

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

**TRAVELERS PROPERTY CASUALTY
COMPANY OF AMERICA,**

Plaintiff,

-vs-

Case No. 13-C-877

CANNON & DUNPHY, S.C.,

Defendant.

CANNON & DUNPHY, S.C.,

Plaintiff,

-vs-

Case No. 13-C-931

**TRAVELERS PROPERTY CASUALTY
COMPANY OF AMERICA,**

Defendant.

DECISION AND ORDER

These cases relate to a state court lawsuit between rival personal injury firms. In that case, the principals of Habush, Habush & Rottier, S.C. alleged that Cannon & Dunphy, S.C. (and its principals) violated their statutory right to privacy by bidding on the electronic keywords “habush” and “rottier” on internet search engines, thus assuring that links to Cannon & Dunphy’s website would appear as a “sponsored link” when users perform searches using the words Habush and/or Rottier. Cannon &

Dunphy tendered the defense of this lawsuit to Travelers Property Casualty Company, but Travelers refused to provide a defense. After prevailing, *see Habush v. Cannon*, 828 N.W.2d 876 (Wis. Ct. App. 2013), Cannon & Dunphy sent a demand letter to Travelers, threatening to sue if Travelers didn't pay \$454,675.39 in attorney's fees and costs, plus interest.

Instead of paying, Travelers filed the above-captioned declaratory judgment action. Case No. 13-C-877. The next day, Cannon & Dunphy filed suit in Milwaukee County Circuit Court, alleging claims for breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and also for declaratory judgment. Travelers timely removed. Case No. 13-C-931. Now before the Court are the following motions: (1) Cannon & Dunphy's motion to dismiss or stay the '877 case; (2) Cannon & Dunphy's motion to remand the '931 case; and (3) Travelers' motion to consolidate these two cases.

In the first motion, Cannon & Dunphy argues that the Court should decline jurisdiction over Travelers' declaratory judgment action pursuant to the *Wilton/Brillhart* abstention doctrine, under which the Court has discretion to dismiss or stay a declaratory judgment action when parallel proceedings are pending in state court. *Travelers Prop. Cas. v. Good*, 689 F.3d 714, 717 (7th Cir. 2012) (citing *Wilton v. Seven Falls Co.*, 515 U.S. 277 (1995) and *Brillhart v. Excess Ins. Co. of Am.*, 316 U.S. 491 (1942)). At the risk of stating the obvious, right now there are no parallel proceedings in state court because the state court action was removed to federal court.

The Court's discretion under *Wilton/Brillhart* "does not turn on the existence of parallel proceedings," but "parallel proceedings do figure in the holding of *Wilton*." *Med. Assur. Co., Inc. v. Hellman*, 610 F.3d 371, 378-79 (7th Cir. 2010). Accordingly, the Court will consider the motion to remand the '931 action first. If the '931 action should be remanded, there would be a parallel action to defer to with respect to the '877 action, making abstention a more appropriate course of action.

Cannon & Dunphy's motion to remand also invokes *Wilton/Brillhart*. Again, there are no parallel proceedings, but the Court will ignore that issue for present purposes. Instead, there is a threshold issue for the Court to consider because the removed action is not a pure declaratory judgment action. When "both declaratory and non-declaratory relief is sought, does the *Wilton/Brillhart* standard even apply, and if so, under what circumstances?" *R.R. Street & Co., Inc. v. Vulcan Materials Co.*, 569 F.3d 711, 715 (7th Cir. 2009). In *R.R. Street*, the Seventh Circuit adopted the Ninth Circuit's approach to this issue, asking whether the "claims seeking non-declaratory relief are independent of the declaratory claim. If they are not, the court can exercise its discretion under *Wilton/Brillhart* and abstain from hearing the entire action. But if they are, the *Wilton/Brillhart* doctrine does not apply . . ." *Id.* at 716-17. A claim for non-declaratory relief is independent of the declaratory claim if it "has its own federal subject-matter-jurisdictional basis" and "its viability is not wholly dependent upon the success of the declaratory claim." *Id.* at 716 n.6. In other words, the Court must adjudicate non-declaratory claims that "exist independent of any request for purely

declaratory relief, that is, *claims that would continue to exist if the request for a declaration simply dropped from the case.*” *Id.* (quoting *United Nat’l Ins. Co. v. R&D Latex Corp.*, 242 F.3d 1102, 1112 (9th Cir. 2001) (emphasis in original)).

In its complaint, Cannon & Dunphy seeks a declaration that “pursuant to the terms of the policy Travelers issued . . . and applicable law, coverage for the allegations in the *Habush* complaint was, at a minimum, fairly debatable, and that Travelers was obligated to exercise one of its options for resolving coverage obligations, or face liability for its failure to defend and indemnify . . .” Complaint, ¶ 41. Cannon & Dunphy also alleges that Travelers “breached its contractual duties” by “unilaterally denying coverage for the *Habush* litigation, . . . refusing to defend such litigation, . . . not intervening to obtain a declaratory judgment ruling on its duty to defend and indemnify, [and] refusing to defend or reimburse” Cannon & Dunphy’s defense costs as a result of the litigation. *Id.*, ¶ 34. As a result, Cannon & Dunphy “incurred substantial attorney’s fees and defense costs, and other compensable injuries and damages, all to its damage in an amount to be determined at a trial of this matter.” *Id.*, ¶ 36.

Cannon & Dunphy argues that the success of its breach of contract claim depends upon the outcome of its declaratory judgment claim, but as the Seventh Circuit observed, “[e]ven if the legal issues involved in deciding the declaratory claim would be dispositive of all of the non-declaratory claims, that would not necessarily mean that the latter are not independent of the former.” *R.R. Street* at 717 n.9. To

illustrate, Cannon & Dunphy cites a case where the policyholder requested fees under a fee-shifting statute alongside its request for declaratory relief. *Keown v. Tudor Ins. Co.*, 621 F. Supp. 2d 1025, 1030 (D. Hawaii 2008) (“Where an insurer has contested its liability under a policy and is ordered by the courts to pay benefits under the policy, the policyholder . . . shall be awarded reasonable attorney’s fees and the costs of suit, in addition to the benefits under the policy”) (quoting Haw. Rev. Stat. § 431:10-242). This claim was obviously dependent upon the declaratory claim because the only way to be reimbursed for the cost of *obtaining* a declaration of coverage was to actually obtain a declaration of coverage. *Id.* (statute “does not create a separate cause of action for attorneys’ fees, but instead conditions the payment of attorneys’ fees and costs on the insured prevailing on its liability claim”). By contrast, Cannon & Dunphy doesn’t need a separate declaration regarding Travelers’ coverage obligations in order to succeed on its breach of contract claim. The essential inquiry is the same under both claims – does the policy provide coverage? – but the Court does not need to issue an order declaring that Travelers should have provided a defense before finding that Cannon & Dunphy was damaged by Travelers’ failure to provide a defense. Quite frankly, the Court doesn’t even understand why Cannon & Dunphy needs or wants a declaration in the first instance. The *Habush* litigation is over, so there are no continuing obligations for Travelers to fulfill in that regard. Whatever the reason or justification for pleading a declaratory claim – the likely answer is that it was pled in an effort to avoid a federal forum – Cannon & Dunphy’s breach of contract claim,

which has an independent jurisdictional basis, would be a viable claim if the declaratory claim was eliminated. *See, e.g., R&D Latex Corp.*, 242 F.3d at 1113 (“We can see no reason . . . why a reimbursement claim *must* be joined with a claim for declaratory relief”) (emphasis in original).

Cannon & Dunphy tries to distinguish the holding in *R.R. Street*, arguing that the plaintiffs in that case brought claims for common law indemnity and promissory estoppel as alternative theories in the event they could not prove that the policy required coverage. *R.R. Street* did not distinguish between particular types of claims. Instead, the court held that *all* of the non-declaratory claims were “independent of the declaratory claim because they could stand alone in federal court – both jurisdictionally and substantively – irrespective of the declaratory claim.” *R.R. Street* at 717. “Were the declaratory claim dropped from the case, the district court would still have diversity jurisdiction over the plaintiffs’ breach of contract, common law indemnity, and promissory estoppel claims that seek relief in the form of money damages, and the requested declaratory relief is not a prerequisite to resolution of those claims.” *Id.* So it is here. *R.R. Street* controls.

In the alternative, Cannon & Dunphy argues that the Court should remand the ‘931 action under the *Colorado River* abstention doctrine. *R.R. Street* at 717 (“subject to the presence of exceptional circumstances under the *Colorado River* doctrine, the court must hear the independent non-declaratory claims”). However, the Seventh Circuit has “understood” that the “existence of a parallel proceeding – i.e. an

overlapping case in state court – is a requirement for exercising ‘*Colorado River* abstention.’” *Med. Assur. Co.* at 378 (citing *Beck v. Dobrowski*, 559 F. 3d 680, 686 (7th Cir. 2009)); *see also Adkins v. VIM Recycling, Inc.*, 644 F.3d 483, 508 (7th Cir. 2011) (“The test articulated for the invocation of the *Colorado River* doctrine requires parallel litigation and extraordinary circumstances”). There being no parallel state court proceeding, *Colorado River* abstention is inapplicable.

Accordingly, the motion to remand will be denied, which leads the Court back to Cannon & Dunphy’s motion to dismiss or stay Travelers’ action for a declaratory judgment (the ‘877 case). At this point, Cannon & Dunphy’s motion is essentially moot. Now that the ‘931 action is going to proceed in federal court, dismissing or staying the ‘877 action would serve no useful purpose. *See, e.g., Nationwide Ins. v. Zavalis*, 52 F.3d 689, 693 (7th Cir. 1995) (listing factors to consider, including “whether the declaratory suit presents a question distinct from the issues raised in the state court proceeding” and “whether comparable relief is available to the plaintiff seeking a declaratory judgment in another forum or at another time”). The two cases will be consolidated. Fed. R. Civ. P. 42(a)(2); Civil L.R. 42.

NOW, THEREFORE, BASED ON THE FOREGOING, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

1. Cannon & Dunphy’s motion to remand [ECF No. 8 in Case No. 13-C-931] is **DENIED**;
2. Cannon & Dunphy’s motion to dismiss or stay [ECF No. 13 in Case No.

13-C-877] is **DENIED**;

3. Travelers' motion to consolidate [ECF No. 19 in Case No. 13-C-877, ECF No. 11 in Case No. 13-C-931] is **GRANTED**. All future papers will be filed and docketed in Case No. 13-C-877;

4. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b), a telephonic scheduling conference is scheduled for **March 25, 2014** at **10:30 a.m.** (Central Time). Please be available at that time. The Court will initiate the call.

5. The purpose of the conference call is to establish a scheduling order which will limit the time: (a) to join other parties and to amend the pleadings; (b) to file motions; (c) to complete discovery;

6. The scheduling order may also: (a) modify the timing for disclosure under Rules 26(a) and 26(e)(1) and of the extent of discovery to be permitted; (b) provide for the disclosure or discovery of electronically stored information; (c) include any agreements the parties reach for asserting claims of privilege or protection as trial preparation material after information is produced; (d) the date or dates for conferences before trial, a final pretrial conference, and trial; and (e) any other matters appropriate in the circumstances of the case;

7. The time limitations set forth in the scheduling order may only be modified for good cause and with the Court's consent. Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4);

8. The parties should be prepared to discuss the matters listed in Civil Local Rule 16(a)(1). Please refer to Attachment A. Special attention should also be

given to Rule 26(f)(1), which requires the parties to conduct a settlement/discovery conference at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the initial scheduling conference described above. The Rule 26(f) conference may be conducted by telephone. Rules 26(f)(2) and (3) mandate that the parties, within fourteen (14) days of their conference: (a) file a written report outlining the proposed discovery plan they have developed at their Rule 26(f) conference; and (b) make the required initial disclosures under Rule 26(a) regarding witnesses and documents. In addition to the matters specified in Rules 26(f)(2) and (3), the Court requests that the proposed discovery plan submitted by the parties include one or two sentences stating the nature of the case;

9. The written report must include the telephone numbers where the parties can be reached for this call;

10. In addition, the Court is participating in the Seventh Circuit Electronic Discovery Pilot Program and has adopted the Principles Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information. Counsel should be fully prepared to discuss methods and techniques to accomplish cooperative fact-finding in their case at the initial status conference. Before the initial status conference, counsel must also meet and discuss the Principles Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information. At the initial status conference, counsel must be prepared to discuss what agreements they have reached regarding discovery of Electronically Stored Information (“ESI”) and what area of disagreement they have with regard to discovery of ESI. After discussing the matter with counsel, the Court will determine whether to

enter the Standing Order Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information in their particular case. (Please refer to Attachments B & C).

Dated at Milwaukee, Wisconsin, this 28th day of January, 2014.

BY THE COURT:


HON. RUDOLPH T. RANDA
U.S. District Judge

Civil L. R. 16. Pretrial Conferences; Scheduling; Management; Alternative Dispute Resolution.

(a) Preliminary Pretrial Conferences.

- (1)** A judge may require the parties to appear to consider the future conduct of the case. The parties must be prepared to discuss the matters enumerated in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f). The parties also should be prepared to state:
 - (A)** the nature of the case in 1 or 2 sentences;
 - (B)** any contemplated motions;
 - (C)** the parties' discovery plan, including the amount of further discovery each party contemplates, the approximate time for completion of discovery, and any disputes regarding discovery;
 - (D)** whether the parties anticipate the disclosure or discovery of electronically stored information;
 - (E)** whether the parties have reached an agreement for asserting post-production claims of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material, and whether the parties request the judge to enter an order including the agreement;
 - (F)** whether settlement discussions have occurred;
 - (G)** the basis for the Court's subject matter jurisdiction; and
 - (H)** such other matters as may affect further scheduling of the case for final disposition.

**CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES CONCERNING
ELECTRONICALLY STORED INFORMATION (“ESI”)**

Experience teaches that unless conducted with careful planning and a spirit of cooperation, discovery of ESI can result in an unnecessarily high level of conflict, expense and delay in resolving cases on the merits. That is why the Court has endorsed The Sedona Conference® Cooperation Proclamation dated July 2008.

To further advance the goal of having parties conduct discovery of ESI in a cooperative and cost-effective manner, this Court has adopted the Standing Order Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information. At the Rule 26(f) planning conference, the parties shall address the issues discussed in the Standing Order, including but not limited to those set forth in Section 2.01(a)(1)-(5). In the report of the planning conference, the parties shall set forth:

- (a) Whether they anticipate discovery of ESI in the case;
- (b) What agreements they have reached regarding discovery of ESI; and
- (c) What areas of disagreement they have with regard to discovery of ESI.

After reviewing the report of the planning conference and discussing the matter with the parties, the Court will determine whether the Standing Order should apply in this case.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN**

Plaintiff,		Case No. _____
vs.		
Defendant.		

This Court is participating in the Pilot Program initiated by the Seventh Circuit Electronic Discovery Committee. Parties and counsel in the Pilot Program with civil cases pending in this Court shall familiarize themselves with, and comport themselves consistent with, that committee's Principles Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information. For more information about the Pilot Program please see the web site of The Seventh Circuit Bar Association, www.7thcircuitbar.org. If any party believes that there is good cause why a particular case should be exempted, in whole or in part, from the Principles Relating to the Discovery of Electronically Stored Information, then that party may raise such reason with the Court.

General Principles

Principle 1.01 (Purpose)

The purpose of these Principles is to assist courts in the administration of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 1, to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every civil case, and to promote, whenever possible, the early resolution of disputes regarding the discovery of electronically stored information ("ESI") without Court intervention. Understanding of the feasibility, reasonableness, costs, and benefits of various aspects of electronic discovery will inevitably evolve as judges, attorneys and parties to litigation gain more experience with ESI and as technology advances.

Principle 1.02 (Cooperation)

An attorney's zealous representation of a client is not compromised by conducting discovery in a cooperative manner. The failure of counsel or the parties to litigation to cooperate in facilitating and reasonably limiting discovery requests and responses raises litigation costs and contributes to the risk of sanctions.

Principle 1.03 (Discovery Proportionality)

The proportionality standard set forth in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2)(C) should be applied in each case when formulating a discovery plan. To further the application of the proportionality standard in discovery, requests for production of ESI and related responses should be reasonably targeted, clear, and as specific as practicable.

Early Case Assessment Principles

Principle 2.01 (Duty to Meet and Confer on Discovery and to Identify Disputes for Early Resolution)

(a) Prior to the initial status conference with the Court, counsel shall meet and discuss the application of the discovery process set forth in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and these Principles to their specific case. Among the issues to be discussed are:

- (1) the identification of relevant and discoverable ESI and documents, including methods for identifying an initial subset of sources of ESI and documents that are most likely to contain the relevant and discoverable information as well as methodologies for culling the relevant and discoverable ESI and documents from that initial subset (see Principle 2.05);
- (2) the scope of discoverable ESI and documents to be preserved by the parties;
- (3) the formats for preservation and production of ESI and documents;
- (4) the potential for conducting discovery in phases or stages as a method for reducing costs and burden; and
- (5) the potential need for a protective order and any procedures to which the parties might agree for handling inadvertent production of privileged

information and other privilege waiver issues pursuant to Rule 502(d) or (e) of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

(b) Disputes regarding ESI that counsel for the parties are unable to resolve shall be presented to the Court at the initial status conference, Fed. R. Civ. P. Rule 16(b) Scheduling Conference, or as soon as possible thereafter.

(c) The attorneys for each party shall review and understand how their client's data is stored and retrieved before the meet and confer discussions in order to determine what issues must be addressed during the meet and confer discussions.

(d) If the Court determines that any counsel or party in a case has failed to cooperate and participate in good faith in the meet and confer process or is impeding the purpose of these Principles, the Court may require additional discussions prior to the commencement of discovery, and may impose sanctions, if appropriate.

Principle 2.02 (E-Discovery Liaison(s))

In most cases, the meet and confer process will be aided by participation of an e-discovery liaison(s) as defined in this Principle. In the event of a dispute concerning the preservation or production of ESI, each party shall designate an individual(s) to act as e-discovery liaison(s) for purposes of meeting, conferring, and attending court hearings on the subject. Regardless of whether the e-discovery liaison(s) is an attorney (in-house or outside counsel), a third party consultant, or an employee of the party, the e-discovery liaison(s) must:

- (a) be prepared to participate in e-discovery dispute resolution;
- (b) be knowledgeable about the party's e-discovery efforts;
- (c) be, or have reasonable access to those who are, familiar with the party's electronic systems and capabilities in order to explain those systems and answer relevant questions; and
- (d) be, or have reasonable access to those who are, knowledgeable about the technical aspects of e-discovery, including electronic document storage, organization, and format issues, and relevant information retrieval technology, including search methodology.

Principle 2.03 (Preservation Requests and Orders)

(a) Appropriate preservation requests and preservation orders further the goals of these Principles. Vague and overly broad preservation requests do not further the goals of these Principles

and are therefore disfavored. Vague and overly broad preservation orders should not be sought or entered. The information sought to be preserved through the use of a preservation letter request or order should be reasonable in scope and mindful of the factors set forth in Rule 26(b)(2)(C).

(b) To the extent counsel or a party requests preservation of ESI through the use of a preservation letter, such requests should attempt to ensure the preservation of relevant and discoverable information and to facilitate cooperation between requesting and receiving counsel and parties by transmitting specific and useful information. Examples of such specific and useful information include, but are not limited to:

- (1) names of the parties;
- (2) factual background of the potential legal claim(s) and identification of potential cause(s) of action;
- (3) names of potential witnesses and other people reasonably anticipated to have relevant evidence;
- (4) relevant time period; and
- (5) other information that may assist the responding party in assessing what information to preserve.

(c) If the recipient of a preservation request chooses to respond, that response should provide the requesting counsel or party with useful information regarding the preservation efforts undertaken by the responding party. Examples of such useful and specific information include, but are not limited to, information that:

- (1) identifies what information the responding party is willing to preserve and the steps being taken in response to the preservation letter;
- (2) identifies any disagreement(s) with the request to preserve; and
- (3) identifies any further preservation issues that were not raised.

(d) Nothing in these Principles shall be construed as requiring the sending of a preservation request or requiring the sending of a response to such a request.

Principle 2.04 (Scope of Preservation)

(a) Every party to litigation and its counsel are responsible for taking reasonable and proportionate steps to preserve relevant and discoverable ESI within its possession, custody or

control. Determining which steps are reasonable and proportionate in particular litigation is a fact specific inquiry that will vary from case to case. The parties and counsel should address preservation issues at the outset of a case, and should continue to address them as the case progresses and their understanding of the issues and the facts improves.

(b) Discovery concerning the preservation and collection efforts of another party may be appropriate but, if used unadvisedly, can also contribute to the unnecessary expense and delay and may inappropriately implicate work product and attorney-client privileged matter. Accordingly, prior to initiating such discovery a party shall confer with the party from whom the information is sought concerning: (i) the specific need for such discovery, including its relevance to issues likely to arise in the litigation; and (ii) the suitability of alternative means for obtaining the information. Nothing herein exempts deponents on merits issues from answering questions concerning the preservation and collection of their documents, ESI, and tangible things.

(c) The parties and counsel should come to the meet and confer conference prepared to discuss the claims and defenses in the case including specific issues, time frame, potential damages, and targeted discovery that each anticipates requesting. In addition, the parties and counsel should be prepared to discuss reasonably foreseeable preservation issues that relate directly to the information that the other party is seeking. The parties and counsel need not raise every conceivable issue that may arise concerning their preservation efforts; however, the identification of any such preservation issues should be specific.

(d) The following categories of ESI generally are not discoverable in most cases, and if any party intends to request the preservation or production of these categories, then that intention should be discussed at the meet and confer or as soon thereafter as practicable:

- (1) "deleted," "slack," "fragmented," or "unallocated" data on hard drives;
- (2) random access memory (RAM) or other ephemeral data;
- (3) on-line access data such as temporary internet files, history, cache, cookies, etc.;
- (4) data in metadata fields that are frequently updated automatically, such as last-opened dates;

- (5) backup data that is substantially duplicative of data that is more accessible elsewhere; and
 - (6) other forms of ESI whose preservation requires extraordinary affirmative measures that are not utilized in the ordinary course of business.
- (e) If there is a dispute concerning the scope of a party's preservation efforts, the parties or their counsel must meet and confer and fully explain their reasons for believing that additional efforts are, or are not, reasonable and proportionate, pursuant to Rule 26(b)(2)(C). If the parties are unable to resolve a preservation issue, then the issue should be raised promptly with the Court.

Principle 2.05 (Identification of Electronically Stored Information)

- (a) At the Rule 26(f) conference or as soon thereafter as possible, counsel or the parties shall discuss potential methodologies for identifying ESI for production.
- (b) Topics for discussion may include, but are not limited to, any plans to:
- (1) eliminate duplicative ESI and whether such elimination will occur only within each particular custodian's data set or whether it will occur across all custodians;
 - (2) filter data based on file type, date ranges, sender, receiver, custodian, search terms, or other similar parameters; and
 - (3) use keyword searching, mathematical or thesaurus-based topic or concept clustering, or other advanced culling technologies.

Principle 2.06 (Production Format)

- (a) At the Rule 26(f) conference, counsel and the parties should make a good faith effort to agree on the format(s) for production of ESI (whether native or some other reasonably usable form). If counsel or the parties are unable to resolve a production format issue, then the issue should be raised promptly with the Court.
- (b) The parties should confer on whether ESI stored in a database or a database management system can be produced by querying the database for discoverable information, resulting in a report or a reasonably usable and exportable electronic file for review by the requesting counsel or party.

(c) ESI and other tangible or hard copy documents that are not text-searchable need not be made text-searchable.

(d) Generally, the requesting party is responsible for the incremental cost of creating its copy of requested information. Counsel or the parties are encouraged to discuss cost sharing for optical character recognition (OCR) or other upgrades of paper documents or non-text-searchable electronic images that may be contemplated by each party.

Education Provisions

Principle 3.01 (Judicial Expectations of Counsel)

Because discovery of ESI is being sought more frequently in civil litigation and the production and review of ESI can involve greater expense than discovery of paper documents, it is in the interest of justice that all judges, counsel and parties to litigation become familiar with the fundamentals of discovery of ESI. It is expected by the judges adopting these Principles that all counsel will have done the following in connection with each litigation matter in which they file an appearance:

- (1) Familiarize themselves with the electronic discovery provisions of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, including Rules 26, 33, 34, 37, and 45, as well as any applicable State Rules of Procedure;
- (2) Familiarize themselves with the Advisory Committee Report on the 2006 Amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, available at http://www.uscourts.gov/rules/EDiscovery_w_Notes.pdf; and
- (3) Familiarize themselves with these Principles.

Principle 3.02 (Duty of Continuing Education)

Judges, attorneys and parties to litigation should continue to educate themselves on electronic discovery by consulting applicable case law, pertinent statutes, the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Federal Rules of Evidence, The Sedona Conference® publications relating to

electronic discovery¹, additional materials available on web sites of the courts², and of other organizations³ providing educational information regarding the discovery of ESI.⁴

ENTER:

Dated: _____

Hon. Rudolph T. Randa
U.S. District Judge

¹ http://www.thesedonaconference.org/content/miscFiles/publications_html?grp=wgs110

² E.g. <http://www.ilnd.uscourts.gov/home/>

³ E.g. <http://www.7thcircuitbar.org>, www.fjc.gov (under Educational Programs and Materials)

⁴ E.g. <http://www.du.edu/legalinstitute>