

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Edgar Estrada v. Nissan North America, Inc.

Estrada v. Nissan North America · No. 8:25-cv-00988-SRM-KES · Decided September 26, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a stipulated protective order governing the designation, use, disclosure, challenge, filing, and final disposition of confidential discovery materials in Edgar Estrada v. Nissan North America, Inc. It was stipulated through counsel on September 25, 2025, and ordered by the United States District Court for the Central District of California on September 26, 2025. The document includes an acknowledgment and agreement to be bound for persons receiving protected material.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Central District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Karen E. Scott
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Central District of California
DECIDED	September 26, 2025
DOCKET	8:25-cv-00988-SRM-KES
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties stipulated to entry of a protective order governing confidential discovery materials, and the court entered the order for good cause shown.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- discovery dispute
- civil procedure
- commercial litigation
- commercial

PRACTICE AREAS

- Civil procedure
- Discovery and confidentiality
- Commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether good cause existed to enter a stipulated protective order governing the designation, disclosure, use, challenge, filing, and disposition of confidential discovery materials.

2. Whether the protective order should distinguish the good-cause standard for discovery materials from the compelling-reasons standard applicable to merits-related documents filed with the court.

HOLDINGS

1. For good cause shown, the court entered the parties' stipulated protective order governing confidential discovery materials in the action.
2. Designation of material as confidential under the protective order does not itself authorize filing that material under seal; a party seeking to file protected material under seal must comply with Central District of California Local Rule 79-5 and obtain a court order.
3. The protective order's terms do not extend beyond commencement of trial, subject to the trial judge's authority to govern use of protected material at trial and to make specific findings supporting continued sealing.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal” (1)

“Once a case proceeds to trial, all of the court-filed information to be introduced that was previously designated as confidential or maintained pursuant to this protective order becomes public and will be presumptively available to all members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of the trial.” (4)

“Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue; good cause must be shown in the request to file under seal.” (12.3)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action is expected to involve discovery of trade secrets, customer and pricing lists, research and development information, and other confidential business, financial, technical, proprietary, and private information. The parties sought procedures limiting disclosure and use of protected discovery materials while preserving the ability to use materials in litigating and resolving the case. The court found good cause to enter the stipulated protective order.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Edgar Estrada brought this federal action against Nissan North America, Inc. and Does 1 through 10. The parties submitted a proposed stipulated protective order concerning confidential, proprietary, commercial, financial, technical, and private discovery information. On September 26, 2025, the court approved and entered the order.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- *Kamakana v. City & County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir. 2006)

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