

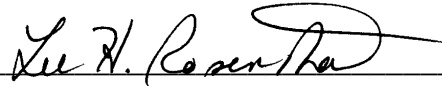
for the first appeal. (Docket Entry No. 24 at 2).

On January 10, 2019, the defendants and appellees filed a motion to bifurcate or to sever the first and third appeals. (Docket Entry No. 24 at 1). The appellees argue that the two appeals are from separate actions and that different briefing schedules and deadlines will be set for each.

A district court has broad discretion in separating issues and claims for trial “[f]or convenience, to avoid prejudice, or to expedite and economize.” FED R. CIV. P. 42. Because the first appeal cannot proceed until the merits of the third appeal are resolved, it is more efficient to separately administer the two appeals.

The appellees’ motion to bifurcate, (Docket Entry No. 24), is granted.

SIGNED on January 28, 2019, at Houston, Texas.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee H. Rosenthal", is written over a horizontal line.

Lee H. Rosenthal
Chief United States District Judge