

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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4 STANDING ORDER RE:
5 SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

Magistrate Judge Brenda Weksler
Effective April 10, 2020

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9 **NOTE: The Court made significant changes to its scheduling order.**

10 This Order applies to cases referred to the undersigned magistrate judge to conduct a
11 Settlement Conference. Unless otherwise noted, Settlement Conferences will take place at the
12 Lloyd D. George United States Courthouse, 333 Las Vegas Boulevard South, Las Vegas, Nevada.
13 Parties and counsel should prepare to be at the Settlement Conference for the entire business day
14 unless Judge Weksler indicates otherwise.

15 **I. Pre-Settlement Conference telephonic conference.**

16 A pre-Settlement Conference telephonic call may be scheduled before the day of the
17 Settlement Conference. This call is for Judge Weksler and counsel only. Counsel must call 877-
18 810-9415, access code 2365998, five minutes before the scheduled time.

19 **II. Timeliness.**

20 All parties and counsel are expected to check in with Judge Weksler's chambers at least
21 five minutes prior to the Settlement Conference. If anyone anticipates arriving after the
22 Settlement Conference's scheduled start time, they must give **prior** notice by contacting
23 chambers at 702-464-5570.

24 **III. Attendance requirements.**

25 The in-person attendance of each of the following individuals is required for the entire
26 duration of the Settlement Conference: an attorney of record who will be participating in the trial
27 of the case; all parties appearing pro se, if any; all individual parties; for non-individual parties, a
28 representative with settlement authority up to the full amount of the claim. If any party is subject

1 to coverage by an insurance carrier, then a representative of the insurance carrier with settlement
2 authority up to the full amount of the claim must also be present for the entire duration of the
3 Settlement Conference.

4 The Court **may impose sanctions** if any of the above individuals are not present for the
5 Settlement Conference.

6 **IV. Confidential written evaluation statement.**

7 In preparation for the Settlement Conference, each party must submit a confidential
8 written evaluation statement for the Court's in-camera review. The purpose of the written
9 evaluation is to assist the undersigned in preparing for and conducting the Settlement Conference.
10 To facilitate a meaningful discussion, the parties' utmost candor is required. The written
11 evaluation will not be seen by or shared with the district judge presiding over this matter. Each
12 written evaluation will be securely maintained and will be destroyed following the conclusion of
13 the Settlement Conference.

14 The evaluation statement must adhere to the following requirements:

- 15 • The first paragraph must contain the names and titles of all attendees. For non-
16 individual parties present through a representative, you must indicate if there is a
17 dollar value above which you will need the approval of a board or similar body
18 and what that dollar value is. Each party may identify any persons connected with
19 a party opponent (including an insurer representative) whose presence might
20 substantially improve the utility of the Settlement Conference or the prospects of
21 settlement.
- 22 • **The written evaluation must not exceed 10 written pages, not including**
23 **exhibits. The entire written evaluation must not exceed 50 pages, including**
24 **exhibits.** The parties should not include as exhibits any items available on the
25 case docket. A citation to the ECF No. will suffice. If either party desires to
26 exceed these page limits, they must seek the Court's approval. The Court will not
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1 grant approval unless the requesting party can establish how the additional pages
2 will aid the Court in helping the parties reach settlement.

- 3 • The written evaluation must briefly describe the substance of the suit and address
4 the party's views on the key liability and damages issues. **Each written**
5 **evaluation must contain the elements of each claim and an analysis discussing**
6 **how the facts relate to those elements.** Further, each party must discuss the
7 strongest and weakest points of their case, both factually and legally, including a
8 candid evaluation of the merits of their positions.
- 9 • The parties must each include a comprehensive history, if any, of settlement
10 negotiations occurring before the Settlement Conference. **The final paragraph of**
11 **the evaluation statement must contain the opening offer or demand that the**
12 **party will make at the Settlement Conference.**
- 13 • If there are documents, pictures, recordings, etc., out of which the underlying suit
14 arose, or whose availability would materially advance the purpose of the
15 evaluation session, the parties must include copies of those items as exhibits to
16 their evaluation statements. If a party desires to include deposition transcripts as
17 an exhibit, the party should include only excerpts that the party desires to
18 emphasize.
- 19 • The written evaluation must estimate the costs (including attorney's fees and costs)
20 of taking the case from Settlement Conference through trial.
- 21 • **Each party's written evaluation must be submitted via email to**
22 **emily_gesmundo@nvd.uscourts.gov. Physical copies will not be accepted. Do**
23 **not deliver or mail the written evaluations to the clerk's office and do not**
24 **serve a copy on opposing counsel.**

25 **V. Electronic devices.**


26 **Recording the Settlement Conference proceedings is expressly prohibited.** All
27 attendees are permitted to bring electronic devices, which they may use to access information
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1 necessary to participate in the Settlement Conference or while the undersigned caucuses with
2 other parties. Wi-fi connection information will be provided during the Settlement Conference.

3 **VI. Sanctions.**

4 Failure to comply with this order’s requirements may subject the noncompliant party to
5 sanctions under Local Rule IA 11-8 or Rule 16(f) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

6 DATED: April 10, 2020

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BRENDA WEKSLER
9 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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