

**SUPPLEMENT TO THE GENERAL ORDER  
JUDGE MARIBETH RAFFINAN  
CIVIL CALENDAR 13  
Effective January 6, 2025**

**I. GENERAL INFORMATION**

Judge: Maribeth Raffinan

Courtroom: Courtroom 519, Moultrie Building  
500 Indiana Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001

Chambers: Suite 3150, Moultrie Building

Chambers Telephone: (202) 879-0131

Email Address: [JudgeRaffinanChambers@dcsc.gov](mailto:JudgeRaffinanChambers@dcsc.gov)  
**(emails sent directly to Judge Raffinan without copying the law clerks and/or chambers email or without prior leave of court will be deleted with no action taken)**

Law Clerks: Kira Pyne ([kira.pyne@dcsc.gov](mailto:kira.pyne@dcsc.gov))  
Dagny Rippon ([dagny.rippon@dcsc.gov](mailto:dagny.rippon@dcsc.gov))

Proceedings in matters on Calendar 13, **except for bench trials, jury trials and pretrial conferences, or other hearings at which in-person appearance is explicitly required**, will take place in Virtual Courtroom 519, which the parties and counsel may access in the following ways:

- (1) going to the WebEx website at <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb519> or going to <https://dccourts.webex.com> and entering meeting ID number 129 705 0412; or
- (2) downloading the WebEx Meetings app, opening the app, selecting Join Meeting, and entering <https://dccourts.webex.com/meet/ctb519>; or
- (3) calling 1-844-992-4726 or 202-860-2110 and entering meeting ID number 129 705 0412.

Parties having trouble connecting to their remote hearing may call chambers at 202-879-0131 for assistance. Failure to appear at a remote proceeding may result in the same sanctions as would result from failing to appear at an in-person hearing, including dismissal of a case or entry of default.

**NOTE: Counsel is required to appear via WebEx video and log in so that their name appears on screen, absent extenuating circumstances that make it necessary for them to**

**appear via telephone, or unless telephonic appearance is approved by Chambers prior to the hearing. All other parties are highly encouraged, but not required, to appear via WebEx video and identify themselves by name. Inclusion of preferred pronouns is encouraged, but not required.**

When entering the virtual courtroom, each party should mute themselves, or will be automatically muted by the courtroom clerk, to avoid interrupting another hearing that may be underway. If using the WebEx website or the app, parties may check in with the courtroom clerk using the “chat” function. Parties accessing the hearing by telephone only should wait for their case to be called before speaking.

Judge Raffinan enforces the rule on witnesses for any virtual evidentiary proceedings. Accordingly, each party is responsible for ensuring that their non-party witnesses are not logged into the evidentiary proceeding at any point other than when they are testifying. In addition, parties are reminded that Administrative Order 20-08 strictly forbids the audio and/or video recording of virtual hearings, including the taking of screenshots; individuals found in violation of this order may be subject to contempt of court.

## **II. WEEKLY SCHEDULE**

Unless otherwise directed, matters on Calendar 13 will take place as follows:

Pretrial/Settlement Conferences: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 9:30/10:00 a.m. and 2:00/3:00 p.m.

Trials: Mondays through Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. until 4:45 p.m.

Scheduling Conferences and other matters: Fridays beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Motions Hearings: As scheduled by Chambers.

## **III. PRAECIPES**

**Praecipes of Appearance:** To ensure that counsel’s contact information is input into the electronic case filing system, counsel must file a Praecipe of Appearance prior to or simultaneous with the filing of any pleadings in a case.

**Scheduling Praecipes:** Notwithstanding the earlier deadline set forth in Rule 16(b) of the Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure, Judge Raffinan will accept a Praecipe Requesting Scheduling Order (Civil Action Form 113) filed by 12:00 p.m. one day before the date of the scheduling conference. In cases in which all parties are represented by counsel and there are no pending motions or other matters requiring the Court’s attention, Judge Raffinan strongly encourages attorneys to consult with opposing counsel and submit a CA Form 113 rather than appearing for a scheduling conference.

#### IV. MOTIONS

**Contact information:** Consistent with Rule 10-I (b)(1), the signature block for all pleadings must include the name, office address, telephone number, email address and Bar number of the attorney, or if a party is not represented by counsel, their name, address, telephone number and email address. Inclusion of preferred pronouns is encouraged, but not required.

**Consent to motions:** The title of every motion must indicate whether the motion is opposed or consented to/unopposed. Judge Raffinan strictly enforces the requirement in Rule 12-I(a) that, before a party files a nondispositive motion, it must seek the consent of other parties, include a certification that consent was sought and indicate whether the other parties consent to the requested relief. Judge Raffinan may summarily deny a motion that does not contain the requisite certification, and if the party chooses to refile the motion with a certification, it will pay another \$20 filing fee.

**Proposed order:** Superior Court Rule of Civil Procedure Rule 12-I(f) requires that each motion and opposition be accompanied by a proposed order for the court's signature. Counsel's adherence to this requirement assists the Court in ruling on motions and informing counsel of the Court's decision in an expeditious manner. Judge Raffinan may summarily deny a motion that is not accompanied by a proposed order in the required format. **Additionally, a courtesy copy of any proposed order in Word format must be sent to [JudgeRaffinanChambers@dcsc.gov](mailto:JudgeRaffinanChambers@dcsc.gov).**

**Length of filings:** No party may submit a motion or opposition with a legal memorandum exceeding fifteen double-spaced pages in length without obtaining prior leave of Judge Raffinan. If a party fails to comply with these requirements, the motion may be summarily denied or struck.

**Paper Copies:** Judge Raffinan requires that a party provide a paper copy of any filing that exceeds twenty-five pages in length. **In addition to a paper copy, Judge Raffinan requires a courtesy copy to be sent to [JudgeRaffinanChambers@dcsc.gov](mailto:JudgeRaffinanChambers@dcsc.gov).**

**Exhibits to motions:** If a party attaches three or more exhibits to a motion, an exhibit list must be included identifying each exhibit and each exhibit must be marked accordingly.

**Reply briefs:** No party may submit a reply to an opposition that is more than seven pages long without leave of the court. Sur-replies may not be filed without leave of the court.

**Motions in Limine:** To the extent practicable, Judge Raffinan will generally rule on motions in limine at or before the pretrial conference. In accordance with the deadline set forth in Rule 16(d), parties shall file motions in limine at least four weeks before the pretrial conference. Oppositions to such motions should be filed no later than one week before the pretrial conference.

**Motions to reschedule hearings:** Any motion to reschedule a hearing or mediation session must suggest three alternative dates and times at which all counsel, unrepresented parties and other necessary parties will be available.

**Consolidated Motions:** A party ordinarily should raise in one motion all grounds for the relief it seeks. For example, a party should file one summary judgment motion or one motion in limine, even if the party seeks summary judgment on multiple grounds or pretrial rulings on multiple issues. If a consolidated motion exceeds the court's usual page limit, the party may file, with the consolidated motion, a motion for leave to file a brief exceeding the page limit. Such requests are ordinarily granted if reasonable because consolidated motions are more efficient and require fewer total pages than separate motions.

**Emergency Motions:** Judge Raffinan expects parties to request expedited action only in truly urgent situations. A party filing an emergency motion must send a courtesy copy of the motion and the proposed order (in a format that can be edited) by email to [JudgeRaffinanChambers@dscs.gov](mailto:JudgeRaffinanChambers@dscs.gov) and to the other parties.

**E-Filed Motions:** It takes time for e-filed motions and other filings to reach chambers; it may take up to three business days for the Clerk's Office to process filings. A lawyer or party who has a question about the status of a pending motion should check online at <http://www.dccourts.gov>, contact the Clerk's Office at (202) 879-1133, or check with the electronic filing vendor, prior to contacting Chambers.

## V. DISCOVERY

**Motions to Compel Discovery:** Rules 26(h) and 37(a) require the parties to meet for a reasonable period in an effort to resolve or narrow any discovery dispute and include a certification regarding such a meeting in discovery-related motions. If a party submits a discovery-related motion without a certification, Judge Raffinan may summarily deny the motion and if the party chooses to refile the motion with a certification, it will pay another \$20 filing fee. In-person meet and confer requirements may be satisfied by virtual or telephonic meetings.

Judge Raffinan will presumptively award attorney's fees and any costs associated with litigating the motion to the prevailing party, pursuant to Rule 37(a)(5); parties should bring documentation of their fees to any hearing on the motion. The parties are encouraged to resolve discovery disputes prior to any discovery hearing, and the moving party may file a praecipe withdrawing the motion to compel if parties are able to reach resolution.

## VI. PRETRIAL CONFERENCES AND TRIAL READINESS HEARINGS

**In-person appearance required:** All parties shall appear in-person for pretrial conferences, unless Judge Raffinan has authorized or directed parties to appear remotely.

**Non-party principals:** Except in extraordinary circumstances with prior judicial approval, nonparty principals with settlement authority must attend all mediation sessions and pretrial or settlement conferences, either in person or remotely. Any request to excuse a non-party principal should be made by motion at least two weeks prior to the scheduled event.

**Joint Pretrial Statements:** Rule 16(e) requires the filing of a joint pretrial statement no later than one week before the pretrial conference. Judge Raffinan may sua sponte continue the pretrial conference if the parties have not timely filed a joint pretrial statement that satisfies the requirements of Rule 16(e).

**Trial Readiness Hearing:** The Court may schedule an in-person trial readiness hearing to occur approximately one week prior to trial. Counsel and unrepresented parties are required to attend the trial readiness hearing and be prepared to discuss voir dire questions and procedures, scheduling concerns, any outstanding evidentiary issues, and other matters requiring the Court's attention prior to trial. During the trial, counsel is expected to display all exhibits, including audio, video, photographic and documentary exhibits, via WebEx. The trial readiness hearing serves as an opportunity for counsel to ensure that they have the necessary technical capacity and equipment to do so.

## VII. LANGUAGE ACCESS

The Court provides certified interpreters in all matters, when needed. The party requiring an interpreter must notify the Court before any hearing at which an interpreter will be needed. Family members, friends, lawyers, or lawyers' staff are not permitted to interpret for parties or witnesses during a hearing.

## VIII. D.C. BAR VOLUNTARY STANDARDS OF CIVILITY IN PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Attorneys are expected to adhere to these Standards in their dealings with one another and with other participants in the legal process. The Standards may be found on the D.C. Bar's Website: [www.dcbbar.org/for-lawyers/legal-ethics/d-c-bar-voluntary-standards-of-civility-in-profess](http://www.dcbbar.org/for-lawyers/legal-ethics/d-c-bar-voluntary-standards-of-civility-in-profess).

Judge Raffinan and her Chambers staff express their appreciation in advance for compliance with this Supplement to the General Order.