UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

FORT MYERS DIVISION

[case heading

**CASE MANAGEMENT AND SCHEDULING ORDER—PATENT CASES**

Having considered the parties’ agreed dates in the Case Management Report – Patent Cases, the Court enters this Case Management and Scheduling Order:

| **DEADLINE** | **AGREED DATE** |
| --- | --- |
| **Disclosure Statements** | Plaintiff filed on Select Date  Defendant filed on Select Date |
| **Rule 26(a)(1) Mandatory Initial Disclosures** | Exchanged  To be exchanged by Select Date |
| **Motions to Add or Join Parties or Amend Pleadings** | Select Date |
| **Disclosure of Infringement Contentions**[[1]](#footnote-1) | Select Date |
| **Disclosure of Non-Infringement and Invalidity Contentions** | Select Date |
| **Initial Identification of Disputed Claim Terms** | Select Date |
| **Proposed Claim Term Construction** | Select Date |
| **Joint Claim Construction Statement** | Select Date |
| **Technology Tutorial Conference** | Select Date |
| **Claim Construction Briefs** | Select Date |
| **Response Briefs** | Select Date |
| **Joint Pre-Hearing Statement** | Select Date |
| **Claim Construction Hearing** | Select Date |
| **Amendment of Infringement Contentions** | Select Date |
| **Amendment of Non-Infringement and Invalidity Contentions; Disclosure of Intent to Rely on Advice of Counsel as Defense** | Select Date |
| **Disclosure of any Expert Report** | Plaintiff: Select Date  Defendant: Select Date  Rebuttal: Select Date |
| **Discovery and Motions to Compel Discovery** | Select Date |
| **Dispositive and *Daubert* Motions[[2]](#footnote-2)** | Select Date |
| **Mediation** | Select Date  Mediator Designated or Notice to be Filed.  Mediator’s name. |
| **Final Pretrial Meeting** | Select Date |
| **Motions in Limine** | Select Date |
| **Joint Final Pretrial Statement, Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form, and Trial Briefs** | Select Date |
| **Final Pretrial Conference** | Select Date |
| **Monthly Trial Term** | Month Year |
| **Estimated Length of Trial** | Select days |
| **Jury or Non-Jury** | Select |

1. **Compliance**

Counsel and all parties (represented and *pro se*) must comply fully with this Scheduling Order. Motions to extend the above deadlines are **disfavored**. Deadlines may be modified only for good cause and with the judge’s consent. Also, filing a motion to extend a deadline does not toll the time to comply with other deadlines set by rule or court order.

1. **Consent to Magistrate Judge**

At any time during this case, the parties may consent to proceed before the assigned Magistrate Judge to conduct some or all proceedings (including specified motions and trial) and enter final judgment by filing the appropriate AO85 [form](https://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/sites/flmd/files/forms/mdfl-ao85-notice-consent-and-reference-of-a-civil-action-to-a-magistrate-judge.pdf). A party may withhold consent without adverse consequences.

1. **Motions**
2. *Certification Under Local Rule 3.01(g)*: Before filing most motions, the movant must confer with the opposing party in a good faith effort to resolve issue(s).[[3]](#footnote-3) Failure to comply with Local Rule 3.01(g) may cause the Court to deny or strike the motion.

At the end of the motion and under the heading “Local Rule 3.01(g) Certification,” the movant:

1. must certify that the movant has conferred with the opposing party,
2. must state whether the parties agree on the resolution of all or part of the motion, and
3. if the motion is opposed, must explain the means by which the conference occurred.

For anything other than joint or unopposed motions, the term “confer” requires a substantive conversation in person, by telephone, or via videoconference. It does not envision an exchange of ultimatums by email or letter. Counsel who merely tries to confer has not “conferred.”

If the opposing party is unavailable before the motion’s filing, the movant after filing must try diligently for **3 days** to contact the opposing party. Promptly after either contact or expiration of the 3 days, the movant must supplement the motion with a statement certifying whether the parties have resolved all or part of the motion. Failure to timely supplement can result in denial of the motion without prejudice. The purposeful evasion of a communication under this rule can result in sanction.

1. *Failure to Respond to Motions*: Under Local Rule 3.01(c), if a party fails to timely respond to a motion, the motion is subject to treatment as unopposed.
2. *Motions for Summary Judgment*
   1. Number of Motions: Only **one** motion for summary judgment may be filed by a party (or multiple parties represented by the same counsel) absent leave of Court.
   2. Required Materials: A motion for summary judgment must include a memorandum of law in support anda specifically captioned section titled, “Statement of Material Facts” in a single document not to exceed **25** **pages** in length. The statement of material facts must list each material fact alleged not to be disputed in separate, numbered paragraphs. Each fact must be supported by a **pinpoint**citation to the specific part of the record relied on to support that fact. **Failure to submit a statement of material facts constitutes grounds to deny the motion.**

An opposition to a motion for summary judgment must include a memorandum of law and a specifically captioned section titled, “Response to Statement of Material Facts” in a single document not to exceed **20** **pages** in length. The opposing party’s response to the statement of material facts must mirror the statement of material facts by admitting and/or denying each of the moving party’s assertions in matching numbered paragraphs. Each denial must set forth a **pinpoint**citation to the record where the fact is disputed. Although the opposing party’s response must correspond with the paragraph scheme used in the statement of material facts, the response need not repeat the text of the moving party’s paragraphs. In deciding a motion for summary judgment, **any fact that the opposing counsel or party does not specifically controvert and not otherwise included in the Response to Statement of Disputed Material Facts may also be deemed undisputed if supported by record evidence.**

The movant may file a reply brief not to exceed **7 pages** in length with **pinpoint**citations to the record within **14 days** after service of the response. Any motion for a sur-reply is disfavored and should be made only in exceptional circumstances.

When citing to the record, the parties should first use any CM/ECF designated document number and page number throughout the briefs. Where no CM/ECF citation is available, a specific format like “Ex. 1., p.2” should be used throughout the brief. Further, a general reference to a deposition is inadequate—the page and line number of the deposition transcript must be included. For example, a general reference to “Deposition of Jones” is insufficient.

* 1. Deposition Transcripts as Exhibits: If depositions are filed to support a motion for summary judgment, the Court prefers the deposition be filed in its entirety (a condensed version is acceptable) with exhibits.
  2. Exhibit Index: A motion for summary judgment or a response with exhibits totaling over 10 pages mustinclude an index to the exhibits that lists the exhibit number and title of the exhibit. Counsel must file the index as the **last** attachment to the parent document. *See* “Exhibit Index” below for a sample exhibit index.
  3. Oral Argument: Unless specifically ordered, the Court will not hold oral argument on a summary judgment motion. If a party requests oral argument, it must do so in a separate document accompanying the party’s motion or response and stating the time necessary.

1. **Patent-Specific Requirements**
2. A party must inform the Court **immediately** by filing a notice if it has sought or will be seeking inter partes review before the Patent and Trial Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The notice must address whether the party intends to seek a stay of this case pending inter partes review.
3. *Disclosure of Infringement Contentions*: A party making infringement contentions must serve on the opposing party—but not file with the Court—the following disclosures:
   1. each asserted claim of infringement;
   2. the identity of each accused device (be as specific as possible like name or model number);[[4]](#footnote-4)
   3. how each element of each claim is found in each accused device;
   4. for each element of each asserted claim the party contends is governed by 35 U.S.C. § 112, (i) the function and structure of each element and where the function and structure are disclosed in the specification; and (ii) the identity of the structures, acts, or materials in each accused device that performs the claimed function; and
   5. whether each element of each asserted claim is claimed to be literally present or present under the doctrine of equivalents in the accused device.
4. *Disclosures of Non-Infringement and Invalidity Contentions*: Any party asserting non-infringement, invalidity, or unenforceability claims or defenses must serve on the opposing party—but not file with the Court—the following disclosures:
   1. the factual basis for any allegation that it does not infringe the patent(s)-in-suit either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents;
   2. the elements the party believes are not present in the accused devices and why an equivalent is not present;
   3. each item of prior art that forms the basis for any allegation of invalidity because of anticipation or obviousness;
      1. For prior art that is a document, the party must provide a copy of the document to the opposing party.
      2. For prior art that is not a document, such prior art must be identified with particularity (e.g., the “who, what, when, and where”) as to the publication date, sale date, use date, source, ownership, inventorship, conception, and any other pertinent information that forms the basis of the party’s invalidity contentions.
   4. whether each item of prior art anticipates each asserted claim or renders it obvious. If a combination of items of prior art makes a claim obvious, then each such combination and the reason why a person of ordinary skill in the art would combine such items shall be identified;
   5. for each element of each asserted claim that the party contends is governed by 35 U.S.C. § 112, (i) the function and structure of each element and where the function and structure is disclosed in the specification and (ii) where the prior art identifies the structures, acts, or materials in each prior art that performs the claimed function; and
   6. for any good faith grounds of invalidity based on 35 U.S.C. § 112 or other defenses, the reasons and evidence why the claims are invalid or the patent unenforceable—make specific reference to relevant portions of the specification or claims or prosecution history.
5. *Proposed Claim Term Constructions*: The parties must exchange—but not file with the Court—a list of each party’s proposed interpretation of the disputed claim terms, citations to the intrinsic evidence (e.g., patent prosecution history, dictionary definitions) that support its interpretation, and a brief summary of any testimony to support that interpretation.
6. *Joint Claim Construction Statement*: After exchanging the above Proposed Claim Term Constructions, lead counsel for the parties must **meet and confer in person** about the claim terms in dispute. During this conference, the parties must narrow and finalize the claim terms that the Court needs to interpret. If the parties determine that a claim construction hearing is not necessary, they must notify the Court within **three days** of their conference.

The parties must file a Joint Claim Construction Statement, including intrinsic evidence, extrinsic evidence, and a summary of expert testimony. The parties must attach a chart with no more than **10 claim terms**, each party’s construction of each claim term, and the relevance of the construction of each claim term for summary judgment. The Joint Claim Construction Statement cannot exceed **25 pages**. Absent good cause, the Court will not hear argument or testimony at trial or summary judgment about any disputed claim term that was not identified in the Joint Claim Construction Statement.

1. *Technology Tutorial Conference*: A non-adversarial technology tutorial conference will be scheduled at the party’s request or a court order, so the parties can explain the technology at issue. The parties cannot pre-argue their claim construction positions except to offer the Court context on the dispute**.**
2. *Claim Construction Briefs*: A party’s brief must not exceed **30 pages** absent leave of Court.
3. *Defendant’s Response Brief*: A party’s response brief must not exceed **30 pages** absent leave of Court.
4. *Joint Pre-Hearing Statement*: Counsel for the parties must confer about the claim construction hearing and file a Joint Pre-Hearing Statement—not to exceed **4 pages**—that states the claim terms to be discussed and the anticipated witnesses.
5. *Claim Construction Hearing*: The hearing will last no longer than **6 hours**.
6. *Amending Infringement, Non-Infringement, and Invalidity Contentions*:Amendments to infringement, non-infringement, or invalidity contentions must be per Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(e) and on learning that the contention is incomplete or incorrect.
7. *Disclosure of Intent to Rely on Advice of Counsel as a Defense*:Any party that will rely on advice of counsel as a defense must;
   1. produce to the opposing party (or make available for inspection and copying) documents relating to the opinion(s) of counsel as to which the party agrees the attorney-client privilege has been waived; and
   2. a privilege log identifying any other documents relating to the opinion(s) of counsel, except those authored by counsel acting solely as trial counsel, which the party withholds on the grounds of attorney-client privilege or work product protection.

Any party who does not make the above disclosures about an opinion of counsel cannot rely on that opinion at trial absent the parties’ stipulation.

1. *Disclosure of Expert Reports on Issues Where the Party Bears the Burden of Proof*: On an issue where a party bears the burden of proof, that party must serve expert reports as required by Rule 26(a)(2). The parties must also provide 3 dates available for depositions of experts, no sooner than 1 week and no later than 3 weeks after service of the reports.
2. **Exhibit Index*****(required only for cases assigned to Judge Chappell)***

For **all motions** before Judge Chappell, counsel filing any motion with exhibits totaling over 10 pages mustcreate an index to the exhibits, including the exhibit number and title of the exhibit. File the index as the **last** attachment to the parent document. Below is a sample exhibit index:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Number** | **Title** |
| 1 | Affidavit of John Smith |
| 2 | Jane Doe’s Deposition |
| 3-A | Contract Between XYZ Company and ABC Company (Part 1, Pages 1-15) |
| 3-B | Contract Between XYZ Company and ABC Company (Part 2, Pages 16-24) |
| 4 | XYZ Company General Ledgers |

# Mediation

# *Referral*:The assigned District Judge refers this case to mandatory mediation.

# *Participation*: Lead counsel, the parties or a party’s surrogate satisfactory to the mediator, and any necessary insurance carrier representative must attend the mediation in a good faith effort to resolve this suit. Any unexcused absence or departure from mediation is sanctionable. And a failure by a required person to participate in good faith must be promptly reported to the assigned Magistrate Judge during or immediately after mediation.

# Participants must be prepared to spend as much time as needed at mediation. The mediation will continue (including additional conferences) until the mediator declares an impasse or ends the mediation. Only the mediator may declare an impasse, which must not be the result of one or more required persons unreasonably declaring themselves no longer available.

# *Deadline*: The parties must complete mediation on or before the deadline in the above table. Counsel must also confirm a mediation date agreeable to the mediator and the parties and then notify the Court of the date at least 14 days before the mediation.

# *Report of Mediator*: The mediator must report within 7 days after mediation the result of the mediation and whether all required persons attended.

# *Confidentiality*: The substance of the mediation is confidential and no party, lawyer, or other participate is bound by, may record, or without the judge’s approval may disclose any event, including any statement confirming or denying a fact – except settlement – that occurs during the mediation.

1. **Final Pretrial Procedures**
2. *Final Pretrial Meeting*: By the above deadline, leadcounsel and any unrepresented party must meet in personin a good faith effort to:
   1. discuss the possibility of settlement. The parties must exhaustively discuss settling before completing this Order’s final trial preparations.
   2. stipulate to as many facts and issues as possible. The parties must make a meaningful effort to stipulate to facts and law, and to limit, narrow, and simplify the issues of fact and law that remain contested. Parties who have complied with this requirement in good faith will file a Joint Final Pretrial Statement listing far more agreed facts and principles of law than those that remain for determination at trial.
   3. examine all individual and joint exhibits to be offered at trial. The parties should also prepare and exchange exhibit lists bearing a description identifying each exhibit and sponsoring witness. Without good cause, the Court will not receive in evidence over objection any exhibits, including charts, diagrams, and demonstrative evidence, not presented to opposing counsel or unrepresented parties for inspection and copying at the required meeting, or not listed in the joint final pretrial statement.
   4. exchange the names and addresses of all witnesses and state the likelihood each witness will testify at trial.
   5. prepare a Joint Final Pretrial Statement.
3. *Joint Final Pretrial Statement*: By the above deadline, the parties must file a final pretrial statement that will govern trial. The statement must contain **all** items listed in Local Rule 3.06(b) and case-specific voir dire questions. The Court will strike pretrial statements that are unilateral, partly executed, or otherwise incomplete. Inadequate stipulations of fact and law may also be stricken. Sanctions may be imposed for failure to comply, including the striking of pleadings.
   1. *Depositions*: Specify the pages and lines of each deposition offered in lieu of live testimony, unless used only for impeachment. Include a page-and-line description of any testimony that remains in dispute with argument and authority for each party’s position. Submit edited and marked electronic copies (for the portion offered by each party) of any depositions or deposition excerpts to be offered in evidence. Edited and marked electronic copies must also be emailed to the assigned District Judge’s Chambers inbox before the final pretrial conference.
   2. *Case-Specific Proposed Voir Dire Questions*: Jointlyfile proposed voir dire questions **specific**to the case for the Court’s consideration. Proposed questions must also be emailed in Microsoft Word® format to the assigned District Judge’s Chambers inbox.
4. *Trial Briefs*: For bench trials only, each party must file and serve a trial brief with proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.
5. *Witness Lists*: By the Joint Final Pretrial Statement deadline above, each party must file and email in Microsoft Word® format to the assigned District Judge’s Chambers inbox a list of all witnesses who may be called at trial. On the morning of trial before jury selection, each party must also give the Courtroom Deputy Clerk **3 copies** of their final witness lists.

Each party must use the Civil [Witness List](https://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/judges/all/fort-myers) form found on the Court’s website. When filling out the form, counsel may ignore the column titled, “Date(s) Testified,” which is for the Court’s use only. Unlisted witnesses may not testify at trial absent good cause. This restriction does not apply to true rebuttal witnesses, i.e., witnesses whose testimony could not have been reasonably foreseen as necessary. Records custodians may be listed, but will not likely be called at trial, except in the rare event that authenticity or foundation is contested. Finally, the Court encourages stipulations of fact to avoid calling unnecessary witnesses.

1. *Exhibit Lists*: By the Joint Final Pretrial Statement deadline above, each party must file and email in Microsoft Word® format to the assigned District Judge’s Chambers inbox a list of exhibits that may be introduced at trial. On the morning of trial before jury selection, each party must also give the Courtroom Deputy Clerk **3 copies** of their final exhibit lists.

Each party must use the [Exhibit List](https://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/judges/all/fort-myers) form on the Court’s website. When filling out the form, counsel must provide a descriptive notation that identifies each exhibit. The Court will not receive unlisted exhibits into evidence at trial unless needed to further justice.

Counsel must submit all stipulated exhibits as joint exhibits to avoid duplicate exhibits and confusion in the record. Counsel must identify joint exhibits on a single exhibit list rather than separately list the joint exhibits on their individual exhibit lists. For example, if a photograph is being stipulated into evidence, it should be marked as a joint exhibit and not listed separately on each party’s exhibit list. Each party’s individual exhibit list should include only exhibits to which objections have been asserted.

When offering into evidence a document larger or smaller than 8.5”x11”, counsel must also offer an 8.5”x11” reduction or enlargement of the exhibit. Counsel will be deemed to have stipulated to the substitution of the photographs or 8.5”x11” reduction/enlargement of exhibits in the record on appeal, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Objections to such photographs or reductions of exhibits must be listed in the Joint Final Pretrial Statement.

1. *Labeling Exhibits*: **Before trial** (and any evidentiary hearing), each party must mark exhibits using the exhibit labels from the clerk or the Court’s website. Counsel must staple the appropriate tag to the upper right corner of the first page and use consecutive numbers to mark exhibits.
2. *Joint-Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form*:By the deadline above, the parties must file and email to the assigned District Judge’s Chambers inbox (in Microsoft Word® format) a single set of joint proposed jury instructions and a verdict form based on the Eleventh Circuit’s pattern Jury Instructions. If a pattern instruction is unavailable, the parties must submit a joint-proposed instruction and supporting case law for that instruction. A party may include a contested charge at an appropriate place in the joint-proposed jury instructions. Any contested charge must designate the requesting party, cite authority for its inclusion, and summarize the opposing party’s objection. The Court will deny slanted proposed instructions.
3. *Electronic Exhibit Binder* ***(required only for cases assigned to Judge Chappell)***: By noon on the day before the final pretrial conference, each party must provide Judge Chappell an electronic exhibit binder that contains all individual and joint exhibits to be introduced at trial. The electronic exhibit binder is for Judge Chappell’s use and replaces a hardcopy exhibit binder. Because the electronic exhibit binder is for Judge Chappell only, counsel must still bring paper copies of all exhibits that may be introduced at trial.

To make the electronic exhibit binder, each separate exhibit must be saved as a PDF document and then combined with the other exhibits into a single PDF file. The single PDF file is the electronic exhibit binder. Within the single PDF file, counsel must identify each exhibit separately using PDF bookmarks. If an exhibit is physical evidence, counsel should insert a placeholder exhibit that states, “Exhibit [Number] is [description of exhibit].” When possible, counsel should text recognize any exhibit for the electronic exhibit binder.

The electronic exhibit binder must be emailed to the Judge Chappell’s Chambers [inbox](https://www.flmd.uscourts.gov/judges/sheri-polster-chappell). If the file is too large to email, counsel should provide the Court the binder on a thumb drive. Any party unable to comply with this requirement must immediately contact the Courtroom Deputy Clerk.

1. *Courtroom Technology*: The Court requires counsel to use the courtroom technology and expects them to use the equipment before any trial or hearing. Parties should contact the Courtroom Deputy Clerk to test and learn the equipment well in advance of proceedings.

# Final Pretrial Conference

1. *Attendance*: Lead counsel and any unrepresented party must attend the final pretrial conference **in person**unless excused by the Court.
2. *Substance of Final Pretrial Conference*:Counsel and unrepresented parties must be prepared and authorized to accomplish the purposes in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16, including simplifying the issues, eliminating baseless claims or defenses, admitting facts and documents to avoid unnecessary proof, stipulating to the authenticity of documents, obtaining advance rulings on the admissibility of evidence, settlement, and use of special procedures to help resolve the dispute, disposing of pending motions, establishing a reasonable limit on the time allowed for presenting evidence, and other matters to facilitate the just, speedy, and inexpensive disposition of the case.
3. **Trial**
4. *Monthly Trial Term and Trial Calendar*: This case is set for a monthly trial term. A date certain for trial will not be granted absent exceptional circumstances. During the assigned trial term, counsel, parties, and witnesses must be prepared to proceed to trial within twenty-four hours of notice.

**In consent cases, trials before the Magistrate Judge will be set for a date certain.**

Generally, criminal cases are tried first, followed by civil jury trials, and then civil non-jury trials. Cases not reached during the trial term will be rolled to the next month’s trial term after all criminal cases.

1. *Client Consent for a Trial Continuance*: If requesting a trial continuance, Local Rule 3.08(b) requires trial counsel to certify the client consents to the continuance.
2. *Reassigning Trial to Another District Judge*: The presiding District Judge may reassign this case to any other consenting District Judge to try the case.
3. *Resting at Trial:* Absent showing good cause, any party whose turn it is to provide evidence will be deemed to have rested if, during the hours designated for trial, that party has no further evidence or witnesses available.
4. *Settlement*: Counsel must **immediately**notify the Court if the action settles. After the Court issues the trial calendar, the parties must **immediately** tell the Court of any development that may affect trial. The Court will assess jury costs to the parties if they fail to inform it of settlement before the jury is called. Regardless of the status of settlement negotiations, the parties must appear for all scheduled hearings, the final pretrial conference, and trial.
5. **Sanctions**

A party who does not comply with this Order may be subject to sanctions including reasonable attorneys’ fees and costs, striking of pleadings, entry of default, dismissal, and a finding of contempt of court. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1927; Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(f), 37; M.D. Fla. R. 3.01(g)(3), 3.10, 4.03(e).

**DONE** and **ORDERED** in Fort Myers, Florida on [MONTH DAY, YEAR].

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| /s/ Sheri Polster Chappell |  | /s/ John Badalamenti |
| Sheri Polster Chappell  United States District Judge |  | John Badalamenti  United States District Judge |
|  |  |  |
| /s/ John E. Steele |  | /s/ Kyle C. Dudek |
| John E. Steele Senior United States District Judge |  | Kyle C. Dudek  United States Magistrate Judge |
|  |  |  |
| /s/ Nicholas P. Mizell |  |  |
| Nicholas P. Mizell United States Magistrate Judge |  |  |

Copies to: All Parties of Record

1. For detailed information on the requirements for patent-specific deadlines, the parties should consult the form Patent Case Management and Scheduling Order on the assigned district judge’s website. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. *Daubert* motions must not be titled or filed as motions to strike. When filing via CM/ECF, use the “In Limine” event under Civil Events-Motions. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. A Local Rule 3.01(g) Certification is not required for a motion for injunctive relief, for judgment on the pleadings, for summary judgment, or to certify a class. It is required for all other motions, including Rule 12 motions to dismiss. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. The Court refers to each allegedly infringing device, method, or service as an “accused device” throughout this Order. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)