

JUDGE DONOVAN'S TRIAL PROCEDURES

When the judge sets a case for trial, plaintiff's counsel normally must prepare and lodge a proposed scheduling order. If the case is to be tried based on written declarations, the judge will prepare the scheduling order outlining trial procedures. Trial dates will be adhered to strictly. Requests for continuances are discouraged unless the request is accompanied by a very good explanation.

The judge normally schedules cases for trial one week per month, starting at 10 a.m.

Please notify the court promptly if the case is settled (or is going to settle) at (213) 894-1577 or, if not, counsels' current trial time estimates. Written stipulations and proposed orders must be filed at least two days before the trial date (excluding weekends or holidays) or personal appearances will be required at the time set for trial.

Trials will commence promptly on the date and at the time specified. Counsel should show up before that time to prepare exhibit tags for all expected trial exhibits.

Trial exhibits and deposition transcripts must be marked in advance. Please follow the local rules carefully and prepare at least five exhibits sets (for counsel, opposing counsel, court files, Judge's Copies, and the witness). If the exhibits are longer than 10 pages, they should be assembled in loose leaf 3-ring binders and tabbed on the right (with exhibit numbers for the plaintiff and letters for the defendant). An exhibit register also should be submitted, following the local rules. Deliver a complete set of Judge's Copies to chambers, in tabbed binders.

All trial briefs and proposed findings and conclusions should be filed and served not less than one week in advance of the trial date, with Judge's Copies delivered to chambers.

Opening statements are welcome (but usually are not necessary). Counsel should be prepared to complete closing argument as soon as the parties have rested. Post-trial briefs seldom are requested by the court, or allowed.