

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICES OF JUDGE PAUL G. GARDEPHE

Chambers

United States District Court
Southern District of New York
500 Pearl Street, Room 920
New York, New York 10007
(212) 805-0224

Courtroom

500 Pearl Street, Courtroom 14C
Michael Ruocco
Courtroom Deputy Clerk – (212) 805-0102

Unless otherwise ordered, these Individual Practices apply to all civil matters assigned to the Honorable Paul G. Gardephe, except for civil *pro se* cases.

1. Communications with Chambers

A. Letters. Except as otherwise provided below, communications with chambers shall be by letter, with copies simultaneously delivered to all counsel by the same delivery method used for the Court. Copies of correspondence between counsel shall not be sent to the Court.

Letters to the Court should not be electronically filed and are not automatically docketed. If a party wishes to preserve such letters for the record on appeal, a written request must be submitted to the Court within ten days of closure of the case.

Refer to Rule 2(E) below for letters concerning discovery disputes.

B. Telephone Calls. Except as provided in Paragraph 1(D) below, telephone calls to chambers are permitted only in emergency situations requiring immediate attention. In such situations only, call chambers at 212-805-0224. Ex parte telephone calls will ordinarily not be accepted; wherever possible, counsel for all affected parties should be on the line when a call to chambers is placed, except to the extent that similarly situated parties have designated a lead counsel to represent them on such a call.

C. Faxes and Hand Deliveries. Faxes to chambers are permitted only if copies are also simultaneously faxed or delivered to all counsel. No document longer than **10** pages may be faxed without prior authorization. Do not follow with hard copy. The fax number is 212-805-7986. Hand-delivered mail should be left with the Court Security Officer at the Worth Street entrance of the courthouse; it may not be brought to chambers.

D. Docketing, Scheduling, and Calendar Matters. For docketing, scheduling and calendar matters, call Judge Gardephe's Courtroom Deputy Clerk, Michael Ruocco, at 212-805-0102 between 8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.

E. Requests for Extension of Deadlines. All requests for extensions of deadlines must state (1) the date or dates sought to be extended, (2) the number of previous requests for extensions and the Court's rulings, (3) the reason for the current request, and (4) whether the

adversary consents, and, if not, the reasons given by the adversary for refusing to consent. If the requested extension affects any other scheduled dates, the request must list the proposed change for all such other dates. A request may be made either by letter or by a joint stipulation that reflects the required information. Note: to the extent a party's adversary does not consent to a request regarding a discovery deadline, the party must also comply with the requirements of paragraph 2(E) below.

F. Requests for Adjournment of Court Appearances (Including Telephone Conferences). A request for an adjournment of a court appearance shall be made as soon as a party is aware of the need for the adjournment and, in any event, no later than two business days prior to the scheduled appearance (absent an emergency). Prior to making such a request, the party seeking the adjournment should contact the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ruocco ((212)-805-0102), to determine an alternative date for which the Court is available for a rescheduled court appearance. The requesting party should then contact all other parties to determine their availability for that date. The requesting party must then make a written request to the Court for an adjournment by letter forthwith stating the date and time that is being requested. The letter, which may be sent by fax, must be copied to all parties and include a statement as to the other parties' positions concerning the change in date. The appearance is not adjourned unless counsel are thereafter informed by the Deputy Clerk that the written application has been granted.

2. Motions

A. Pre-Motion Conferences in Civil Cases. For motions other than discovery motions, pre-motion conferences are not required. To raise a discovery dispute with the Court, follow Rule 2(E) below. Where a formal discovery motion is necessary, follow Local Civil Rule 37.2.

B. Memoranda of Law. Unless prior permission has been granted, memoranda of law in support of and in opposition to motions are limited to 25 double-spaced pages, and reply memoranda are limited to 10 double-spaced pages. Memoranda of 10 pages or more shall contain a table of contents and a table of authorities. Both the text and footnotes must be in 12-point font.

C. Filing of Motion Papers ("Bundling Rule"). In all ECF cases, the moving party shall electronically file motion and reply papers with the Clerk only when the entire motion has been briefed. The responding party shall electronically file opposition papers only when noticed by the moving party that reply papers are being filed. Parties shall send two courtesy copies of any submission to Chambers at the time of service on the opposing party. In non-ECF cases, motion papers shall be filed promptly after service.

D. Oral Argument on Motions. Parties may request oral argument by letter at the time their moving, opposition or reply papers are filed. The Court will determine whether argument will be heard and, if so, will advise counsel of the argument date.

E. Discovery Disputes. Unless otherwise directed, counsel should describe their discovery disputes in a single letter, jointly composed. Separate and successive letters will be returned, unread. Strict adherence to Fed. R. Civ. P. 37(a)(1), the "meet and confer" rule, is

required, and should be described in the joint submission as to time, place, and duration, naming the counsel involved in the discussion. The joint letter shall describe concisely the issues in dispute and the respective position of each party, citing the applicable authority that the respective parties claim for support.

F. Failure of the Court to Schedule Argument or Decide a Motion. If a motion is not decided within 60 days of the time it is fully submitted or of argument, counsel for the movant shall submit a letter to call this fact to the Court's attention.

3. Summary Judgment Motions

A. Any party filing a motion for summary judgment (or partial summary judgment) shall submit with that motion a Local Civil Rule 56.1 Statement (a 56.1 Statement). The 56.1 Statement must contain only one factual assertion in each numbered paragraph. Each factual assertion must be followed by a citation (by paragraph or page and line number) to the portions of the evidentiary record relied upon, for example, "Ms. Jones visited Dallas, Texas on July 10, 1989. Smith Affidavit ¶ 3; Hays Deposition page 25 lines 7-8."

B. The party opposing the motion must submit a response to the moving party's 56.1 Statement. The response must contain numbered paragraphs tracking those in the movant's 56.1 Statement, and must state in each paragraph specifically what is admitted and what is disputed, and the basis for any dispute, citing specific portions of the evidentiary record relied upon. Lack of relevance is not a valid reason for refusing to agree that a fact is not in dispute. Each assertion must be a factual assertion, not a legal assertion. Responsive 56.1 Statements must respond to all the allegations of the opponent's 56.1 Statement, and may go on to make additional factual allegations in paragraphs numbered consecutively to those of the moving party (i.e., do not begin re-numbering at 1). If additional factual allegations are made, the opponent must file a responsive 56.1 Statement of its own.

C. If multiple parties are submitting 56.1 Statements, they must coordinate their statements to provide for consecutive, non-overlapping, numbered paragraphs in their respective statements.

4. Courtesy Copies

A. Pleadings: Courtesy copies of pleadings, marked as such, shall be submitted to chambers as soon as practical after filing.

B. Motion Papers: **Two sets** of courtesy copies of all motion papers, marked as such, shall be submitted to chambers at the time the papers are served.

C. Joint Pretrial Order: **Two sets** of courtesy copies of the joint pretrial order and all documents filed or served with the pretrial order should be submitted to chambers on the date of filing or service.

5. Conferences

A. Principal Trial Counsel. The attorney who will serve as principal trial counsel must appear at all conferences with the Court.

B. Initial Case Management Conference. The Court will generally schedule a Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c) conference within two months or less of the filing of the Complaint. The Clerk's Office will e-mail the Notice of Initial Pretrial Conference to plaintiff's counsel, who will be responsible for distributing copies to all parties. Prior to the conference date, two courtesy copies of the pleadings should be delivered to the courthouse. Counsel are required to register in accordance with the Procedures for Electronic Case Filing before the initial pretrial conference. Counsel can access the web site www.nysd.uscourts.gov and click on CM/ECF Home Page for complete instructions on how to register.

6. Applications for Entry of Default Judgment

A party who wishes to obtain a default judgment must proceed by way of an order to show cause and use the procedure set forth in Attachment A.

7. Bankruptcy Appeals

The attention of all counsel is directed to Rule 8009 of the Federal Bankruptcy Rules, which provides the dates within which briefs are to be served and filed. Counsel may extend these dates by stipulation submitted to the Court no later than two business days before the brief is due.

8. Notice Regarding Access to Court Filings

Opinions in ECF cases are sent to the parties via e-mail. With limited exceptions, in non-ECF cases, Opinions will be posted on CourtWeb. To access CourtWeb, go to www.nysd.uscourts.gov and click "CourtWeb On-Line Rulings." Parties will be notified when an Opinion is posted. Counsel may also register for the CourtWeb Watch list, which will alert counsel to any new postings regarding a particular case.

9. Pretrial Procedures

A. Joint Pretrial Orders in Civil Cases. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court, within 30 days from the date for the completion of discovery in a civil case or, if a dispositive motion has been filed, within 30 days of a decision resolving the motion, the parties shall submit to the Court for its approval a joint pretrial order setting forth the information required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(3) and the following:

- i. The full caption of the action.
- ii. The names, addresses (including firm names), and telephone and fax numbers of trial counsel.
- iii. A brief statement by plaintiff as to the basis for subject matter jurisdiction, and a brief statement by each other party as to the presence or absence of subject matter jurisdiction. Such statements shall include citations to all statutes relied on and relevant

facts as to citizenship and jurisdictional amount.

iv. A brief summary by each party of the claims and defenses that party has asserted which remain to be tried, without recital of evidentiary matter but including citations to all statutes relied on. Such summaries shall identify all claims and defenses previously asserted that are not to be tried.

v. With respect to each claim remaining to be tried, a statement listing each element or category of damages sought with respect to such claim and a calculation of the amount of damages sought with respect to such element or category.

vi. A statement by each party as to whether the case is to be tried with or without a jury, and the number of trial days needed.

vii. A statement as to whether or not all parties have consented to trial of the case by a magistrate judge (without identifying which parties have or have not so consented).

ix. Any stipulations or agreed statements of fact or law that have been agreed to by all parties.

x. A statement by each party as to the witnesses whose testimony is to be offered in its case in chief, indicating whether such witnesses will testify in person or by deposition. A party may not call as a witness an individual who is not listed in its portion of the witness list.

xi. A designation by each party of deposition testimony to be offered in its case in chief, referencing page and line numbers, with any cross-designations and objections by any other party. If there is no objection or cross-designation, the Court will deem the opposing party to have waived any such objection or cross-designation. A party may not offer deposition testimony that is not listed in its portion of the designation.

xii. A list by each party of exhibits to be offered in its case in chief. The opposing party must indicate what exhibits it objects to and the nature of the objection (*e.g.*, “authenticity,” “hearsay,” “Rule 403”). Any objection not listed shall be deemed waived. A party may not offer an exhibit that is not listed in its portion of the exhibit list.

B. Filings Prior to Trial in Civil Cases. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court:

1. In jury cases, the following shall be filed with the proposed joint pretrial order:

a. All parties must prepare jointly three documents: (1) a list of voir dire questions to be asked of prospective jurors; (2) requests to charge; and (3) a proposed verdict sheet. To the extent a party objects to another party’s requested voir dire questions, requests to charge or proposed verdict sheet, that party should

(1) set forth the grounds for that objection (or refer to the trial memorandum of law for a full discussion of the objection) and (2) propose an alternative. All requests to charge, all objections and all alternative proposals must include citation to authority.

b. Each party must also file a trial memorandum of law addressing each issue of law that the party expects to arise at or before trial.

c. If the documents described above are prepared on a computer, electronic copies must also be submitted on CD-ROM or via e-mail. Counsel should contact Mr. Ruocco for instructions on how to submit such materials.

2. In non-jury cases, each party shall file with the proposed joint pretrial order:

a. Proposed findings of fact and conclusions of law.

b. A trial memorandum of law that identifies the issues, summarizes the relevant facts and applicable law, and addresses any evidentiary issues.

c. Affidavits constituting the direct testimony of each trial witness, except for testimony of an adverse party, a person whose attendance must be compelled by subpoena, or a person for whom a party has requested and the Court has agreed to hear direct testimony during trial. Three business days after submission of such affidavits, counsel for each party shall submit a list of all affiants whom he or she intends to cross-examine at the trial. Only those witnesses who will be cross-examined need appear at trial. The original affidavits will be marked as exhibits at trial.

d. Copies of any designated deposition testimony that will be offered as substantive evidence, along with a one-page synopsis (with page references) of those excerpts for each deposition.

e. **One** set of the party's documentary exhibits. The exhibits should be organized sequentially and each exhibit should be in a separate manila folder labeled with the exhibit number and placed in a suitable container for ready reference.

f. If the documents described in subsections (a) and (b) above are prepared on a computer, electronic copies must also be submitted on CD-ROM or via e-mail. Counsel should contact Mr. Ruocco for instructions on how to submit such materials.

3. In all cases:

a. Two weeks prior to the scheduled trial date, each party must file and serve all motions in limine.

b. One week prior to the scheduled trial date, each party must file and serve its opposition to any motion in limine.

10. Final Pretrial Conference

The Court will schedule a pretrial conference approximately two weeks before trial. The Court will use the occasion to explore the prospects for settlement. Counsel must be prepared to engage in meaningful settlement discussions.

ATTACHMENT A: DEFAULT JUDGMENT PROCEDURE

1. Prepare an Order to Show Cause for default judgment and make the Order returnable before Judge Gardephe in Courtroom 14C of the 500 Pearl Street courthouse. Leave blank the date and time of the hearing and the deadline for service, which Judge Gardephe will set when he signs the Order.
2. Attach the following papers to the Order to Show Cause:
 - a. An attorney's affidavit setting forth:
 - i) why a default judgment is appropriate, including a description of the method and date of service of the original summons and complaint;
 - ii) whether, if the default is applicable to fewer than all of the defendants, the Court may appropriately order a default judgment on the issue of damages prior to resolution of the entire action;
 - iii) the proposed damages and the basis for each element of damages including interest, attorneys' fees, and costs; and
 - iv) legal authority for why an inquest would be unnecessary.
 - b. A proposed default judgment.
 - c. Copies of all the pleadings.
 - d. A copy of the affidavit of service of the original summons and complaint.
 - e. If failure to answer is the basis for the default, a Certificate from the Clerk of the Court stating that no answer has been filed.
3. Take the Order to Show Cause with the attachments to the Orders and Judgments Clerks on the third floor of the 500 Pearl Street courthouse, Room 370, for approval.
4. After the Orders and Judgments Clerk approves the Order, bring the papers to Judge Gardephe's chambers, Room 920, 500 Pearl Street, for the Judge's signature. Bring a courtesy copy of the supporting documentation for chambers.
5. After the Judge signs the Order, chambers staff will provide you with two conforming copies of the Order and file the original signed Order with the Clerk's office.
6. Serve one copy of the Order on the adverse party. Prior to the return date, file via ECF an affidavit of service of a conformed copy of the Order. Bring a courtesy copy of this affidavit to the hearing. Once you receive an email notice that the original Order has been filed with the Clerk's office, file the supporting documentation via ECF.

7. Prior to the return date, take the proposed judgment, separately backed, to the Clerk in Room 120, 500 Pearl Street, and get the Clerk's approval. The proposed judgment, including all damage and interest calculations, must be approved by the Clerk prior to the hearing and then brought to the hearing.