

## INTERIM STANDING ORDER

Effective August 26, 2019, and until this Court publishes its practices and procedures, counsel and *pro se* litigants shall follow this standing Order.

### **A. Communications with the Court**

Except as set forth at Section E, below, communication with the Court shall be in the form of motions, accompanied by proposed orders specifying the relief requested. Counsel are not to send correspondence to Judge Stickman, except where he specifically requests or approves the same.

### **B. Communications with the Court Room Deputy and Law Clerks**

Communications with the Court Room Deputy and law clerks concerning the administration, but not the merits of a case, are permissible. Such inquiries include those pertaining to the status of any pending matter. No substantive legal matter should be discussed with the law clerks.

### **C. Motions**

A motion should consist of a document setting forth, in a short and plain statement, the specific relief sought, the factual and legal grounds for the relief sought, and shall affirmatively state whether the motion has been discussed with all other parties, and their position as to the relief sought. Evidentiary materials in support of, or opposition to, a motion should be plainly marked and may be attached to the motion. Counsel should furnish only the evidentiary materials that are necessary to deciding the motion. A proposed order setting forth the specific relief requested shall be filed as a separate attachment. "General" orders (e.g. "the motion is granted") are not sufficient.

Parties generally are given twenty-one (21) days to file a response to a dispositive motion and fourteen (14) days to respond to a non-dispositive motion, unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Replies to a dispositive motion should be filed in (7) days. No replies are permitted to non-dispositive motions except by leave of court. No sur-replies for any motion are permitted except by leave of court.

Motions may be decided with or without oral argument as determined by the Court. Any party believing that oral argument will materially advance the decisional process may so advise the Court and request argument.

### **D. Rule 12 Motions**

If a party elects to file a Rule 12 motion in a civil case, counsel for the movant shall meet and confer with opposing counsel before filing the motion to determine if any

purported defects with the Complaint can be cured by amendment. A motion to dismiss must be accompanied by a certificate stating that the movant has made a good faith effort to confer with opposing counsel to determine whether the identified pleading deficiencies may be cured by amendment.

#### **E. Discovery Disputes**

If a discovery dispute cannot be resolved after the parties have conferred in good faith, the parties should contact chambers via telephone or email to [Elizabeth\\_Abbott@pawd.uscourts.gov](mailto:Elizabeth_Abbott@pawd.uscourts.gov) to schedule a telephonic conference to discuss the dispute. No discovery related motions are to be filed until after the conference except in cases of emergency as certified by counsel pursuant to their professional obligations of candor toward the Court.

#### **F. Briefing**

Generally, no briefs need be filed for motions for extension of time and motions for continuance or discovery motions. Briefs in support of and opposing dispositive motions should not exceed 20 pages, excluding tables. Briefs in support of and opposing all other motions should not exceed 10 pages, absent leave of Court. Reply briefs as to dispositive motions should not exceed 15 pages; and as to all other motions they should not exceed 5 pages.

The argument portion of every brief in support of or in response to a motion shall cite to current authority from the Supreme Court of the United States or the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Otherwise, citation to current authority from a district court in this circuit or another court of appeals, if available, that establishes the legal point argued is appropriate.

**/s/ William S. Stickman IV**  
**United States District Judge**