

Tentative Rulings for July 14, 2026 Department 10

**To request oral argument, you must notify Judicial Secretary
Crystal Marias at (760) 904-5722
and inform all other counsel no later than 4:30 p.m.**

This court follows California Rules of Court, Rule 3.1308 (a) (1) for tentative rulings (see Riverside Superior Court Local Rule 3316). Tentative Rulings for each law & motion matter are posted on the Internet by 3:00 p.m. on the court day immediately before the hearing at [Riverside Superior Court-Tentative Rulings](#). If you do not have Internet access, you may obtain the tentative ruling by telephone at (760) 904-5722.

To request oral argument, no later than 4:30 p.m. on the court day before the hearing you must (1) notify the judicial secretary for Department 10 at (760) 904-5722 and (2) inform all other parties of the request and of their need to appear remotely, as stated below. If no request for oral argument is made by 4:30 p.m., the tentative ruling **will become the final ruling** on the matter effective the date of the hearing. **UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, THE PREVAILING PARTY IS TO GIVE NOTICE OF THE RULING.**

For information and instructions on remote appearances via **ZOOM**, visit the court's website at [Riverside Superior Court-Remote Appearances](#)

You may also make a Telephonic Appearance: On the day of the hearing, call into one of the below listed phone numbers, and input the meeting number (followed by #):

- Call-in Numbers: 1-833-568-8864 (Toll Free), 1-669-254-5252,
1-669-216-1590, 1-551-285-1373 or 1-646-828-7666
- Meeting Number: **161 888 5460**

Please **MUTE** your phone until your case is called and it is your turn to speak. It is important to note that you must call fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled hearing time to check in or there may be a delay in your case being heard.

Riverside Superior Court provides official court reporters for hearings on law and motion matters only for litigants who have been granted fee waivers and only upon their timely request. (See General Administrative Order No. 2021-19-1) Other parties desiring a record of the hearing must retain a reporter pro tempore.

1.

CASE #	CASE NAME	HEARING NAME
CVRI2506266	MCCOLLUM VS COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE	MOTION TO COMPEL THE DEPOSITION OF PERSON MOST QUALIFIED OF DEFENDANT COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, AND FOR MONETARY SANCTIONS OF \$5,160.00 BY MICHAEL MCCOLLUM

Tentative Ruling:

The Court continues this matter to August 13, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. The parties shall meet and confer to set a deposition date(s) for PMQ Witness(s), connected to the categories noticed in the deposition notice (using the same terminology.) To the extent the parties are unable to agree with respect to any PMK categories and document demands, Defendants may bring an appropriate motion to quash under CCP § 2025.410(c) or a motion for a protective order under CCP § 2025.420(a). The parties shall file joint status report no later than 7 days before the continued hearing date. The Court will address the issue of sanctions at the continued hearing date.

2.

CASE #	CASE NAME	HEARING NAME
CVRI2501912	SKELLY VS GARAGE INNOVATIONS	MOTION TO BE RELIEVED AS COUNSEL FOR GARAGE INNOVATIONS

Tentative Ruling: Moot; counsel substituted July 6, 2026.

3.

CASE #	CASE NAME	HEARING NAME
CVRI2406558	HOSSENI VS PHILLIP PFEIFER	DEMURRER ON 2ND AMENDED COMPLAINT FOR WRONGFUL EVICTION (OVER \$35,000) OF SEYED FARSHID HOSSENI BY PHILLIP PFEIFER

Tentative Ruling:

The Court continues the hearing to September 18, 2026, at 8:30 a.m. Defendant's demurrer is missing the memorandum of points and authorities and declaration of counsel; the court's docket reflects only the filing of the notice of demurrer and the request for judicial notice. Plaintiff shall file an opposition on the merits pursuant to code.

4.

CASE #	CASE NAME	HEARING NAME
CVRI2203529	MARTINEZ VS AMERICAN HONDA MOTOR CO	MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES BY NOEMI MARTINEZ, JOSE MARTINEZ TRUJILLO

Tentative Ruling:

The Court GRANTS the motion and awards fees of \$38,115, payable within 21 days of this Order.

Plaintiffs' counsel rates ranged from \$350 to \$600 per hour. The hourly rates do not appear to be reasonable for Riverside County. Plaintiff makes no showing that they could not obtain local counsel, and therefore, are entitled to out-of-town rates. (*Center for Biological Diversity v. County of San Bernardino* (2010) 188 Cal.App.4th 603, 615-619 (plaintiffs were entitled to Santa Monica rates for counsel when they proved they could not obtain local counsel).) The Court reduces the rates for all attorneys to \$350 per hour.

Defendant argues that the fees incurred after the CCP §998 offer acceptance (2/28/24) must be denied, based on the terms of that specific §998 offer. However, Defendant failed to attach the purported §998 offer. Although defense counsel's declaration references the offer as Exhibit A, no such exhibit was attached, precluding review.

Defendant's other challenge to Plaintiffs' fees is to strike \$3,290 in fees Plaintiffs' counsel billed for opposing Defendant's motions to compel deposition and written discoveries. Defendant argues that this time spent was due to Plaintiffs' "discovery abuses." Plaintiffs argue that this motion work was caused by Defendant's inadequate meet and confer efforts and that most of the issues were moot by the hearing. As there is no evidence that such motion work was frivolous or brought in bad faith, the time spent is compensable.

Accordingly, based on a reduced hourly rate of \$350 for all attorneys, the adjusted lodestar for a total of 106.9 hours spent (see Plaintiffs' motion, p. 10.) is **\$37,415** (\$350 per hour x 106.9 hours.)

The Court denies the request for a multiplier; this was not a complicated case. Plaintiff requests additional fees for the reply and hearing. A reply was filed. Two hours is a reasonable amount of time to prepare the reply and attend the hearing. At an adjusted rate of \$350 per hour, this amounts to \$700.

Accordingly, the adjusted lodestar would be **\$37,415 + \$700 = \$38,115**.