

Senior Judge Frederic Block
Brooklyn Courthouse
Telephone: (718) 613-2420
Fax: **by permission only**
Case Manager/ Courtroom Deputy: Michael Innelli
Telephone: (718) 613-2425

Motions Returnable

Counsel will be notified

Unless otherwise ordered by the judge in a specific case, matters before the judge shall be conducted in accordance with the following practices:

1. *Communications With Chambers*

A. *Letters.*

Except as provided below, communications with chambers shall be by letter, with copies simultaneously delivered to all counsel. Copies of correspondence between counsel shall not be sent to the Court. Counsel are welcomed to contact chambers either by telephone or letter to inquire as to their pending motion or to notify the Court regarding any emergency or time concerns as to their pending motion.

B. *Telephone Calls.*

In addition to Paragraph 1(D) below: Telephone calls to chambers are permitted. For docketing, scheduling or calendar matters, call (718) 613-2425.

C. *Faxes.*

Faxes to chambers are permitted only if prior authorization is obtained.

For docketing, scheduling and calendar matters, call the contact listed above during the hours specified.

D. *Request for Adjournments or Extension of Time.*

All requests for adjournments or extensions of time must be in writing and state (1) the original date, (2) the number of previous requests for adjournment or extension, (3) whether these previous requests were granted or denied, and (4) whether the adversary consents, and, if not, the reasons given by the adversary for refusing to consent. If the requested adjournment or extension affects any other scheduled dates, a proposed revised dates must be provided. If the request is for an adjournment of a court appearance, absent an emergency, it shall be made at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled appearance.

2. *Motions*

A. *Pre-Motion Conference Requests in Civil Cases.*

For discovery motions, follow Local Civil Rules 37.3 and 6.4. For motions other

than discovery motions, in all cases where the parties are represented by counsel, except habeas corpus/prisoner petitions and Social Security and Bankruptcy appeals, a pre-motion conference with the court must be requested before making any motions.

To request a pre-motion conference, the moving party shall submit a letter not to exceed three (3) pages in length setting forth the basis for the anticipated motion. All parties so served may, but are not required to, serve and file a letter response, not to exceed three (3) pages within seven (7) days from service of the notification letter. Service of the letter by the moving party within the time requirements of Rule 12 of the Fed. R. Civ. P. shall constitute timely service of a motion made pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b).

In many cases, it will be apparent from the letter requesting a pre-motion conference that such a conference will not be a useful expenditure of the parties' time, and a motion schedule will be set (or the parties will be directed to set one) without convening a pre-motion conference.

Note that these provisions do *not* apply to motions other than those specifically enumerated. For example, letters requesting pre-motion conferences do not apply to motions pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 50, 59 and 60, and counsel should be aware that the Court of Appeals will not accept an argument that compliance with district court motion rules should excuse noncompliance with Fed. R. App. P. 4. **(Cite)**.

B. Courtesy Copies.

Courtesy copies of all motion papers, marked as such, should be submitted to chambers.

C. Memoranda of Law.

Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in support of and in opposition to motions are limited to 25 pages, and reply memoranda are limited to 10 pages. Memoranda of 10 pages or more shall contain a table of contents.

D. Filing of Motion Papers.

No motions papers shall be filed until the motion has been fully briefed. The notice of motion and all supporting papers are to be served on the other parties along with a cover letter setting forth whom the movant represents and the papers being served. A copy of the cover letter only is to be mailed to the assigned district judge and the magistrate judge at this time.

The parties are to agree on a briefing schedule. Any changes in the briefingschedule shall be worked out by counsel, and counsel shall then file a letter with the Court indicating the revised dates. No court approval as to the new dates is needed.

The moving party shall be responsible for filing all motion papers via ECF. Such party is further obligated to furnish to chambers a full set of courtesy copies of the motion papers together with a cover letter specifying each document in the package. A copy of the cover letter shall be sent to the assigned magistrate judge and to opposing counsel.

E. Oral Argument on Motions.

The parties may request oral argument by letter at the time they file their fully briefed motion. The court will determine whether oral argument will be heard and, if so, will advise counsel of the argument date and time.

3. *Pretrial Procedures*

A. Joint Pretrial Orders in Civil Cases.

The Court will determine at the initial pre-trial conference if a joint pre-trial order is needed. If the Court determines a joint pre-trial order is needed, then the joint pretrial order shall include the following:

- i. The full caption of the action.
- ii. The names, addresses (including firm names), and telephone and fax numbers of trial counsel.
- iii. A brief statement by plaintiff as to the basis of subject matter jurisdiction, and a brief statement by each other party as to the presence or absence of subject matter jurisdiction. Such statements shall include citations to all statutes relied on and relevant facts as to citizenship and jurisdictional amount.
- iv. A brief summary by each party of the claims and defenses that party has asserted which remain to be tried, without recital of evidentiary matter but including citations to all statutes relied on. Such summaries shall identify all claims and defenses previously asserted which are not to be tried.
- v. A statement by each party as to whether the case is to be tried with or without a jury, and the number of trial days needed.
- vi. A statement as to whether or not all parties have consented to trial of the case by a magistrate judge (without identifying which parties have or have not so consented).
- vii. Any stipulations or agreed statements of fact or law which have been agreed to by all parties.
- viii. A list by each party as to the fact and expert witnesses whose testimony is to be offered in its case in chief, indicating whether such witnesses will testify in person or by deposition. Only listed witnesses will be permitted to testify except when prompt notice has been given and good cause shown.
- ix. A designation by each party of deposition testimony to be offered in its case in chief, with any cross-designations and objections by any other party.
- x. (1) A statement of stipulated facts, if any;

(2) A list by each party of exhibits to be offered in its case in chief, with one star indicating exhibits to which there is an objection on grounds of authenticity. Any exhibits without a star will be deemed admitted into evidence at the start of the trial. Parties are expected to resolve before trial all issues of authenticity, chain of custody and related grounds. Merit less objections based on these grounds may result in the imposition of sanctions. Only exhibits listed will be received in evidence except for good cause shown; and

(3) All exhibits must be pre-marked for the trial and exchanged with the other parties at least ten days before trial. Where exhibits are voluminous, they should be placed in binders with tabs. The Court needs no copies of any exhibits.

B. *Filings Prior to Trial in Civil Cases.*

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, each party shall file 15 days before the date of commencement of trial if such a date has been fixed, or 30 days after the filing of the final pretrial order if no trial date has been fixed;

i. On the Thursday before trial in jury cases, requests to charge and proposed voir dire questions. Requests to charge should be limited to the elements of the claims, the damages sought and defenses. General instructions will be prepared by the court. When feasible, proposed jury charges should also be submitted on a 3.5" diskette in IBM Word Perfect format;

ii. By claim, a detailed statement regarding damages and other relief sought;

iii. In non-jury cases, a statement of the elements of each claim or defense involving such party, together with a summary of the facts relied upon to establish each element;

iv. In all cases, motions addressing any evidentiary or other issues which should be resolved *in limine*; and

v. In any case where such party believes it would be useful, a pretrial memorandum.