

April 14, 2022

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS

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

BY: J. Galindo-Beaver
DEPUTY

STANDING ORDER GOVERNING PROCEEDINGS (OGP) 4.1—PATENT CASES

This OGP governs proceedings in all patent cases pending before the undersigned or Judge Derek T. Gilliland and takes effect upon entry in all patent cases, except where noted. If there are conflicts between this OGP and prior versions in existing cases that the parties are unable to resolve, the parties are encouraged to contact the Court for guidance via email to the Court’s law clerk.

Parties should generally email any inquiries to the Court’s law clerk. The Court’s voicemail is not checked regularly. Email is the preferred contact method.

Parties should generally use the following email address that includes the Court’s law clerks for both Judge Albright and Judge Gilliland:

TXWDml_LawClerks_WA_JudgeAlbright&Gilliland@txwd.uscourts.gov.

Messages directed only to Judge Albright’s law clerks may be sent to:

TXWDml_LawClerks_WA_JudgeAlbright@txwd.uscourts.gov.

Messages directed only to Judge Gilliland’s law clerks may be sent to:

TXWDml_NoJudge_Chambers_WA_JudgeGilliland@txwd.uscourts.gov.

I. NOTICE OF READINESS¹

In all patent cases pending before the undersigned or Judge Gilliland, the parties are directed to jointly file the Case Readiness Status Report (“CRSR”) in the format attached as Appendix B: (a) within 7 days after the Defendant (or at least one Defendant among a group of related Defendants sued together) has responded to the initial pleadings in cases where there are no CRSR Related Cases, or (b) when there are CRSR Related Cases, within 7 days after the last Defendant (or last Defendant group when at least one Defendant among the group has responded) among the CRSR Related Cases has responded to the initial pleadings. The CRSR shall be filed in each case and identify all other CRSR Related Cases. For this Order, cases shall be considered CRSR Related Cases when they meet both criteria: (1) the cases are filed within 30 days after the first case is filed, and (2) the cases share at least one common asserted patent.

The parties shall meet and confer before jointly filing the CRSR. Plaintiff shall have responsibility for filing the CRSR on time. If the parties have any pre-*Markman* issues needing resolution, the parties shall email the Court a joint submission of the parties’ positions after filing the CRSR so the Court can consider whether to hold a hearing to resolve these issues. If the

¹ This supersedes the March 7, 2022 Standing Order Regarding Notice of Readiness for Patent Cases.

parties do not have any pre-*Markman* issues needing resolution, then the parties need not email the CRSR to the Court.

The Case Management Conference (“CMC”) shall be deemed to occur 14 days after the filing date of the CRSR. If the CRSRs in CRSR Related Cases are not all submitted on the same date, the CMC shall be deemed to occur 14 days after the last CRSR in those CRSR Related Cases is filed. The Court intends to coordinate the CRSR Related Cases on the same schedule with a single *Markman* hearing, so the parties should plan accordingly. In all cases, the *Markman* hearing shall be initially scheduled for 23 weeks after the CMC and should be included in the parties’ proposed Scheduling Order in accordance with this Order.

II. GENERAL DEADLINES

The following deadlines apply:

1. Patent cases shall be set for a Rule 16 CMC in accordance with the preceding section.
2. Not later than 7 days before the CMC. The plaintiff shall serve preliminary infringement contentions chart setting forth where in the accused product(s) each element of the asserted claim(s) are found. The 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 file a **motion** to enter an agreed Scheduling Order that generally tracks the exemplary schedule attached as Exhibit A to this OGP, which should suit most cases. If the parties cannot agree, the parties shall submit a joint motion for entry of a Scheduling Order briefly setting forth their scheduling disagreement. Absent agreement of the parties, the plaintiff shall be responsible for the timely submission of this and other joint filings. When filing any Scheduling Order, the parties shall also jointly send an editable copy to the Court’s law clerk.
4. Seven weeks after the CMC. The 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 § 112, and (3) an identification of any claims the defendant contends are directed to ineligible subject matter under § 101. The § 101 contention shall (1) identify the alleged abstract idea, law of nature, and/or natural phenomenon in each challenged claim; (2) identify each claim element alleged to be well-understood, routine, and/or conventional; and (3) to the extent not duplicative of §§ 102/103 prior art contentions, prior art for the contention that claim elements are well-understood, routine, and/or conventional. The defendant shall also produce (1) all prior art referenced in the invalidity contentions, and (2) technical

documents, including software where applicable, sufficient to show the operation of the accused product(s).²

III. GENERAL DISCOVERY LIMITS

Except with regard to venue, jurisdictional, and claim construction-related discovery, all other discovery shall be 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 it. For example, if discovery outside the United States is contemplated via the Hague, the Court is inclined to allow such discovery to commence before the *Markman* hearing.

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

1. Interrogatories: 30 per side³
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 report⁴

Electronically Stored Information. As a preliminary matter, the Court will not require general search and production of email or other electronically stored information (ESI) related to email (such as metadata), 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 the Court in accordance with the procedures below, to discuss their respective positions.

IV. DISCOVERY DISPUTES

Procedure. 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 to summarize the dispute and the parties' respective positions. When

² To the extent it may promote early resolution, the Court encourages the parties to exchange license and sales information, but any such exchange is optional during the pre-*Markman* phase of the case.

³ 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. If the Court consolidates related cases for pretrial purposes, with regard to calculating limits imposed by this OGP, 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.

⁴ 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.

contacting the Court’s law clerk for discovery or procedural disputes, the following procedures shall apply.

If the parties remain at an impasse after lead counsel have met and conferred, the requesting party shall email a summary of the issue(s) and specific relief requested to all counsel of record. The summary of the issue shall not exceed 500 words for one issue or a combined 1,000 words for multiple issues. The responding party has 3 days thereafter to provide an email response, also not to exceed 500 words for one issue or a combined 1,000 words for multiple issues. The specific relief requested should propose the exact language to be issued in a court order for each part of every disputed issue. The specific relief requested does not count toward the word limits. The Court encourages the parties to provide their submission in the following table format, which clearly identifies the disputed issues and specific relief requested.

Example:

Issue	Requesting Party’s Position	Responding Party’s Position
RFP 1: All sale records of the Product.	Responding Party didn’t produce anything. Responding Party keeps its sales records in a sales database. Relief: Order that “Responding Party must produce a copy of the sales database within 7 days.”	We found no sales records of the Product in the sales database. Relief: Find that “no documents responsive to RFP 5 exist” and deny Requesting Party’s relief.
ROG 5: Identify all employees who worked on the Product.	Responding Party only identified a subset of the employees. Relief: Order that “Responding Party is compelled to fully respond to ROG 5 by identifying the names and locations of the remaining employees who worked on Product by [date].”	We identified the relevant employees. The other employees are not relevant, and it is too burdensome to identify every employee. Relief: Order that “Responding Party need not identify any other employees in response to ROG 5.”

Once the opposing party provides its response, the requesting party shall email the summaries of the issues to the Court’s law clerk with opposing counsel copied. If a hearing is requested, the parties shall indicate in the email whether any confidential information will be presented. Thereafter, the Court will provide guidance to the parties regarding the dispute or arrange a telephonic or Zoom hearing. The hearing shall proceed in the sequence of issues charted.

Written Order.⁵ Within 7 days of the discovery hearing, the parties shall email a joint proposed order to the Court’s law clerk that includes the summaries of the issues, relief requested, and the

⁵ This supersedes the June 17, 2021 Standing Order for Discovery Hearings in Patent Cases.

parties' understanding of the Court's ruling. If one party disputes the language of the order, then that party shall send an editable version of the proposed order to the Court's law clerk with the disputed language in tracked changes.

V. VENUE & JURISDICTIONAL DISCOVERY

The Court hereby⁶ establishes the following presumptive limits on discovery related to venue and jurisdiction: each party is limited to 5 interrogatories, 10 Requests for Production, and 10 hours of deposition testimony. The time to respond to such discovery requests is reduced to 20 days. If a party believes these limits should be expanded, the party shall meet and confer with opposing counsel and if an impasse is reached, the requesting party is directed to contact the Court's law clerk for a telephonic hearing.

Venue or jurisdictional discovery automatically opens upon the filing of an initial venue or jurisdictional motion and shall be completed no later than 10 weeks after the filing of such motion. Parties shall file a notice of venue or jurisdictional discovery if the discovery will delay a response to a motion to transfer.

VI. MOTIONS FOR TRANSFER

This section applies to all cases filed on or after March 7, 2022. Otherwise, the Second Amended Standing Order Regarding Motions for Inter-District Transfer controls earlier-filed cases.

A motion to transfer anywhere may be filed within 3 weeks after the CMC or within 8 weeks of receiving or waiving service of the complaint, whichever is later. Thereafter, a movant must show good cause for any delay and seek leave of court. The deadline for plaintiff's response is 2 weeks after the completion of venue or jurisdictional discovery. The deadline for Defendant's reply is 2 weeks after the filing of the response.

The following page limits and briefing schedule apply to motions to transfer:

- a. Opening – 15 pages
- b. Response – 15 pages, due 14 days after the completion of venue or jurisdictional discovery, if such discovery is conducted; otherwise, 14 days after the Opening brief
- c. Reply – 5 pages, due 14 days after the Response brief

All parties who have filed a motion to transfer shall provide the Court with a status report indicating whether the motion has been fully briefed at each of the following times: 1) when the motion to transfer becomes ready for resolution, 2) at 4 weeks before the *Markman* hearing date if the motion to transfer remains unripe for resolution and 3) if there are multiple *Markman* hearings, the status report is due 6 weeks before the first scheduled *Markman* hearing. In addition, if by 1 week before the *Markman* hearing the Court has not ruled on any pending

⁶ This supersedes the June 8, 2021 Amended Standing Order Regarding Venue and Jurisdictional Discovery Limits for Patent Cases.

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