IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION: "AF"

CASE NO.: 50-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-CA-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-XXXX-MB

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

         Plaintiff/Petitioner

vs.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

         Defendant/Respondent.

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**ORDER DIRECTING PRE-HEARING SCHEDULE FOR**

**ATTORNEY FEES AND COST MOTIONS**

**THIS MATTER** came before the Court on the parties’ request for an order setting pre-hearing procedures on reasonableness of attorneys’ fees and costs, entitlement having been previously determined. The Court being duly advised in the premises, it is hereby

**ORDERED** and **ADJUDGED** as follows:

1. The parties and the Court will benefit by pre-hearing disclosures and party conferences to clarify the extent and basis of any objections to the reasonableness of fees and costs on an item by item basis and resolve as much of the dispute as possible through good faith negotiations. To that end, the parties may, by agreement, extend each deadline imposed in this Order by up to thirty (30) days without further Order of the Court.

2. Within sixty (60) days, the movant(s) shall submit to the parties from whom fees or costs are sought the name and address of the fee/cost expert that will be used in support of reasonableness along with copies of all billing, timesheets, invoices for costs, and any other documentary evidence relating to attorneys’ fees and/or court costs claimed (collectively the “Claim”). Failure to specifically identify and itemize any fee or cost may result in a waiver of the right to have it awarded or taxed.

3. Within thirty (30) days after service of the itemized Claim required by paragraph 2 of this Order, any party opposing any part of the Claim shall respond to the movant(s) by providing specific objection to each disputed line item and the legal or factual basis for each objection. They shall also identify the name and address of any expert it intends to use in rebuttal. Failure of a party to specifically object to an item may result a waiver of any right to object.

4. Within fifteen (15) days after service of any objections required by paragraph 3 of this Order, the parties and their respective experts shall meet for the purposes of conferring over each disputed item of the Claim.

5. If the parties cannot resolve the Claim, within fifteen (15) days of the meeting the parties shall contact chambers for a hearing date as directed in the Court’s Divisional Instructions for setting hearings. They shall also file a joint report within fifteen (15) days of meeting that:

(a) Lists each specific line items of the Claim that remains in dispute;

(b) Identifies by line item the legal or factual basis for each objection and the specific response of the movant(s) to each objection;

(c) Provides legal authorities in support of each party’s position, and

(d) Proposes the exact amount of time necessary for an evidentiary hearing.

6. Failure to comply with this Order in the time frames set forth above may result in the request for a determination of reasonableness of fees being deemed abandoned and the case closed without further notice.

**DONE** and **ORDERED** in West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County, Florida