United States District Court
Central District of California

Polaris PowerLED Technologies, LLC, Plaintiff(s), v. Western Digital Corporation et al, Defendant(s),	Case CV 24-02864-ODW(MARx) **SCHEDULING AND CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER** **(JURY TRIAL)** **FOR CASES ASSIGNED TO JUDGE OTIS D. WRIGHT, II**

This Order is to advise the parties and counsel of the schedule that will govern this case. **THE SCHEDULING CONFERENCE IS VACATED. SEE THE LAST PAGE OF THIS ORDER FOR THE SPECIFIED DATES.** These dates and requirements are firm. The Court is unlikely to grant continuances unless the parties establish good cause through a concrete showing. Failure to complete discovery in a timely manner does not constitute good cause, nor does the fact that a settlement

conference is pending. Each side is limited to five motions in limine unless the Court orders otherwise.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. To secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action, all counsel are ordered to familiarize themselves with and follow the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Central District of California. This Court follows these rules and they will govern this litigation unless otherwise provided in this Order.

2. Because this Order in some respects modifies or adds to the Local Rules, counsel are advised to read it carefully. Counsel are advised to pay particular attention to the requirements of the Court with respect to the filing of motions for summary judgment and documents to be submitted at the Final Pretrial Conference and Trial.

3. The attorney attending any proceeding before this Court must be an attorney who is thoroughly knowledgeable about the case, responsible for the conduct of the litigation, and who has authority to enter into stipulations and to make admissions regarding all matters that the participants reasonably anticipate may be discussed. Lead counsel who will actually try the case must attend the Pretrial Conference. A party who is not represented must attend all proceedings in person.

4. **Courtesy Copies**: The Court requires courtesy copies only for Motions for Summary Judgment, motions necessitating a substantial evidentiary record, and pretrial documents. **FOR THESE FILINGS ONLY**, the Court requires one mandatory chambers copy of all related filed documents. USB flash drives should be submitted in lieu of compact discs. Chambers copies shall be delivered to and placed in the Judge's courtesy box, located outside of the Clerk's office on the 4th floor. Chambers copies of under seal documents shall be placed together in a manilla envelope labeled "UNDER SEAL." **Courtesy copies DO NOT need to be blue-backed. All courtesy**

copies of pretrial documents (e.g. witness lists, exhibit lists, pretrial conference orders, jury instructions, etc.) shall be three-hole punched and placed in a three-ring binder as described below.

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5. **Discovery Cut-Off**: Percipient and expert discovery shall be completed by the discovery cut-off dates specified on the last page of this Order. **THIS IS NOT THE DATE BY WHICH DISCOVERY REQUESTS MUST BE SERVED; IT IS THE DATE BY WHICH ALL DISCOVERY IS TO BE COMPLETED.**

Any motion challenging the adequacy of responses to discovery must be heard sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to permit the responses to be obtained before that date if the motion is granted. In an effort to provide further guidance to the parties, the Court notes the following:

a. **Depositions**: All depositions shall be scheduled to commence sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to permit their completion and to permit the deposing party enough time to bring any discovery motions concerning the deposition prior to the cut-off date.

b. **Written Discovery**: All interrogatories, requests for production of documents, and requests for admissions shall be served sufficiently in advance of the discovery cut-off date to permit the discovering party enough time to challenge (via motion practice) responses deemed to be deficient.

c. **Discovery Motions**: Whenever possible, the Court expects the parties to resolve discovery issues among themselves in a courteous, reasonable, and professional manner. The Magistrate Judge assigned to this case will rule on discovery motions. (The Magistrate Judge's initials follow the district judge's initials next to the case number on the first page of this Order.) Counsel are directed to contact the Magistrate Judge's courtroom deputy clerk (CRD) to schedule a hearing on any discovery related matters. Counsel should **NOT** deliver courtesy copies of these discovery documents to this Court.

d. **Expert Discovery**: If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, the parties shall designate affirmative experts to be called at trial and provide reports required by Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(a)(2)(B) **not later than eight weeks prior to the expert discovery cut-off date**. Rebuttal expert witnesses shall be designated and reports provided as required by Rule 26(a)(2)(B) **not later than five weeks prior to the expert discovery cut-off date**. Failure to timely comply with deadlines may result in the expert being excluded as a trial witness.

6. **Motions and Motion Cut-Off Date**

a. **General Provisions**: All law and motion matters, except for motions in limine, must be set for hearing (not filing) by the motion cut-off date specified on the last page of this Order. This Court hears motions in civil matters on **Mondays at 1:30 p.m.** The parties must adhere to the requirements of the Local Rules. *See* Local Rules 6-1 & 7-1 *et seq.* If any party does not oppose a motion, that party shall submit a written statement that it does not oppose the motion in accordance with Local Rule 7-9. The parties should note that failure to meet the time limits for filing an opposition set forth in Local Rule 7-9 shall be deemed consent to the granting of the motion. *See* Local Rule 7-12.

The title page of all motions must state the Pretrial Conference date and the Trial date. **Counsel must comply with Local Rule 7-3**, which requires counsel to engage in a pre-filing conference seven days in advance of filing any motion, "to discuss thoroughly . . . the substance of the contemplated motion and any potential resolution." Counsel must also comply with Local Rule 11-6, which requires counsel to include a certificate that the document complies with the type-volume limitation of Local Rule 11-6.1 and this Court.

Issues left undetermined after the passage of the motion cut-off date should be listed as issues for trial in the Final Pretrial Conference Order. As an exception to the above, motions in limine dealing with evidentiary matters may be heard pursuant to the schedule specified on the last page of this Order.

b. **Meeting and Conferring**: The Parties are required to meet and confer with opposing counsel prior to the filing of a motion or ex parte application under Local Rule 7-3. The Court notes that it is the responsibility of both parties to meet and confer in good faith on any disputed issues. The Court will impose sanctions, including monetary sanctions and/or the summary denial of a motion, if *either* party fails to meet and confer in good faith or fails to reasonably narrow the issues in dispute.

c. **Ex Parte Applications**: Ex parte practice is **discouraged**. *See Mission Power Eng'g v Co. v. Continental Cas. Co.*, 883 F. Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal. 1995). The Court will require strict adherence to proper ex parte procedures for any ex parte application filed with the Court. *Id.* at 492; *see also* Judge Wright's Standing Order and Local Rule 7-19. **Any opposition to an ex parte application must be filed within 24 hours.** Failure to submit a timely opposition constitutes consent to the granting of the application. *See* Local Rule 7-12. No party may file a reply unless expressly authorized by the Court. All ex parte applications will be decided on the papers and without a hearing unless the Court orders otherwise.

d. **Applications and Stipulations to Extend Time**: Applications to extend the time to file any required document or to continue any hearing, Pretrial Conference, or Trial date must set forth the following:

(i) The existing due date or hearing date, as well as the discovery cut-off date, the Pretrial Conference date, and the Trial date;

(ii) Specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting the extension; and

(iii) Whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and whether these requests were granted or denied by the Court.

The parties are cautioned that the Court will not necessarily grant an extension or continuance simply because all parties have stipulated to it.

e. **Joinder of Parties and Amendment of Pleadings**: The deadline for joining parties and amending pleadings is set forth on the last page of this Order.

Any motions to join other parties or for leave to amend the pleadings shall be set for hearing on or before this date. If any party moves to amend a pleading after this date, they must address the propriety of amendment under *Johnson v. Mammoth Recreations, Inc.*, 975 F.2d 604 (9th Cir. 1992).

In addition to the requirements of Local Rule 15-1, all motions to amend the pleadings shall: (1) state the effect of the amendment; (2) be serially numbered to differentiate the amendment from previous amendments; and (3) state the page, line number(s), and wording of any proposed change or addition of material. The parties shall deliver to Chambers a redlined version of the proposed amended pleading indicating all additions and deletions of material. The failure to comply with the above may result in denial of a motion to amend.

f. **Summary Judgment Motions**: Parties need not wait until the motion cutoff to bring motions for summary judgment or partial summary judgment. Early completion of non-expert discovery and filing of motions for summary judgment may eliminate or reduce the need for expensive expert depositions that are normally conducted in the last stages of discovery. **However, the Court requires that the party moving for summary judgment will provide no less than thirty-five (35) days' notice for such motions.** Because summary judgment motions are fact-dependent, parties should prepare papers in a fashion that will assist the Court in absorbing the mass of facts (e.g., generous use of tabs, tables of contents, headings, indices, etc.). **The parties are to comply precisely with Local Rule 56-1 through 56-4.** The Court will also require adherence to the following requirements:

(i) Statement of Uncontroverted Facts and Statement of Genuine Issues of Material Fact

The movant's Separate Statement of Uncontroverted Facts is to be prepared in a two-column format. The left-hand column should set forth the allegedly undisputed fact. The right-hand column should set forth the evidence that supports the factual statement. The factual statements should be set forth in sequentially numbered

paragraphs. Each paragraph should contain a narrowly focused statement of fact. Each numbered paragraph should address a single subject in as concise a manner as possible.

The opposing party's Statement of Genuine Issues of Material Fact must be in two columns and track the movant's Separate Statement exactly as prepared. The document must be in two columns; the left-hand column must restate the allegedly undisputed fact, and the right-hand column must indicate either undisputed or disputed. *See* Local Rule 56-2. The opposing party may dispute all or only a portion of the statement, but if disputing only a portion, must clearly indicate what part is being disputed. Where the opposing party is disputing the fact in whole or part, the opposing party must, in the right-hand column, label and restate the moving party's evidence in support of the fact, followed by the opposing party's evidence controverting the fact. Where the opposing party is disputing the fact on the basis of an evidentiary objection, the party must cite the evidence alleged to be objectionable and state the ground of the objection and nothing more. **No argument should be set forth in this document.**

The opposing party may submit additional material facts that bear on or relate to the issues raised by the movant, which shall follow the format described above for the moving party's Separate Statement. These additional facts shall follow the movant's facts, <u>shall continue in sequentially numbered paragraphs</u> (i.e., if movant's last statement of fact was set forth in paragraph 30, then the first additional statement of fact will be set forth in paragraph 31), and shall set forth in the right-hand column the evidence that supports that statement.

The moving party, in its reply, shall respond to the additional facts in the same manner and format that the opposing party is required to adhere to in responding to the Statement of Uncontroverted Facts, as described above. Additional material facts left unaddressed will be deemed undisputed. *See* Local Rule 56-4.

The Court is not obligated to look any further in the record for supporting evidence other than what is actually and specifically referenced in the Statement of Uncontroverted Facts, the Statement of Genuine Disputes of Material Fact, and the

Response to Statement of Genuine Disputes. *See* Local Rule 56-4.

The following conduct in connection with a motion for summary judgment shall be grounds for sanctions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11: (1) disputing a material fact without any reasonable basis for doing so; (2) identifying additional facts in opposition to the motion without any reasonable basis for believing that the additional facts will materially affect the outcome of the motion.

(ii) Supporting Evidence

No party should submit any evidence other than the specific items of evidence or testimony necessary to support or controvert a proposed statement of undisputed fact. Thus, for example, the entire transcripts of depositions and/or entire sets of interrogatory responses should generally not be submitted in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary judgment.

Evidence submitted in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary judgment should be submitted either by way of stipulation or as exhibits to a declaration sufficient to authenticate the proffered evidence, and should not be attached to the memorandum of points and authorities. The Court will accept counsel's authentication of deposition transcripts, written discovery responses, and the receipt of documents in discovery if the fact that the document was in the opponent's possession is of independent significance. Documentary evidence as to which there is no stipulation regarding foundation must be accompanied by the testimony, either by declaration or properly authenticated deposition transcript, of a witness who can establish its authenticity.

All evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary judgment, including declarations and exhibits to declarations, shall be separated by a tab divider on the bottom of the page. If evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary judgment exceeds twenty pages, the evidence must be in a separately bound volume and include a Table of Contents. If the supporting evidence

exceeds fifty pages, the documents shall be placed in a Slant D-Ring binder with each item of evidence separated by a tab divider on the right side. All documents contained in the binder should be three-hole-punched. **Alternatively, parties may submit USB flash drives with supporting evidence in portable document format (PDF) files.** The PDF files must be named in accordance with each exhibit's nomenclature (i.e., Ex. A, Ex. B, etc.). If a PDF file contains more than one exhibit, that PDF must include a Table of Contents and each exhibit must be bookmarked with the exhibit nomenclature.

(iii) Objections to Evidence

If a party disputes a fact based in whole or in part on an evidentiary objection, the ground for the objection, as indicated above, should be stated in the Separate Statement, but not argued in that document. **Evidentiary objections should be addressed in a separate memorandum** to be filed with the opposition or reply brief of the party. This memorandum should be organized **to track the paragraph numbers of the Separate Statement in sequence**. It should identify the specific item of evidence to which objection is made, the ground for the objection, and a very brief argument with citation to authority as to why the objection is well taken. The following is an example of the format contemplated by the Court:

Separate Statement Paragraph 1: Objection to the supporting deposition transcript of Jane Smith at 60:1–10 on the grounds that the statement constitutes inadmissible hearsay and no exception is applicable. To the extent it is offered to prove her state of mind, it is irrelevant since her state of mind is not in issue. Fed. R. Evid. 801, 802.

DO NOT SUBMIT BLANKET OR BOILERPLATE OBJECTIONS TO THE OPPONENT'S STATEMENTS OF UNDISPUTED FACT. THESE WILL BE DISREGARDED AND OVERRULED.

(iv) Memorandum of Points and Authorities

The movant's memorandum of points and authorities should be in the usual form

required under Local Rule 7 and should contain a narrative statement of facts as to those aspects of the case that are before the Court. All facts should be supported with citations to the paragraph number in the Separate Statement that supports the factual assertion.

Unless the case involves some unusual twist, the motion need only contain a brief statement of the Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56 standard; the Court is familiar with the Rule and with its interpretation under *Celotex* and its progeny. If at all possible, the argument should be organized to focus on the pertinent elements of the claim(s) for relief or defense(s) in issue, with the purpose of showing the existence or non-existence of a genuine issue of material fact for trial on that element of the claim or defense.

Likewise, the opposition memorandum of points and authorities should be in the usual form required by Local Rule 7. Where the opposition memorandum sets forth facts, the memorandum should cite to paragraphs in the Separate Statement if they are not in dispute, to the evidence that contravenes the fact where the fact is in dispute, or, if the fact is contravened by an additional fact in the Statement of Genuine Issues of Material Fact, the citation should be to such fact by paragraph number.

g. **Avoid Composite Motions**: Unless clearly justified under the circumstances of the case, "motions to dismiss or in the alternative for summary adjudication" are discouraged. These composite motions tend to blur the distinctions between the two motions.

h. **Motions in Limine**: Before filing any motion in limine, counsel for the parties shall confer pursuant to Local Rule 7-3 in a good faith effort to eliminate the necessity for hearing the motion in limine or to eliminate as many of the disputes as possible. It shall be the responsibility of counsel for the moving party to arrange for this conference. The motion papers must include a declaration showing a good faith meet and confer effort. The conference shall take place **in person** within 10 calendar days of service upon opposing counsel of a letter requesting such a conference, but in no event later than twenty-one days before the Pretrial Conference. The conference may take place by via video conference call or telephone **only if** both counsel are not

located in the same county in the Central District.

If counsel are unable to resolve their differences, they shall prepare a separate, sequentially-numbered Motion in Limine for each issue in dispute which contains a clear caption that identifies the moving party and the nature of the dispute (i.e., "Plaintiff's Motion in Limine #1 to exclude the testimony of Defendant's expert"). **Neither party may file more than five (5) Motions in Limine absent leave of Court upon a showing of good cause, and leave of Court will be granted sparingly. Motions in Limine in excess of a party's first five will be stricken.** Each Motion in Limine shall contain a clear identification of the testimony, exhibits, or other specific matters alleged to be inadmissible and/or prejudicial and a statement of the specific prejudice that will be suffered by the moving party if the motion is not granted. The identification of the matters in dispute shall be followed by the moving party's contentions and memorandum of points and authorities. The title page of the Motion in Limine must state the Pretrial Conference date, hearing date for the motions in limine, and the Trial date.

Motions in Limine made for the purpose of precluding the mention or display of inadmissible and/or prejudicial matter in the presence of the jury shall be accompanied by a declaration that includes the following: (1) a clear identification of the specific matter alleged to be inadmissible and/or prejudicial; (2) a representation to the Court that the subject of the motion in limine has been discussed with opposing counsel, and that opposing counsel has either indicated that such matter will be mentioned or displayed in the presence of the jury before it is admitted in evidence or that counsel has refused to stipulate that such matter will not be mentioned or displayed in the presence of the jury unless and until it is admitted in evidence; and (3) a statement of the specific prejudice that will be suffered by the moving party if the motion in limine is not granted. A motion to bifurcate trial may be filed as a motion in limine.

All evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion in limine, including declarations and exhibits to declarations, shall be separated by a tab divider on

the bottom of the page. If evidence in support of or in opposition to a motion in limine exceeds twenty pages, the evidence must be in a separately bound volume and include a Table of Contents. Though strongly discouraged, if by necessity the supporting evidence exceeds fifty pages, the documents shall be placed in a Slant D-Ring binder with each item of evidence separated by a tab divider on the right side. All documents contained in the binder should be three-hole-punched. For items not conducive to paper format, USC drives should be submitted in lieu of compact discs.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, motions in limine will be heard on the date specified on the last page of this Order. The moving party shall file with the Court and serve its Motion in Limine on the responding party on or before the date for filing of motions in limine indicated in the Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates. The responding party shall then file with the Court and serve an opposition to the Motion in Limine on the moving party on or before the date specified on the last page of this Order. **Neither party's submissions with respect to a Motion in Limine shall exceed eight (8) pages. Unless ordered otherwise, the Court will only consider the moving papers and any opposition thereto; no replies are necessary or invited.**

i. **Motions for Class Certification**: All motions for class certification must be filed according to Local Rule 23-3 and on or before the date specified on the last page of this Order. The Court will rarely grant stipulations or applications to extend that deadline. Specifically, the failure to complete class discovery before the deadline does not constitute good cause to extend the deadline, unless the parties show specific and concrete reasons why, despite their diligence, the failure to complete discovery was **unavoidable**. The Court will consider extensions based on the ordering of issues (e.g., if the defendant seeks to file a dispositive motion before class certification) on a case-by-case basis. Any stipulations or applications for relief must include a specific date by which the plaintiff will move for class certification (**the Court will not grant an open-ended extension**).

j. **Oral Argument**: The Court, in its discretion, may dispense with

oral argument on a motion. Fed. R. Civ. P. 78(b); C.D. Cal. L.R. 7-15. However, the Court also encourages law firms to contribute to the professional development of new attorneys by allowing them to present oral argument to the Court on motions. To that end, if any party to a motion files a notice with the Court stating that an attorney with **less than four years' experience** will present oral argument, the Court will hold a hearing on that motion. This notice must be filed no later than **fourteen days** before the hearing. The Court will take into account the attorney's inexperience when considering their oral arguments.

7. **Final Pretrial Conferences and Local Rule 16 Filings**

Please read this portion carefully, as there are some differences between the Court's requirements and the Local Rules.

a. General Provisions

The Final Pretrial Conference ("PTC") will be held on the date specified on the last page of this Order, unless the Court expressly waived the PTC at the Scheduling Conference. (In the rare cases where the Court waives a PTC, the parties must follow Local Rule 16-10.) If adjustments in the Court's calendar to accommodate congestion become necessary, the Court may re-schedule the PTC instead of the trial date. Therefore, the parties should assume that if the PTC goes forward, the trial will go forward without continuance, although some brief period of trailing may prove necessary.

The lead trial attorney on behalf of each party shall attend both the PTC and all meetings of the parties in preparation for the PTC, unless excused for good cause shown in advance of the PTC.

A continuance of the PTC at the parties' request or by stipulation is highly unlikely. **Specifically, failure to complete discovery is not a ground for continuance.** In the unlikely event that the Court agrees to continue the PTC, the trial date is likely to be delayed as a result. If a change to the trial date is necessitated or likely because of the Court's calendar or otherwise, modifications of that date will be

discussed at the PTC.

At the PTC, the parties should be prepared to discuss means of streamlining the trial, including, but not limited to the following: bifurcation; presentation of foundational and non-critical testimony and direct testimony by deposition excerpts; narrative summaries and/or stipulations as to the content of testimony; presentation of testimony on direct examination by affidavit or by declaration subject to cross-examination; and qualification of experts by admitted resumes. The Court will also discuss settlement.

b. **Courtesy Copies**

The parties must submit courtesy copies of all PTC documents, to be prepared and delivered to chambers as follows:

(i) **One copy** of all PTC documents (i.e., both plaintiff's documents and defendant's documents) shall be delivered to the Court in **one three-ring binder**;

(ii) Each document shall be separated by numerical side-tabs, and shall be placed in the following order: (1) Proposed Pretrial Conference Order; (2) Plaintiff's Memorandum and Contentions of Facts and Law; (3) Defendant's Memorandum and Contentions of Facts and Law; (4) Joint Witness List; (5) Joint Exhibit List and Stipulation; (6) Plaintiff's Proposed Verdict Form; (7) Defendant's Proposed Verdict Form; (8) Joint Proposed Jury Instructions; (9) Plaintiff's Disputed Jury Instructions; (10) Defendant's Disputed Jury Instructions; (11) Joint Statement of the Case; (12) Proposed Voir Dire Questions; (13) Joint Report re: Settlement; and (14) Other Pretrial documents; and

(iii) The binder shall include a Table of Contents.

c. **Final Pretrial Conference Order ("PTCO")**

The proposed PTCO shall be lodged seven calendar days before the PTC, unless

the Court specifically orders otherwise. Adherence to this time requirement is necessary for in-chambers preparation of the matter. The form of the proposed PTCO shall comply with **Appendix A to the Local Rules** and the following:

(i) Place in "**ALL CAPS AND BOLD**" the separately numbered headings for each category in the PTCO (e.g., "**1. <u>THE PARTIES</u>**" or "**7. <u>CLAIMS AND DEFENSES OF THE PARTIES</u>**").

(ii) Include a Table of Contents at the beginning.

(iii) In specifying the surviving pleadings under section 1, state which claims or counterclaims have been dismissed or abandoned, e.g., "Plaintiff's second cause of action for breach of fiduciary duty has been dismissed." Also, in multiple party cases where not all claims or counterclaims will be prosecuted against all remaining parties on the opposing side, please specify to which party each claim or counterclaim is directed.

(iv) In specifying the parties' claims and defenses under section 7, each party shall closely follow the examples set forth in Appendix A of the Local Rules.

(v) In drafting the PTCO, **the Court expects that the parties will attempt to agree on and set forth as many non-contested facts as possible.** The Court will usually read the uncontested facts to the jury at the start of trial. A carefully drafted and comprehensively stated stipulation of facts will reduce the length of trial and increase jury understanding of the case. **It is unacceptable for the parties to indicate in the Proposed Pretrial Conference Order that they are not able to stipulate to any facts whatever.**

(vi) In drafting the factual issues in dispute for the PTCO, the parties should attempt to state issues in ultimate fact form, not in the form of evidentiary fact issues. The issues of fact should track the

elements of a claim or defense on which the jury will be required to make findings.

(vii) Issues of law should state legal issues on which the Court will be required to rule during the trial, and should not list ultimate fact issues to be submitted to the trier of fact.

(viii) The Court may submit fact issues to the jury in the form of findings on a special verdict. The issues of fact should track the elements of a claim or defense on which the jury will be required to make findings.

(ix) If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, each party must list and identify its respective expert witnesses, both retained and non-retained. Failure of a party to list and identify an expert witness in the PTCO could result in a court order which precludes the party from calling that expert witness at trial.

(x) The parties shall submit only ONE proposed PTCO. **It is unacceptable to submit multiple or competing proposed PTCOs.** *See* Local Rule 16-7.

d. **Rule 16 Filings; Memoranda; Witness Lists; Exhibit Lists**

Unless otherwise indicated, the parties must comply fully with the requirements of Local Rule 16. See the last page of this Order for applicable dates.

Memoranda and Contentions of Fact and Law

Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law shall be filed by the date listed in this Scheduling Order, and shall comply with the requirements set forth in Local Rule 16-4. The parties are strongly encouraged to submit one joint Memorandum where possible.

Joint Witness List

Counsel shall prepare a **joint** list of their witnesses, including a brief summary (two to three paragraphs) of each witness's expected testimony, **what makes the**

testimony unique from any other witness testimony, **an estimate of the length of time** needed for direct examination of each side's own witnesses and an estimate for the cross examination of opposing witnesses, and whether the witness will testify by deposition or in person. The joint witness list shall be filed at the same time counsel lodge the PTCO. If a party intends to offer deposition testimony into evidence at trial, the party shall designate the relevant portions of the deposition testimony to be read at trial and advise opposing counsel of same. Opposing counsel shall then designate any additional portions of such deposition testimony which counsel intends to offer in evidence. **All objections to any such designated deposition testimony shall be made in writing and filed at the same time counsel lodge the PTCO** so that the Court may consider whether ruling on the objections will facilitate trial or result in the disposition of evidentiary matters that may assist continuing settlement negotiations.

If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, each party shall list and identify their respective expert witnesses. Failure of a party to list and identify an expert witness may preclude a party from calling that expert witness at trial. If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, the parties shall exchange at the PTC short narrative statements of the qualifications of the expert and the testimony expected to be elicited at trial. Previously prepared and exchanged expert reports shall not substitute for the narrative statements required.

On the first day of trial, the parties must lodge with the Court three (3) copies of the witness list, which shall include the names of the witness in the approximate order in which they may be called to testify.

Joint Exhibit List and Exhibit Stipulation

The parties shall prepare a joint Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation that shall contain each party's numbered list of all trial exhibits, with objections, if any, to each exhibit including the basis of the objection and the offering party's response. All exhibits to which there is no objection shall be deemed admitted. The parties shall stipulate to the authenticity of exhibits whenever possible, and the Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation shall

identify any exhibits for which authenticity has not been stipulated and the specific reasons for the parties' failure to stipulate.

The Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation shall be substantially in the following form:

Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation

Plaintiff(s)'/Defendant(s)' Exhibits

Number	Description	If Objection, State Grounds	Response to Objection

The Pretrial Exhibit Stipulation shall be filed at the same time counsel lodge the proposed PTCO. Failure to comply with this paragraph could be deemed to constitute a waiver of all objections. However, **do not submit** blanket or boilerplate objections to the opposing party's exhibits. These will be disregarded and overruled. **NOTE**: Counsel are instructed not to bring excessive exhibits to trial, but only those exhibits that are reasonably expected to actually be used.

All counsel are to meet not later than ten (10) days before trial and to stipulate so far as is possible as to authenticity, foundation, waiver of the best evidence rule, and to those exhibits which may be received into evidence at the start of trial. The exhibits to be so received will be noted on the copies of the exhibit lists.

On the first day of trial, the parties must lodge with the Court Clerk three (3) copies of the of the final exhibit list.

Jury Instructions/Special Verdict Forms

The parties shall make every attempt to agree upon the jury instructions before submitting them to the Court. **It is expected that counsel will agree on the substantial majority of jury instructions.** This is in addition to the standard cautionary and introductory instructions regarding duties of the jury, the order of the trial, etc. found in Chapters 1, 2 & 3 of the *9th Circuit Manual of Model Jury Instructions*. The Court requires little or no assistance in the preparation of these standard instructions. Counsel's attention should be focused on reaching agreement on the instructions

covering the substantive legal issues. It is anticipated that working diligently and cooperatively counsel will be able to reach agreement on the vast majority of the substantive instructions. **Judicial involvement will be limited to resolving disputes on only a few instructions on which the parties are unable to agree.**

On the date listed in this Scheduling Order, counsel shall file with the Court a **JOINT** set of jury instructions on which there is agreement. Defendant's counsel has the burden of preparing the joint set of jury instructions. At the same time, each party shall file its proposed jury instructions which are objected to by any other party, accompanied by points and authorities in support of those instructions.

When the parties disagree on an instruction, the party opposing the instruction must attach a short statement (one to two paragraphs) supporting the objection, and the party submitting the instruction must attach a short reply supporting the instruction. Each statement should be on a separate page and should follow directly after the disputed instruction.

The parties ultimately must submit one document, or if the parties disagree over any proposed jury instructions, three documents. The three documents shall consist of: (1) a set of Joint Proposed Jury Instructions; (2) Plaintiff's Disputed Jury Instructions; and (3) Defendant's Disputed Jury Instructions. Any disputed Jury Instructions shall include the reasons supporting and opposing each disputed instruction in the format set forth in the previous paragraph.

The parties are encouraged to consider whether the Court should give preliminary instructions to the jury on the substantive issues they will be called upon to decide. Should the parties elect to give preliminary instructions, those substantive instructions should be produced to the Court on the first day of trial.

The Court directs counsel to use the instructions from the *Manual of Model Jury Instructions for the Ninth Circuit* where applicable. Where California law is to be applied and the above instructions are not applicable, the Court prefers counsel to use the California Jury Instructions in CACI. If none of these sources is applicable, counsel

are directed to use the instructions in Devitt, Blackmar and Wolff, *Federal Jury Practice and Instructions*. Modifications of instructions from the foregoing sources (or any other form instructions) must specifically state the modification made to the original form instruction and the authority supporting the modification. **The Court will consider special jury instructions not derived from these sources only in exceptional circumstances.**

Each requested instruction shall be in the format specified by Local Rule 51-2 and shall be set forth in full; be on a separate page with the caption "COURT'S INSTRUCTION NUMBER ___"; be numbered; cover only one subject or principle of law; not repeat principles of law contained in any other requested instructions; and cite the authority for a source of the requested instruction. In addition to the foregoing, each party shall file with the Courtroom Deputy Clerk (CRD) on the first day of trial a "clean set" of the aforesaid requested duplicate jury instructions. The "clean set" shall not cite the authority for a source of the requested instruction.

An index page shall accompany all jury instructions submitted to the Court. The index page shall indicate the following:

- the number of the instruction;
- a brief title of the instruction;
- the source of the instruction and any relevant case citation; and
- the page number of the instruction.

EXAMPLE:

NO.	TITLE	SOURCE	PAGE NO.
5	Evidence for Limited Purpose	9th Cir. 1.5	9

During the trial and again before argument, the Court will meet with counsel and settle the instructions. Strict adherence to time requirements is necessary for the Court to examine the submissions in advance so that there will be no delay in starting the jury

trial, or the final instructions to the jury and the closing arguments of counsel. **Failure of counsel to strictly follow the provisions of this section may subject the non-complying party and/or its attorney to sanctions and SHALL CONSTITUTE A WAIVER OF JURY TRIAL in all civil cases.**

Joint Statement of the Case and Requests for Voir Dire

At the PTC, the parties shall file their proposed voir dire questions and their joint Statement of the Case which the Court will read to all prospective jurors prior to the commencement of voir dire. The statement should not be longer than two or three paragraphs, and should not contain any argument nor an excessive amount of information. The Statement of the Case is merely to advise the prospective jurors of the general nature of the case, i.e. securities law violations, bank robbery, copyright infringement, etc.

The Court conducts voir dire of all prospective jurors. The parties need not submit requests for standard voir dire questions such as education, current occupations, marital status, prior jury service, etc., but should include only proposed questions specifically tailored to the parties and issues of the case.

e. First Day of Trial

Trial Exhibits

Counsel must deliver two sets of exhibits to the Court Clerk (one for witnesses and one for the Judge) on the morning of the first day of trial as follows:

(i) Judge's Copy: Counsel are to prepare the Judge's copy of the exhibits by placing them in 3-ring binders. The holes are to be 3/8" in diameter. The notebooks are to be tabbed down the right side with numeric tabs separating each exhibit.

(ii) Witnesses' Copy: Counsel are to prepare the Witnesses' copy of the exhibits by placing each exhibit in its own separate manilla folder. Each manilla folder should have a tab on the right side with the exhibit number written on it. The manilla folders should be put in a

box in numerical order, with the tabs facing upward. The exhibits used in this folder should be the original exhibits, and should be tagged with Court-approved tags. Court-approved exhibit tags can be obtained from the window on the 4th Floor of the U.S. Courthouse, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

The exhibits are to be numbered sequentially, with Plaintiff's exhibits numbered 1, 2, 3, etc. and Defendant's exhibits numbered 1000, 1001, 1002, etc. Exhibit numbering must further comply with Local Rule 26-3.

Deposition Transcripts

The complete original transcript of any depositions to be used at trial shall be lodged with the Court on the first day of trial.

First Day of Trial

The Court requires that the following be submitted to the Courtroom Deputy Clerk on the first day of trial (which is **in addition to any other documents** referenced above):

(i) Judge's copy of exhibits (as described above).

(ii) Witnesses' copy of exhibits (as described above).

(iii) Any preliminary instructions the parties have agreed may be read to the jury before the presentation of evidence.

(iv) Three (3) copies of the exhibit list.

(v) Three (3) copies of the witness list, which shall include the names of the witness in the approximate order in which they may be called to testify.

All counsel are to meet not later than ten (10) days before trial and to stipulate so far as possible as to foundation, waiver of the best evidence rule, and to those exhibits which may be received into evidence at the start of trial. The exhibits so received will be noted on the copies of the exhibit lists.

Any items that have not been admitted into evidence and are left in the

courtroom overnight <u>without prior approval</u> will be discarded.

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<u>Real-Time Reporting Requirement</u>

Each party must file with the Court, at the same time counsel lodges the PTCO, a document for the Court Reporter that contains proper names, unusual or scientific terms, or any other foreign or uncommon words that are likely to be used by the parties during the PTC and the Trial.

8. **<u>Settlement</u>**

This Court will not conduct settlement conferences in non-jury cases unless counsel for all parties and their respective clients agree either in writing or on the record. In jury cases, the Court will conduct a settlement conference at the parties' joint request if three conditions exist:

(a) The parties are satisfied that the fact issues in the case will be tried by a jury;

(b) All significant pre-trial rulings which the Court must make have been made; and

(c) The parties desire the Court to conduct the conference, understanding that if settlement fails, the Court will preside over trial of the case.

The parties must file a Status Report regarding settlement at the time they lodge the proposed PTCO. This Report shall not disclose the parties' settlement positions, i.e. the terms of any offers or demands. It shall merely describe the efforts made by the parties to resolve the dispute informally, i.e. the occasions and dates when the parties participated in mediation or settlement conferences. The Status Report shall also include the name and phone number of the Settlement Officer who assisted the parties with their settlement conference.

<u>Caveat</u>: If counsel fail to file the required Pretrial documents or fail to appear at the Pretrial Conference and such failure is not otherwise satisfactorily

explained to the Court: (a) the cause shall stand dismissed for failure to prosecute if such failure occurs on the part of the plaintiff; (b) default judgment shall be entered if such failure occurs on the part of the defendant; or (c) the Court may take such action as it deems appropriate.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

January 27, 2025

OTIS D. WRIGHT, II
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

U.S. District Judge Otis D. Wright, II
Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates

CASE NO.: **CV 24-2864**

PARTIES: **Polaris PowerLED Technologies, LLC**
-v-
Western Digital Corporation et al.

COMPLAINT FILED: **04/09/24**

Estimated Length of Trial: **5 days**

TRIAL TYPE: **JURY**

SETTLEMENT CHOICE:
Magistrate Judge
Court Mediation Panel
Outside ADR

DATE	MATTER
06/16/26	Trial at 9:00 a.m.
06/11/26	Deadline to File: File Final Trial Exhibition Stipulation
06/08/26	Hearing on Motions in Limine at 1:30 p.m.
05/27/26	Deadline to File: Oppositions to Motions in Limine
05/27/26	Final Pretrial Conference at 1:30 p.m.
05/20/26	Deadline to File: Motions in Limine (not to exceed 8 pages)
05/20/26	Deadline to File: Proposed Pretrial Conference Order Memoranda of Contentions of Fact and Law Joint Witness List Joint Exhibit List and Exhibit Stipulation Status Report re: Settlement Proposed Verdict Form(s) Proposed Jury Instructions/Disputed Jury Instructions Proposed Voir Dire Questions Joint Statement of the Case
04/08/26	Deadline for Hearing Motions
04/01/26	Deadline to Conduct Settlement Conference
03/11/26	Expert Discovery Cutoff
02/18/26	Fact Discovery Cutoff
02/04/26	Deadline for Exchange of Rebuttable Witness Reports
01/14/26	Deadline for Exchange of Opening Witness Reports

U.S. District Judge Otis D. Wright, II
Schedule of Trial and Pretrial Dates

30 Days from Claim Construction Order	Advice of Counsel (Patent L.R. 3-7)
08/22/25	Deadline for Claim Construction (Markman) Hearing*
08/08/25	Deadline to Serve and File: Claim Construction Reply Brief (Patent L.R. 4-5(c))
08/01/25	Deadline to Serve and File: Claim Construction Responsive Brief (Patent L.R. 4-5(b))
07/23/25	Deadline for Damages Contentions Meeting (Patent L.R. 3-10)
07/18/25	Deadline to Serve and File: Claim Construction Opening Brief (Patent L.R. 4-5 (a))
07/03/25	Claim Construction Discovery Cutoff (Patent L.R. 4-4)
06/23/25	Deadline to Serve: Responsive Damage Contentions (Patent L.R. 3-9)
06/03/25	Deadline to File: Joint Claim Construction and Prehearing Statement and Expert Reports (Patent L.R. 4-3)
05/24/25	Deadline to Serve: Damages Contentions (Patent L.R. 3-8)
05/09/25	Deadline to Exchange Preliminary Claim Constructions and Extrinsic Evidence (Patent L.R. 4-2)
04/28/24	Last Day to Amend Pleadings or Add Parties
04/18/25	Deadline to Exchange Proposed Terms for Construction (Patent L.R. 4-1)
04/04/25	Deadline to Serve: Invalidity Contentions (Patent L.R. 3-3) Document Production Accompanying Invalidity Contentions (Patent L.R. 3-4)
02/18/25	Deadline to Serve: Disclosure of Asserted Claims and Infringement Contentions (Patent L.R. 3-1) Document Production Accompanying Disclosure (Patent L.R. 3-2)

** Claim Construction (Markman) Hearing must be noticed and the Court will schedule an additional 1 hour for tutorial, as needed*