

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION**

In re:)	Chapter 7
)	Case No.
)	Judge John H. Squires
)	Adversary No.
Debtor.)	
_____)	
)	
)	
Plaintiff,)	
v.)	
)	
)	
Defendants.)	

PRELIMINARY PRETRIAL ORDER

INITIAL CONFERENCE OF COUNSEL. Counsel for all parties are ordered to confer together to discuss the issues in this case and to prepare a joint pretrial statement. This initial conference shall take place no later than _____

PRETRIAL STATEMENT. At the initial conference, counsel for all parties shall prepare a JOINT DOCUMENT, captioned "Pretrial Statement," setting forth the following information:

- A. Plaintiff's case.
 - 1. A brief statement of the theory of each cause of action.
 - 2. A brief summary of plaintiff's contentions of facts in support of the cause(s) of action and the evidence to be relied upon to establish each of the facts contended.

- B. Case of each defendant and additional party.
 - 1. A brief statement of each theory of defense, interest, cause of action, etc.
 - 2. A brief summary of contentions of facts in support of the legal theories, and evidence to be relied upon to establish each of the facts contended.

(Each of the parties will present to opposing counsel at the initial conference the matters set out above for incorporation in the joint document.)

- C. Contested and uncontested matters.
 - 1. A statement of all admitted or uncontested facts.
 - 2. Each party's brief statement of contested facts.
 - 3. Each party's statement of contested legal issues.

The pretrial statement shall be submitted to the Court on or before _____

All of the above is to be incorporated into one document which is to be signed by all attorneys prior to its filing.

Counsel and parties are directed to conduct a thorough exploration of the prospects of settlement before preparing the PRETRIAL STATEMENT. Should the parties wish the Court to participate in a settlement conference, counsel may ask the Court to schedule such a conference. If the case has not been settled and is assigned a trial date, settlement possibilities should continue to be explored throughout the period before trial. If the case is settled, counsel must notify the Court promptly and notice up the settlement for final order.

At the pretrial conference, each party shall be represented by the attorney(s) who will try the case, unless the Court grants permission before the pretrial conference for other counsel to attend in their place. Counsel must familiarize themselves with the pretrial rules and come to the pretrial conference with full authority to accomplish the purposes of Bankruptcy Rule 7016 (including simplifying the issues, expediting the trial and saving expense to litigants). Counsel shall be prepared to discuss compromise settlement possibilities without the necessity of obtaining confirmatory authority from their clients. This pretrial conference is for lawyers only. Clients will not be permitted to attend without prior permission of the Court.

Because of the scarcity of pretrial conference dates, it is essential that the parties adhere to the scheduled date. Courtesy to counsel in other cases also mandates no late changes in scheduling. Accordingly, no extensions of the pretrial conference date will be granted without good cause, and no request for extension should be made less than fourteen (14) days before the scheduled date.

At the conclusion of the pretrial conference, the Court will set a trial date. Although no further pretrial conference will ordinarily be held after the initial pretrial conference, a final pretrial conference date may be requested by any of the parties or ordered by the Court at the time of the pretrial conference.

PRETRIAL CONFERENCE. This matter is set for pretrial conference on _____ at _____ a.m., at the United States Courthouse, 219 S. Dearborn Street, Courtroom 680, Chicago, Illinois. Counsel for all parties shall appear at that time. Clients will not be permitted to attend without prior written order of Court to that effect.

ORDERED this _____ day of _____, 2007.

JOHN H. SQUIRES
United States Bankruptcy Judge

cc: