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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VERONICA BRILL , ET AL. ,

No. **2:19-CV-02027-MCE-AC**

Plaintiff,

v.

**INITIAL PRETRIAL
SCHEDULING ORDER**

MICHAEL L POSTLE , ET AL. ,

Defendant.

_____ /
This action is assigned to the Honorable Morrison C. England, Jr. Pursuant to the provisions of Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

I. SERVICE OF PROCESS

Plaintiff(s) shall complete service of process on all parties within ninety (90) days of the date of the filing of the complaint. Concurrently with the service of process, or as soon thereafter as possible, plaintiff(s) shall serve upon each of the parties named in the complaint, and upon all parties subsequently joined, a copy of this Order, and shall file with the Clerk of the Court a proof of service. Any party who impleads a third-party defendant shall serve upon that party a copy of this Order and shall file with the Clerk of the Court a proof of service reflecting such service.

In the event this action was originally filed in a state court and was thereafter removed to this Court, the removing party shall, immediately following such removal, serve upon each of the other

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1 parties named in the complaint and upon all parties subsequently joined a copy of this Order. The
2 removing party shall also file with the Clerk of the Court a proof of service reflecting such service.

3 In order to assist the Court in meeting its recusal responsibilities, any non-governmental
4 corporate party to this action shall file a statement identifying all its parent corporations and listing any
5 publicly-held company that owns ten percent (10%) or more of the party's stock. This statement
6 shall be filed no later than fourteen (14) days after the non-governmental corporate party is served
7 with a copy of this Order. Thereafter, if there is any change in the information, the party shall file and
8 serve a supplemental statement within a reasonable time after such change occurs.

9 **II. ADDITIONAL PARTIES/AMENDMENTS/PLEADINGS**

10 Within thirty (30) days of service of the complaint on the last party, or from the date of
11 removal, whichever is later, the parties shall amend the complaint or join any parties pursuant to the
12 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. No other joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings is
13 permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown.

14 **III. DISCOVERY**

15 Within sixty (60) days¹ of service of the complaint on any party, or from the date of removal,
16 whichever is later, the parties shall meet and confer as required by Federal Rule of Civil
17 Procedure 26(f) regarding their discovery plan.

18 All discovery, with the exception of expert discovery, shall be completed no later than three
19 hundred sixty-five (365) days from the date upon which the last answer may be filed with the
20 Court pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In this context, "completed" means that all
21 discovery shall have been conducted so that all depositions have been taken and any disputes relative
22 to discovery shall have been resolved by appropriate order if necessary and, where discovery has
23 been ordered, the order has been obeyed. All motions to compel discovery must be noticed on the
24 magistrate judge's calendar in accordance with the Local Rules.²

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27 ¹The parties shall refer to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6(a) in computing the time periods specified
in this Order.

28 ²A copy of the current Local Rules is available at
<http://www.caed.uscourts.gov/caednew/index.cfm/rules/local-rules/>

1 **IV. DISCLOSURE OF EXPERT WITNESSES**

2 All counsel are to designate in writing, and serve upon all other parties the name, address, and
3 area of expertise of each expert that they propose to tender at trial not later than sixty (60) days after
4 the close of discovery. The designation shall be accompanied by a written report prepared and
5 signed by the witness. The report shall comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B).

6 Within thirty (30) days after the designation of expert witnesses, any party may designate a
7 supplemental list of expert witnesses who will express an opinion on a subject covered by an expert
8 designated by an adverse party. The right to designate a supplemental expert for rebuttal purposes
9 only shall apply to a party who has not previously disclosed an expert witness on the date set for
10 expert witness disclosure by this Order.

11 Failure of a party to comply with the disclosure schedule as set forth above in all likelihood
12 will preclude that party from calling the expert witness at the time of trial. An expert witness not
13 appearing on the designation will not be permitted to testify unless the party offering the witness
14 demonstrates: (a) good cause for the party's failure to designate the expert witness in accordance
15 with this Order; (b) that the Court and opposing counsel were promptly notified upon discovery of
16 the witness; and (c) that the witness was promptly made available for deposition.

17 For purposes of this Order, an "expert" is any person who may be used at trial to present
18 evidence under Federal Rules of Evidence 702, 703, and 705, which include both "percipient experts"
19 (persons who, because of their expertise, have rendered expert opinions in the normal course of
20 their work duties or observations pertinent to the issues in the case) and "retained experts" (persons
21 specifically designated by a party to be a testifying expert for the purposes of litigation).

22 Each party shall identify whether a disclosed expert is percipient, retained, or both. It will be
23 assumed that a party designating a retained expert has acquired the express permission of the witness
24 to be so listed. Parties designating percipient experts must state in the designation who is responsible
25 for arranging the deposition of such persons.

26 All experts designated are to be fully prepared at the time of designation to render an informed
27 opinion, and given their bases for their opinion, so that they will be able to give full and complete
28 testimony at any deposition taken by the opposing party. Experts will not be permitted to testify at

1 the trial as to any information gathered or evaluated, or opinion formed, after deposition taken
2 subsequent to designation.

3 Counsel are instructed to complete all discovery of expert witnesses in a timely manner in order
4 to comply with the Court's deadline for filing dispositive motions.

5 **V. DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS**

6 The parties shall file dispositive motions no later than one hundred eighty (180) days after the
7 close of non-expert discovery. All papers should be filed in conformity with the Local Rules.
8 Absent leave of the Court, all issues the parties wish to resolve on summary judgment must be
9 raised together in one (1) motion or cross-motion. Should the parties wish to file additional motions
10 for summary judgment, they must seek leave of the Court.

11 All purely legal issues are to be resolved in timely pretrial motions. When appropriate, failure
12 to comply with Local Rules 230 and 260, as modified by this Order, may be deemed consent to
13 the motion and the Court may dispose of the motion summarily. With respect to motions for summary
14 judgment, failure to comply with Local Rules 230 and 260, as modified by this Order, may result in
15 dismissal for failure to prosecute (or failure to defend) pursuant to this Court's inherent authority to
16 control its docket and or Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b). Further, failure to timely oppose
17 a summary judgment motion³ may result in the granting of that motion if the movant shifts the burden
18 to the nonmovant to demonstrate that a genuine issue of material fact remains for trial.

19 The Court places a page limit for points and authorities (exclusive of exhibits and other
20 supporting documentation) of twenty (20) pages on all initial moving papers, twenty (20) pages on
21 oppositions, and ten (10) pages for replies. Sur-replies are viewed with disfavor and will only be
22 considered upon a showing of good cause. All requests for page limit increases must be made in
23 writing with a proposed order setting forth any and all reasons for any increase in page limit at least
24 fourteen (14) days prior to the filing of the motion.

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27 _____
28 ³The Court urges any party that contemplates bringing a motion for summary judgment or who must
oppose a motion for summary judgment to review Local Rule 260.

1 The parties are directed to the Court's website for available hearing dates and Judge England's
2 standard procedures. (www.caed.uscourts.gov – select "Judges" – select "Judge England" – select
3 "Standard Information").

4 Citations to the Supreme Court Lexis database shall include parallel citations to the Westlaw
5 database.

6 The parties are reminded that a motion in limine is a pretrial procedural device designated to
7 address the admissibility of evidence. The Court will look with disfavor upon dispositional motions
8 presented at the Final Pretrial Conference or at trial in the guise of motions in limine.

9 The parties are cautioned that failure to raise a dispositive legal issue that could have been
10 tendered to the Court by proper pretrial motion prior to the dispositive motion cut-off date may
11 constitute waiver of such issue.

12 The Court will submit, without oral argument, all pretrial civil motions upon filing. The opposition
13 or statement of non-opposition, and reply due dates shall be filed in accordance with the original
14 motion hearing date. If the Court determines that oral argument is needed it will be scheduled at a
15 later date. Any party may request oral argument by filing a separate request that explains why oral
16 argument would be helpful. Additionally, if requested by a non-moving party on a motion for
17 summary judgment, oral argument will be granted. If the Court grants a request for oral argument or
18 *sua sponte* decides to hear oral argument, the Court will issue an order setting forth the date and
19 time of the oral argument.

20 **VI. TRIAL SETTING**

21 The parties are ordered to file a Joint Notice of Trial Readiness not later than thirty (30) days
22 after receiving this Court's ruling(s) on the last filed dispositive motion(s). If the parties do not intend
23 to file dispositive motions, the parties are ordered to file a Joint Notice of Trial Readiness not later
24 than thirty (30) days after the close of the designation of supplemental expert witnesses and the
25 notice must include statements of intent to forgo the filing of dispositive motions.

26 The parties are to set forth in their Notice of Trial Readiness, the appropriateness of special
27 procedures, whether this case is related to any other case(s) on file in the Eastern District of
28 California, the prospect for settlement, their estimated trial length, any request for a jury, and their

1 availability for trial. The parties' Notice of Trial Readiness Statement shall also estimate how many
2 court days each party will require to present its case, including opening statements and closing
3 arguments. The parties' estimates shall include time necessary for jury selection, time necessary to
4 finalize jury instructions and instruct the jury.

5 This Court is in session for jury selection, opening statements, presentation of evidence,
6 closing arguments, and instruction of the jury Monday through Wednesday, only. Jury deliberations
7 only are Monday through Friday if necessary.

8 After review of the parties' Joint Notice of Trial Readiness, the Court will issue an order that
9 sets forth dates for a final pretrial conference and trial. The parties should be prepared to submit
10 discovery documents and trial exhibits electronically in PDF format.

11 **VII. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE**

12 If the parties agree to a settlement conference, a magistrate judge will be randomly assigned to
13 the case to preside over the settlement conference. If the parties specifically request that the assigned
14 District Judge or Magistrate Judge conduct the settlement conference, the parties shall file the
15 appropriate waiver of disqualification in accordance with Local Rule 270(b).

16 If the parties elect to participate in the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program (VDRP),
17 a stipulation of election is required pursuant to Local Rule 271. See, Attachments 2-1 and 2-2
18 of this Order.

19 In accordance with Local Rule 160, counsel are to immediately file a notice of settlement or
20 other disposition of this case.

21 **VIII. MODIFICATION OF INITIAL PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

22 The parties are reminded that pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure,
23 the Initial Pretrial Scheduling Order shall not be modified except by leave of court upon a showing
24 of **good cause**. Agreement by the parties pursuant to stipulation alone to modify the Initial Pretrial
25 Scheduling Order does not constitute good cause. Except in extraordinary circumstances,
26 unavailability of witnesses or counsel will not constitute good cause.

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1 **IX. COURTESY COPIES**

2 No party shall submit paper courtesy copies of pleadings or exhibits to the Court unless
3 expressly ordered to do so.

4 **X. SPECIAL CASES**

5 In any cases involving E.R.I.S.A, Class–Actions, or Administrative Appeals, the parties shall
6 file a short joint statement with the Court identifying the type of case within thirty (30) days of service
7 on all defendant(s). Based upon the provided information, the Court may issue a supplemental pretrial
8 scheduling order.

9 **XI. OBJECTIONS TO INITIAL PRETRIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

10 This Initial Pretrial Scheduling Order will become final without further order of the Court
11 unless objections are filed within sixty (60) days of service on all defendant(s).

12 DATED: October 8, 2019



14 **MORRISON C. ENGLAND, JR.**
15 U.S. DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A MAGISTRATE JUDGE
TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION AND APPEAL INSTRUCTIONS**

You are hereby notified in accordance with 28 U.S.C §636(c), F.R.Civ.P.73 and Local Rule 305, the United States Magistrate Judges sitting in Sacramento and Fresno are available to exercise the court's case dispositive jurisdiction and to conduct any or all case despositive proceedings in this action, including motions to dismiss, motions for summary judgment, a jury or non jury trial, and entry of a final judgment. Exercise of this jurisdiction by a Magistrate Judge is however, permitted only if all parties voluntarily consent. You may, without adverse substantive consequences, withhold your consent, but this will prevent the court's case dispositive jurisdiction from being exercised by a Magistrate Judge.

Any appeal from a judgment entered by a Magistrate Judge is taken directly to the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit or, where appropriate, for the Federal Circuit in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of a District Court.

Whether or not the parties consent pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), the assigned Magistrate Judge will hear all motions except those case dispositive motions set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).

A copy of the Form for "Consent to / Decline of Jurisdiction of United States Magistrate Judge" is attached hereto for pro per use and attorney information. This form is available in fillable .pdf format on the court's web site at www.caed.uscourts.gov for all attorney ECF filers. This form may be filed through CM/ECF or by pro se litigants at the appropriate Clerk's Office location.

Office of the Clerk
501 I Street, Room 4–200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Office of the Clerk
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 1501
Fresno, CA 93721

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

VERONICA BRILL , ET AL. ,
Plaintiff(s)/Petitioner(s),

vs.

CASE NO. 2:19-CV-02027-MCE-AC

MICHAEL L POSTLE , ET AL. ,
Defendant(s)/Respondent(s).

IMPORTANT

**IF YOU CHOOSE TO CONSENT OR DECLINE TO CONSENT TO JURISDICTION OF
A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE, CHECK AND SIGN THE APPROPRIATE
SECTION OF THIS FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE.**

CONSENT TO JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

In accordance with the provisions of Title 28, U.S.C Sec. 636(c)(1), the undersigned hereby voluntarily consents to have a United States Magistrate Judge conduct all further proceedings in this case, including trial and entry of final judgment, with direct review by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, in the event an appeal is filed.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

() Plaintiff/Petitioner () Defendant/Respondent

Counsel for _____ *

DECLINE OF JURISDICTION OF UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

Pursuant to Title 28, U.S.C. Sec 636(c)(2), the undersigned acknowledges the availability of a United States Magistrate Judge but hereby declines to consent.

Date: _____

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

() Plaintiff/Petitioner () Defendant/Respondent

Counsel for _____ *

**If representing more than one party, counsel must indicate the name of each party responding.*

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

VOLUNTARY DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Pursuant to the findings and directives of Congress in 28 U.S.C. §§ 651 *et seq.*, and in recognition of the economic burdens and delay in the resolution of disputes that can be imposed by full formal litigation, Local Rule 271 governs the referral of certain actions to the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program ("VDRP") at the election of parties. Plaintiff or removing party is to provide all other parties with copies of the notice at the time service is effected or, for parties already served, no more than fourteen (14) days after receiving notice from the Court. After filing of the original complaint or removal action, any party who causes a new party to be joined in the action shall promptly serve a copy of the notice on the new party.

It is the Court's intention that the VDRP shall allow the participants to take advantage of a wide variety of alternative dispute resolution methods. These methods may include, but are not limited to, mediation, negotiation, early neutral evaluation and settlement facilitation. The specific method or methods employed will be determined by the Neutral and the parties.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Local Rule 271, *this Local Rule applies to* all civil actions pending before any District Judge or Magistrate Judge in the District except that actions in the following categories are exempt from presumptive inclusion: (i) prisoner petitions and actions, including habeas corpus petitions, (ii) actions in which one of the parties is appearing *pro se*, (iii) voting rights actions, (iv) social security actions, (v) deportation actions, (vi) Freedom of Information Act actions, and (vii) actions involving the constitutionality of federal, state or local statutes or ordinances. The fact that a case falls in a category that is exempt from the presumptive applicability of this Local Rule neither (1) precludes the parties to such a case from agreeing to participate in an Alternative Dispute Resolution ("ADR") process, nor (2) deprives the Court of authority to compel participation in an appropriate ADR proceeding.

Parties may elect Voluntary Dispute Resolution with the Court indicating that all parties to the action agree to submit the action to VDRP pursuant to Local Rule 271. Actions may not be assigned to VDRP over the objection of a party. (Copy of sample stipulation attached hereto.) **At the time of filing, a copy of the stipulation shall be provided to the VDRP Administrator designated below:**

Sacramento Cases

Voluntary Dispute Resolution
Program Administrator
United States District Court
501 "I" Street, Suite 4-200
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 930-4278

Fresno Cases

Voluntary Dispute Resolution
Program Administrator
United States District Court
2500 Tulare Street, Suite 1501
Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 499-5600

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

VERONICA BRILL , ET AL.,

NO: 2:19-CV-02027-MCE-AC

Plaintiff(s)

v.

STIPULATION TO ELECT REFERRAL
OF ACTION TO VOLUNTARY DISPUTE
RESOLUTION PROGRAM (VDRP)
PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 271

MICHAEL L POSTLE , ET AL.,

Defendant(s)

Pursuant to Local Rule 271, the parties hereby agree to submit the above-entitled action to
the Voluntary Dispute Resolution Program.

DATED: **OCTOBER 8, 2019**

Name:
Attorney for Plaintiff(s)

Name:
Attorney for Defendant(s)