

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

EB Holdings II, Inc., and QXH II, Inc.,
Plaintiffs
v.
Illinois National Insurance Company, et
al.,
Defendants

Case No. 2:20-cv-02248-JAD-NJK

**Order Regarding Case Scheduling
on Remand**

ECF Nos. 237, 237, 239

Nearly two years ago, United States District Judge James C. Mahan granted summary judgment in this insurance-coverage suit in favor of the insurers based on the affirmative defense of material misrepresentation.¹ On appeal, the Ninth Circuit panel reversed, finding that Texas law—not Nevada law—should have been applied and that its application leaves genuine issues of fact that preclude summary judgment on that defense. Although the insurers offered alternative grounds for “why the panel should affirm the district court’s grant of summary judgment,” the panel “decline[d] to reach these arguments in the first instance” and remanded “to the district court so it may evaluate in the first instance” these “other issues.”²

¹ ECF No. 212.

² ECF No. 232 at 24.

1 Since that remand last summer, little has happened. Fearing that they might lose a
2 key witness before this case has a chance to get to trial, the plaintiffs filed a motion
3 asking for an expedited trial setting.³ The insurers oppose the request, pointing out that
4 the issues that the Ninth Circuit panel sent back to this court are still unresolved, and
5 setting this case for trial would put the cart before the horse.⁴ Then last week, Judge
6 Mahan recused himself from this case and it was reassigned to me.⁵

7 The plaintiffs’ motion for a scheduling order and to expedite trial was filed under
8 seal⁶ because it contains sensitive medical information about key fact witness and QXH
9 principal Howard Meyers.⁷ A redacted version of that motion was filed publicly.⁸
10 Plaintiffs ask this court to maintain the seal on the full version of the filing.⁹ Unless a
11 particular court record is one “traditionally kept secret,” there is a “strong presumption in
12 favor of access” to the record.¹⁰ Parties seeking to seal a judicial record must overcome
13 this presumption by “articulat[ing] compelling reasons supported by specific factual
14 findings,” that outweigh the traditional right of public access to each document they seek

17 ³ ECF Nos. 238, 239.

18 ⁴ ECF No. 244.

19 ⁵ ECF Nos. 257, 258.

20 ⁶ ECF No. 238.

21 ⁷ ECF No. 237.

22 ⁸ ECF No. 239.

23 ⁹ ECF No. 237.

¹⁰ *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006).

1 to seal.¹¹ In general, compelling reasons for sealing exist when court records might
2 become a vehicle for improper purposes, such as “to gratify private spite, promote public
3 scandal, circulate libelous statements, or release trade secrets.”¹² I find that the personal
4 nature of the information that the plaintiffs have redacted from the publicly filed version
5 of the motion provides a compelling reason to seal the full version, so I grant the motion
6 to seal it.

7 I deny the portion of the plaintiffs’ motion seeking to expedite trial because I find
8 that a trial setting would be premature in light of the posture of this case. The Ninth
9 Circuit panel remanded this case with instructions for the district court to evaluate in the
10 first instance the alternative grounds that the insurers offered for affirming the grant of
11 summary judgment.¹³ That remains to be done.

12 But the insurers are wrong that there are “pending” motions for summary
13 judgment that tee those issues up.¹⁴ There are no pending dispositive motions because
14 the ones that Judge Mahan decided didn’t get automatically reanimated on remand. And
15 with many of the issues from those old motions having been addressed by the panel, it
16 would be judicially inefficient for this court to attempt to carve out from those nearly
17 three-year-old zombie motions the still-live points. New motions are a far better vehicle

18
19 ¹¹ *Id.*

20 ¹² *Demaree v. Pederson*, 887 F.3d 870, 884 (9th Cir. 2018) (quoting *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d
21 at 1179).

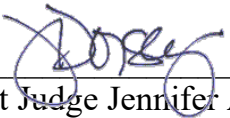
21 ¹³ ECF No. 232 at 24.

22 ¹⁴ *Id.*

1 for framing what's left. So I give each of the defendants until March 14, 2025, to file a
2 motion for summary judgment to address only the "alternative grounds" for granting
3 summary judgment that the panel referenced in its opinion.¹⁵ Briefing on those motions
4 will then proceed in accordance with Local Rule 7-2.

5 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that **the motion to seal [ECF No. 237] is**
6 **GRANTED**; the Clerk of Court is directed to **MAINTAIN THE SEAL on ECF Nos.**
7 **238, 238-1, and 238-2.**

8 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the motion for a scheduling order and to
9 expedite trial [ECF Nos. 238, 239] is **GRANTED in part and DENIED in part: a trial**
10 **setting is premature, and each defendant has until March 14, 2025, to file a motion**
11 **for summary judgment addressing only the alternative grounds that the Ninth**
12 **Circuit panel referenced in its opinion.** The parties are cautioned that this is not an
13 opportunity to relitigate any issue decided by the Ninth Circuit panel. If genuine issues
14 of fact remain for trial after the new summary-judgment motions are decided, I will set
15 the trial as expeditiously as possible.

16
17 
U.S. District Judge Jennifer A. Dorsey
January 29, 2025

18
19
20
21
22 ¹⁵ *See id.*