

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Marcalett Wideman v. Whaleco, Inc.

Wideman · No. 2:25-cv-04660-MRA-MAA · Decided July 3, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Central District of California issued an order to show cause regarding consolidation of multiple related Whaleco malware litigation cases. The court proposed consolidating the cases for all purposes under a master docket, designating operative pleadings, and establishing procedures for future filings and case management.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Mónica Ramírez Almadani
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	July 3, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-04660-MRA-MAA
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court issued an order to show cause why several related actions, including Wideman, should not be consolidated under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	District courts have substantial discretion to determine whether and to what extent actions should be consolidated, weighing judicial convenience against potential delay, confusion, and prejudice.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- joinder
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- complex litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the related actions involved common questions of law or fact warranting consolidation under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 42(a).
2. Whether the interests of judicial convenience outweighed the potential for delay, confusion, or prejudice from consolidating the actions.
3. Whether the court should adopt the proposed master-docket and case-management procedures for the consolidated action.

HOLDINGS

1. The court determined that common questions of law and fact predominated because the complaints were identical and the actions had been designated as related, and it proposed consolidating the actions for all purposes under Rule 42(a), subject to any timely objections.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“District courts enjoy substantial discretion in deciding whether and to what extent to consolidate cases.”
(unpaginated)

“To determine whether to consolidate, a court weighs the interest of judicial convenience against the potential for delay, confusion and prejudice caused by consolidation.” (unpaginated)

“The impracticality of maintaining multiple dockets for these actions is already becoming manifest: Defendant (through no fault of its own, given the way Plaintiffs have chosen to litigate this action) has filed multiple identical motions across the cases, which will result in duplicative, unnecessary work for everyone involved.” (unpaginated)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The Wideman action was one of several related federal actions involving Whaleco, Inc. The complaints in the actions were identical, and each action involved more than 900 individually named plaintiffs. Maintaining separate dockets had already produced duplicative filings and unnecessary work, while the litigation was still at an early stage and presented little apparent risk of delay, confusion, or prejudice from consolidation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The court was handling multiple related actions alleging substantially identical claims against Whaleco, Inc. The complaints were identical, each action involved more than 900 individually named plaintiffs, and defendants had filed duplicative motions to dismiss across the cases. The court proposed consolidating the actions for all purposes, designating one action as the master case, administratively closing the other dockets, and using the complaint and motion to dismiss in the master case as the operative filings, subject to objections filed within five days.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Hall v. Hall, 584 U.S. 59, 77 (2018)
- Knox v. Yingli Green Energy Holding Co., 136 F. Supp. 3d 1159, 1162 (C.D. Cal. 2015)

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