

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO
Magistrate Judge Michael J. Watanabe

Civil Action No. 10-cv-00697-MJW-KMT

KAREN SMITH,

Plaintiff,

v.

CONTINENTAL COLLECTION AGENCY, INC.,

Defendants.

**CIVIL TRIAL PROCEDURES ORDER
(JURY)**

The following procedures and orders supplement the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the local rules of this court. In order to fairly and efficiently try the merits of each case, the following ORDERS apply.

I. Final Trial Preparation Conference with Trial Magistrate Judge

1. The parties shall exchange their pre-marked exhibits on the date set forth in the final pretrial order. Plaintiff shall use numbers and defendant shall use letters. Exhibit lists and witness lists shall be electronically filed under the Court's Electronic Filing Procedures **and** a copy e-mailed as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format to me¹ at Watanabe_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov **five days before** the final trial preparation conference which is set on **February 24, 2011 at 8:30 a.m.** Stipulations as to authenticity and admissibility shall be set forth on the exhibit lists. Counsel shall be prepared to stipulate to the admissibility of exhibits at the final trial preparation conference.

2. Prior to trial, the parties shall decide upon joint exhibits and thus avoid duplication of exhibits, and shall stipulate to the authenticity and admissibility of as many

¹ See the Court's Electronic Case Filing Procedures, Civil Case, Version 4.0, §§V. and V.I., which may be accessed on the Court's website.

exhibits as possible. If the parties agree on joint exhibits, one copy of a joint exhibit list shall be electronically filed **five days before** the final trial preparation conference with the court under the court's Electronic Filing Procedures **and** a copy e-mailed as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format to me at [Watanabe Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov](mailto:Watanabe_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov). Two copies of a joint exhibit list shall be provided to me at the final trial preparation conference.

3. Each party shall electronically file objections to exhibits under the Court's Electronic Filing Procedures and a copy e-mailed as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format to me at [Watanabe Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov](mailto:Watanabe_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov) **three days before** the final trial preparation conference. The objections shall state in a clear and concise fashion the evidentiary grounds for the objection and the legal authority supporting such objection. If the authority is a Federal Rule of Evidence, the Rule is to be cited; if the authority is case law, a copy of the case shall be provided to the court. Two copies of the objections are to be provided at the final trial preparation conference.

4. At the final trial preparation conference, counsel shall provide their final witness lists and two copies with an estimate of each witness's direct examination testimony time. Each witness designated as a "will call" witness shall be counsel's representation, upon which opposing counsel can rely, that the witness will be present and available for testimony at trial.

5. Video-taped deposition testimony. In the event videotaped deposition testimony will be used, opposing counsel must be given notice of each page and line intended to be used **ten days prior** to the final trial preparation conference. Any objections to the testimony must be marked on a copy of the transcript and provided to the court **three days before** the final trial preparation conference. Objections to videotaped testimony will be ruled on prior to trial to allow for editing of the tape to be presented to the jury.

6. Any stipulated amendments to the pretrial order are to be electronically filed under the Court's Electronic Filing Procedures and a copy e-mailed as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format to me at [Watanabe Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov](mailto:Watanabe_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov). Two copies shall be presented at the final trial preparation conference.

7. Motions in limine or other trial motions shall be electronically filed under the Court's Electronic Filing Procedures and a copy e-mailed as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format to me at [Watanabe Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov](mailto:Watanabe_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov) no later than January 18, 2011. **Counsel are advised that motions in limine are discouraged.**

II. Prior to Trial

1. **Thirty days before trial**, counsel shall notify my courtroom deputy, Ellen Miller, of any need for special accommodation for any attorney, party or witness, any need for technological equipment, such as videoconferencing, or equipment needed for the presentation of evidence using CD-ROM or other electronic presentation of evidence.

2. **Five business days before trial to a jury**, proposed voir dire questions and proposed instructions and proposed verdict forms shall be filed electronically under the Court's Electronic Filing Procedures and a copy e-mailed as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format to me at [Watanabe Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov](mailto:Watanabe_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov). The email attachments shall contain two versions of proposed substantive jury instructions, one with sources or authority and one without. In the alternative, counsel are to submit instructions saved in richtext format (*.rtf) on a disc compatible with Word Perfect 6.1 or higher, or Word 95 or 97. Counsel are to agree and submit two hard copy sets of proposed stock instructions without authority but with yellow post-its citing the applicable authority on one copy. Counsel will be given a limited amount of time to voir dire the jury following the court's questions.

3. Trial briefs, if any, are to be electronically filed under the Court's Electronic Filing Procedures and a copy e-mailed as an attachment in Word or WordPerfect format to me at [Watanabe Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov](mailto:Watanabe_Chambers@cod.uscourts.gov) no later than **January 18, 2011**.

4. Pursuant to D.C.COLO.LCivR. 54.2, in order to avoid the assessment of jury costs, counsel must notify the court clerk and the trial magistrate judge's chambers of a settlement before twelve o'clock noon on the last business day before the scheduled trial date.

5. Deposition testimony. Counsel are to advise each other of the proposed deposition testimony offered by page and line reference **at least ten days** before the trial so that opposing counsel can prepare objections and offer additional portions of the transcript. The court will not provide a person to read the deposition responses.

III. First Day of Trial

1. Provide three copies of witness lists to courtroom deputy and one to opposing counsel.

2. Submit the exhibit list to opposing counsel and three copies to the courtroom deputy.

3. Original exhibits, properly marked and tabbed, with pages of each exhibit numbered filed in one or more notebooks shall be given to the courtroom deputy. Similar notebooks with exhibit copies shall be provided to the court and to opposing counsel. Exhibits with more than one page shall have each page numbered.

4. Copies of Exhibits for Jurors. Each party may provide notebooks for juror exhibits. Those exhibits which have been stipulated to may be placed in the jurors' notebooks prior to trial. Additional exhibits may be published to the jury for placement in juror notebooks following the exhibit's admission into evidence at trial. Blank pages may be inserted into juror notebooks so that jurors may take notes of the proceedings.

5. Submit an original list of any stipulated facts and two copies.

IV. General Information

1. My courtroom deputy's name is Ellen Miller, who can be reached at (303) 335-2101. Any questions concerning exhibits or courtroom equipment may be directed to her. The proceedings will be digitally recorded. Any request for transcripts should be directed to the courtroom deputy. Extraordinary requests, such as for daily copy, should be made at least 30 days in advance of the trial date.

2. My secretary's name is Darlene E. Toal, who can be reached at (303) 844-2403.

3. My law clerk, Alison M. Andrews, may speak to counsel only pursuant to my specific directions. Please do not call my law clerk about procedural or scheduling matters.

4. At trial, all parties and witnesses shall be addressed as "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Ms.," "Dr.," etc. Informal references are not authorized except when children are testifying.

5. In jury trials, instructions are given prior to closing arguments. Copies of written instructions will be given to the jury for its deliberations.

6. A two day jury trial is set for **March 7, 2011, at 8:00 a.m.**, in Courtroom A-502, Alfred A. Arraj United States District Court, 901 19th Street, Denver CO 80294.

Trial Procedures Order, Continued

7. The final trial preparation conference is set for **February 24, 2011, at 8:30 a.m.**, in Courtroom A-502, Fifth Floor, Alfred A. Arraj U.S. Courthouse, 901 19th Street, Denver, Colorado.

DATED THIS 3RD DAY OF JANUARY, 2011

BY THE COURT:

s/Michael J. Watanabe
MICHAEL J. WATANABE
United States Magistrate Judge