

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

GWEN BENNETT,

Plaintiff,

PRELIMINARY PRETRIAL
CONFERENCE ORDER

v.

CONTINENTAL CASUALTY
COMPANY,

06-C-272-C

Defendant.

This court held a telephonic preliminary pretrial conference on June 8, 2006. Plaintiff appeared by Douglas Phebus. Defendant appeared by Carmen Copher. The court set the schedule for this case and advised the parties that their conduct throughout this case is governed by this pretrial conference order and the attachments to it.

1. **Motion to Permit Discovery: June 19, 2006**

Response: June 26, 2006

Reply: July 3, 2006

2. Decision on consent: June 23, 2006

This is the deadline for transferring jurisdiction of this case to the magistrate judge. By this date, the parties must submit to the clerk of court a letter signed by all parties consenting to trial before the magistrate judge. If any party does not consent, then no submission should be made by any party, and the absence of a letter shall be deemed failure to consent.

3. Amendments to the Pleadings: July 10, 2006

Amendments to the pleadings pursuant to Rules 13-15 and 20-21 must be filed and served not later than the date set forth above. The court routinely accepts amendments filed within the deadline. A party may not amend its pleadings after the deadline without leave of court, which will be granted only upon a showing of good cause for the late amendment and lack of prejudice to the other parties. The longer a party waits to seek leave to amend, the less likely the court will allow amendment.

4. Deadline for Filing Dispositive Motions: November 1, 2006

Dispositive motions may be filed and served by any party on any date up to the deadline set above. All dispositive motions must be accompanied by supporting briefs. All responses to any dispositive motion must be filed and served within 21 calendar days of service of the motion, which the court presumes is the date the motion is filed with the

court. Any reply by the movant must be filed and served within 10 calendar days of service of the response, which the court presumes to be the date the response is filed with the court. A party is not entitled to additional time under Rule 6(e) to file and serve documents related to a dispositive motion. The parties may not modify this schedule without leave of court.

If any party files a motion for summary judgment, all parties must follow this court's procedure governing such motions, a copy of which is attached to this order. The court will not consider any document that does not comply with its summary judgment procedure. A party may not file more than one motion for summary judgment in this case without leave of court.

Parties are to undertake discovery in a manner that allows them to make or respond to dispositive motions within the scheduled deadlines. The fact that the general discovery deadline cutoff, set forth below, occurs after the deadlines for filing and briefing dispositive motions is not a ground for requesting an extension of the motion and briefing deadlines.

5. Settlement Letters: February 9, 2007

Counsel for each party must submit to the clerk of court a settlement letter not later than the date set forth above. The letter should contain the terms and conditions upon which counsel's client(s) would agree to settle this case. Such letters should be filed in an envelope clearly marked "Under Seal" and should not be sent to opposing counsel. Such

letters will not become part of the record in this case. Upon receipt of the letters, the court will initiate settlement discussions with counsel.

6. Final Pretrial Submissions

Not later than 28 days before trial each party shall serve on all other parties all materials specified in Rule 26(a)(3)(A), (B) and (C).

Not later than 14 days before trial the parties shall complete the tasks listed in Paragraph 1.A. - 1.H. of the court's standing order in non-jury cases (copy attached),

Not later than seven calendar days before trial the parties shall complete the tasks listed in Paragraphs 2 - 4 of the court's standing order in non-jury cases.

If a party chooses to submit a trial brief (which is optional) it must file and serve its brief not later than three calendar days before trial. Same day service is required.

As noted earlier in this order, deposition transcripts are to be filed promptly with the Clerk of Court upon preparation; any deposition that has not been filed with the Clerk of Court by close of business two work days before trial shall not be used by any party for any purpose at trial.

7. Trial: March 19, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Trial shall be to the court. The parties estimate that this case will take 1 day to try. Absent further order of this court, the issues to be tried shall be limited to those identified

by the parties in their pretrial conference report to the court. The court shall try the issues of liability and damages without bifurcation. A copy of this court's procedural order for non-jury cases is attached.

This case will be tried in an electronically equipped courtroom and the parties shall present their evidence using this equipment. A brochure explaining the court's system is included with this order. Counsel shall ensure the compatibility of any of their personal equipment with the court's system prior to the final pretrial conference or shall forfeit their right to use any personal equipment that is not compatible with the court's system.

8. Reporting Obligation of Corporate Parties.

All parties that are required to file a disclosure of corporate affiliations and financial interest form have a continuing obligation throughout this case promptly to amend that form to reflect any changes in the answers.

9. E-Filing.

Parties in this lawsuit may file documents with the court electronically. If they choose to file electronically, they must follow the court's procedures in order to ensure that the court properly receives and docket each submission. The court's procedures, FAQ page, and related information may be found at www.wiwd.uscourts.gov.

10. Electronic Notification

Parties in this lawsuit may receive court notices, briefing schedules and orders electronically. If they choose to participate in this program, they must follow the court's procedures. The court's procedures and related information may be found at www.wiwd.uscourts.gov.

Entered this 8th day of June, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER

Magistrate Judge