



UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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IN RE:  
GENERAL MOTORS LLC IGNITION SWITCH  
LITIGATION

14-MD-2543 (JMF)  
15-CV-8324 (JMF)

*This Document Relates to: Mary Dodson v. General Motors  
LLC*  
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**ORDER NO. 123**

JESSE M. FURMAN, United States District Judge:

**[Regarding Pretrial Deadlines for Bellwether Trial No. 9, Jury Selection Matters, Scheduling of the Final Pretrial Conference, and Application of Certain Pretrial Orders in MDL Bellwether Trial Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 7 to MDL Bellwether Trial No. 9 (Dodson)]**

1. **Courtroom:** Bellwether Trial No. 9 will begin on **Monday, October 30, 2017**.

The Court plans to hold the trial in Courtroom 1105 of the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse, with a room reserved to accommodate any overflow of spectators if necessary. The Court will consider conducting certain trial proceedings — such as jury selection, opening statements, and closing arguments — in a larger courtroom, but would arrange an overflow room for spectators regardless. The parties would (subject to availability) still have access to their “war rooms” on the fifth floor of the Thurgood Marshall United States Courthouse. By no later than **Friday, September 1, 2017**, the parties shall advise the Court by joint letter if they believe Courtroom 1105 is not a suitable location for the trial.

2. **Pretrial Deadlines:** The following schedule and the chart at the end of this Order summarize all upcoming pretrial deadlines for Bellwether Trial No. 9:

a. **Amended Complaint:** By no later than **Wednesday, June 21, 2017**, plaintiff shall file her first amended complaint or inform New GM in writing that she does not intend to amend her complaint. New GM shall respond to plaintiff’s operative complaint by no later than **Tuesday, July 18, 2017**.

b. **Dispositive *Dodson* Motions:** Dispositive motions will be due on **Friday, August 4, 2017**. Responses will be due on **Friday, September 1, 2017**, and replies will be due on **Friday, September 15, 2017**. Unless the Court orders otherwise, memoranda shall comply with the page limits and other requirements set forth in this Court's Local Rules, except that reply briefs shall not exceed 15 double-spaced pages.

c. **OSI Disputes:** In accordance with the Court's guidance in Order No. 86 Section XV (Docket No. 1772) and at the February 23, 2016 Status Conference, plaintiff shall disclose her proposed OSIs and file her supporting brief by **Wednesday, July 19, 2017**. Any response from New GM will be due on **Wednesday, August 2, 2017**. The parties' respective briefs shall not exceed 35 double-spaced pages. Plaintiff shall file her reply brief, not to exceed ten double-spaced pages, by **Wednesday, August 9, 2017**.

d. **Motions *in Limine*:** The parties shall file all motions *in limine*, not to exceed 15 double-spaced pages per opening brief, by no later than **Tuesday, August 22, 2017**. Responses, not to exceed 15 double-spaced pages per brief, are due ten (10) days after the filing of the respective motions. Replies, not to exceed five double-spaced pages, are due seven (7) days after responsive briefs are filed for the respective motions.

e. ***Daubert* Motions:** Omnibus *Daubert* motions, not to exceed 50 double-spaced pages per brief, will be due on **Friday, August 4, 2017**. Responses, not to exceed 50 double-spaced pages per brief, are due **Friday, September 1, 2017**. Replies, not to exceed 20 double-spaced pages per brief, are due **Friday, September 15, 2017**.

f. **Joint Pretrial Order:** The parties shall submit their joint proposed pretrial order (consistent with the Court's Individual Rules and Practices for Civil Cases, except to the extent modified herein) by no later than **Thursday, October 12, 2017**.

g. **Witness Lists:** By no later than **Monday, September 11, 2017**, the parties shall disclose their respective good faith lists of all witnesses whom they may potentially call at trial (“Initial Witness List”). The parties will not be permitted to call a witness not included on the Initial Witness List, absent extraordinary circumstances. By no later than **Thursday, October 12, 2017**, the parties shall make available for deposition any witness from their Initial Witness List who has not previously been deposed in this matter. By no later than **Thursday, October 12, 2017**, the parties will disclose their respective good faith lists of witnesses whom they intend to call at trial (“Will Call Witness List”) and their respective good faith lists of additional witnesses whom they may call at trial (“May Call Witness List”).

h. **Exhibit Lists:** Trial exhibit lists must be exchanged no later than **Friday, September 15, 2017**. Branded copies of the parties’ trial exhibits must be exchanged by no later than **Wednesday, September 27, 2017**. The parties may by mutual agreement add or subtract additional trial exhibits at any time after. The parties shall exchange objections to the identified trial exhibits on **Monday, October 9, 2017**. Each party may add up to 20 exhibits to its exhibit list by **Monday, October 9, 2017** without a showing of good cause or mutual agreement (“Free Exhibits”). The parties reserve their rights to make evidentiary objections to the Free Exhibits by **Monday, October 16, 2017**. The parties are expected to meet and confer on any exhibit objections by **Monday, October 16, 2017**. Copies of all exhibits shall be submitted to the Court by **Tuesday, October 24, 2017**. Finally, stipulations regarding the authenticity of exhibits are due on **Wednesday, October 18, 2017**.

i. **Disclosure of Valukas Report and Statement of Fact Excerpts:**<sup>1</sup>

Plaintiff will disclose the Valukas Report and Statement of Facts excerpts she intends to use at trial by **Friday, September 22, 2017**. Any disputes shall be submitted to the Court by **Wednesday, October 4, 2017**.

j. **Deposition Designations:** Each party shall submit deposition designations by no later than **Friday, September 22, 2017**. Counter-designations and objections to the original designations shall be submitted by no later than **Wednesday, October 4, 2017**. Letter briefs regarding categorical objections to deposition designation and counter-designations shall be submitted by no later than **Wednesday, October 11, 2017**. Any remaining deposition designation disputes shall be submitted to the Court by no later than **Wednesday, October 18, 2017**, or three days after the Court rules on the categorical objections, whichever is later.

k. **Stipulations of Law and Fact:** The parties are encouraged to enter into stipulations of law and fact, if any, by **Wednesday, October 18, 2017**.

l. **Proposed Jury Questionnaire:** The parties shall exchange a proposed summary of the case, a list of names, and any proposed modifications to the questionnaires used in Bellwether No. 2 by no later than **Friday, September 29, 2017**. Jury questionnaire disputes, along with the parties' proposed questionnaires, shall be submitted to the Court by no later than **Friday, October 6, 2017**.

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<sup>1</sup> New GM disputes that plaintiff may use the Valukas Report or the Statement of Facts in this case. (See 03/01/2017 New GM's Mot. *in Limine* No. 32 (Docket No. 3738).) However, because the issue is still pending judicial resolution, the parties have kept a placeholder for submitting Valukas Report and Statement of Fact excerpts in the *Dodson* case.

m. **Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form:** Proposed jury instructions and a proposed verdict form, whether a joint proposal or competing proposals, must be exchanged by no later than **Friday, October 6, 2017**. Jury instruction and verdict form disputes, along with the parties' proposed instructions and verdict forms, shall be submitted to the Court by no later than **Friday, October 13, 2017**. As with previous Bellwether Trials, the parties need not submit proposed language for standard and/or introductory instructions (on the role of the jury, burden of proof, etc.).

n. **Demonstrative Aides:** The parties shall exchange demonstrative aides reasonably anticipated to be used during opening statements (that is, anything that a party proposes to show the jury, whether it is likely to come into evidence or otherwise) by no later than **Monday, October 23, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. EDT** and shall raise any objections by **Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. EDT**. Any dispute shall be submitted to the Court by no later than **Thursday, October 26, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. EDT**.

3. **Final Pretrial Conference:** The Court will hold the Final Pretrial Conference in Courtroom 1105 of the Thurgood Marshall Courthouse on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017, at 9:00 a.m.** (taking a break, as needed, to address the prospective jurors in connection with the written questionnaire discussed below). At the final pretrial conference, the parties should be prepared to discuss, among other things, how much time each side should be allocated at trial.

4. **Jury Selection:** In light of the Court's experience with jury selection in Bellwether Trial No. 1, it intends to summon fewer jurors for Bellwether Trial No. 9 — a venire of approximately 70 members. With one minor modification discussed below, the Court will use the same jury selection procedures for Bellwether Trial No. 9 that it used for Bellwether Trial No. 1. (*See* Docket No. 1380). In accordance with those procedures, written jury questionnaires

will be completed by prospective jurors on **Wednesday, October 25, 2017**, and the parties will have until **Friday, October 27, 2017 at 10 a.m. EDT**, to review the questionnaires and to submit a list of jurors that both sides agree should be excused for cause. At that same time, the parties shall also submit a list of jurors that only one party believes should be excused for cause (with a brief explanation of the basis for such belief). The Court will review the parties various lists and will decide which, if any, of those jurors should be excused for cause. The Court will then conduct oral *voir dire* of the remaining prospective jurors on **Monday, October 30, 2017**, beginning at **9:30 a.m. EDT**.

5. **Extensions:** Given that **Monday, October 30, 2017**, is a firm trial date, the Court is unlikely to grant any extensions of the foregoing dates and deadlines absent extraordinary circumstances or confidence that the extension would have no effect on the trial date. The parties may also by agreement extend deadlines provided that any such extensions would have no effect on the trial date. In accordance with the Court's Individual Rules and Practices for Civil Cases, any request for an extension shall be filed as a letter motion on ECF.

6. **Application of Certain Pretrial Orders in Bellwether Trial Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 7 to Bellwether Trial No. 9:** The parties will submit a joint show cause proposal and any competing letter briefs regarding the applicability of certain pretrial rulings (including the Court's rulings on motions *in limine*) from Bellwether Trial Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 7 by **Monday, August 21, 2017**.

7. **Show Cause Briefing With Respect to the Applicability of Other Evidentiary Rulings in Bellwether Trial Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 7:** The parties are ordered to meet and confer and, by no later than **Monday, August 21, 2017**, to submit a joint proposal regarding a deadline to submit show cause briefing regarding the applicability of the Court's other evidentiary rulings

from Bellwether Trial Nos. 1, 2, 5, and 7 to Bellwether Trial No. 9 (including the Court's rulings on deposition designations, exhibits, and demonstratives).

8. **Effect of This Order on Other Rules and Orders:** To the extent not explicitly modified herein, the Court's Individual Rules and Practices in Civil Cases and Rules and Procedures for Trials and all other applicable Orders of this Court remain in full force and effect. The Court may enter additional and/or modified orders regarding the pretrial schedule of Bellwether Trial No. 9 as circumstances require.

9. **Summary of Pretrial Deadlines:** For ease of reference, the chart attached as Exhibit 1 to this Order summarizes all of the pretrial deadlines set forth above for Bellwether Trial No. 9. If any party should later move to amend any of these deadlines, that party shall submit as part of the letter motion requesting the extension a revised version of this chart with the proposed amendments.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: April 24, 2017  
New York, New York

  
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JESSE M. FURMAN  
United States District Judge

**MDL 2543 (CATEGORY C): DODSON PRETRIAL DEADLINES**

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Submission</b>	<b>Party or Parties</b>
Wednesday, June 21, 2017	Filing of Amended Complaint	Plaintiff
Tuesday, July 18, 2017	Response to Complaint	New GM
Wednesday, July 19, 2017	OSI Disclosure and Opening OSI Brief	Plaintiff
Friday, August 4, 2017	Dispositive Motions and <i>Daubert</i> Motions	Both Parties
Wednesday, August 2, 2017	Response to OSI Brief	New GM
Wednesday, August 9, 2017	OSI Reply Brief	Plaintiff
Monday, August 21, 2017	Joint Show-Cause Briefing & Proposal	Both Parties
Tuesday, August 22, 2017	Last Day to File Motions <i>in Limine</i>	Both Parties
Friday, September 1, 2017	Joint Letter (If Concerned About Using Courtroom 1105)	Both Parties
Friday, September 1, 2017	Oppositions to <i>Daubert</i> Motions and Dispositive Motions	Both Parties
Tuesday, September 1, 2017	Oppositions to Final Motions <i>in Limine</i>	Both Parties
Friday, September 8, 2017	Replies to Final Motions <i>in Limine</i>	Both Parties
Monday, September 11, 2017	Initial Witness Lists	Both Parties
Friday, September 15, 2017	Trial Exhibit Lists	Both Parties
Friday, September 15, 2017	Replies to <i>Daubert</i> Motions and Dispositive Motions	Both Parties
Friday, September 22, 2017	Disclosure of Valukas Report and SOF Excerpts	Plaintiff
Friday, September 22, 2017	Deposition Designations	Both Parties



<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Submission</b>	<b>Party or Parties</b>
Wednesday, September 27, 2017	Branded Trial Exhibit Exchange	Both Parties
Friday, September 29, 2017	Exchange of Proposed Modifications to Jury Questionnaires	Both Parties
Wednesday, October 4, 2017	Letter Briefs re Valukas Report and SOF Excerpt Disputes	Both Parties
Wednesday, October 4, 2017	Deposition Counter-Designations	Both Parties
Friday, October 6, 2017	Exchange of Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form	Both Parties
Friday, October 6, 2017	Letter Briefs re Proposed Modifications to Jury Questionnaires Disputes	Both Parties
Monday, October 9, 2017	Trial Exhibit Objection Exchange	Both Parties
Monday, October 9, 2017	Free Trial Exhibit Disclosure	Both Parties
Wednesday, October 11, 2017	Letter Briefs re Categorical Objections to Deposition Designations/Counter-Designations	Both Parties
Thursday, October 12, 2017	Deadline to Complete Depositions of Initial Witness List Witnesses Who Have Not Previously Been Deposed	Both Parties
Thursday, October 12, 2017	Joint Proposed Pretrial Order	Both Parties
Thursday, October 12, 2017	Will Call and May Call Witness Lists	Both Parties
Friday, October 13, 2017	Letter Briefs re Proposed Jury Instructions and Verdict Form Disputes	Both Parties
Monday, October 16, 2017	Free Trial Exhibit Objections	Both Parties
Monday, October 16, 2017	Trial Exhibit Objection Meet and Confer Deadline	Both Parties

<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Submission</b>	<b>Party or Parties</b>
Wednesday, October 18, 2017	Stipulations for Authenticity	Both Parties
Wednesday, October 18, 2017	Stipulations of Law and Fact	Both Parties
Wednesday, October 18, 2017 (or three days after Court rules on categorical objections, whichever is later)	Letter Briefs re Any Other Deposition Designation Disputes	Both Parties
Monday, October 23, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. EDT	Deadline for Parties to Exchange Opening Demonstratives	Both Parties
Tuesday, October 24, 2017	Copies of Trial Exhibits Submitted to Court	Both Parties
Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 9 a.m. EDT	Final Pretrial Conference and Beginning of Jury Selection Process (i.e. Completion of Jury Questionnaires)	Both Parties
Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m. EDT	Objections to Opening Demonstratives	Both Parties
Thursday, October 26, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. EDT	Opening Demonstrative Disputes Submitted to Court	Both Parties
Friday, October 27, 2017 at 10 a.m. EDT	List of Jurors to be Excused for Cause by Agreement and Proposed Strikes	Both Parties
Monday, October 30, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. EDT	Trial Begins	Both Parties