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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ex
rel. RAJU A.T. DAHLSTROM, et
al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

SAUK-SUIATTLE INDIAN TRIBE
OF WASHINGTON, et al.,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C16-0052JLR

ORDER GRANTING IN PART
AND DENYING IN PART
PLAINTIFF’S MOTION TO
RENOTE DEFENDANTS’
MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT

I. INTRODUCTION

Before the court is Plaintiff Relator Raju A.T. Dahlstrom’s motion to renote Defendants Ronda Kay Metcalf, Christine Marie Morlock, and Robert Larry Morlock’s (collectively, “Individual Defendants”) motion for summary judgment from June 28, 2019, to July 26, 2019. (Mot. (Dkt. # 68).) Mr. Dahlstrom seeks to renote Individual Defendants’ motion because (1) the deposition of Dr. Christine Morlock will not occur

1 | until June 14, 2019, and (2) there is a delay in obtaining the transcripts of Ms. Metcalf's
2 | and Mr. Morlock's depositions from Thomas Court Reporting Services. (*Id.* at 2.) The
3 | court has considered Mr. Dahlstrom's motion, the relevant portions of the record, and the
4 | applicable law. Being fully advised, the court GRANTS in part and DENIES in part Mr.
5 | Dahlstrom's motion as described below.

6 | **II. ANALYSIS**

7 | First, by agreeing to conduct Dr. Morlock's deposition on June 14, 2019, the
8 | parties improperly agreed to modify the case schedule without the court's permission.
9 | The discovery cutoff in this matter was June 10, 2019. (Sched. Order (Dkt. # 63) at 1
10 | (indicating that the parties must complete discovery by June 10, 2019).) The court's
11 | order states that case schedule deadlines are "firm" and "can be changed only by order of
12 | the court, not by agreement of counsel or parties." (*Id.* at 2.) The court sets case
13 | schedules and expects the parties to adhere to those schedules specifically to avoid
14 | motions like the one presently before the court. Although the court will allow the
15 | deposition of Dr. Morlock to go forward on June 14, 2019, the court does not consider
16 | the parties' violation of its case scheduling order to be good cause for extending the
17 | noting date of Individual Defendants' summary judgment motion. (*See id.* ("[F]ailure to
18 | complete discovery within the time allowed is not recognized as good cause.")) The
19 | court further cautions all counsel that any further violations of the court's orders in this
20 | matter may result in the imposition of sanctions.

21 | Second, neither Mr. Dahlstrom, nor his counsel, submits a declaration
22 | substantiating his difficulty obtaining deposition transcripts from Thomas Court

1 Reporting Services. (*See generally* Dkt.) Although Mr. Dahlstrom states that Thomas
2 Court Reporting Services is suffering a “backup” (Mot. at 2), he does not discuss the
3 possibility of requesting expedited service for an additional fee (*see generally id.*).
4 Although Ms. Metcalf’s and Mr. Morlock’s May 21, 2019, depositions were taken within
5 the discovery period, they were taken close to the end of that period and after the May 10,
6 2019, deadline for discovery motions. (*See* Mot. at 2; *see also* Sched. Order at 1 (stating
7 that the deadline for all motions related to discovery is May 10, 2019).) One risk of
8 waiting to conduct important discovery until the end of the discovery period is the
9 possible delay in obtaining deposition transcripts. This is a known risk for any litigator,
10 particularly one of Mr. Dahlstrom’s counsel’s experience. Accordingly, the court does
11 not consider the circumstances surrounding Ms. Metcalf’s and Mr. Morlock’s depositions
12 or the transcription of those depositions to be good cause for extending the noting date of
13 Individual Defendants’ summary judgment motion.

14 Finally, extending the date as Mr. Dahlstrom suggests would provide him with an
15 unfair advantage. Such an extension would allow him twice the amount of time
16 ordinarily provided under the court’s Local Rules for responding to a dispositive motion.
17 *See* Local Rules W.D. Wash. LCR 7(d)(3) (stating that all dispositive motions “shall be
18 noted for consideration on a date no earlier than the fourth Friday after filing and service
19 of the motion” and “[a]ny oppositions papers shall be filed and served not later than the
20 Monday before the noting date”). Further, the court could not provide a commensurate
21 extension to Individual Defendants for their reply memorandum because such an
22 extension would—in all practicality—violate the cutoff date for dispositive motions.

1 (See Sched. Order at 1 (stating that the deadline for dispositive motions is July 9, 2019,
2 which under Local Rule W.D. Wash. LCR 7(d)(3) would ordinarily result in a noting date
3 no later than August 2, 2019).) Thus, whereas under Mr. Dahlstrom's proposed noting
4 date of July 26, 2019, he would obtain an additional four weeks to file his responsive
5 memorandum, the court could provide Individual Defendants with, at most, a one-week
6 extension for their reply memorandum—from July 26, 2019, to August 2, 2019. The
7 imbalance in these equities counsels against granting Mr. Dahlstrom's motion.

8 Nevertheless, the court is not without some flexibility. The court will grant Mr.
9 Dahlstrom 14 additional days in which to file his responsive memorandum. Mr.
10 Dahlstrom's response is now due on Monday, July 8, 2019. This extension should be
11 sufficient to address any issues encountered with delays in deposition transcription. In
12 addition, to balance the equities, the court will adjust the deadline for Individual
13 Defendants' reply memorandum. Individual Defendants' reply memorandum is now due
14 on Wednesday, July 17, 2019. This extension will not adversely impact the remainder of
15 the trial calendar or conflict with the dispositive motions cutoff.

16 **III. CONCLUSION**

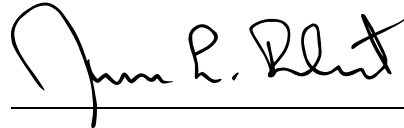
17 Based on the foregoing analysis, the court GRANTS in part and DENIES in part
18 Mr. Dahlstrom's motion to extend the noting date of Individual Defendants' summary
19 judgment motion (Dkt. # 68). Mr. Dahlstrom's responsive memorandum is now due on
20 Monday, July 8, 2019, and Individual Defendants' reply memorandum is now due on

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22 //

1 Wednesday, July 17, 2019. Finally, the court DIRECTS the Clerk to renote Individual
2 Defendants' motion for summary judgment to July 17, 2019.

3 Dated this 14th day of June, 2019.

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6 JAMES L. ROBART
7 United States District Judge
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