

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

2026 JAN 21 AM 10:34

CLERK OF COURTS  
SUPERIOR/STATE

**Scheduling Order for Pre-trial Conferences on February 26, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.  
and Jury Trials for the Week of Monday, March 30, 2026 — DOCKET INITIALS**

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.

**February 2, 2026**

**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.

**February 6, 2026**

**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.

**February 13, 2026**

**Consolidated Pre-trial Order** shall be submitted to the State Court Staff Attorney by email this date to [lesley.weise@accgov.com](mailto: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files motions in limine, the parties must confer by Monday, February 23, 2026 to determine which motions are agreed to, withdrawn, or require a hearing. By Tuesday, February 24, the parties shall notify Staff Attorney Lesley Weise by email or make a filing with the Clerk outlining the results of their conversation + which motions require a hearing on 2/26/26.

February 26, 2026

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 **3:00 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](mailto: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 January 26, 2025 to request an alternative date for a pre-trial conference.

**Proposed jury charges and a proposed verdict form** shall be submitted to the Staff Attorney at [lesley.weise@accgov.com](mailto:lesley.weise@accgov.com) by this date.

March 16, 2026

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

**March 30, 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](mailto:lesley.weise@accgov.com) in Word document form by **March 16, 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](mailto: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 20 day of January, 2026.



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**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 Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 3:00 p.m.  
Jury trial week beginning Monday, March 30, 2026 at 8:30 a.m.**

Case No.	Case Style	Counsel for Plaintiff	Counsel for Def./*UMC
ST23CV0741  <b>Deadlines from 8/18/25 Scheduling Order apply to this case</b>  <b>Pre-trial conference February 26 at 2:00 p.m.</b>	Jerry Henderson versus Morgan Clifton Wood, MD and Sound Physicians Emergency Medicine of Georgia, P.C.	David C. Hanson Zachary H. Fuller Hanson Fuller, LLC  Michael B. Hill Mayo Hill	Matthew S. Coles Huff Powell & Bailey, LLC
ST23CV0366	State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company as subrogee of Tony Jordan versus Sherekia Monique Hardy and Crista Lumpkin Willis	Ronald Parnell Ronald W. Parnell, PC	Anne D. Gower Gower Wooten Darneille, LLC
ST23CV0495	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
ST23CV0642	Keith Thompson versus Rosa Marie Fortson*	Saif Ahmed Ross Massey Massey Law Group, LLC	Ankur Trivedi Joseph Kaiser Imaya Adris Groth Makarenko Kaiser & Eidex, LLC

*\*Special Appearance  
Answer filed*

*\*Samantha Ball  
Fain, Major, Brennan,  
Sanford & Hardee, PC*

ST23CV0789	James Edward Martin versus Tyler Dockery	Matthew McKagen Steven L. Jones McKagen Jones	Ankur Trivedi Groth Makarenko Kaiser & Eidex, LLC
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 Cowser 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	W. Donald Handberry, Jr. William James Sizemore, III James Bates Brannan Groover, LLP
ST25CV0046	Steven Turner versus Dennis & Judy's Towing, LLC; Dwaine Howard Fowler; and Amguard Insurance Company	Taylor M. Edwards Rob Loar WLG Atlanta, LLC	John M. Caldwell Jay M. O'Brien Copeland, Stair, Valz & Lovell, LLP
ST25CV0150	Olivia Nogales versus Alorie Gillespie and John Does 1 – 3	Michael Werner Nola Jackson Daniell Fink Casey J. Brown Werner Law, LLC	Christina M. Curreli Childs & Curreli, LLC  *J. Lewis Glenn, Jr. Fain, Major, Brennan, Sanford & Hardee, PC
ST25CV0158	Jose Gorostjeta and Leslie Guillen versus Trevious Johnson	DeMone Lee The Lee Firm of Georgia, LLC	Nanci Corsi Law Offices of Andrea Dobur

ST25CV0246	Elizabeth Wages versus Hunter Murray, Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, Inc. and Selective Insurance Company of America	Austin Hiffa Morgan & Morgan Atlanta, PLLC	Jason Darneille Gower Wooten & Darneille, LLC
ST25CV0389	Dwayne Sanders versus James S. McClellan and John Doe	John K. FitzGerald John K. FitzGerald, PC	Beverly O'Hearn Alison Maher Luder, Larkin, & Hunter, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I have served the foregoing Scheduling Order Setting Pre-Trial Conference on February 26, 2026 and for a Jury Trial the week of March 30, 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2026.

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