

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF ALAMEDA

Rene C. Davidson Courthouse

RICHARD WETZEL et al
Plaintiff/Petitioner(s)
VS.
AT&T CORP. et al
Defendant/Respondent
(s)

No. 26CV197126

Date: 07/10/2026

Time: 3:59 PM

Dept: 18

Judge: Patrick McKinney

ORDER Case Management Order -
Initial

INITIAL CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER - ASBESTOS

Pursuant to California Rules of Court (CRC) 3.400 and 3.403(b), the Court hereby determines that the above captioned asbestos litigation is a complex case and pursuant to CRC 3.750 will hold an Initial Case Management Conference to consider necessary orders for the appropriate coordination and management of this action. Parties shall familiarize themselves with Alameda County Superior Court Local Rules of Court (LRC), Rule 3.250 et seq. governing asbestos cases including service requirements and the conduct and timing of case management conferences and certain discovery. The following order shall apply to all parties in this action:

1. CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCES

At Case Management Conferences the Court will address discovery issues, schedules, and other subjects pursuant to CRC 3.750. Counsel thoroughly familiar with the case shall attend the Case Management Conferences. See LRC, Rule 3.290.

The court prefers parties file Case Management Conference Statement(s) on pleading paper, in lieu of the Judicial Council Form CM-110, summarizing the status of pleadings, discovery, trial readiness and other subjects for consideration, and propose further dates. Parties may file a JOINT Case Management Statement in lieu of separate Statements from each party pursuant to CRC 3.725(b). If a Designated Defense Counsel has been appointed by the Court, individual Defendants may, but are not required to file a Case Management Conference Statement; rather, the Designated Defense Counsel shall be responsible for filing a Case Management Conference Statement respecting the status of discovery and other related case management issues on behalf of all defendants. The Case Management Statement(s) shall be filed and served no later than seven (7) court days prior to the scheduled conference.

Parties are advised to check the court's register of action before appearing at any case management conference, including the Initial Case Management, at least one day before any scheduled appearance to determine if the court has issued a tentative case management order. If published, this tentative case management order will become the order of the Court unless counsel or self represented party notifies the Court and opposing counsel/self-represented party

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by email not less than one court day prior to the CMC that s/he intends to appear in person at the CMC to discuss some aspect of the order, and specifies the nature of the party's concern. (Please note that the Tentative Rulings posted on the website are for tentative rulings on law and motion matters and will not display tentative Case Management Orders. The tentative Case Management Orders are found in the Register of Action). Department 18 may be reached at Dept.18@alameda.courts.ca.gov.

2. NOTICE OF FEE CHANGES - JURY TRIAL FEE

Effective July 2, 2012, the advance jury fee is no longer refundable. With certain exceptions, the jury trial fee is due on or before the date scheduled for the initial case management conference. See, C.C.P. 631(b).

3. COMPLIANCE WITH LOCAL RULE OF COURT 3.285.

Local Rule of Court (LRC) 3.285 governing use and service of “standard interrogatories” in asbestos cases shall apply in this case. Pursuant to LRC 3.285(a) “standard interrogatories” to plaintiff(s) are DEEMED SERVED on Plaintiff(s) as of the date of the filing of the Complaint.

The reference in Local Rule of Court 3.285(a) and this order to “standard interrogatories to plaintiff” are “Defendants’ Standard Interrogatories to Plaintiff” published on the Spanos Przetak website (<http://www.spanos-przetak.com/case-management-orders.aspx>) and also published on the Alameda County Superior Court - Dept. 18 website in the “documents” folder. Plaintiff(s) shall serve verified responses to said interrogatories upon defendant(s) within 60 days of the filing of the Complaint and, after the 60-day deadline has elapsed, Plaintiff(s) shall serve its responses with service of the Complaint. However, if Plaintiff(s) intend to file a motion for preferential trial setting within four (4) months of filing of the Complaint, the time to file responses to Standard Interrogatories is modified, as follows: Plaintiff(s) shall serve plaintiff(s) verified responses to Standard Interrogatories upon defendant(s) within 30 days of the filing of the Complaint and, after the 30-day deadline has elapsed, Plaintiff(s) shall serve its responses with service of the Complaint. If Designated Defense Counsel has been appointed, Plaintiff(s) shall serve one original upon Designated Defense Counsel.

Pursuant to LRC 3.285(b) “standard interrogatories” to defendants and cross-defendants will be DEEMED SERVED with the Complaint or Cross-Complaint and responses. The reference in Local Rule of Court 3.285(b) and this Order to “standard interrogatories to defendants and crossdefendants” are the “Plaintiff’s First Set of Interrogatories to Defendant” published on the Spanos Przetak website (<http://www.spanos-przetak.com/case-management-orders.aspx>) and also published on the Alameda County Superior Court - Dept. 18 website in the “documents” folder.

4. MOTION FOR TRIAL PREFERENCE

As soon as a party is aware of facts sufficient to petition the Court for a trial preference, the party shall immediately reserve a hearing date from Dept. 18. Because the Court recognizes the need for expedited discovery of plaintiff’s relevant medical and employment records are critical in these cases when a trial preference is granted, unless good cause is shown, parties shall comply

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with the following orders in cases where a motion for trial preference is contemplated within four (4) months of the filing of the complaint and/or when the motion is filed:

(a) Contemporaneous with the filing of any motion for preference, Plaintiff(s) shall serve verified responses to Standard Interrogatories to Plaintiff(s) per paragraph 3, above (if said responses have not previously been served upon defendants).

(b) If a party contemplates filing a motion for preferential trial setting within four (4) months of the filing of the Complaint, Plaintiff(s) shall execute and deliver the following to Designated Defense Counsel (or comparable coordinating defense counsel or document depository) within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Complaint, or contemporaneous with the filing of said motion if the 30 days has not yet elapsed: (1) authorizations and stipulations for all relevant medical and employment records and (2) a copy of all medical and employment records in plaintiff(s)' possession. If a Designated Defense Counsel or comparable coordinating defense counsel and/or document depository is not yet in place at the time the motion is made, the Court will expect defense counsel to meet and confer to work out an orderly, expedited and efficient process for obtaining, receiving, copying, sharing and providing access to these materials among and between all the parties, pending hearing and convey to plaintiff's counsel where documents and authorizations/stipulations are to be delivered. Defense counsel shall submit a proposed Order for the court's signature that should, at the minimum, address the need for a single depository/entity to act on behalf of all defendants to obtain, receive, maintain and copy plaintiff's records and materials as ordered herein and provide access to defendants. Further, the order should identify at a minimum a single entity/defense counsel to obtain records or materials on behalf of all defendants pursuant to the executed stipulations/authorizations ordered herein and coordinate with Plaintiff's counsel with regard to said records and materials. The Court will order that defendant share equally for the costs associated with obtaining, receiving, maintaining, and providing access to records and materials ordered herein (unless otherwise stipulated by defendants counsel). Costs of copying will be borne by individual parties requesting copies. If this matter cannot be resolved between parties, any party shall promptly contact Dept. 18 to have a case management conference advanced for this purpose.

Pending hearing on the motion for preference and until further court order is signed, Plaintiff(s) shall not be required to respond to individual document requests for the same materials or records ordered herein, make the documents or materials ordered herein available for inspection or copying, or to deliver the executed authorizations/stipulations to any individual requesting defendant but shall only be required to deposit the ordered documents and materials, authorizations and stipulations with the identified single designated defense counsel/coordinating defense counsel and/or document depository. This order is not meant to preclude document or other discovery, not covered by this order, to be conducted by any party pending hearing on the motion for preference.

(c) A motion for preference shall be accompanied by an affidavit in compliance with C.C.P. § 36 and § 36.5 and shall delineate with specificity the status of pleadings and discovery, including whether relevant, non-privileged medical and employment reports and materials have been made available to the defense and whether plaintiff(s) deposition and/or medical examinations (if applicable) have been taken or are scheduled. Failure to provide this information in compliance with this order may result in delay or continuance of the hearing on the motion for trial

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preference.

5. DISCOVERY

Discovery Conference: Effective August 1, 2025, Department 18 no longer requires Informal Discovery Conferences under Local Rule 3.31 (amended effective January 1, 2023) before discovery motions are filed. The Court will hold a discovery conference if all parties pertinent to the discovery at issue agree to the discovery conference and agree to toll any relevant discovery deadlines pending an IDC. Requests for a discovery conference may be made, after meaningful meet and confer (which requires in person or telephonic discussion or good faith attempt to do so), by sending an email to the department clerk, copied to all counsel, and propose at least three (3) dates when all pertinent parties are available for a 30-minute session. The Court will hold discovery conferences as the schedule permits, generally on Wednesday mornings or other mornings when the Court is not in trial. Judge McKinney also requests that the parties provide a joint statement outlining the issues that does not exceed four (4) pages, without attachments, no later than 5:00 pm the day before the scheduled conference.

Upon request, the court will consider telephonic appearances as well as calls from depositions in progress.

Plaintiff's Deposition: Plaintiff's deposition may be noticed by either defense counsel (or Designated Defense Counsel, if appointed) or plaintiff pursuant to Code Civ. Pro. §2025.210. Prior to noticing plaintiff deposition, counsel for plaintiff and defense counsel (or Designated Defense Counsel, if appointed) shall meet and confer as to date and location of the deposition and time limits as set forth in C.C.P. sections 2025.290 and 2025.295.

6. EMAILS TO COURT

Emails to the court are not part of the court record, and are not a substitute for required filings. Any emails should be copied to all counsel. The Department 18 email may only be used for the following purposes: to seek a reservation to schedule a proceeding on the court's calendar, to give notice that a hearing has been dropped or a settlement reached, to request a discovery conference, emergency scheduling issues (i.e. running late to a hearing), to give notice that a litigant intends to appear to contest a tentative ruling, to reply to an inquiry from the clerk or research attorney of Department 18, to communicate with the courtroom clerk regarding department 18 procedures, or other matters that the court has expressly authorized in this case.

7. Pro Hac Vice Process

Applications for Pro Hac Vice must be submitted by noticed motion on regular time, or, if it is a time sensitive matter, a request for an order shortening time must be submitted. Applications will not be considered on an ex parte basis except as a Stipulation and Order. CRC 9.40.

8. NOTICE

Upon appearing in this matter, Defendants shall immediately notify Designated Defense Counsel, if appointed, of said appearance.

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Parties are advised that CASE MANAGEMENT ORDERS, including trial setting orders, and FINAL RULINGS ON LAW AND MOTION that are issued by Dept. 18 will be published in the Court's website in the Register of Action for this case. The clerk of the court WILL NOT serve each party a copy of future orders. Instead, unless otherwise ordered, counsel shall obtain copies of all future orders from the Register of Action in this case.

Dated : 07/10/2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. McKinney", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick McKinney / Judge