

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF  
CALIFORNIA

Stevens v. Martinez

Stevens v. Martinez · No. 1:21-cv-01144-JLT-SKO (PC) · Decided April 2, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted Defendants’ motion to vacate the deadline for filing merits-based dispositive motions. The court found good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4), based on Plaintiff’s alleged failure to comply with a discovery order and Defendants’ pending motion for terminating sanctions. The May 22, 2025 dispositive-motion deadline was vacated and may be reset after resolution of the sanctions motion.

CASE DETAILS

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| COURT                 | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                   |
| WRITING FOR THE COURT | Sheila K. Oberto                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| JURISDICTION          | United States District Court for the Eastern District of California                                                                                                                                                                   |
| DECIDED               | April 2, 2025                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| DOCKET                | 1:21-cv-01144-JLT-SKO (PC)                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| DISPOSITION           | other                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| PROCEDURAL POSTURE    | Defendants moved to vacate the remaining deadline for filing merits-based dispositive motions pending resolution of their motion for terminating sanctions. The court granted the motion without requiring a response from Plaintiff. |
| STANDARD OF REVIEW    | A scheduling order may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent; the good-cause inquiry primarily considers the diligence of the party seeking modification.                                                      |
| PRECEDENTIAL VALUE    | unpublished district court order                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

TOPICS

- sanctions
- discovery dispute
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- prisoner civil rights
- discovery
- sanctions

## QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Defendants demonstrated good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4) to vacate the deadline for filing merits-based dispositive motions pending resolution of their motion for terminating sanctions.

## HOLDINGS

1. Defendants demonstrated good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4) to modify the scheduling order and vacate the remaining deadline for filing merits-based dispositive motions pending resolution of the motion for terminating sanctions.

## KEY QUOTATIONS

*“Pursuant to Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, a scheduling order “may be modified only for good cause and with the judge's consent.”” (at 2)*

*“The Court finds Defendants have demonstrated good cause for a modification of the scheduling order.” (at 2)*

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The court had ordered Plaintiff to respond to Defendant Peterson's request for production concerning a Gender Identity Questionnaire after granting a motion to compel. Defendants asserted that Plaintiff had not provided the required response and that they could not adequately prepare a merits-based dispositive motion without the requested information. Defendants also had a pending motion for terminating sanctions that could potentially dispose of the action.

## PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court issued a discovery and scheduling order on April 1, 2024, and later granted Defendant Peterson's motion to compel, ordering Plaintiff to respond to a request for production. Defendants subsequently filed a motion for terminating sanctions based on Plaintiff's alleged failure to comply with the discovery order, followed by this motion to vacate the May 22, 2025 dispositive-motion deadline. The court granted the motion and vacated the deadline pending resolution of the sanctions motion.

## DISPOSITION

other

## CASES CITED

- Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604, 609 (9th Cir. 1992)

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR AN AI ASSISTANT

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