

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO
WESTERN DIVISION AT DAYTON**

Edward Levi Jones, et al.

Plaintiffs,

-vs-

Harco Brake Systems, et al.,

Defendants.

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Case No. 3:04-cv-214

Magistrate Judge Sharon L. Ovington
Magistrate Judge Michael R. Merz

ORDER FOR COURT-CONDUCTED MEDIATION

The above-captioned action is hereby set for mediation at **10:00 a.m.** on **Wednesday October 21, 2009**, in the Court’s Mediation Conference Suite, Room 501, at the United States Courthouse and Federal Building, 200 West Second Street, Dayton, Ohio 45402. The terms and conditions of the mediation are as follows:

Designation of mediator: At the request of counsel for both parties, the undersigned will serve as the mediator in this case. The case remains assigned for trial and all other purposes to Magistrate Judge Sharon L. Ovington.

Preparation for Mediation: Not later than **Wednesday, October 14, 2009**, each party shall submit a mediation conference statement to the Court and all other parties. The statement is to be submitted to the Court via e-mail at merz_chambers@ohsd.uscourts.gov. The statement shall set forth the relevant positions of the parties concerning factual issues, issues of law, damages, and the settlement negotiation history of the case, including a recitation of any specific demands and offers that have

been conveyed. These statements will be maintained by the Court separate and apart from the case file.

Attendance and Participation: Unless excused by the Court, parties or party representatives with complete authority to negotiate a settlement of the case shall attend the mediation session.

- For a party which has made a claim in the case, such representative must have final authority, in the representative's own discretion, to authorize dismissal of the claim with prejudice or to accept a settlement payment equal to the opposing party's last offer.
- For a party defending a claim, such representative must have final settlement authority to commit the party to pay, in the representative's own discretion, a settlement amount equal to the opposing party's prayer or last offer, whichever is less.
- Any insurance company which is a party or is contractually required to defend or pay damages, if any, assessed within its policy limits in this case must have a fully authorized representative present. Such representative must have final settlement authority to commit the company to pay, in the representative's own discretion, an amount within the policy limits, or up to the claiming party's last demand, whichever is less.
- Negotiations may be conducted solely by trial counsel if, but only if, counsel has been fully authorized by his or her client to pay or accept in settlement the amount last proposed by the opposing party in counsel's sole discretion.

Confidentiality: Pursuant to S. D. Ohio Civ. R. 16.3(c), all statements made by the parties relating to the substance or merits of claims or defenses made in the case, whether written or oral, made for the first time during the mediation conference or in the mediation conference statements required above shall be kept confidential by the Court, the parties, and counsel and shall not be admissible

in evidence for any reason during the trial of this case. This provision does not preclude admissibility in other contexts, such as a motion for sanctions regarding the mediation conference.

Sanctions: The Court has no doubt of the good faith of both counsel and the parties in this case. Out of an abundance of caution and because of the experience of many judges in conducting mediation conferences, however, the Court notes that failure to comply with any portion of this Order is sanctionable under Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f).

September 10, 2009.

s/ **Michael R. Merz**
United States Magistrate Judge

copy: Magistrate Judge Sharon L. Ovington