

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
CENTRAL DIVISION**

BILLY LEE CORAM

PLAINTIFF

v.

CASE NO. 4:24-CV-00813 BSM

JOSEPH HARRIS, et al.

DEFENDANTS

**FINAL SCHEDULING ORDER**

Pursuant to Rule 16(e) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

**1. TRIAL DATE**

This case is scheduled for a **JURY TRIAL** before Judge Brian S. Miller commencing at **9:30 a.m.** sometime during the week of **May 11, 2026**, in Courtroom #2D, Richard Sheppard Arnold United States Courthouse, 500 West Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201. The case will be tried to a twelve member (12) jury, unless the parties stipulate to a jury of six (6) members. Counsel are directed to file by **May 6, 2026**, a statement indicating whether they agree to a six (6) member jury. If counsel wish to bring electronic devices to the courthouse for any proceeding, please note General Order No. 54.

**2. ADDITION OF PARTIES/AMENDMENT OF PLEADINGS**

Leave to add parties or amend pleadings must be sought no later than **November 17, 2025**.

**3. DISCOVERY**

Discovery should be completed no later than **December 17, 2025**. The parties may conduct discovery beyond this date if all parties are in agreement to do so; but the Court will not resolve any disputes in the course of this extended discovery. All discovery requests and motions must be filed sufficiently in advance of that date to allow for a timely response. Witnesses and exhibits not identified in response to appropriate discovery may not be used at trial except in extraordinary circumstances. The Court will not grant a continuance because a party does not have time in which to depose a witness, expert or otherwise.

A discovery motion must not be filed until counsel has made a good faith effort to resolve the discovery dispute. Upon the filing of such motion, a response should be filed promptly. A conference call will be scheduled to resolve such matters if the Court deems it necessary.

**4. EXPERT DISCLOSURES AND REPORTS**

Case-in-chief expert disclosures, including reports, must be made by **February 16, 2026**.

Rebuttal expert disclosures, including reports, must be made by **March 17, 2026**.

These disclosures must be in writing, signed, and served. They are not filed in the Clerk's Office.

## 5. STATUS REPORT

A status report must be filed with the Clerk's office on or before **January 12, 2026**. The report must include the date and results of any settlement conference, the settlement prospects, and an estimate of the length of trial.

## 6. MOTION DEADLINE

All motions, except motions in limine, must be filed on or before **January 12, 2026**. Motions for summary judgment must comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 56 and Local Rules 7.2 and 56.1. In addition, parties are directed to submit a courtesy copy of the motion for summary judgment, responses, replies, and supporting briefs and exhibits to chamber. Motions in limine must be filed on or before **May 1, 2026**, and responses must be filed five (5) calendar days thereafter. Motions submitted after the deadline may be denied solely on that ground.

Local Rule 7.2(b) provides: "Within fourteen (14) days from the date copies of a motion and supporting papers have been served upon him, any party opposing a motion shall serve and file with the Clerk a concise statement in opposition to the motion with supporting authorities. A party moving for summary judgment will have seven (7) days to file a reply in further support of the motion." The Court may or may not wait on the filing of a reply before ruling on the motion. No surresponse or surreply will be permitted.

## 7. FORMAT OF SUMMARY JUDGMENT STATEMENT OF FACTS

In opposing a motion for summary judgment, the non-moving party shall format his or her statement of disputed (and undisputed) material facts pursuant to Local Rule 56.1. The non-moving/opposing party shall respond paragraph by paragraph to the statement of undisputed material facts submitted by the moving party. The responsive portion of the non-moving opposing party's statement shall repeat the statement verbatim as set forth in the moving party's statement and respond to it by admitting the statement or pointing out that portion of the statement, if any, he or she disputes. The non-moving/opposing party will state with particularity that portion of the allegation denied, citing to any evidentiary support for the denial. For example:

Moving Party: 1. Plaintiff began working for Defendant Employer on March 1, 2016.

Response: 1. Plaintiff admits that Plaintiff began working for Defendant Employer on March 1, 2016.

## 8. PRETRIAL DISCLOSURE SHEET [FED.R.CIV.P. 26(a)(3)]

Pretrial disclosure sheets must be filed simultaneously by the parties according to the outline contained in Local Rule 26.2 with copies to the Courtroom Deputy, Laura Bichlmeier, and opposing counsel no later than **April 10, 2026**. The Court's requirement that witnesses and exhibits must be listed on the pretrial information sheet does not relieve a party of the obligation to provide the names of witnesses and exhibits in response to discovery requests.

## 9. DEPOSITIONS TO BE USED AT TRIAL OTHER THAN FOR IMPEACHMENT

The proffering party must designate the pertinent portions of a deposition to be used as evidence at trial by **April 10, 2026**. Counter-designations must be made by **April 20, 2026**. Objections to any deposition or videotapes that will be used at trial must be made by written motion indicating the specific objection

and its legal basis by **April 23, 2026**, with the response due **April 27, 2026**. Depositions to be read at trial must be marked as exhibits.

#### **10. JURY INSTRUCTIONS AND STATEMENT OF CASE**

The parties must confer regarding the proposed instructions in an attempt to narrow areas of disagreement and must submit an AGREED set of instructions on specific issues in the case to the Court on or before **May 1, 2026**. Standard instructions from AMI, Eighth Circuit or Federal Jury Practice and Instructions (Latest Edition), as applicable, should be used whenever possible and should be noted at the end of each instruction. A party requesting an instruction that cannot be agreed upon must submit that instruction to the Court and to opposing counsel, setting out the disagreement by the same date. Instructions must be submitted in WordPerfect or Word format electronically to bsmchambers@ared.uscourts.gov.

Each party must submit to the Court by that same date a concise statement of the case, no more than one page in length, that it proposes would be proper to read to the panel of venire persons during voir dire, and also any proposed voir dire questions it wishes the Court to pose to the panel.

#### **11. STIPULATIONS**

The parties should stipulate in writing to the facts not in controversy on or before **May 6, 2026**.

#### **12. INTRODUCTION OF EXHIBITS**

All exhibits must be listed on the enclosed form in numerical sequence. Exhibits must be made available to all parties and reviewed by counsel prior to the trial date. The lists must be submitted to the Courtroom Deputy 30 minutes prior to trial, with notations made on the Court's copy noting exhibits to which there is an objection. The Court will receive all stipulated exhibits at the beginning of the trial.

#### **13. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Counsel must promptly check the Court's list of financial interests on file in the U.S. District Clerk's Office to determine whether there is any conflict that might require recusal. If any party is a subsidiary or affiliate of any company in which the Court has a financial interest, bring that fact to the Court's attention immediately.

Please communicate with Laura Bichlmeier, Courtroom Deputy, at 501-604-5404, or [laura\\_bichlmeier@ared.uscourts.gov](mailto:laura_bichlmeier@ared.uscourts.gov), to ascertain your position on the calendar as the trial date approaches. In the event of settlement, advise Ms. Bichlmeier immediately. The case will not be removed from the trial docket until an order of dismissal has been entered.

Dated January 13, 2025

**AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COURT  
TAMMY H. DOWNS, CLERK**

By: Laura Bichlmeier  
Courtroom Deputy

**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: Lawyers  
FROM: Judge Miller  
RE: Guidelines for Jury Trials

Please keep in mind the following:

1. In cases where there is a jury demand, twelve (12) jurors will be impaneled, unless the parties stipulate to six (6) jurors.
2. Be prepared, during the court portion of the voir dire, to stand and call out the names of each of your witnesses, as well as your client(s) or representative of your party.
3. Lawyers will be permitted to voir dire the jury with these guidelines:
  - a. Ask questions of the entire panel, unless there is a reasonable ground for singling out an individual juror.
  - b. Do not use voir dire to argue the case or commit the jury to your theory of the case.
  - c. If you want to challenge a juror during voir dire, please feel free to request a bench conference to make the challenge.
  - d. If there are questions you would prefer that the Court ask, please advise.
  - e. Batson challenges: party whose strike is overruled by Batson challenge will be given another strike.
4. Objections and motions in front of the jury should be spare and to the legal point.
5. Speaking objections and sidebar comments are inappropriate.
6. Please stand when you speak.
7. Jury Instructions:
  - a. Instructions proposed by each party prior to trial, pursuant to the Court's Scheduling Order, are considered by the Court in formulating the Court's own set of Proposed Instructions, but are not considered proffered instructions which become part of the record.
  - b. Prior to the on-the-record instruction conference with me, the law clerk assigned to the case may review the Court's proposed set of instructions with lawyers for both parties. Lawyers may relate any objections or requests for modifications or additional instructions to the law clerk at this time in attempting to work out any problems prior to the final instruction conference; however, lawyers are responsible for making

objections and proffering any changes or additional instructions that they wish to become a part of the record during the on-the-record instruction conference.

c. In all civil cases, Court will instruct before arguments.

8. Stipulate to all exhibits about which there is no dispute and which exhibits can be used during opening statements.
9. Arrange for appearance of witnesses so that it will not be necessary to adjourn before 5:00 p.m. for lack of available witnesses.

## ARKANSAS



(Post 09/2015) Notice Regarding Magistrate Judge Consent Program (ARED rev. 7/6/2021)

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS**  
**CENTRAL DIVISION**

BILLY LEE CORAM

*Plaintiff*

v.

JOSEPH HARRIS, et al.

*Defendant*

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Case No. 4:24-CV-00813 BSM

**MAGISTRATE JUDGE CONSENT PROGRAM**  
**(MANDATORY RESPONSE REQUIRED)**

Enclosed you will find a form titled Notice, Consent and Reference of a Civil Action to a United States Magistrate Judge. If the parties consent, a Magistrate Judge will conduct all further proceedings in this case, including trial and entry of final judgment, with direct review by the United States Court of Appeals if an appeal is filed.

Consent to proceed before a Magistrate Judge is entirely voluntary. There will be no adverse, substantive consequences if you do not consent. Even if you do not consent, under Local Rule 72.1, however, a Magistrate Judge will still handle all non-dispositive pretrial motions in your case until ten days before trial.

**You must return the Consent Form to the Clerk of Court's office within 21 days indicating whether or not you consent.**

TAMMY H. DOWNS, CLERK

Mail Attached Form To: Clerk of Court  
United States District Court  
Eastern District of Arkansas  
600 West Capitol Avenue, Room A-149  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201



(Post 09/2015) Notice, Consent and Reference of a Civil Action to a Magistrate Judge

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS**  
**CENTRAL DIVISION**

\_\_\_\_\_  
 BILLY LEE CORAM

*Plaintiff*

v.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 JOSEPH HARRIS, et al.

*Defendant*

Case No. 4:24-CV-00813 BSM

**NOTICE, CONSENT AND REFERENCE OF A CIVIL ACTION**  
**TO MAGISTRATE JUDGE PATRICIA S. HARRIS**  
**(MANDATORY RESPONSE REQUIRED)**

*Notice of a Magistrate Judge's availability.* A United States Magistrate Judge of this court is available to conduct all proceedings in this civil action and to order the entry of a final judgment. The judgment may then be appealed directly to the United States Court of Appeals like any other judgment of this court. A Magistrate Judge may exercise this authority only if all parties voluntarily consent.

You may consent to have your case referred to a Magistrate Judge, or you may withhold your consent without adverse substantive consequences. The name of any party withholding consent will not be revealed to any judge who may otherwise be involved with your case.

**You must return this form to the Clerk of Court's office within 21 days from date of this notice regardless of whether or not you are consenting to the exercise of jurisdiction by a United States Magistrate Judge.**

☐ Election to have case remain with a United States District Judge

☐ *Consent to a Magistrate Judge's authority.* The following parties consent to have a United States Magistrate Judge conduct all proceedings in this case including trial, the entry of final judgment, and all post-trial proceedings.

*Parties' printed names*

*Signatures of parties or attorneys*

*Dates*

**Reference Order**

**IT IS ORDERED:** This case is referred to a United States Magistrate Judge to conduct all proceedings and order the entry of a final judgment in accordance with 28 U.S.C. § 636(c) and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*District Judge's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*