

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

**Krista Freitag, Court-appointed Permanent Receiver for ANI
Development, LLC, American National Investments, Inc., and Their
Subsidiaries and Affiliates v. Sarah Christine Peterson, Claire
Laureen Peterson, Del Mar Capital Investors, LLC, and Does 1–10**

Freitag · No. 3:25-cv-02257-TWR-AHG · Decided October 29, 2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Southern District of California granted the parties’ joint motion to continue the early neutral evaluation and case management conference. The Court reset both proceedings for December 8, 2025, established deadlines for confidential settlement statements and initial disclosures, and set mandatory videoconference and settlement-authority requirements.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Allison H. Goddard
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Southern District of California
DECIDED	October 29, 2025
DOCKET	3:25-cv-02257-TWR-AHG
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	The parties jointly moved to continue the Early Neutral Evaluation and Case Management Conference scheduled for November 5, 2025.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court applied a good-cause standard and exercised broad discretion in determining whether to continue the ENE and CMC.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Likely nonprecedential case-management order; no precedential designation appears in the opinion.
PARTIES	Krista Freitag, Court-appointed permanent receiver for ANI Development, LLC, American National Investments, Inc., and their subsidiaries and affiliates v. Sarah Christine Peterson, Claire Laureen Peterson, Del Mar Capital Investors, LLC, Does 1–10

TOPICS

mediation

sanctions

civil procedure

commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the parties demonstrated good cause to continue the Early Neutral Evaluation and Case Management Conference.
2. What procedures and deadlines should govern the continued Early Neutral Evaluation, Case Management Conference, settlement-authority requirements, ENE statements, initial disclosures, videoconference participation, and sanctions.

HOLDINGS

1. The parties demonstrated good cause for continuing the ENE and CMC because lead counsel's conflicting 10-to-12-day jury trial would impair counsel's ability to prepare adequately for the ENE.
2. The court reset the ENE and CMC for December 8, 2025, ordered attendance by parties and responsible counsel, required full and complete settlement authority, required confidential ENE statements by December 2, 2025, extended the initial-disclosure deadline to November 26, 2025, and required compliance with the specified videoconference procedures.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Parties seeking to continue an ENE must demonstrate good cause.” (at 1)

“Full authority to settle means that a person must be authorized to fully explore settlement options and to agree at that time to any settlement terms acceptable to the parties.” (at 2)

“Counsel appearing without their clients (whether or not counsel has been given settlement authority) will be subject to immediate imposition of sanctions.” (at 6)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

The parties' ENE and CMC were scheduled for November 5, 2025. Lead counsel for the Peterson Defendants had another matter set for a 10-to-12-day jury trial beginning November 7, and represented that trial preparation would prevent adequate preparation of the required ENE statements. The parties jointly requested a continuance and supplied mutually available dates.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The case was pending in the Southern District of California before a scheduled Early Neutral Evaluation and Case Management Conference. The court granted the parties' joint motion to continue those proceedings because lead counsel for the Peterson Defendants had a conflicting 10-to-12-day jury trial beginning shortly after the scheduled conference.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc., 975 F.2d 604, 607, 609 (9th Cir. 1992)
- Olvera v. Citibank, N.A., No. 25-cv-789-H-AHG, 2025 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 117769, at *2, *4-*5 (S.D. Cal. June 19, 2025)
- Ahanchian v. Xenon Pictures, Inc., 624 F.3d 1253, 1259 (9th Cir. 2010)
- Heileman Brewing Co., Inc. v. Joseph Oat Corp., 871 F.2d 648, 653 (7th Cir. 1989)
- Pitman v. Brinker Int'l, Inc., 216 F.R.D. 481, 485-86 (D. Ariz. 2003)
- Nick v. Morgan's Foods, Inc., 270 F.3d 590, 595-97 (8th Cir. 2001)

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/federal/united-states-district-court-for-the-southern-district-of-ca/2025/krista-freitag-court-appointed-permanent-receiver-for-ani-qvhypsw0>