

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

**DEBORAH SPRINGER SUTTLAR, *et al.***

**PLAINTIFFS**

**v.**

**Case No. 4:22-cv-00368 KGB**

**JOHN THURSTON, *et al.***

**DEFENDANTS**

**INITIAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

Pursuant to the initial appearance entered by defendants in this case on April 29, 2022, the following deadlines and proposals are in effect:

**1. RULE 26(f) CONFERENCE DEADLINE: June 28, 2022**

The parties are jointly responsible for holding their Rule 26(f) conference on or before the date specified.

**2. RULE 26(f) REPORT DUE DATE: July 12, 2022**

Consult FRCP 26(f) and Local Rule 26.1 for information to be included in the Rule 26(f) Report. The Report should be filed with the Clerk of the Court.

**3. PROPOSED TRIAL DATE: May 1, 2023**

The case will be scheduled for **BENCH** Trial before United States District Judge Kristine G. Baker commencing at 9:00 a.m. sometime during the week as set for above in the Richard Sheppard Arnold United States Courthouse, Courtroom #4D, 500 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

**4. RULE 16(b) CONFERENCE: (Scheduled if needed)**

A telephone conference will be scheduled within one week of the filing of the Rule 26(f) Report, if the parties request a conference or if the Court determines a conference is necessary, to resolve any conflicts among the parties with the proposed deadlines, proposed trial date, and other matters addressed in the Rule 26(f) Report. Attached is a proposed final scheduling order with proposed deadlines for the parties' consideration during the Rule 26(f) conference. Unless the parties object, the proposed scheduling order will become the Court's Final Scheduling Order and will be issued without a conference.

It will be the responsibility of the plaintiff to serve a copy of the Initial Scheduling Order on any defendant who makes an appearance after the Initial Scheduling Order has been filed. It will be the responsibility of the party filing a new claim after the date of the Initial Scheduling Order to serve immediately a copy of the Initial Scheduling Order on any new defendant(s).

Dated: Monday, May 2, 2022

**AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COURT  
TAMMY H. DOWNS, CLERK**

By Tracy M. Washington  
Courtroom Deputy

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PLAINTIFFS

v.

Case No. 4:22-cv-00368 KGB

JOHN THURSTON, *et al.*

DEFENDANTS

**PROPOSED FINAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

Pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

**1. TRIAL DATE**

This case is scheduled for **BENCH** trial before United States District Judge Kristine G. Baker commencing at **9:00 a.m.** sometime during the week of **May 1, 2023**, in the Richard Sheppard Arnold United States Courthouse, Courtroom #4D, 500 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201.

Any trial conflicts indicated by the parties in their Rule 26(f) Report will be addressed closer to this trial date, if the conflict has not been resolved.

**2. ADDITION OF PARTIES/AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS**

Leave to add parties or amend pleadings must be sought no later than **November 7, 2022**.

**3. DISCOVERY**

Discovery should be completed no later than **February 15, 2023**. The parties may conduct discovery beyond this date if all parties are in agreement to do so. The Court, however, will not resolve any disputes in the course of this extended discovery. All discovery requests and motions must be filed sufficiently in advance of the discovery deadline set forth in this order to allow for a timely response. Witnesses and exhibits not identified in response to appropriate discovery may not be used at trial except in extraordinary circumstances.

A discovery motion must not be filed until counsel has made a good faith effort to resolve the discovery dispute, in compliance with Local Rule 7.2. When a discovery motion is filed, a response should be filed promptly. A conference call will be scheduled to resolve such matters, if the Court deems it necessary.

**4. EXPERT DISCLOSURES AND REPORTS**

Case-in-chief expert disclosures, including reports, must be made by **December 2, 2022**.

Rebuttal expert disclosures, including reports, must be made by **January 3, 2023**.

These disclosures must be in writing, signed, and served. They are not filed in the Clerk's Office.

## **5. STATUS REPORT**

A status report must be filed with the Clerk's office on or before **March 2, 2023**. The report must include the date and results of any settlement conference, the settlement prospects, and an estimate of the length of trial.

## **6. MOTION DEADLINE**

All motions, except motions for class certification and motions *in limine*, must be filed on or before **March 2, 2023**. Motions for summary judgment must comply with Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and Local Rules 7.2 and 56.1.

Motions filed pursuant to *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), must be filed on or before **March 2, 2023**. They shall not be filed as a motion *in limine*.

Pursuant to Local Rule 26.1, motions for class certification must be filed 90 days after the Rule 26(f) conference; therefore, any motions for class certification are due on or before **September 26, 2022**.

Motions *in limine* must be filed on or before **April 17, 2023** and responses must be filed seven (7) days thereafter. Motions submitted after the deadline may be denied solely on that ground.

Local Rule 7.2(b) requires that, within fourteen (14) days from the date copies of a motion and supporting papers have been served, any party opposing a motion shall serve and file with the Clerk a concise statement in opposition to the motion with supporting authorities. Any reply to a response to a motion must be filed within seven (7) days of service of the response. The Court may or may not wait on the filing of a reply before ruling on the motion.

## **7. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE REQUEST**

All requests for a settlement conference must be made on or before **March 17, 2023**.

## **8. PRETRIAL DISCLOSURE SHEET**

Pretrial disclosure sheets must be filed simultaneously by the parties according to the outline contained in Local Rule 26.2 no later than **April 10, 2023**. That witnesses and exhibits must be listed on the pretrial information sheet does not relieve a party of the obligation to provide the names of witnesses and exhibits in response to discovery requests.

Objections to opposing parties' pretrial disclosure sheets will be due on **April 17, 2023**.

## **9. TRIAL BRIEF**

All trial briefs must be filed no later than **April 10, 2023**. Responding trial briefs must be filed no later than **April 17, 2023**.

## **10. DEPOSITIONS TO BE USED AT TRIAL OTHER THAN FOR IMPEACHMENT**

The proffering party must designate the pertinent portions of a deposition to be used as evidence at trial by **April 10, 2023**. Counter-designations must be made by **April 17, 2023**. These designations need not be filed with the Court but should be exchanged by the parties.

Objections to any deposition or videotapes that will be used at trial must be made by written motion indicating the specific objection and its legal basis by **April 21, 2023**, with the response due **April 26, 2023**. Depositions to be read at trial must be marked as exhibits.

## **11. JURY INSTRUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF CASE OR PROPOSED FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

For bench trials, each party must submit to the Court on or before **April 24, 2023**, proposed findings and conclusions.

## **12. STIPULATIONS**

The parties should stipulate in writing to the facts not in controversy on or before **April 24, 2023**.

## **13. INTRODUCTION OF EXHIBITS**

Exhibits must be made available to all parties and reviewed by counsel prior to the trial date. Each party will provide to the Court three (3) copies of all exhibits, and each exhibit will be numbered for identification purposes. All exhibits must be listed in numerical sequence on the form available through the Court's website (See Court Forms - Civil Forms AO-187 Exhibit and Witness List). The lists must be submitted to the Courtroom Deputy thirty (30) minutes before the beginning of trial, with notations made on the Court's copy of the list noting exhibits to which there is an objection. The Court will receive all stipulated exhibits at the beginning of the trial.

If you anticipate using electronic equipment during trial, you must notify the Courtroom Deputy prior to your trial date. If you wish to bring electronic devices to the courthouse for any proceeding, please note Amended General Order No. 54.

## **14. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Counsel must promptly check the Court's list of financial interests on file in the U.S. District Court Clerk's Office to determine whether there is any conflict that might require recusal. If any party

is a subsidiary or affiliate of any company in which the Court has a financial interest, bring that fact to the Court's attention immediately.

Please communicate with Tracy Washington at 501-604-5424 or [tracy\\_washington@ared.uscourts.gov](mailto:tracy_washington@ared.uscourts.gov) to ascertain your position on the calendar as the trial date approaches. In the event of settlement, advise Ms. Washington immediately. The case will not be removed from the trial docket until an order of dismissal has been entered.

**Dated:** Monday, May 2, 2022

**AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COURT  
TAMMY H. DOWNS, CLERK**

By: Tracy M. Washington  
Courtroom Deputy

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