

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO DIVISION
MAGISTRATE JUDGE NATHANAEL COUSINS**

STANDING ORDER ON CONFIDENTIAL AND SEALED DOCUMENTS
(Effective July 5, 2011)

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

DESIGNATION OF DOCUMENTS

Before designating any specific information “Confidential” or “Confidential - Attorneys’ Eyes Only,” the designating party’s counsel shall make a good faith determination that the information warrants protection under Rule 26(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The burden of establishing confidentiality shall be on the designating party. Counsel are cautioned that over-designation of documents may result in sanctions. The filing of documents designated “Confidential” or “Confidential - Attorneys’ Eyes Only” puts an additional burden on the Court. Often the party filing the document is not the designating party. In that situation the party does not have the option to unilaterally de-designate documents before submitting them to the Court, and therefore may have no choice but to request that they be filed under seal. Over-designating documents can thus result in unnecessary work for the Court in sorting out the documents that deserve sealing from those that do not, as well as additional work for the parties who must then re-file public versions of the non-confidential documents. The best way to avoid this result is for counsel to use best efforts to make appropriate designations at the outset, and to promptly de-designate a document when it comes to counsel’s attention that the document is over-designated.

Before seeking to file under seal a document that another party has designated as Confidential or Confidential - Attorneys Eyes Only, Counsel shall review the document. If in Counsel's good faith judgment portions or all of the document have been unnecessarily designated as Confidential or Confidential - Attorneys Eyes Only, Counsel shall meet and confer with counsel for the designating party to attempt to resolve the issue.

REQUESTS TO FILE DOCUMENTS UNDER SEAL

Any party wishing to file with the court any document designated "Confidential" or "Confidential - Attorneys' Eyes Only" shall lodge the document along with a Request for Sealing pursuant to Civil Local Rule 79-5, and any proposal to seal documents must be narrowly tailored to seal only that material for which good cause to seal has been established. All requests to seal must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. The parties are cautioned that "[b]road allegations of harm, unsubstantiated by specific examples or articulated reasoning, do not satisfy the Rule 26(c) test." *Beckman Indus. Inc. v. International Ins. Co.*, 966 F.2d 470, 476 (9th Cir. 1992). Counsel may wish to put material that counsel seeks to seal in an appendix or an exhibit.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: July 5, 2011


Nathanael Cousins
United States Magistrate Judge