

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Schatz v. Live Auctioneers, LLC

Schatz · No. 2:24-cv-09963-MWF-RAO · Decided August 27, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated protective order entered in Howard Schatz and Beverly Ornstein v. Live Auctioneers, LLC, pending in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. It governs the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing under seal, and final disposition of confidential discovery materials. The parties stipulated to the order on August 26, 2025, and Magistrate Judge Rozella A. Oliver ordered it on August 27, 2025.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Rozella A. Oliver
DECIDED	August 27, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-09963-MWF-RAO
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly stipulated to entry of a protective order governing confidential discovery material, and the court granted the joint motion.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil procedure
- Discovery and confidentiality
- Copyright litigation
- Commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether good cause supported entry of the parties' stipulated protective order governing confidential discovery material.
- What procedures and standards govern designation, disclosure, challenge, sealing, and final disposition of protected material.

HOLDINGS

1. Good cause having been shown, the court granted the parties' joint motion and entered the stipulated protective order.
2. The protective-order designation alone does not authorize filing material under seal; requests to seal must comply with Local Civil Rule 79-5 and satisfy the applicable good-cause or compelling-reasons standard, with redaction used where feasible.
3. Protected material may be used only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle the action, and the protective-order terms generally do not extend beyond commencement of trial; material used or introduced as a trial exhibit becomes presumptively public absent a qualifying sealing order.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, THE JOINT MOTION FOR STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER IS GRANTED AND IT IS SO ORDERED.” (at 14-17)

“The parties’ mere designation of Disclosure or Discovery Material as CONFIDENTIAL does not—without the submission of competent evidence by declaration, establishing that the material sought to be filed under seal qualifies as confidential, privileged, or otherwise protectable—constitute good cause.” (at 7-11)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action is expected to involve customer and pricing lists and other confidential commercial, financial, technical, proprietary, and potentially private information. The parties sought protections limiting use and disclosure of such material to purposes connected with prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle the litigation. The order also addresses challenges to confidentiality designations, inadvertent disclosure, filing under seal, and disposition of protected material after the action ends.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiffs Howard Schatz and Beverly Ornstein sued Live Auctioneers, LLC and Doe defendants in a federal copyright action. The parties submitted a stipulated protective order concerning confidential discovery and related filings under seal. On August 27, 2025, Magistrate Judge Rozella A. Oliver found good cause and ordered the stipulated protective order entered.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Kamakana v. City & County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1176 (9th Cir. 2006)
- *Phillips v. Gen. Motors Corp.*, 307 F.3d 1206, 1210-11 (9th Cir. 2002)
- *Makar-Welbon v. Sony Electronics, Inc.*, 187 F.R.D. 576, 577 (E.D. Wis. 1999)
- *Pintos v. Pac. Creditors Ass'n*, 605 F.3d 665, 677-79 (9th Cir. 2010)

