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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION

STANDING ORDER FOR
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE LAUREL BEELER
(Effective December 15, 2015)

Parties must comply with the procedures in the Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure, the local rules, the general orders, this standing order, and the Northern District’s general standing order for civil cases titled “Contents of Joint Case Management Statement.” These rules and a summary of electronic filing requirements (including the procedures for emailing proposed orders to chambers) are available at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov> (click “Rules” or “ECF-PACER”). A failure to comply with any of the rules may be a ground for monetary sanctions, dismissal, entry of judgment, or other appropriate sanctions.

I. CALENDAR DATES AND SCHEDULING

Motions are heard each Thursday: civil motions at 9:30 a.m. and criminal motions at 10:30 a.m. Case-management conferences are every Thursday: criminal cases at 10:30 a.m. and civil cases at 11:00 a.m. Parties must notice motions under the local rules and need not reserve a hearing date in advance if the date is available on the court’s calendar (click “Calendars” at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>). Depending on its schedule, the court may reset or vacate hearings. Please call courtroom deputy Lashanda Scott at (415) 522-3140 with scheduling questions.

II. CHAMBERS COPIES

Under Civil Local Rule 5-1(b), parties must lodge a paper “Chambers” copy of any filing. The chambers copy must have the ECF header on each page, use exhibit tabs, and be three-hole-punched and two-sided unless another format makes more sense (e.g., for spreadsheets, pictures, or exhibits). Parties need not submit copies of certificates of service, certificates of interested entities or persons, consents or declinations to the court’s jurisdiction, stipulations that do not require a court order (*see* Local Civil Rule 6-1), and notices of appearance or substitution of counsel. Please read Civil Local Rule 79-5 carefully regarding the requirements for filing documents under seal and providing copies.

III. CIVIL DISCOVERY

1. Evidence Preservation. After a party has notice of this order, it must take the steps needed to

1 preserve information relevant to the issues in this action, including suspending any document
2 destruction programs (including destruction programs for electronically-maintained material).

3 **2. Production of Documents In Original Form.** When searching for material under Federal
4 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1) or after a Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 34(a) request, parties (a)
5 must search all locations – electronic and otherwise – where responsive materials might plausibly
6 exist, and (b) to the maximum extent feasible, produce or make available for copying and/or
7 inspection the materials in their original form, sequence, and organization (including, for example,
8 file folders).

9 **3. Privilege Logs.** If a party withholds material as privileged, *see* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(5) and
10 45(d)(2)(A), it must produce a privilege log that is sufficiently detailed for the opposing party to
11 assess whether the assertion of privilege is justified. The log must be produced as quickly as possible
12 but no later than fourteen days after its disclosures or discovery responses are due unless the parties
13 stipulate to, or the court sets, another date. Unless the parties agree to a different logging method,
14 privilege logs must contain the following: (a) the title and description of the document, the number
15 of pages, and the Bates-number range; (b) the subject matter or general nature of the document
16 (without disclosing its contents); (c) the identity and position of its author; (d) the date it was
17 communicated (or prepared, if that is the more relevant date); (e) the identity and position of all
18 addressees and recipients of the communication; (f) the document’s present location; (g) the specific
19 basis for the assertion that the document is privileged or protection (including a brief summary of
20 any supporting facts); and (h) the steps taken to ensure the confidentiality of the communication,
21 including an affirmation that no unauthorized persons received the communication.

22 **4. Expedited Procedures for Discovery Disputes.** The parties may not file formal discovery
23 motions. Instead, and as required by the federal rules and local rules, the parties must meet and
24 confer to try to resolve their disagreements. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(1); Civil L. R. 37-1. Counsel
25 may confer initially by email, letter, or telephone to try to narrow their disputes. After trying those
26 means, lead trial counsel then must meet and confer **in person** to try to resolve the dispute. (If
27 counsel are located outside of the Bay Area and cannot confer in person, lead counsel may meet and
28 confer by telephone.) Either party may demand such a meeting with ten days’ notice. If the parties

1 cannot agree on the location, the location for meetings will alternate. The plaintiff’s counsel will
2 select the first location, defense counsel will select the second location, and so forth. If the parties do
3 not resolve their disagreements through this procedure, lead counsel must file a joint letter brief no
4 later than five days after lead counsels’ in-person meet-and-confer. The letter brief must be filed
5 under the Civil Events category of “Motions and Related Filings > Motions – General > Discovery
6 Letter Brief.” It may be **no more than five pages** (12-point font or greater, margins of no less than
7 one inch) without leave of the court. Lead counsel for both parties must sign the letter and attest that
8 they met and conferred in person. Each issue must be set forth in a separate section that includes 1) a
9 statement of the unresolved issue, 2) a summary of each parties’ position (with citations to
10 supporting facts and legal authority), and 3) each party’s final proposed compromise. (This process
11 allows a side-by-side, stand-alone analysis of each disputed issue.) If the disagreement concerns
12 specific discovery that a party has propounded, such as interrogatories, requests for production of
13 documents, or answers or objections to such discovery, the parties must reproduce the
14 question/request and the response in full either in the letter or, if the page limits in the letter are not
15 sufficient, in a single joint exhibit. The court then will review the letter brief and determine whether
16 formal briefing or future proceedings are necessary. In emergencies during discovery events such as
17 depositions, the parties may contact the court through the court’s courtroom deputy pursuant to Civil
18 Local Rule 37-1(b) but first must send a short joint email describing the nature of the dispute to
19 lbpo@cand.uscourts.gov.

20 **IV. CONSENT CASES**

21 1. In cases that are assigned to Judge Beeler for all purposes, the parties must file their written
22 consent or declination of consent to the assignment of a United States Magistrate Judge for all
23 purposes as soon as possible. If a party files a dispositive motion (such as a motion to dismiss or a
24 motion for remand), the moving party must file the consent or declination simultaneously with the
25 motion, and the party opposing the motion must file the consent or declination simultaneously with
26 the opposition.

27 2. The first joint case-management conference statement in a case must contain all of the
28 information in the Northern District’s standing order titled “Contents of Joint Case Management

1 Statement.” Subsequent statements for further case-management conferences must not repeat
2 information contained in an earlier statement and instead should report only progress or changes
3 since the last case-management conference and any new recommendations for case management.

4 **V. SUMMARY-JUDGMENT MOTIONS**

5 The parties may not file separate statements of undisputed facts. *See* Civil L. R. 56-2. Joint
6 statements of undisputed facts are not required but are helpful. Any joint statement must include –
7 for each undisputed fact – citations to admissible evidence. A joint statement generally must be filed
8 with the opening brief, and the briefs should cite to that statement. A reasonable process for drafting
9 a joint statement is as follows: 1) two weeks before the filing date, the moving party proposes its
10 undisputed facts, and 2) one week later, the responding party replies and the parties meet and confer
11 about any disagreements. For oppositions, a responding party may propose additional undisputed
12 facts to the moving party within seven days after the motion is filed and ask for a response within
13 two business days.

14 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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17 LAUREL BEELER
18 United States Magistrate Judge

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