

SCHEDULING ORDER [NON-PATENT]

This day of _____, 202_, the Court having conducted an initial Rule 16(b) scheduling conference pursuant to Local Rule 16.1(b), 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 HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. **Rule 26(a)(1) Initial Disclosure 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 the Court enters this Order. If they have not already done so, the parties are to review the Court's Default Standard for Discovery, Including Discovery of Electronically Stored Information ("ESI"), which is posted at <https://www.ded.uscourts.gov/default-standard-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 _____, 202_. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, any motion to join a party or motion to amend the pleadings shall be made pursuant to the procedures set forth in Paragraphs 6(g) and 7.

3. **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 the Court enters this Order. Should counsel be unable to reach an agreement on a proposed form of order, counsel must follow the provisions of Paragraph 6(g), below.

Any proposed protective order must 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.

4. **Papers and Proceedings Under Seal.** Absent a protective order, any party who wishes to file a document under seal must seek leave of Court to do so. In accordance with section G of the Revised Administrative Procedures Governing File and Service by Electronic Means, a redacted version of any sealed document shall be filed electronically within seven days of the filing of the sealed document.

Should any party intend to request to seal or redact all or any portion of a transcript of a court proceeding (including a teleconference), such party should expressly note that intent at the start of the court proceeding. Should any party subsequently choose to make a request for sealing or redaction, it must, promptly after the completion of the transcript, file with the Court a motion for sealing/redaction, and include as attachments (1) a copy of the complete transcript highlighted so the Court can easily identify and read the text proposed to be sealed/redacted, and (2) a copy of the proposed redacted/sealed transcript. With their request, the party seeking redactions must demonstrate why there is good cause for the redactions and why disclosures of the redacted material would work a clearly defined and serious injury to the party seeking redaction.

5. **Courtesy Copies.** The parties shall provide to the Court two courtesy copies of all letters, briefs, and any other document filed in support of any briefs (*i.e.*, appendices,

exhibits, declarations, affidavits, etc.). This provision also applies to papers filed under seal. All courtesy copies shall be double-sided. Exhibits and attachments shall be separated by tabs. The parties should highlight the portions of the exhibits and attachments that they wish the Court to read. Where possible, the parties are encouraged to excerpt voluminous documents that are included as exhibits or attachments.

6. **Discovery.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or agreed to by the parties, the limitations on discovery set forth in the Federal Rules and Local Rule 26.1 shall be observed.

a. **Fact Discovery Cut Off.** All fact discovery shall be initiated so that it will be completed on or before _____, 202_.

b. **Document Production.** Document production shall be substantially complete by _____, 202_.

c. **Requests for Admission.** A maximum of _____ requests for admission are permitted for each side.

d. **Interrogatories.**

i. A maximum of _____ interrogatories, including contention interrogatories, are permitted for each side.

ii. The Court encourages the parties to serve and respond to contention interrogatories early in the case. In the absence of agreement among the parties, contention interrogatories shall first be addressed by the party with the burden of proof. The adequacy of all interrogatory answers shall be judged by the level of detail each party provides (*i.e.*, the more detail a party provides, the more detail the party shall receive).

e. Depositions.

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

ii. *Location of Depositions.* Any party or representative (officer, director, or managing agent) of a party filing a civil action in this 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.

f. Disclosure of Expert Testimony.

i. *Expert Reports.* 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 _____, 202_. The supplemental disclosure to contradict or rebut evidence on the same matter identified by another party is due on or before _____, 202_. Reply expert reports from the party with the initial burden of proof are due on or before _____, 202_. No other expert reports will be permitted without either the consent of all parties or leave of the Court. Along with the submission of the expert reports, the parties shall advise of the dates and times of their experts' availability for deposition.

ii. *Objections to Expert Testimony.* To the extent any objection to expert testimony is made pursuant to the principles announced in *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, 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. Briefing shall be presented pursuant to the Court's Local Rules.

g. Discovery Matters and Disputes Relating to Protective Orders.

i. Any discovery motion filed without first complying with the following procedures will be denied without prejudice to renew pursuant to these procedures.

ii. Should counsel find, after good faith efforts – which must include verbal communication among Delaware and lead counsel for all parties to the dispute – that they are unable to resolve a discovery matter or a dispute regarding a protective order, the moving party (*i.e.*, the party seeking relief from the Court) should file a “Motion for Teleconference To Resolve [Discovery/Protective Order] Disputes.” The suggested text for this motion can be found in Magistrate Judge Hatcher's section of the Court's website, in the “Forms” tab.

iii. The Court will thereafter order a telephone conference and deadlines for submissions. On the date set by court order, generally not less than seventy-two hours prior to the conference (excluding weekends and holidays), the party seeking relief shall file with the Court a letter, not

to exceed three pages, in 12-point font, outlining the issues in dispute and its position on those issues. This submission shall include: (1) a proposed order, attached as an exhibit, setting out the nature of the relief requested; and (2) to the extent that the dispute relates to responses to certain discovery requests, an attached exhibit (or exhibits) containing the requests and the responses in dispute. On the date set by court order, generally not less than forty-eight hours prior to the conference (excluding weekends and holidays), any party opposing the application for relief may file a letter, not to exceed three pages, in 12-point font, outlining that party's reasons for its opposition.

- iv. Courtesy copies shall be submitted within one hour of e-filing. *See* Paragraph 5.
- v. Should the Court find further briefing necessary upon conclusion of the conference, the Court will order it. Alternatively, the Court may choose to resolve the dispute prior to the conference and will, in that event, cancel the conference.

7. **Motions to Amend or Strike.**

- a. Any motion to amend (including a motion for leave to amend) a pleading, or any motion to strike any pleading shall be made pursuant to the discovery dispute procedure set forth in Paragraph 6(g), above.
- b. Any motion to amend shall attach the proposed amended pleading as well as a redline comparison to the prior pleading.
- c. Any motion to strike shall attach the document sought to be stricken.

8. **Interim Status Report.** On _____, 202_, counsel shall file a joint letter with the Court with an interim report on the nature of the matters in issue and the progress of discovery to date. Thereafter, if the Court deems it necessary, the Court will schedule a status conference.

9. **Case Dispositive Motions.**

- a. All case dispositive motions, opening brief, and affidavits, if any, in support of the motion shall be served and filed on or before _____, 2020_ [calculated so that briefing is completed approximately four months prior to the pretrial conference]. Briefing will be presented pursuant to the Court's Local Rules. No case dispositive motion under Rule 56 may be filed more than ten days before the above date without leave of the Court.
- b. **Concise Statement of Facts Required.** Any motion for summary judgment shall be accompanied by a separate concise statement of facts, not to exceed six pages, which details each material fact that the moving party contends is essential for the Court's resolution of the summary judgment motion (not the entire case) and as to which the moving party contends there is no genuine issue to be tried. Each fact shall be set forth in a separate numbered paragraph and shall be supported by specific citation(s) to the record.

Any party opposing the motion shall include with its opposing papers a response to the moving party's concise statement, not to exceed six pages, which admits or disputes the facts set forth in the moving party's concise statement on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis. To the extent a fact is disputed, the basis of the dispute shall be supported by specific citation(s) to the record. Failure to respond

to a fact presented in the moving party's concise statement of facts shall indicate that fact is not in dispute for purposes of summary judgment. The party opposing the motion may also include with its opposing papers a separate concise statement, not to exceed four pages, which sets forth material facts as to which the opposing party contends there is a genuine issue to be tried. Each fact asserted by the opposing party shall also be set forth in a separate numbered paragraph and shall be supported by specific citation(s) to the record.

The moving party shall include with its reply papers a response to the opposing party's concise statement of facts, not to exceed four pages, on a paragraph-by-paragraph basis.

10. Applications by Motion. Except as otherwise specified herein, any application to the Court shall be by written motion. Any non-dispositive motion should contain the statement required by Local Rule 7.1.1.

11. 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 side shall be limited to three *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, may be opposed by a maximum of three pages of argument, and the side making the *in limine* request may add a maximum of one additional page in reply in support of its request. If more than one party is supporting or opposing an *in limine* request, such support or opposition shall be combined in a single three-page submission (and, if the moving party, a single one-page reply), unless otherwise ordered by

the Court. No separate briefing shall be submitted on *in limine* requests, unless otherwise permitted by the Court.

12. Pretrial Conference. On _____, 202_, the Court will hold a pretrial conference in Court with counsel beginning at _____. 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 in compliance with Local Rule 16.3(c) not later than seven days before the pretrial conference. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the parties shall comply with the timeframes set forth in Local Rule 16.3(d)(1)-(3) for the preparation of the joint proposed final pretrial order.

The proposed final pretrial order shall contain a table of contents and the paragraphs shall be numbered. The parties shall provide the Court two double-sided courtesy copies of the joint proposed final pretrial order and all attachments.

13. Jury Instructions, Voir Dire, and Special Verdict Forms. Where a case is to be tried to a jury, pursuant to Local Rules 47.1(a)(2) and 51.1 the parties should file (i) proposed voir dire, (ii) preliminary jury instructions, (iii) final jury instructions, and (iv) special verdict forms seven days before the pretrial conference. The parties shall simultaneously submit the documents in Word format via email to the trial judge's staff at ldh_civil@ded.uscourts.gov.

14. Trial. This matter is scheduled for a _____ day [bench/jury] trial beginning at 9:30 a.m. on _____, 202_, with subsequent trial days beginning at 9:00 a.m. Until the case is submitted to the jury for deliberations, the jury will be excused each day at 4:30 p.m. The trial will be timed, and counsel will be allocated a total number of hours in which to present their respective cases.

Laura D. Hatcher
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

