State of Michigan
Court of Claims

MICHAEL F. GADOLA
CHIEF JUDGE
JAMES ROBERT REDFORD
SIMA G. PATEL
RANDY J. WALLACE
JUDGES

JEROME W. ZIMMER JR.
CLERK

June 11, 2026

Re: Janssen-Rogers v DEGLE, 21-000246-MM
Braziel v DEGLE, 22-000046-MM
Kavanaugh v DEGLE, 22-000050-MM

Dear Counsel,

At the June 10, 2026 scheduling conference, the parties agreed to work together to provide a stipulated scheduling order to the Court. Within the next 14 days, please file a stipulated scheduling order with the Clerk. If the parties cannot agree on dates, each party should submit a scheduling proposal and the Court will choose the dates. The parties may also reach out to me through Court of Claims Commissioner Amber Tykoski at atykoski@courts.mi.gov.

The stipulation and order should provide dates for the following, if these events have not already occurred:

1. **Exchange of Initial Disclosures Per MCR 2.302 –** The parties shall file a copy of their initial disclosures with the Court Clerk.

2. **Witness List Deadline –** Witness lists for all parties shall be due the same day. The parties may request different dates for the filing of lay witnesses and expert witnesses.

3. **Completion of Mediation –** Parties are strongly encouraged to engage in alternative dispute resolution. If a mediator is selected, the parties shall notify the Court of their selection and the expected date of mediation. If the parties wish to mediate but are unable to agree on a mediator, they should advise the Court and the Court will appoint one with costs to be split equally between the parties. The parties may also request a mediation or settlement conference conducted by a Court of Claims judge not assigned to the matter.

4. **Completion of Discovery –** The parties may stipulate to an extension of discovery providing it does not require adjournment of any other dates. Otherwise an extension of discovery shall be granted only on a showing of good cause.

Deadline for Filing of Dispositive Motions – Dispositive motions must comply with MCR 2.116 and shall be filed before the deadline established in the scheduling order. Response briefs are due 21 days after the motion is filed and reply briefs are due 7 days after the response is filed. The court will set a hearing date if it determines that a hearing is necessary. Parties are strongly encouraged to move for summary disposition on all grounds available at the time the motion is filed and avoid serial summary disposition motions. Parties are directed to bookmark all PDF exhibits filed with a motion. As relates to dispositive motions under MCR 2.116(C)(6), MCR 2.116(C)(7), MCR 2.116(C)(8), and MCR 2.116(C)(10), one and only one motion may be filed as a matter of right. Any additional dispositive motions require leave of the Court.

WARNING: If the non-movant fails to timely file a response to a motion, including a dispositive motion, the Court may, in its discretion, consider the motion unopposed and grant the motion on that basis. The parties may stipulate or move for an extension of response deadlines.

The parties are also advised as to the following:

Motion Practice – Non-dispositive motions may be filed at any time and should comply with MCR 2.119. Response briefs to non-dispositive motions are due 14 days after the filing of the motion and reply briefs are due 7 days after the filing of the response. Parties are directed to bookmark all PDF exhibits filed with a motion.

Trial, Final Pretrial and Motions in Limine – Dates for trial and final pre-trial will be set by the Court. All motions in limine shall be filed no less than 21 days before trial and heard no less than 7 days before trial. Parties are encouraged to file motions in limine as early as possible. Parties are directed to bookmark all PDF exhibits filed with a motion.

Status Conferences – Per our discussion, the Court will conduct status conferences approximately every 45 days. Two to three days before each status conference, the parties are directed to submit an agenda to Ms. Tykoski. The Court asks the parties to provide a few mutually agreeable dates for the first three status conferences along with their scheduling order. The Court will then set the dates for these conferences based on the Court's calendar availability.

Settlement Conference – If the parties believe a settlement conference would be helpful, a different Court of Claims judge will conduct a conference upon request.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Very truly yours,

Sima G. Patel,
Court of Claims Judge

SGP/jb