

**United States District Court
Eastern District of North Carolina**



**Local Civil Rules
of
Practice and Procedure
December 2017**

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Rule 1.1 Scope and Citation of Local Civil Rules

These local civil rules shall govern civil actions and proceedings before the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina except when federal statutes and rules govern. In admiralty cases, where a local civil rule is inconsistent with a local admiralty rule, the local admiralty rule shall apply. In patent cases, where a local civil rule is inconsistent with a local patent rule, the local patent rule shall apply. These local rules should be construed, administered, and employed by the court and the parties to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action and proceeding. A judge or magistrate judge, for good cause and in his or her discretion, may alter these rules in any particular case. These rules shall be cited as “Local Civil Rule ____.” The Local Civil Rules posted on the district’s website, <http://www.nced.uscourts.gov/localRules/LocalRules.htm>, shall be the court’s official record of such rules.

Rule 2.1 Reserved for Future Purposes**Rule 3.1 Subsequent Litigation by Parties Proceeding *In Forma Pauperis***

A plaintiff who has proceeded unsuccessfully *in forma pauperis* and had the costs of that litigation taxed against him or her must demonstrate that he or she has paid or made a reasonable effort to pay those costs prior to being authorized to proceed again *in forma pauperis*.

Rule 3.2 Denial of *In Forma Pauperis* Applications

In all civil actions in which the court denies the plaintiff’s motion to proceed *in forma pauperis*, the plaintiff shall be allowed 30 days to pay the requisite filing fee. If the plaintiff fails to pay the filing fee, the clerk shall re-designate the action as a miscellaneous case and close the matter without further order from the court.

Rule 4.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 5.1 Filing and Service of Papers

(a) Electronic Filing

- (1) Parties’ Pleadings and Other Documents.** Unless otherwise permitted by the [Electronic Case Filing Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual](#) (Policy Manual), or otherwise authorized by the assigned judge, all documents submitted for filing shall be filed electronically in text searchable format using the Case Management/Electronic Case Filing system (CM/ECF) and in accordance with the Policy Manual. A document shall not be considered filed for the purposes of the [Federal Rules of Civil, Criminal or Appellate Procedure](#) until the filing party receives a system generated Notice of Electronic Filing (NEF). Any document electronically filed or converted by the clerk’s office to electronic format shall be the official record of the court. As such, the clerk’s office will not maintain a paper record of these documents. The clerk’s office will not accept any e-mail or facsimile transmission for filing unless ordered by the court.
- (2) Court-Generated Documents.** All orders, decrees, judgments, and proceedings of the court will be filed in accordance with the [Policy Manual](#), which shall constitute entry of that document on the docket kept by the clerk under Rules 58 and 79 of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#). All signed orders will be filed electronically by the court or court personnel. Any order or other court-issued document filed electronically without the original signature of a judge or clerk has the same force and effect as if the judge or clerk had signed a paper copy of the order or other court-issued document and as if it had been entered on the docket in a conventional manner. Orders may be ‘text only’ entries on the docket, without an attached document. Such orders are official and binding.

(b) Registered Users

(1) Filing Users

Only an attorney who is registered in CM/ECF may file documents electronically. Registration constitutes written consent to service of all documents by electronic means as provided by [the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) and the [Policy Manual](#).

(2) Receiving Users

A pro se party who is not incarcerated may register to be a receiving user of CM/ECF. A receiving user receives notices of filings by email instead of by regular mail, but may not file electronically. Registration as a receiving user constitutes written consent to service of all documents by electronic means as provided by the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) and the [Policy Manual](#).

(c) Signature.

The electronic filing of a document by an attorney who is a filing user shall constitute the signature of that attorney under Rule 11 of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#). No attorney shall knowingly permit or cause to permit the attorney's CM/ECF password to be used by anyone other than an authorized employee of the attorney's law firm. No person shall knowingly use or cause another person to use the password of a registered attorney unless such person is an authorized employee of the attorney's law firm.

(d) Entry on Docket.

The electronic filing of a document in accordance with the [Policy Manual](#) shall constitute entry of that document on the docket kept by the clerk under Rule 79 of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#). Except in the case of documents first filed in paper, a document filed electronically is deemed filed at the date and time stated on the NEF that is automatically generated by CM/ECF.

(e) Service of Document.

Transmission of the NEF that is automatically generated by CM/ECF, except as provided in (f) below, constitutes service of the filed document on registered party users. Parties who are not registered users must be served with a copy of any document filed electronically in accordance with the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#). When more than one attorney in a law firm appears in a case, and not all of the attorneys are registered filing users, service of any court-generated document (i.e., orders, notices, etc.) will only be made on the attorneys registered in CM/ECF. It is the responsibility of the law firm's electronic users to notify all other firm members appearing in the case who are not receiving electronic notification. Non-registered

attorneys will not receive paper copies from the court.

(f) Exceptions to Electronic Filing.

Documents filed by a party who is not represented by an attorney permitted to practice in the Eastern District of North Carolina and registered in CM/ECF, and those documents listed in Section V.A of the [Policy Manual](#), shall be filed in paper, and are excluded from electronic filing. Any document filed in paper that is not exempt pursuant to this section must be accompanied by a motion for leave to file the document and a proposed order. When filed in paper form, the document must contain the original signature of the attorney or each unrepresented party, and must be served upon opposing parties as provided in [Fed. R. Civ. P. 5\(b\)](#).

(g) Personal Identifiers

The responsibility for redacting personal identifiers rests solely with counsel and the parties. The clerk will not review each filed document and any attachments for compliance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 5.2](#).

Rule 5.2 Appearances in Civil Cases

(a) Notice of Appearance.

Counsel shall file a notice of appearance with the clerk and serve all parties. The signature block in the notice of appearance shall be in compliance with the requirements of the signature block illustrated in [Local Civil Rule 10.1](#). The attorney shall also contemporaneously file a disclosure statement in accordance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#) and [Local Civil Rule 7.3](#).

(b) Notice of Self-Representation

(1) A non-incarcerated party who is proceeding without an attorney shall file a notice of self-representation on a form available from the clerk. This notice shall be filed when the party initially appears in the action or as required by subsection (e) of this rule. The self-represented party shall also contemporaneously file a disclosure statement in accordance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#) and [Local Civil Rule 7.3](#).

(2) A corporation, a limited liability company, a partnership, a trust, an

association, or any other entity that is not a natural person cannot appear pro se and must be represented by an attorney in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 83.1](#). Except as otherwise permitted by law, no self-represented party may appear on behalf of another self-represented party.

(c) Substitution of Counsel

Whenever an attorney of record in a case will be replaced by another attorney who is an active member of the bar of this court, a notice of substitution of counsel must be filed. The notice must (i) be signed by and contain a signature block for both attorneys in compliance with [Local Civil Rule 10.1](#); (ii) identify the parties represented; (iii) verify that the attorney entering the case is aware of and will comply with all pending deadlines in the case, including proceeding with any scheduled trial or hearings; and (iv) be served on all parties. Upon filing of the notice, the clerk’s office shall terminate the withdrawing attorney from the case and the new attorney will be added as counsel of record without order of the court. If the notice does not comply with this rule, the clerk will issue a notice of deficiency and the withdrawing attorney shall remain attorney of record.

(d) Notice of Withdrawal of Governmental Counsel

When a local, state, or federal governmental attorney has filed a notice of appearance in a case but is no longer associated with it, and there is at least one other active governmental attorney who has filed a notice of appearance in the case, the active governmental attorney shall file a notice of withdrawal of governmental counsel to withdraw the appearance of the governmental attorney who is no longer associated with the case. The notice of withdrawal must be signed and filed by the active governmental attorney, certify that the withdrawing attorney is no longer associated with the case, and be served on all parties. Upon the filing of the notice of withdrawal, the clerk’s office shall terminate the withdrawing governmental attorney from the case without order of the court. The attorneys to whom this subsection applies include attorneys employed by the Office of the Federal Public Defender.

(e) Motion to Withdraw

In all other instances, any attorney shall by motion seek leave of the court to withdraw his or her notice of appearance. Any motion to withdraw shall (i) contain the last known mailing, and if different, physical address of the

moving attorney’s client(s); (ii) contain a description of the procedural posture of the case; (iii) state whether the client consents to the motion; and if applicable (iv) include a certification by the moving attorney that the client cannot be located or, for any other reason, cannot be notified regarding the motion to withdraw. If withdrawal would leave a party without representation, the motion to withdraw shall be accompanied by a proposed order granting the motion on a form available from the clerk stating that (i) within 21 days after entry of the order, or within the time otherwise required by the court, the unrepresented party shall file a notice of self-representation or cause new counsel to file a notice of appearance; (ii) no corporation, limited liability company, partnership, trust, association, or other entity that is not a natural person may appear pro se, but must be represented by an attorney in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 83.1](#); and (iii) a party that fails to file a notice of self-representation or cause new counsel to file a notice of appearance may be subject to sanctions, including but not limited to dismissal or default judgment.

Rule 5.3 Removal and Post-Removal Procedure

(a) Filing of State-Court and Other Documents

- (1) Any party that files a notice of removal shall file with the notice a civil cover sheet, a supplemental removal cover sheet (available from the clerk), and true and legible copies of all process, pleadings, orders, and other documents that have been served on the party in state court, excluding discovery. The removing party shall file each served state-court paper as a separate and distinctly titled exhibit to the notice of removal.
- (2) No later than 7 days after the filing of the notice of removal, the removing party shall file the notice that the party filed in state court to comply with 28 U.S.C. § 1446(d).
- (3) Except for the filing of a supplemental removal cover sheet, subsection (a) of this rule shall not apply to removals pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1442(d)(1).

(b) Notices of Appearance in Removed Cases

- (1) The removal of a case to this court does not relieve attorneys who

appeared in the other court of their obligations to their clients.

- (2) Within 14 days after removal, counsel for all parties in the state-court action shall file either a notice of appearance, a notice of substitution of counsel, or a motion to withdraw in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 5.2](#). Any individuals who were representing themselves at the time of removal shall file a notice of self-representation in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5.2(b)(1) within 14 days after removal.
- (3) An attorney in a removed action who is eligible for admission to the bar of this court, but is not yet admitted, may file an application for admission to the bar of this court at or before the time of the attorney's notice of appearance. In that instance, the notice of appearance shall state expressly that it is contingent on the attorney's application for admission being granted.
- (4) If counsel is not an electronic filer in this district, counsel may file the motion to withdraw or notice of appearance in paper form as long as a motion for leave to file in paper form accompanies the motion to withdraw or notice of appearance.

(c) Pending Motions at the Time of Removal

- (1) A party filing a notice of removal shall list on the supplemental removal cover sheet any motion filed in the state court that is pending at the time of removal.
- (2) If, at the time of removal, a motion is pending for which no supporting memorandum of law has been submitted to the state court, the movant on that motion shall file a supporting memorandum within 14 days of the date of removal, unless the motion is of a type covered by [Local Civil Rule 77.2](#) or unless otherwise ordered by the court. The [Local Civil Rule 7.1\(f\)](#) deadline for a response to the motion runs from the date of the movant's filing of a supporting memorandum in this court.

- (3) If, at the time of removal, a pending motion was supported by a memorandum of law, any response to that motion shall be filed 21 days after the removal, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- (4) Subsection (c) of this rule shall not apply to proceedings removed pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1442(d)(1) unless the pending motion relates to the proceeding being removed.

(d) Disclosure of Affiliations and Financial Interest

Within 14 days after the filing of a notice of removal, all parties shall make the disclosures required by [Local Civil Rule 7.3](#), irrespective of the provisions of subsection (b) of this rule and [Local Civil Rule 5.2\(a\)](#).

(e) Cases Related to Bankruptcy Cases

Removals under 28 U.S.C. § 1452 or 28 U.S.C. § 1441 in cases related to bankruptcy cases shall be filed with the bankruptcy court.

Rule 6.1 Motions for an Extension of Time to Perform Act

- (a) All motions for an extension of time to perform an act required or allowed to be done within a specified time must show good cause, prior consultation with opposing counsel and the views of opposing counsel. The motion must be accompanied by a separate proposed order granting the motion.
- (b) Except as ordered by the court, designated secured leave under Rule 26 of the General Rules of Practice for the Superior and District Courts of the State of North Carolina shall not be the sole basis for an extension of time or continuance.

Rule 7.1 Motion Practice

(a) Time for Filing.

All motions in civil cases except those relating to the admissibility of evidence at trial must be filed on or before 30 days following the conclusion of the period of discovery. If an extension of the original period of discovery is approved by the court, the time for filing motions is automatically

extended to 30 days after the new date unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(b) General Requirements.

- (1) All motions shall be concise and shall state precisely the relief requested. Motions shall conform to the general motions requirements, standards and practices set forth in the applicable [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) and in [Local Civil Rule 10.1](#).
- (2) If a moving party is aware that an opposing party consents or does not object to a motion, the motion shall so state. This subsection does not require a party movant to confer with any opposing party before filing a motion, although other provisions of these rules may require a movant to do so.
- (3) If a party moving for non-dispositive relief is aware at the time of filing the motion that it is consented to or not opposed, the party shall file with the motion a proposed order allowing the relief sought. If the party becomes aware after filing the motion that it is consented to or not opposed, the party shall file a proposed order allowing the relief sought as soon as practicable after becoming aware.

(c) Discovery Motions.

- (1) For purposes of these Local Civil Rules, a discovery motion is any motion or other request to the court that seeks to enforce, use, regulate, extend, modify, nullify, or limit any of the procedures in any of Rules 26 through 37 of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) or in any of Local Civil Rules [26.1](#), [30.1](#), [33.1](#), [34.1](#), or [36.1](#). A motion or other request to the court that seeks to enforce, use, regulate, extend, modify, quash, or limit any pretrial civil subpoena is likewise a discovery motion.
- (2) No discovery motion will be considered by the court unless the motion sets forth or has attached thereto, by item, the specific question, interrogatory, etc., with respect to which the motion is filed, and any objection made along with the grounds supporting or in opposition to the objection. Counsel must also certify that there has been a good faith effort to resolve discovery disputes prior to the filing of any discovery motions.

(d) Motions for Attorney’s Fees in Certain Social Security Cases.

Any motion for attorney’s fees under 42 U.S.C. §§ 406(b) or 1383(d)(2) shall be filed within 65 days after the date of the last notice of award necessary to accurately calculate the total amount of retroactive benefits, unless extended by consent or order.

(e) Supporting Memoranda.

Except for motions which the clerk may grant as specified in [Local Civil Rule 77.2](#), all motions made, other than in a hearing or trial, shall be filed with an accompanying supporting memorandum in the manner prescribed by [Local Civil Rule 7.2\(a\)](#). Where appropriate, motions shall be accompanied by affidavits or other supporting documents.

(f) Responses to Motions.

Any party may file a written response to any motion. A response shall be in the form of a memorandum in the manner prescribed by [Local Civil Rule 7.2\(a\)](#), and may be accompanied by, without limitation, affidavits and other supporting documents.

(1) Non-discovery Motions. Responses and accompanying documents shall be filed within 21 days after service of the motion in question unless otherwise ordered by the court or prescribed by the applicable [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#).

(2) Discovery Motions. Responses and accompanying documents relating to discovery motions shall be filed within 14 days after service of the motion in question unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(g) Replies.

(1) Non-discovery Motions. Replies to responses are discouraged. However, except as provided in [Local Civil Rule 7.1\(f\)\(2\)](#), a party desiring to reply to matters initially raised in a response to a motion shall file the reply within 14 days after service of the response, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

(2) Discovery Motions.

Replies are not permitted in discovery disputes. See [Local Civil Rule 26.1\(d\)](#).

(h) Subsequently Decided Controlling Authority.

A suggestion of subsequently decided controlling authority, without argument, may be filed and served at any time prior to the court’s ruling and shall contain only the citation to the case relied upon if published or a copy of the opinion if the case is unpublished.

(i) Affidavits.

Ordinarily, affidavits will be made by the parties and other witnesses and not by counsel for the parties. However, affidavits may be made by counsel for a party if the sworn facts are known to counsel or counsel can swear to them upon information and belief, and

- (1) the facts relate solely to an uncontested matter; or
- (2) the facts relate solely to a matter of formality and there is no reason to believe that substantial evidence will be offered in opposition to the facts; or
- (3) the facts relate solely to the nature and value of the legal services rendered for the party by such counsel or counsel’s law firm; or
- (4) the refusal to accept the affidavit would work a substantial hardship on the party and the court finds that its acceptance of the affidavit would not be such as to require that counsel or counsel’s law firm be disqualified from continuing to appear for the party.

(j) Hearings on Motions.

Hearings on motions may be ordered by the court in its discretion. Unless so ordered, motions shall be determined without a hearing.

Rule 7.2 Memoranda**(a) Form and Content.**

A memorandum in support of or in opposition to a motion shall comply with [Local Civil Rule 10.1](#) and shall contain:

- (1) a concise summary of the nature of the case;
- (2) a concise statement of the facts that pertain to the matter before the court for ruling;
- (3) the argument (brevity is expected) relating to the matter before the court for ruling with appropriate citations in accordance with [Local Civil Rules 7.2\(b\), \(c\) and \(d\)](#); and
- (4) copies of any decisions in cases cited as required by [Local Civil Rules 7.2\(c\) and \(d\)](#).

(b) Citation of Published Decisions.

Published decisions cited should include parallel citations (except for United States Supreme Court cases), the year of the decision, and the court deciding the case. The following are illustrations:

- (1) State Court Citation: *Rawls v. Smith*, 238 N.C. 162, 77 S.E.2d 701 (1953);
- (2) District Court Citation: *Smith v. Jones*, 141 F. Supp. 248 (E.D.N.C. 1956);
- (3) Court of Appeals Citation: *Smith v. Jones*, 237 F.2d 597 (4th Cir. 1956);
- (4) United States Supreme Court Citation: *Smith v. Jones*, 325 U.S. 196 (1956). United States Supreme Court cases should be cited in accordance with current Bluebook form.

(c) Citation of Authorities Not Appearing in Certain Sources.

Any authority (e.g., court decision, administrative decision, regulation) that

is not available on LexisNexis or Westlaw may be cited if a copy of the authority is filed as an exhibit to the motion or memorandum in which it is cited.

(d) Citation of Unpublished Decisions.

A decision designated as “unpublished” by a United States District Court may be considered by this court. A decision designated as “unpublished” by a United States Circuit Court of Appeals will be given due consideration and weight but will not bind this court. In accordance with subsection (c) of this rule, if such an “unpublished” decision is not available on LexisNexis or Westlaw, a copy of it shall be filed as an exhibit to the motion or memorandum in which it is cited.

(e) Provision of Authorities.

If an authority is not reasonably available to an opposing party, the moving party citing that authority shall furnish the authority to the opposing party upon request.

(f) Length of Memoranda.

(1) Page Limits. Unless the court orders otherwise in advance, or unless the memorandum complies with [Local Civil Rule 7.2\(f\)\(2\)](#):

- (A)** A memorandum in support of or in opposition to a motion (other than a discovery motion) shall not exceed 30 pages in length, excluding the certificate of service page.
- (B)** A memorandum in support of or in opposition to a discovery motion shall not exceed 10 pages in length, excluding the certificate of service page.
- (C)** A reply or surreply memorandum (where allowed) shall not exceed 10 pages in length, excluding the certificate of service page.

(2) Alternative Word Limits. A memorandum may exceed the governing page limit in [Local Civil Rule 7.1\(f\)\(1\)](#) if the memorandum complies with [Local Civil Rule 7.2\(f\)\(3\)](#) and if the memorandum’s word count (computed in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 7.2\(f\)\(4\)](#)) does not exceed:

- (A) 8400 words for a memorandum in support of or in opposition to a motion other than a discovery motion;
 - (B) 2800 words for a memorandum in support of or in opposition to a discovery motion;
 - (C) 2800 words for a reply or surreply memorandum (where allowed).
- (3) Under Local Civil Rule 7.2(f), headings, footnotes, citations, and quotations in a memorandum count toward the page and word limits. The case caption, the signature block, any required certificates, any table of contents, any table of authorities, and any attachments, exhibits, affidavits, and other addenda to a memorandum do not count toward the page and word limits.
- (4) To comply with [Local Civil Rule 7.2\(f\)\(2\)](#), a memorandum must contain a certificate, signed by the attorney or unrepresented party, attesting that the memorandum complies with the applicable word limit. The signer of the certificate may rely on the word count generated by word processing software, as long as the software counts the elements required by [Local Civil Rule 7.2\(f\)\(3\)](#). The certificate must state the number of words in the memorandum.

Rule 7.3 Disclosure of Corporate Affiliations and Other Entities with a Direct Financial Interest in Litigation

- (a) All parties to a civil or bankruptcy case, whether or not they are covered by the terms of [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#), shall file a corporate affiliate/financial interest disclosure statement. This rule does not apply to the United States or to state and local governments in cases in which the opposing party is proceeding without counsel.
- (b) The statement shall set forth the information required by [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#) and the following:
 - (1) A trade association shall identify in the disclosure statement all members of the association, their parent corporations, and any publicly held companies that own ten percent or more of a member's stock;

- (2) All parties shall identify any publicly held corporation, whether or not a party to the present litigation, that has a direct financial interest in the outcome of this litigation by reason of a franchise, lease, other profit sharing agreement, insurance, or indemnity agreement;
- (3) Whenever required by [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#) or this rule to disclose information about a corporation that has issued shares to the public, a party shall also disclose information about similarly situated master limited partnerships, real estate investment trusts, or other legal entities whose shares are publicly held or traded.
- (c) The disclosure statement shall be on a form provided by the clerk. A negative statement is required if a party has no disclosures to make.
- (d) The disclosure statement shall be filed when the party makes an initial appearance in the action. The parties are required to amend their disclosure statements when necessary to maintain their current accuracy.

Rule 7.4 *Ex Parte Motions*

Unless the related case is already under seal, an *ex parte* motion shall only be sealed upon specific order of the court. A motion requesting permission to file an *ex parte* motion under seal shall include the *ex parte* motion as an attachment. The clerk shall treat the motion to seal and attachment as sealed pending order of the court.

Rule 8.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes****Rule 9.1** **Reserved for Future Purposes****Rule 10.1** **Forms of Pleadings, Motions, and Documents**

All pleadings, motions, discovery procedures, memoranda, and other papers filed with the clerk of court shall:

- (a) be double-spaced on single-sided, standard letter size (8½ x 11) paper, with all typed matter appearing in at least 11 point font size with a one inch margin on all sides;

- (b) state the court and division in which the action is pending;
- (c) except for the initial filing, bear the case number assigned by the clerk;
- (d) contain the caption of the case;
- (e) if applicable, state the title of the pleading, motion, discovery procedure or document and the federal statute or rule number under which the party is proceeding;
- (f) contain the individual name, firm name, address, telephone number, fax number, e-mail address, and state bar identification, where applicable, of all attorneys who appear for the filing party, including an attorney making a special appearance pursuant to [Local Civil Rule 83.1\(e\)](#).
- (g) bear the date when signed by counsel;
- (h) be signed by counsel as required by [Local Civil Rule 83.1\(d\)](#). Where permitted by order pursuant to [Local Civil Rule 5.2](#) and [Local Civil Rule 83.1](#), counsel may submit for filing a facsimile copy of the signature of out of state counsel on pleadings; provided however, a signature page with all original signatures must be submitted to the court within 7 days after the original filing;
- (i) include on all documents, the signature of counsel and each shall be followed, on the line immediately below, by the typed or printed name in the exact form as the signature. In preparation of documents for signature by a judge or magistrate judge, a blank space shall be provided below the signature line in which the name may be typed or printed; and
- (j) have each page numbered sequentially. The following forms are examples to be followed:

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
SOUTHERN DIVISION
No. __:____-CV-____-__

JANE T. SMITH,

)

Plaintiff,)	
)	
v.)	OFFER OF JUDGMENT
)	Fed. R. Civ. P. 68
AARON R. JONES et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

This ___ day of January 201__.

 /s/ John B. Counselor
 John B. Counselor
 Abbott, Ball and Counselor
 200 Main Street
 Post Office Box 50
 Raleigh, North Carolina 27602
 (919) 878-8787
 Fax (919) 878-8000
 John.B.Counselor@email.address.com
 State Bar No. _____
 Attorney for Defendant

- (k) absent an order of the court upon a showing of good cause, be in the English language unless translations are furnished. Any English translation shall include a certification that the translation is accurate. Partial translations are acceptable if the filing party believes that the portion translated is sufficient to address the issues being litigated. Within 14 days of the filing of the translated document, any opposing party may file objections to the translation or to the partial nature of the translation, or may file additional partial or complete translations of the document as it believes necessary.

Rule 10.2 Form of Exhibits to Motions

Exhibits containing double-sided documents are not permitted and will not be considered by the court. Condensed deposition transcripts are discouraged.

Rule 10.3 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 11.1 Sanctions

If an attorney or any party fails to comply in good faith with any local rule of this court, the court in its discretion may impose sanctions.

Rule 11.2 Disclosure Statements

- (a) As part of making an appearance in every case, an attorney shall include the attorney's name and the name of the attorney's law firm. The attorney also shall file contemporaneously a client disclosure statement in accordance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#) and [Local Civil Rule 7.3](#).
- (b) As part of making an appearance in every case, all *pro se* litigants (other than prisoners) shall file contemporaneously a disclosure statement in accordance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#) and [Local Civil Rule 7.3](#).

Rule 12.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 13.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 14.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 15.1 Amended Pleadings

- (a) A party moving to amend a pleading shall attach to the motion:

- (i) The proposed amended pleading, duly signed, and any exhibits thereto; and
 - (ii) A form of the amended pleading indicating in what respect it differs from the pleading that it amends, by bracketing or striking through text to be deleted and underlining or highlighting text to be added.
- (b) If the motion to amend is granted, the clerk shall docket the amended pleading, unless otherwise ordered by the court. The amended pleading shall be deemed served on the date it is entered on the docket unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- (c) A party who is in custody and proceeding without an attorney is exempted from complying with subsection (a)(ii) of this rule.

Rule 16.1 Final Civil Pretrial Conference

(a) Scheduling and Notice.

A final pretrial conference shall be scheduled in every civil action after the time for discovery has expired. In most actions, the clerk shall give at least 45 days' notice of such conference. In the court's discretion and upon request of any party or on the court's own initiative, a preliminary or "working" pretrial conference may be scheduled.

(b) Preparation by Counsel for Final Pretrial Conference.

- (1) At least 28 days before the pretrial conference, all parties must provide to all other parties the pretrial disclosures required under [Fed. R. Civ. P. 26\(a\)\(3\)](#). Twenty-one days before the pretrial conference, a party may designate and serve any objections listed in [Fed. R. Civ. P. 26\(a\)\(3\)](#). The parties' Rule 26(a)(3) disclosures, and objections thereto, shall be incorporated into the final pretrial order, consistent with [Local Civil Rule 16.1\(c\)](#). The pretrial order must be submitted to the court 7 days prior to the pretrial conference.
- (2) In preparing for the pretrial conference, the parties shall confer and prepare a final pretrial order. It shall be the duty of counsel for the plaintiff to arrange for the parties to confer and prepare a final pretrial order. Where video depositions are to be used, parties should

endeavor to reach early agreement on editing; where agreement cannot be reached, required rulings by the court should be sought in sufficient time to allow for final edited versions of depositions to be used at trial.

(c) **Form of Pretrial Order.**

The pretrial order shall be prepared in one sequential document without reference to attached exhibits or schedules and shall contain the following in 5 separate sections, numbered by roman numerals, as indicated:

- (1) **Stipulations.** Stipulations covering jurisdiction, joinder, capacity of the parties, all relevant and material facts, legal issues and factual issues.
- (2) **Contentions.** Contentions covering matters on which the parties have been unable to stipulate, including jurisdiction, misjoinder, capacity of the parties, relevant and material facts, legal issues and factual issues. Claims and defenses as to which no contentions are listed in the pretrial order are deemed abandoned.
- (3) **Exhibits.** A list of exhibits that each party may offer at trial, including any map or diagram, numbered sequentially, which numbers shall remain the same throughout all further proceedings. Copies of all exhibits shall be provided to opposing counsel not later than the attorney conference provided for in [Local Civil Rule 16.1\(b\)](#). The court may excuse the copying of large maps or other exhibits. Except as otherwise indicated in the pretrial order, it will be deemed that all parties stipulate that all exhibits are authentic and may be admitted into evidence without further identification or proof. Grounds for objection as to authenticity or admissibility must be set forth in the pretrial order. When practicable, trial exhibits should carry the same number as in the depositions and references to exhibits in depositions should be changed to refer to the trial exhibit number. It is not necessary to designate exhibits that are to be used solely for impeachment or cross-examination. Except as otherwise indicated in the pretrial order or ordered by the court, counsel may use any exhibit in opening statements, provided that the exhibit has been listed in the pretrial order, and (a) the opposing party has not objected to it, or (b) any such objection has been overruled prior to opening statement.

- (4) **Designation of Pleadings and Discovery Materials.** The designation of all portions of pleadings and discovery materials, including depositions, interrogatories and requests for admission that each party may offer at trial shall be noted by reference, where applicable, to document volume, page number and line. Objection by opposing counsel shall be noted by reference, where applicable, to document volume, page number and line, and reasons for such objections shall be stated. It is not necessary to designate a deposition, any portion of a deposition, or any other discovery material, that is to be used solely for impeachment or cross-examination.
- (5) **Witnesses.** A list of the names and addresses of all witnesses each party may offer at trial, together with a brief statement of what counsel proposes to establish by their testimony.

(d) **Conduct of the Final Pretrial Conference.**

- (1) **Purpose.** To resolve any disputes concerning the contents of the pretrial order.
- (2) **Preparation.** Counsel shall be fully prepared to present to the court all information and documentation necessary for completion of the pretrial order. Failure to do so shall result in the sanctions provided by this local rule.
- (3) **Sanctions.** Failure to comply with the provisions of [Local Civil Rule 16.1\(d\)\(2\)](#) may result in the imposition of a monetary fine not to exceed \$250.00 against the offending counsel and may result in any other sanction allowable by the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) against the parties or their counsel.
- (4) **Pretrial Order.** Counsel for all parties shall be responsible for preparing the final pretrial order and presenting it to the court properly signed by all counsel at a time designated by the court. Upon approval by the court, the original shall be filed with the clerk. Failure to provide a unified pretrial order may result in sanctions being imposed against all parties to the action.

(e) Sample Pretrial Order.

A pretrial order in the following form shall be sufficient to comply with [Local Civil Rule 16.1\(c\)](#): [The case caption should be in the form provided as an example in [Local Civil Rule 10.1](#)].

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA
WESTERN DIVISION
No. 5:94-CV-125-F

JOHN DOE, by his guardian)
ad litem, and JANE DOE,)
)
Plaintiffs,)
)
v.)
)
XYZ CORPORATION,)
)
Defendant.)

PRETRIAL ORDER

Date of Conference: August 12, 1998

Appearances: Jane Y. Lawyer, Raleigh, North Carolina for plaintiff;
Sam X. Attorney, Fayetteville, North Carolina for defendant.

I. STIPULATIONS.

- A. all parties are properly before the court;
- B. the court has jurisdiction of the parties and of the subject matter;
- C. all parties have been correctly designated;
- D. there is no question as to misjoinder or nonjoinder of parties;
- E. plaintiff, a minor, appears through his or her guardian;
- F. Facts:
 - 1. Plaintiff is a citizen of Wake County, North Carolina.
 - 2. Defendant is a New York corporation, licensed to do business and doing business in the State of North Carolina.

G. Legal Issues:

May a nine-year old minor be guilty of contributory negligence?

H. Factual Issues:

1. Was plaintiff injured and damaged by the negligence of defendant?
2. What amount, if any, is plaintiff entitled to receive of defendant as compensatory damages?

II. CONTENTIONS.

A. Plaintiff

1. Facts:

- (a) That Richard Roe was driving defendant's truck as defendant's agent.
- (b) That Richard Roe was negligent in that he drove at an excessive speed and while under the influence of intoxicating liquor.

2. Factual Issues:

What amount, if any, is plaintiff entitled to recover of defendant as punitive damages?

B. Defendant

1. Facts:

That Richard Roe, a former employee, took defendant's truck without authorization and, at the time of the accident, was not the agent or employee of defendant.

2. Factual Issues:

Did plaintiff, by his or her own negligence, contribute to his or her injury and damage?

III. EXHIBITS.

A. Plaintiff

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Objection</u>
1	Patrol Report	Hearsay
2	Photo of Plaintiff	

B. Defendant

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Objection</u>
1	Photo of Scene	
2	Scale Model	

IV. DESIGNATION OF PLEADINGS AND DISCOVERY MATERIALS.

A. Plaintiff

<u>Document</u>	<u>Portion</u>	<u>Objection</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Plaintiff's first set of interrogatories	Nos. 1, 8 and 9	No. 8	Privilege
Deposition of Richard Roe	Vol. 1, line 6, p. 1 thru line 5, p. 6	Line 6, p. 1 thru line 2, p. 7	Hearsay

B. Defendant

None

V. WITNESSES.

A. Plaintiff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposed Testimony</u>
John Jones	615 Rains Street Raleigh, NC	Facts surrounding accident

Frank Flake	Selma, NC	Speed of defendant’s vehicle, intoxication of driver
-------------	-----------	---

B. Defendant

All witnesses listed by plaintiff.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Proposed Testimony</u>
Sam Smith	4 Appian Way Rome, Italy	Facts surrounding the theft by driver of the vehicle

TRIAL TIME ESTIMATE: ___ days

/s/ Jane Y. Lawyer
JANE Y. LAWYER
 Attorney for Plaintiff

/s/ Sam. S. Attorney
SAM X. ATTORNEY
 Attorney for Defendant

APPROVED BY:

BILL SMITH
 U.S. MAGISTRATE JUDGE
 _____, 201__.

Rule 17.1 Minors or Incompetent Parties

(a) Representation.

Representation of minor or incompetent parties in a civil action shall be in accordance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 17\(c\)](#). Appointments of guardians *ad litem* by any state court shall satisfy the requirements of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) unless the court finds that the interests of the parties so represented are not being adequately protected.

(b) Settlement or Dismissal of Actions.

No civil action to which a minor or incompetent person is a party shall be compromised, settled, discontinued, or dismissed without an Order of Approval entered by the court. It shall be the responsibility of counsel for the minor or incompetent parties to prepare a proposed Order of Approval for submission to the court. The Order of Approval shall bear the written consent of (1) counsel for all the parties to the action, (2) the legal representative of the minor or incompetent parties, and (3) in the case of minors, at least one of the natural parents or persons standing *in loco parentis*. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the Order of Approval shall contain statements as to the following:

- (1) that all parties are properly represented and are properly before the court; that no questions exist as to misjoinder or nonjoinder of parties; and that the court has jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties;
- (2) if the minor or incompetent parties are plaintiffs, a summary of contentions sufficient to show that the complaint states a claim upon which relief can be granted; if the minor or incompetent parties are defendants, a statement of contentions sufficient to show that no affirmative defenses could clearly be raised in bar of recovery;
- (3) a summary of services rendered by counsel for the minor or incompetent parties, along with an opinion as to the fairness and reasonableness of the settlement, if any; and

- (4) in cases involving claims for personal injuries asserted by minor or incompetent parties, an estimate of actual and foreseeable medical, hospital and related expenses, and a statement by an examining physician setting forth the nature and extent of the plaintiff’s injuries, extent of recovery, and prognosis.

(c) Approval of Counsel Fees and Payment of Judgments – Minors.

In its Order of Approval, the court shall approve or fix the amount of the fee to be paid to counsel for the minor or incompetent parties and make appropriate provision for the payment thereof. The Order of Approval shall also provide the manner in which judgments, if any, are to be paid and may make specific provisions for the payment of medical, hospital and similar expenses when allowed by applicable law.

In compliance with [Rule 5.2 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#), and to promote electronic access to case files while also protecting personal privacy and other legitimate interests, all parties to any litigation in which a minor is a party, with the exception of the paper administrative records in Social Security cases filed with the court, shall redact the minor child’s name from all documents filed with the court. If the name of the minor must be included in a document, including the caption, only the initials of the child should be used.

Rule 18.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 19.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 20.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 21.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 22.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 23.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 24.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 25.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 26.1 Discovery

(a) Discovery Materials Not to Be Filed Unless Ordered or Needed.

Discovery materials, including but not limited to disclosures and objections required under [Fed. R. Civ. P. 26](#), depositions upon oral examination and interrogatories, requests for documents, notices to take a deposition, expert witness designations, expert witness reports, requests for admissions, and answers and responses thereto are not to be filed unless by order of the court or for use in the proceedings. All such papers must be served on other counsel or parties entitled to service of papers filed with the clerk. The party taking a deposition or obtaining any material through discovery is responsible for its preservation and delivery to the court if needed or so ordered.

(1) Medical Records. When filed in accordance with subsection (a), copies of medical records shall not be open to inspection or copying by any persons, except the parties and their attorneys. Thus, any medical records must be accompanied by a motion to seal as provided in [Local Civil Rule 79.2](#).

(2) Final Pretrial Disclosures. A party shall satisfy the requirement to file disclosures and objections thereto under [Fed. R. Civ. P. 26\(a\)\(3\)](#) solely by including such information as required by [Local Civil Rule 16.1\(b\)\(1\)](#) in the proposed final pretrial order.

(b) Conducting Discovery.

In all civil actions, the parties shall schedule and conduct discovery in accordance with the order entered pursuant to [Fed. R. Civ. P. 16](#). All discovery shall be served so as to allow the respondent sufficient time to answer prior to the time when discovery is scheduled to be completed. To

shorten discovery time, it is expected that discovery procedures will proceed concurrently. After the time for completing discovery has expired, further discovery may proceed only by order of the court and may, in no event, interfere with the conduct of either the final pretrial conference or the trial.

(c) Numbering Discovery Procedures.

Each time a particular discovery procedure is used, it shall be sequentially numbered (e.g., “First Set”, “Second Set,” “First Request,” “Second Request,” etc.) so that it will be distinguishable from a prior procedure.

(d) Discovery Disputes – Expedited Briefing Schedule.

Any motion relating to a discovery dispute shall be handled on an expedited basis:

- (1) Memoranda in support of or in opposition to a discovery motion shall not exceed the length limit stated in [Local Civil Rules 7.2\(f\)\(1\)\(B\)](#) and [7.2\(f\)\(2\)\(B\)](#), and shall otherwise comply with [Local Civil Rules 7.1\(d\)](#) and [7.2](#).
- (2) Responses and accompanying documents relating to discovery motions shall be filed within 14 days after service of the motion in question unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- (3) Replies are not permitted in discovery disputes. See also [Local Civil Rule 7.1\(f\)\(2\)](#).
- (4) In any instance in which oral argument is scheduled, counsel may be given the option of oral presentations by telephone in lieu of a live appearance.

(e) **Other Discovery Matters.**

- (1) Through appropriate written discovery, a party may obtain discovery of the existence and contents of any insurance agreement under which any person carrying on an insurance business may be liable to satisfy part or all of a judgment which may be entered in an action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment. The discovery permitted shall include inspection and copying of any such agreements pursuant to [Fed. R. Civ. P. 34](#). Information concerning the insurance agreement is not by reason of disclosure admissible in evidence at trial. For purposes of this subparagraph, an application for insurance shall not be treated as part of an insurance agreement.
- (2) In accordance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 16\(b\)](#), this court will routinely issue an order for a discovery plan and will thereafter enter a scheduling order. The planning meeting of counsel required by [Fed. R. Civ. P. 26\(f\)](#) and the report of counsel contemplated by said rule are a mandatory part of the process of formulating a scheduling order. A report in accordance with the following form shall be sufficient to comply with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 26\(f\)](#), although the parties may include greater detail or additional topics. If the parties cannot agree on a joint report, each party shall file a separate Rule 26(f) report setting forth its position on disputed matters. The parties may include in their report an agreement to mediate and a proposed timetable for conducting that mediation.

THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

_____ DIVISION
No. __:____-CV-____-__

JANE T. SMITH,)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
)	<u>REPORT OF THE PARTIES’</u>
v.)	<u>PLANNING MEETING</u>
)	Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f)
AARON R. JONES et al.,)	
)	
Defendants.)	

)

1. The following persons participated in a Rule 26(f) conference on <Date> by <State the method of conferring>:

<Name>, representing the <plaintiff>
<Name>, representing the <defendant>
2. Initial Disclosures. The parties [have completed] [will complete by <Date>] the initial disclosures required by Rule 26(a)(1).
3. Discovery Plan. The parties propose this discovery plan:

<Use separate paragraphs or subparagraphs if the parties disagree.>
 - (a) Discovery will be needed on these subjects: <Describe>.
 - (b) <Dates for commencing and completing discovery, including discovery to be commenced or completed before other discovery.>
 - (c) <Maximum number of interrogatories by each party to another party, along with the dates the answers are due.>
 - (d) <Maximum number of requests for admission, along with the dates responses are due.>
 - (e) <Maximum number of depositions by each party.>
 - (f) <Limits on the length of depositions, in hours.>
 - (g) <Dates for exchanging reports of expert witnesses.>
 - (h) <Dates for supplementations under Rule 26(e).>
 - (i) <Any issues about disclosure, discovery, or preservation of electronically stored information, including the form or forms in which it should be produced.>
 - (j) <Any issues about claims of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation materials, including—if the parties agree on a procedure to assert these claims after production—whether to ask the court to include their agreement in an order under Federal Rule of Evidence 502.>
4. Other Items:
 - (a) <A date if the parties ask to meet with the court before a scheduling order.>
 - (b) <Requested dates for pretrial conferences.>
 - (c) <Final dates for the plaintiff to amend pleadings or to join parties.>
 - (d) <Final dates for the defendant to amend pleadings or to join parties.>
 - (e) <Final dates to file dispositive motions.>
 - (f) <State the prospects for settlement.>

- (g) <Identify any alternative dispute resolution procedure that may enhance settlement prospects and the timing of such procedure.>
- (h) <Final dates for submitting Rule 26(a)(3) witness lists, designations of witnesses whose testimony will be presented by deposition, and exhibit lists.>
- (i) <Final dates to file objections under Rule 26(a)(3).>
- (j) <Suggested trial date and estimate of trial length.>
- (k) <Other matters.>

Date: <Date>

<Signature of the attorney or unrepresented party>

<Printed name>
<Address>
<E-mail address>
<Telephone number>

Date: <Date>

<Signature of the attorney or unrepresented party>

<Printed name>
<Address>
<E-mail address>
<Telephone number>

Rule 27.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 28.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 29.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 30.1 **Deposition Exhibits**

The parties are encouraged to mark all deposition exhibits consecutively during discovery without reference to the deposition taken or the party using the exhibit.

Rule 31.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 32.1 Depositions for Use at Trial

Depositions *de bene esse* may be taken outside of the period of discovery.

Rule 33.1 Form of Interrogatories, Responses and Objections

All interrogatories shall be served on opposing counsel. Counsel are encouraged to provide interrogatories in electronic form to facilitate responses.

Rule 34.1 Requests for Production

All Rule 34 requests shall be served on opposing counsel. Counsel are encouraged to provide such requests in electronic form to facilitate responses.

Rule 35.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 36.1 Requests for Admission

All requests for admission shall be served on opposing counsel. Counsel are encouraged to provide such requests in electronic form to facilitate responses.

Rule 37.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 38.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 39.1 Attorney Preparations for Trial

(a) In General.

Seven days preceding the first day of the session at which a civil action is set for trial, counsel for all parties shall file with the clerk:

- (1) A concise memorandum of authorities on all anticipated evidentiary questions and on all contested issues of law;
- (2) Motions relating to the admissibility of evidence; however, no party shall be required to file a written response to a motion relating to the admissibility of evidence which is filed after the final pretrial conference has taken place.

(b) Exhibits.

- (1) All exhibits shall be pre-marked with stickers with the sequential numbers as listed in the pretrial order. Each exhibit at trial shall contain the case number of the action on the exhibit sticker and a party designation where there are different plaintiffs and defendants introducing exhibits.
- (2) Copies of all exhibits, properly bound, shall be provided to the court at the beginning of the trial.
- (3) The original shall bear a sticker. After receipt into evidence, it shall remain in the custody of the courtroom deputy, except when being used by a witness or viewed by the jury.
- (4) Copies of all exhibits shall bear the photostatic image of the sticker or a typed or printed reproduction thereof.
- (5) Counsel are encouraged to provide one or more copies of exhibits for use by the jury.

- (6) Upon presentation of an exhibit to a witness, counsel shall announce to the court the exhibit number. The exhibit shall not be handed to opposing counsel. Should opposing counsel contend that a copy has not been provided or that the exhibit has been lost or misplaced, opposing counsel shall bring the issue to the attention of the court.

(c) **Related Rules.**

The parties shall comply, as provided therein, with [Local Civil Rules 16.1, 47.1\(b\)](#), and [51.1](#) (or [Local Civil Rule 52.1](#) in non-jury cases).

Rule 39.2 Late Developments in the Case

Counsel shall immediately inform the court, opposing counsel and counsel in the next succeeding two cases on the calendar of any settlement or of any developments of an emergency which may necessitate a motion for continuance.

Rule 39.3 Opening Statements

At the beginning of the trial, each party (beginning with the party having the burden of proof on the first issue) shall, without argument and in such reasonable time as the court allows, state to the court and the jury the following:

- (a) the substance of the claim, counterclaim, crossclaim or defense; and
- (b) what counsel contends the evidence will show. Parties not having the burden of proof on the first issue may elect to make an opening statement immediately prior to presenting evidence, rather than at the beginning of the trial.

Rule 39.4 Closing Arguments

The court will set the times for closing arguments after consultation with the parties. Unless otherwise ordered by the court, the party with the burden of proof shall open and close the arguments.

Rule 40.1 Court Schedule and Conduct of Business**(a) Headquarters of the Clerk.**

The headquarters of the clerk of court shall be in Raleigh.

(b) Divisions of the District.

There shall be four divisions of the court. Headquarters of each division and the counties comprising each division are as follows:

<u>Name of Division</u>	<u>Headquarters</u>	<u>Counties</u>	
Northern Division	Elizabeth City	Bertie Camden Chowan Currituck Dare Gates	Hertford Northampton Pasquotank Perquimans Tyrrell Washington
Eastern Division	Greenville	Beaufort Carteret Craven Edgecombe Greene Halifax Pitt	Hyde Jones Lenoir Martin Pamlico
Western Division	Raleigh	Cumberland Franklin Granville Harnett Johnston Nash	Vance Wake Warren Wayne Wilson
Southern Division	Wilmington	Bladen Brunswick Columbus Duplin New Hanover	Onslow Pender Robeson Sampson

(c) **Assignment of Cases to a Division.**

- (1) **Civil Actions.** The clerk shall assign all civil actions to a division when the action is filed or removed. If one or more plaintiffs are residents of this District, the clerk shall assign the case to the division in which the first named such plaintiff resides. If no plaintiff resides in the District and one or more defendants reside in the District, the clerk shall assign the action to the division in which the first named such defendant resides. In the event no party resides in the District but the claim is alleged to have arisen in the District or to involve real property in the District, the clerk shall assign the action to the division in which such claim is alleged to have arisen or in which the real property is situated. In all other instances, a case shall be assigned to a division in the discretion of the clerk. In removed actions, the matter will be assigned to the division in which the state court is located from which the action is removed.
- (2) **Residence of Corporation.** For the purposes of this local rule, a corporate plaintiff shall be deemed to reside in the state in which it was incorporated and in the district and division in which it has its principal office; and, a corporate defendant shall be deemed to reside in the division in which the corporation is alleged (a) to be incorporated and have its principal office, or (b) to be licensed to do business, or (c) to be doing business.
- (3) **United States as Plaintiff.** For the purposes of this local rule, in cases where the United States, its agencies or officers acting in an official capacity is the plaintiff, it shall be deemed that such plaintiff does not reside in this district.

(d) **Scheduling Trials.**

Each judicial officer shall maintain an individual trial calendar with due regard for the priorities and requirements of law. Selected cases may be expedited by the judicial officer on his or her own motion, or on the motion of any party.

Rule 40.2 Electronic Designation of Judges

Any electronically generated designation of a district judge or magistrate judge does not mean that the judge so designated is assigned to the case.

Rule 40.3 Related Cases

(a) Definition of Related Cases.

Cases may be related when:

- (1) the cases concern substantially the same parties, transaction(s) or event(s);
- (2) the cases call for a determination of the same or substantially related or similar questions of law and fact; or
- (3) it appears likely that there will be an unduly burdensome duplication of labor and expense or conflicting results if the cases are conducted before different judges.

(b) Notice.

Whenever a party knows or learns that a case filed in or removed to this district is (or the party believes that the case may be) related to a case which is or was pending in this district as defined in subsection (a), the party must promptly file in the earliest-filed open case a notice identifying all cases pending in this district that are related to this case. The notice must contain (1) the title and case number of each case and (2) a brief statement of the relationship of cases according to the criteria set forth in subsection (a) of this rule.

(c) Filing of Notice Does Not Constitute a General Appearance.

A notice filed pursuant to this rule shall not constitute a general appearance in the action.

Rule 41.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 42.1 Reserved for Future Purposes**Rule 43.1 Reserved for Future Purposes****Rule 44.1 Reserved for Future Purposes****Rule 45.1 Witnesses**

Counsel may not release a person from a subpoena without notice to opposing counsel and leave of court. A party objecting to the release of a person shall bear all costs incident to such person which arise subsequent to the request for release. The court may, in its discretion and in the interest of justice, permit a party to call and examine a witness not listed in the final pretrial order.

Rule 46.1 Reserved for Future Purposes**Rule 47.1 Jurors****(a) Jury Lists.**

When the jury for a session of the court is drawn, the clerk shall furnish a copy of the list to counsel for the parties or to any party acting *pro se* on a relevant trial roster, upon their request, unless otherwise directed by the court. The clerk shall notify the presiding judge and the opposing party of any such request by a *pro se* party prior to providing the requested list. The list shall set out the name and county of residence of each prospective juror. The jurors and their families shall not be contacted, either directly or indirectly, in an effort to secure information concerning the background of any member of the jury panel. When the jurors are seated in the jury box, a chart or list shall be furnished by the clerk to the parties or their counsel, showing the name and seating assignment of each juror.

(b) Examination of Jurors.

The court shall conduct the examination of prospective jurors. Seven days preceding the first day of the session at which a civil action is set for trial,

counsel shall file a list of any *voir dire* questions counsel desires the court to ask the jury other than routine questions such as (1) the occupations and addresses of jurors and their spouses, (2) the identity and relation of jurors, the parties, counsel, and witnesses, and (3) the knowledge of the jurors concerning the case.

(c) Contact with Trial Jurors.

Following the discharge of a jury from further consideration of a case, no attorney or party litigant shall individually or through an investigator or any person acting for such attorney or party litigant ask questions of or make comments to a member of that jury or the members of the family of such a juror that are calculated merely to harass or embarrass such a juror or member of such juror's family or to influence the actions of such a juror or a member of such juror's family in future jury service.

Rule 48.1 Taking Verdicts and Polling the Jury

The court may take the verdict of the jury in open court in the absence of any party or counsel. Unless the contrary affirmatively appears of record, it will be presumed that the parties were present or by their voluntary absence waived their presence. The jury will not be polled unless a party requests a poll at the time the verdict is taken or unless a poll is ordered by the court.

Rule 49.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 50.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 51.1 Requests for Jury Instructions

Seven business days preceding the first day of the session at which a civil action is set for trial, counsel shall file requests for jury instructions. Requests using *Federal Jury Practice and Instructions* (6th Ed.) by O'Malley, Grenig, and Lee, *Fifth Circuit Pattern Jury Instructions*, and *North Carolina Pattern Jury Instructions* shall include both the text of the proposed instruction as well as a citation reference to the proposed instruction. All other requests shall contain citations to supporting authorities.

Rule 52.1 Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

In non-jury cases, counsel shall file proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law 5 business days preceding the session at which a civil action is set for trial.

Rule 53.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 54.1 Application for Costs

All applications for costs must be made 14 days after the entry of judgment. Objections to applications for costs must be filed within 14 days after service of the application for costs.

(a) Filing Bill of Costs.

- (1)** A prevailing party may request the clerk to tax allowable costs, other than attorney's fees, in a civil action as part of a judgment or decree by filing a bill of costs, on AO Form 133, available on the court's internet website:

<http://www.nced.uscourts.gov/forms/Default.aspx>.

- (2)** The original bill of costs shall be filed with the clerk, with copies served on adverse parties.
- (3)** The failure of a prevailing party to timely file a bill of costs shall constitute a waiver of any claim for costs.

(b) Objections to Bill of Costs.

- (1)** If an adverse party objects to the bill of costs or any item claimed by a prevailing party, that party must state its objection in a motion for disallowance with a supporting brief within 14 days after the filing of the bill of costs. Within 7 days thereafter, the prevailing party may file a response and brief. Unless a hearing is ordered by the clerk, a ruling will be made by the clerk on the record.
- (2)** A party may request review of the clerk's ruling by filing a motion

within 7 days after the action of the clerk. The court’s review of the clerk’s action will be made on the existing record unless otherwise ordered.

(c) Taxable Costs.

(1) Items normally taxed include, without limitation:

- (a)** those items specifically listed on the bill of costs form. The costs incident to the taking of depositions (when allowable as necessarily obtained for use in the litigation) normally include only the reporter’s fee and charge for the original transcript of the deposition;
- (b)** premiums on required bonds;
- (c)** actual mileage, subsistence, and attendance allowances for necessary witnesses at actual costs, but not to exceed the applicable statutory rates, whether they reside in or out of the district;
- (d)** one copy of the trial transcript for each party represented by counsel.

(2) Items normally not taxed, without limitation:

- (a)** witness fees, subsistence, and mileage for individual parties, real parties in interest, parties suing in representative capacities, and the officers and directors of corporate parties;
- (b)** multiple copies of depositions;
- (c)** daily copy of trial transcripts, unless prior court approval has been obtained.

(d) Costs in Settlements.

The court will not tax costs in any action terminated by compromise or settlement. Settlement agreements must resolve any issue relating to costs. In the absence of specific agreement, each party will bear its own costs.

(e) Payment of Costs.

Costs are to be paid directly to the party entitled to reimbursement.

Rule 54.2 Taxation of Juror Costs

(a) Settlement before Trial.

Whenever a civil action scheduled for jury trial is not settled or otherwise disposed of by the applicable deadline set forth herein, then, except for good cause shown, juror costs for one day shall be assessed equally against the parties and their counsel or otherwise assessed or relieved as directed by the court. Juror costs include attendance fees, per diem, mileage, and parking. No juror costs will be assessed if notice of settlement or other disposition of the case is given to the court one full business day prior to the scheduled trial date. In asbestos-related litigation, notice must be given to the court 7 days prior to the scheduled trial date.

(b) Settlement before Verdict.

Except upon a showing of good cause, the court shall assess the juror costs equally against the parties and their counsel whenever a civil action proceeding as a jury trial is settled at trial in advance of the verdict. The judge may, in his or her discretion, direct that the juror costs be relieved or that they be assessed other than equally among the parties and their counsel.

Rule 55.1 Entry of Default and Default Judgment

(a) Entry of Default by Clerk.

To obtain an entry of default pursuant to [Fed. R. Civ. P. 55\(a\)](#), a party must file a motion for entry of default and a proposed order. The moving party shall serve pursuant to [Fed. R. Civ. P. 5](#) any party that has failed to appear, and all other parties, with the motion for entry of default, proposed order, and a certificate of service. Such service shall also be made on any attorney the moving party knows, or reasonably should know, represents the party against which default is sought. The motion shall be supported by an affidavit that describes with specificity how each allegedly defaulting party was served with process in a manner authorized by [Fed. R. Civ. P. 4](#) and the

date of such service. Following the 21-day response time provided under [Local Civil Rule 7.1\(e\)\(1\)](#), the motion shall be submitted to the presiding judge if it is opposed or if the allegedly defaulting party has filed a responsive pleading. Otherwise, the motion shall be referred to the clerk and if the clerk is satisfied that the moving party has effected service of process, the clerk shall enter a default.

(b) Default Judgment.

(1) General Requirements. Any motion for default judgment shall be served on every party that has appeared in the action and be supported by an affidavit stating that each party against which judgment is sought is not an infant, an incompetent person, or in the military service of the United States as defined in the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act of 2003, as amended.

(2) By the Clerk. A motion seeking default judgment pursuant to [Fed. R. Civ. P. 55\(b\)\(1\)](#) shall be accompanied by a proposed order and the supporting affidavit. If a party files a motion for default judgment prior to entry of default, the moving party must also serve the party against which default is sought pursuant to subsection (a) of this rule. The supporting affidavit shall show:

- (A)** the party against which judgment is sought has not appeared in the action;
- (B)** the principal amount due, giving credit for any payments and showing the amounts and dates of payment;
- (C)** the information enabling the principal amount due to be calculated as a sum certain, if it is not already a sum certain;
- (D)** the information enabling the computation of the interest to the date of judgment;
- (E)** the proposed post-judgment interest rate and the reasons for using it if the moving party claims that a post-judgment

interest rate other than that provided by 28 U.S.C. § 1961 applies; and

(F) the amount of any costs claimed.

Additionally, if a claim is based on a contract, the moving party shall cite the relevant contract provisions in the motion for default judgment or supporting memorandum, if any, and file a copy of the contract as an attachment to the motion for default judgment. The clerk may submit any motion for default judgment to the presiding judge for review.

(3) **By the Court.** A motion seeking default judgment pursuant to [Fed. R. Civ. B. 55\(b\)\(2\)](#) shall include the docket entry number of the clerk's entry of default.

Rule 56.1 Motions for Summary Judgment

(a) **Statement of Material Facts on Motion for Summary Judgment.**

(1) **Movant's Statement.** Any motion for summary judgment pursuant to [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56](#) shall be supported by a separate statement, in numbered paragraphs, of the material facts as to which the moving party contends there is no genuine dispute.

- (2) **Opposing Statement.** The memorandum opposing a motion for summary judgment shall be supported by a separate statement including a response to each numbered paragraph in the moving party’s statement, in correspondingly numbered paragraphs, and if necessary, additional paragraphs containing a statement of additional material facts as to which the opposing party contends there is a genuine dispute. Each numbered paragraph in the moving party’s statement of material facts will be deemed admitted for purposes of the motion unless it is specifically controverted by a correspondingly numbered paragraph in the opposing statement.
- (3) **Reply Statement.** When a party opposing summary judgment submits a statement of additional material facts as to which it contends there is a genuine dispute, the moving party may submit a reply statement of additional facts limited to the additional facts referenced in the statement submitted by the party opposing summary judgment.
- (4) **Citations.** Each statement by the movant or opponent pursuant to this Local Civil Rule must be followed by citation to evidence that would be admissible, as required by [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 56\(c\)](#). Citations shall identify with specificity the relevant page and paragraph or line number of the evidence cited.
- (5) **Appendix.** All evidence cited in moving or opposing statements, such as affidavits, relevant deposition testimony, responses to discovery requests, or other documents shall be filed as an appendix to the statement of facts prescribed by subsections (1) or (2) and denominated “Plaintiff’s/Defendant’s Appendix to Local Civil Rule 56.1 Statement of Material Facts.”

(b) **Exceptional Cases.**

Where a party believes that compliance with this Local Civil Rule will be exceptionally burdensome or is otherwise inappropriate, the party may include a request for modification or exemption from its requirements as part of the Rule 26(f) report to the court or by separate motion.

(c) **Cross-referencing.**

Memoranda in support of or in opposition to a motion for summary judgment as required by [Local Civil Rule 7.1](#) or [7.2](#) may cross-reference or cite to the statement and appendix prescribed by this Local Civil Rule without repeating the contents thereof.

Rule 57.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 58.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 59.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 60.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 61.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 62.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 63.1 **Reserved for Future Purposes**

Rule 64.1 **Seizure of Person or Property**

All acts and duties pertaining to the seizure of person or property as provided by the law of the State of North Carolina authorized to be done by a judge or the clerk of the state court may be done in like cases by a judge of this court or the clerk of this court, respectively.

Rule 65.1 **Sureties**

(a) Approval of Security.

The clerk or deputy clerk is authorized to approve all recognizances, stipulations, bonds, guaranties, or undertakings, in the penal sum prescribed

by statute or order of the court, whether the security be property, or personal or corporate surety.

(b) Security.

Except as otherwise provided by law, every recognizance, stipulation, bond, guaranty, or undertaking shall be with security that consists of either (1) cash or negotiable government bonds, or (2) one or more sureties, as provided by law or the applicable [Federal Rule of Civil Procedure](#). A judge may enter pertinent orders restricting any bonding company or surety company from being accepted as surety upon any bond in any case or matter in this district.

(c) Use of Real Property as Security.

Whenever a surety seeks to justify assets by demonstrating ownership of real property, a judge or magistrate judge shall determine by satisfactory evidence that the property is of sufficient unencumbered value to protect the interests of the adverse party.

(d) Prohibited Sureties.

Members of the bar, administrative officers and employees of this court, and the marshal and deputies and assistants thereto shall not act as surety in any matter pending in this court.

Rule 66.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

[Rule 67.1] [Deposit of Registry Funds in Interest Bearing Accounts]

(Abrogated eff. March 16, 2017)
See 17-SO-1.

Rule 68.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 69.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 70.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 71.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 72.1 Magistrate Judges: Standards of Performance

In performing duties for the court, a magistrate judge shall conform to all applicable provisions of federal statutes and rules, to the Local Civil Rules and procedures of this court, and to the requirements specified in any order of reference from a judge.

Rule 72.2 Magistrate Judges: Assignments of Matters

(a) General.

Upon filing, all civil cases shall be assigned by the clerk to a magistrate judge for the conduct of such discovery and pretrial conferences as are necessary and for the hearing and determination of all pretrial procedural and discovery motions, in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 72.3\(b\)](#). Where designated by a judge, the magistrate judge may conduct additional pretrial conferences and hear motions and perform the duties set forth in [Local Civil Rules 72.3\(c\), 72.3\(d\), 72.3\(e\), and 72.3\(f\)](#).

(b) Consent to Civil Trial Jurisdiction of Magistrate Judges.

(1) Where the parties consent to trial and disposition of a civil case by a magistrate judge, such case shall, with the approval of the assigned judge, be reassigned to a specially designated magistrate judge for the conduct of further proceedings and the entry of judgment, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). Except as provided in subsection (2), the magistrate judges of this court are specially designated to exercise consent jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 636 (c).

(2) A part-time magistrate judge not serving as a full-time judicial officer may exercise jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) only if: the parties consent to trial and disposition of the case by such magistrate judge, pursuant to their specific written request; the magistrate judge meets the bar membership requirements set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 631(b)(1); the chief district judge certifies that a full-time magistrate judge is not reasonably available in accordance with guidelines established by

the Judicial Council of the Fourth Circuit; and the judge assigned to the case approves of its reassignment to the magistrate judge.

(c) Reserving and Changing Assignments.

Nothing in these local rules shall preclude a judge from reserving any proceeding for conduct by a judge, rather than a magistrate judge. The judge, moreover, may by order modify the method of assigning proceedings to a magistrate judge as circumstances may warrant.

Rule 72.3 Authority of Magistrate Judge

(a) Duties Under 28 U.S.C. § 636(a).

A magistrate judge is authorized to perform the duties prescribed by 28 U.S.C. § 636(a).

(b) Determination of Non-Dispositive Pretrial Matters – 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).

A magistrate judge may hear and determine any procedural or discovery motion or other pretrial matter in a civil case, other than the motions which are specified in [Local Civil Rule 72.3\(c\)\(1\)](#).

(c) Recommendations Regarding Case-Dispositive Motions – 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B).

(1) A magistrate judge may submit to a judge a report containing proposed findings of fact and recommendations for disposition by the judge of the following pretrial motions:

- a.** Motions for injunctive relief, including temporary restraining orders and preliminary and permanent injunctions;
- b.** Motions for judgment on pleadings;
- c.** Motions for summary judgment;
- d.** Motions to dismiss or permit the maintenance of a class

action;

- e. Motions to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted;
- f. Motions to involuntarily dismiss an action;
- g. Motions for review of default judgments;

(2) A magistrate judge may determine any preliminary matters and conduct any necessary evidentiary hearing or other proceeding arising in the exercise of the authority conferred by this Local Civil Rule 72.3.

(d) Prisoner Cases Under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and § 2255.

A magistrate judge may perform any or all of the duties imposed upon a judge by the rules governing proceedings in the United States district courts under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and § 2255. In so doing, a magistrate judge may issue any preliminary orders and conduct any necessary evidentiary hearing or other appropriate proceeding and shall submit to a judge a report containing proposed findings of fact and recommendations for disposition of the petition by the judge. Any order disposing of the petition shall only be made by a judge.

(e) Prisoner Civil Rights Actions.

A magistrate judge may issue any preliminary orders and conduct any necessary evidentiary hearing or other appropriate proceeding and shall submit to a judge a report containing proposed findings of fact and recommendations for the disposition of petitions filed by prisoners challenging the conditions of their confinement.

(f) Special Master References.

A magistrate judge may be designated by a judge to serve as special master in appropriate civil cases in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(2) and [Fed. R. Civ. P. 53](#). Upon the consent of the parties, a magistrate judge may be designated by a judge to serve as special master in any civil case, notwithstanding the limitations of [Fed. R. Civ. P. 53\(b\)](#).

(g) Conduct of Trial and Disposition of Civil Cases upon Consent of the Parties – 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

Subject to the provisions of [Local Civil Rule 72.2\(c\)](#), a specially designated magistrate judge may conduct any or all proceedings in any civil case which is filed in this court and assigned to the magistrate judge, including the conduct of a jury or non-jury trial, and may order the entry of a final judgment, in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c). In the course of conducting such proceedings, the magistrate judge may hear and determine any and all pretrial and post-trial motions, including case-dispositive motions.

(h) Other Duties.

A magistrate judge is also authorized to:

- (1) exercise general supervision of calendars, conduct calendar and status calls, and determine motions to expedite or postpone the trial of cases for the judges;
- (2) conduct discovery conferences, pretrial conferences, settlement conferences, omnibus hearings, and related pretrial proceedings;
- (3) conduct *voir dire* and select petit juries for the court;
- (4) accept petit jury verdicts in civil cases in the absence of a judge;
- (5) issue subpoenas, writs of habeas corpus *ad testificandum* or habeas corpus *ad prosequendum*, or other orders necessary to obtain the presence of parties, witnesses or evidence needed for court proceedings;
- (6) order the exoneration or forfeiture of bonds;
- (7) conduct proceedings for the collection of civil penalties of not more than \$200.00 assessed under the Federal Boat Safety Act of 1971, in accordance with 46 U.S.C. § 1484(d);
- (8) conduct proceedings for initial commitment of narcotics addicts under Title III of the Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act;

- (9) perform the duties specified by the Federal Debt Collection Procedures Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. § 3001 et. seq.;
- (10) perform any additional duty consistent with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Rule 72.4 Review and Appeal

(a) Appeal of Non-Dispositive Matters – 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).

- (1) Any party may appeal from a magistrate judge’s order determining a motion or matter under [Local Civil Rule 72.3\(b\)](#) 14 days after service of the magistrate judge’s order, unless a different time is prescribed by the magistrate judge or a judge. Such party shall file with the clerk, and serve on the magistrate judge and all parties, a written statement of appeal which shall specifically designate the order, or part thereof, appealed from and the basis for any objection thereto. Any party may respond to another party’s statement of appeal within 14 days after being served with a copy thereof, unless otherwise ordered by the court.
- (2) The statement of appeal and any response thereto shall meet the requirements applicable to memoranda in support of or in opposition to a discovery motion in [Local Civil Rule 7.2](#).
- (3) Replies are not permitted absent leave of court.
- (4) A judge shall consider the appeal and shall set aside any portion of the magistrate judge’s order found to be clearly erroneous or contrary to law. The judge may also reconsider *sua sponte* any matters determined by a magistrate judge under this local rule.

(b) Review of Case-Dispositive Motions and Prisoner Litigation – 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B)

- (1) Any party may object to a magistrate judge’s proposed findings, recommendations or report under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(B) within 14 days after being served with a copy thereof. Such party shall file with the clerk, and serve all parties, written objections which shall specifically identify the portions of the proposed findings,

recommendations or report to which objection is made and the basis for such objection. Any party may respond to another party's objections within 14 days after being served with a copy thereof, unless otherwise ordered by the court.

- (2) The objections and any response thereto shall meet the requirements applicable to memoranda in support of or in opposition to a non-discovery motion in [Local Civil Rule 7.2](#).
- (3) Replies to responses are not permitted absent leave of court.
- (4) A judge shall make a *de novo* determination of those portions of the report or specified proposed findings or recommendations to which objection is made and may accept, reject, or modify, in whole or in part, the findings or recommendations made by the magistrate judge. The judge, however, needs to conduct a new hearing only in his or her discretion or where required by law, and may consider the record developed before the magistrate judge, making his or her own determination on the basis of that record. The judge may also receive further evidence, recall witnesses or recommit the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

(c) Special Master Reports – 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(2).

Any party may seek review of, or action on, a special master report filed by a magistrate judge in accordance with the provisions of [Fed. R. Civ. P. 53\(e\)](#).

(d) Appeal from Judgments in Civil Cases Disposed of on Consent of the Parties – 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

Upon the entry of judgment in any civil case disposed of by a magistrate judge on consent of the parties under authority of 28 U.S.C. § 636(c), an aggrieved party may appeal directly to the United States Court of Appeals for this circuit in the same manner as an appeal from any other judgment of this court.

(e) Appeals from Other Orders of a Magistrate Judge.

Appeals from any other decisions and orders of a magistrate judge not provided for in this [Local Civil Rule 72.4](#) should be taken as provided by governing statute, rule, or decisional law.

[Rule 73.1] [Consent of Parties to Civil Trial Jurisdiction of Magistrate Judges]

(Vacated eff. December 1, 2015)

Rule 74.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 75.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 76.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 77.1 Court in Continuous Session

This court shall be in continuous session in all divisions of the district on all business days throughout the year. All matters not reached at the regular sessions of court are deemed to be in an open status and subject to being called for disposition before the next regular session of court upon reasonable notice to the interested parties.

Rule 77.2 Orders and Judgments

The clerk or deputy clerk is authorized to enter the orders and judgments listed below without further direction of the court. However, such action may be suspended, altered or rescinded by the court for cause shown.

- (a) Consent orders for substitution of attorneys.
- (b) Orders enlarging time periods in civil actions authorized to be entered by the court by [Fed. R. Civ. P. 6\(b\)](#).
- (c) Orders extending for a reasonable amount of time the period within which an act must be performed under the local rules of this court.
- (d) Consent order dismissing an action, except in bankruptcy proceedings and in cases to which [Fed. R. Civ. P. 23\(c\)](#) and [Fed. R. Civ. P. 66](#) apply.
- (e) Orders canceling liability on bonds.

- (f) Orders changing the time of opening and adjourning court in the absence of the judge.
- (g) Entries of default and judgments by default as provided for in [Fed. R. Civ. P. 55\(a\) and 55\(b\)\(1\)](#).
- (h) Orders authorizing service of process by a person other than a United States Marshal pursuant to [Fed. R. Civ. P. 4\(c\)](#).
- (i) Certification of law students and supervising attorneys pursuant to [Local Civil Rule 83.2](#)
- (j) Any other motion, rule or order which may be granted of course or without notice.
- (k) Pursuant to the provisions of 28 U.S.C. § 956, the clerk or a deputy clerk, when there is need to serve a complaint and attachment upon a vessel, or any other process incident to admiralty and maritime claims, either *in rem* or *in personam*, are empowered to grant and enter an order authorizing any sheriff or any deputy sheriff, or other suitable person, to serve all such process.

Rule 78.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 79.1 Exhibits

The clerk shall be the custodian of all exhibits admitted into evidence. Upon 14 days' notice to counsel for all parties, the clerk may, within 30 days after the entry of final judgment, destroy or otherwise dispose of the exhibits.

Rule 79.2 Sealed Documents

(a) Filing Sealed Documents.

No cases or documents may be sealed without an order from the court. A party desiring to file a document under seal must first file a motion seeking leave in accordance with Section V.G of the CM/ECF [Policy Manual](#). All sealed and proposed documents shall be maintained electronically in CM/ECF unless otherwise ordered by the court. First-time filers are strongly

encouraged to call the CM/ECF Help Desk at 866-855-8894.

(b) Proposed Sealed Documents.

- (1) Unless otherwise permitted by Section V.G of the CM/ECF [Policy Manual](#) or order of the court, all proposed sealed documents must be accompanied by a motion to seal. The motion to seal shall be a public document and noted with a docket entry that gives the public notice of the request to seal. The docket entry for the proposed sealed document shall identify it as a “proposed” sealed document and describe the type of document it is (e.g., affidavit, record) and the substantive motion or other specific proceedings in the case to which it relates (e.g., in support of defendant’s motion to compel at D.E. ____). The proposed sealed document is deemed to be provisionally sealed until the court rules on the motion to seal.
- (2) If the motion to seal is granted, the clerk will remove the word “proposed” from the docket entry.
- (3) If the motion to seal is denied, the document will remain sealed and the word “proposed” will remain in the docket entry for the document in order to preserve the record. The document will not be considered by the court, except as provided herein or as otherwise ordered by the court. A party desiring to remove a proposed sealed document or docket entry therefor from the docket sheet must file a motion to strike in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 7.1](#). A party whose motion to seal is denied but that desires the court to consider a proposed sealed document as a publicly filed document shall file the document as a public document within 3 days after entry of the order denying the motion to seal or within such other period as the court directs.

(c) Return of Sealed Documents.

- (1) For those sealed documents not scanned into CM/ECF, upon 14 days’ notice to all parties, the clerk may destroy or dispose of the sealed documents, unless the attorney or party who filed them retrieves them from the clerk. This notice may occur no earlier than 30 days after final disposition.
- (2) If, during the 14-day period after the clerk has given notice of intent to dispose of the sealed documents, any party files an objection to

such disposition, the presiding judge in the case shall resolve the dispute over the proposed disposition.

(d) Procedures for Manual Filers.

For those parties who are required to manually file all court documents (i.e., *pro se* litigants), proposed sealed documents shall be delivered to the clerk’s office in paper form in a sealed envelope. The proposed sealed documents must be accompanied by a motion to seal in accordance with Section V.G of the CM/ECF [Policy Manual](#). Both the documents and the envelope shall be prominently labeled “UNDER SEAL.” The envelope must also have written on it: the case caption; the case number; the title of the document or, if the title contains proposed sealed information, the title omitting the proposed sealed information; and the following notice in all capital letters and otherwise prominently displayed:

PROPOSED SEALED DOCUMENTS: SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO MOTION TO SEAL.

Rule 80.1 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 81.1 Civil Rights Actions by Prisoners

All complaints on behalf of state prisoners or pretrial detainees seeking relief under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 and federal prisoners challenging conditions of confinement shall be filed with the clerk in compliance with the instructions of the clerk and on the appropriate form available without charge.

Rule 81.2 Habeas Corpus Actions

All petitions on behalf of prisoners seeking relief under 28 U.S.C. § 2241, 28 U.S.C. § 2254, or 28 U.S.C. § 2255 shall be filed with the clerk in compliance with the instructions of the clerk and on the appropriate form available without charge. Such proceedings shall be governed by the rules promulgated by the United States Supreme Court.

Rule 81.3 Naturalization

Petitions for naturalization will be considered and acted upon, and appropriate ceremonies conducted in connection therewith, on Friday of the first week of any regular session of court at which naturalization hearings are set, beginning at 11:00 A.M., unless otherwise ordered by the court. The court may at other times, in its discretion, for good cause shown, and upon reasonable prior notice by the applicant to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, consider and act upon petitions for naturalization by members of the armed services, seamen on merchant vessels registered under the laws of the United States, and members of the immediate families and dependents of such personnel, and in other exceptional cases.

Rule 82.3 Reserved for Future Purposes

Rule 83.1 Attorneys

(a) Roll of Attorneys.

The bar of this court consists of those previously admitted and those hereafter admitted as prescribed by this [Local Civil Rule 83.1](#).

(b) Eligibility.

A member in good standing of the bar of the Supreme Court of North Carolina is eligible for admission to the bar of this court.

(c) Procedure for Admission.

Before being presented to the court for taking the required oath, an applicant for admission shall certify in a written application that such applicant:

- (1)** Is a member in good standing of the bar of the Supreme Court of North Carolina; and
- (2)** Has studied the [Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure](#), the [Federal Rules of Evidence](#), and the [local rules](#) of this court.

In addition to these certifications, the written application shall contain the certification of two attorneys who are members in good standing of the bar

of this court that the applicant is of good moral character and professional reputation and meets the requirements for admission. An applicant may be admitted to practice in this court by a district judge, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge of this court or of the United States District Court for the Middle District or Western District of North Carolina upon oral motion by a member of the bar of this court. If the motion for admission is granted, the applicant shall take the following oath or affirmation:

I do solemnly swear [affirm] that, to the best of my knowledge and ability, I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will conduct myself as an attorney of this court, uprightly and according to law. So help me God. [This is my solemn affirmation.]

Following the administration of the oath or affirmation, the application shall be signed by the district judge, bankruptcy judge, or magistrate judge and the applicant shall file with the clerk the application, accompanied by the filing fee required by the Administrative Office of the United States Courts and this court for admission to practice in this district. The clerk shall then issue the applicant a certificate of admission to the bar of this court.

(3) Current law clerks to district judges, bankruptcy judges, and magistrate judges within this District shall be admitted to the bar of this court without payment of an admission fee.

(d) Representation by Local Counsel Who Must Sign All Pleadings.

Litigants in civil actions, except governmental agencies and parties appearing *pro se*, must be represented by at least one member of the bar of this court who shall sign all documents filed in this court, including his or her state bar number and fax number in the signature block on all pleadings. If an attorney appears solely to bring the litigant in compliance with this local rule, he or she shall in each instance designate himself or herself "Local Civil Rule 83.1(d) Counsel." In signing the pleading, motion, discovery request or other document, counsel certifies that he or she is an authorized representative for communication with the court about the litigation, and the document conforms to the practice and procedure of this court. However,

counsel does not make the certification required by Rule 11 of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#). Nevertheless, the requirements of Rule 11 must be complied with by out-of-state counsel. For failure to comply with the requirements of this rule, the court may on motion or its own initiative disqualify individuals from serving as local counsel. Signatures in the following form shall be sufficient to comply with this local rule. Local Civil Rule 83.1(d) Local Counsel must include the state bar number and fax number in the signature block on all pleadings:

Jane M. Jones
Jones, Jones and Jones
P.O. Box 500
New York, NY 10050
(212) 555-1212
Jane.jones@email.address.com
State Bar No.
Attorney for Defendant

John B. Counselor
Abbott, Ball and Counselor
P.O. Box 50
Raleigh, NC 27602
John.B.Counselor@email.address.com
(919) 878-8787
Fax (919) 878-8000
State Bar No.
Local Civil Rule 83.1(d) Counsel for Defendant

(e) **Appearances by Attorneys Not Admitted in the District – Special Appearance.**

- (1) Attorneys who are members in good standing of the bar of a United States Court and the bar of the highest court of any state or the District of Columbia may practice in this court for a particular case in association with a member of the bar of this court. By filing a Notice of Special Appearance (available on the district’s [website](#)), completing an [Electronic Filing Attorney Registration Form](#), and complying with Section IV.D of the [Policy Manual](#), an attorney agrees that:
 - a. the special appearance attorney will be responsible for ensuring the presence of an attorney who is familiar with the case and has authority to control the litigation at all conferences, hearings, trials and other proceedings;
 - b. the attorney submits to the disciplinary jurisdiction of the court for any misconduct in connection with the litigation in which the attorney is specially appearing;
 - c. for purposes of [Fed. R. Civ. P. 11](#), the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) and the [Local Civil Rules](#) of this court, the special appearance attorney’s electronic signature shall carry the same force and effect as an original signature; and
 - d. the special appearance attorney shall submit any document to Local Civil Rule 83.1(d) counsel for review prior to filing the document with this court.
- (2) An attorney who is not a member of the bar of this court will not receive electronic notification until the attorney becomes a registered CM/ECF filer with this court and files a Notice of Special Appearance.
- (3) A member of the bar of this court who accepts employment in association with a special appearance attorney is responsible to this court for the conduct of the litigation of the proceeding, must be a CM/ECF registrant and shall review for submission by the special appearance attorney all pleadings and papers electronically filed. The responsibility of the member of the bar who accepts employment

in association with a special appearance attorney and designates him or herself as [Local Civil Rule 83.1\(d\)](#) local counsel shall be governed by [Local Civil Rule 83.1\(d\)](#).

- (4) Any document filed by a special appearance attorney that does not comport with associated [Local Civil Rule 83.1\(d\)](#) counsel's standards may be objected to. Any such objection must be filed within 7 days of the issuance of the NEF for the document.
- (5) A special appearance is not a substitute for admission to the bar of this court, but rather is intended to facilitate occasional appearances only. Unless otherwise ordered for good cause shown, no attorney may be admitted pursuant to [Local Civil Rule 83.1](#) in more than three unrelated cases in any twelve-month period, nor may any attorney be admitted pursuant to [Local Civil Rule 83.1](#) in more than three active unrelated cases at any one time.

(f) Pleadings Service and Attendance by Local Counsel in Cases Where Out-of-State Attorneys Appear by Special Appearance.

Pleadings and other documents filed in a case where an attorney appears who is not admitted to the bar of this court shall contain the individual name, firm name, address and phone number of both the attorney making a special appearance under this local rule and the associated local counsel. As part of making an appearance in every case, an attorney also shall file contemporaneously a client disclosure statement in accordance with [Fed. R. Civ. P. 7.1](#) and [Local Civil Rule 7.3](#). The service of all pleadings and notices as required shall be sufficient if served only upon the associated local counsel. Local counsel shall attend all court proceedings unless excused by the court.

(g) Courtroom Decorum.

Counsel shall conduct themselves with dignity and propriety. Counsel shall rise when addressing the court, and all statements to the court shall be made from a counsel table or from behind the lectern facing the court. Counsel shall not approach the bench unless requested to do so by the court or unless permission is granted upon the request of counsel.

(h) Questioning of Witnesses.

Only one attorney for each party may question a particular witness unless the court allows otherwise. Counsel shall remain seated while questioning witnesses.

(i) Professional Standards.

The ethical standard governing the practice of law in this court is the Revised Rules of Professional Conduct, now in force and as hereafter modified by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, except as may be otherwise provided by specific rule of this court. Counsel are directed to advise the clerk within 14 days of disciplinary action taken against them resulting in suspension or disbarment. The disciplinary procedures of this court shall be on file with the clerk and furnished to counsel upon request.

(j) Admission of Attorneys Previously Admitted to the United States District Courts for the Middle or Western Districts of North Carolina.

Attorneys already admitted to the bar of either the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina or the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina may be admitted to the bar of this court upon tendering the application and fees required by [Local Civil Rule 83.1\(c\)](#), together with a copy of the order admitting the attorney to practice in one of the other districts, without the necessity of taking the oath that is otherwise required and without obtaining the character certification by two members of the bar of this court.

(k) Electronic Devices in Courtroom Facilities.

(1) Attorneys are subject to the Standing Order on Prohibition of Wireless Communication Devices in Courtroom Facilities dated August 15, 2005, 05-PLR-7. To be exempted from the Order, attorneys will be required to present a bar card to the court security officer to retain a cellular phone, smartphone, laptop, tablet, or other electronic device. If an attorney fails to present a bar card, the attorney will be prohibited from bringing any such item into the courthouse.

(2) By bringing an electronic device into the courthouse, an attorney agrees to the following:

- (A) The electronic device will not be used to record, broadcast, nor transmit any video images or audio sounds.
 - (B) While in the courtroom, the attorney will ensure that no sounds are emitted from the device.
 - (C) Upon entering the United States District Courthouse in the Eastern District of North Carolina, the electronic device will be screened by the court security officers using visual observation, x-ray scanning, chemical detection devices or other screening methods.
 - (D) The attorney will maintain custody over the electronic device and will not allow it to be used by anyone else unless the attorney has been given Court permission.
 - (E) Failure to comply with these provisions may result in the attorney’s loss of the right to use an electronic device in the United States District Courthouses in the Eastern District of North Carolina, confiscation of the device or other court sanctions, including, but not limited to, contempt of court.
- (3) Persons using wireless communication devices for evidence presentation or for other similar purposes must notify the court prior to the commencement of any proceeding that such a device is in their possession.
 - (4) Judges may permit additional exceptions to or impose additional limitations on the use of wireless electronic devices within courtroom facilities at their discretion.

Rule 83.2 Student Practice Rule

(a) Compliance with Rule.

Students may participate as counsel in civil and criminal cases in this court subject to their compliance with all of the requirements of this Local Civil Rule 83.2.

(b) Eligibility.

An eligible student must:

- (1) be duly enrolled in a law school accredited or provisionally accredited by the American Bar Association;
- (2) have completed at least three semesters of legal studies;
- (3) have knowledge of the [Federal Rules of Civil and Criminal Procedure](#), the [Federal Rules of Evidence](#), the Code of Professional Responsibility, and the [local rules of this court](#);
- (4) be supervised by a supervising attorney as defined in [Local Civil Rule 83.2\(c\)](#);
- (5) be certified by the Dean of the law school where the student is enrolled, or the Dean's designee, as being of good character, sufficient legal ability, and adequately trained to fulfill the responsibilities of a legal intern to both the client and the court;
- (6) be certified by the court to practice pursuant to this [Local Civil Rule 83.2](#); and
- (7) decline personal compensation for his or her legal services from a client or any other source.

(c) Supervising Attorney.

A supervisor must:

- (1) either (i) have faculty or adjunct faculty status at a law school at which a portion of the supervisor's duties includes supervision of students in a clinical program; or (ii) be a member of the bar of this court for at least two years, who in the determination of the court, is competent to carry out the role of supervising attorney;
- (2) be admitted to practice in this court;
- (3) be certified by the court as a student supervisor;

- (4) be present with the student at all times in court, and at other proceedings in which testimony is taken;
- (5) co-sign all pleadings or other documents filed with the court;
- (6) assume full personal and professional responsibility for a student's guidance and any work undertaken and for the quality of the student's work, and to be available for consultation with represented clients;
- (7) assist and counsel the student in activities mentioned in [Local Civil Rule 83.2\(e\)](#), and review such activities with the student, all to the extent required for proper practical training of the student and the protection of the client; and
- (8) supplement oral or written work of the student as necessary to insure proper representation of the client.

(d) Certification of Student and Supervisor.

- (1) **Student.** The court's certification of a student to practice under this [Local Civil Rule 83.2](#) shall be filed with the clerk and shall remain in effect for 18 months or until the student graduates from law school, whichever is earlier. Certification to appear generally or in a particular case may be withdrawn by the court at any time, in the discretion of the court, and without any showing of cause.
- (2) **Supervising Attorney.** Certification of the supervising attorney shall be filed with the clerk, and shall remain in effect indefinitely unless withdrawn by the court, in its discretion, and without any showing of cause.

(e) **Activities.**

A certified student may under the personal supervision of his or her supervisor:

- (1) represent any client including federal, state or local governmental bodies, if the client on whose behalf the certified student is appearing has consented in writing to that appearance and the supervising lawyer has given written approval of that appearance;
- (2) represent a client in any criminal, civil or administrative matter; however, the court retains the authority to limit a student's participation in any individual case;
- (3) in connection with matters in this court, engage in other activities on behalf of the client in all ways that a licensed attorney may, under the general supervision of the supervising lawyer; however, a student shall make no binding commitments on behalf of a client absent prior client and supervisor approval, and in any matters, including depositions, in which testimony is taken the student must be accompanied by the supervising lawyer. Documents or papers which are filed shall be read, approved, and co-signed by the supervising lawyer. The court retains the authority to establish exceptions to such activities; and
- (4) prior to oral participation by a certified student in a hearing or trial, the supervising attorney shall provide the court with a written statement of the scope of participation anticipated on the part of the certified student.

Rule 83.3 Change of Address

All attorneys and *pro se* parties must notify the court in writing within 14 days of any change of address. Within the same time period, attorneys must also maintain their user account in CM/ECF. Failure to notify the court in a timely manner of an address change may result in dismissal of the action or the imposition of such other relief that the court deems just and proper.

Rule 83.4 Release of Information to News Media

(a) Court Personnel.

All court personnel, including but not limited to, the marshal and deputy marshals and office personnel, the clerk and deputy clerks and office personnel, probation officers and office personnel, bailiffs, court reporters, and the judges' and magistrate judges' office personnel, are prohibited from disclosing to any person, where it can reasonably be expected to be disseminated by means of public communication, without authorization of the court, information relating to any pending matter that has not been filed as a part of the public records of the court. This proscription applies to the divulgence of any information concerning arguments and hearings held in chambers or otherwise outside the presence of the jury or the public.

(b) Copies of Public Records.

The members of the news media and others may obtain copies of all public records from the clerk upon payment of copying fees as prescribed by the Judicial Conference of the United States.

Rule 83.5 Correspondence

Correspondence addressed to the court shall indicate that copies have been transmitted to all other parties and failure to transmit the same to all other parties may result in sanctions by the court. Such correspondence shall not become a part of the record in the case.

Rule 83.6 Photographing and Reproducing Court Proceedings

The taking of photographs, broadcasting or recording of proceedings in any form in the courtroom, court offices or in the corridors immediately adjacent thereto, during judicial proceedings or during any recess of the court is prohibited except as set forth below. The taking of photographs, broadcasting or recording of ceremonial proceedings, such as naturalization proceedings, the administration of oaths of office to officers of the court, presentation of portraits and other ceremonial occasions may be allowed with the permission of the presiding judge and under the supervision and control of the court.

Rule 83.7 Purpose of Disciplinary Rules

The court, in furtherance of its inherent power and responsibility to supervise attorneys who practice or appear before it, adopts these rules of disciplinary enforcement.

Rule 83.7a Attorneys Convicted of Crimes

(a) Filing of Judgment of Conviction.

Upon the filing with the clerk of a certified copy of a judgment of conviction stating that an attorney admitted to practice before the court has been convicted in any court in the United States, or the District of Columbia, or of any state, territory, commonwealth or possession of the United States of a serious crime as hereinafter defined, this court may enter an order immediately suspending that attorney, whether the conviction resulted from a plea of guilty, or *nolo contendere* or from a verdict after trial or otherwise, and regardless of the pendency of any appeal, until final disposition of the disciplinary proceeding to be commenced in accordance with the provisions of [Local Civil Rule 83.7e](#). A copy of such order shall immediately be served upon the attorney. Upon good cause shown, the court may set aside such order when it appears in the interest of justice to do so.

(b) Definition of Serious Crime.

The term serious crime shall include any felony and other lesser crime a necessary element of which, as determined by the statutory or common law definition of such crime in the jurisdiction where the judgment was entered, involves false swearing, misrepresentation, fraud, willful failure to file income tax returns, deceit, bribery, extortion, misappropriation, theft, or an attempt or conspiracy or solicitation of another to commit a serious crime.

(c) Certified Copy of Judgment Conclusive Evidence.

A certified copy of a judgment of conviction of an attorney for any crime shall be conclusive evidence of the commission of that crime.

(d) Suspension and Referral.

Upon the filing with the clerk of a certified copy of a judgment of conviction of an attorney for a serious crime, the court may in addition to suspending that attorney in accordance with the provisions of [Local Civil Rule 83.7d](#), also refer the matter to counsel in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 83.7b](#) for the institution of a disciplinary proceeding before the court in which the sole issue to be determined shall be the extent of the final discipline to be imposed as a result of the conduct resulting in the conviction, provided that a disciplinary proceeding so instituted will not be brought to final hearing until all direct appeals from the conviction are concluded.

(e) Conviction of Non-Serious Crime.

Upon the filing with the clerk of a certified copy of a judgment of conviction of an attorney for a crime not constituting a serious crime, the court may refer the matter to counsel for whatever action counsel may deem warranted, including the institution of a disciplinary proceeding before the court; provided, however, that the court may in its discretion make no referral with respect to convictions for minor offenses.

(f) Reinstatement.

An attorney suspended under the provisions of this [Local Civil Rule 83.7a](#) will be reinstated immediately upon the filing with the clerk of a certificate demonstrating that the underlying conviction has been reversed but the reinstatement will not terminate any disciplinary proceeding then pending against the attorney, the disposition of which shall be determined by the court on the basis of all available evidence pertaining to both guilt and the extent of the discipline to be imposed.

Rule 83.7b Discipline Imposed by Other Courts

(a) Duty to Inform This Court.

Any attorney admitted to practice before this court shall, upon being subjected to public discipline by any other court or administrative body of the United States or the District of Columbia, or by a court or administrative body (or state agency clothed with disciplinary authority), or any state,

territory, commonwealth or possession of the United States, promptly inform the clerk of this court of such action.

(b) Notice to Attorney.

Upon the filing with the clerk of a certified or exemplified copy of a judgment or order demonstrating that an attorney admitted to practice before this court has been disciplined by another court or administrative body (or state agency clothed with disciplinary authority), this court shall forthwith issue a notice directed to the attorney containing:

- (i) a copy of the judgment or order from the other court or administrative body (or state agency clothed with disciplinary authority); and,
- (ii) an order to show cause directing that the attorney inform this court within 30 days after service of that order upon the attorney, personally or by mail, of any claim by the attorney predicated upon the grounds set forth in [Local Civil Rule 83.7b\(d\)](#) that the imposition of the identical discipline by the other court would be unwarranted and the reasons therefor.

(c) Deferral of Action.

In the event the discipline imposed in the other jurisdiction has been stayed there, any reciprocal discipline imposed in this court shall be deferred until such stay expires.

(d) Imposition of Discipline.

Upon the expiration of 30 days from service of the notice issued pursuant to this [Local Civil Rule 83.7b](#), this court shall impose the identical discipline, unless the respondent-attorney demonstrates, or this court finds, that upon the face of the record upon which the discipline in another jurisdiction is predicated it clearly appears:

- (i) that the procedure was so lacking in notice or opportunity to be heard as to constitute a deprivation of due process; or
- (ii) that there was such an infirmity of proof establishing the misconduct as to give rise to the clear conviction that this court

could not, consistent with its duty, accept as final the conclusion on that subject; or

- (iii) that the imposition of the same discipline by this court would result in grave injustice; or
- (iv) that the misconduct established is deemed by this court to warrant substantially different discipline.

Where this court determines that any said element exists, it shall enter such order as it deems appropriate.

(e) Effect of Final Adjudication.

In all other respects, a final adjudication in another court or administrative body (or state agency clothed with disciplinary authority) that an attorney has been guilty of misconduct shall establish conclusively the misconduct for purposes of a disciplinary proceeding in this court.

(f) Appointment of Counsel.

This court may at any time appoint counsel to prosecute the disciplinary proceedings.

Rule 83.7c Disbarment on Consent or Resignation in Another Court or Before a State Bar

Any attorney practicing before this court who shall be disbarred on consent or resign from the bar of any court or state while an investigation into allegations of misconduct is pending, shall promptly inform the clerk, and upon the filing with this court of a certified copy of the judgment or order accepting such disbarment on consent or resignation, shall cease to be permitted to practice before this court.

Rule 83.7d Standards for Professional Conduct

(a) Form of Discipline.

For misconduct defined in these local rules, and for good cause shown, and after notice and opportunity to be heard, any attorney admitted to practice before this court, may be disbarred, suspended from practice before this court, reprimanded or subjected to such other disciplinary action as the circumstances may warrant.

(b) Grounds for Discipline.

Acts or omissions by an attorney admitted to practice before this court, individually or in concert with any other person or persons, which violate the Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by this court shall constitute misconduct and shall be grounds for discipline, whether or not the act or omission occurred in the course of an attorney-client relationship. The Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by this court are the North Carolina State Bar Revised Rules of Professional Conduct adopted by the Supreme Court of North Carolina, except as may be otherwise provided by specific rule of this court.

Rule 83.7e Disciplinary Proceeding

(a) Referral by the Court.

When misconduct or allegations of misconduct in any case or proceeding in this court on the part of an attorney admitted to practice before this court which, if substantiated, would warrant discipline of such attorney shall come to the attention of a judge of this court, whether by complaint or otherwise, and the applicable procedure is not otherwise mandated by these local rules, the judge shall refer the matter to counsel in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 83.7b\(f\)](#) for investigation and if warranted the prosecution of a formal disciplinary proceeding or the formulation of such other recommendation as may be appropriate.

(b) Recommendation for Disposition.

Should counsel conclude after investigation and review that a formal disciplinary proceeding should not be initiated against the respondent-attorney because sufficient evidence is not present, or because there is pending another proceeding against the respondent-attorney, the disposition of which in the judgment of counsel should be awaited before further action by this court is considered or for any other valid reason, counsel shall file with the court a recommendation for disposition of the matter, whether by dismissal, admonition, deferral, or otherwise, setting forth the reasons therefor.

(c) Initiation of Disciplinary Proceedings.

To initiate formal disciplinary proceedings, counsel shall obtain an order of this court upon a showing of probable cause requiring the respondent-attorney to show cause within 30 days after service of that order upon that attorney, personally or by mail, why the attorney should not be disciplined.

(d) Procedure for Hearing.

Upon the respondent-attorney's answer to the order to show cause, if any issue of fact is raised or the respondent-attorney wishes to be heard in mitigation, this court shall set the matter for prompt hearing before one or more judges of this court; provided however that, if the disciplinary proceeding is predicated upon the complaint of a judge of this court, the hearing shall be conducted before another judge of this court appointed by the Chief Judge, or if the Chief Judge is the complainant, by the next senior judge of this court.

Rule 83.7f Disbarment on Consent While Under Disciplinary Investigation or Prosecution

(a) Consent to Disbarment.

Any attorney practicing before this court who is the subject of an investigation into, or a pending proceeding involving, allegations of misconduct may consent to disbarment by delivering to this court an affidavit stating that the attorney desires to consent to disbarment and that:

- (i) the attorney’s consent is freely given,
- (ii) the attorney is aware of the pending investigation or proceeding,
- (iii) the attorney acknowledges the material facts of misconduct, and
- (iv) the attorney consents because the attorney knows that he or she could not defend successfully against charges of misconduct.

(b) Order of Disbarment.

Upon receipt of the required affidavit, this court shall enter an order disbarring the attorney.

(c) Record.

The order disbarring the attorney on consent shall be a matter of public record. However, the affidavit required under the provisions of this rule shall not be publicly disclosed or made available for use in any other proceeding except upon order of this court.

Rule 83.7g Reinstatement

(a) Automatic Reinstatement; Reinstatement by Order.

An attorney suspended for three months or less shall be automatically reinstated at the end of the period of suspension upon filing with the court an affidavit of compliance with the provisions of the suspension order. An attorney suspended for more than three months or disbarred may not resume practice until reinstated by order of this court.

(b) Time for Petition.

An attorney who has been disbarred after hearing or by consent may not petition for reinstatement until the expiration of at least three years from the effective date of disbarment.

(c) Procedure.

Petitions for reinstatement by a disbarred or suspended attorney under this rule shall be filed with the court. Upon receipt of the petition, the Chief Judge may assign the matter for a prompt hearing before a judge (or judges) of the court and may, in the Chief Judge's discretion, refer the petition to counsel for investigation in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 83.7b\(f\)](#). The judge assigned to the matter shall schedule a hearing at which petitioner shall have the burden of demonstrating by clear and convincing evidence that the attorney has the moral qualifications, competency, and learning of the law required for admission to practice law before this court, and that the attorney's resumption of the practice of law will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the Bar or the administration of justice or subversive of the public interest. In all proceedings upon a petition for reinstatement, cross-examination of the witnesses of the attorney and the submission of evidence, if any, in opposition to the petition shall be conducted by counsel if the matter has been referred to counsel by the court in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 83.7b\(f\)](#).

(d) Costs.

Petitions for reinstatement under this rule shall be accompanied by an advanced cost deposit made payable to the Clerk, United States District Court in the amount of the current attorney admission fee. The court may later impose costs related to the reinstatement proceeding.

(e) Order of Reinstatement.

If the petitioner is found to be unfit to resume the practice of law, the petition shall be dismissed. If the petitioner is found to be fit to resume the practice of law, the judgment shall reinstate the petitioner, provided that the judgment may make reinstatement conditional upon the payment of all or part of the costs of the proceedings, and upon the making of partial or complete restitution to parties harmed by the petitioner whose conduct led to the suspension or disbarment.

(f) Successive Petitions.

No petition for reinstatement under this rule shall be filed within one year following an adverse judgment upon a petition for reinstatement filed by or on behalf of the same person.

Rule 83.7h Service of Papers and Other Notices

Service of an order to show cause instituting a formal disciplinary proceeding shall be made by personal service or by registered or certified mail addressed to the respondent-attorney at the address shown in the most recent registration filed pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 84-34, or, in the case of an attorney admitted to this court pursuant to [Local Civil Rule 83.1](#), at the address shown in papers filed with the court. Service of any other papers or notices required by these rules shall be deemed to have been made if such paper or notice is addressed to the respondent-attorney at the address determined as aforesaid, or to counsel or the attorney for the respondent-attorney at the address indicated in the most recent pleading or other document filed by the respondent.

Rule 83.7i Appointment of Counsel

Whenever counsel is to be appointed in accordance with [Local Civil Rule 83.7b\(f\)](#) to investigate allegations of misconduct or to prosecute disciplinary proceedings or in conjunction with a reinstatement petition, the court may appoint as counsel the disciplinary agency of the Supreme Court of North Carolina or any other disciplinary agency having jurisdiction. Alternatively, the court may appoint as counsel one or more members of the Bar, provided, however, that the respondent-attorney may move to disqualify an attorney for good cause shown. Counsel, once appointed, may not resign unless permission to do so is given by the court. Nothing in this rule limits the court's authority to refer any matter to the appropriate state bar for investigation, prosecution of disciplinary proceedings, or reinstatement.

Rule 83.7j Duties of the Clerk

(a) To Secure Certificate of Conviction.

Upon being informed that an attorney admitted to practice before this court has been convicted of any serious crime, the clerk shall determine whether the clerk of the court (or the state agency clothed with disciplinary authority) in which such conviction occurred has forwarded a certificate of such conviction to the court. If a certificate has not been so forwarded, the clerk shall promptly obtain a certificate and cause it to be filed in this court.

(b) To Secure Disciplinary Judgment or Order.

Upon being informed that an attorney admitted to practice before this court has been subjected to discipline by another court, an administrative body, or a state agency clothed with disciplinary authority, the clerk shall determine whether a certified or exemplified copy of the disciplinary judgment or order has been filed with this court, and, if not, the clerk shall promptly obtain a certified or exemplified copy of the disciplinary judgment or order and cause it to be filed in this court.

(c) Transmittal to Other Jurisdictions.

Whenever it appears that any person convicted of any serious crime, disbarred, suspended, censured or disbarred on consent by this court is admitted to practice law in any other jurisdiction or before any other court, the clerk shall, within 14 days of that conviction, disbarment, suspension, censure, or disbarment on consent, transmit to the disciplinary authority in such other jurisdiction, or for such other court, a certificate of the conviction or a certified exemplified copy of the judgment or order of disbarment, suspension, censure, or disbarment on consent, as well as the last known office and residence addresses of the respondent-attorney.

(d) National Discipline Data Bank.

The clerk shall notify the National Discipline Data Bank operated by the American Bar Association of any order of this court imposing public discipline upon any attorney admitted to practice before this court.

Rule 83.7k Publicity

All parties in a disciplinary proceeding shall conduct themselves in accord with the provisions of [Local Civil Rule 83.4](#).

Rule 83.8 Bankruptcy Appeals

(a) General Provisions.

The following Local Civil Rules apply to appeals from the bankruptcy courts in this district:

[1.1](#) (Scope and Citation of Local Civil Rules)

[5.1](#) (Filing and Service of Papers)

[5.2](#) (Appearance of Counsel in Civil Cases)

[6.1](#) (Motions for an Extension of Time to Perform Act)

[7.1\(h\)](#) (Subsequently Decided Controlling Authority)

[7.2\(b\), \(c\), \(d\)](#) (Provisions relating to citation of authorities in memoranda)

[7.3](#) (Disclosure of Corporate Affiliations and Other Entities with a Direct Financial Interest in Litigation)

[10.1\(b\), \(c\), \(d\), \(e\), \(f\), \(g\), \(h\), \(i\), \(j\)](#) (Forms of Pleadings, Motions, and Documents)

[11.1](#) (Sanctions)

[11.2](#) (Disclosure Statements)

[83.1](#) (Attorneys)

[83.2](#) (Student Practice Rule)

[83.3](#) (Change of Address)

[83.4](#) (Release of Information to News Media)

[83.5](#) (Correspondence)

[83.6](#) (Photographing and Reproducing Court Proceedings)

[83.7-83.7k](#) (Provisions relating to attorney discipline)

To the extent any Local Civil Rule or judicial practice preference conflicts with the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the Federal Bankruptcy Rule shall govern.

(b) Courtesy Copies.

Counsel shall provide the assigned judge a courtesy copy of all documents in conformance with his or her [practice preferences](#). Any required courtesy copies shall be mailed or delivered to the civil case manager for the assigned judge as specified on the court’s website. *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8013(f)(4).

(c) Appendices.

Unless ordered otherwise, appeals may proceed on the original record without the need for filing an appendix. *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8018(e).

(d) Statement Regarding Oral Argument.

Parties must include in their briefs at the conclusion of the argument a statement setting forth the reasons why, in their opinion, oral argument should, or need not, be permitted. *See* Fed. R. Bankr. P. 8019(a).

Rule 83.9 Jurisdiction

Nothing contained in these rules shall be construed to deny to this court such powers as are necessary for the court to maintain control over proceedings conducted before it, such as proceedings for contempt under Title 18 of the United States Code or other sanctions under the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) or these local rules.

Rule 83.10 Courtroom Technology

(a) Video Teleconferencing

If a party has a need for use of video teleconference (“VTC”) technology for a hearing or trial, the party shall file a motion seeking leave of the court for use of the technology no later than 14 days prior to the scheduled proceeding. If the court allows the motion, the party shall submit a VTC Request Form (available from the clerk) to the court no later than 7 days before the scheduled proceeding.

(b) Training

If a party has a need for any type of courtroom technology, other than VTC, for a hearing or trial, including but not limited to any audio equipment, video equipment, document presentation system, and jury evidentiary recording system, counsel must notify the case manager and request training from the court’s information technology staff for the person or persons who will be operating the courtroom technology. Unless excepted by the clerk, no later than 7 days before the scheduled proceeding, counsel must file a certification provided by the court’s technology staff that the required training has been completed.

Rule 100.1 Court Libraries

The clerk shall maintain the court libraries in the District. Use of the facilities is limited to judicial officers, court staff and members of the bar of this court. Books shall not be removed from the library without the consent of the person responsible for the maintenance of the particular library, and shall not be removed from the courthouse under any circumstances. A violation of this local rule shall be punishable as for contempt of court.

Rule 100.2 Jurisdictional Agreements with Other Courts

The clerk shall maintain all jurisdictional agreements entered into by the Chief Judge of this court and the Chief Judge of any other United States District Court, and a copy of such agreements shall be furnished to counsel upon request.

Rule 100.3 Civil Contempt

(a) Rights of Contemnor.

In all cases of civil contempt, the contemnor shall have due notice of the contempt charges, opportunity to reply to the charges and notice of the date and place of hearing in open court from which the public shall not be excluded.

(b) Summary Contempt Proceedings.

In contempt proceedings where the court may act summarily, the contemnor shall have the right to defend against the charges and to offer evidence in the form of affidavits. The movant shall have the right to offer similar evidence.

(c) Plenary Contempt Proceedings.

In contempt proceedings where the court may not act summarily, the presentation of evidence is governed by Rule 1101 of the [Federal Rules of Evidence](#). In no case of civil contempt, however, shall the parties be entitled to trial by jury, but rather the district judge before whom the matter is tried shall find the facts and enter a judgment or order in accordance with the provisions of the [Federal Rules of Civil Procedure](#) applicable to non-jury cases.

Rule 100.4 Standing Orders

(a) Issuance.

Standing orders shall be issued by the Chief Judge.

(b) Subject Matter.

Standing orders are used to address matters of court business, including court policies and administrative matters, not adequately addressed by orders in individual cases, but not appropriate for inclusion in the local rules because of improbability of recurrence, level of importance, degree of interest to the Bar or public, or other reasons.

(c) Form.

Each standing order shall bear a heading identifying it as such and specifying the subject matter to which it relates. Standing orders shall be given such additional identifiers, including docket numbers, as the clerk determines are appropriate to facilitate orderly storage of and access to such orders.

(d) Posting and Retention.

Standing orders shall be posted for review by the public and court personnel and, when appropriate, archived in such manner as the Chief Judge directs in consultation with the clerk.

(e) Annual Review.

The Local Rules committee shall review the court's standing orders each year to determine whether any should be converted into Local Rules, amended, or vacated. The committee shall report the results of its review, including any recommendations, to the Chief Judge.