

**PRETRIAL INSTRUCTIONS
JUDGE HAMILTON**

A. PRETRIAL MOTIONS

1. All dispositive motions are heard **no later than 120 days before trial**, unless leave of court is obtained for another deadline.

2. Only **one** summary judgment motion may be filed by each side, absent leave of court. Leave of court may be sought if multiple parties comprise one or both sides. Leave of court may be obtained by filing a motion for administrative relief pursuant to Civ. L. R. 7-11, or by requesting a case management conference or informal telephone conference.

3. **Separate** statements of undisputed facts in support of or in opposition to motions for summary judgment shall NOT be filed. See Civil L. R. 56-2. The parties may file a truly **joint** statement of undisputed facts only if all parties agree that the facts are undisputed.

4. The notice and memorandum in support of all **motions** shall be contained in one document.

5. Each party filing or opposing a motion shall also serve and file a **proposed order** which sets forth the relief or action sought and a short statement of the rationale of decision, including citation of authority that the party requests the court to adopt.

6. **Footnotes** in briefs appearing in smaller than the 12-point font required for the text, will be stricken, see Civil L. R. 3-4(c)(2), as will footnotes that are so numerous as to be clearly designed to defeat the page limits found at Civil L. R. 7-2 - 7-4.

7. Motions pursuant to **Daubert v. Merrill Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), challenging the reliability of expert testimony, may be noticed for hearing on the date dispositive motions will be heard or on any available hearing date up to and including the date of the final pretrial conference. Irrespective of the hearing date, the briefs shall be filed in accordance with Civil L. R. 7-2 - 7-5, on a 35-day briefing schedule.

8. Briefing schedules for motions that are specifically set by the court may not be altered by stipulation; rather the parties must obtain leave of court.

9. **Motions *in limine*** are limited to motions to exclude specific items of evidence on a ground and upon such authority as would be sufficient to sustain an objection to such evidence at trial. The court will not generally consider a motion presenting a purely legal issue in the guise of a motion *in limine*.

10. **Discovery motions** will be referred to a Magistrate Judge for resolution. The words "Discovery Matter" shall appear in the caption of all documents relating to discovery to insure proper routing.

11. **Confidential and/or sealed documents** shall be handled in accordance with this court's standing order and Civil L.R. 79-5, both of which the parties shall consult before moving for a protective order or requesting a sealing order. Requests to seal documents used in conjunction with dispositive motions are rarely granted and then only upon a showing of the most compelling of reasons.

B. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE

1. Each party shall attend personally or by counsel who will try the case.

2. **Not less than forty (40) calendar days** prior to the pretrial conference, all counsel and/or parties shall meet and confer regarding preparation of the joint pretrial statement.

3. **Not less than thirty (30) calendar days** prior to the pretrial conference, counsel and/or parties shall:

- a. Serve and file a **joint** pretrial statement. (Separately filed statements will not be accepted by the court and monetary sanctions will be imposed upon the party failing to cooperate in the preparation of a joint statement). The pretrial statement shall include the following:
 - (i) A brief description of the substance of the claims and defenses which remain to be decided.
 - (ii) A detailed statement of all relief sought, itemizing all elements of damages claimed.
 - (iii) A statement of all relevant undisputed facts to which the parties will stipulate for incorporation into the trial record without the necessity of supporting testimony or exhibits.
 - (iv) A statement of all relevant disputed facts which remain to be decided.
 - (v) A statement of stipulations requested or proposed.
 - (vi) A brief statement of disputed points of law concerning liability and relief. Legal argument on these points shall be reserved for the trial briefs.
 - (vii) A statement of whether bifurcation or a separate trial of specific issues is feasible and desired.
 - (viii) A statement summarizing the status of settlement negotiations and indicating whether further negotiations are likely to be productive.

- b. Serve and file trial briefs (not to exceed 25 pages), which shall specify each cause of action and defense remaining to be tried along with a statement of the applicable legal standard (no opposition shall be filed);
- c. Serve and file no more than five motions *in limine*, which shall not exceed 5 pages each;
- d. Serve and file a list of deposition excerpts for witnesses who will not testify in person, (specifying the witness, page and line references) and other discovery responses that will be offered at trial;
- e. Serve and file a list of all witnesses to be called at trial, in person or by deposition, other than solely for impeachment or rebuttal, with a brief statement describing the substance of the testimony to be given;
- f. Serve and file a numerical list of exhibits that will be offered as evidence in a party's case in chief in support of a claim or defense, with a brief statement describing the substance and purpose of each exhibit and the name of the sponsoring witness;
- g. Exchange exhibits which shall be premarked with an exhibit sticker (example attached), tabbed and in binders. Plaintiff shall use numbers (1, 2, 3, etc.) and defendant shall use numbers preceded by a letter (A-1, A-2, A-3, etc.). Additional parties shall also use a letter preceding numbers (B-1, B-2, B-3, or C-1, C-2, C-3, etc.).
- h. Submit two sets for jury trials and three sets for court trials of all premarked exhibits to the Clerk's Office (exhibits are not filed);
- i. Serve and file any request regarding the treatment of confidential or sealed documents.
- j. Serve and file proposed joint voir dire questions and joint jury instructions for cases to be tried by jury;
- k. Serve and file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law for cases or claims to be tried by the court.
- l. Serve and file a proposed verdict form which contains no reference to submitting party.

4. No party shall be permitted to call any witness or offer any exhibit in its case in chief that is not disclosed in these pretrial filings without leave of court and for good cause.

5. **Not less than fifteen (15) calendar days** prior to the pretrial conference, counsel

and/or parties shall serve and file any opposition to a motion *in limine*. No replies shall be filed. All motions shall be heard at the pretrial conference unless otherwise ordered. The parties shall not file separate objections, apart from those contained in the motions *in limine*, to the opposing party's witness list, exhibit list or discovery designations.

C. JURY TRIAL

Jury Selection shall proceed as follows: The Jury Commissioner will summon 20 to 25 prospective jurors. The Courtroom Deputy will select their names at random and seat them in the courtroom in the order in which their names are called. Voir dire will be conducted of sufficient venire members so that six to eight will remain after all peremptory challenges and an anticipated number of hardship dismissals and cause challenges have been made.

The court will then take cause challenges and discuss hardship claims at side bar. The court will inform counsel which hardship claims and cause challenges will be granted, but will not announce those dismissals until the selection process is completed. Peremptory challenges will be made in writing. The court will strike at one time those with meritorious hardship claims, those excused for cause, and those challenged peremptorily, and then seat the first six to eight people remaining in numerical order.

The attached voir dire questionnaire shall be given to the venire members and copies of the responses will be made available to counsel at the beginning of voir dire. Counsel shall submit a **joint set** of additional voir dire questions to be posed by the court. Any voir dire questions on which counsel cannot agree may be submitted separately. Counsel will be permitted brief follow-up voir dire after the court's questioning.

The following jury instructions from the Ninth Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions Civil (2007 Edition) shall be given absent objection: 1.0 - 1.4, 1.6 - 1.14, 1.18 - 1.19, 3.1 - 3.4. Counsel shall submit a **joint set** of case specific instructions using the Ninth Circuit Manual where appropriate. Do not submit duplicates of those instructions listed above. Any instructions on which counsel cannot agree may be submitted separately. Each instruction shall be typed in full on a separate page with citations to the authority upon which it is based **and** a reference to the party submitting it. A second blind copy of each instruction shall also be submitted omitting the citation to authority and the reference to the submitting party, but retaining the title of the instruction.

D. TRIAL SCHEDULE

The court's trial schedule is 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with two fifteen-minute breaks, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.