## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS, et al.,	)
Plaintiffs,	) )
v.  RINGLING BROTHERS AND BARNUM & BAILEY CIRCUS, et al.,	) ) Civ. No. 03-2006 (EGS/JMF) )
Defendant.	) ) )

## **JOINT STATUS REPORT OF THE PARTIES**

On August 23, 2007, the parties were ordered to provide a "joint status report and recommendation for further proceedings no later than January 15, 2008" regarding "how to proceed with this case and bring it to resolution after discovery closes." Order at 12 (Docket No. 178). At that time, the Court had ordered fact and expert discovery to close on December 31, 2007. <u>Id.</u> at 11. Thus, the status report was due two weeks after the close of all discovery.

The parties have since agreed on, and the Magistrate Judge has entered, the following scheduling order:

January 30, 2008 Parties to complete fact discovery.

February 21, 2008 Plaintiffs to provide their expert reports.

March 28, 2008 Defendant to provide its expert reports.

May 30, 2008 Parties to complete expert discovery.

<u>See</u> Minute Order granting [243] Joint Motion to Modify the Discovery Order (December 28, 2007). The parties take the following further positions:

(a) Plaintiffs' Position: It is plaintiffs' position that a schedule should be set for the

remainder of the case, including a trial date, as follows:

June 20, 2008 All dispositive motions are due;

July 16, 2008 Responses to dispositive motions will be filed;

July 30, 2008 Reply briefs in support of dispositive motions will be filed

August 30, 2008 Pre-Trial Conference

October 1-14, 2008 Trial

**(b) Defendant's Position:** Consistent with the Court's August 23, 2007 Order, it is defendant's position that a status report or conference should be due or held two weeks after the close of discovery on May 30, 2008, which would be on or before June 13, 2008. Defendant asks the Court to advise the parties at that time whether it wants a proposed scheduling order, which FEI considers premature at this time.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Katherine A. Meyer . \_\_/s/ John M. Simpson .

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Dated: January 15, 2008