

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
WACO DIVISION

FILED

February 23, 2021
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

BY: Mark Borchardt
DEPUTY

[Plaintiff],

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v.

[Defendant].

CIVIL ACTION NO.
JUDGE ALBRIGHT

ORDER GOVERNING PROCEEDINGS – PATENT CASE

This Order shall govern proceedings in this case. The following deadlines are hereby set:

1. This case is SET for a telephonic Rule 16 Case Management Conference on _____ at _____. Participants shall dial into the following number 5 minutes before the scheduled time: **866.434.5269; access code 967-8090**. Lead counsel for each party, and all unrepresented parties, shall be present. Client representatives are welcome to attend, but such attendance is not required. The Court expects the parties to be prepared to discuss any pre-*Markman* issues raised in the parties' joint Case Readiness Status Report.
2. (Not later than 7 days before the CMC). Plaintiff shall serve preliminary infringement contentions in the form of a chart setting forth where in the accused product(s) each element of the asserted claim(s) are found. Plaintiff shall also identify the priority date (*i.e.* the earliest date of invention) for each asserted claim and produce: (1) all documents evidencing conception and reduction to practice for each claimed invention, and (2) a copy of the file history for each patent in suit.
3. (Two weeks after the CMC). The Parties shall submit an agreed Scheduling Order. If the parties cannot agree, the parties shall submit a separate Joint Motion for entry of each Order briefly setting forth their respective positions on items where they cannot agree. Absent agreement of the parties, the Plaintiff shall be responsible for the timely submission of this and other Joint filings.
4. (Seven weeks after the CMC). Defendant shall serve preliminary invalidity contentions in the form of (1) a chart setting forth where in the prior art references each element of the asserted claim(s) are found, (2) an identification of any limitations the Defendant contends are indefinite or lack written description under section 112, and (3) an identification of any claims the Defendant contends are directed to ineligible subject matter under section 101. Defendant shall also produce (1) all prior art referenced in the invalidity contentions, (2) technical documents, including software where applicable,

sufficient to show the operation of the accused product(s), and (3) summary, annual sales information for the accused product(s) for the two years preceding the filing of the Complaint,¹ unless the parties agree to some other timeframe.

DISCOVERY

Except with regard to venue, jurisdictional, and claim construction-related discovery, all other discovery is stayed until after the *Markman* hearing. Notwithstanding this general stay of discovery, the Court will permit limited discovery by agreement of the parties, or upon request, where exceptional circumstances warrant. For example, if discovery outside the United States is contemplated, the Court will be inclined to allow such discovery to commence before the *Markman* hearing.

Following the *Markman* hearing, the following discovery limits will apply to this case. The Court will consider reasonable requests to adjust these limits should circumstances warrant.

1. Interrogatories: 30 per side²
2. Requests for Admission: 45 per side
3. Requests for Production: 75 per side
4. Fact Depositions: 70 hours per side (for both party and non-party witnesses combined)
5. Expert Depositions: 7 hours per report³

Electronically Stored Information. As a preliminary matter, the Court will not require general search and production of email or other electronically stored information (ESI), absent a showing of good cause. If a party believes targeted email/ESI discovery is necessary, it shall propose a procedure identifying custodians and search terms it believes the opposing party should search. The opposing party can oppose, or propose an alternate plan. If the parties cannot agree, they shall contact chambers to schedule a call with the Court to discuss their respective positions.

DISCOVERY DISPUTES

A party may not file a Motion to Compel discovery unless: (1) lead counsel have met and conferred in good faith to try to resolve the dispute, and (2) the party has contacted the Court's law clerk (with opposing counsel) to arrange a telephone conference with the Court to summarize the dispute and the parties respective positions. Summaries shall be neutral and non-argumentative. After hearing from the parties, the Court will determine if further briefing is required.

¹ With regard to expired patents, the sales information shall be provided for the two years preceding expiration.

² A "side" shall mean the plaintiff (or related plaintiffs suing together) on the one hand, and the defendant (or related defendants sued together) on the other hand. In the event that the Court consolidates related cases for pretrial purposes, with regard to calculating limits imposed by this Order, a "side" shall be interpreted as if the cases were proceeding individually. For example, in consolidated cases the plaintiff may serve up to 30 interrogatories on each defendant, and each defendant may serve up to 30 interrogatories on the plaintiff.

³ For example, if a single technical expert submits reports on both infringement and invalidity, he or she may be deposed for up to 14 hours in total.

PROTECTIVE ORDER

Pending entry of the final Protective Order, the Court issues the following interim Protective Order to govern the disclosure of confidential information in this matter:

If any document or information produced in this matter is deemed confidential by the producing party and if the Court has not entered a protective order, until a protective order is issued by the Court, the document shall be marked “confidential” or with some other confidential designation (such as “Confidential – Outside Attorneys Eyes Only”) by the disclosing party and disclosure of the confidential document or information shall be limited to each party’s outside attorney(s) of record and the employees of such outside attorney(s).

If a party is not represented by an outside attorney, disclosure of the confidential document or information shall be limited to one designated “in house” attorney, whose identity and job functions shall be disclosed to the producing party 5 days prior to any such disclosure, in order to permit any motion for protective order or other relief regarding such disclosure. The person(s) to whom disclosure of a confidential document or information is made under this local rule shall keep it confidential and use it only for purposes of litigating the case.

CLAIM CONSTRUCTION ISSUES

Terms for Construction. Based on the Court’s experience, the Court believes that it should have presumed limits on the number of claim terms to be construed. The “presumed limit” is the maximum number of terms that each side may request the Court to construe without further leave of Court. If the Court grants leave for the additional terms to be construed, depending on the complexity and number of terms, the Court may split the *Markman* hearing into multiple hearings.

The presumed limits based on the number of patents-in-suit are as follows:

Limits for Number of Claim Terms to be Construed

1-2 Patents	3-5 Patents	More than 5 Patents
8 terms	10 terms	12 terms

When the parties submit their joint claim construction statement, in addition to the term and the parties’ proposed constructions, the parties should indicate which party or side proposed that term, or if that was a joint proposal.

Claim Construction Briefing. The Court will require non-simultaneous claim construction briefing with the following default page limits; however, where exceptional circumstances warrant, the Court will consider reasonable requests to adjust these limits. These page limits shall also apply collectively for consolidated cases; however, the Court will consider reasonable

requests to adjust page limits in consolidated cases where circumstances warrant. In addition, the Court is very familiar with the law of claim construction and encourages the parties to forego lengthy recitations of the underlying legal authorities and instead focus on the substantive issues unique to each case.

Unless otherwise agreed to by the parties, the default order of terms in the parties' briefs shall be based on 1) the patent number (lowest to highest), the claim number (lowest to highest), and order of appearance within the lowest number patent and claim. An example order may be as follows:

1. 10,000,000 Patent, Claim 1, Term 1
2. 10,000,000 Patent, Claim 1, Term 2 (where Term 2 appears later in the claim than does Term 1)
3. 10,000,000 Patent, Claim 2, Term 3 (where Term 3 appears later in the claim than does Terms 2 and 3)
4. 10,000,001 Patent, Claim 1, Term 4
5. 10,000,001 Patent, Claim 3, Term 5
6. 10,000,002 Patent, Claim 2, Term 6

To the extent that the same or similar terms appear in multiple claims, those same or similar terms should be ordered according to the lowest patent number, lowest claim number, and order of appearance within the patent and claim.

Page Limits for *Markman* Briefs

Brief	1-2 Patents	3-5 Patents	More than 5 Patents
Opening (Plaintiff)	20 pages	30 pages	30 pages, plus 5 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 45 pages
Response (Defendant)	20 pages	30 pages	30 pages, plus 5 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 45 pages
Reply (Plaintiff)	10 pages	15 pages	15 pages, plus 2 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 21 pages
Sur-Reply (Defendant)	10 pages	15 pages	15 pages, plus 2 additional pages for each patent over 5 up to a maximum of 21 pages

Technology Tutorials and Conduct of the *Markman* Hearing

Technology tutorials are optional. If the parties would like to submit one, the tutorial should be in electronic form, with voiceovers, and submitted at least 10 days before the *Markman* hearing. If a party believes a live tutorial would be of particular benefit to the Court, the parties should contact the Court to request a Zoom or telephonic tutorial so that the tutorial can be scheduled to occur at least a week before the *Markman* hearing. In general, tutorials should be: (1) directed to the underlying technology (rather than argument related to infringement or validity), and (2) limited to 15 minutes per side. For the Court's convenience, the tutorial may be recorded, but will not be part of the record. Parties may not rely on or cite to the tutorial in other aspects of the litigation.

The Court generally sets aside one half day for the *Markman* hearing; however, the Court is open to reserving more or less time, depending on the complexity of the case and input from the parties. As a general rule, the party opposing the Court's preliminary construction shall go first. If both parties are unwilling to accept the Court's preliminary construction, the Plaintiff shall typically go first.

GENERAL ISSUES

1. The Court will entertain reasonable requests to streamline the case schedule and discovery and encourages the parties to contact the Court's law clerk (with opposing counsel) to arrange a call with the Court when such interaction might help streamline the case.
2. To the extent the parties need to email the Court, the parties should use the following email address: TXWDml_LawClerks_JudgeAlbright@txwd.uscourts.gov.
3. The Court is generally willing to extend the response to the Complaint up to 45 days if agreed by the parties. However, longer extensions are disfavored and will require good cause.
4. Plaintiff must file a notice informing the Court when an IPR is filed, the expected time for an institution decision, and the expected time for a final written decision, within two weeks of the filing of the IPR.
5. With regard to any Motion to Transfer, the following page limits and briefing schedule shall apply:
 - a. Opening – 15 pages
 - b. Response – 15 pages, due 14 days after the Opening brief
 - c. Reply – 5 pages, due 7 days after the Response brief
6. After the trial date is set, the Court will not move the trial date except in extreme situations. To the extent a party believes that the circumstances warrant continuing the trial date, the parties are directed to contact the Court to request a telephonic hearing.

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