



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA

ELIZABETH CAMERON THOMPSON,

Plaintiff,

vs.

GIERKE, CURWEN, P.S., a Washington  
Professional Services Corporation, MARK J,  
DYNAN, and CLARENCE JONES, JR., and  
their marital communities, if any,

Defendants.

No. 11-05463-RBL

**STIPULATED MOTION TO BRIEFLY  
CONTINUE INITIAL DISCOVERY  
DATES; AND  
MOTION TO EXPEDITE**

NOTICE OF HEARING:  
August 31, 2011

**I. STIPULATION**

Pursuant to Local Rule CR 7(d) and CR 10(g), all Parties, through their respective counsel, submit this stipulated motion requesting a three-week continuance of the initial discovery dates set forth in the Court's Minute Order Regarding Initial Disclosures, Joint Status Report, and Early Settlement, dated June 17, 2011. (ECF No. 4). Several attorneys have only recently appeared, and have not yet had an opportunity to obtain and review the relevant documents or perform the requisite analysis necessary to conduct the in-depth discussion of the issues, as required for a Rule 26(f) conference. Therefore, the Parties stipulate that it is appropriate for the Court to grant a brief continuance of three weeks to provide sufficient opportunity to prepare, which will enable all counsel to appropriately engage on the issues in the Rule 26(f) conference.

STIPULATED MOTION TO BRIEFLY CONTINUE  
INITIAL DISCOVERY DATES - 1  
11-05463 RBL  
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**LEE SMART**  
P.S., Inc. - Pacific Northwest Law Offices  
1800 One Convention Place - 701 Pike Street - Seattle - WA - 98101-3929  
Tel. 206.624.7990 • Toll Free 877.624.7990 • Fax 206.624.5944

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**II. FACTS**

On June 15, 2011, Plaintiff Elizabeth Thompson, a former employee, filed the instant lawsuit against her former employer, a law firm, and its officers individually. (ECF No. 1). Plaintiff alleges a variety of federal and state law causes of action, including: sexual harassment, gender discrimination, disability discrimination, aiding and abetting discrimination, retaliation, and interference with a business expectancy. *Id.*

On June 17, 2011, prior to service of any defendant, this Court entered its Order Regarding Initial Disclosures, Joint Status Report, and Early Settlement. (ECF No. 4). Under this Order, the initial Rule 26(f) Conference is set to take place on September 1, 2011. *Id.*

On July 11, 2011, Defendants filed acceptances of service. (ECF No. 6-7).

On July 27, 2011, defendant Gierke, Curwen, Dynan & Erie, P.S. ("GCDE") filed a Motion to Compel Mediation and Arbitration and to Stay Proceedings. (ECF No.7-9). This motion is still pending.

On July 28, 2011, counsel for defendant Clarence Jones appeared. (ECF No. 10).

On August 1, 2011, Ms. Thompson filed an Amended Complaint. (ECF No. 12).

On August 5, 2011, GCDE filed a notice re-noting its Motion to Compel Mediation and Arbitration and to Stay Proceedings. (ECF No. 13).

On August 29, 2011, new counsel appeared on behalf of defendant Mark J. Dynan. (ECF No. 14-15).

On August 30, 2011, former counsel for GCDE moved to withdraw and substitute in new counsel for GCDE. (ECF No. 16).

According to the Court's Order, the Rule 26(f) Conference is currently scheduled for September 1, 2011, which is only two days away. (ECF No. 4). Two of three defense attorneys have received this case only within the last few days, have not had a chance to review the file, which is not yet received, or investigate this case in any substantive manner.

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**III. POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

“If a stipulation or agreed motion would alter dates or schedules previously set by the court, the parties shall clearly state the reasons justifying the proposed change.” CR 10(g). “Stipulations and agreed motions ... shall be noted for consideration for the day they are filed.” CR 7(d). The Western District has granted motions for a brief extension of time in which to conduct a Rule 26(f) conference and file a joint status report and discovery plan. *See e.g., Strange v. Les Schwab Tire Centers of Oregon, Inc.*, C06-045RSM, 2008 WL 2001158 (W.D. Wash. May 7, 2008) (“parties requested, and were granted, a brief extension of time in which to conduct their Rule 26(f) conference and file their joint status report and discovery plan”).

Here, current counsel for GCDE and Mark Dynan only became aware of the case a few days ago, and have not yet had an opportunity to review necessary documents or analyze necessary issues. Therefore, the Parties, through their respective counsel, stipulate that a three-week continuance of the initial discovery dates is appropriate, and request the Court to issue an Amended Order Regarding Initial Disclosures, Joint Status Report, and Early Settlement, amending the initial discovery dates accordingly.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

The Parties stipulate and requests a brief continuance of three weeks, so that all counsel may have sufficient opportunity to prepare, which will enable counsel to appropriately engage on the issues in the Rule 26(f) conference.

Respectfully submitted August 31, 2011.

TELLER & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

By: /s/ Andrea Scheele  
Andrea Scheele, WSBA 36773  
Of Attorneys for Plaintiff

1139 34th Ave., Suite B  
Seattle, WA 98122  
(206) 324-8969  
[andrea@stellerlaw.com](mailto:andrea@stellerlaw.com)

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GORDON & REES, LLP

By: /s David W. Silke (withdrawing)  
David W. Silke, WSBA No. 23761  
Of Attorneys for Defendant  
Gierke, Curwen, LLP and Mark Dynan

701 5th Avenue, Suite 2100  
Seattle, WA 98104  
(206) 695-5100  
[dsilke@gordonrees.com](mailto:dsilke@gordonrees.com)

JACKSON LEWIS, LLP

By: /s Michael Anthony Griffin  
Michael A. Griffin, WSBA No. 29103  
Of Attorneys for Defendant  
Mark Dynan

One Union Square  
600 University St., Suite 2900  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 405-0404  
[griffinm@jacksonlewis.com](mailto:griffinm@jacksonlewis.com)

LEE SMART, P.S., INC.

By: /s Marc Rosenberg  
Marc Rosenberg, WSBA No. 31034  
Of Attorneys for Defendant  
Gierke, Curwen, LLP

701 Pike Street, Suite 1800  
Seattle, WA 98101  
(206) 624-7990  
[mr@leesmart.com](mailto:mr@leesmart.com)

DEARMIN FOGARTY, PLLC

By: /s Paul E. Fogarty  
Paul E. Fogarty, WSBA 26929  
Of Attorneys for Defendant  
Clarence Jones, Jr.

600 Stewart St., Suite 1200  
Seattle, WA 98101  
206-441-0172 Main  
[pfogarty@dearminfogarty.com](mailto:pfogarty@dearminfogarty.com)

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V. ORDER

It is so Ordered. The new Initial Discovery dates shall be reset as follows:

- Deadline for FRCP 26(f) Conference: SEPTEMBER 22, 2011
- Initial Disclosures Pursuant to FRCP 26(a)(1): SEPTEMBER 29, 2011
- Combined Joint Status Report and Discovery Plan as Required by FRCP 26(f) and Local Rule CR 16: OCTOBER 6, 2011

ENTERED this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2011.

  
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Hon. Ronald B. Leighton  
United States District Court Judge