

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

RICOH COMPANY, LTD.,

Plaintiff,

v.

ASUSTEK COMPUTER, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants.

ORDER

06-C-462-C

Plaintiff has moved for an order requiring the parties to engage in mediation before the end of January, 2007. *See* dkt. 67. Plaintiff points out that the parties indicated in their joint pretrial conference report that they had agreed to a mandatory settlement conference (dkt. 36 at 4, ¶ 11), but reports that defendants have declined to join the current motion.

This court does not force parties to negotiate settlement. That's why there is no early mediation deadline in the preliminary pretrial conference order. If the parties choose to engage in ADR, then they can contact the clerk of court who will assist them in whatever fashion would be helpful. However, although this court often enforces civil litigants' side deals, it does not enforce informal agreements to engage in ADR. If a party doesn't want to settle, then forcing that party to the table usually is a waste of time. Rather than foist mediation on unwilling parties, this court is prepared to resolve this case on summary judgment motions (due by June 1, 2007) or at trial on October 1, 2007 (unless it grants the pending motion to transfer).

Entered this 28th day of December, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

STEPHEN L. CROCKER
Magistrate Judge