

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

3 IGT, )  
4 )  
5 Plaintiff, )  
6 vs. )  
7 ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES, INC., )  
8 Defendant. )

Case No.: 2:15-cv-00473-GMN-GWF

ORDER

9 )  
10 ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES, INC., )  
11 ARISTOCRAT TECHNOLOGIES )  
12 AUSTRALIA PTY. LTD., AND )  
13 ARISTOCRAT INTERNATIONAL PTY. )  
14 LTD., )  
15 Counterclaim-Plaintiffs, )  
16 vs. )  
17 IGT, )  
18 Counterclaim-Defendant. )

19 Pending before the Court is a Motion to Strike, (ECF No. 114), filed by Defendants  
20 Aristocrat Technologies, Inc., Aristocrat Technologies Australia Pty. Ltd., and Aristocrat  
21 International Pty. Ltd. (collectively “Aristocrat”). Plaintiff IGT (“IGT”) filed a Response,  
(ECF No. 117), and Aristocrat filed a Reply, (ECF No. 118).

22 Also pending before the Court is Aristocrat’s Motion to Dismiss, (ECF No. 101). IGT  
23 did not file a Response, and the deadline to do so has passed.

24 Also pending before the Court is IGT’s Renewed Motion for Preliminary Injunction,  
25 (ECF No. 122). Aristocrat filed a Response, (ECF No. 129), and IGT filed a Reply, (ECF No.

1 139).<sup>1</sup> For the reasons discussed below, Aristocrat’s Motion to Dismiss and Motion to Strike  
2 are **GRANTED**, and IGT’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction is **DENIED**.

3 **I. BACKGROUND**

4 IGT brought this patent infringement suit against Aristocrat alleging infringement of the  
5 following United States Patents: (1) 7,131,908 (“the ’908 patent”); (2) 7,513,827 (“the ’827  
6 patent”); (3) 6,394,902 (“the ’902 patent”); (4) 7,384,334 (“the ’334 patent”); (5) 8,753,189  
7 (“the ’189 patent”); (6) D503,951 (“the ’951 patent”); (7) 6,375,570 (“the ’570 patent”); (8)  
8 6,702,675 (“the ’675 patent”); (9) 7,303,469 (“the ’469 patent”); and (10) 6,932,701 (“the ’701  
9 patent”). (Compl., ECF No. 1). IGT further requested declaratory judgment under the assignor  
10 estoppel doctrine for the following patents: (1) the ’570 patent; (2) the ’675 patent; (3) the ’469  
11 patent; and (4) the ’701 patent. (Id.).<sup>2</sup> After Aristocrat initially answered and asserted patent  
12 infringement counterclaims, including for infringement of United States Patent Nos. 6,896,619  
13 (“the ’619 patent”) and 7,704,143 (“the ’143 patent”), (see Aristocrat’s Ans., ECF No. 38), IGT  
14 asserted its own counterclaims, (see IGT’s Ans. and Countercls., ECF No. 50).

15 Following this initial round of pleadings, IGT amended its counterclaims with  
16 Aristocrat’s consent to add counterclaims for breach of contract and conversion. (See IGT’s  
17 Am. Ans. and Countercls., ECF No. 104).<sup>3</sup> Aristocrat moved to dismiss these new  
18 counterclaims. (Mot. to Dismiss, ECF No. 101). IGT did not file a response. Instead, IGT filed  
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22 <sup>1</sup> In addition, Aristocrat filed a Motion for Leave to File a Surreply (ECF No. 143), and IGT filed two Motions  
23 for Leave to File Supplemental Memorandum and Authority (ECF Nos. 125, 145). For good cause appearing,  
24 the Court grants these motions.

25 <sup>2</sup> The Court’s Order of September 18, 2015, dismissed IGT’s request for declaratory relief under assignor  
estoppel for failure to state a claim pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). (Order 5:25–6:1, ECF  
No. 70).

<sup>3</sup> IGT originally filed its First Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 95), on January 28, 2016. On February 18,  
2016, IGT filed a Notice of Corrected First Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 104).

1 its Second Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 113),<sup>4</sup> which Aristocrat now seeks to strike,  
2 (see Mot. to Strike, ECF No. 114).

3         Additionally, before the present round of motions, IGT brought a Motion for  
4 Preliminary Injunction, asking the Court to enjoin Aristocrat from initiating reexamination or  
5 inter partes review (“IPR”) of the ’570, ’675, ’469, and ’701 patents (“the Kaminkow  
6 patents”). (Mot. for Prelim. Inj. 2:20–23, ECF No. 48). The Court denied IGT’s Motion  
7 because IGT had not shown a likelihood of irreparable harm given that “[m]ultiple  
8 contingencies must occur before [Aristocrat’s] Petition would injure [IGT].” (Order 7:11–12,  
9 ECF No. 70). “Specifically, the United States Patent Office would have to institute the  
10 proceedings and reach a finding of invalidity before [IGT] would actually suffer injuries from  
11 [Aristocrat’s] petition.” (Id. 7:12–14). IGT appealed the Court’s Order to the Federal Circuit,  
12 (Renewed Mot. for Prelim. Inj. 5:17–18, ECF No. 122), and Aristocrat filed IPR petitions on  
13 the Kaminkow patents. (Id. 5:21–22).

14         During the pendency of IGT’s appeal, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (“PTO”)  
15 instituted IPR on two of the four Kaminkow patents—the ’570 patent and the ’469 patent. (See  
16 Exs. A–C to Renewed Mot. for Prelim. Inj., ECF No. 122-2–4). In light of the PTO’s decision,  
17 IGT filed the instant Renewed Motion for Preliminary Injunction, which asks the Court to  
18 “enjoin Aristocrat from proceeding with IPR petitions on the Kaminkow patents.” (Renewed  
19 Mot. for Prelim. Inj. 17:2–3). Shortly thereafter, the Federal Circuit vacated the Court’s Order  
20 denying the preliminary injunction and remanded the case for the Court “to determine whether  
21 and how the filing and institution of Aristocrat’s petitions weigh in the preliminary injunction  
22 analysis.” *IGT v. Aristocrat Techs., Inc.*, No. 2015-2083, 2016 WL 2754440, at \*2–\*3 (Fed.  
23 Cir. May 12, 2016).

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<sup>4</sup> IGT originally filed its Second Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 110), on March 4, 2016. On March 8,  
2016, IGT filed a Notice of Corrected Second Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 113).

1 **II. LEGAL STANDARD**

2 **A. Motion to Strike**

3 Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(f), a “court may strike from a pleading an  
4 insufficient defense or any redundant, immaterial, impertinent, or scandalous matter.” Fed. R.  
5 Civ. P. 12(f). When a party moves to amend the pleadings after the expiration of the deadline  
6 established in the scheduling order, courts review the motion through a two-step process. First,  
7 courts treat the motion as seeking to amend the scheduling order, which is governed by the  
8 “good cause” standard outlined in Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. See, e.g.,  
9 *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604, 608 (9th Cir. 1992). “Rule 16(b)’s  
10 ‘good cause’ standard primarily considers the diligence of the party seeking the amendment.”  
11 *Id.* at 609. In particular, courts look to whether the deadline set in the scheduling order “cannot  
12 reasonably be met despite the diligence of the party seeking the amendment.” *Id.* Although  
13 prejudice to the opposing party may also be considered, the focus of the inquiry is on the  
14 movant’s reasons for seeking modification. *Id.* “If that party was not diligent, the inquiry  
15 should end.” *Id.* The party seeking amendment bears the burden of establishing diligence. See,  
16 e.g., *Morgal v. Maricopa County Bd. of Supervisors*, 284 F.R.D. 452, 460 (D. Ariz. 2012).

17 When “good cause” has been established under Rule 16(b), courts will then examine  
18 whether amendment is proper under the standards outlined in Rule 15(a). Rule 15(a) provides  
19 that “[t]he court should freely give leave [to amend] when justice so requires,” and there is a  
20 strong public policy in favor of permitting amendment. *Bowles v. Reade*, 198 F.3d 752, 757  
21 (9th Cir. 1999). As such, the Ninth Circuit has made clear that Rule 15(a) is to be applied with  
22 “extreme liberality.” *Eminence Capital, LLC v. Aspeon, Inc.*, 316 F.3d 1048, 1051 (9th Cir.  
23 2003) (per curiam). Under Rule 15(a), courts consider various factors, including: (1) bad faith;  
24 (2) undue delay; (3) prejudice to the opposing party; (4) futility of the amendment; and (5)  
25 whether the plaintiff has previously amended the complaint. See *id.* at 1052. These factors do

1 not carry equal weight, however, and prejudice is the touchstone of the analysis. See *id.* The  
2 party opposing the amendment bears the burden of showing why leave to amend should be  
3 denied. See, e.g., *Desert Protective Council v. U.S. Dept. of the Interior*, 927 F. Supp. 2d 949,  
4 962 (S.D. Cal. 2013) (citing *Genentech, Inc. v. Abbott Labs.*, 127 F.R.D. 529, 530–31 (N.D.  
5 Cal. 1989)). When the movant fails to establish good cause under Rule 16(b), however, that  
6 shortcoming is sufficient to deny the motion and the Court need not address whether the  
7 standards in Rule 15(a) have been met. See, e.g., *Morgal*, 284 F.R.D. at 460.

### 8 **B. Motion to Dismiss**

9 Dismissal is appropriate under Rule 12(b)(6) where a pleader fails to state a claim upon  
10 which relief can be granted. Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6); *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544,  
11 555 (2007). A pleading must give fair notice of a legally cognizable claim and the grounds on  
12 which it rests, and although a court must take all factual allegations as true, legal conclusions  
13 couched as a factual allegations are insufficient. *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555. Accordingly, Rule  
14 12(b)(6) requires “more than labels and conclusions, and a formulaic recitation of the elements  
15 of a cause of action will not do.” *Id.* “To survive a motion to dismiss, a complaint must contain  
16 sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to ‘state a claim to relief that is plausible on its  
17 face.’” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quoting *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 570). “A  
18 claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to  
19 draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged.” *Id.* This  
20 standard “asks for more than a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully.” *Id.*

21 If the court grants a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim, leave to amend should  
22 be granted unless it is clear that the deficiencies of the complaint cannot be cured by  
23 amendment. *DeSoto v. Yellow Freight Sys., Inc.*, 957 F.2d 655, 658 (9th Cir. 1992). Pursuant  
24 to Rule 15(a), the court should “freely” give leave to amend “when justice so requires,” and in  
25 the absence of a reason such as “undue delay, bad faith or dilatory motive on the part of the  
movant, repeated failure to cure deficiencies by amendments previously allowed, undue

1 prejudice to the opposing party by virtue of allowance of the amendment, futility of the  
2 amendment, etc.” *Foman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962).

### 3 **C. Preliminary Injunction**

4 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 65 governs preliminary injunctions and temporary  
5 restraining orders, and requires that a motion for temporary restraining order include “specific  
6 facts in an affidavit or a verified complaint [that] clearly show that immediate and irreparable  
7 injury, loss, or damage will result to the movant before the adverse party can be heard in  
8 opposition,” as well as written certification from the movant’s attorney stating “any efforts  
9 made to give notice and the reasons why it should not be required.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 65(b).

10 A preliminary injunction may be issued if a plaintiff establishes: (1) likelihood of  
11 success on the merits; (2) likelihood of irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief; (3)  
12 that the balance of equities tips in his favor; and (4) that an injunction is in the public interest.  
13 *Winter v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 555 U.S. 7, 20 (2008). “Injunctive relief [is] an  
14 extraordinary remedy that may only be awarded upon a clear showing that the plaintiff is  
15 entitled to such relief.” *Id.* at 22.

16 The Ninth Circuit has held that ““serious questions going to the merits’ and a hardship  
17 balance that tips sharply toward the plaintiff can support issuance of an injunction, assuming  
18 the other two elements of the Winter test are also met.” *Alliance for the Wild Rockies v.*  
19 *Cottrell*, 632 F.3d 1127, 1132 (9th Cir. 2011).

20 “In deciding a motion for a preliminary injunction, the district court ‘is not bound to  
21 decide doubtful and difficult questions of law or disputed questions of fact.’” *Int’l Molders’ &*  
22 *Allied Workers’ Local Union No. 164 v. Nelson*, 799 F.2d 547, 551 (9th Cir. 1986) (quoting  
23 *Dymo Indus., Inc. v. Tapeprinter, Inc.*, 326 F.2d 141, 143 (9th Cir. 1964)).

24 “The urgency of obtaining a preliminary injunction necessitates a prompt determination  
25 and makes it difficult to obtain affidavits from persons who would be competent to testify at

1 trial. The trial court may give even inadmissible evidence some weight, when to do so serves  
2 the purpose of preventing irreparable harm before trial.” *Flynt Distrib. Co., Inc. v. Harvey*, 734  
3 F.2d 1389, 1394 (9th Cir. 1984) (citing 11 C. Wright and A. Miller, *Federal Practice and*  
4 *Procedure, Civil*, § 2949 at 471 (1973)).

### 5 **III. DISCUSSION**

#### 6 **A. Aristocrat’s Motion to Strike (ECF No. 114)**

7 Aristocrat’s Motion seeks to strike IGT’s Second Amended Counterclaims on the basis  
8 that they were filed in violation of the Court’s Scheduling Order, (ECF No. 69). (See Mot. to  
9 Strike 9:14–12:9, ECF No. 114). The deadline to amend pleadings in this case expired on  
10 December 15, 2015. (Order 4:1–2). Notwithstanding this deadline, IGT filed its Second  
11 Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 110), on March 4, 2016, without requesting the Court’s  
12 leave to amend either its First Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 95), or the Court’s  
13 Scheduling Order. Despite IGT’s error, the Court construes the Second Amended  
14 Counterclaims as a motion to amend the court’s scheduling order and first analyzes whether  
15 IGT has met Federal Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 16(b)’s good cause standard. See *Johnson*,  
16 975 F.2d at 609; *Pickett v. Nev. Bd. of Parole Comm’rs*, No. 2:09-CV-01695-PMP, 2013 WL  
17 6197095, at \*2 (D. Nev. Nov. 26, 2013) (treating an untimely motion for leave to file amended  
18 complaint as motion to amend the scheduling order).

19 IGT argues that it was diligent in amending its counterclaims because it did so “within  
20 three weeks of Aristocrat pointing out the alleged defects in IGT’s counterclaims.” (Resp. to  
21 Mot. to Strike 11:26–27, ECF No. 117). This explanation fails to demonstrate why the deadline  
22 set in the scheduling order could not reasonably be met. See *Johnson*, 975 F.2d at 608  
23 (“[C]arelessness is not compatible with a finding of diligence and offers no reason for a grant  
24 of relief.”). IGT’s remaining arguments—absence of prejudice, undue delay, and futility—  
25 relate to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 15(a)’s liberal amendment standard. See *Eminence*

1 Capital, 316 F.3d at 1052. However, as discussed supra, once the Court determines “that [a]  
2 party was not diligent, the inquiry should end.” Johnson, 975 F.2d at 608. Consequently,  
3 because IGT has failed to meet its threshold burden to establish diligence, the Court grants  
4 Aristocrat’s Motion to Strike IGT’s Second Amended Counterclaims.

5 **B. Aristocrat’s Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 101)**

6 Aristocrat moves to dismiss Counts XXIII and XXIV of IGT’s First Amended  
7 Counterclaims alleging breach of a Confidentiality Disclosure Agreement (“CDA”) between  
8 IGT and Aristocrat and tortious conversion of IGT’s intellectual property. (Mot. to Dismiss  
9 2:1–3, ECF No. 101). Aristocrat argues several grounds for dismissal under Federal Rule of  
10 Procedure 12(b)(6): (1) the counterclaims “fail to identify the proprietary information that  
11 Aristocrat allegedly disclosed or misused,” (id. 4:23–24); (2) IGT “does not allege facts  
12 showing that its ‘Proprietary Information’ constitutes a property interest that is capable of being  
13 converted,” (id. 8:8–9); (3) Aristocrat did not file the patent application reflecting the alleged  
14 disclosure of confidential information, (id. 11:15–13:3); and (4) IGT’s state-law claims care  
15 time barred under Nevada’s statute of limitations, (id. 13:4–15:2).

16 IGT failed to file a response to Aristocrat’s Motion. “The failure of an opposing party to  
17 file points and authorities in response to any motion shall constitute a consent to the granting of  
18 the motion.” LR 7-2(d). Further, IGT appears to agree with Aristocrat that its First Amended  
19 Counterclaims would not survive scrutiny under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6). (See  
20 Resp. to Mot. to Strike 11:27–28, 12:3–5) (“[T]he changes [in IGT’s Second Amended  
21 Counterclaims] were prompted by Aristocrat’s motion to dismiss . . . . IGT’s second amended  
22 counterclaims responded to Aristocrat’s motion to dismiss by providing additional detail to  
23 overcome Aristocrat’s Twombly objections.”). Accordingly, the Court grants Aristocrat’s  
24 Motion and dismisses Counts XXIII and XXIV of IGT’s First Amended Counterclaims.



1           Because the Court cannot find that amendment would be futile, the Court will grant  
2 leave to amend. Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a); *Forman v. Davis*, 371 U.S. 178, 182 (1962). However,  
3 the Court finds it appropriate to cabin any such amendment to preclude IGT from subverting  
4 the requirements of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b), discussed supra. Specifically, IGT  
5 may not claim breach of contract or tortious conversion related to any alleged disclosure of  
6 confidential information acquired by Casino Data Systems (“CDS”) pursuant to the Non-  
7 Disclosure of Confidential Information Agreement (“NDA”) between IGT and CDS. IGT first  
8 mentions the NDA in its Second Amended Counterclaims, and, given IGT’s allegation that the  
9 NDA was executed in 1993, it appears that IGT could have raised such claims in the First  
10 Amended Counterclaims. (See Second Am. Countercls. 28:1–3, ECF No. 113). Allowing IGT  
11 to include the NDA after striking its Second Amended Counterclaim would simply achieve an  
12 end-run around IGT’s lack of diligence in seeking to amend the Court’s Scheduling Order.

13           **C. IGT’s Renewed Motion for Preliminary Injunction (ECF No. 122)**

14           The Court denied IGT’s first Motion for Preliminary Injunction for two reasons. First,  
15 the Court held that because an IPR had been neither filed nor instituted, any possible injury to  
16 IGT was “too contingent to satisfy the likelihood of irreparable harm standard.” (Order 7:16–  
17 17, ECF No. 70). The Federal Circuit agreed that “IGT failed to show a likelihood of  
18 irreparable harm” at the time IGT filed its motion because “multiple events [had] yet to occur  
19 before IGT would potentially experience cancellation of its claims.” IGT, 2016 WL 2754440, at  
20 \*2. However, because the PTO instituted IPR on two of IGT’s patents, the Federal Circuit  
21 remanded for the Court “to determine whether and how the filing and institution of Aristocrat’s  
22 petitions weigh in the preliminary injunction analysis.” *Id.* at \*3. For the reasons discussed  
23 below, the Court finds that these “changed circumstances” do not alter its original conclusion.  
24 *Id.*

1 The Court also held in its Order on IGT’s first Motion for Preliminary Injunction that  
2 “[b]ecause inter partes review is a statutorily permitted procedure, [Aristocrat] would not  
3 infringe on any of [IGT’s] legal rights by pursuing such action.” (Order 7:25–8:1). Further, the  
4 Court noted that “[IGT] has not provided, and the Court has not found, any precedent case  
5 enjoining a defendant from seeking inter partes review at this stage in the proceedings.” (Id.  
6 7:23–25).<sup>5</sup> IGT has not presented any new arguments to overcome this aspect of the Court’s  
7 Order, (see, e.g., Reply 3:12 n.2, ECF No. 139) (“IGT’s renewed motion renews the arguments  
8 IGT made in the first round of briefing.”), and the Federal Circuit specifically declined to  
9 consider it, see IGT, 2016 WL 2754440, at \*2 n.2. As a result, this aspect of the Court’s Order  
10 is dispositive of the instant Motion for Preliminary Injunction. The PTO’s decision to institute  
11 IPR therefore does not alter the Court’s Order denying IGT’s original Motion for Preliminary  
12 Injunction, and IGT’s Renewed Motion for Preliminary Injunction is likewise denied.<sup>6</sup>

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20 <sup>5</sup> Other district courts that have considered this issue have opined that IPRs may not be enjoined. See *Senju*  
21 *Pharm. Co. v. Metrics, Inc.*, 96 F. Supp. 3d 428, 447 (D.N.J. 2015) (“To issue an injunction against Defendants  
22 now would have the direct consequence of preventing the [Patent Trial and Appeal Board (“PTAB”)] from  
reviewing the case after a decision has already been made to institute review, and would undermine the PTAB’s  
final decisionmaking authority.”); *Paice LLC v. Ford Motor Co.*, No. CV MJG-14-492, 2015 WL 9898135, at  
\*5–6 (D. Md. Aug. 12, 2015) (same).

23 <sup>6</sup> IGT recently filed an Emergency Motion for a Status Conference regarding its Renewed Motion for  
24 Preliminary Injunction. (Em. Mot. 2:1–9, ECF No. 156). In this Motion, IGT requests that the Court rule on the  
25 preliminary injunction issue by August 15, 2016, to “allow the losing party to appeal the decision to the Federal  
Circuit in time for that court to issue a ruling by January 26, 2017—the date on which the PTAB will hold a  
hearing on the validity of the first Kaminkow patent at issue in the Patent Office proceedings.” (Id. 2:10–13).  
Given that the instant Order addresses IGT’s concerns, the Court denies IGT’s Emergency Motion for a Status  
Conference as moot.

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that Aristocrat’s Motion to Strike IGT’s Amended  
3 Answer and Second Amended Counterclaims, (ECF No. 114), is **GRANTED**. IGT’s Second  
4 Amended Counterclaims, (ECF Nos. 110, 113), are hereby **STRICKEN** from the record.

5 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Aristocrat’s Motion to Dismiss, (ECF No. 101), is  
6 **GRANTED**. Counts XXIII and XXIV of IGT’s First Amended Counterclaims, (ECF Nos. 95,  
7 104), are hereby **DISMISSED without prejudice**.

8 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that IGT shall have twenty-one days from the date of  
9 this Order to file amended counterclaims consistent with this Order. Failure to file amended  
10 counterclaims by this date shall result in the dismissal of Counts XXIII and XXIV of IGT’s  
11 First Amended Counterclaims with prejudice.


12 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that IGT’s Motion for Preliminary Injunction, (ECF No.  
13 122), is **DENIED**.

14 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Aristocrat’s Motion for Leave to File a Surreply,  
15 (ECF No. 143), is **GRANTED**.

16 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that IGT’s Motions for Leave to File Supplemental  
17 Memorandum and Authority, (ECF Nos. 125, 145), are **GRANTED**.

18 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that IGT’s Emergency Motion for a Status Conference,  
19 ECF No. 156), is **DENIED as moot**.

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21 **DATED** this 11 day of August, 2016.

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Gloria M. Navarro, Chief Judge  
United States District Court