

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Martin v. Ball Corp.

No. 2:21-cv-1049, United States District Court for the Eastern District of California (June 20, 2025)

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted two unopposed motions to compel in an employment-discrimination action. The court ordered plaintiff to serve verified responses to interrogatories and produce a signed authorization for UCSF medical records by June 27, 2025, and directed the parties to arrange plaintiff’s deposition. The court warned that continued discovery noncompliance could result in issue or terminating sanctions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Carolyn K. Delaney
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	June 20, 2025
DOCKET	2:21-cv-1049
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendants moved to compel plaintiff to provide verified interrogatory responses and to produce an authorization for the release of medical records. The motions were unopposed, and the court granted both motions.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court evaluated the discovery motions under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and determined that the requested discovery was overdue, relevant to damages and mitigation, and unopposed.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Unpublished district court discovery order; nonprecedential.
PARTIES	Richard Martin v. Ball Corporation, et al.

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- ada / disability

PRACTICE AREAS

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether defendants were entitled to an order compelling plaintiff to serve verified, Code-compliant responses to BMBC's interrogatories.
2. Whether defendants were entitled to an order compelling plaintiff to provide a signed authorization for the release of UCSF medical records relevant to claimed economic damages.

HOLDINGS

1. Defendants were entitled to an order compelling Martin to serve verified, Code-compliant responses to BMBC's Interrogatories, Set One, because the responses were overdue, incomplete or unverified, and Martin did not oppose the motion.
2. Defendants were entitled to an order compelling Martin to produce a signed authorization for UCSF medical records because the authorization had been requested repeatedly, had been agreed to by counsel, and was relevant to determining whether Martin could recover economic damages during a period of incapacity.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The whole system of [c]ivil adjudication would be ground to a halt if the courts were forced to intervene in even a modest percentage of discovery transactions.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Martin was employed as a machinist by Ball and alleged that Ball suspended and terminated him after he sought a disability accommodation following a workplace injury. The action includes FEHA claims for disability discrimination and failure to provide reasonable accommodation. Defendants sought verified responses to nine interrogatories concerning damages and mitigation, as well as an authorization to obtain UCSF medical records concerning a later industrial accident that could affect Martin's claimed economic damages. Martin did not provide the requested discovery or respond to the motions, although his counsel indicated at the hearing that Martin did not oppose providing the medical-record authorization.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Martin brought claims arising from his employment at Ball's Fairfield plant, including disability discrimination, failure to accommodate, and retaliation under the California Fair Employment and Housing Act. Defendants previously obtained an order compelling production of workers' compensation records. They then filed the two motions at issue after plaintiff failed to provide verified interrogatory responses and a medical-record authorization despite repeated requests and meet-and-confer efforts.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Brill v. Napolitano, 2010 WL 11512400, *1 (C.D. Cal. May 12, 2010)

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