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Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025 5:02:33 PM

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U.S. District Court [LIVE]

Western District of Texas

Notice of Electronic Filing

The following transaction was entered on 4/3/2025 at 5:01 PM CDT and filed on 4/3/2025
Case Name: CardWare Inc. v. Apple Inc.
Case Number: 1:25-cv-00446-ADA
Filer:
Document Number: No document attached

Docket Text:
Parties shall comply with Judge Albright's Standing Order Governing Proceedings (OGP) - Patent Cases. (bot4)

1:25-cv-00446-ADA Notice has been electronically mailed to:

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FILED
March 05, 2025
CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
BY: Alicia Davis
DEPUTY

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

STANDING ORDER GOVERNING PROCEEDINGS (OGP)—PATENT CASES

This OGP governs proceedings in all patent cases pending before the undersigned or referred magistrate judge 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.

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

TXWDml_LawClerks_WA_JudgeAlbright@txwd.uscourts.gov.

I. NOTICE OF READINESS

In all patent cases pending before the undersigned or referred magistrate judge, 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 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.

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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).[1]

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] 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.

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1. Interrogatories: 30 per side[2]
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 report[3]

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

Referral to United States Magistrate Judge. The Court may, pursuant to Rule 1 of the Local Rules for the Assignment of Duties to United States Magistrate Judges, Appendix C of the Local Court Rules of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas, refer discovery disputes in patent cases pending before the undersigned to a United States Magistrate Judge for a determination under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).

Messages directed only to Judge Hightower's chambers may be sent to:

TXWD_HightowerADAdiscovery@txwd.uscourts.gov

Messages directed only to Judge Howell's chambers may be sent to:

TXWD_HowellADAdiscovery@txwd.uscourts.gov

Messages directed only to Judge Lane's chambers may be sent to:

TXWD_LaneADAdiscovery@txwd.uscourts.gov

[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. 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.

[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.

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Procedure. A party may not file a Motion to Compel discovery unless: (1) lead counsel with decision making authority 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.[4] When 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 first met and conferred,[5] the requesting party shall then 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 business days[6] 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 a Word document 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."

[4] The procedure outlined below is also the Court's preferred mechanism for handling disputes regarding procedural matters such as extensions of time, excess pages, narrowing claims and prior art, amending invalidity and infringement contentions, etc. If the parties are unsure about whether a particular dispute should be handled by motion or discovery dispute procedure, they should contact the Court's clerks.

[5] A "meet and confer" requires a personal conference, by telephone or video conference technology, between lead counsel with decision making authority wherein the participants attempt to resolve their differing views before contacting the Court. Correspondence, such as e-mail, is insufficient.

[6] Business days exclude weekends and federal holidays.

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Once the opposing party provides its response, the requesting party shall immediately email the summaries of the issues to the Court's law clerks for **both** Judge Albright and the referred Magistrate Judge, if any, 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 Zoom or in-person hearing.

Written Order. Within 7 days of the discovery hearing, the parties shall email a joint proposed order to the Court's law clerk that includes the parties' positions from their dispute chart, the parties' requested relief, and the parties' understanding of the Court's ruling so that the arguments and outcome can be docketed. Parties shall send an editable version of the proposed order to the Court's law clerk with any disputed language in red and blue text. Failure to provide a proposed written order for the docket results in waiver of the dispute for appeal.

V. VENUE & JURISDICTIONAL DISCOVERY

The Court hereby 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. The responding party shall file a notice of venue or jurisdictional discovery if the discovery will delay a response to a transfer or jurisdictional motion.

VI. MOTIONS FOR TRANSFER

A motion to transfer anywhere shall 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:

1. Opening – 15 pages

2. 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

3. 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 motion to transfer, the moving party is directed to email the Court's law clerk (and the technical advisor, when appointed), and indicate that the motion to transfer is pending.

If a motion to transfer remains pending, the Court will either promptly resolve the pending motion before the *Markman* hearing, or postpone the *Markman* hearing. Whenever a *Markman* hearing is postponed pursuant to this OGP (*e.g.*, because the transfer motion has not yet ripened or only recently ripened), Fact Discovery will begin one day after the originally scheduled *Markman* hearing date.

VII. MEET AND CONFER REQUIREMENTS FOR EARLY MOTIONS TO DISMISS INDIRECT AND WILLFUL INFRINGEMENT

Any party seeking to dismiss claims of indirect or willful infringement before fact discovery must first meet and confer with the opposing party to discuss dismissing those allegations without prejudice, with leave to re-plead those allegations with specificity if supported by a good faith basis under Rule 11. Under this agreement, the patent owner may re-plead those allegations within three months after fact discovery opens, and the parties agree to permit fact discovery on indirect and willful infringement during those three months. The party moving to dismiss must attach a certification of compliance with this OGP to its motion to dismiss.

An agreement to dismiss under this section shall be filed as a joint notice instead of as a motion.

VIII. INTERIM PROTECTIVE ORDER

The Court provides a Model Protective Order on its website. Pending entry of the final Protective Order, the Court issues the following interim Protective Order to govern the disclosure of confidential information:

> 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 OGP shall keep it confidential and use it only for purposes of litigating the case.

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IX. CLAIM CONSTRUCTION

Limits for Number of Claim Terms to be Construed

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 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:

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.

Briefing Procedure and Page Limits

The Court will require non-simultaneous *Markman* briefing with the following default page limits. When exceptional circumstances warrant, the Court will consider reasonable requests to adjust these limits. These page limits shall also apply collectively for coordinated and consolidated cases; however, the Court will consider reasonable requests to adjust page limits in consolidated cases where circumstances warrant. The Court has familiarity with the law of claim construction and encourages the parties to forego lengthy recitations of legal authorities and to 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

If 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.

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

After briefing concludes, the parties shall file a Joint Claim Construction Statement and email an editable copy to the Court's law clerks.

Technology Tutorials and Conduct of the *Markman* Hearing

Technology tutorials are optional, especially in cases where a technical advisor has been appointed. If the parties submit one, the tutorial should be in electronic form, with voiceovers, and submitted at least 10 days 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. The tutorial will not be part of the record and the parties may not rely on or cite the tutorial in other aspects of the litigation.

The Court generally sets aside one hour 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 oppose the Court's preliminary construction, the plaintiff shall typically go first.

The Court will provide preliminary constructions to the parties ahead of the *Markman* hearing. At the *Markman* hearing, the Court encourages oral arguments that fine-tune the preliminary constructions over arguments repeated from the briefs.

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X. GENERAL ISSUES

1. The Court will entertain reasonable requests to streamline the case schedule and discovery. The Parties should contact the Court's law clerk when a change might help streamline the case.

2. The Court is generally willing to extend the response to the Complaint up to 45 days if agreed by the parties. Extensions beyond 45 days from the original answer date are disfavored and require a motion.

3. Speaking objections during depositions are improper. Objections during depositions shall be stated concisely and in a nonargumentative and nonsuggestive manner. Other than to evaluate privilege issues, counsel should not confer with a witness while a question is pending. Counsel may confer with witnesses during breaks in a deposition without waiving any otherwise applicable privilege.

4. Within 10 days of any new changes relevant to AO 120 (Report on the Filing or Determination of an Action Regarding a Patent or Trademark), the Plaintiff must update the form with any new changes to the case such as amended complaints or new claims.

5. 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 2 weeks of the filing of the IPR.

6. After the trial date is set, the Court will not move the trial date except in extreme situations. If a party believes that the circumstances warrant continuing the trial date, the parties are directed to contact the Court's law clerk.

7. Appendix C, Order on Motions *in Limine* (MILs), shall apply equally to all parties. In addition to the standard MILs, each party will be permitted to propose and argue (if opposed) up to five (5) of its own MILs at the Pretrial Conference. MILs outside these limits will not be considered. MILs that are multifarious so as to exceed the above limitations will also not be considered. MILs that simply restate the rules of evidence or other legal principles or that are more appropriately motions for summary judgment or *Daubert* motions are improper.

8. The Court does not limit the number of motions for summary judgment (MSJs) or Daubert motions[7] a party may file. However, absent leave of Court, the cumulative page limit for opening briefs for all MSJs is 40 pages per side,[8] for all *Daubert* motions is 40 pages per side, and for all MILs is 15 pages per side. Each responsive MSJ, Daubert, and MIL brief is limited to the pages utilized in the opening brief or by the local rules, whichever is greater; and the cumulative pages for responsive briefs shall be no more than cumulative

[7] This includes any motion filed after opening expert reports that seeks to strike or preclude the use of any part of an expert report for any reason, including procedural reasons.

[8] MSJs based on 35 U.S.C. § 101 do not count against the page limits for summary judgment motions.

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pages utilized in the opening briefs. Reply brief page limits shall be governed by the local rules, but in no event shall the cumulative pages of reply briefs exceed 20 pages per side for all MSJs, 20 pages per side for all *Daubert* motions, and 10 pages for all MILs.

9. The Court no longer requires physical copies of *Markman* briefs, summary judgment motions, and Daubert motions. **If a technical advisor has been appointed, the parties shall jointly contact the Court's law clerks, at least ten days before the hearing, for a Box link to provide an electronic copy of the briefs, exhibits, and the optional technology tutorial. Otherwise, the parties shall jointly contact the Court's law clerks for a Box link only if the parties wish to submit the optional technology tutorial**. Absent agreement to the contrary, the plaintiff shall be responsible for providing the electronic copies via Box. For *Markman* briefs, the parties should also include a copy of all patents-in-suit and an editable copy of the Joint Claim Construction Statement.

10. When filing the Joint Claim Construction Statement, proposed Protective Order, or proposed Scheduling Order, the parties shall also email the Court's law clerk a Word version of the filed documents.

11. For all non-dispositive motions, the parties shall submit a proposed Order. The proposed Order shall omit the word "Proposed" from the title.

12. For non-private remote hearings in front of Judge Albright, the public is allowed to attend via the call-in information below. However, the public shall not attempt to access video of those hearings, and anyone found not to be in compliance is subject to sanctions by the Court.

    +16692545252,,1613131172#,,,,*120804# US (San Jose)
    +16468287666,,1613131172#,,,,*120804# US (New York

13. Any party who intends to present confidential information in a remote hearing shall email and notify the Court's law clerk to request a private Zoom setup that will not be publicly broadcasted.

14. When citing cases or exhibits in a motion, parties shall pin cite the relied-upon section of a case or exhibit. For any motion referencing an expert report (*e.g.*, motions to strike, *Daubert* motions, and summary judgment motions), the Court requires full copies of the expert report attached as an exhibit. The Court strongly encourages parties to highlight and/or annotate the relied-upon sections of exhibits or expert reports (*e.g.*, patents, transcripts, contracts) to facilitate the Court's analysis of the motion. A supporting declaration should identify if any exhibit is highlighted or annotated.

15. Parties shall promptly notify the Court if they reach a settlement in a case and request to stay any deadlines.

16. When filing a patent case, the Plaintiff shall file a "Notice of Related Cases" on the day of filing the patent case. For the Notice of Related Cases, cases shall be considered "related"

when they share at least one common asserted patent.[9] The Notice of Related Cases shall indicate the case caption, case number, and presiding Judge of any related case.

17. A pleading, motion, or other submission shall be typed or printed in 12-point or larger font (including footnotes), double-spaced, on paper sized 8½" x 11" with one-inch margins on all sides and shall be endorsed with the style of the case and the descriptive name of the document. Headings, footnotes, and quotations more than two lines long may be single-spaced.

18. With respect to calculating page limits for motions not otherwise addressed in this Order, such that Local Rule CV-7 applies, at least the following are examples of motions the Court considers to be "case management motions" where the 10-page limit shall apply: Motions to Stay, Motions for Continuance, and Motions to Amend Pleadings, Contentions, or Scheduling Orders.

XI. TRIAL & POST-TRIAL ISSUES

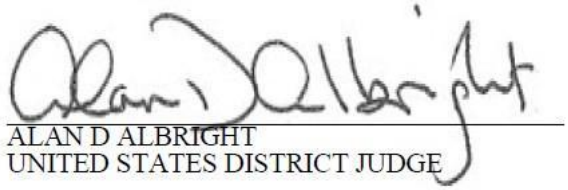
1. Preliminary and Final Jury Instructions with disputed language must include citations to prior jury instructions given by this Court. Parties shall send an editable version of the proposed instructions to the Court's law clerk with the disputed language in red and blue text. Instructions should exactly track the language of prior instructions to the extent possible. Language from the Court's most recent Jury Instructions is preferred.

2. Parties shall file a joint proposed final judgement within 14 days of a jury verdict. 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 red and blue text. The Court discourages the parties from providing extensive substantive argument in the editable version of the proposed judgment.

3. On the same day that post-trial briefing is completed, the parties shall email the Court's law clerks with a list of the pending motions and request a hearing, if desired.

4. Prior to entering an order regarding post-trial bonds, parties are directed to reach out to the District Clerks Office to obtain specific information needed to complete the order. The Office can be reached at TXWDAustinDistrictClerksOffice@txwd.uscourts.gov or 512-916-5896.

SIGNED this 5th day of March, 2025.



ALAN D ALBRIGHT
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

[9] The CRSR and Notice of Related Cases use different definitions.

XII. APPENDIX A – EXEMPLARY SCHEDULE

Deadline	Item
8 weeks after receiving or waiving service of complaint, or 3 weeks after the CMC, whichever is later.	Deadline to file a motion for transfer. After this deadline, movants must seek leave of Court and show good cause for the delay.
7 days before CMC	Plaintiff serves preliminary[10] 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 earliest 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.
2 weeks after CMC	The Parties shall file a motion to enter an agreed Scheduling Order. If the parties cannot agree, the parties shall submit a separate Joint Motion for entry of Scheduling 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.
7 weeks after CMC	Defendant serves 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, and (2) technical documents, including software where applicable, sufficient to show the operation of the accused product(s).
9 weeks after CMC	Parties exchange claim terms for construction.
11 weeks after CMC	Parties exchange proposed claim constructions.

[10] The parties may amend preliminary infringement contentions and preliminary invalidity contentions without leave of court so long as counsel certifies that it undertook reasonable efforts to prepare its preliminary contentions and that the amendment is based on material identified after those preliminary contentions were served and should do so seasonably upon identifying any such material. Any amendment to add patent claims requires leave of court so that the Court can address any scheduling issues.

Deadline	Item
12 weeks after CMC	Parties disclose extrinsic evidence. The parties shall disclose any extrinsic evidence, including the identity of any expert witness they may rely upon with respect to claim construction or indefiniteness. With respect to any expert identified, the parties shall identify the scope of the topics for the witness's expected testimony.[11] With respect to items of extrinsic evidence, the parties shall identify each such item by production number or produce a copy of any such item if not previously produced.
13 weeks after CMC	Deadline to meet and confer to narrow terms in dispute and exchange revised list of terms/constructions.
14 weeks after CMC	Defendant files Opening claim construction brief, including any arguments that any claim terms are indefinite.
17 weeks after CMC	Plaintiff files Responsive claim construction brief.
19 weeks after CMC	Defendant files Reply claim construction brief. Parties to jointly email the law clerks to confirm their *Markman* date and to notify if any venue or jurisdictional motions remain unripe for resolution.
21 weeks after CMC	Plaintiff files Sur-Reply claim construction brief.
3 business days after submission of sur-reply	Parties submit Joint Claim Construction Statement and email the law clerks an editable copy. *See* General Issues Note #9 regarding providing copies of the briefing to the technical advisor (if appointed).
22 weeks after CMC (but at least 10 days before *Markman* hearing)	Parties submit optional technical tutorials to the Court and technical adviser (if appointed).
23 weeks after CMC (or as soon as practicable)[12]	*Markman* Hearing at 9:00 a.m. This date is a placeholder and the Court may adjust this date as the *Markman* hearing approaches.
1 business day after *Markman* hearing	Fact Discovery opens; deadline to serve Initial Disclosures per Rule 26(a).
6 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Deadline to add parties.

[11] Any party may utilize a rebuttal expert in response to a brief where expert testimony is relied upon by the other party.

[12] All deadlines hereafter follow the original *Markman* hearing date and do not change if the Court delays the *Markman* hearing.

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Deadline	Item
8 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Deadline to serve Final Infringement and Invalidity Contentions. After this date, leave of Court is required for any amendment to Infringement or Invalidity contentions. This deadline does not relieve the Parties of their obligation to seasonably amend if new information is identified after initial contentions.
16 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Deadline to amend pleadings. A motion is not required unless the amendment adds patents or patent claims. (Note: This includes amendments in response to a 12(c) motion.).
26 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Deadline for the first of two meet and confers to discuss significantly narrowing the number of claims asserted and prior art references at issue. Unless the parties agree to the narrowing, they are ordered to contact the Court to arrange a teleconference with the Court to resolve the disputed issues.
30 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Close of Fact Discovery
31 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Opening Expert Reports.
35 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Rebuttal Expert Reports.
38 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Close of Expert Discovery.
39 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Deadline for the second of two meet and confers to discuss narrowing the number of claims asserted and prior art references at issue to triable limits. If it helps the parties determine these limits, the parties are encouraged to contact the Court for an estimate of the amount of trial time anticipated per side. The parties shall file a Joint Report within 5 business days regarding the results of the meet and confer.
40 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Dispositive motion deadline and *Daubert* motion deadline. *See* OGP Note #9 regarding providing copies to the Court and technical advisor (if appointed). Deadline for parties desiring to consent to trial before the magistrate judge to submit Form AO 85, "Notice, Consent, And Reference Of A Civil Action To A Magistrate Judge," available at https://www.uscourts.gov/forms/civil-forms/notice-consent-and-reference-civil-action-magistrate-judge.
42 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Serve Pretrial Disclosures (jury instructions, exhibits lists, witness lists, deposition designations).
44 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Serve objections to pretrial disclosures/rebuttal disclosures.

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Deadline	Item
45 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Serve objections to rebuttal disclosures; file motions *in limine*.
46 weeks after *Markman* hearing	File Joint Pretrial Order and Pretrial Submissions (jury instructions, exhibits lists, witness lists, discovery and deposition designations); file oppositions to motions *in limine.* From this date onwards, the parties are obligated to notify the Court of any changes to the asserted patents or claims. Such notification shall be filed on the docket within seven (7) days of the change and shall include a complete listing of all asserted patents and claims. If a change to the asserted patents or claims requires leave of court (for example, if a party is moving for leave to assert additional claims), notification shall not be required until the Court grants leave, at which point the notification must be filed within seven (7) days.
47 weeks after *Markman* hearing	File Notice of Request for Daily Transcript or Real Time Reporting. If a daily transcript or real time reporting of court proceedings is requested for trial, the party or parties making said request shall file a notice with the Court and email the Court Reporter, Kristie Davis at kmdaviscsr@yahoo.com Deadline to file replies to motions *in limine*.
48 weeks after *Markman* hearing	Deadline to meet and confer regarding remaining objections and disputes on motions *in limine*.
8 weeks before trial	Parties to jointly email the Court's law clerk to confirm their pretrial conference and trial dates.
3 business days before Final Pretrial Conference	File joint notice identifying remaining objections to pretrial disclosures and disputes on motions *in limine*.
49 weeks after *Markman* hearing (or as soon as practicable)	**Final Pretrial Conference**. Held in person unless otherwise requested.
52 weeks after *Markman* hearing (or as soon as practicable)[13]	**Jury Selection/Trial**.

[13] If the actual trial date materially differs from the Court's default schedule, the Court will consider reasonable amendments to the case schedule post-*Markman* that are consistent with the Court's default deadlines in light of the actual trial date.

XIII. APPENDIX B – EXEMPLARY CASE READINESS STATUS REPORT

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
AUSTIN DIVISION

[PLAINTIFF], Plaintiff, v. **[DEFENDANT],** Defendant.	**Case No. 1:25-cv-00000-ADA** **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**

CASE READINESS STATUS REPORT

Plaintiff [names] and Defendant [name(s)], hereby provide the following status report.

SCHEDULE

A scheduling order [has been proposed and awaits entry by the Court, has been issued by the Court, or has not yet been filed].

[Indicate if a *Markman* date has been set, proposed, or not yet proposed.]

[Indicate if a trial date has been set, proposed, or not yet proposed.]

FILING AND EXTENSIONS

Plaintiff's Complaint was filed on [filing date]. There have been [one/two] extension[s] for a total of __ days.

RESPONSE TO THE COMPLAINT

[Indicate if/when the Defendant(s) responded to the Complaint, whether it was an Answer or Motion, and whether any counterclaims were filed other than counterclaims for non-infringement or invalidity]

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PENDING MOTIONS

[Identify all pending motions]

RELATED CASES IN THIS JUDICIAL DISTRICT

[Identify all related cases in this Judicial District, including any other cases where a common patent is asserted]

IPR, CBM, AND OTHER PGR FILINGS

[There are no known IPR, CBM, or other PGR filings.] [Or]

[ALT: IPR2021-00000 was filed on ____ and docketed on ____. An institution decision is expected on or before ___. A Final Written decision is expected on or before _____.]

NUMBER OF ASSERTED PATENTS AND CLAIMS

Plaintiff has asserted [Num Patents] patent[s] and a total of [Num Claims] claims. The asserted patent(s) are U.S. Patent Nos. ____.

[If a Plaintiff has already served Preliminary Infringement Contentions ("PICs"), note the date of service. Note: Per the Court's Order Governing Proceeding, Plaintiff must serve PICs no later than 7 days before the CMC]

APPOINTMENT OF TECHNICAL ADVISOR

[Indicate if the Parties request, oppose, or defer to the Court on whether to appoint a technical advisor to the case to assist the Court with claim construction or other technical issues]

MEET AND CONFER STATUS

Plaintiff and Defendant met and conferred. [The Parties have no pre-*Markman* issues to raise at the CMC.] or [The Parties identified the following pre-*Markman* issues to raise at the CMC [list].]

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Dated: _____

Respectfully Submitted

/s/ _____

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

PLAINTIFF,	§	
	§	
Plaintiff,	§	
	§	
v.	§	
	§	**Case No. W-2X-CV-XXXXX-ADA**
	§	
DEFENDANT,	§	
	§	
Defendant.	§	

ORDER ON MOTIONS *IN LIMINE*

The Court issues this Order *sua sponte*. To allow for reasonable and relevant *limine* practice as part of the Pretrial Conference, the Court imposes the following set of standard *limine* rulings to be applied mutually to both parties. In addition to these *limine* orders, each party will be permitted to propose and argue (if opposed) up to five (5) of its own motions *in limine* at the Pretrial Conference. *Limine* motions outside these limits will not be considered. *Limine* motions that are multifarious so as to exceed the above limitations will also not be considered. MILs that simply restate the rules of evidence or other legal principles or that are more appropriately motions for summary judgment or *Daubert* motions are improper.

It is therefore **ORDERED** that the Parties, their witnesses, and counsel shall not raise, discuss, or argue the following before the venire panel or the jury without prior leave of the Court:

Court MIL No. 1: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument regarding pretrial proceedings or issues including but not limited to discovery disputes or dispositive motion practice.**

Court MIL No. 2: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument that raises religious or political beliefs, race, ethnicity, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or health (including but**

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not limited to vaccination status) of a party, witness, attorney, or law firm.

Court MIL No. 3: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument concerning any party's overall financial size, wealth, or executive compensation.**

Court MIL No. 4: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument regarding prior art that is not disclosed in a specific combination set forth in any party's expert report or invalidity contentions.**

Court MIL No. 5: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument before the jury that relates only to equitable defenses or counterclaims (*i.e.*, evidence that does not also serve another evidentiary purpose relevant to jury issues).**

Court MIL No. 6: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument concerning the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, inter partes review, the Smith-Leahy America Invents Act, or any alternative structure that does not relate directly to an Article III trial in a district court.**

Court MIL No. 7: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument suggesting that there is anything legally improper in filing a patent application or writing patent claims to cover an adverse party's product.**

Court MIL No. 8: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing any argument, evidence, testimony, insinuation, reference, or assertion regarding a witness' choice to testify in his or her native or chosen language (being any language other than English).**

Court MIL No. 9: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument referring to any other person or entity as "greedy," "corrupt," "evil," or "dishonest," or using any other pejorative term. The parties shall also be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument that characterizes any other person or entity's actions as "stealing," "copying," "misappropriating," "pirating," "trespassing," or any similar terms.**

Court MIL No. 10: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument bolstering or disparaging the U.S. Patent Office, its examiners, or the process for prosecuting patent applications or granting patents in the United States. This does not preclude factual evidence as to the operations of the USPTO.**

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Court MIL No. 11: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument referring to any other person or entity in disparaging ways, such as a "patent troll," "pirate," "bounty hunter," "bandit," "playing the lawsuit lottery," "shell company," "shakedown artist," "patent assertion entity," or any such similar terms. Use of the term "non-practicing entity" is permitted.**

Court MIL No. 12: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument regarding funding of the litigation or regarding any comment on attorney-fee compensation including amounts or structure.**

Court MIL No. 13: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument regarding either party's other litigations or arbitrations, including parallel proceedings in any other court, tribunal, or forum, including ADR proceedings.**

Court MIL No. 14: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument regarding the size of the parties' law firms or the number of attorneys representing the parties.**

Court MIL No. 15: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument regarding the fact that testimony or opinions offered by any expert may have been criticized, excluded, or found to be unreliable in any other forum.**

Court MIL No. 16: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument referring to the role or presence in the courtroom of jury consultants or shadow jurors, or the use of focus groups or mock proceedings to assist with trial preparation, jury selection, or trial.**

Court MIL No. 17: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument relating to the Court's Claim Construction Order other than the Court's actual adopted constructions, including the Court's reasoning or the parties' agreements.**

Court MIL No. 18: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument for purposes of non-infringement comparing the accused product or method to the preferred embodiments, the specification, or any non-accused product or method.**

Court MIL No. 19: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument suggesting that a verdict in one party's favor would**

impact the cost of goods or services or would have other commercial impacts.

Court MIL No. 20: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument suggesting that the Western District of Texas is an improper or inconvenient venue in which to try this case.**

Court MIL No. 21: **The parties shall be precluded from introducing evidence, testimony, or argument suggesting that the other party had an affirmative duty to seek opinion of counsel, and/or any inference that may be drawn as to what the contents of such an opinion would have been.**

Court MIL No. 22: **Neither party will ask questions or make statements to invoke a privileged or protected answer, including any materials that are privileged, or that have been presented outside of the jury to establish/prevent a finding of privilege.**

Court MIL No. 23: **No expert witness may testify to expert opinions outside the established parameters of her/his expert report, and counsel shall not raise such an objection for strategic or other non-meritorious purposes.**

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