



By Order of the Court, Presiding Judge **ROBERTO C. NARAJA**

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N/A

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

AMRITA L. SARKER,)
)
 Plaintiff,)
)
 v.)
)
 PACIFIC BASIC INSURANCE COMPANY,)
)
 Defendant.)
)
)
)
)
)

CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0117

**SUA SPONTE ORDER FOR
VIDEOCONFERENCE APPEARANCE
AND CONNECTIVIETY
PREPARATION**

FOR GOOD CAUSE AND COMPELLING CIRCUMSTANCES SHOWN, the Court granted Plaintiff Amrita L. Sarker (“Sarker”) and other witnesses permission to appear via videoconference during the bench trial, scheduled from Wednesday, February 12, through Friday, February 14, 2025.

To ensure that the trial meets due process requirements, the Commonwealth Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Judiciary has made significant investments to enhance its technological infrastructure. Nevertheless, the Court recognizes the potential for unforeseen technical issues that could disrupt proceedings or impair the delivery of justice, particularly given Sarker’s remote appearance from Bangladesh.

Modern videoconferencing technology can effectively replicate the dynamics of live, in-person testimony, enabling the Court to observe essential indicators such as hesitation, doubt, linguistic variations, emotional responses, and overall demeanor. *See In re Vioxx Prods. Litig.*, 2d 640, 644 (E.D. La. 2006). To maximize the integrity of the testimonial process, video must remain

1 continuously activated throughout each witness's testimony, ensuring transparent and comprehensive
2 observation.

3
4 Recognizing the potential for technological uncertainties, the Court mandates comprehensive
5 preparedness from all parties to guarantee the uninterrupted progression of judicial proceedings.

6 Accordingly, **IT IS ORDERED** that:

- 7 1. All parties shall secure and maintain alternative internet access methods, including
8 mobile hotspots, as contingency measures to prevent disruptions during
9 videoconference connections.
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- 11 2. All parties must ensure the availability of functional telephone lines as an additional
12 backup communication option during videoconference proceedings.
- 13 3. Counsel shall, if necessary, provide reasonable notice to Deputy Clerk II, Okalani
14 Shiprit, via email at okalani.shiprit@nmijudiciary.gov or by telephone at (670) 236-
15 9774, to schedule pre-trial connectivity tests in the courtroom.
16
- 17 4. All witnesses appearing via videoconference must be in a quiet, well-lit environment
18 with a neutral background that minimizes potential distractions or visual impediments.
19 Witnesses must be prepared to demonstrate their immediate surroundings to the
20 Court's satisfaction.
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Failure to comply with this order, including the failure to secure viable backup internet and communication options, or to demonstrate a good-faith effort to ensure technological reliability, will be attributed to the non-compliant party and may adversely impact the progression of the trial.

IT IS ORDERED this 6th day of February 2025.

/s/
ROBERTO C. NARAJA, Presiding Judge