2022-SJ-001

## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

## FOR THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

STANDING ORDER RE: EMPLOYMENT CASE EARLY 6 SOLUTION MANDATORY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE PILOT PROGRAM

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FIRST AMENDED STANDING ORDER (Effective April 1, 2022)

10 Effective April 1, 2022, the Court is expanding the pilot program for the early resolution of 11 employment cases to include five additional courtrooms at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse and one 12 courtroom at the Alhambra courthouse. Departments 26 (Judge Elaine Lu), 36 (Judge Wendy Chang), 13 56 (Judge Holly J. Fujie), 57 (Judge Steven J. Kleifield) and 73 (Judge Timothy Dillon) all at the Stanley 14 Mosk courthouse and Alhambra's Department 3 (Judge Colin Leis) will join the five existing 15 courtrooms at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse: Departments 24 (Judge Kristin S. Escalante), 40 (Judge 16 David Sotelo), 47 (Judge Theresa M. Traber), 48 (Judge Laura A. Seigle) and 71 (Judge Monica 17 Bachner). Under this new program, judges can assign eligible cases to an early mandatory settlement 18 conference (MSC) to be conducted virtually through the Resolve Law LA (RLLA) platform: 19 www.ResolveLawLA.com. Eligible cases are those that have recently been filed and are conducive to 20 resolution prior to expensive and lengthy proceedings, including but not limited to matters involving 21 small businesses and/or where counsel agree the cost of litigation would make the case more difficult to 22 resolve.

23 The settlement conferences are conducted by two volunteer attorneys, each with at least ten 24 years' experience in employment law (one from the plaintiff's side and one from the defense) and are 25 overseen by the Court. Resolve Law LA is a joint effort of the Court, Consumer Attorneys Association 26 of Los Angeles, Association of Southern California Defense Counsel, Los Angeles Chapter of the 27 American Board of Trial Advocates and the Beverly Hills Bar Foundation, with assistance from the 28 Labor and Employment Section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and California Employment

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Mandatory Settlement Conferences through Resolve Law LA are available solely by Court order at the initial Case Management Conference (or later Status Conference), or specially scheduled eligibility conference.

Once the Court has ordered the case to participate in an MSC through Resolve Law LA, Plaintiff must access the website at www.ResolveLawLA.com to create an account and register the case for MSC within two (2) court days of the Court's Order assigning the case to the MSC. Plaintiff or plaintiff's counsel must coordinate with defendant or defendant's counsel and select a mutually agreed upon date and time for the MSC. Plaintiff shall also provide the name, email address, and phone number for Defendant when registering the case for an MSC. Once Defendant is notified that the matter has been scheduled for a remote MSC, defense counsel shall create their own login to the ResolveLawLA.com system, and shall list all parties, party representatives and insurance adjusters' names, phone numbers, and emails where indicated. The Resolve Law LA system will send confirmations via text and/or email and will include a Zoom link for counsel, the parties, and insurance representatives to join the remote MSC. In the event the MSC needs to be canceled, it must be canceled through the Resolve Law LA system.

A mandatory settlement conference statement shall be lodged by each party at www.ResolveLawLA.com and served on all parties not less than five (5) court days before the scheduled MSC unless otherwise ordered by the individual IC Court. The settlement conference statement shall be limited to five (5) pages on the MSC Brief and ten (10) pages for exhibits. Resolve Law LA MSCs are available at 9 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding court holidays, and are conducted remotely via Zoom.

Pursuant to California Rules of Court, rule 3.1380(b) and Superior Court, Los Angeles County, Local Rules, rule 3.25(d), trial counsel, the parties and persons with full authority to settle the case (including insurance company representatives) must attend remotely unless a judge has excused the virtual appearance for good cause.

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1	If the case settles prior to the scheduled MSC, Plaintiff's counsel shall immediately file a Notice
2	of Settlement in the courtroom to which the case is assigned.
3	Effective immediately, this Standing Order is to remain in effect until otherwise ordered.
4	IT IS SO ORDERED.
5	DATED:, 2022
6	HON. DAVID J. COWAN
7	Supervising Judge of Civil
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	<u>3</u> FIRST AMENDED STANDING ORDER – MANDATORY SETTLEMENT CONFERENCES