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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

JOHN E. ASHCRAFT,)	Case No. 2:16-cv-02978-JAD-NJK
)	
Plaintiff(s),)	ORDER
)	
vs.)	(Docket Nos. 15, 17)
)	
WELK RESORT GROUP, CORP., et al.,)	
)	
Defendant(s).)	

Pending before the Court is a motion to consolidate depositions in several cases (Docket No. 15), along with an accompanying motion to shorten time (Docket No. 17). As an initial matter, the motion to shorten time (Docket No. 17) is **GRANTED**. Any response to the motion to consolidate depositions shall be filed by noon on April 25, 2017, and any reply shall be filed by the end of the day on April 26, 2017.

In addition to briefing the merits of the pending motion, the parties shall also brief which judge(s) should decide the issue. As an initial matter, the motion suggests that Judge Dorsey must decide the issue as the district judge in the low-numbered case, Docket No. 15 at 1-2 at n.1, but magistrate judges regularly handle discovery motions, *see, e.g., Columbia Pictures, Inc. v. Bunnell*, 245 F.R.D. 443, 448 (C.D. Cal.2007). Moreover, the motion seems to suggest that any judge may issue a discovery order impacting depositions in other cases, Docket No. 15 at 1-2 at n.1 (stating that under Rule 26 “any Judge may . . . order the parties to cooperate regarding overlapping discovery”), but there is authority to suggest that one judge should not decide issues regarding coordinating discovery in cases

