

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

CASE NO. 16-21199-CIV-ALTONAGA/O'Sullivan

ANDREA ROSSI, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THOMAS DARDEN, *et al.*,

Defendants.

**ORDER SETTING TRIAL AND PRE-TRIAL SCHEDULE, REQUIRING
MEDIATION, AND REFERRING CERTAIN MATTERS TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

THIS CAUSE is set for trial during the Court's two-week trial calendar beginning on **June 26, 2017**. Calendar call will be held at **9:00 a.m. on June 20, 2017**. No pre-trial conference will be held unless a party requests one and the Court determines that one is necessary. The parties shall adhere to the following schedule:

July 21, 2016. The parties shall select a mediator pursuant to Local Rule 16.2, shall schedule a time, date and place for mediation, and shall jointly **file a proposed order scheduling mediation** in the form specified on the Court's website, <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov>. If the parties cannot agree on a mediator, they shall notify the Clerk in writing as soon as possible, and the Clerk shall designate a certified mediator on a blind rotation basis. Counsel for all parties shall familiarize themselves with and adhere to all provisions of Local Rule 16.2. Within **seven (7) days** of mediation, the parties are required to file a mediation report with the Court. Pursuant to the procedures outlined in the CM/ECF Administrative Procedures, the proposed order must be emailed to altonaga@flsd.uscourts.gov in Word format.

August 11, 2016. All motions to amend pleadings or join parties are filed.

January 30, 2017. Parties exchange expert witness summaries or reports.

February 13, 2017. Parties exchange rebuttal expert witness summaries or reports.

February 27, 2017. All discovery, including expert discovery, is completed.

March 13, 2017. Parties must have completed mediation and filed a mediation report.

March 21, 2017. All pre-trial motions and *Daubert* motions (which include motions to strike experts) are filed. Each party is limited to filing one *Daubert* motion. If all evidentiary issues cannot be addressed in a 20-page memorandum, leave to exceed the page limit will be granted. **The parties are reminded that *Daubert* motions must contain the Local Rule 7.1(a)(3) certification.**

April 18, 2017. Parties submit joint pre-trial stipulation, proposed jury instructions and verdict form, or proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law, as applicable, and motions *in limine*, other than *Daubert* motions or motions to strike experts. Each party is limited to filing one motion *in limine*. If all evidentiary issues cannot be addressed in a 20-page memorandum, leave to exceed the page limit will be granted. **The parties are reminded that motions *in limine* must contain the Local Rule 7.1(a)(3) certification.**

Jury Instructions and Verdict Form. The parties shall submit their proposed jury instructions and verdict form jointly, although they need not agree on each proposed instruction. Where the parties do not agree on a proposed instruction, that instruction shall be set forth in bold type. Instructions proposed only by a plaintiff shall be underlined. Instructions proposed only by a defendant shall be italicized. Every instruction must be supported by citation to authority. The parties shall use as a guide the Eleventh Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions for Civil Cases, including the directions to counsel contained therein. Proposed jury instructions and verdict form, in typed form, including substantive charges and defenses, shall be submitted to the Court prior to calendar call, in Word format, via e-mail to altonaga@flsd.uscourts.gov. Instructions for filing proposed documents may be viewed at <http://www.flsd.uscourts.gov>.

Referral to Magistrate Judge. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636 and this District's Magistrate Judge Rules, all discovery matters are referred to Magistrate Judge John J. O'Sullivan. Furthermore, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c)(1), the parties may consent to trial and final disposition by Magistrate Judge O'Sullivan. **The deadline for submitting a consent is March 21, 2017.**

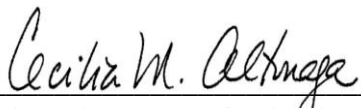
Discovery. The parties may stipulate to extend the time to answer interrogatories, produce documents, and answer requests for admissions. The parties shall not file with the Court

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notices or motions memorializing any such stipulation unless the stipulation interferes with the deadlines set forth above. Stipulations that would so interfere may be made only with the Court's approval. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 29. In addition to the documents enumerated in Local Rule 26.1(b), the parties shall not file notices of deposition with the Court. Strict compliance with the Local Rules is expected, particularly with regard to motion practice. *See* S.D. FLA. L.R. 7.1.

Discovery Disputes. Magistrate Judge O'Sullivan holds a regular discovery calendar. **No written discovery motions, including motions to compel, for protective order, or related motions for sanctions shall be filed unless the Magistrate Judge so directs at his discovery calendar.** Counsel must actually confer and engage in reasonable compromise in a genuine effort to resolve their discovery disputes before noticing the dispute for the discovery calendar. The Court may impose sanctions, monetary or otherwise, if it determines discovery is being improperly sought or is being withheld in bad faith. If, after conferring, the parties are unable to resolve their discovery dispute without Court intervention, they shall not file written motions. Rather, the "moving party" shall contact the chambers of Magistrate Judge O'Sullivan at (305) 523-5920 and place the matter on the next available discovery calendar.

DONE AND ORDERED in Miami, Florida, this 30th day of June, 2016.



CECILIA M. ALTONAGA
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

cc: counsel of record