

restraining order, a preliminary injunction, and a permanent injunction against the Commonwealth's enforcement of KRS §§ 118.015 and 118.305. [R. 16.] Contemporaneously, they filed the motion to expedite and proposed a scheduling order that contemplates, among other things, a February 29, 2016 response date for the Defendants; a March 17, 2016 reply date for the Plaintiffs; and a sixty day period of discovery. [See R. 17-3.]

The Court agrees that the unique and time-sensitive nature of this case deserves consideration. Accordingly, the Court refers the matter to Magistrate Judge Edward B. Atkins [see General Order 15-1] to hold a status conference with the parties if necessary and to craft a scheduling order appropriate for the case going forward. The Court being otherwise sufficiently advised, it is hereby **ORDERED** that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A), this matter is referred to Magistrate Judge Atkins for the purpose of:

1. Supervising discovery and pretrial proceedings;
2. Conducting all pretrial and status conferences, establishing and extending discovery deadlines, and all other deadlines, holding such hearings as may be required, and ruling on non-dispositive motions, except motions *in limine*. See *Brown v. Wesley's Quaker Maid, Inc.*, 771 F.2d 952 (6th Cir. 1985). Dispositive motions and motions *in limine* will be referred by the Clerk of this Court to the appropriate United States District Judge. Subject to other provisions of law, the Final Pretrial Conference and Trial will also be before a United States District Judge, unless the parties agree to a trial by a Magistrate Judge, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(c).

This the 23rd day of February, 2016.

The image shows a handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Gregory F. Van Tatenhove". The signature is written over a circular official seal. The seal contains the text "UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT" at the top and "EASTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY" at the bottom. In the center of the seal is an eagle with its wings spread, perched on a shield.

Gregory F. Van Tatenhove
United States District Judge