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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JAMES PORATH, individually and on behalf of all others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

LOGITECH, INC.,

Defendant.

No. C 18-03091 WHA

**CASE MANAGEMENT ORDER  
AND REFERENCE TO  
MAGISTRATE JUDGE FOR  
MEDIATION/SETTLEMENT**

After a case management conference, the Court enters the following order pursuant to Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure (“FRCP”) and Civil Local Rule 16-10:

1. Plaintiff’s motion to appoint interim counsel is **DENIED**.
2. All initial disclosures under FRCP 26 must be completed by **SEPTEMBER 14, 2018**, on pain of preclusion under FRCP 37(c), including full and faithful compliance with FRCP 26(a)(1)(A)(iii).
3. Leave to add any new parties or to amend pleadings must be sought by **NOVEMBER 29, 2018**.
4. The motion for class certification must be filed by **FEBRUARY 7, 2019**, to be heard on a 49-day track.
5. The non-expert discovery cut-off date shall be **JUNE 28, 2019**.
6. The last date for designation of expert testimony and disclosure of full expert reports under FRCP 26(a)(2) as to any issue on which a party has the burden of proof

1 (“opening reports”) shall be **JUNE 28, 2019**. Within **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** of said  
2 deadline, all other parties must disclose any expert reports on the same issue  
3 (“opposition reports”). Within **SEVEN CALENDAR DAYS** thereafter, the party with the  
4 burden of proof must disclose any reply reports rebutting specific material in opposition  
5 reports. Reply reports must be limited to true rebuttal and should be very brief. They  
6 should not add new material that should have been placed in the opening report and the  
7 reply material will ordinarily be reserved for the rebuttal or sur-rebuttal phase of the  
8 trial. If the party with the burden of proof neglects to make a timely disclosure, the  
9 other side, if it wishes to put in expert evidence on the same issue anyway, must disclose  
10 its expert report within the fourteen-day period. In that event, the party with the burden  
11 of proof on the issue may then file a reply expert report within the seven-day period,  
12 subject to possible exclusion for “sandbagging” and, at all events, any such reply  
13 material may be presented at trial only after, if at all, the other side actually presents  
14 expert testimony to which the reply is responsive. The cutoff for all expert discovery  
15 shall be **FOURTEEN CALENDAR DAYS** after the deadline for reply reports. In aid of  
16 preparing an opposition or reply report, a responding party may depose the adverse  
17 expert sufficiently before the deadline for the opposition or reply report so as to use the  
18 testimony in preparing the response. Experts must make themselves readily available  
19 for such depositions. Alternatively, the responding party can elect to depose the expert  
20 later in the expert-discovery period. An expert, however, may be deposed only once  
21 unless the expert is used for different opening and/or opposition reports, in which case  
22 the expert may be deposed independently on the subject matter of each report. At least  
23 **28 CALENDAR DAYS** before the due date for opening reports, each party shall serve a list  
24 of issues on which it will offer any expert testimony in its case-in-chief (including from  
25 non-retained experts). This is so that all parties will be timely able to obtain  
26 counter-experts on the listed issues and to facilitate the timely completeness of all expert  
27 reports. Failure to so disclose may result in preclusion.  
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- 1 7. As to damages studies, the cut-off date for *past damages* will be as of the expert report  
2 (or such earlier date as the expert may select). In addition, the experts may try to project  
3 *future damages* (*i.e.*, after the cut-off date) if the substantive standards for future  
4 damages can be met. With timely leave of Court or by written stipulation, the experts  
5 may update their reports (with supplemental reports) to a date closer to the time of trial.
- 6 8. At trial, the opening testimony of experts on direct examination will be limited to the  
7 matters disclosed in their opening reports (and any reply reports may be covered only on  
8 rebuttal or sur-rebuttal). Omitted material may not ordinarily be added on direct  
9 examination. This means the reports must be complete and sufficiently detailed.  
10 Illustrative animations, diagrams, charts and models may be used on direct examination  
11 only if they were part of the expert's report, with the exception of simple drawings and  
12 tabulations that plainly illustrate what is already in the report, which can be drawn by  
13 the witness at trial or otherwise shown to the jury. If cross-examination fairly opens the  
14 door, however, an expert may go beyond the written report on cross-examination and/or  
15 redirect examination. By written stipulation, of course, all sides may relax these  
16 requirements. For trial, an expert must learn and testify to the full amount of billing and  
17 unbilled time by him or his firm on the engagement.
- 18 9. To head off a recurring problem, experts lacking percipient knowledge should avoid  
19 vouching for the credibility of witnesses, *i.e.*, whose version of the facts in dispute is  
20 correct. This means that they may not, for example, testify that based upon a review of  
21 fact depositions and other material supplied by counsel, a police officer did (or did not)  
22 violate standards. Rather, the expert should be asked for his or her opinion based —  
23 explicitly — upon an assumed fact scenario. This will make clear that the witness is not  
24 attempting to make credibility and fact findings and thereby to invade the province of  
25 the jury. Of course, a qualified expert can testify to relevant customs, usages, practices,  
26 recognized standards of conduct, and other specialized matters beyond the ken of a lay  
27 jury. This subject is addressed further in the trial guidelines referenced below.  
28

- 1 10. Counsel need not request a motion hearing date and may notice non-discovery motions  
2 for any Thursday (excepting holidays) at 8:00 a.m. The Court sometimes rules on the  
3 papers, issuing a written order and vacating the hearing. If a written request for oral  
4 argument is filed before a ruling, stating that a lawyer of four or fewer years out of law  
5 school will conduct the oral argument or at least the lion's share, then the Court will  
6 hear oral argument, believing that young lawyers need more opportunities for  
7 appearances than they usually receive. Unless discovery supervision has been referred  
8 to a magistrate judge, discovery motions should be as per the supplemental order  
9 referenced below.
- 10 11. The last date to file dispositive motions shall be **AUGUST 1, 2019**. No dispositive  
11 motions shall be heard more than 35 days *after* this deadline, *i.e.*, if any party waits until  
12 the last day to file, then the parties must adhere to the 35-day track in order to avoid  
13 pressure on the trial date.
- 14 12. The **FINAL PRETRIAL CONFERENCE** shall be held on **OCTOBER 9, 2019**, at **2:00 P.M.**  
15 Although the Court encourages argument and participation by younger attorneys, lead  
16 trial counsel must attend the final pretrial conference. For the form of submissions for  
17 the final pretrial conference and trial, please see paragraph below.
- 18 13. A **JURY TRIAL** shall begin on **OCTOBER 21, 2019**, at **7:30 A.M.**, in Courtroom 12,  
19 19th Floor, 450 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, California, 94102. The trial  
20 schedule and time limits shall be set at the final pretrial conference. Although almost all  
21 trials proceed on the date scheduled, it may be necessary on occasion for a case to trail,  
22 meaning the trial may commence a few days or even a few weeks after the date stated  
23 above, due to calendar congestion and the need to give priority to criminal trials.  
24 Counsel and the parties should plan accordingly, including advising witnesses.
- 25 14. Counsel may not stipulate around the foregoing dates without Court approval.
- 26 15. While the Court encourages the parties to engage in settlement discussions, please do  
27 not ask for any extensions on the ground of settlement discussions or on the ground that  
28 the parties experienced delays in scheduling settlement conferences, mediation or ENE.

1 The parties should proceed to prepare their cases for trial. No continuance (even if  
2 stipulated) shall be granted on the ground of incomplete preparation without competent  
3 and detailed declarations setting forth good cause.

4 16. To avoid any misunderstanding with respect to the final pretrial conference and trial, the  
5 Court wishes to emphasize that all filings and appearances must be made — on pain of  
6 dismissal, default or other sanction — unless and until a dismissal fully resolving the  
7 case is received. It will not be enough to inform the clerk that a settlement in principle  
8 has been reached or to lodge a partially executed settlement agreement or to lodge a  
9 fully executed agreement (or dismissal) that resolves less than the entire case.

10 Where, however, a fully-executed settlement agreement clearly and fully disposing of  
11 the entire case is lodged reasonably in advance of the pretrial conference or trial and  
12 only a ministerial act remains, the Court will arrange a telephone conference to work out  
13 an alternate procedure pending a formal dismissal.

14 17. If you have not already done so, please read and follow the “Supplemental Order to  
15 Order Setting Initial Case Management Conference in Civil Cases Before Judge William  
16 Alsup” and other orders issued by the Clerk’s office when this action was commenced.  
17 Among other things, the supplemental order explains when submissions are to go to the  
18 Clerk’s Office (the general rule) versus when submissions may go directly to chambers  
19 (rarely). With respect to the final pretrial conference and trial, please read and follow  
20 the “Guidelines For Trial and Final Pretrial Conference in Civil Jury Cases Before The  
21 Honorable William Alsup.” All orders and guidelines referenced in the paragraph are  
22 available on the district court’s website at <http://www.cand.uscourts.gov>. The website  
23 also includes other guidelines for attorney’s fees motions and the necessary form of  
24 attorney time records for cases before Judge Alsup. If you do not have access to the  
25 Internet, you may contact Deputy Clerk Dawn Logan at (415) 522-2020 to learn how to  
26 pick up a hard copy.

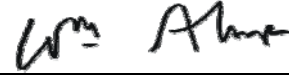
27 18. All pretrial disclosures under FRCP 26(a)(3) and objections required by FRCP 26(a)(3)  
28 must be made on the schedule established by said rule.

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19. This matter is hereby **REFERRED** to **MAGISTRATE JUDGE DONNA M. RYU** for mediation/settlement.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

Dated: August 23, 2018.



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WILLIAM ALSUP  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE