

IN THE STATE COURT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY 30 PH 4:49
STATE OF GEORGIA

**Scheduling Order Setting Pre-trial Conferences for December 9, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.
and Jury Trials for the Week of Tuesday, January 20, 2026**

For the cases pending trial listed on Exhibit A, the following shall apply:

Discovery

Unless noted otherwise, this Order contemplates that all discovery has been completed, any expert witnesses have been properly disclosed during discovery, and the discovery period is closed.

October 24, 2025

Extension of discovery – If either party is seeking additional time for discovery, an appropriate motion should be filed by this date.

Dispositive motions shall be filed by this date.

Motions to challenge to an expert's qualification under O.C.G.A. § 24-7-702 shall be filed by this date.

November 14, 2025

Defendant's portion of pre-trial order shall be submitted by Defendant to Plaintiff by this date.

Any uninsured or underinsured motorist carrier shall file by this date a notice of whether the UMC elects to proceed at trial in its own name or in the name of Defendant as allowed under O.C.G.A. § 33-7-11. The UMC shall include the election in §1 of the pre-trial order. If no election is filed, the UMC will waive the ability to proceed in its own name, and the Court will find the UMC has elected to proceed in the name of Defendant.

Compliance with O.C.G.A. § 9-11-26 (e) – Parties shall comply with O.C.G.A. § 9-11-26 (e) and supplement all discovery responses by this date.

November 21, 2025

Consolidated Pre-trial Order shall be submitted to the State Court Staff Attorney by email this date to lesley.weise@accgov.com. Plaintiff shall be responsible for consolidating the pre-trial order. (*See further instructions below.*)

Motions in limine shall be filed by this date. The Court requests that the attorneys refrain from filing boilerplate

If either party files motions in limine, the parties must confer by Thursday December 9,

2025 to determine which motions need a hearing. The parties shall notify Staff Attorney Lesley Weise by email or by a filing with the Clerk which ones need a hearing by Friday December 10, 2025.

December 9, 2025

motions and motions seeking the Court to enter rulings on general topics of well-established law, evidence, or procedure that are not tailored to the particular legal or evidentiary issues in the case.

Notices of intent to introduce records pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902 (11) or (12) shall be filed by this date or may be included in §14 of the pre-trial order if the notice complies with the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902 (11) or (12).

Trial depositions - For any depositions to be used at trial, the parties shall file any deposition designations or requests for rulings on deposition objections by this date. ***For any trial depositions taken after this date, any designations or requests for rulings on objections shall be filed within 48 hours of a party's receipt of the transcript.***

Pre-trial Conference shall be held at **2:30 p.m.** in State Court Hearing Room 415, Fourth Floor of the Athens-Clarke County Courthouse, 325 E. Washington Street, Athens, Georgia 30601. ***(See further instructions below.)***

Mediation shall be completed by this date. If counsel has not received an order scheduling mediation, please contact the Tenth District ADR Program at (706) 613-3210 to be scheduled for mediation. All cases must attend mediation prior to the pre-trial conference.

All motions in limine and deposition designations shall be heard by the Court on this date.

The Pre-trial Conference will have a WebEx remote attendance option. Please notify the Staff Attorney at lesley.weise@accgov.com at least two days in advance if you wish to appear remotely.

Attorneys who have a previously scheduled leave of absence for this date shall contact the State Court Staff Attorney no later than October 8, 2025 to request an alternative date for a pre-trial conference.

January 12, 2026

Proposed jury charges and a proposed verdict form shall be submitted to the Staff Attorney at lesley.weise@accgov.com by this date.

Please Note →

Depositions of any witnesses who will testify at trial shall be filed with the Clerk of State Court by this date.

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 **Jury Trials** shall begin at 8:30 a.m. in the State Court Courtroom. If a case is not reached, it will be placed on the next jury trial calendar.

Instructions for Pre-trial Order:

§1 Name, Address, and Phone Number of Attorneys: If the uninsured or underinsured motorist carrier is a party, the pre-trial order shall include whether the UMC will elect to proceed at trial in its own name or in the name of Defendant as allowed under O.C.G.A. § 33-7-11.

§14 Notices of intent to introduce records: Each party may include notices of intent to introduce pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 24-9-902 (11) or (12) if made in compliance with the statute.

§17 Proposed Jury Charges: the parties should word §17 as: "Pursuant to Uniform State Court Rule 10.3, all requests to charge, other than additional requests to cover unanticipated points which arise at trial, shall be filed with the Clerk of State Court and a copy submitted to the Court by email to lesley.weise@accgov.com in Word document form by **January 12, 2026.**"

§19 List of Witnesses: Party shall identify all potential witnesses by first and last name and list the witness's position and / or employer (if applicable). Parties shall not list witnesses by generic description. At trial, the Court will exclude any witness who has not been sufficiently identified except for the limited purpose of authenticating documents, records, or other exhibits.

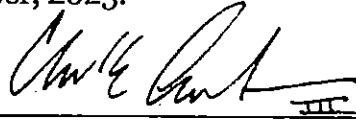
Amendments: The Court will not enter pre-trial orders that contain provisions attempting to reserve the right to amend the pre-trial order or to conduct discovery. Amendments will be allowed only upon order of the Court and upon good cause shown.

Attendance at Pre-trial Conference / Requests to be Excused: Unless a pre-trial order has already been entered by the Court, an attorney of record must appear for each party to make an announcement in the case. If you are unable to appear, please contact **Lesley Weise, Staff Attorney**, at lesley.weise@accgov.com at least 48 hours in advance to request excusal by the Court.

Failure to Appear at Pre-trial Conference / Failure to Present Proposed Pre-trial Order: Failure of counsel to appear at the pre-trial conference without legal excuse or failure to present a proposed pre-trial order shall authorize the Court to remove the action from the trial calendar, enter such pre-trial order as the Court deems appropriate, or impose any other appropriate sanction.

This Order and the attached Calendar shall be entered on the Minutes of the Court and a copy served on the Tenth District Alternative Dispute Resolution Program office.

SO ORDERED, this 30 day of September, 2025.



Charles E. Auslander, III
Judge, State Court of Athens-Clarke County

Exhibit A

IN THE STATE COURT OF ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY STATE OF GEORGIA

Pre-trial conference on Tuesday, December 9, 2025 at 2:30 p.m.
Jury trial week beginning Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.

Case No.	Case Style	Counsel for Plaintiff	Counsel for Def./*UMC
ST20CV0774 <i>9/30/25 Scheduling Order and associated deadlines do <u>not</u> apply to this case</i> <i>Pre-trial conference and motions hearings TBD</i>	Caroline Bradley versus Golden Pantry Food Stores, Inc., Eric Mitchell, and John Does 1 and 2	Keenan Nix Christopher Graddock ShaMiracle Rankin Morgan & Morgan Atlanta, PLLC Darren Summerville The Summerville Firm, LLC	Jackson Dial Brannon Arnold Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC Austin Atkinson Hall Booth Smith, P.C. Eric K. Mitchell (pro se) GDC ID No. 1003181821 Johnson State Prison 290 Donovan-Harrison Rd. Wrightsville, GA 31096
ST23CV0048	Amanda French versus Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia	Austin Hiffa Morgan & Morgan Atlanta, PLLC	Casey Crumbley W. Donald Handberry, Jr. James Bates Brannan Groover, LLP
ST23CV0495 <i>ADR impasse</i>	Latifeah Shunta Ferrell versus Gerald Jerome Bailey	Casey L. Ford Jan P. Cohen Kenneth S. Nugent, P.C.	M. Steven Heath Matthew Moseley Cowsert Heath, LLP
ST23CV0789 <i>ADR 6/27/25</i>	James Edward Martin versus Tyler Dockery	Matthew McKagen Steven L. Jones Taylor English Duma, LLP	Ankur Trivedi Joseph Kaiser Groth Makarenko Kaiser & Eidex, LLC

ST24CV0457	Zaire Sainsbury versus Samuel Pickering	Michael Ard-Kelly Morgan & Morgan Atlanta, PLLC	Joseph D. Stephens Cowser Heath, LLP
ST24CV0522	Jillian Baylor versus Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia	Michael Ruppensburg Tyler Mathis Michael Ruppensburg Attorney at Law, LLC	Zachary Procter Georgia Department of Law Office of the Attorney General
ST24CV0489	Matashia Flournoy versus John Rossier* *Special Appearance Answer filed	Robert M. Hammers, Jr. Taylor M. Barnett Kirsten King Hammers Law Firm, LLC Scott Patterson Montlick Injury Attorneys	Jay Eidex Groth Makarenko Kaiser & Eidex, LLC
ST24CV0711	Keddrick Freeman versus Robert Lloyd* and John Does (1-5) *Special Appearance Answer filed	Terrence Bethune Sabrina Zellner Bethune Law Firm, LLC	David R. Lift James Brieske Gray, Rust, St. Amand, Moffett & Brieske, LLP
ST24CV0838	Progressive Mountain Insurance Company as subrogee of Michael E. Ward Holdings, LLC versus Connor Reinhold Hatch*, Peter Reinhold Hatch*, and Marsha Lynn Bozeman*	Caitlin Miller Mary A. Miller & Associates, LLC	John Batchelor Groth Makarenko Kaiser & Eidex, LLC
*Special Appearance Answers filed			

ST24CV0848	Israel Garcia Molina versus Federal Express Corporation and Anthony Smith	Adam P. Smith Michael L. Goldberg Fried Goldberg, LLC	Joseph P. Menello Damon M. Scott Wicker Smith O'Hara McCoy & Ford, P.A.
ST24CV0854	Temitope Olali, Individually, and as parent and natural guardian of Samuel Olali, a minor child versus Larissa Leigh Rogus and Pamela Blackmer Rogus	Donald T. Wells, Jr. Wells and McElwee, P.C.	M. Steven Heath Matthew Moseley Cowsert Heath, LLP
ST24CV0988	Rhonda McDuffie versus Leah Muller Collins and The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, Georgia	R. Douglas Lenhardt The Law Office of R. Douglas Lenhardt, LLC	Casey Crumbley Gregory C. Sowell William James Sizemore, III James Bates Brannan Groover, LLP
ST25CV0013	Kassandra Torres Valera versus John Doe and Librada Colon Ocasio	David Thomas Dorer Dozier Law Firm, LLC	M. Steven Heath Matthew Moseley Cowsert Heath, LLP
ST25CV0028	Sheila Droney versus Tracy Traylor	Asten O. Hall Kristen Pitts Ian E. Banks K.P. Law Group, P.C.	Victoria S. Edwards Law Offices of Andrea Dobur * M. Steven Heath Matthew Moseley Cowsert Heath, LLP

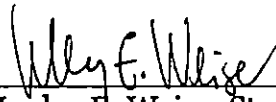
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I have served the foregoing Scheduling Order Setting Pre-Trial Conference on December 9, 2025 and for a Jury Trial the week of Tuesday, January 20, 2026 and Exhibit A on all counsel as listed on said calendar electronically through PeachCourt, as well as the following by hand delivery:

Elisa Zarate, Clerk of Court
and

Tenth District Alternative Dispute Resolution Program Office

This 30th day of September, 2025.



Lesley E. Weise, Staff Attorney
State Court of Athens-Clarke County