

SCHEDULING ORDER

This ___ day of _____, 20___, the Court having conducted an initial Rule 16 scheduling and planning conference pursuant to Local Rule 16.2(a) on _____, 20___, and the parties having determined after discussion that the matter cannot be resolved at this juncture by settlement, voluntary mediation, or binding arbitration;

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Rule 26(a)(1) Initial Disclosures and E-Discovery Default Standard.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the parties shall make their initial disclosures pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1) within five days of the date of this Order. If they have not already done so, the parties are to review the Court's Default Standard for Discovery of Electronic Documents, which is posted at <http://www.ded.uscourts.gov> (see Orders, etc., Policies & Procedures, Ad Hoc Committee for Electronic Discovery), and is incorporated herein by reference.

2. Joinder of Other Parties and Amendment of Pleadings. All motions to join other parties, and to amend or supplement the pleadings shall be filed on or before _____, 20___.

3. Discovery.

a. Limitation on Hours for Deposition Discovery. Each side is limited to a total of ___ hours of taking testimony by deposition upon oral examination.

b. Location of Depositions. Any party or representative (officer, director, or managing agent) of a party filing a civil action in this district court must

ordinarily be required, upon request, to submit to a deposition at a place designated within this district. Exceptions to this general rule may be made by order of the Court. A defendant who becomes a counterclaimant, cross-claimant, or third-party plaintiff shall be considered as having filed an action in this Court for the purpose of this provision.

c. Discovery Cut Off. All discovery in this case shall be initiated so that it will be completed on or before _____, 20___. The Court encourages the parties to serve and respond to contention interrogatories early in the case. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the limitations on discovery set forth in Local Rule 26.1 shall be strictly observed.

d. Disclosure of Expert Testimony. For the party who has the initial burden of proof on the subject matter, the initial Federal Rule 26(a)(2) disclosure of expert testimony is due on or before _____, 20___. The supplemental disclosure to contradict or rebut evidence on the same matter identified by another party is due on or before _____, 20___. Along with the submissions of the expert reports, the parties shall advise of the dates and times of their experts' availability for deposition.

To the extent any objection to expert testimony is made pursuant to the principles announced in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharm., Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), as incorporated in Federal Rule of Evidence 702, it shall be made by motion no later than the deadline for dispositive motions set forth herein, unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

e. Discovery Matters. Should counsel find they are unable to resolve a discovery matter, the parties involved in the discovery matter(s) shall contact chambers at (302) 573-6173 to schedule a telephone conference. Not less than forty-eight (48) hours prior to the conference, excluding weekends and holidays, the party seeking relief shall file with the Court a letter, not to exceed three (3) pages, in no less than 12 point font, outlining the issues in dispute and its position on those issues. (The Court does not seek extensive argument or authorities at this point; it seeks simply a statement of the issue to be addressed and a summary of the basis for the party's position on the issue.) Not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the conference, excluding weekends and holidays, any party opposing the application for relief may file a letter, not to exceed three (3) pages, in no less than 12 point font, outlining that party's reason for its opposition. Should any document(s) be filed under seal, a copy of the sealed document(s) must be provided to the Magistrate Judge within one (1) hour of e-filing the document(s). Should the Court find further briefing necessary upon conclusion of the telephone conference, the Court will order it. Disputes over protective orders or motions for extension of time for briefing case dispositive motions which are related to discovery matters are to be addressed in the first instance in accordance with this paragraph.

No motions to compel or motions for protective order shall be filed absent approval of the court. Absent expressed approval of the court following a discovery conference, no motions pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 37 shall be filed.

4. Application to Court for Protective Order. Should counsel find it will be necessary to apply to the Court for a protective order specifying terms and conditions

for the disclosure of confidential information, counsel should confer and attempt to reach an agreement on a proposed form of order and submit it to the Court within ten days from the date of this Order. Should counsel be unable to reach an agreement on a proposed form of order, the counsel must first follow the provisions of Paragraph 3e above.

Any proposed order should include the following paragraph:

Other Proceedings. By entering this order and limiting the disclosure of information in this case, the Court does not intend to preclude another court from finding that information may be relevant and subject to disclosure in another case. Any person or party subject to this order who becomes subject to a motion to disclose another party's information designated "confidential" [the parties should list any other level of designation, such as "highly confidential," which may be provided for in the protective order] pursuant to this order shall promptly notify that party of the motion so that the party may have an opportunity to appear and be heard on whether that information should be disclosed.

5. Papers Filed Under Seal. When filing papers under seal, counsel should deliver to the Clerk an original and one copy of the papers.

6. ADR Process. To be discussed during the Rule 16 conference.

7. Interim Status Report. On _____, 20__, counsel shall submit a joint interim report to the Court on the nature of the matters in issue and the progress of discovery to date.

8. Status Conference. On _____, 20__, the Court will hold a Rule 16(a), (b) and (c) conference by telephone with counsel beginning at _____ .m. Plaintiff's counsel shall initiate the telephone call. At the time of this conference, counsel shall also be prepared to discuss the progress, if any, of settlement discussions

and shall be prepared to discuss the possibility of setting up a settlement conference with the Court, counsel and their clients.

If all parties agree that there is nothing to report, nor anything to add to the interim status report or to this order, they shall notify the Court in writing before the conference is scheduled to occur, and the conference will be taken off of the Court's calendar.

9. Tutorial Describing the Technology and Matters in Issue. If the parties believe that a tutorial on the technology would be helpful, they may shall provide the Court by _____, 20__, with a tutorial on the technology at issue. In that regard, each party may submit a videotape/CD of not more than 30 minutes. The parties may choose to present the tutorial in person. In either event, the tutorial should focus on the technology in issue and should not be used to argue the parties' claims construction contentions. If the parties choose to file videotapes/CDs, they should be filed under seal as part of the Court's file, subject to any protective order in effect. Each party may comment, in writing (in no more than 5 pages) on the opposing party's videotape/CD tutorial. Any such comment shall be filed within five (5) days of submission of the videotapes/CDs. As to the format selected, the parties should confirm the Court's technical abilities to access the information contained in the tutorial.

10. Case Dispositive Motions. All case dispositive motions, an opening brief, and affidavits, if any, in support of the motion shall be served and filed on or before _____, 20__. Unless the Court directs otherwise, no case dispositive motions may be filed at a time before the date set forth in this paragraph. Briefing will be presented pursuant to the Court's Local Rules, except as modified during the

scheduling conference. If the matter is scheduled for a bench trial, no case dispositive motions shall be filed without prior authorization of the Court.

Any reference to exhibits in the briefs must refer to the specific pages of the exhibit proffered in support of a party's argument. If the exhibit is a deposition, both the page and line numbers must be specified.¹

11. Claim Construction Issue Identification. If the Court does not find that a limited earlier claim construction would be helpful in resolving the case, on _____, 20__, the parties shall exchange a list of those claim term(s)/phrase(s) that they believe need construction and their proposed claim construction of those term(s)/phrase(s). This document will not be filed with the Court. Subsequent to exchanging that list, the parties will meet and confer to prepare a Joint Claim Construction Chart to be submitted on _____, 20__. The parties Joint Claim Construction Chart should identify for the Court the term(s)/phrase(s) of the claim(s) in issue, and should include each party's proposed construction of the disputed claim language with citation(s) only to the intrinsic evidence in support of their respective proposed constructions. A copy of the patent(s) in issue as well as those portions of the intrinsic record relied upon shall be submitted with this Joint Claim Construction Chart. In this joint submission, the parties shall not provide argument.

12. Claim Construction. Counsel must identify during the claim construction phase of the case, any claim language that will have a meaning to a person of ordinary

¹ For example, a reference to an exhibit that refers to the entire document will not be accepted and is not consistent with this provision.

skill in the art that differs from the ordinary meaning. Any language not so identified will be construed according to its ordinary dictionary meaning.

The parties shall contemporaneously submit initial briefs on claim construction issues on _____, 20___. The parties' answering/responsive briefs shall be contemporaneously submitted on _____, 20___. No reply briefs or supplemental papers on claim construction shall be submitted without leave of the Court. Local Rule 7.1.3(4) shall control the page limitation for initial (opening) and responsive (answering) briefs.

13. Hearing on Claim Construction. Beginning at _____.m. on _____, 20___, the Court will hear evidence and argument on claim construction and summary judgment.

14. Applications by Motion. Except as otherwise specified herein, any application to the Court shall be by written motion filed with the Clerk. Unless otherwise requested by the Court, counsel shall not deliver copies of papers or correspondence to Chambers. Any non-dispositive motion should contain the statement required by Local Rule 7.1.1.

15. Pretrial Conference. On _____, 20___, the Court will hold a Final Pretrial Conference in Chambers with counsel beginning at _____.m. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the parties should assume that filing the pretrial order satisfies the pretrial disclosure requirement of Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(3). The parties shall file with the Court the joint proposed final pretrial order with the information required by the form of Final Pretrial Order which accompanies this Scheduling Order on or before _____, 20___.

16. Motions *in Limine*. Motions *in limine* shall not be separately filed. All *in limine* requests and responses thereto shall be set forth in the proposed pretrial order. Each party shall be limited to five *in limine* requests, unless otherwise permitted by the Court. The *in limine* request and any response shall contain the authorities relied upon; each *in limine* request may be supported by a maximum of three pages of argument and may be opposed by a maximum of three pages of argument. If more than one party is supporting or opposing an *in limine* request, such support or opposition shall be combined in a single three (3) page submission, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. No separate briefing shall be submitted on *in limine* requests, unless otherwise permitted by the Court.

17. Jury Instructions, Voir Dire, and Special Verdict Forms. Where a case is to be tried to a jury, pursuant to Local Rules 47 and 51 the parties should file **joint** proposed voir dire, instructions to the jury, and special verdict forms and jury interrogatories three full business days before the final pretrial conference. That submission shall be accompanied by a computer diskette (in WordPerfect format) which contains the instructions, proposed voir dire, special verdict forms, and jury interrogatories.

18. Trial. This matter is scheduled for a ___ day ___ trial beginning at 9:30 a.m. on _____, 20__ with the subsequent trial days beginning at 9:00 a.m. For the purpose of completing pretrial preparations, counsel should plan on each side being allocated a total of ___ hours to present their case.

/s/ Mary Pat Thyng
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE