

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
LOUISIANA

Paula Reed Wilson, Individually and on Behalf of the Estate of Orrin
Patrick Thomas v. City of Bogalusa, et al.

Wilson · No. No. 24-714 · Decided January 7, 2026

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana grants the parties' joint motion to continue discovery, dispositive-motion, pretrial, and trial deadlines. The court finds good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4) and schedules a telephone conference for January 15, 2026, to reset the remaining deadlines and trial.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Sarah S. Vance
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana
DECIDED	January 7, 2026
DOCKET	No. 24-714
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly moved to continue discovery, dispositive-motion, and pretrial deadlines, as well as the trial date, under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4).
STANDARD OF REVIEW	A continuance is reviewed under the trial court's sound discretion; modification of a scheduling order requires good cause and the judge's consent.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- discovery dispute

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- civil rights
- municipal law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the parties established good cause under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4) to modify the scheduling order and continue the proceedings.

HOLDINGS

1. The court held that the parties met the good-cause standard under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b)(4) and granted the joint motion to continue proceedings.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“The “good cause standard requires the party seeking relief to show that the deadlines cannot reasonably be met despite the diligence of the party needing the extension.””

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties jointly requested continuation of discovery, dispositive-motion, and pretrial deadlines and the trial set for March 16, 2026. The court found that the parties demonstrated good cause for modifying the existing scheduling order and reset all unexpired deadlines pending a new scheduling conference.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case was pending in the Eastern District of Louisiana pursuant to a scheduling order entered July 16, 2025. The parties jointly sought to continue all unexpired deadlines and the March 16, 2026 trial, and the court granted the motion after finding good cause.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- S&W Enters., L.L.C. v. SouthTrust Bank, NA, 315 F.3d 533, 535 (5th Cir. 2003)
- United States v. Alix, 86 F.3d 429, 434 (5th Cir. 1996)

OPINION

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA PAULA REED WILSON, CIVIL ACTION INDIVIDUALLY AND ON BEHALF OF THE ESTATE OF ORRIN PATRICK THOMAS VERSUS NO. 24-714 CITY OF BOGALUSA, ET AL. SECTION “R” (4) ORDER AND REASONS Before the Court is a joint motion from plaintiff Paula Reed and defendants the City of Bogalusa, Louisiana; Chief Kendal Bullen; Captain Janice Johnson; Officer Lisa Erwin; and John Doe Officers to continue all discovery, dispositive motion and pre-trial deadlines, and the trial set for March 16, 2026.1 Rule 16(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that “[a] scheduling order may be modified only for good cause and with the judge’s consent.” Fed.

R. Civ. P. 16(b)(4). The “good cause standard requires the party seeking relief to show that the deadlines cannot reasonably be met despite the diligence of the party needing the extension.” *S&W Enters., L.L.C. v. SouthTrust Bank, NA*, 315 F.3d 533, 535 (5th Cir. 2003) (cleaned 1 R. Doc.

21. up). Whether to grant or deny a continuance is within the sound discretion of the trial court. *United States v. Alix*, 86 F.3d 429, 434 (5th Cir. 1996). The Court finds that the parties have met the good cause standard here. See *S&W Enters., L.L.C.*, 315 F.3d at 535.

For the foregoing reasons, the Court GRANTS the joint motion to continue proceedings. The new scheduling conference will be held BY TELEPHONE on January 15, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. for the purpose of re- scheduling the pre-trial conference and trial on the merits, and for a discussion of the status of the case and discovery deadlines. All deadlines established in the scheduling order on July 16, 2025 which have not expired are reset.

The parties shall call in for the teleconference using phone number (833) 990-9400 and access code 124518418. The Court will be represented by its Case Manager. New Orleans, Louisiana, this 7th day of January, 2026. Varet1e. SARAH S. VANCE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE