

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

3 **STANDING ORDER FOR CIVIL CASES BEFORE JUDGE VINCE CHHABRIA**

4 **CONFORMITY WITH RULES**

5
6 1. The parties shall follow the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Civil Local
7 Rules, and the General Orders of the Northern District of California, except as superseded by this
8 Court's standing order.

9 **EMERGENCY APPLICATIONS**

10
11 2. Counsel should call and email Judge Chhabria's Courtroom Deputy, Kristen Melen,
12 to notify her if they submit an application for a temporary restraining order, a stipulation that
13 requires a response from the Court within 24 hours, or any other emergency request.

14 3. When a party files an application for a temporary restraining order, or other
15 emergency application, the opposing party should not file a response unless instructed to do so by
16 the Court. The Court will not grant such an application without requesting a response from the
17 opposing party.
18

19 **SCHEDULING**

20 4. In-person civil case management conferences are conducted Tuesdays at 10:00
21 a.m. Telephonic case management conferences are conducted from chambers at 11:00 a.m. Civil
22 law and motion calendar takes place on Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. Pretrial conferences are held on
23 Mondays at 1:30 p.m. Special settings (such as evidentiary hearings and the like) will typically
24 occur on Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

25
26 5. Counsel need not reserve hearing dates but should check Judge Chhabria's calendar
27 on the Court's website to make sure the desired date is not blocked. The parties may not specially
28

1 set any matter without leave of the Court.

2 6. Counsel for the moving party should confer with opposing counsel about a
3 mutually convenient hearing date before noticing any motion.

4 7. No changes to the Court's schedule can be made except by order of the Court. Any
5 motion to continue a hearing or case management conference must be made no later than 72 hours
6 prior to the scheduled appearance.

7 8. Any request for an extension of a filing deadline (other than an extension that the
8 rules allow the parties to arrange between themselves without a court order) must be filed no later
9 than 72 hours prior to the deadline.

10 9. Once a trial date has been set, the parties should treat it as firm. Absent
11 extraordinary circumstances, the Court will not continue a trial date.

12
13
14 **CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES**

15 10. The attorney appearing at a case management conference need not be lead counsel
16 but must have full authority to make decisions about any issue that may come up during the
17 conference.

18 11. If the parties wish to continue a case management conference, they must file a
19 stipulation or motion—separate from their joint case management statement—at least 72 hours
20 prior to the conference.

21
22 **TELEPHONIC APPEARANCES**

23 12. Attorneys located outside the Northern District of California may arrange to
24 participate in case management conferences by phone. Attorneys located in the Northern District
25 may only appear by phone with leave of the Court, which will not be granted absent a showing of
26 good cause. However, in the event one attorney appears by phone, all attorneys must appear by
27 phone, and the conference will be conducted from chambers. The Court begins conducting
28

1 telephonic case management conferences at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesdays, and the parties must wait on
2 the line until their case is called. Arrangements to participate by phone must be made at least
3 seven days in advance with Judge Chhabria's Courtroom Deputy, Kristen Melen.

4 13. Any attorney who wishes to argue at a motion hearing may not appear
5 telephonically. Counsel appearing telephonically may listen to the hearing, but may discuss only
6 scheduling matters.

7 14. Counsel appearing telephonically must use a direct-dial landline.
8

9 **DISCOVERY**

10 15. Discovery disputes should be brought to the Court's attention as early as possible.
11 If the parties cannot resolve their discovery dispute after a good faith effort, they shall prepare and
12 file a joint letter of no longer than five pages stating the nature and status of their dispute. Both
13 sides should submit proposed orders as well. No exhibits may be submitted with the letter other
14 than any discovery request or response that is the subject of the letter. The letter must be filed as
15 soon as possible, but under no circumstances may it be filed more than seven days after the
16 applicable discovery deadline. The side seeking relief from the Court should prepare its portion of
17 the letter first, and then provide that to the opposing side so that the opposing side may prepare its
18 response. The party seeking relief from the Court should file the letter. The Court will either
19 resolve the dispute on the papers, require the parties to appear, or refer the case to a magistrate
20 judge for discovery purposes.
21

22 16. Parties requesting a protective order are encouraged to base any proposed order on
23 the model protective orders on the Court's website
24 (<http://www.cand.uscourts.gov/stipprotectorder>). When filing a proposed protective order, parties
25 are required to indicate whether they have based their proposed order on one of the Court's model
26 protective orders and, if so, identifying any deviations from the model order.
27
28

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

COURTESY COPIES OF FILINGS

17. Courtesy copies of all motions, oppositions, and replies (and supporting papers) must be delivered to the Clerk's Office no later than noon on the court day following the day that the document was electronically filed. The papers should be three-hole punched. Note: This rule differs from Civil Local Rule 5-1(e)(7)(A).

PROPOSED ORDERS

18. Proposed orders are not necessary for most substantive motions, such as motions for summary judgment, motions to dismiss, or preliminary injunction motions. The parties need only submit proposed orders in connection with administrative motions, ex parte applications, discovery disputes, and any substantive rulings that call upon the court to make factual findings (such as a motion to approve a class settlement or a motion for attorney's fees).

BRIEFS

19. Unless expressly permitted by the Court, briefs in support of and in opposition to all substantive motions (except for summary judgment motions, class certification motions, and motions in patent cases, as discussed below) may not exceed 15 pages, and reply briefs may not exceed 10 pages. These page limits exclude the title page, indices of cases, table of contents, and exhibits, but not summaries of argument.

20. Motions to increase page limits will almost never be granted, but any such motion must be filed no later than 72 hours before the brief is due.

21. Simultaneous briefing is not permitted for any type of motion.

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

1
2 22. The parties need not file joint or separate statements of undisputed fact in
3 connection with summary judgment motions.

4 23. At the summary judgment hearing and/or in the briefs, the parties should not
5 hesitate to alert the Court of the need for a prompt ruling in light of their trial preparation
6 schedule.

7 24. Unless expressly permitted by the Court, briefs in support of and in opposition to
8 summary judgment motions cannot exceed 25 pages, and reply briefs cannot exceed 15 pages.
9 Motions to increase page limits will almost never be granted, but any such motion must be filed no
10 later than 72 hours before the brief is due.

11 25. In the event of cross-motions for summary judgment, the parties must file a total of
12 four briefs sequentially, rather than three pairs of simultaneous briefs. Unless the parties agree to
13 reverse the order (which they are free to do on their own), the opening brief is filed by the plaintiff
14 side, the opening/opposition brief is filed by the defense side, the opposition/reply is filed by the
15 plaintiff side, and the reply is filed by the defense side. The first two briefs are limited to 25
16 pages, the third brief is limited to 20 pages, and the fourth brief is limited to 15 pages. The parties
17 may submit a stipulation and proposed order setting a briefing schedule for the cross-motions,
18 which will likely be signed so long as the fourth brief is due no later than 14 days before the
19 hearing date.
20
21
22

CLASS CERTIFICATION

23 26. Briefs in support of or opposition to class certification motions cannot exceed 25
24 pages, and reply briefs cannot exceed 15 pages.
25
26

PATENT CASES

27 27. Parties must follow the Local Patent Rules of the Northern District of California
28

1 except when those rules conflict with this standing order.

2 28. Absent a compelling reason, the Court will only conduct claim construction in
3 conjunction with a dispositive motion. However, parties should still follow Rules 4-1 through 4-4
4 of the Patent Local Rules. Rules 4-5 and 4-6, on the other hand, will give way to the details
5 provided in paragraphs 29 and 30 below.

6 29. The opening summary judgment (and claim construction) brief, as well as the
7 opposition brief, cannot exceed 40 pages. The reply brief cannot exceed 20 pages.

8 30. In the event of cross-motions for summary judgment, the parties must file a total of
9 four briefs sequentially, rather than three pairs of simultaneous briefs. Unless the parties agree to
10 reverse the order, the opening brief is filed by the party asserting infringement, the
11 opening/opposition brief is filed by the defense, the opposition/reply is filed by the plaintiff, and
12 the reply is filed by the defense. The first brief is limited to 40 pages, the second brief is limited to
13 50 pages, the third brief is limited to 30 pages, and the fourth brief is limited to 20 pages.

14 31. If the parties believe it would be helpful for the Court, they should schedule a claim
15 construction tutorial to occur one week prior to the claim construction/summary judgment hearing.
16 The parties should contact Judge Chhabria's Courtroom Deputy, Kristen Melen, to schedule the
17 tutorial.
18

19
20 **SOCIAL SECURITY CASES**

21 32. Judge Chhabria's default rule is to have hearings in social security cases. The Court
22 will schedule a hearing for its civil law and motion calendar approximately 60 days after an
23 opposition brief is filed. Counsel are free to meet and confer on a mutually acceptable hearing
24 date, and contact Kristen Melen, Judge Chhabria's Courtroom Deputy, to schedule a hearing on
25 that date. If, after reviewing the papers and the record, the Court decides a hearing is not
26 necessary, it will typically notify the parties within 2-3 days of the hearing.
27
28

1 **HABEAS CASES**

2
3 33. Judge Chhabria's default rule is to have hearings in habeas cases where the
4 petitioner is represented by counsel. Any party that files a motion in such a case should notice a
5 hearing on that motion in accordance with the local rules. If, after reviewing the papers and the
6 record, the Court decides a hearing is not necessary, it will typically notify the parties within 2-3
7 days of the hearing.

8 **HEARINGS AND TENTATIVE RULINGS**

9
10 34. The Court will not ordinarily issue tentative rulings, but it typically announces its
11 tentative thinking at the outset of the hearing.

12
13 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

14 Dated: May 6, 2015

15 
16 _____
17 Vince Chhabria
18 United States District Judge

United States District Court
Northern District of California

19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28