

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Claude D. Williams Jr. v. FCA US LLC; and Does 1 through 10,
inclusive

Williams v. FCA US LLC · No. 2:25-cv-2467-WBS-CSK · Decided December 2, 2025

SUMMARY

This Status (Pretrial Scheduling) Order in a federal Song-Beverly action establishes case-management deadlines and procedures. It sets deadlines for disclosures, expert reports, discovery, motions, the final pretrial conference, settlement proceedings, and a jury trial, and is dated December 1, 2025.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	William B. Shubb
DECIDED	December 2, 2025
DOCKET	2:25-cv-2467-WBS-CSK
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The district court issued a status and pretrial scheduling order after reviewing the parties' joint status report in a removed Song-Beverly action. The court vacated the scheduled status conference and established deadlines and procedures governing service, amendments, jurisdiction, discovery, motion practice, pretrial proceedings, settlement, and trial.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	nonprecedential

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- service of process
- joinder
- discovery dispute
- subject matter jurisdiction

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- consumer protection

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. What case-management deadlines and restrictions should govern service, joinder, amendments, discovery, motion practice, pretrial proceedings, settlement, and trial?

2. Whether the court should recognize diversity jurisdiction and proper venue for scheduling purposes while preserving plaintiff's ability to seek remand.

HOLDINGS

1. All defendants had been served, and no further service was permitted without leave of court upon a showing of good cause.
2. No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings would be permitted except with leave of court and a showing of good cause.
3. For purposes of the scheduling order, the court recognized diversity jurisdiction as predicated on diverse citizenship and an amount in controversy exceeding \$75,000, while preserving plaintiff's ability to file a motion to remand; venue was found proper and undisputed.
4. The parties were required to exchange initial disclosures, disclose experts and reports by specified dates, complete discovery by March 16, 2027, and file motions by March 29, 2027, subject to stated exceptions and the court's local rules.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“No further joinder of parties or amendments to pleadings will be permitted except with leave of court, good cause having been shown under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(b).” (at 1)

“Plaintiff disputes subject matter jurisdiction and may file a motion to remand so it is procedurally consistent with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.” (at 1)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The action is a Song-Beverly consumer-protection case involving plaintiff Claude D. Williams Jr. and FCA US LLC, with Doe defendants also named. The parties submitted a joint status report, and all defendants had been served. The court found that the parties were diverse, the amount in controversy exceeded \$75,000, venue was proper, and discovery and trial preparation remained ongoing.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Plaintiff brought a Song-Beverly action against FCA US LLC and Doe defendants in federal court. The court stated that federal jurisdiction was predicated on diversity under 28 U.S.C. § 1332, noted that plaintiff disputed subject matter jurisdiction and could move to remand, found venue proper, and entered a scheduling order after reviewing the parties' joint status report.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir. 1992)

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 ----oo0oo---- 11 12 CLAUDE D. WILLIAMS JR., No. 2:25-cv-2467-WBS-
CSK 13 Plaintiff, 14 v. 15 FCA US LLC; and DOES 1 through 10, inclusive, 16 Defendants. 17 18
----oo0oo---- 19 STATUS (PRETRIAL SCHEDULING) ORDER 20 After reviewing the parties'
Joint Status Report, the 21 court hereby vacates the Status (Pretrial Scheduling) Conference 22
scheduled for December 15, 2025, and makes the following findings 23 and orders without
needing to consult with the parties any 24 further.

25 I. SERVICE OF PROCESS 26 All defendants have been served, and no further service 27 is
permitted without leave of court, good cause having been shown 28 1 under Federal Rule of Civil
Procedure 16(b). 2 II. JOINDER OF PARTIES/AMENDMENTS 3 No further joinder of parties or
amendments to 4 pleadings will be permitted except with leave of court, good 5 cause having been
shown under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 6 16(b).

See Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604 7 (9th Cir. 1992). 8 III.
JURISDICTION/VENUE 9 Jurisdiction in this Song-Beverly action is predicated 10 upon 28
U.S.C. § 1332, because the parties are of diverse 11 citizenship and the amount in controversy
exceeds \$75,000. 12 Plaintiff disputes subject matter jurisdiction and may file a 13 motion to
remand so it is procedurally consistent with the 14 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Venue is undisputed and hereby 15 found to be proper. 16 IV. DISCOVERY 17 The parties agree
to serve the initial disclosures 18 required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(1) on or
before 19 January 15, 2026. 20 The parties shall disclose experts and produce reports 21 in
accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2) by no 22 later than January 11, 2027.

With regard to expert testimony 23 intended solely for rebuttal, those experts shall be disclosed 24
and reports produced in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil 25 Procedure 26(a)(2) on or before
February 16, 2027. 26 All discovery, including depositions for preservation 27 of testimony, is left
open, save and except that it shall be so 28 conducted as to be completed by March 16, 2027.

The word 1 “completed” means that all discovery shall have been conducted so 2 that all
depositions have been taken and any disputes relevant to 3 discovery shall have been resolved by
appropriate order if 4 necessary and, where discovery has been ordered, the order has 5 been
obeyed. All motions to compel discovery must be noticed on 6 the magistrate judge’s calendar in
accordance with the local 7 rules of this court and so that such motions may be heard (and 8 any
resulting orders obeyed) not later than March 16, 2027.

9 V. MOTION HEARING SCHEDULE 10 All motions, except motions for continuances,
temporary 11 restraining orders, or other emergency applications, shall be 12 filed on or before
March 29, 2027. All motions shall be noticed 13 for the next available hearing date. Counsel are

cautioned to 14 refer to the local rules regarding the requirements for noticing 15 and opposing such motions on the court's regularly scheduled law 16 and motion calendar.

17 VI. FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE 18 The Final Pretrial Conference is set for June 14, 2027, 19 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom No. 5. The conference shall be 20 attended by at least one of the attorneys who will conduct the 21 trial for each of the parties and by any unrepresented parties. 22 Counsel for all parties are to be fully prepared for 23 trial at the time of the Pretrial Conference, with no matters 24 remaining to be accomplished except production of witnesses for 25 oral testimony.

Counsel shall file separate pretrial statements, 26 and are referred to Local Rules 281 and 282 relating to the 27 contents of and time for filing those statements. In addition to 28 those subjects listed in Local Rule 281(b), the parties are to 1 provide the court with: (1) a plain, concise statement which 2 identifies every non-discovery motion which has been made to the 3 court, and its resolution; (2) a list of the remaining claims as 4 against each defendant; and (3) the estimated number of trial 5 days.

6 In providing the plain, concise statements of 7 undisputed facts and disputed factual issues contemplated by 8 Local Rule 281(b)(3)-(4), the parties shall emphasize the claims 9 that remain at issue, and any remaining affirmatively pled 10 defenses thereto. If the case is to be tried to a jury, the 11 parties shall also prepare a succinct statement of the case, 12 which is appropriate for the court to read to the jury.

13 VII. TRIAL SETTING 14 The jury trial is set for August 17, 2027 at 9:00 a.m. 15 The parties estimate that the trial will last five to seven days. 16 VIII. SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE 17 A Settlement Conference with a magistrate judge will be 18 set at the time of the Pretrial Conference. Counsel are 19 instructed to have a principal with full settlement authority 20 present at the Settlement Conference or to be fully authorized to 21 settle the matter on any terms.

At least seven calendar days 22 before the Settlement Conference counsel for each party shall 23 submit a confidential Settlement Conference Statement for review 24 by the settlement judge. The Settlement Conference Statements 25 shall not be filed and will not otherwise be disclosed to the 26 trial judge. 27 IX. MODIFICATIONS TO SCHEDULING ORDER 28 Any requests to modify the dates or terms of this eee II IIE IEE IEE IIE III EEE EEE I EE EO 1 Scheduling Order, except requests to change the date of the 2 trial, may be heard and decided by the assigned Magistrate Judge.

3 All requests to change the trial date shall be heard and decided 4 only by the undersigned judge. 5 IT IS SO ORDERED.. 6 | Dated: December 1, 2025 tle A, fh be WILLIAM B. SHUBB 7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

