

CAUSE NO. DC-13-09969

JO N. HOPPER,	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
vs.	§	44 <sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT
	§	
LAURA S. WASSMER and	§	
STEPHEN B. HOPPER,	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	DALLAS COUNTY, TEXAS

**AGREED SCHEDULING ORDER**

In accordance with Rules 166, 190 and 192 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, the Court makes the following order to control discovery and the schedule of this cause:

1. This case is set for non-jury trial on February 8, 2016, at 9:00 a.m.
2. Pretrial matters will be complete by the following dates:

**Deadline for Objections to Self-Authentication of Document.** A party must serve written objections to the self-authentication of documents it has produced, as provided for by Rule 193.7, within 10 days after receiving written notice of an opposing Party's intent to use those documents at trial, or such objection is waived.

**DATE**

**DEADLINE**

**09/22/2015**

**Deadline for filing Amended Pleadings Asserting New Claims or Defenses \*** - Parties shall file all amended pleadings asserting new claims or defenses by this date.

\*Amended pleadings responsive to timely filed pleadings under this scheduling order may be filed after this deadline, if filed within 2 weeks after the pleadings to which they respond.

- 09/22/2015**                    **Deadline to Join Additional Parties.** No additional parties may be joined after this date, except on motion to leave showing good cause, this paragraph does not otherwise alter the requirements of Rule 38. This paragraph does not limit a claimant's ability to join a person designated as a responsible third party, as provided for under §33.004 Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code. This party joining an additional party shall serve a copy of this Order on the new party concurrently with the pleading joining the party.
- 10/20/2015**                    **Deadline for Any Party Seeking Affirmative Relief to Designate Expert Witnesses and Produce Expert Reports.** Any party seeking affirmative relief shall designate all witnesses from whom that Party intends to elicit expert opinion testimony no later than the date and shall simultaneously produce written reports, containing information described in Rule 195.5 for all experts retained by, employed by, or otherwise subject to that Party's control.
- 11/17/2015**                    **Deadline for Any Party Opposing Affirmative Relief to Designate Expert Witnesses and Produce Expert Reports.** Any Party opposing affirmative relief shall designate all witnesses from whom that Party intends to elicit expert opinion testimony no later than this date and shall simultaneously produce written reports, containing information described in Rule 195.5 for all other experts retained by, employed by, or otherwise subject to that Party's control.
- 12/01/2015**                    **Deadline for Designation of Rebuttal Experts and Provide Reports.** The Parties shall designate rebuttal experts from whom they intend to elicit expert opinion testimony regarding matters not reasonably anticipated prior to that Party's original expert designation deadline. Any Party designating a rebuttal expert shall simultaneously produce written reports, containing information described in Rule 195.5 for all rebuttal experts retained by, employed by, or otherwise subject to the designation Party's control.
- 12/08/2015**                    **Deadline to hear Motions Challenging Expert Qualifications (Daubert/Robinson Motions).** Any objection or motion to exclude or limit expert testimony due to qualifications of the expert of reliability of opinions must be filed no later than this date. All evidence to offer in support of such motion must be filed with the motion.
- 12/08/2015**                    **Deadline to hear Dispositive Motions:** All dispositive motions shall be filed no later than this date.
- 12/08/2015**                    **Deadline to Designate Responsible Third Parties.** Defendants shall file any motions for leave to designate responsible third parties, under §33.04 Civ. Prac. & Rem.Code by this date.

**12/08/2015**                    **Discovery Closes.** All depositions shall be completed by this date and all written discovery requests shall be served so that responses are due no later than this date.

**12/22/2015**                    **Deadline to File Motion to Compel.** Any motion to compel responses to discovery must be filed and heard no later than this date, except for motions for sanctions as provided for by Rule 193.6

**09/23/2015**                    **Mediation Deadline.** The Parties shall mediate the case no later than this date.

**01/12/2016**                    **Exchange Trial Deadline Materials.** The Parties shall exchange\* the following materials by this date.

1. Proposed jury panel questionnaires, if any;
2. Motions in Limine;
3. Information described in Rule 166(h) (*fact witness information*), (i) (*expert witness information*), and (k) (*jury charge information*);
4. Designations of deposition testimony to be offered in direct examination;
5. List of Exhibits;\*\* \*\*\*
6. Any demonstrative aids and affidavits; and
7. Any Exhibits not previously produced.

\*The Parties shall not file these materials with the Court at this time.

\*\*Each exhibit must be identified separately (rather than by category or group), except for records to offered by way of business records affidavit.

\*\*\*Over-designation is strongly discouraged and may be sanctioned.

**01/19/2016**                    **Deadline to Exchange Objections to Opposing Party's Trial Materials.** The Parties shall exchange\* the following materials by this date:

1. Objections to opposing Party's proposed jury panel questionnaires, if any;
2. Written objections to the opposing Party's Motion in Limine;
3. Cross-designation of deposition testimony to be offered in direct examination;
4. Written objections to the opposing Party's proposed exhibits, demonstrative aids, or affidavits; and
5. Written objections to the opposing Party's designations of deposition testimony to be offered in direct examination.

\*The Parties shall not file these materials with the Court at this time.

01/25/2016

**Deadline to Confer on Trial Matters.** The attorneys in charge for all Parties shall meet in person to confer on agreements and stipulations regarding the materials listed below and make every effort to maximize agreement:

1. Jury panel questionnaires, if any;
2. Motions in Limine;
3. Exhibits, demonstrative aides, or affidavits;
4. Designations (and cross-designations) of deposition testimony to be offered at trial; and
5. Items and Materials specified in Rule 168(d)-(m).

02/01/2016

**Deadline for Parties\* \*\* to File Materials with the Court.** The Parties shall file the following materials with the Court by this date:

1. An estimate of the length of trial;
2. Motions in Limine;
3. Items and Materials stated in Rule 166(d)-(m);
4. Designation of deposition testimony to be offered in direct examination;
5. Cross-designation of deposition testimony to be offered; and
6. Objections to opposing Parties; Proposed jury panel questionnaire; Motion in Limine; Designation of deposition testimony; Proposed exhibits; Demonstrative sides; and Affidavits.

\*Plaintiff shall be responsible for filing a joint Pre-Trial Statement of the Parties containing all information required under this deadline that is agreed upon by the Parties.

\*\*Each Party shall file materials separately that are not agreed upon by the Parties.

02/05/2016

**Pretrial Conference.** \*\*\*A conference shall be held with the Court on this date, during which the Court shall consider (*and rule upon, to the extent possible*): Motions in Limine; Designations (*and cross-designations*) of deposition testimony; Exhibits; Witness lists; Demonstrative Aids; Affidavits; and Proposed jury instruction and questions.

\*The Parties shall be prepared to present to the Court all documentary evidence (*including deposition designations, exhibits, and demonstrative aids*) for consideration of authenticity and admissibility to which stipulation could not be reached.

\*\* Evidence may be used during Voir Dire and Opening Statements. The Parties will be permitted to use pre-

admitted exhibits, documentary evidence, and pre-admitted deposition testimony (*either by written transcript or videotape*) during voir dire and opening statements.

**02/04/2016**

**Deadline to Announce Ready for Trial.**

**02/08/2016**

**TRIAL DATE NON-JURY DOCKET**

The parties may by written agreement alter these deadlines.

1. A Mediation Order was signed by the Court on December 30, 2013 and a mediator was appointed, Mr. Paul Salzburger. Unless the Parties agree to another Mediator, Mr. Salzburger shall be the Mediator.
  
2. All pleadings, papers or notices required to be served pursuant to Rule 21a of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure (unless personal service is required after citation, under the Rules) may be served by email and email service shall be treated the same as facsimile service under the Rules (i.e., that is service by email will be considered to be served, just like facsimile service, on the date emailed, if emailed on or before 5:00 p.m. on said day, and if emailed after 5:00 p.m., will be considered served the next day). For all purposes hereunder, whenever email service is employed, three additional counting days shall be added to the prescribed period for response, just as the Rule applies under Rule 21a for facsimile service.

SIGNED on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

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PRESIDING JUDGE

APPROVED:

/s/ James Albert Jennings

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