

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

STA Pharmaceuticals US, LLC v. Nguyen

STA Pharmaceuticals · No. 24-cv-2426-AGS-DDL · Decided September 19, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California granted STA Pharmaceuticals US, LLC’s motion to seal an exhibit and portions of a declaration based on trade-secret and confidential third-party information. The court denied the request for expedited discovery without prejudice and permitted STA to renew that request with the magistrate judge.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Andrew G. Schopler
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	September 19, 2025
DOCKET	24-cv-2426-AGS-DDL
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	In connection with its preliminary-injunction motion, Plaintiff moved to seal an exhibit and portions of a declaration. Plaintiff also requested expedited discovery.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A party seeking to seal judicial records must provide sufficiently compelling reasons to overcome the strong presumption of public access, particularly when the records are more than tangentially related to the merits of a preliminary-injunction motion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished district court order

TOPICS

- trade secrets
- discovery dispute
- injunctions
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- trade secrets
- commercial litigation
- intellectual property

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the identified exhibit and declaration portions should be sealed under the compelling-reasons standard governing judicial records related to a preliminary-injunction motion.
2. Whether the request for expedited discovery should be granted.

HOLDINGS

1. The motion to seal was granted because it was narrowly tailored to information sufficiently identified as trade secrets or confidential third-party information, providing compelling reasons to overcome the presumption of public access.
2. The request for expedited discovery was denied without prejudice.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The public has a “general right to inspect and copy public records and documents.”” (at 1)

“A party seeking to seal judicial records can overcome the strong presumption of access by providing sufficiently compelling reasons that override the public policies favoring disclosure.” (at 1)

“The publication of materials that could result in infringement upon trade secrets has long been considered a factor that would overcome strong presumption in favor of access to documents.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

STA Pharmaceuticals sought to protect information it identified as trade secrets or confidential third-party information in materials submitted with its preliminary-injunction motion. The materials included Exhibit A to Yu Lu's declaration and portions of Britton Moore's declaration. STA also sought expedited discovery.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

STA Pharmaceuticals filed a motion to seal Exhibit A to Yu Lu's declaration and portions of Britton Moore's declaration in connection with a preliminary-injunction motion. It also requested expedited discovery. The district court granted the motion to seal and denied the expedited-discovery request without prejudice, permitting renewal before the magistrate judge.

DISPOSITION

other

REMAND INSTRUCTIONS

No remand. STA Pharmaceuticals may renew its request for expedited discovery with the magistrate judge.

CASES CITED

- Nixon v. Warner Communications, Inc., 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978)
- In re Midland Nat. Life Ins. Co. Annuity Sales Pracs. Litig., 686 F.3d 1115, 1119 (9th Cir. 2012)

- Center for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1102 (9th Cir. 2016)
- Apple Inc. v. Psystar Corp., 20 F.3d 1150, 1162 (9th Cir. 2011)

OPINION

STA Pharmaceuticals US, LLC v. Nguyen

PER CURIAM.

1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

3 || STA PHARMACEDTICALS US, LLC, Case No.: 24-cv-2426-AGS-DDL 4 Plaintiff,| ORDER
GRANTING MOTION TO

5 || y. SEAL (ECF 17) AND DENYING

REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED

6 || Phuong Hoai NGUYEN, DISCOVERY (ECF 19-1) 7 Defendants. 8 In connection with its preliminary-injunction motion, plaintiff STA Pharmaceuticals 9 ||US, LLC, moves to seal Exhibit A to Yu Lu's declaration and portions of Britton Moore's 10 declaration. The public has a "general right to inspect and copy public records and 11 documents." Nixon v. Warner Commce'ns, Inc., 435 U.S. 589, 597 (1978). "A party seeking 12 |to seal judicial records can overcome the strong presumption of access by providing 13 sufficiently compelling reasons that override the public policies favoring disclosure." In re 14 || Midland Nat. Life Ins. Co. Annuity Sales Pracs. Litig., 686 F.3d 1115, 1119 (9th Cir. 2012); 15 || see also Center for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC, 809 F.3d 1092, 1102 (9th Cir. 2016) 16 || (applying the "compelling reasons" standard to a preliminary-injunction motion that was 17 || "more than tangentially related to the merits" of the case). STA's sealing motion is tailored 18 |to protect only information that is sufficiently identified as trade secrets or confidential 19 || third-party information. Thus, the motion is GRANTED. See Apple Inc. v. Psystar Corp., 20 F.3d 1150, 1162 (9th Cir. 2011) ("The publication of materials that could result in 21 ||infringement upon trade secrets has long been considered a factor that would overcome 22 strong presumption in favor of access to documents."). 23 The request for expedited discovery (see ECF 19-1, at 24) is DENIED without 24 || prejudice. STA may renew this request with the Magistrate Judge. 25 ||Dated: September 18, 2025 26 | □ 7 Hon. rew G. Schopler United States District Judge 28 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28