

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
HARRISONBURG DIVISION

NAME)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.) Civil Action No. _____
)
NAME) By: Elizabeth K. Dillon
) United States District Judge
Defendant.)

SCHEDULING ORDER

The court proposes the following as a pretrial scheduling order pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b). If no party requests changes within 14 days, it will constitute the scheduling order in this case.

Summary

TRIAL DATE: Date (**Jury / Bench** Trial)
9:30 a.m.

PLACE: UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
116 N. Main Street
Harrisonburg, VA 22802

FED. R. CIV. P. 26(f) CONFERENCE: 14 days from this order

**PLAINTIFF’S INITIAL DISCLOSURES UNDER
FED. R. CIV. P. 26(a):** 30 days from this order

**DEFENDANT’S INITIAL DISCLOSURES UNDER
FED. R. CIV. P. 26(a):** 45 days from this order

PLAINTIFF’S INITIAL EXPERT DISCLOSURE: 80 days from this order

DEFENDANT’S INITIAL EXPERT DISCLOSURE: 110 days from this order

**DEADLINE FOR MOTIONS TO JOIN OTHER
PARTIES OR AMEND PLEADINGS:** 120 days from this order

DEADLINE TO COMPLETE DISCOVERY: 95 days before trial

DEADLINE TO FILE DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS AND MOTIONS TO EXCLUDE EXPERTS:	80 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR HEARINGS ON DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS AND MOTIONS TO EXCLUDE EXPERTS:	45 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR PARTIES TO EXCHANGE WITNESS AND EXHIBIT LISTS:	28 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR MOTIONS IN LIMINE:	21 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR DEPOSITION DESIGNATIONS:	21 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR COUNTERDESIGNATIONS AND OBJECTIONS TO DEPOSITION DESIGNATIONS:	14 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR OBJECTIONS TO COUNTERDESIGNATIONS:	7 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR [JURY INSTRUCTIONS, STATEMENT OF THE CASE, AND SPECIAL INTERROGATORIES: OR FINDINGS OF FACT AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:]	7 days before trial
DEADLINE FOR HEARING ON MOTIONS IN LIMINE AND MOTIONS OBJECTING TO DEPOSITION TESTIMONY OR TRIAL EXHIBITS:	7 days before trial
FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE:	7 days before trial

Mediation

1. The parties are encouraged to engage in settlement discussions. Upon motion of any party, the court will refer the case to a magistrate judge to conduct mediation.

Trial and Settlement

2. This case is set for a (**jury / bench**) trial, scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. on
 -----.

3. The parties shall contact Miriam Frazier, Judicial Assistant (MiriamF@vawd.uscourts.gov or 540-857-5120), to schedule a final pretrial conference to be held no later than seven days before trial.

4. Proposed ***jury instructions and special interrogatories / findings of fact and conclusions of law*** must be filed electronically through CM/ECF at least seven days before trial. The parties should also email the proposed ***jury instructions and special interrogatories / findings of fact and conclusions of law*** in Word format, with citations, to dillon.ecf@vawd.uscourts.gov, copying opposing counsel.

5. If the case is set for a jury trial, the parties must jointly submit a proposed statement of the case (briefly summarizing all plaintiff's claims, defendant's defenses, and any counterclaims and cross-claims) to be read to the jury during voir dire. The statement must be emailed, in Word format, to dillon.ecf@vawd.uscourts.gov no later than seven days before trial. If the parties, after conferring, cannot agree on a proposed joint statement, each party shall submit its own proposed statement.

6. If the trial of a case will involve significant issues not adequately addressed by the parties in pretrial motions, the parties should prepare trial briefs addressing such issues and electronically file those briefs no later than five days before the final pretrial conference.

7. If the case settles before trial and the court does not receive a proposed final order within 30 days after the court has received oral or written notification of the settlement, the court will dismiss the case with prejudice. If any party wants the court to retain jurisdiction to enforce the settlement, then that party must so move within 60 days of the entry of the dismissal order.

Discovery, Rule 26(f) Plan, and Scheduling Order Amendments

8. Unless the parties stipulate otherwise, they must confer and develop a discovery plan as required by Rule 26(f) and make initial disclosures as required by Rule 26(a)(1).

9. The parties may, but are not required to, file an agreed written plan pursuant to Rule 26(f), except that the plan must be filed if the parties amend this order's disclosure or discovery provisions, which the parties may do by agreement and without seeking leave of court. If the agreed written plan purports to change any deadlines other than the disclosure and discovery deadlines, the parties shall file a separate motion requesting leave to amend this order and shall submit a proposed agreed order with the modified deadlines. The court may also amend the order on its own motion.

10. All discovery must be completed at least 95 days before trial. This schedule requires that all written discovery be served in sufficient time to allow the responding party time to respond on or before the cutoff date for discovery.

11. Except disclosures under Rule 26(a)(3) of trial witnesses and exhibits, which the parties must file, the parties are not to file disclosure or discovery materials unless and until they are relevant to the court's disposition of a motion or otherwise required by this order.

Motions

12. A supporting brief must accompany all pretrial motions, unless the motion contains the legal argument necessary to support it or is certified to be unopposed.

13. If any motion, properly filed and briefed, is to be opposed, a brief in opposition must be filed within 14 days of the date of service of the movant's brief (or within 14 days of this order if a motion and supporting brief were served before this order), except that briefs in opposition to motions in limine or other motions related to trial matters must be filed within seven

days of the date of service of the movant's brief. Except for good cause shown, if a brief opposing a motion is not timely filed, the court will consider the motion to be unopposed. If a moving party desires to submit a reply brief, it must do so within seven days of the date of service of the brief opposing the motion, except that reply briefs in support of motions in limine or motions relating to trial matters must be filed within seven days of the date of service of the brief in opposition or at least two days before the final pretrial conference, whichever time period is shorter. A surreply brief may not be filed without prior leave of the court. After December 1, 2016, and consistent with amendments to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6(d), effective that date, service by CM/ECF is no longer equivalent to service of pleadings or other papers by first class mail. Thus, the additional three days given to respond for service by mail does not apply to service by electronic means.

14. Exclusive of any accompanying exhibits, a brief may not exceed 25 pages in length using standard margins and double-spaced lines, unless the filing party first obtains leave of the court after showing good cause why a longer brief is necessary.

15. When a dispositive motion, together with its supporting brief and exhibits, consists of 75 or more pages, the filing party must send a paper courtesy copy of the documents to Judge Dillon's chambers at 210 Franklin Road, S.W., Suite 132, Roanoke, Virginia 24011.

16. No motion, brief, or exhibit may be filed under seal, except as allowed by the mandatory provisions of Western District of Virginia General Local Rule 9. The requirements of General Local Rule 9 may not be modified by a stipulated protective order or other agreement of the parties.

17. All nondispositive pretrial motions and issues are hereby referred to United States Magistrate Judge Joel C. Hoppe pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A). Before moving for an order relating to discovery, the movant must request a conference with Judge Hoppe. Hearings on motions before Judge Hoppe and conference dates are scheduled by contacting Karen Dotson, Courtroom Deputy Clerk, at 540-434-3181, Ext. 2. The court, in its discretion, may also refer dispositive motions to Judge Hoppe pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B).

18. The court does not generally schedule motions hearings. Such scheduling is the responsibility of the parties. Any party requesting a hearing must contact Miriam Frazier, Judicial Assistant, by email or telephone to set a hearing date. If the parties do not promptly schedule a hearing, the court will rule on the motion without a hearing. Nondispositive motions, including motions for enlargement of time, whether or not opposed, may be acted upon at any time by the court without awaiting a response.

19. Dispositive motions and motions to exclude experts must be heard no later than 45 days before trial.

20. Motions in limine, including motions objecting to the introduction of deposition testimony and trial exhibits, must be heard no later than the final pretrial conference.

21. Proposed orders filed through CM/ECF during the course of litigation should also be sent separately in Word format by email to dillon.ecf@vawd.uscourts.gov.

Witnesses and Exhibits

22. Expert witnesses who are retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony in the case or whose duties as an employee of the party regularly involve giving expert testimony must prepare a written report that conforms to the requirements of Rule 26(a)(2)(B).

Unless the parties otherwise agree or the court otherwise directs, the plaintiff must disclose the written report of each expert no later than 80 days from the date of this order, and the defendant must disclose the written report of each expert no later than 110 days from the date of this order.

23. With respect to expert witnesses who are not retained or specially employed to provide expert testimony, such as a treating physician, or other person who may qualify as both an expert and a fact witness, the plaintiff must disclose the identity of any such witnesses and provide the information required by Rule 26(a)(2)(C) no later than 80 days from the date of this order. The defendant must disclose the identity of any such witness and provide the information required by Rule 26(a)(2)(C) no later than 110 days from the date of this order.

24. Expert testimony intended solely to contradict or rebut evidence on the same subject matter identified by another party under Rules 26(a)(2)(B) or (C) shall be disclosed as provided under Rule 26(a)(2)(D).

25. All expert disclosures must be submitted in sufficient time that discovery, if desired, can be completed reasonably by the discovery cutoff date without undue duplication and expense.

26. Any motion to exclude the testimony of an expert must be filed no later than the deadline for filing motions for summary judgment.

27. The parties shall exchange lists of trial exhibits to be used in their case-in-chief and witnesses they expect to call in their case-in-chief at trial no later than 28 days before trial. For each witness, the list shall include the witness's name and address and a summary of the witness's anticipated testimony.

28. Unless otherwise agreed by the parties, depositions or portions thereof from persons not appearing at trial may be read into the record at trial only if a designation is filed for such use no later than 21 days before trial. Counterdesignations and objections to designations must be filed no later than 14 days before trial. Objections to counterdesignations must be filed no later than seven days before trial or at least two days before the final pretrial conference, whichever period is shorter.

29. The court encourages the parties to enter into stipulations of fact and requires the parties to confer in good faith, and at length if necessary, to attempt to resolve objections to witnesses, exhibits, and deposition designations prior to the final pretrial conference.

It is so **ORDERED**.

Entered:

Elizabeth K. Dillon
United States District Judge