

1 2004) (citation omitted).

2 The court has reviewed the relevant law and the submissions of the parties and finds that
3 bifurcation is appropriate in this case. The presentation of evidence relating to Plaintiff's financial
4 status is likely to unnecessarily confuse and mislead the jury, and considerations of convenience
5 and economy do not weigh heavily against bifurcating the trial. At the outset of the trial, the court
6 will advise the jury of the likelihood, following the jury's deliberation and decision, of a brief
7 presentation of evidence regarding punitive damages should the jury conclude that punitive
8 damages are warranted. As Plaintiff assures the court that his presentation of evidence in support
9 of a punitive damages award will be brief, a short hearing regarding the appropriate amount of
10 punitive damages will inconvenience neither the jury, the court, nor the parties. Accordingly, the
11 court will bifurcate the liability and the punitive damages phases of Plaintiff's case.

12 IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Defendant's Motion to Bifurcate Punitive Damages
13 (#210) is hereby GRANTED.

14 IT IS SO ORDERED.

15 DATED this 6th day of April, 2009.



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18 _____
LARRY R. HICKS
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE