

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION**

BOBBY SINGLETON, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

JOHN H. MERRILL, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:21-cv-01291-AMM

EVAN MILLIGAN, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

JOHN H. MERRILL, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:21-cv-01530-AMM

MARCUS CASTER, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

JOHN H. MERRILL, et al.,

Defendants.

No. 2:21-cv-01536-AMM

JOINT STATUS REPORT

After conferring with counsel for all parties in *Singleton v. Merrill*, No. 2:21-cv-1291, *Milligan v. Merrill*, No. 2:21-cv-01530-AMM, and *Caster v. Merrill*, No. 2:21-cv-1536, Plaintiffs and Defendants in the above captioned actions respectfully submit the attached “Proposed Scheduling Order” in response to the issues raised in the Court’s order on November 21, 2023.

Respectfully submitted this 5th day of January 2023.

/s/ Abha Khanna

Abha Khanna*

Elias Law Group LLP

1700 Seventh Ave, Suite 2100

Seattle, WA 98101

Phone: (206) 656-0177

Email: AKhanna@elias.law

Lalitha D. Madduri*

Daniel C. Osher*

Joseph N. Posimato*

Olivia N. Sedwick*

Elias Law Group LLP

250 Massachusetts Ave, Suite 400

Washington, D.C. 20001

Telephone: (202) 968-4490

Email: LMadduri@elias.law

Email: DOsher@elias.law

Email: JPosimato@elias.law

Email: OSedwick@elias.law

Richard P. Rouco

(AL Bar. No. 6182-R76R)

**Quinn, Connor, Weaver, Davies &
Rouco LLP**

Two North Twentieth

2-20th Street North, Suite 930

Birmingham, AL 35203

Phone: (205) 870-9989

Fax: (205) 803-4143

rrouco@qcwdr.com

Attorneys for Caster Plaintiffs

**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

/s/ James W. Davis

Edmund G. LaCour Jr.

James W. Davis

A. Reid Harris

Brenton M. Smith

Benjamin M. Seiss

Alexander Barrett Bowdre

Misty Shawn Fairbanks Messick

Thomas Alexander Wilson

State of Alabama

Office of the Attorney General

501 Washington Avenue

Montgomery, Alabama 36130

(334) 242-7300

(334) 353-8400 (fax)

Edmund.LaCour@AlabamaAG.gov

Jim.Davis@AlabamaAG.gov

Reid.Harris@AlabamaAG.gov

Brenton.Smith@AlabamaAG.gov

Ben.Seiss@AlabamaAG.gov

Barrett.Bowdre@alabamaAG.gov

Misty.Messick@AlabamaAG.gov

thomas.wilson@alabamaAG.gov

Counsel for Secretary of State Merrill

/s/ Dorman Walker

Dorman Walker

Balch & Bingham LLP

Post Office Box 78

Montgomery, AL 36101

(334) 269-3138

dwalker@balch.com

Counsel for Intervenor-Defendants

Chris Pringle and Jim McClendon

/s/ James Uriah Blacksher

James Uriah Blacksher
825 Linwood Road
Birmingham, AL 35222
Tel: (205) 612-3752
Fax: (866) 845-4395
Email: jublacksher@gmail.com

Joe R. Whatley, Jr.
W. Tucker Brown
WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP
2001 Park Place North
1000 Park Place Tower
Birmingham, AL 35203
Tel: (205) 488-1200
Fax: (800) 922-4851
Email: jwhatley@whatleykallas.com
Email: tbrown@whatleykallas.com

/s/ Henry C. Quillen

Henry C. Quillen
(admitted *pro hac vice*)
WHATLEY KALLAS, LLP
159 Middle Street, Suite 2C
Portsmouth, NH 03801
Tel: (603) 294-1591
Fax: (800) 922-4851
Email: hquillen@whatleykallas.com

Myron Cordell Penn
PENN & SEABORN, LLC
1971 Berry Chase Place
Montgomery, AL 36117
Tel: (334) 219-9771
Email: myronpenn28@hotmail.com

Diandra "Fu" Debrosse Zimmermann
Eli Hare
DICELLO LEVITT GUTZLER
420 20th Street North, Suite 2525
Birmingham, AL 35203
Tel.: (205) 855.5700
Email: fu@dicellolevitt.com
Email: ehare@dicellolevitt.com

Counsel for Singleton Plaintiffs

/s/ Deuel Ross

Deuel Ross*
Tanner Lockhead*
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE &
EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.
700 14th Street N.W. Ste. 600
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 682-1300
dross@naacpldf.org

Leah Aden*
Stuart Naifeh*
Kathryn Sadasivan (ASB-517-E48T)
Ashley Burrell*
NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE &
EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.
40 Rector Street, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10006
(212) 965-2200

Shelita M. Stewart*
Jessica L. Ellsworth*
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP
555 Thirteenth Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
(202) 637-5600
shelita.stewart@hoganlovells.com

David Dunn*
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP
390 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017
(212) 918-3000
david.dunn@hoganlovells.com

Counsel for Milligan Plaintiffs
**Admitted Pro Hac Vice*

Sidney M. Jackson (ASB-1462-K40W)
Nicki Lawsen (ASB-2602-C00K)
WIGGINS CHILDS PANTAZIS
FISHER & GOLDFARB, LLC
301 19th Street North
Birmingham, AL 35203
Phone: (205) 341-0498
sjackson@wigginschilds.com

Davin M. Rosborough*
Julie Ebenstein*
ACLU FOUNDATION
125 Broad St.
New York, NY 10004
(212) 549-2500
drosborough@aclu.org

LaTisha Gotell Faulks (ASB-1279-I63J)
ACLU OF ALABAMA
P.O. Box 6179
Montgomery, AL 36106-0179
(334) 265-2754
tgfaulks@aclualabama.org

Blayne R. Thompson*
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP
609 Main St., Suite 4200
Houston, TX 77002
(713) 632-1400
blayne.thompson@hoganlovells.com

Michael Turrill*
Harmony A. Gbe*
HOGAN LOVELLS US LLP
1999 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 1400
Los Angeles, CA 90067
(310) 785-4600
michael.turrill@hoganlovells.com

Janette Louard*

Anthony Ashton*

Anna Kathryn Barnes*

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
(NAACP)

4805 Mount Hope Drive

Baltimore, MD 21215

(410) 580-5777

jlouard@naacpnet.org

aashton@naacpnet.org

abarnes@naacpnet.org

Attorneys for Plaintiff Alabama State Conference of the NAACP

** Admitted Pro hac vice*

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Defendants.

[PROPOSED] SCHEDULING ORDER

1. The parties agree to meet and confer in good faith within three (3) days of the Supreme Court's decision in *Merrill v. Milligan*, No. 21-1086, and *Merrill v. Caster*,

No. 21-1087, to discuss an appropriate schedule if a trial is required on the merits of one or more of the claims at issue in this case. This Court will hold a status conference and rule on a scheduling order (including any revisions to this Scheduling Order) within seven (7) days of a submission from the parties following any Supreme Court decision.

2. **Initial Disclosures:** Regardless of the timing of the Supreme Court's decision, the parties shall exchange Initial Disclosures as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26 by **January 30, 2023**. The parties will supplement this information as needed by **one week** after the Supreme Court rules and thereafter as required by Rule 26. Neither side need disclose expert witnesses as part of any of these initial disclosures.

3. **Commencement of Discovery:** Beginning on **January 9, 2023**, the parties may engage in (1) fact discovery on the process of implementing a new congressional map and the feasibility of doing so under certain time constraints related to the 2024 election, not to exceed 3 depositions, 15 interrogatories, 15 requests for production, and an unlimited number of requests for admission, collectively among all Plaintiff groups, and (2) written discovery relating to the intentional racial discrimination and racial gerrymandering claims, not to exceed 35 interrogatories, 30 requests for production, and an unlimited number of requests for admission, collectively among the *Milligan* and *Singleton* Plaintiff groups who have brought those claims, provided that nothing in this Scheduling Order forecloses or

limits the parties' ability to seek discovery on any claims in this matter following the Supreme Court's ruling, except that written discovery on the intentional racial discrimination and racial gerrymandering claims shall continue to be governed by the limitations herein.

4. **Electronically Stored Information:** To the extent it exists, the parties will produce relevant, non-privileged electronically stored information in TIFF¹ format or in a format that is otherwise mutually agreeable to the parties. Data for production may be delivered via email to the extent practicable, via USB flash storage media, or other means mutually agreeable. The parties agree to the entry of an order regarding claims of privilege or of protection with respect to the inadvertent production of any privileged material that will allow the producing party to claw back such inadvertently produced document(s) and will further require that such party produce a privilege log as to any such document.

¹ The parties agree to produce the following information for electronically stored information to the extent reasonably practicable, except hard copy documents scanned and produced electronically: starting bates, ending bates, starting bates of family, ending bates of family, bates range of family, starting bates of parent, starting bates of each attachment, file name of each attachment, custodians, document type, file author, file last author, file created date, file created time, file last modified date, file last modified time, file last printed date, file last printed time, file last accessed date, file last accessed time, file company, file title, file names, file extension, file paths, file size, page count, character count, SHA1 hash, MD5 hash, deduplication hash, email sending (From), To recipients, cc recipients, bcc recipients, email sent date, email sent time, email received date, email received time, email subject, email message ID, email in-reply-to ID, path to native file, path to text file, volume, normalized time zone.

5. For purposes of this litigation, the parties need not preserve, produce, or create a privilege log for, any document that was (i) created by, and exchanged solely among, counsel and/or counsel's staff, or (ii) that was created in the prosecution or defense of this litigation and exchanged solely among counsel and/or counsel's staff on the one hand and parties on the other.

6. Regardless of the timing of the Supreme Court's decision, the Court and the Parties will make every possible effort to ensure that this case will be trial-ready by the week of **July 31, 2023**. Trial shall be scheduled at the earliest possible date during that week or after available to the Court. **Estimated trial time: 10 days.**

7. The parties agree to confer in advance of this Court's February 8, 2023 status conference to map out potential schedules for expert disclosures, dispositive motions, and other pretrial deadlines depending on when the Supreme Court issues a decision. In all events, the parties agree to work in good faith toward resolution of Plaintiffs' claims in time for a trial the week of July 31, 2023 and any relief to be effectuated for the 2024 congressional elections.

DONE and **ORDERED** this ____ day of January 2023.

STANLEY MARCUS
UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE

ANNA A. MANASCO
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

TERRY F. MOORER
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE