

**SUPPLEMENT TO GENERAL ORDER
JUDGE JONATHAN H. PITTMAN
CIVIL CALENDAR 10
2024**

I. CHAMBERS AND STAFF

Judge: Jonathan H. Pittman

Chambers: Chambers 3130
Moultrie Courthouse
500 Indiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001

Phone: (202) 879-1920

Email Address: JudgePittmanChambers@dcsc.gov

Law Clerks: Andrea (“Andi”) Negovan
Allysa Taylor

Courtroom: Courtroom 320
Moultrie Courthouse

Courtroom phone: (202) 879-1542

II. COMMUNICATIONS WITH CHAMBERS

Except as specifically authorized in this Supplement, no party or lawyer may contact chambers by telephone. Judge Pittman’s staff may not and will not provide advice of any kind about court rules, practices, or procedures. Judge Pittman does not accept letters from parties or lawyers about a case. If a party needs clarification of any rule, practice, or procedure, it should file a motion.

In extraordinary circumstances only, parties may email chambers *jointly* concerning urgent scheduling issues. Any other emails to chambers are strongly discouraged.

III. MOTIONS

Formatting: Typewritten motions and other filings must be double-spaced and in at least 12- point font; footnotes must also be in 12-point font. Parties should use a serif typeface, such as Times New Roman, Garamond, or Century Schoolbook and should not use mono-spaced fonts.

Consent to motions: Judge Pittman strictly enforces the requirement in Rule 12-I(a) that, before a party files a non-dispositive motion, it must seek the consent of other parties and include in the motion a certification that the party sought consent. Parties who use email to satisfy Rule 12-I(a) but do not obtain consent should state the date and time of each email. If a party does not include such a certification, Judge Pittman may summarily deny the motion, and if the party chooses to refile the motion with a certification, it will pay another \$20 filing fee.

The title of the motion should indicate whether it is opposed or unopposed.

Paper copies: Judge Pittman enforces the requirement in Administrative Order 06-17 that a party must provide a paper copy of any filing that, including exhibits, exceeds twenty-five (25) pages. If a party fails to comply with this requirement, Judge Pittman may decide not to consider the filing. Please do not send the courtesy copy in a binder.

Proposed order: Pursuant to Administrative Order 06-17, a party filing a motion must submit electronically to JudgePittmanChambers@dcsc.gov a proposed order in a format that can be edited (generally Word). If no Proposed Order is received by the Court, the document is not considered properly filed and may be summarily denied without prejudice.

Length of filings: Judge Pittman discourages memoranda more than ten (10) pages long. No party may submit a motion and memorandum more than twenty-five (25) pages long without leave of the court. If a party fails to comply with these rules, Judge Pittman may summarily deny the motion.

Consolidated motions: A party, or multiple parties aligned in interest and represented by the same lawyer, should ordinarily raise in one motion all the grounds for the relief they seek. For example, a party should file one summary judgment motion if the party seeks summary judgment on multiple grounds, or one motion *in limine* if the party seeks pretrial rulings on multiple issues. The party (or parties) may file with the consolidated motion a motion for leave to file a longer brief to the extent that more pages are needed to address multiple issues. Such motions for

reasonable increases in page limits are ordinarily granted because consolidated motions are more efficient and require fewer total pages than separate motions.

Reply briefs: A party may file a reply as permitted by Rule 12-I(g). No party may submit a reply more than five pages long without leave of the court. Sur-replies are strongly disfavored and, in any event, a party may not file a sur-reply without leave of the court.

Exhibits to motions: Any time a party attaches three (3) or more exhibits to a motion or opposition, an exhibit list must be included identifying each exhibit, and each exhibit must be marked accordingly.

Motions for leave to file a pleading, brief, or other document: Except in extraordinary circumstances, a party seeking leave to file any pleading, document or other filing, including motions for leave to amend a pleading or to file a sur-reply, must submit with the motion a copy of the proposed filing.

Motions to extend deadlines and reschedule hearings: Any motion for extension of time should include a statement of the number of previous extensions of the deadline, and the effect of granting the motion on other existing deadlines.

Judge Pittman does not automatically grant multiple extensions of scheduling orders even when the parties agree. Judge Pittman expects any request for an extension to be based on the parties' realistic assessment of the time needed to complete the remaining tasks, and thereby to eliminate the need for additional extensions except in unexpected circumstances. The more extensions one or all parties request, the stronger the justification that Judge Pittman expects for each successive request, including a demonstration that the factors that justify the additional extension were not reasonably foreseeable at the time the parties requested the previous extension.

Except in extraordinary circumstances involving unforeseen and unforeseeable events, all motions seeking to extend a deadline or continue a hearing date must be filed **at least** 3 business days before that date.

Any motion to reschedule a hearing must suggest three alternative dates and times that are convenient to all parties.

Except as provided in Rule 16(b)(7)(B), stipulations between parties or lawyers are not effective to change deadlines set by the Court. To extend any such deadline,

a party must file a motion requesting and justifying the extension.

E-filed motions: It takes time for e-filed motions and other filings to reach chambers. It generally takes 1-2 business days for the Clerk's Office to process filings. If a party has a question about the status of a pending motion, it should contact the Clerk's Office at (202) 879- 1133. Parties should not contact Chambers to inquire about the status of an impending ruling.

Emergency motions: Judge Pittman expects parties to request expedited action only in truly urgent situations. Parties filing emergency motions should notify chambers when they file the motion by sending an email to JudgePittmanChambers@dcsc.gov and other parties, with a copy of the motion and the proposed order (in an editable format) attached.

IV. DISCOVERY

Judge Pittman strictly enforces the requirements in Rules 26(h) and 37(a)(1)(A) that the parties meet for a reasonable period of time in an effort to resolve or narrow any discovery-related dispute and that discovery-related motions include a certification concerning advance consultation. If a party submits such a motion without such a certification, Judge Pittman may summarily deny the motion. Before filing a motion related to a discovery dispute, the moving party must communicate with the opposing party to suggest dates and times for a hearing on the motion, and the motion must include proposed dates and times.

Judge Pittman will presumptively award the prevailing party its attorney's fees and costs associated with its litigation of a motion to compel discovery. *See* Super. Ct. Civ. R. 37(a)(5). The parties therefore should bring documentation of their fees and costs to any hearing on a motion to compel discovery. The parties are encouraged to resolve discovery disputes prior to any discovery hearing, and the moving party may file a praecipe withdrawing a motion to compel if the parties are able to reach a resolution without the need for a hearing.

V. SCHEDULING AND SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES

Scheduling praecipes: Notwithstanding the earlier deadline in Rule 16(b)(2), Judge Pittman will approve a Civil Action Form 113 ("Praecipe Requesting Schedule Order") submitted up to 2:00 p.m. on the day before the scheduling conference date. In cases in which all parties are represented by counsel, and no pending motions or other matters require the Court's attention, Judge Pittman encourages attorneys to

consult with opposing counsel and submit a CA Form 113 rather than appear in court for a scheduling conference.

Scheduling and calendars: Any party or lawyer who attends a hearing where matters can reasonably be expected to be scheduled shall bring a calendar. Judge Pittman, and the courtroom clerk, will not delay setting a schedule to give anyone an opportunity to contact the person's office. If the person does not have his or her schedule immediately available, Judge Pittman will set a schedule, and the party may later file a motion to modify the schedule if the party so chooses and pay the \$20 filing fee.

Joint pretrial statements: Rule 16(e) requires the filing of a joint pretrial statement at least one week before the pretrial conference. Judge Pittman may cancel a pretrial conference if the parties have not timely filed the joint pretrial statement.

Motions *in limine*: Consistent with Rule 16(d), parties should file motions *in limine* at least four weeks before the pretrial conference, unless the Court grants leave to file them later. Oppositions to such motions should be filed no later than two weeks prior to the pretrial conference, and reply briefs filed no later than one week prior to the pretrial conference. Judge Pittman generally rules on motions *in limine* at the pretrial conference.

Non-party principals: Except in extraordinary circumstances with prior judicial approval, non-party principals with settlement authority must attend settlement conferences in person. Judge Pittman may allow such principals from outside the Washington metropolitan area to participate by video. Any request to excuse a non-party principal from personal attendance should be made by motion at least two weeks before the date of the conference.

VI. TRIAL READINESS HEARINGS

At the pretrial conference, the court may schedule an in-person trial readiness hearing to occur approximately one week prior to trial. Counsel and unrepresented parties are required to attend the trial readiness hearing and must be prepared at the hearing to discuss voir dire questions and procedures, scheduling concerns, any outstanding evidentiary issues, and all other matters requiring the court's attention prior to trial. Since counsel will be expected at trial to display all exhibits, including audio, video, photographic and documentary exhibits, via WebEx, the trial readiness hearing serves as an opportunity for counsel to ensure that they have the necessary technical capacity and equipment to do so.

VII. TRIALS

A. Pretrial and trial procedures

Trial status update: On the Wednesday preceding a trial date, the parties jointly or, if mutually agreed on, through one party making a joint representation, shall call chambers, or email chambers with a copy to all parties, and inform chambers whether the parties expect to proceed on the scheduled trial date.

Witness availability: Judge Pittman will not delay the trial to accommodate a witness' schedule, except in extraordinary, unexpected, and documented circumstances. If a witness availability issue arises, a party shall immediately notify other parties and chambers.

Trial schedule: Trials are scheduled to begin on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. All counsel shall be present in the courtroom at 9:00 a.m. each trial day to address any preliminary matters and to discuss voir dire and jury instructions. Trials generally proceed Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Judge Pittman generally takes one morning and one afternoon break, as well as a lunch break between approximately 12:30 and 1:30 p.m.

Exhibit index: On the first day of trial, each party must give to the courtroom clerk an exhibit summary form. Parties may obtain this form from the Clerk's Office or at <https://www.dccourts.gov/node/18758>

Custody of exhibits: During trial, the parties may leave exhibits admitted into evidence in the courtroom. After trial and until any appeal has ended or the time to appeal has run with no notice of appeal filed, each party is responsible for maintaining exhibits and other materials that should be part of the record on appeal.

B. Availability during deliberations

Throughout jury deliberations, counsel must be available on ten minutes' notice. Counsel should give the courtroom clerk a telephone number where they can be reached.

VIII. LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Court provides professional interpreters in all matters, when needed. The party who needs an interpreter must notify the Court before any hearing at which an

interpreter will be needed by submitting the form provided at <https://www.dccourts.gov/services/information-and-resources/interpreting-services>. Family members, friends, lawyers, or lawyers' staff are not permitted to interpret for parties or witnesses during a hearing.

IX. IN-PERSON/REMOTE COURTROOM ATTENDANCE

All jury trials, non-jury trials, contested evidentiary hearings, and pretrial conferences will be conducted in person in Courtroom 320 with all parties, counsel and witnesses physically present in the courtroom unless they have been expressly permitted by Judge Pittman in advance of the proceeding to participate remotely. Parties are to file a written motion no later than three business days before the scheduled hearing if a party is seeking to appear remotely.

For all other hearings, parties and counsel may appear in person in Courtroom 320 but also have the option to appear remotely by following the remote participation instructions listed below. Counsel appearing remotely for any hearing before Judge Pittman must appear by video.

X. VIRTUAL COURTROOM PROTOCOL

Any proceedings in Virtual Courtroom 320 may be accessed by parties and counsel in the following ways:

- (1) going to the WebEx website at <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb320> or going to <https://dccourts.webex.com> and entering meeting ID number 129 911 6415; or
- (2) downloading the WebEx Meetings app, opening the app, selecting Join Meeting, and entering <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb320> ; or
- (3) calling 1-844-992-4726 or 202-860-2110 and entering meeting ID number 129 911 6415#.

Parties having trouble connecting to their remote hearing may call chambers at 202-879-4722 for assistance. Failure to appear at a remote proceeding may result in the same sanctions as would result from failing to appear at an in-person hearing, including dismissal of a case or entry of default.

NOTE: Counsel and self-represented parties are required to appear via WebEx video and to log in so that their names appear on screen, absent extenuating circumstances that make it necessary for them to appear via audio only. All other

participants are strongly encouraged, but not required, to appear via WebEx video and to identify themselves by name. Inclusion of preferred pronouns is encouraged, but not required.

NOTE: Judge Pittman enforces the rule on witnesses for all evidentiary proceedings, whether in person or remote. All parties, therefore, are responsible for ensuring that their non-party witnesses are not logged into the evidentiary proceeding at any point other than when they are actually testifying. The parties also are reminded that Administrative Order 20-08 strictly forbids the audio and/or video recording of virtual hearings, including the taking of screenshots; anyone found in violation of this order may be subject to a finding of contempt of court.

Guidelines: When entering the virtual courtroom (by dialing in on a phone, or signing in through the website or app), the party should not attempt to speak because another hearing may be underway. Each party should be automatically muted by the courtroom clerk when you first arrive. If you are using the WebEx website or the app, you may check in with the courtroom clerk using the “chat” function. If you are on a telephone, you should wait for your case to be called.

Exhibits: If a party or counsel intends to rely on exhibits or other documents during the hearing, the party or counsel shall e-mail the exhibits to the Court at JudgePittmanchambers@dcsc.gov, copying all sides, no later than 5:00 p.m. the day before the hearing. The party or counsel must also file the exhibits on the docket using the Odyssey/Enterprise Justice system and provide a copy of the exhibit to any witness before the hearing. The exhibits must be separately labeled so that they can be easily identified by all parties and the Court during the remote hearing.