

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA**

Millard Wayne Bakers, Jr. v. R. Shahbazian

Bakers v. Shahbazian · No. 1:24-CV-01279-HBK · Decided August 18, 2025

SUMMARY

This document is a Case Management Scheduling Order issued in Baker v. Shahbazian by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of California. It establishes limits and procedures for written discovery and depositions and sets deadlines for exhaustion challenges, non-expert discovery, settlement reporting, and dispositive motions. The order is dated August 18, 2025, and was issued by Magistrate Judge Helena M. Barch-Kuchta.

OPINION

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 9 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF
CALIFORNIA 10 11 MILLARD WAYNE BAKERS, JR., Case No. 1:24-CV-01279-HBK 12
Plaintiff, CASE MANAGEMENT SCHEDULING ORDER 13 v. Response to Operative
Complaint: 09/08/2025 14 R. SHAHBAZIAN, Exhaustion-Based Motion: 11/18/2025 15
Defendants. Complete Non-Expert Discovery: 05/18/2026 16 Settlement Report: 06/18/2026
Dispositive Motion(s): 08/18/2026 17 Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 1, 16, and 26-
36, the Court sets forth the 18 following case management deadlines and discovery procedures for
this case as follows: 19 I. Written Discovery: 20 Discovery requests shall be served by the parties
in compliance with Rule 5 of the Federal 21 Rules of Civil Procedure (Fed.

R. Civ. P.) and Eastern District of California Local Rule 135. 22 Discovery requests and responses
shall not be filed with the Court unless required by Eastern 23 District California Local Rules
250.2, 250.3 and 250.4. Absent leave of Court, discovery is 24 limited as follows: 25 A. The
parties are limited to 15 Interrogatories (an interrogatory is a question sent by one 26 party to
another, to be answered under oath, in order to clarify matters of fact and “may relate to 27 any
matter that may be inquired into under Rule 26(b).” Fed.

R. Civ. P. 33(a)(2); 28 1 B. The parties are limited to 15 Requests for Admission (a request for
admission is a 2 written request that the opposing party “admit, for purposes of the pending action
only, the truth 3 of any matters within the scope of Rule 26(b)(1)” that relate to “(A) facts, the
application of law 4 to fact, or opinions about either; [or] (B) the genuineness of any described
documents.” Fed.

R. 5 Civ. P. 36(a)(1)); 6 C. The parties are limited to 15 Requests for Production (a request for
production is a 7 written request that the opposing party produce documents or electronically

stored information, 8 “including writings, drawings, graphs, charts, photographs, sound recordings, images, and other 9 data or data compilations,” or a written request that the opposing party produce any designated 10 tangible things.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a)(1)). 11 Responses to documents shall include all documents within a party’s possession, custody, 12 or control. Fed. R. Civ. P. 34(a)(1). Documents are deemed within a party’s possession, custody, 13 or control if the party has actual possession, custody, or control thereof, or the legal right to 14 obtain the property on demand. *Allen v. Woodford*, 2007 WL 309945, at *2 (E.D.

Cal. 2007). 15 Responses to written discovery, including the production of documents, shall be due 16 within forty-five (45) days after the request is served. Boilerplate objections are disfavored and 17 may be summarily overruled by the Court. All discovery must be completed by the above-18 referenced discovery cut-off date. 19 The parties are required to act in good faith during discovery and are required to meet and 20 confer, via correspondence or telephonically, to resolve any discovery dispute prior to filing any 21 discovery motion.

Any motions to compel should be filed promptly after the non-receipt or 22 receipt of the objectionable discovery; and, in all cases no later than fourteen (14) days before the 23 non-expert discovery deadline expires. Failure to timely file a motion to compel will result in a 24 waiver of any objections to discovery.

The moving party must include certification that they have 25 complied with their duty to meet and confer. The failure to include a certification or show good 26 cause for failure to meet and confer will result in the motion being stricken.

The fact that Plaintiff 27 is incarcerated does not constitute good cause to excuse either parties’ duty to fulfill the meet and 28 confer requirement. 1 II. Depositions 2 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(a)(2)(B), Defendants may depose Plaintiff and any other 3 witness confined in a prison upon condition that, at least fourteen (14) days before such a 4 deposition, Defendants serve all parties with the notice required by Rule 30(b)(1).

Pursuant to 5 Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(4), the parties may take any deposition under this section by video 6 conference, relieving the court reporter of the requirement to be in the physical presence of the 7 witness under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 28(a)(1) during that deposition. Nothing herein 8 forecloses a party from bringing a motion for protective order pursuant to Fed.

R. Civ. P. 26(c)(1) 9 if deemed necessary. 10 Disagreement with any directive of security staff at the institution or prison at which the 11 deposition is scheduled is not a basis for the Plaintiff to refuse to answer questions. Further, the 12 failure of Plaintiff to attend, be sworn, or answer appropriate questions may result in sanctions, 13 including terminating the action as provided in Fed.

R. Civ. P. 37. 14 III. Case Management Deadlines 15 The following deadlines shall govern this action: 16 A. Deadline to challenge exhaustion of administrative remedies: November 18, 2025. 17 B. Deadline to complete non-expert discovery: May 18, 2026. Any motions to compel 18 must be filed no later than fourteen (14) days before the non-expert discovery deadline.

The 19 motion(s) should include a copy of the request(s) and any response to the request(s) at issue. The 20 responding party may file a response to the motion no later than twenty-one days from the date 21 the motion is filed. If, after reviewing the motion(s) and response(s), the Court determines that a 22 hearing will be helpful, the Court will set a hearing on the motion(s) to compel.

23 C. Deadline to Advise of Settlement Potential: Defendant(s) shall confer with Plaintiff,¹ 24 and no later than June 18, 2026, shall file a report indicating each party's position on whether a 25 further settlement conference would be productive.² 26 D. Deadline to file pre-trial dispositive motions: August 18, 2026.

The deadline to file 27 1 The parties may confer by letter or telephonically. 28 2 If the parties request a settlement conference, the Court will stay the remaining deadlines. 1 | oppositions to dispositive motions, including motions for summary judgment, is thirty (30) days 2 | from the date the motion is filed.

The deadline to file replies to oppositions is fourteen (14) days 3 | from the date the opposition is filed. If a party needs an extension to these deadlines, that party 4 | may file a motion for an extension of time. 5 E. In addition to complying with the applicable rules, a motion and incorporated 6 | memorandum and any responses in opposition shall not exceed twenty-five (25) pages in length, 7 | exclusive of exhibits.

A moving party's reply brief shall not exceed seven (7) pages in length. A 8 || party must move and show good cause for exceeding these page limitations before filing a motion 9 | in excess of these pages. Any motions filed in excess of these page limitations may be struck. 10 F. Defendants shall lodge a Word version of any dispositive motion to chambers at: 11 | hbkorders@caed.uscourts.gov and shall mail or deliver courtesy hard-copies of any motions with 12 | exhibits that exceed twenty-five (25) pages in length to the Clerk of Court at 2500 Tulare St., 13 | Fresno, CA 93721 and marked "to the Attention of: HBK Chambers." Courtesy hard-copies shall 14 | reflect the CM/ECF document numbers and pagination.

15 IV. Further Dates and Deadlines 16 If this case proceeds after dispositive motions have been resolved, or if no dispositive 17 | motions are filed, the Court will set expert disclosure deadlines,[?] a telephonic trial confirmation 18 | hearing, pretrial deadlines, and a trial date. 19 V. Effect of This Order 20 The deadlines set forth above are firm and will only be extended upon a showing of good 21 | cause.

Eleventh hours motions, i.e., motions filed on the eve of the deadline expiration, to extend 22 |
adeadline will only be granted only upon a showing of extraordinary circumstances. *3 | Dated: _
August 18, 2025 Mihaw. Wh. foareh fackte 24 HELENA M. BARCH-KUCHTA 35 UNITED
STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE 26 27 3 While the Court is not setting a deadline for expert
disclosures at this time, the parties may provide their 28 expert disclosures at any time.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28