

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Civil Division

Central District, Spring Street Courthouse, Department 6

18STCV03957

MELANIE MCCRACKEN, et al. vs RIOT GAMES, INC.

January 25, 2021

1:30 PM

Judge: Honorable Elihu M. Berle

Judicial Assistant: M. Fregoso

Courtroom Assistant: M. Molinar

CSR: A. Joko, CSR 12272

ERM: None

Deputy Sheriff: None

APPEARANCES:

For Plaintiff(s): Genie Elizabeth Harrison (Telephonic) Via Video; Patricia Mary Kelly (Telephonic) Via Video; Joseph Mark Lovretovich (Telephonic) -- See additional appearances below.

For Defendant(s): Catherine Anne Conway Via Video (Telephonic); Michael Massey Farhang Via Video (Telephonic); Katherine V Smith Via Video (Telephonic)

Other Appearance Notes: Mari Mayeda for Plaintiff -Telephonic Via Video;Tiffany Phan for Defendant- Telephonic Via Video;Grace Shim for Plaintiff- Telephonic Via Video;Andrea Fields for Plaintiff- Telephonic Via Video;Mia Munro for Plaintiff-Telephonic Via Video;

NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS: Hearing on Motion to Compel Arbitration; Status Conference; Hearing on Motion to Compel Arbitration Contractor Plaintiff (Berrin)'s Claims; Hearing on Motion to Bifurcate; Hearing on Motion for Stay of Proceedings; Hearing on Motion to Compel Further Discovery Responses To Requests for documents (Set One)

The matters are called for hearing.

Pursuant to Government Code sections 68086, 70044, California Rules of Court, rule 2.956, and the stipulation of appearing parties, Alexander Joko, CSR # 12272, certified shorthand reporter is appointed as an official Court reporter pro tempore in these proceedings, and is ordered to comply with the terms of the Court Reporter Agreement. The Order is signed and filed this date.

The Court has reviewed and considered the documents submitted by the parties.

The Motions to Compel Arbitration and Motion for Stay of Proceedings are heard and argued.

The Court after reviewing and considering all moving party and opposing party papers, and arguments of counsel, makes the following ruling:

The Motion to Compel Arbitration of Contractor Plaintiff Berri's Claims, is GRANTED.

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The Motion to Compel Arbitration of Employee Plaintiffs' Claims, is GRANTED.

Motion for Stay of Proceedings is DENIED.

Motion to Bifurcate is heard and deemed MOOT in light of the Court's ruling on the Motions to Compel Arbitration and denial of stay. The arbitrable claims are severed from the non arbitrable claims.

The Motion to Compel Further Discovery Responses to Requests for Documents is heard and argued.

The Court after reviewing and considering all moving party and opposing party papers, and arguments of counsel, makes the following ruling:

The Motion to Compel Defendants to Provide Further Discovery Responses to Requests for Documents (Set One) is GRANTED.

The Court orders verified responses to Requests for Documents (Set One) be served and documents that are the subject of the motion to be produced within 30 days.

The Status Conference is held.

The Court and counsel confer. The parties are ordered to meet and confer regarding a protective order.

The Court and counsel confer further.

The parties inform the Court that the case is subject to a jury trial. The parties are ordered to meet and confer regarding a motion under C.C.P. section 437c(t).

Deadline for defendants to file an answer is February 25, 2021.

Discovery is open.

Status Conference is scheduled for 04/27/2021 at 10:00 AM in Department 6 at Spring Street Courthouse.

The parties are ordered to meet and confer and file a joint status report by April 16, 2021,

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advising the Court of the following:

1. Identity of arbitrator;
2. Proposed date for arbitration;
3. Status of discovery and proposed date for completion of discovery;
4. Proposed date for plaintiff to file motion for class certification.
5. Proposed trial date.

Counsel for Department of Fair Employment and Housing is directed to give notice of ruling and post a copy of same on the parties' electronic service website.

Additional appearance for Plaintiff(s):

Nicholas Wayne Sarris (Telephonic) Via video