

**SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE STANDING ORDER**  
**MAGISTRATE JUDGE NATHANAEL M. COUSINS**

SCHEDULING

To coordinate scheduling, please contact courtroom deputy Lili Harrell at [Lili\\_Harrell@cand.uscourts.gov](mailto:Lili_Harrell@cand.uscourts.gov) or 408.535.5343. Settlement conferences typically are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m or 1:00 p.m.

Due to the Covid public health emergency, settlement conferences will be held by Zoom or telephone and not in person. The Court will provide additional access information before the settlement conference.

A party seeking to continue a settlement conference must file a request in ECF as soon as possible after meeting and conferring with opposing counsel. The request must demonstrate a compelling reason for the continuance and state whether the opposing parties object to the continuance. Any party that objects to the continuance must file an opposition in ECF within two days of the filing date of the request.

Contact courtroom deputy Lili Harrell immediately if the case settles before the settlement conference.

PERSONS REQUIRED TO ATTEND SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

All parties and their counsel are required to attend the settlement conference in person, not by telephone. Non-natural persons must be represented by a person with unlimited authority to negotiate a settlement. An insured party must appear with a representative of the carrier with full authority to negotiate up to the limits of coverage. A person who must call another person not present at the conference before agreeing to a settlement does not have unlimited authority.

SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE STATEMENT

No later than seven days prior to the conference, each party must submit a settlement conference statement via email in PDF format to [ncpo@cand.uscourts.gov](mailto:ncpo@cand.uscourts.gov). Each party must also serve its statement on opposing counsel. The statement must not be filed in ECF. The statement must include:

- (a) the identity of the attorney(s) and clients attending the settlement conference;
- (b) a brief statement of the facts of the case;
- (c) a brief statement of the claims and defenses raised, including statutory or other grounds upon which the claims are founded;
- (d) a candid evaluation of the parties' likelihood of prevailing on the claims and defenses;

- (e) a description of the major issues in dispute and any discrete issue that, if resolved, would facilitate the resolution of the case;
- (f) a summary of the proceedings to date;
- (g) a listing of all pending motions;
- (h) the relief sought;
- (i) the party's position on settlement, including present demands, offers, and a history of past settlement discussions.

No further materials should be submitted to the Court unless requested.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Updated: August 20, 2020

  
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Nathanael M. Cousins  
U.S. Magistrate Judge