



DISTRICT JUDGE JOHN A. KAZEN

United States Courthouse
1300 Victoria St. Ste. 2317
Laredo, TX 78040
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COURT PROCEDURES IN CIVIL CASES

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THESE PROCEDURES MUST BE SERVED WITH THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT OR REMOVAL PAPERS and are to be used in conjunction with the Local Rules for the Southern District of Texas and not as a substitute for them. The Local Rules of this District can be obtained on the District website at www.txs.uscourts.gov. The Court requires strict compliance with these Local Rules.

1. CONTACT WITH COURT PERSONNEL

- A. The Court requires parties to file documents through the District Court’s Case Management/Electronic Case Filing (“CM/ECF”) System. *See* Southern District of Texas Local Rule 5.1 (LR 5.1) and the District’s Administrative Procedures for CM/ECF (as amended and available at www.txs.uscourts.gov).
- B. Case-related telephone and email inquiries **are strictly limited to procedural matters** and should be made only to the Case Manager. Inquiries should not be made to the Court’s judicial assistant or law clerks. The Court’s caseload does not allow the Case Manager to respond to casual telephone inquiries about the status of motions or cases. All inquiries to the Case Manager should be by letter sent or delivered to Chambers, or by email. *See* Section 1.D below.
- C. Information about the status of documents, entry of orders, or docket entries should be obtained from the CM/ECF or Pacer Systems, or if absolutely necessary, from the United States District Clerk’s Office at (956) 723-3542.
- D. Correspondence with the Court must be delivered or sent to the Court’s Chambers:
- 1) Case-related correspondence should be addressed to:

Jessica Rodriguez
Case Manager to District Judge John A. Kazen
1300 Victoria St., Ste. 2317
Laredo, TX 78040

Or by email: Jessica.Rodriguez@txs.uscourts.gov
 - 2) **Do not** address substantive issues in letter or email form. Parties must file copies of all letters. Email correspondence with the Court will be docketed at the Court’s discretion.
 - 3) Copies of urgent documents (including letters) may be sent by First Class Mail, emailed, or hand-delivered to Chambers via the Court’s Case Manager, with copies to all parties. (*See* Emergencies, Section 3 below.) Service copies must be transmitted to all counsel of record simultaneously with or prior to transmission to the Court and in the same manner as transmitted to the Court. The documents may **not** be faxed without express prior permission of the Court.

2. COURTESY COPIES OF DOCUMENTS

- A. Letters to the Court may be hand-delivered, sent by First Class Mail to Chambers, or transmitted by email, with copies to all parties served prior to or at the time of filing. *See* addresses above. Letters concerning discovery and scheduling matters must be filed in the docket.
- B. The parties **must** forward promptly to Chambers courtesy copies of (i) all documents that exceed ten (10) pages in length, including exhibits and attachments, and (ii)

documents pertaining to matters to be heard by the Court within seven (7) days after the documents are filed. Unless this rule is followed, the Court will not consider any documents filed within seven (7) days of any Court appearance. **Do not fax or email** copies of documents to Chambers unless specifically authorized to do so by the Court.

3. EMERGENCIES

- A. Applications for restraining orders or for other immediate relief shall be filed electronically through the CM/ECF system and all related communications with the Court must be through the Case Manager.
 - 1) Such applications shall be presented to the Court by the Case Manager following counsel's affirmation that the opposing party has been contacted and that both parties can be available for a conference before the Court, or an explanation of why such contact is not legally required.
 - 2) *Ex parte* applications for restraining orders will **not** be entertained by the Court unless the requirements of FED. R. CIV. P. 65(b) have been satisfied.
- B. Motions for extension of deadlines or cut-off dates in the Scheduling Order are **not** emergencies. (*See* Section 4 below.)

4. DEADLINE EXTENSIONS AND CONTINUANCES

- A. Motions for deadline extensions and continuances of court settings must be filed prior to the date of the controlling deadline and will be granted only at the Court's discretion. Motions for continuance filed on or after the date of the deadline, absent a showing of good cause, will not be granted.
- B. Agreements or joint motions among counsel for deadline extensions or continuances are not binding on the Court. Parties must notify the Court of proposed agreed continuances by submitting an agreed motion and proposed order.
- C. A trial will not be continued because of the unavailability of a witness. Counsel are expected to anticipate such possibilities and should be prepared to present testimony by written deposition, videotaped deposition, or by stipulation.

5. APPEARANCES

- A. An attorney who appears at a hearing or conference must:
 - 1) be familiar with the case,
 - 2) have authority to bind the client, and
 - 3) be in charge for that appearance.
- B. All counsel wishing to appear at a video or in-person conference or hearing by telephone must submit a written request by e-mail to the Case Manager as far in advance of the conference as reasonably possible, unless explicitly authorized by the

Court in an order or notice of setting. The Court will attempt to accommodate such requests. It is the obligation of the attorney to insure that they have a clear and consistent phone connection for a telephonic court appearance.

- C. Failure to appear when notified of a setting may subject the attorney and/or his or her client to sanctions, including dismissal for want of prosecution and/or other appropriate order or judgment.
- D. All counsel attending a court setting by video must be dressed in appropriate business attire for a court appearance, including a coat and tie for men.
- E. Motions for admission *pro hac vice* shall include the attorney applicant's averment that he or she has familiarized him/herself with the Local Rules of the Southern District of Texas and these Procedures applicable to civil cases before Judge Kazen. (See attached form, also available at the Court's website.)

6. MOTION PRACTICE

A. **General Guidelines.** The Court follows the written motion practice described in the Local Rules. In addition, the following procedures apply:

- 1) **Counsel must make serious and timely efforts to confer with opposing counsel on all motions to try to reach agreements on the relief to be requested by the movant. Failure to comply may result in the party's filing being denied or stricken.**
- 2) Every non-dispositive motion must contain a certificate of conference. Failure to comply may result in the party's filing being denied or stricken.
- 3) All motions, except summary judgment motions filed pursuant to FED. R. CIV. P. 56, must be accompanied by a separate proposed order granting or denying the relief requested.
- 4) Opposed motions generally will be considered by the Court after the expiration of 28 days from the motion filing date. Responses by the non-movant must be filed within 21 calendar days of the motion. The movant's reply must be filed within 7 calendar days after the non-movant's response.

When circumstances dictate, the Court may consider a motion prior to expiration of the 28 day period.

Parties may agree to request a modification of the motion submission day or briefing deadlines by written motion to the Court, accompanied by a proposed order granting the modification.

- 5) Because most motions will be ruled on without an oral hearing, focused and clear motion papers are very important. Requests for oral argument on motions are not necessary. The Case Manager will notify counsel should the Court determine that oral argument would be beneficial.

- 6) All pleadings or other documents filed under seal in a civil case must be identified as “SEALED” in the title of the document. For example, a motion for summary judgment filed under seal must be docketed as “MOTION for Summary Judgment (SEALED).” No pleading may be filed for docketing simply as “SEALED DOCUMENT” without advance permission of the Court.
- 7) Any pleadings filed with the Court, including exhibits thereto, containing personal data identifiers must comply with the S.D. Texas General Order #2004-11 (available at the District’s website) on protecting personal privacy in public case files.
- 8) Counsel shall include in their filings their email addresses.

B. Submitted Motions – Need for Expedited Decision.

- 1) If a pending motion requires resolution on an expedited basis, please advise the Court by letter.
- 2) The Court will rule on expedited motions as soon as possible after the submission day or a response is filed. *See* Section 6.A.4 above. Counsel of record and *pro se* parties will be furnished with copies of orders.

C. Discovery and Scheduling Disputes.

- 1) The Court believes that most discovery and schedule-related disputes, especially those dealing with (i) scheduling, (ii) the number, length, and form of oral and written questions, (iii) the responsiveness of answers to oral and written questions, and (iv) the mechanics of document productions, including protective orders and the proper method of raising claims of privilege, can be resolved by counsel without the intervention of the Court. **Counsel are required to confer in good faith to resolve discovery and scheduling disputes.** *See* Section 6.A.1 above.
- 2) If counsel for the parties are unable to reach an agreement, the motion **MUST** contain a certificate of conference pursuant to SDTX LR 7.1D and Section 6.A.2 above **and** specify the date, time, and place of the parties’ prior out-of-court discovery or scheduling discussion(s), the names of all counsel that participated in the discussion(s), and a brief summary of the results of the discussion(s).

7. MEMORANDA OF LAW

A. Page Limits and Briefing Requirements. The Court requires concise, pertinent, and well organized memoranda of law. Without leave of Court, all memoranda of law are limited to 25 pages, 12-point type font, double-spaced, with 1" margins. Any memorandum that has more than ten (10) pages of argument must contain the following items:

- 1) a table of contents setting forth the page number of each section, including all headings designated in the body of the brief or memorandum;

- 2) an alphabetically arranged table of all citations to cases, statutes, rules, textbooks, and other authorities that appear in memorandum;
- 3) a short statement of the nature and stage of the proceeding;
- 4) a statement of the issues to be ruled on by the Court and, with respect to each issue, a short statement (supported by authority) of the standard of review;
- 5) a short summary of the argument;
- 6) succinct headings dividing the argument into separate points;
- 7) a short conclusion stating the precise relief sought; **and**
- 8) proposed orders (except on summary judgment motions).

B. Copies of Authorities and Other Materials Cited.

- 1) Do not append copies of cases and the relevant parts of authorities that are cited in a brief, memorandum, or motion unless the authorities are not published or reasonably available through Westlaw or Lexis-Nexis.
- 2) Copies of supporting affidavits, deposition testimony excerpts, and other discovery materials referred to in the briefs should be separately filed in one or more appendices.

8. USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

Attorneys and self-represented litigants must ensure that any filing prepared with the assistance of generative artificial intelligence (e.g. ChatGPT, Harvey.AI, or similar tools), is thoroughly reviewed for factual and legal accuracy prior to submission. These tools are capable of producing content that may be factually incorrect or legally unsound.

All counsel and pro se parties are reminded that, consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, the person signing any pleading, motion, or other paper remains fully responsible for its content, regardless of whether it was drafted in whole or in part by generative AI. The Court will not accept the excuse that such content was prepared by AI, staff, or others when assessing potential violations of Rule 11 or applicable ethical obligations.

Attorneys are further reminded of their professional obligations under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, including the duty of candor to the tribunal and the prohibition against knowingly offering false statements of law. *See* Tex. Disciplinary Rules Prof'l Conduct r. 3.03(a) (Tex. Bar Ass'n 2024). Attorneys must also remain proficient and competent in the practice of law, including recognizing the benefits and risks associated with relevant technology. *See id.* at 1.01, cmt. 8.

The Court adopts and incorporates by reference Chief Judge Randy Crane's [General Order 2025-04](#) on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in Court Filings.

9. INITIAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCES AND SCHEDULING ORDERS

Please refer to LR 16.1 and Section 5 above (“Appearances”) for general procedures for conferences. In addition:

- A. Shortly after a party files a complaint or removes a case, the Court will issue an Order containing, among other things, a deadline for the parties to file a Joint Case Management Plan and a setting for the Initial Pretrial and Scheduling Conference.
- B. After the Initial Pretrial and Scheduling Conference, the Court will enter a Scheduling Order that will control various pretrial deadlines.
 - 1) In the Joint Case Management Plan, the parties may propose deadlines for the completion of various pretrial matters and the Court will consider those proposed dates at the Initial Pretrial and Scheduling Conference.
 - 2) The Scheduling Order will govern throughout the case. The Scheduling Order deadlines shall not be modified except by leave of this Court upon a showing of good cause.
 - 3) If a modification to an existing Scheduling Order is requested, the parties shall submit a proposal for adjusting all dates in the Scheduling Order that follow the date the parties seek to modify.
- C. **Added Parties.** If new parties are joined after entry of the Scheduling Order, the party causing such joinder shall provide to the new parties copies of: (i) all orders and pleadings previously filed in the case, (ii) the operative Scheduling Order, and (iii) these Court Procedures.

10. REQUIRED TRIAL MATERIALS

- A. **Joint Pretrial Order.** Joint Pretrial Orders must be signed by all counsel. All parties are responsible for complying with all requirements to prepare the Joint Pretrial Order.
 - 1) Plaintiff is primarily responsible for ensuring that a complete Joint Pretrial Order is timely filed. A form Joint Pretrial Order is attached to these Procedures and is also available on the Court’s website. The Joint Pretrial Order form should be followed, but may be adapted, within reason, to accommodate for the size and nature of the case. If Plaintiff fails to file the Joint Pretrial Order, then Defendant is responsible for filing Defendant’s portions of a Proposed Pretrial Order in the Joint Pretrial Order format.
 - 2) Failure to timely file the Joint Pretrial Order will subject counsel and the client to sanctions, including dismissal for want of prosecution and/or other appropriate relief. This applies also to parties appearing *pro se*.
- B. **Other Required Documents.** With the filing of the Joint Pretrial Order, or by the date specified in the Court’s applicable Scheduling Order, each party also must file:
 - 1) For All Trials and Evidentiary Hearings:

- a. Exhibit List (*see* attached form, also available at the Court's website).
- b. Witness List for live witnesses (*see* attached form, also available at the Court's website).
- c. Designation of deposition excerpts for witnesses being called by deposition. A copy of each deposition excerpt must be provided to the Court.
- d. Objections, if any, to an opponent's exhibits, witnesses, or deposition excerpts must be filed at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the scheduled trial date, or as specified in the applicable Scheduling Order. This time limit supersedes LR 46.
- e. Proposed *voir dire* questions.

2) For Jury Trials:

- a. **Voir Dire:** Counsel will be generally allowed 15-30 minutes (depending on the complexity of the case) to conduct an examination of the venire, provided that the proposed *voir dire* questions are submitted as part of the Joint Pretrial Order.
- b. **Jury Instructions:** The parties must file a single, joint proposed jury charge, including all necessary instructions, definitions, and questions. The proposed charges must also be submitted electronically on a CD in Microsoft Word.
 - i) Each requested instruction must be numbered and presented with authority.
 - ii) The parties shall include in the proposed jury charge all necessary instructions or definitions. The instructions shall, at a minimum, include: (1) the *prima facie* elements of each cause of action and defense asserted, (2) legal definitions required by the jury, (3) items of damages, and (4) methods of calculation of damages. Counsel should use the Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions, as modified by case law or statutory amendments, whenever possible. Any deviations must be identified and accompanied with legal authorities for the proposed deviation.
 - iii) Even if the parties cannot, after a good faith attempt, agree on all proposed instructions, definitions, and questions, the parties should nonetheless submit a single, unified charge. Each disputed instruction, definition, or question should be set out in bold type, underlined, or in italics and identified as disputed. Each disputed item should be labeled to show which party is requesting the disputed language. Accompanying each instruction shall be all authority or related materials upon which each party relies.

- c. The parties shall submit a trial memorandum of law addressing the law governing the case and all contested issues.
- 3) For Non-Jury Trials, each party must file:
- a. **Proposed Findings of Fact** (electronically in Microsoft Word). Counsel are strongly encouraged to include references to testimony and exhibits that support each proposed finding;
 - b. **Proposed Conclusions of Law** (electronically in Microsoft Word). Each proposed conclusion of law shall contain citation to legal authority supporting the conclusions; and
 - c. **Memorandum of Law**. The memorandum of law, proposed findings, and proposed conclusions should, at a minimum, address the following: (1) the *prima facie* elements of each cause of action and defense asserted, (2) legal definitions, (3) components of damages, and (4) methods of calculation of damages.

11. TRIAL SETTINGS

- A. The Court usually sets trial dates in a Scheduling Order in civil cases, but the trial date may be set at a final pretrial conference. At the final pretrial conference, Parties should be prepared to answer questions on all pending motions. Pending motions may be ruled on at the final pretrial conference. Trial may be set for any day after the final pretrial conference.
- B. Unless an attorney has actually commenced trial in court, another trial setting will not cause the Court to pass a trial setting in a case.
- C. Information on Trial Settings. The Case Manager cannot definitively ascertain when a case will be reached or where a case is on the trial docket. Any predictions given by the Case Manager are only “educated guesses” and are not binding on the Court.

12. EXHIBITS

- A. All exhibits must be pre-marked and exchanged among counsel at the time the Pretrial Order is filed, unless a later date is agreed to by counsel. Generally, in civil cases, exhibits that have not been disclosed to opposing counsel prior to trial will not be received in evidence. The offering party shall mark its name, the case number, and the exhibit number on each exhibit to be offered. Any exhibits containing personal data identifiers must comply with S.D. Texas General Order #2004-11 (available at the District website).
- B. **Authentication Objections**. Unless another deadline is specified in an applicable Scheduling Order, counsel requiring authentication of an opponent’s exhibit must notify offering counsel in writing within seven (7) days after the exhibit is identified and made available for examination. Failure to do so is an admission of authenticity. *See* LR 44.1.

- C. **Other Objections to Exhibits.** Unless otherwise directed by the Court, a party in a civil case may offer in evidence any exhibits listed in the final Joint Pretrial Order *unless* opposing counsel files specific written objections within the deadline specified in the applicable Scheduling Order. This deadline supersedes LR 46. The Court endeavors to rule on objections to exhibits outside the presence of the jury and will do so prior to opening statements, to the extent possible.
- D. **Copies of Exhibits.** The parties must provide the Court with a complete printed set of exhibits for use at trial in a properly tabbed and indexed notebook.
- E. **Trial Procedure as to Exhibits.**
 - 1) Counsel may not pass exhibits to the jury during trial without obtaining permission in advance from the Court.
 - 2) Exhibits must be identified in front of the jury before they will be received in evidence. Only exhibits admitted during trial will go to the jury during its deliberations.
- F. **Disposition of Exhibits.** The disposition of exhibits following trial will be in accordance with LR 79.2.

13. EQUIPMENT

- A. **Sound and Video Equipment.** The Court has projection, document camera, sound and video equipment in the courtroom. Counsel are invited to use that equipment during trial. Counsel seeking to test the equipment prior to trial shall contact the Case Manager by e-mail, letter, or phone to make arrangements. Parties also may provide their own equipment, but special arrangements must be made with the Case Manager prior to the day of trial.
- B. **Other.** Easels with writing pads are available for use in the courtroom, upon request to the Case Manager prior to trial.

14. COURTROOM PROCEDURES

- A. **Hours.** The Court's hours during trial will vary depending on the type of case and the needs of the parties, counsel, witnesses, and the Court. Court normally will convene at 8:30 a.m. and adjourn by 5:30 p.m., with a 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. lunch recess.
- B. **Access at Other Times.**
 - 1) Should counsel require access to the courtroom to set up equipment or exhibits before or after normal hours of Court, counsel must contact the Case Manager in advance to make the appropriate arrangements.
 - 2) Enter and leave the courtroom only by the front doors; do not use the Court's entrance or the side entrances without permission.

- B. **Telephones.** Generally, personal telephones and electronic devices are not allowed in the courtroom. However, counsel may request leave to allow such electronic devices in court. *See* Section E.3, below.

The Judge's staff generally will not take messages for counsel, and counsel shall refrain from requesting use of telephones in Chambers.

- D. **Filing of Documents.** Handing documents to the Court or Case Manager does not constitute filing of the documents in the CM/ECF system.

- 1) All original documents must be filed through the CM/ECF system.
- 2) Copies of documents filed within seven (3) days prior to and during trial should be submitted to the Case Manager in duplicate.

- E. **Decorum.**

- 1) Counsel and parties will comply with LR 83.9 regarding courtroom Behavior. These procedures are strictly enforced.
- 2) Counsel shall stand when addressing the Court. Counsel may use a lectern positioned appropriately to make oral argument. Counsel may question witnesses standing at the lectern or seated at counsel table.
- 3) Counsel will ensure that they, all parties, and all witnesses refrain from drinking (other than water), eating, smoking, or reading newspapers, books, etc. in the courtroom. No cellular telephones, pagers, or iPads are allowed in the courtroom. Attorneys needing to use computers or iPads during trial must seek prior approval from the Court. Recording equipment and photographic mechanisms are strictly prohibited.

- F. **Witnesses.**

- 1) Counsel are responsible for summoning witnesses into the courtroom and instructing them on courtroom decorum and attire. Counsel may question witnesses while standing at the podium or while seated at Counsel table.
- 2) Counsel should bear in mind the Court's hours and arrange for witnesses accordingly. The Court will not recess to permit counsel to call a missing witness unless he or she has been subpoenaed and has failed to appear.
- 3) Counsel shall make every effort to elicit from the witnesses only information relevant to the issues in the case and to avoid cumulative testimony.

- G. **Seating Assignments.** The party with the burden of proof may be seated near the jury box.

H. **Jury Matters.**

- 1) While the jury is deliberating, counsel are to remain near the courtroom to be immediately available for jury notes or a verdict, unless given permission to leave by the Court.
- 2) After the jury is excused, counsel may not contact jurors unless permitted to do so by the Court. *See* LR 47.

15. **DEPOSITIONS**

- A. The Court will accept the parties' agreement to use a deposition at trial even when the witness is available. Otherwise, parties must follow FED. R. CIV. P. 32.
- B. Counsel will designate the portion of any deposition to be read by citing page and line numbers in the Joint Pretrial Order. Objections to those portions (citing page and line numbers) with supporting authority must be filed by the deadline specified in the applicable Scheduling Order.
- C. Use of videotape depositions is permitted if counsel voluntarily edit them to resolve objections and incorporate rulings by the Court.
- D. In a non-jury trial, counsel shall provide a list of the portions of the depositions offered as an exhibit, citing page and line numbers.

16. **SETTLEMENTS AND ORDERS OF DISMISSAL**

- A. **Motions resolved by the parties.** If the parties are able to resolve a pending motion without Court intervention, they should advise the case manager immediately. The Court will then deny the motion as moot.
- B. **Settlements.** Counsel and *pro se* litigants shall notify the Court immediately in writing of the parties' settlement of any matter by filing a notice of settlement or a joint stipulation of dismissal, as appropriate.
 - 1) Upon settlement of a suit involving a minor plaintiff, counsel must jointly move for appointment of a guardian *ad litem* if there is potential conflict of interest between the parent(s) and the minor.
 - a. If counsel cannot agree on a guardian *ad litem*, the Court will make the appointment. Counsel may submit the names of qualified attorneys they propose for the appointment.
 - b. Contemporaneously with the motion for appointment, counsel must notify the Case Manager by letter requesting a settlement conference.
- C. **Orders of Dismissal For Want of Prosecution.** Any defendant upon whom service has not been perfected within 120 days after the complaint is filed will be dismissed for want of prosecution in accordance with FED. R. CIV. P. 4(m).

17. ATTACHMENTS

- A. Template Joint Discovery / Case Management Plan
- B. Template Joint Pretrial Order
- C. Template Exhibit List
- D. Template Witness List
- E. Notice of the Right to Try a Civil Case before a Magistrate Judge
- F. Consent to Proceed before a Magistrate Judge/Order to Transfer
- G. Motion and Order for Admission *Pro Hac Vice*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LAREDO DIVISION**

[PARTY NAME]

Plaintiff,

vs.

[PARTY NAME]

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 5: __-CV-__

**JOINT REPORT REQUIRED BY FED. R. CIV. P. 26(F)
AND JOINT DISCOVERY / CASE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Any differences between the parties as to the response(s) to any matter must be set forth in this report.

Preliminary Matters

1. State when and in what manner the parties conferred as required by Rule 26(f), and identify the counsel and / or parties who participated in the conference.
2. List cases pending in this or any other district, along with the cause number and judicial district, that are related to this case.
3. If another case is pending in this or any other district, can and should this case be consolidated with that case?
4. Briefly describe what this case is about.
5. What is Plaintiff's allegation of federal jurisdiction, or, if this case was removed, what is Defendant's allegation of federal jurisdiction?
6. Does Defendant (or Plaintiff if this case was removed) agree or disagree with this allegation?
7. Does either party anticipate the need to add additional parties?
8. If so, list any additional parties and when they can be added.
9. List any anticipated interventions.
10. Are there any issues in this case that may raise class allegations or class action issues?

Discovery

11. The conference required by Rule 26(f) was held on _____, at _____.
Counsel / Parties who participated in the conference:
_____ for Plaintiff(s) _____,
_____ for Defendant(s) _____.
12. Describe the proposed discovery plan agreed upon at the Conference. Include the following:
- A. What changes should be made in the timing, form, or requirement for disclosures under Rule 26(a);
 - B. When and to whom Plaintiff anticipates it may send interrogatories;
 - C. When and to whom Defendant anticipates it may send interrogatories;
 - D. Of whom and by what date Plaintiff anticipates taking oral depositions;
 - E. Of whom and by what date Defendant anticipates taking oral depositions;
 - F. When Plaintiff (or the party with the burden of proof on an issue) will be able to designate experts and provide the reports required by Rule 26(a)(2)(B), and when the opposing party will be able to designate responsive experts and provide their reports;
 - G. List expert depositions Plaintiff (or the party with the burden of proof on an issue) anticipates taking and their anticipated completion date. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B).
 - H. List expert depositions the opposing party anticipates taking and their anticipated completion date. *See* Rule 26(a)(2)(B).
 - I. Discuss the timing and method for claiming privilege or protection as trial-preparation materials under Rule 26(b)(5)(A), and if the parties agree on a procedure to assert these claims after production.
13. If the parties do not agree on any portion of the discovery plan, describe the separate views and proposals of each party.
14. Specify the discovery beyond initial disclosures that has been undertaken to date.
15. State the date the planned discovery can reasonably be completed.

Settlement and Trial Alternatives

16. Describe the possibilities of settlement or alternative dispute resolution that were discussed at the Rule 26(f) meeting.
17. Describe what each party has done or agreed to do to bring about a prompt resolution.
18. From the attorneys' discussions with their respective clients, state the alternative dispute resolution techniques that are reasonably suitable and state when such a technique may be effectively used in this case.
19. The parties may jointly consent to a Magistrate Judge conducting any and all proceedings in any jury or nonjury civil matter, including hearing a jury or nonjury trial, and order the entry

of judgment in the case. Will the parties consent to a Magistrate Judge conducting all proceedings in this case, including trial and disposition of the case?

20. State whether a jury demand has been made and if it was made on time.
21. In the event of a trial, how many **hours** will it take to try this case?

Additional Conference Items

22. Counsel are charged with knowledge of the Local Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas, which are available at:

https://www.txs.uscourts.gov/sites/txs/files/LR_March_2026.pdf

Have all counsel reviewed those local rules prior to completion of this Report?

Counsel are also charged with knowledge of the Honorable John A. Kazen's Court Procedures in Civil Cases, which are available at:

[United States District Judge John A. Kazen | Southern District of Texas \(uscourts.gov\)](#)

Have all counsel reviewed those rules prior to completion of this Report?

23. If there are any motions pending before the Court at this time, list them.
24. Can any of these motions be ruled upon at the Initial Pretrial and Scheduling Conference?
25. Are there any other matters peculiar to this case, including discovery, that deserve special attention from the Court at the Initial Pretrial and Scheduling Conference?
26. List the names, Southern District of Texas bar numbers, addresses, and telephone numbers of all counsel. All counsel appearing for any hearing or identified as counsel of record on a pleading must either be licensed to practice in the Southern District of Texas or must file a motion to appear *pro hac vice*.
27. **Proposed Dates for Scheduling Order.** Please review and fill out the proposed Scheduling Order to suggest deadlines the parties believe are suited for this lawsuit. The Scheduling Order that will be issued following the Initial Pretrial and Scheduling Conference may contain additional matters and discovery limitations.

PRETRIAL EVENTS	PARTIES' PROPOSED DATES
Deadline for Joinder of All Parties	
Deadline to Serve Initial Written Discovery ¹	
Deadlines to Designate Expert Witnesses ²	Plaintiff(s):
	Defendant(s):
Deadline to Amend the Pleadings (with consent of all parties or leave of Court)	Plaintiff(s):
	Defendant(s):
Deadline for Parties to Conduct Mediation	
Deadline to Complete All Discovery, including depositions of expert witnesses ³	
Deadline to File Motions to Exclude or Limit Expert Testimony	
Deadline to File Dispositive Motions	

¹ This deadline applies to serving a first set of interrogatories, requests for production, and other written discovery, but does not limit the parties from serving further requests prior to the discovery deadline.

² The parties shall disclose the name, address, and vita of any expert witness, and shall serve the report required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2) by these deadlines. The parties must file their lists of proposed expert witnesses with the Court by the designation deadline but should **NOT** file reports or other discovery materials.

³ A party must serve its written discovery requests sufficiently in advance so that deadline for the responding party to serve its responses falls before this Scheduling Order deadline.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LAREDO DIVISION**

[PARTY NAME]

Plaintiff,

vs.

[PARTY NAME]

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 5: __-CV-__

JOINT PRETRIAL ORDER

1. **Appearance of Counsel.** List each party, its counsel, and counsel's address and telephone number in separate paragraphs.
2. **Statement of the Case.** Give a brief statement of the case, one that the Judge could read to the jury panel for an introduction of the facts and parties; include names, dates, and places.
3. **Jurisdiction.** Briefly specify the jurisdiction of the subject matter and the parties. If there is an unresolved jurisdictional question, state it.
4. **Motions.** List pending motions.
5. **Contention of the Parties.** State concisely in separate paragraphs each party's claims.
6. **Admission of Fact.** List all facts that require no proof.
7. **Contested Issues of Fact.** List all material facts in bona fide controversy.
8. **Agreed Propositions of Law.** List the legal propositions that are not in dispute.
9. **Contested Propositions of Law.** State briefly the unresolved questions of law, with authorities to support each.
10. **Exhibits.**
 - A. Each party will attach two lists of all exhibits expected to be offered and will make the exhibits available for examination by opposing counsel. All documentary exhibits must be exchanged before trial, except for rebuttal exhibits or those whose use cannot be anticipated.
 - B. A party requiring authentication of an exhibit must notify the offering counsel in writing within five days after the exhibit is listed and made available; failure to object in writing in advance of the trial concedes authenticity.

- 1) Within reason, other objections to admissibility of exhibits must be made at least three business days before trial with copies of the disputed exhibit and authority.
- 2) Parties must mark their exhibits to include the date and case number on each.
- 3) At the trial, the first step will be the offer and receipt in evidence of exhibits.

11. **Witnesses.**

- A. On a separate form, each party will attach four lists with the names and addresses of witnesses who may be called with a brief statement of the nature of their testimony.
- B. Include: If other witnesses to be called at the trial become known, their names, addresses, and subject of their testimony will be reported to opposing counsel in writing as soon as they are known; this does not apply to rebuttal or impeachment witnesses.

12. **Settlements.** State that all settlement efforts have been exhausted, and the case will have to be tried.

13. **Trial.** State estimated length of trial and logistical problems, including availability of witnesses, out-of-state people, bulky exhibits, and documentation.

14. **Attachments.** Each party must file as a separate document (captioned, signed by counsel, and with service certified) these required attachments in duplicate.

A. For a jury trial:

- (1) Proposed questions for the *voir dire* examination.
- (2) Proposed charge, including instructions, definitions, and special interrogatories, with authority.

B. For a non-jury trial:

- (1) Proposed findings of fact with agreed and contested ones separated.
- (2) Conclusions of law with authority.

United States District Judge

Date: _____

Approved by:

Attorney-in-Charge, Plaintiff

Date: _____

Attorney-in-Charge, Defendant

Date: _____

<p><i>VERSUS</i> - - - - -</p>	<p>CIVIL ACTION No.</p>
<h2 style="margin: 0;">EXHIBIT LIST</h2>	
<p>JUDGE JOHN A. KAZEN</p>	<p>CASE MANAGER: JESSICA RODRIGUEZ</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">LIST OF</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> PLAINTIFF <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDANT</p>	<p>PROCEEDING: DATE (S):</p>

No.	DESCRIPTION	OBJ	ADM	NOT ADM	DATE
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

<i>VERSUS</i> - - - - -	CIVIL ACTION No.
	WITNESS LIST
JUDGE JOHN A. KAZEN	CASE MANAGER: JESSICA RODRIGUEZ
LIST OF <input type="checkbox"/> PLAINTIFF <input type="checkbox"/> DEFENDANT	PROCEEDING: DATE (S):

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LAREDO DIVISION**

**NOTICE OF THE RIGHT TO PROCEED IN
A CIVIL CASE BEFORE A MAGISTRATE JUDGE**

With the consent of all parties, a United States Magistrate Judge may preside in a civil case, including a jury trial and entry of final judgment.

The choice of trial before a Magistrate Judge is entirely yours. Tell only the Clerk. Neither the Judge nor the Magistrate Judge will be told until and unless all the parties agree.

The District Judge to whom your case is assigned must approve the referral to a Magistrate Judge.

You may get consent forms from the Clerk.

David J. Bradley, Clerk
United States District Court
Southern District of Texas

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
LAREDO DIVISION**

[PARTY NAME]

Plaintiff,

vs.

[PARTY NAME]

Defendant.

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CIVIL ACTION NO. 5: __-CV-__

CONSENT TO PROCEED BEFORE A MAGISTRATE JUDGE

All parties to this case waived their right to proceed before a District Judge and consent to have a United States Magistrate Judge conduct all further proceedings, including the trial and judgment. 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

<u>Signatures and Typed Names</u>	<u>Party Represented</u>	<u>Date</u>

ORDER TO TRANSFER

This case is transferred to United States Magistrate Judge _____ to conduct all further proceedings, including final judgment.

Date

United States District Judge

NOTE: RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CLERK OF THE COURT ONLY IF ALL PARTIES HAVE CONSENTED ON THIS FORM TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE.

Motion and Order for Admission *Pro Hac Vice*

Division		Case Number	
vs.			

Lawyer's Name Firm Street City & Zip Code Telephone & Email Licensed: State & Number Federal Bar & Number	
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Name of party applicant seeks to appear for:	
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Has applicant been sanctioned by any bar association or court? Yes _____ No _____

On a separate sheet for each sanction, please supply the full particulars.

Dated:	Signed*:
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*I understand that the Court requires strict compliance with the Local Rules for the Southern District of Texas and the Court Procedures for District Judge Kazen, which are applicable to cases assigned to Judge Kazen. The rules are available by visiting the Court's website.

The state bar reports that the applicant's status is:	
Dated:	Clerk's signature:

Order Granting Motion for Admission *Pro Hac Vice*

This lawyer is admitted *pro hac vice*.

Dated: _____

 John Andrew Kazen
 United States District Judge