

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA

Carbon Autonomous Robotic Systems Inc. v. Laudando & Associates
LLC

No. 2:24-cv-03012-DAD-JDP (E.D. Cal. June 17, 2025) · No. 2:24-cv-03012-DAD-JDP · Decided June 18,
2025

SUMMARY

The United States District Court for the Eastern District of California granted the plaintiff’s motion to stay the action while the corporate defendant obtained substitute counsel. The court stayed the case through July 1, 2025, vacated all other dates and deadlines, and directed the parties to file a joint status report by July 16, 2025.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Dale A. Drozd
JURISDICTION	United States District Court for the Eastern District of California
DECIDED	June 18, 2025
DOCKET	2:24-cv-03012-DAD-JDP
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Plaintiff moved to stay the patent infringement action while the corporate defendant obtained substitute counsel.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The court exercised its discretion by weighing the possible damage from a stay, the hardship or inequity of requiring a party to proceed, and the orderly course of justice, including the effect on the issues, proof, and questions of law.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	unpublished and nonprecedential district court order

TOPICS

- civil procedure
- patent infringement
- patent law
- commercial litigation

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- patent litigation
- commercial litigation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the court should stay the action while the corporate defendant obtains substitute counsel.
2. Whether the competing interests under the governing stay factors favored staying the action through July 1, 2025.

HOLDINGS

1. A court may exercise its inherent authority to stay proceedings to control the disposition of matters on its docket and promote economy of time and effort for the court, counsel, and litigants.
2. The stay factors favored temporarily staying the action because the possible damage from the stay was minimal, while the orderly course of justice and economy of time and effort strongly favored allowing the unrepresented corporate defendant to obtain substitute counsel.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in every court to control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants.” (at 1)

“Accordingly, plaintiff’s motion to stay this action (Doc. No. 78) is granted. This action is STAYED through July 1, 2025, to permit defendant to obtain substitute counsel by the deadline previously set by the court.” (at 2)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Carbon Autonomous Robotic Systems Inc. was required under the modified scheduling order to serve a disclosure of asserted claims and infringement contentions by June 20, 2025. Defendant Laudando & Associates LLC was then unrepresented and was unable to proceed in the action without counsel. Plaintiff sought a temporary stay to allow defendant to obtain substitute counsel.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The action was pending under a scheduling order requiring plaintiff to serve a disclosure of asserted claims and infringement contentions by June 20, 2025. Defendant Laudando & Associates LLC was unrepresented, and plaintiff moved to stay the action because there was no counsel on whom to serve the required disclosures. The court granted the motion and stayed the action through July 1, 2025.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Landis v. North American Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254-55 (1936)
- Stone v. INS, 514 U.S. 386, 411 (1995) (Breyer, J., dissenting)
- Ernest Bock, LLC v. Steelman, 76 F.4th 827, 842 (9th Cir. 2023)

- CMAX, Inc. v. Hall, 300 F.2d 265, 268 (9th Cir. 1962)
- Leyva v. Certified Grocers of California, Ltd., 593 F.2d 857, 864 (9th Cir. 1979)
- Abercrombie v. Vestra Labs LLC, No. 2:23-cv-01529-KJM-AC, ECF No. 21

OPINION

Carbon Autonomous Robotic Systems Inc. v. Laudando & Assoc.

PER CURIAM.

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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

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11 CARBON AUTONOMOUS ROBOTIC No. 2:24-cv-03012-DAD-JDP
SYSTEMS INC.,

12 Plaintiff,

13 ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF’S MOTION

v. TO STAY THIS ACTION

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LAUDANDO & ASSOCIATES LLC, (Doc. No. 78)

15 Defendant. 16

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LAUDANDO & ASSOCIATES LLC,

18 Counter Claimant, 19 v. 20

CARBON AUTONOMOUS ROBOTIC

21

SYSTEMS INC.,

22 Counter Defendant. 23 24 This matter is before the court on plaintiff’s motion to stay this
action while defendant 25 obtains substitute counsel. (Doc. No. 78.) Specifically, plaintiff
contends that a stay is 26 appropriate because under the court’s scheduling order as modified (Doc.
Nos. 37, 55-1, 56), it is 27 required to serve a disclosure of asserted claims and infringement
contentions by June 20, 2025, 28 //// 1 but—because defendant Laudando & Associates LLC is
currently unrepresented—“there is 2 nobody on whom to serve such contentions and documents.”
(Doc. No. 78-1 at 2.) 3 “[T]he power to stay proceedings is incidental to the power inherent in
every court to 4 control the disposition of the causes on its docket with economy of time and effort
for itself, for 5 counsel, and for litigants.” Landis v. N. Am. Co., 299 U.S. 248, 254 (1936); accord
Stone v. INS, 6 514 U.S. 386, 411 (1995) (Breyer, J., dissenting) (“[W]e have long recognized that
courts have 7 inherent power to stay proceedings and ‘to control the disposition of the causes on
its docket with 8 economy of time and effort for itself, for counsel, and for litigants.’”) (quoting
Landis, 299 U.S. 9 at 254); Ernest Bock, LLC v. Steelman, 76 F.4th 827, 842 (9th Cir. 2023).

Deciding whether to 10 grant a stay pending the outcome of other proceedings “calls for the exercise of judgment, which 11 must weigh competing interests and maintain an even balance.” Landis, 299 U.S. at 254–55. 12 In considering whether to grant a stay, this court must weigh several factors, including 13 “[1] the possible damage which may result from the granting of a stay, [2] the hardship or 14 inequity which a party may suffer in being required to go forward, and [3] the orderly course of 15 justice measured in terms of the simplifying or complicating of issues, proof, and questions of law 16 which could be expected to result from a stay.” CMAX, Inc. v. Hall, 300 F.2d 265, 268 (9th Cir. 17 1962) (citing Landis, 299 U.S. at 254–55); see also Ernest Bock, LLC, 76 F.4th at 842. A stay 18 may be granted regardless of whether the separate proceedings are “judicial, administrative, or 19 arbitral in character, and does not require that the issues in such proceedings are necessarily 20 controlling of the action before the court.” Leyva v. Certified Grocers of Cal., Ltd., 593 F.2d 857, 21 864 (9th Cir. 1979). 22 The court concludes that the possible damage which may result from the granting of a stay 23 here is minimal in light of defendant currently lacking representation. Furthermore, the court 24 concludes that “the orderly course of justice,” CMAX, 300 F.2d at 268, and considerations of 25 “economy of time and effort for [the court], for counsel, and for litigants,” Landis, 299 U.S. at 26 254, weigh strongly in favor of staying this action given that defendant is not otherwise able to 27 proceed in this matter without counsel. See L.R. 183(a); see also Abercrombie v. Vestra Labs 28 // 1 LLC, No. 2:23-cv-01529-KJM-AC, ECF No. 21 (staying action where the corporate defendant 2 | was unrepresented to permit the defendant to obtain substitute counsel). 3 Accordingly, plaintiff’s motion to stay this action (Doc. No. 78) is granted. This action 1s 4 | STAYED through July 1, 2025, to permit defendant to obtain substitute counsel by the deadline 5 | previously set by the court. (Doc. No. 75.) The stay will lift automatically on July 2, 2025 6 | without a further order of this court. The court directs the parties to file a joint status report 7 | regarding further scheduling by July 16, 2025. All other dates and deadlines are vacated. 8 IT IS SO ORDERED. | Dated: _ June 17, 2025
Dae A. 2, eyel

10 DALE A. DROZD

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

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