery Materials not otherwise specifically identified above, including but not limited to computer storage devices, a written statement made by counsel of the Designating Party to counsel for the other parties to this action, that such Discovery Material or any portion thereof is “Confidential.”

E. The parties to this Order may modify the procedures set forth in paragraphs 3(B)-(D) hereof through agreement of counsel on the record at such deposition or, in the case of an interview, in the presence of counsel attending such interview, without further order of the Court.

Confidential Material.

4. Discovery Material designated as “Confidential” may be disclosed, summarized, described, characterized or otherwise communicated or made available in whole or in part only to the following persons:

A. The Court, persons employed by the Court and stenographers transcribing the testimony or argument at a hearing, trial or deposition in this action or

any appeal therefrom. A party must move the Court to file documents under seal pursuant to D.C. COLO. LCivR 7.2 and 7.3. if the party seeks to file a document which contains designated Confidential Discovery Material;

B. Any named party, outside counsel to such parties whether or not they have entered appearances in this action, in-house counsel for the corporate parties herein, and legal, clerical, paralegal and secretarial staff employed or retained by outside or in-house counsel, including outside copying services;

C. Experts or consultants retained by counsel in connection with this action in accordance with the terms of paragraph 6;

D. Deposition witnesses questioned by outside counsel of record for a party in connection with this action, but only to the extent necessary to assist such counsel in the prosecution or defense of this action, and provided that such witness is advised of and agrees to be bound by the terms of this Order;

E. An author or recipient of the Confidential Discovery Material to be disclosed, summarized, described, characterized or otherwise communicated or made available, but only to the extent necessary to assist counsel in the prosecution or defense of this action.

F. The claims counsel or representative of any insurer of any party to this action, provided that such disclosure is made only in connection with a claim for a defense or indemnity arising from this action; and

G. Any individual identified by a party as a person with knowledge under Rule 26, but only to the extent necessary to assist counsel in the prosecution or defense of this action, and provided that such author agrees to be bound by the terms of this Order.

Designation Disputes.

5. If any party objects to the designation of any Discovery Materials as “Confidential,” the Objecting Party will inform the Designating Party of such objection on the record during a deposition or in writing within fifteen days of its receipt of the designated information. The parties shall attempt to resolve the dispute in good faith on an informal basis. If they are unable to resolve the dispute informally, the Designating Party may raise the issue with the Court (formally or informally) within twenty days after the notice of the objection is given by the Objecting Party. If the Designating Party fails to raise the issue with the Court within the prescribed time, the disputed information shall lose its designation as “Confidential” and shall not thereafter be treated as “Confidential” under the terms of this Protective Order. If the Designating Party makes such a motion, the Discovery Material shall continue to be deemed “Confidential” under the terms of this Order, until the Court rules on such motion. In any proceeding to release Confidential Discovery Material from its designation, or to change the designation of any such material, the burden shall be upon the Designating Party to sustain the burden of establishing the appropriateness of the classification under Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(c). A dispute concerning confidentiality shall not otherwise impede the progress of discovery.

Use of Confidential Discovery Material by Experts.

6. Confidential Discovery Material may be disclosed to any expert or consultant retained by counsel in connection with this action only for the purpose of enabling such expert or

consultant to prepare a written opinion, to prepare to testify and testify at trial, hearings or depositions herein, or to otherwise assist counsel in the prosecution or defense of this action. Before receiving any such material, such consultant or expert should be advised of the terms of this Order and must agree not to disclose or use such Confidential Discovery Materials for purposes other than those permitted hereunder.

7. No copies of Confidential Discovery Materials shall be made except by or on behalf of the persons listed in paragraph 4, above. To the extent such authorized persons require copies of Confidential Discovery Materials, any such copies shall be used solely for the purposes of this action and in accordance with the provisions of this Order.

8. When filing any documents that contain information designated Confidential Discovery Material, such documents shall be filed in sealed envelopes marked with the title of the action and bearing a statement substantially in the following form:

CONFIDENTIAL

FILED UNDER SEAL PURSUANT TO AN ORDER DATED _____, 200____, GOVERNING CONFIDENTIALITY OF DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION OBTAINED DURING THE COURSE OF THIS LITIGATION.

THIS ENVELOPE IS NOT TO BE OPENED NOR THE CONTENTS THEREOF DISPLAYED OR REVEALED EXCEPT BY OR TO QUALIFIED PERSONS OR BY COURT ORDER.

All such materials so filed shall be released from confidential treatment only upon further order of the Court.

9. In the event that any Confidential Discovery Material is used in any court proceeding in this action or any appeal therefrom, counsel shall confer in good faith on such

procedures as are necessary to protect the confidentiality of any such material used in the course of any court proceedings including, but not limited to, requesting the Court to hear counsel with respect to such information *in camera*. No party, other than the party who designated the particular material as Confidential Discovery Material, shall offer Confidential Discovery Material into evidence, or otherwise tender Confidential Discovery Material to the Court in any court proceeding, without first advising the Court and the Designating Party of its intent to do so. At that point, the Designating Party may seek such protection from the Court as it deems appropriate, including the exclusions of persons and witnesses from the Court and the sealing of the pertinent parts of the Court records. The use of Confidential Discovery Material in any court proceeding shall not limit in any way the rights of any person to petition the Court for such further protective measures as may be necessary to protect the confidentiality of such material.

10. The provisions of this Order shall, absent written permission of a Designating Party or further order of the Court, continue to be binding throughout and after the termination of this action, including, without limitation, any appeals therefrom. Within sixty (60) days after receiving notice of the entry of an order, judgment or decree finally disposing of all litigation in which Confidential Discovery Material was disclosed in this case, all persons having received Confidential Discovery Material in this case shall either return such material and all copies thereof (including summaries and excerpts) to the Producing Party or its counsel or destroy all such Confidential Discovery Material and certify in writing to the Designating Parties or their counsel that such destruction has occurred. Counsel for the parties shall be entitled to retain all documents that contain Confidential Discovery Material or references thereto in its firm archives, provided that such counsel and employees of such counsel, shall not disclose to any

person nor use for any purpose unrelated to this action such documents except pursuant to court order or agreement with the Designating Party.

11. If any person receiving and in the possession, custody or control of Confidential Discovery Material in this action is served with a subpoena or any other legal process seeking Confidential Discovery Material in this action by one not a party to this action, the receiving party shall give prompt written notice, by hand or facsimile transmission within seventy-two (72) hours of its receipt of such subpoena or legal process, to the Designating Party. The Designating Party shall be solely responsible for seeking any relief or protection from any subpoena or legal process seeking Discovery Material and shall also be solely responsible for its costs and attorneys' fees in any proceedings relating to such subpoena or legal process.

12. In the event additional parties join or are joined in this action, or additional or different counsel enter an appearance, they shall not be given access to Confidential Discovery Material until the newly joined party, by its counsel, or the newly appearing counsel, as the case may be, has executed this Order and provided a copy of same to all other counsel in this action.

13. Neither this Order, the production or receipt of Confidential Discovery Material hereunder, nor otherwise complying with the terms of this Order, shall:

A. Prejudice in any way the rights of the parties to object on grounds of privilege, relevance, or otherwise to the production of documents or other information they consider not subject to discovery, or operate as an admission by any party that the restrictions and procedures set forth herein constitute adequate protection for any particular information deemed by any party to be Confidential Discovery Material;

B. Prejudice in any way the rights of any party to object to the authenticity or admissibility into evidence of any document (or portion thereof), testimony or other evidence subject to this Order;

C. Prejudice in any way the rights of a party to petition the Court for a further protective order relating to any confidential information the party asserts requires or should be subject to other or further protection;

D. Prevent the parties to this Order from agreeing in writing, with the consent of the Designating Party, to alter or waive the provisions or protections provided for herein with respect to any particular Discovery Material; or

E. Prejudice in any way the rights of a party to contest the designation of any Discovery Material as “Confidential.”

14. Nothing herein shall prevent any party to this action from using, for any purpose, and in any manner, Confidential Discovery Material that such party produced and designated as Confidential Discovery Material in connection with this action.

15. Nothing in this Order shall preclude any party from filing a motion seeking further or different protection from the Court under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, or from filing a motion with respect to the manner in which Confidential Discovery Material shall be treated at trial.

16. This stipulation shall be binding on the parties prior to its entry as an Order. Should the Court not enter this stipulation as an Order, it shall remain binding upon the parties until such time as the Court enters a different protective order providing substantially similar protections to those contained in this stipulation.

Dated this 4th day of February, 2009.

BY THE COURT:



Kathleen M. Tafoya
United States Magistrate Judge

APPROVED:

s/Sean M. McCurdy

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on that on this 3rd day of February 2009, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER** was electronically filed and served *via the CM/ECF* system, which will send notification of such filing to the following. The duly signed original is on file at the office of Littler Mendelson, P.C.

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