

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI  
EASTERN DIVISION

THE MERCHANTS COMPANY D/B/A  
MERCHANTS FOOD SERVICE

PLAINTIFF

v.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:17-CV-136-KS-MTP

CERTAIN UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S,  
LONDON, *et al.*

DEFENDANTS

ORDER

Plaintiff filed an unopposed Motion [17] to extend the briefing deadlines on Defendants' pending Motion to Dismiss [2] until after the parties' settlement conference scheduled for October 18, 2017.

The Court certainly encourages the parties to pursue settlement, but the scheduling of a settlement conference is generally not a reason to delay a case's progression. Moreover, fully briefing dispositive motions typically assists both the parties and the mediator in understanding a case's issues and the parties' relative positions prior to a settlement conference.

Therefore, the Court **grants in part** Plaintiff's Motion [17] for an extension of time. Plaintiff's response to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss is due on or before **September 1, 2017**. Defendants' reply is due on or before **September 8, 2017**.

SO ORDERED AND ADJUDGED this 22nd day of August, 2017.

s/Keith Starrett  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE