

**INDIVIDUAL RULES AND PRACTICES IN CIVIL CASES**  
**Jesse M. Furman, United States District Judge**

**Chambers**

United States District Court  
Southern District of New York  
40 Centre Street, Room 2202  
New York, NY 10007  
(212) 805-0282

[Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)

**Courtroom Deputy**

Alexandra Smallman

**Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, these Individual Rules apply to all civil matters before Judge Furman except for civil *pro se* cases (see Individual Rules and Practices in Civil *Pro Se* Cases, available at <https://nysd.uscourts.gov/hon-jesse-m-furman>).**

**1. Communications with Chambers**

- A. Letters.** Except as otherwise provided below, communications with the Court should be by letter, filed electronically on ECF. **All letters should be text-searchable.** Letters seeking relief should (if consistent with the [S.D.N.Y. Local Rules](#) and the S.D.N.Y. [Electronic Case Filing Rules and Instructions](#)) be filed on ECF as letter-motions in accordance with Paragraph 3(A) below, *not* as ordinary letters. Parties should **not** submit courtesy copies of letters filed on ECF.

Letters containing sensitive or confidential information that cannot be filed on ECF in accordance with the procedures set forth in Paragraph 7 below may be emailed to the Court ([Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)) as a text-searchable .pdf attachment with a copy simultaneously delivered to all counsel. Any such email shall state clearly in the subject line: (1) the caption of the case, including the lead party names and docket number; and (2) a brief description of the contents of the letter. Parties may not include substantive communications in the body of the email; such communications may be included only in the body of the letter.

Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, letters may not exceed five pages in length. Letters solely between parties or their counsel or otherwise not addressed to the Court may not be filed on ECF or otherwise sent to the Court (except as exhibits to an otherwise properly filed document).

- B. No Courtesy Copies.** Unless the Court orders otherwise, parties should **not** submit courtesy hard copies of any submissions except for trial-related submissions as set forth in Paragraph 5(G) below.
- C. Telephone Calls.** Communications with Chambers, including requests for extensions or adjournments, shall be by letter or letter-motion filed on ECF in

accordance with Paragraphs 1(A) and 3(A). For questions that cannot be answered by reference to these Rules or for *urgent* matters requiring immediate attention, call Chambers at (212) 805-0282. Technical questions pertaining to ECF filings should be directed to the ECF Help Desk at [helpdesk@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:helpdesk@nysd.uscourts.gov) or (212) 805-0800.

- D. Faxes.** Faxes are *not* permitted except with prior approval of Chambers.
- E. Hand Deliveries.** Hand-delivered mail should be left with the Court Security Officers at the Worth Street entrance of the Daniel Patrick Moynihan United States District Courthouse at 500 Pearl Street, New York, NY 10007 and may not be brought directly to Chambers. If the hand-delivered letter is urgent and requires the Court's immediate attention, ask the Court Security Officers to notify Chambers that an urgent package has arrived that needs to be retrieved by Chambers staff immediately.
- F. Requests for Adjournments or Extensions of Time.** All requests for adjournments or extensions of time must be made in writing and filed on ECF as letter-motions, *not* as ordinary letters, proposed stipulations, or proposed orders. The letter-motion must state: (1) the original date(s); (2) the number of previous requests for adjournment or extension; (3) whether these previous requests were granted or denied; (4) the reasons for the requested extension; (5) whether the adversary consents and, if not, the reasons given by the adversary for refusing to consent; and (6) the date of the parties' next scheduled appearance before the Court as well as any other existing deadlines. If the extension will affect any other deadlines in the case, the party seeking the extension should propose amendments to those deadlines as well. Requests for extensions of deadlines regarding a matter that has been referred to a Magistrate Judge shall be addressed to that assigned Magistrate Judge.
- Absent an emergency, any request for extension or adjournment shall be made *at least 48 hours* prior to the deadline or scheduled appearance. Requests for extensions will ordinarily be denied if made after the expiration of the original deadline.
- G. Related and Consolidated Cases.** After an action has been accepted as *related* to a prior filing, all future court papers and correspondence must contain the docket number of the new filing as well as the docket number of the case to which it is related (e.g., 12-CV-1234 [rel. 11-CV-4321]). After two or more actions have been *consolidated for all purposes* under a single docket number pursuant to Rule 42(a)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, all future court papers and correspondence should be filed only in the docket under which the cases have been consolidated and should reference only that docket number.
- H. ECF.** In accordance with the [Electronic Case Filing Rules and Instructions](#), counsel are required to register promptly as ECF filers and to enter an appearance in the case. Counsel are responsible for updating their contact information on

ECF, should it change, and they are responsible for checking the docket sheet regularly, regardless of whether they receive an ECF notification of case activity. For assistance with updating contact information, please contact the ECF Help Desk at [helpdesk@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:helpdesk@nysd.uscourts.gov) or (212) 805-0800; do not file a letter-motion advising the Court of the change.

- I. **Urgent Communications.** As a general matter, materials filed via ECF are reviewed by the Court the business day after they have been filed. If a submission requires more immediate attention, please notify Chambers by telephone after you file the submission via ECF.

## 2. Conferences

- A. **In-Person Conferences.** Unless and until the Court orders otherwise, all conferences will be held in person in Courtroom 1105 of the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, 40 Centre Street, New York NY. If any counsel wishes for the conference to be conducted remotely (by telephone or video), he or she should confer with all other counsel and promptly file a letter-motion to that effect in accordance with Paragraph 3(A).
- B. **Teleconferences.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, any proceeding held by telephone will be on the Court's dedicated conference line, which can be accessed by calling (888) 363-4749 and then entering Access Code 542-1540, followed by the pound (#) key. The following procedures shall apply to all teleconferences with the Court:
  - i. At least twenty-four hours before a scheduled teleconference, the parties must jointly email to the Court a list of counsel — absent permission of the Court, no more than two per party — who may speak during the teleconference. The email should also provide the telephone numbers from which counsel expect to join the call.
  - ii. Counsel should use a landline whenever possible, should use a headset instead of speakerphone, and must mute themselves whenever they are not speaking to eliminate background noise.
  - iii. To facilitate orderly teleconferences and the creation of an accurate transcript where a teleconference is held on the record, counsel are required to identify themselves every time they speak. Counsel should spell any proper names for the court reporter. Counsel should also take special care not to interrupt or speak over one another.
  - iv. If there is a beep or chime indicating that a new caller has joined while counsel is speaking, counsel should pause to allow the Court to ascertain

the identity of the new participant and confirm that the court reporter has not been dropped from the call.

v. Broadcasting or recording of any court conference is prohibited by law.

**C. Attendance by Principal Trial Counsel.** Absent leave of Court, the attorney who will serve as principal trial counsel must appear at all conferences with the Court. Any attorney appearing before the Court must enter a notice of appearance on ECF.

**D. Initial Case Management Conference.** In most cases, the Court will, by Order filed on ECF, schedule a Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 16(c) conference no more than three months after the filing of the complaint or notice of removal.

Plaintiff's counsel (or, in a matter removed from state court, defense counsel) is directed to promptly notify all counsel of the Notice of Initial Pretrial Conference. In most cases, the Notice will direct the parties, *inter alia*, to submit **on ECF** a joint letter as well as a proposed Civil Case Management Plan and Scheduling Order attached as an exhibit to the joint letter, no later than Thursday of the week prior to the conference date. The parties shall use the form Proposed Case Management Plan and Scheduling Order available at the Court's website (<https://nysd.uscourts.gov/hon-jesse-m-furman>).

**E. Discovery Disputes.** Parties must follow Local Civil Rule 37.2 with the following modifications. Any party wishing to raise a discovery dispute with the Court must first confer in good faith with the opposing party, in person or by telephone, in an effort to resolve the dispute. If this meet-and-confer process does not resolve the dispute, the party seeking discovery shall **promptly** file on ECF a letter-motion, no longer than three pages, explaining the nature of the dispute and requesting an informal conference. Any letter-motion seeking relief *must* include a representation that the meet-and-confer process occurred and was unsuccessful. Any opposition to a letter-motion seeking relief shall be filed as a letter, not to exceed three pages, within three business days. Counsel should be prepared to discuss with the Court the matters raised by such letters, as the Court will seek to resolve discovery disputes quickly, by order, conference, or telephone. **Counsel should seek relief in accordance with these procedures in a timely fashion; if a party waits until near the close of discovery to raise an issue that could have been raised earlier, the party is unlikely to be granted the relief that it seeks or more time for discovery.**

**F. Participation by Junior Attorneys.** The Court encourages the participation of less experienced attorneys in all proceedings — including pretrial conferences, hearings on discovery disputes, oral arguments, and examinations of witnesses at trial — particularly where that attorney played a substantial role in drafting the underlying filing or in preparing the relevant witness. The Court may be inclined to grant a request for oral argument, which it generally disfavors, where doing so would afford the opportunity for a junior attorney to gain courtroom experience. Nevertheless, all attorneys appearing before the Court must have authority to bind

the party they represent consistent with the proceeding (for example, by agreeing to a discovery or briefing schedule), and should be prepared to address any matters likely to arise at the proceeding.

### 3. Motions

**A. Letter-Motions.** When permitted by the [S.D.N.Y. Local Rules](#) and the S.D.N.Y. [Electronic Case Filing Rules and Instructions](#), letters seeking relief should be filed on ECF as letter-motions, *not* as ordinary letters. In particular, all requests for adjournments, extensions, and pre-motion conferences (including pre-motion conferences with respect to discovery disputes) should be filed as letter-motions. All letter-motions should be text-searchable. A courtesy copy should **not** be provided to Chambers.

**B. Pre-Motion Conferences in Civil Cases.** Pre-motion conferences are not required, except for disputes concerning discovery, which are governed by Paragraph 2(E) above.

#### **C. Special Rules for Summary Judgment Motions.**

- i. Absent good cause, the Court will not ordinarily have summary judgment practice in a non-jury case.
- ii. Any party moving for summary judgment shall provide all other parties with an electronic copy, in Microsoft Word format, of the moving party's Statement of Material Facts Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 56.1. Opposing parties must reproduce each entry in the moving party's Rule 56.1 Statement, and set out the opposing party's response directly beneath it.
- iii. With respect to any deposition that is supplied, whether in whole or in part, in connection with a summary judgment motion, the index to the deposition should be included if it is available.
- iv. The parties should provide the Court with an electronic, text-searchable courtesy copy of any hearing or deposition transcript, or portion thereof, on which the parties rely, if such a copy is available, unless doing so would be unduly burdensome.
- v. Memoranda of law should include sections discussing the relevant background and facts. Parties should not merely incorporate by reference their Local Rule 56.1 Statements or Counterstatements.

**D. Memoranda of Law.** The typeface, margins, and spacing of motion papers must conform to Local Civil Rule 11.1. Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in support of and in opposition to motions are limited to 25 pages, and reply memoranda are limited to 10 pages. All memoranda of law shall

be in 12-point font or larger, double spaced, and text-searchable. Memoranda of 10 pages or more shall contain a table of contents and a table of authorities, neither of which shall count against the page limit. Sur-reply memoranda will not be accepted without prior permission of the Court. All appendices to memoranda of law must be indexed.

- E. Unpublished Cases.** If a party cites to a case not available in an official reporter, it need **not** provide copies of the case to Chambers if the case is available on Westlaw.
- F. No Courtesy Copies.** Unless the Court orders otherwise, parties should **not** submit courtesy hard copies of any motion papers except for trial-related submissions as set forth in Paragraph 5(G) below.
- G. Oral Argument on Motions.** The Court rarely holds oral argument. But a party may request oral argument by indicating “ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED” on the cover page of its memorandum of law. If a party believes that the Court would benefit from oral argument for a particular reason not obvious from the parties’ briefing, the party may file a letter explaining the reason — **not** a letter-motion — on ECF. Additionally, a party should advise the Court by letter if oral argument would be handled by a less experienced attorney because, as discussed in Paragraph 2(F) above, that may make the Court more inclined to hold oral argument. If oral argument is requested, the Court will determine whether argument will be heard and, if so, advise counsel of the argument date.
- H. Preliminary Injunction Motions.** The Court generally follows the procedure for the conduct of non-jury trials described in Paragraph 5(E) below.
- I. Motions to Exclude Testimony of Experts.** Unless the Court orders otherwise, motions to exclude testimony of experts, pursuant to Rules 702-705 of the Federal Rules of Evidence and the *Daubert v. Merrell Dow Pharmaceuticals, Inc.*, 509 U.S. 579 (1993), line of cases, must be made by the deadline for dispositive motions and should not be treated as motions *in limine*.
- J. Default Judgments.** If a party fails to respond to a claim, the party asserting the claim should promptly move for entry of default judgment if appropriate. A party seeking a default judgment must proceed by filing a motion for default judgment on ECF pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(b)(2) and Local Civil Rule 55.2(b). A party seeking a default judgment should *not* proceed by order to show cause. The motion must be supported by the following papers:
  - i. an attorney’s affidavit or declaration setting forth:
    - 1. the basis for entering a default judgment, including a description of the method and date of service of the summons and complaint;

2. the procedural history beyond service of the summons and complaint, if any;
  3. whether, if the default is applicable to fewer than all of the counterparties, the Court may appropriately order a default judgment on the issue of damages prior to resolution of the entire action;
  4. the proposed damages and the basis for each element of damages, including interest, attorney's fees, and costs; and
  5. legal authority for why an inquest into damages would be unnecessary;
- ii. a proposed default judgment;
  - iii. copies of all the operative pleadings;
  - iv. a copy of the affidavit of service of the summons and complaint; and
  - v. if failure to answer is the basis for the default, a Certificate from the Clerk of Court stating that no answer has been filed.

**K. Proposed Stipulations and Orders.** In accordance with the [Local Rules](#) and the [Electronic Case Filing Rules and Instructions](#), parties should file on ECF all proposed stipulations and orders that they wish the Court to sign, using the appropriate ECF filing event. *See* SDNY ECF Rules & Instructions §§ 13.17-19 & App'x A. Notwithstanding the foregoing, parties should **not** file on ECF either the following two types of documents: (1) a Consent to Proceed Before United States Magistrate Judge, which the parties should email to the Orders and Judgments Clerk at [judgments@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:judgments@nysd.uscourts.gov) or, **if and only if it has been fully executed by all parties**, directly to Chambers at [Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov); or (2) a proposed temporary restraining order, which the party seeking relief should submit according to the procedures set forth in Paragraph 4(A) below. As noted above, requests for extensions and adjournments must be made by letter-motion, not by proposed stipulation or proposed order. Courtesy copies need not be sent to Chambers for any proposed stipulation or order.

#### 4. Other Pretrial Guidance

- A. Applications for Temporary Restraining Orders.** A party should confer with his or her adversary before making an application for a temporary restraining order unless the party seeking relief is able to satisfy the requirements for obtaining temporary relief without notice to the adverse party set forth in Rule 65(b)(1) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. In the absence of an emergency that would justify seeking immediate relief in person, if the party seeking relief (1) believes that Rule 65(b)(1)'s requirements can be met and a temporary restraining order should issue without notice to the adverse party, the party should email its papers to Chambers (at [Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)) and then call Chambers at (212) 805-0282; or (2) is prepared to seek relief on notice to the adverse party, the party seeking relief should simultaneously email its papers to Chambers (at the address above) and serve them on all other parties and then call Chambers with all parties on the line (at the number above).
- B. Settlement Agreements.** Unless the Court orders otherwise, the Court will not retain jurisdiction to enforce confidential settlement agreements. If the parties wish that the Court retain jurisdiction to enforce a settlement agreement, the parties must place the terms of their agreement on the public record. The parties may either provide a copy of the settlement agreement for the Court to endorse or include the terms of their settlement agreement in their stipulation of settlement and dismissal.
- C. Bankruptcy Appeals.** The parties must comply with the briefing schedule and the format and length specifications set forth in the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure 8014-8018 unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

#### 5. Trial Submissions and Procedures

- A. Joint Pretrial Order.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, no later than thirty days after the date for the completion of all discovery or, in the event a dispositive motion is filed, no later than thirty days after the Court's ruling on such motion, the parties shall both file on ECF, as a "Joint Pretrial Statement," and submit by email to the Court ([Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)) a proposed joint pretrial order, which shall include the following:
- i. the full caption of the action;
  - ii. the names, law firms, addresses, telephone number, and email addresses of trial counsel if not already listed on the docket;
  - iii. a brief statement by plaintiff (or, in a removed case, by defendant) as to the basis of subject matter jurisdiction, and a brief statement by each other party as to the presence or absence of subject matter jurisdiction. Such



statements shall include citations to all statutes relied on and relevant facts as to citizenship and jurisdictional amount;

- iv. a brief summary by each party of the claims and defenses that the party asserts remain to be tried, including citations to any statutes on which the party relies. Such summaries shall also identify all claims and defenses previously asserted that are not to be tried. The summaries should not recite any evidentiary matter;
- v. a statement as to the number of trial days needed and whether the case is to be tried with or without a jury;
- vi. a joint statement summarizing the nature of the case, to be read to potential jurors during jury selection;
- vii. a list of people, places, and institutions that are likely to be mentioned during the course of the trial, to be read to potential jurors during jury selection;
- viii. a statement as to whether all parties have consented to trial by a magistrate judge, without identifying which parties do or do not consent;
- ix. any stipulations or agreed statements of fact or law to which all parties consent. In a jury case, the parties should memorialize any such stipulations or agreed statements of fact or law in a standalone document that can be marked and admitted at trial;
- x. a list of all trial witnesses, indicating whether such witnesses will testify in person or by deposition, whether such witnesses will require an interpreter (and, if so, which party will pay the costs for the interpreter), and a brief summary of the substance of each witness's testimony. Absent leave of Court, a witness listed by both sides shall testify only once (with the defendant permitted to go beyond the scope of the direct on cross-examination), and counsel should confer with respect to scheduling;
- xi. a designation by each party of deposition testimony to be offered in its case-in-chief and any counter-designations and objections by any other party. The parties need not designate deposition testimony to be used for impeachment purposes only;
- xii. a list by each party of all exhibits to be offered in its case-in-chief, with a single asterisk indicating exhibits to which no party objects on any ground. If a party objects to an exhibit, the objection should be noted by indicating the Federal Rule of Evidence that is the basis for the objection. If any party believes that the Court should rule on such an objection in advance of trial, that party should include a notation to that effect (e.g., "Advance

Ruling Requested”) as well. In general, the Court will rule on relevance and authenticity objections at the time of trial;

- xiii. a statement of the damages claimed and any other relief sought, including the manner and method used to calculate any claimed damages and a breakdown of the elements of such claimed damages; and
- xiv. a statement of whether the parties consent to less than a unanimous verdict.

**B. Required Pretrial Filings.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, each party shall file and serve with the joint pretrial order:

- i. In all cases, motions addressing any evidentiary issues or other matters that should be resolved *in limine*. Absent leave of the Court, each party must file a single memorandum of law, consistent with Paragraph 3(D) above, in support of *all* motions *in limine* filed by that party;
- ii. in all jury cases, joint requests to charge, joint proposed verdict forms, and joint proposed *voir dire* questions as specified by Paragraph 5(D) below;
- iii. in all non-jury cases, proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law. The proposed findings of fact should be detailed and should include citations to the proffered trial testimony and exhibits, as there may be no opportunity for post-trial submissions. At the time of filing, parties should also submit copies of these documents to the Court by email ([Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)), both in .pdf format and as a Microsoft Word document;

**C. Electronic Copies of Exhibits and Exhibit Lists.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, the parties shall also submit with the joint pretrial order (but not file on ECF):

- i. an electronic copy of each exhibit sought to be admitted (with each filename corresponding to the relevant exhibit number — e.g., “PX-1,” “DX-1,” etc.) on a CD-ROM or a DVD (or, with leave of Court, a flash drive). If submission of electronic copies would be an undue burden on a party, the party may seek leave of Court (by letter-motion filed on ECF) to submit prospective documentary exhibits in hard copy. Each hard copy shall be pre-marked (that is, with an exhibit sticker) and assembled sequentially in a loose leaf binder (not to exceed 2 1/2 inches in thickness) or in separate manila folders labeled with the exhibit numbers and placed in redweld folders labeled with the case name and docket number;
- ii. the parties shall email to the Court ([Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)) a Microsoft Word document listing all exhibits sought to be admitted. The list shall contain four columns labeled as follows: (1)

“Exhibit Number”; (2) “Description” (of the exhibit); (3) “Date Identified”; and (4) “Date Admitted.” The parties shall complete the first two columns, but leave the third and fourth columns blank, to be filled in by the Court during trial.

**D. Requests to Charge and Proposed *Voir Dires*.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, in all jury trials, joint requests to charge, joint proposed verdict forms, and joint proposed *voir dire* questions shall be submitted as attachments to the proposed joint pretrial order. Absent good reason, the parties should not include proposed language for standard instructions (about, for example, the role of the Court and the jury, the standard of proof, etc.), as the Court is likely to use its own standard instructions; instead, the parties should include a list of standard instructions that they believe are appropriate and focus their attention on case-specific requests to charge. At the time of filing, parties should also submit copies of these documents to the Court by email ([Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)), as Microsoft Word documents. For any request to charge or proposed *voir dire* question on which the parties cannot agree, each party should clearly set forth its proposed charge or question, and briefly state why the Court should use its proposed charge or question, with citations to supporting authority.

**E. Additional Submissions in Non-Jury Cases.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, at the time the joint pretrial order is filed, each party in a non-jury trial shall submit to the Court by email ([Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)) and serve on opposing counsel, but not file on ECF, the following:

- i. Copies of affidavits constituting the direct testimony of each trial witness, except for the direct testimony of an adverse party, a person whose attendance is compelled by subpoena, or a person for whom the Court has agreed to hear direct testimony live at the trial. The affidavit should be treated as a direct substitute for the witness’s live testimony; that is, counsel should be attentive to the Rules of Evidence (e.g., hearsay and the like) and authenticate any exhibits that will be offered through that witness’s testimony. Three business days after submission of such affidavits, counsel for each party shall submit a list of all affiants whom he or she intends to cross-examine at the trial. Only those witnesses who will be cross-examined need to appear at trial. The original signed affidavits should be brought to trial to be marked as exhibits, at which time any objections to particular paragraphs of an affidavit can be made; and
- ii. All deposition excerpts that will be offered as substantive evidence, as well as a one-page synopsis of those excerpts for each deposition. Each

synopsis shall include page citations to the pertinent pages of the deposition transcripts.

**F. Filings in Opposition.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, any party may file the following documents within one week after the filing of the pretrial order, but in no event less than three days before the scheduled trial date:

- i. Opposition to any motion *in limine*; and
- ii. Opposition to any legal argument in a pretrial memorandum.

**G. Courtesy Copies.** Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, one courtesy hard copy of all documents identified in Paragraphs 5(A), (B), (D), (E), and (F) above should be submitted to Chambers on the date on which they are to be served or filed. Voluminous material may be organized either in binders (not to exceed 2 1/2 inches in thickness) or manila file folders placed in redweld folders labeled with the case name and docket number.

## 6. Text-Searchable Submissions

Judge Furman reads most submissions in electronic form using an iPad or computer. Accordingly, if feasible, **each** submission should be in text-searchable format created by converting the document electronically to PDF by computer (that is, **not** by scanning a pre-existing document). If a PDF is created by scanning a pre-existing document (for instance, in the case of a pre-existing documentary exhibit), the party should use software to make the document text searchable whenever possible.

## 7. Redactions and Sealed Filings

**A. Redactions Not Requiring Court Approval.** The parties are referred to Rule 5.2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the [Southern District's ECF Privacy Policy](#) ("Privacy Policy"). There are two categories of information that may be redacted from public court filings without prior permission from the Court: "sensitive information" and information requiring "caution." Parties should not include in their public filings, unless necessary, the five categories of "sensitive information" (i.e., social security numbers [use the last four digits only], names of minor children [use the initials only], dates of birth [use the year only], financial account numbers [use the last four digits only], and home addresses [use only the City and State]). Parties may also, without prior Court approval, redact from their public filings the six categories of information requiring caution described in the Privacy Policy (i.e., any personal identifying number, medical records [including information regarding treatment and diagnosis], employment history, individual financial information, proprietary or trade secret information, and information regarding an individual's cooperation with the government).

**B. Redactions and Sealed Filings Requiring Court Approval.** Except for redactions permitted by the previous Paragraph, **all redactions or sealing of public court filings require Court approval.** To be approved, any redaction or sealing of a court filing must be narrowly tailored to serve whatever purpose justifies the redaction or sealing and must be otherwise consistent with the presumption in favor of public access to judicial documents. *See, e.g., Lugosch v. Pyramid Co. of Onondaga*, 435 F.3d 110, 119-20 (2d Cir. 2006). In general, the parties' consent or the fact that information is subject to a confidentiality agreement between litigants is not, by itself, a valid basis to overcome the presumption in favor of public access to judicial documents. *See, e.g., In re Gen. Motors LLC Ignition Switch Litig.*, No. 14-MD-2543 (JMF), 2015 WL 4750774, at \*4 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 11, 2015).

**C. Procedures for Filing Sealed or Redacted Documents.** Any party seeking to file a document under seal or in redacted form shall proceed as follows:

- i. **Meet and Confer.** The party should meet and confer with any opposing party (or any third party seeking confidential treatment of the information) in advance to narrow the scope of the request. When a party seeks leave to file a document under seal or in redacted form on the ground that an opposing party or third party has requested it, the filing party shall notify the opposing party or third party that it must file, within three business days, a letter explaining the need to seal or redact the document.
- ii. **Sealed Document(s).** The party shall file a letter-motion seeking leave to file a document under seal on ECF in accordance with Standing Order 19-MC-583 and Section 6 of the S.D.N.Y. [Electronic Case Filing Rules and Instructions](#). The letter motion itself shall be filed in public view, should explain the reasons for seeking to file the document under seal, and should not include confidential information. The proposed sealed document shall be contemporaneously filed under seal on ECF (with the appropriate level of restriction) and electronically related to the motion (or to the relevant Court order if the Court previously granted leave to file the document under seal). Note that the summary docket text, but not the document itself, will be open to public inspection and, thus, should not include confidential information sought to be filed under seal.
- iii. **Redacted Document(s).** Where a party seeks leave to file a document in redacted form, the party shall file a letter-motion seeking leave to file a document in redacted form on ECF in accordance with Standing Order 19-MC-583 and Section 6 of the S.D.N.Y. [Electronic Case Filing Rules and Instructions](#). The letter-motion itself shall be filed in public view, should explain the reasons for seeking to file the document in redacted form, and should not include confidential information. At the same time, the party shall (1) publicly file on ECF and electronically relate to the letter-motion a copy of the document with the proposed redactions; and (2) file under seal on ECF (with the appropriate level of restriction) and electronically

relate to the motion an unredacted copy of the document with the proposed redactions highlighted.

- iv. **Submission by Email.** Any party unable to comply with the requirements for electronic filing under seal through the ECF system, or who believes that a particular document should not be electronically filed at all, shall file a letter-motion by email, in accordance with Paragraph 1(A) above, seeking leave of the Court to file in a different manner.

## **8. Use of Electronic Devices and WiFi Access for Hearings and Trials**

- A. Use of Electronic Devices.** Electronic devices (including mobile telephones, personal electronic devices, and computers) may not be used in Judge Furman's Courtroom without his permission. More broadly, the use of any such devices within the Courthouse and its environs is governed by the Court's Standing Order M10-468, available at <https://nysd.uscourts.gov/sites/default/files/2018-06/standing-order-electronic-devices.pdf>. If required by the Standing Order, counsel seeking to bring a device into the Courthouse shall submit an [Electronic Device and Wi-Fi Access Request Form](#), available on the Court's website, to the Court by e-mail ([Furman\\_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Furman_NYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov)) as early as possible — and certainly no later than **three business days before** the start of the trial or hearing. Requests submitted later than later than three business days prior to the relevant trial or hearing may be denied on that basis alone. *If permitted by the Standing Order, mobile telephones are permitted inside the Courtroom, but they MUST be kept turned off at all times.* Non-compliance with this rule may result in forfeiture of the device for the remainder of the proceedings.
- B. WiFi Access for Hearings and Trials.** Attorneys may obtain authorization to use the Court's WiFi system in Judge Furman's Courtroom during a hearing or trial. For further information, see Judge Furman's [Individual Rules and Practices for Hearings and Trials](#), available on Judge Furman's [webpage](#).

If you have any questions after reading these Individual Rules and Practices, please contact Chambers at (212) 805-0282.