

The Honorable Marsha J. Pechman

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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT SEATTLE**

RYAN KARNOSKI, *et al.*,
Plaintiffs,
STATE OF WASHINGTON,
Plaintiff-Intervenor,
v.
DONALD TRUMP, *et al.*,
Defendants.

Case No: 2:17-cv-1297-MJP

**JOINT STATUS REPORT
AND DISCOVERY PLAN**

1 **I. Nature and Complexity of the Case**

2 **A. Plaintiffs' Statement**

3 Plaintiffs filed this action challenging the constitutionality of Defendants' policy
4 prohibiting military service by openly transgender individuals ("Ban"). Specifically, Plaintiffs
5 allege that the Ban violates Plaintiffs' right to equal protection under the law, to due process, and
6 to freedom of expression as guaranteed by the First Amendment.

7 Plaintiff-Intervenor Washington State ("Washington") joined this action to challenge the
8 constitutionality of Defendants' policy prohibiting military service by openly transgender
9 individuals and Defendants' policy of barring access to necessary medical services because of a
10 service member's transgender status. Specifically, Washington alleges that the Ban violates the
11 substantive due process and equal protection guarantees of the Fifth Amendment.

12 Hereinafter, the term "Plaintiffs" includes the *Karnoski* plaintiffs and Washington.

13 **B. Defendants' Statement**

14 Plaintiffs ask this Court to prejudge the constitutionality of a future Government policy
15 regarding military service by transgender individuals. The policy Plaintiffs assail is still being
16 studied, developed, and implemented. Under the terms of the President's August 25, 2017
17 Memorandum, the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland
18 Security, is scheduled to submit an Implementation Plan to the President by February 21, 2018,
19 which will include the Secretary's determination regarding how to address transgender
20 individuals currently serving in the United States military. See Presidential Memorandum, 82
21 Fed. Reg. 41319.

22 **C. Joint Statement**

23 The case is not unusually complex as defined by Local Civil Rule 102.

24 **II. Proposed Deadline for Joining Additional Parties**

25 The parties propose **February 23, 2018** as the deadline to add additional parties without
26 leave of Court.

27 **III. Consent to Magistrate Judge**

28 The parties do not consent to a Magistrate Judge.

1 **IV. Discovery Plan**

2 **A. Initial Disclosures**

3 The parties exchanged initial disclosures on **February 9, 2018**.

4 **B. Subjects, Timing, and Potential Phasing of Discovery**

5 **1. Plaintiffs' Statement**

6 Plaintiffs plan to conduct discovery regarding the ban on military service by transgender
7 individuals, including the process that led to the Ban, Defendants' asserted justifications for the
8 Ban, and communications regarding the Ban. The *Karnoski* Plaintiffs have already served
9 written discovery on Defendants. Plaintiff State of Washington has not served discovery
10 requests. Plaintiffs anticipate to begin taking depositions after receiving and reviewing
11 documents relevant to the deponents at issue, which may first require resolution of potential
12 disputes regarding privilege objections raised by Defendants.

13 **2. Defendants' Statement**

14 Defendants plan to conduct discovery regarding Plaintiffs' standing to sue; opinions
15 offered in declarations by former Service and Under Secretaries and a former Chairman of the
16 Joint Chiefs of Staff concerning military readiness, unit cohesion, morale, and cost; and the
17 qualifications of Plaintiffs' two proffered expert witnesses to provide their opinions, as well as
18 the bases and reliability of those opinions. Defendants anticipate serving written discovery in
19 February or March 2018, and taking depositions of Plaintiffs and the former Chairman of the
20 Joint Chiefs of Staff in March and April.

21 Defendants have responded to the *Karnoski* Plaintiffs' first set of interrogatories and
22 requests for the production of documents and produced more than 68,000 pages of records in this
23 case. Defendants are proceeding with document production on a rolling basis, and currently
24 anticipate the collection, review, and production of records will be complete in late March.

25 Many depositions already have been scheduled for February and March in the related
26 case *Doe v. Trump*, and counsel for Plaintiffs have been invited to those depositions. On
27 December 15 and December 22, 2017, Defendants noted in a Joint Status Report and Supplement
28 in the related case *Doe v. Trump* that they would be taking the depositions of Brad Carson on

1 March 19, 2018; Deborah Lee James on March 21, 2018; Raymond Mabus, Jr. on March 26,
2 2018; Eric K. Fanning on March 29, 2018; George Richard Brown on March 5, 2018; and Mark
3 Eitelberg on March 27, 2018. *See Doe v. Trump*, No. 1:17-cv-01597-CKK (D.D.C.); Dkt.
4 Nos.76, 77. These six individuals appear to be offering the same testimony in all four related
5 cases. For the sake of efficiency, Defendants intend to depose these individuals once for all four
6 related cases.

7 **3. Joint Statement**

8 The parties agree that discovery produced by Defendants in *Doe v. Trump*, No. 17-1597
9 (D.D.C.), *Stone v. Trump*, No. 17-2459 (D. Md.), and *Stockman v. Trump*, No. 17-cv-1799 (C.D.
10 Cal.) can be used as if the discovery was taken in this litigation. Accordingly, the parties have
11 agreed to a stipulated protective order and cross-use agreement that was entered by the Court on
12 February 14, 2018. *See* Dkt. No. 183.

13 The parties will also continue to discuss the possibility of further coordination of
14 discovery, including depositions, across the related cases.

15 The parties do not propose staging or phasing discovery.

16 **C. Electronically Stored Information**

17 The parties agree that electronically stored information (ESI) is likely to be responsive to
18 discovery requests in this case, and are negotiating an ESI protocol.

19 **D. Privilege Issues**

20 If discoverable but confidential information is sought, the parties agree to follow the
21 provisions set forth in the Stipulated Uniform Protective Order and Cross-Use Agreement, Dkt.
22 No. 183. If any inadvertent disclosures occur, the parties agree to follow the provisions of the
23 Stipulated Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) Order, Dkt. No. 182.

24 **1. Plaintiffs' Statement**

25 The *Karnoski* Plaintiffs received written discovery responses from Defendants on
26 February 9, 2018 raising numerous privilege objections. The *Karnoski* Plaintiffs are currently in
27 the process of reviewing those objections and anticipate that they may require motion practice to
28 resolve, depending on the outcome of the meet-and-confer process.

2. Defendants' Statement

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2 Plaintiffs have named the President as a defendant in this case, and they have stated
3 above their intent to conduct discovery regarding the “process that led to the Ban, Defendants’
4 asserted justifications for the Ban, and communications regarding the Ban.” Plaintiffs should not
5 be permitted to seek discovery from the President. The Supreme Court has held that it has “no
6 jurisdiction of a bill to enjoin the President in the performance of his official duties,” *Mississippi*
7 *v. Johnson*, 71 U.S. 475, 501 (1866); *see also Franklin v. Massachusetts*, 505 U.S. 788, 802–03
8 (1992), and lower courts often have applied the same principle, *see, e.g., Hawaii v. Trump*, 859
9 F.3d 741, 788 (9th Cir.), *vacated on other grounds, Trump v. Int’l Refugee Assistance Project*,
10 138 S. Ct. 377 (2017) (finding that the Government’s position that “district court erred by issuing
11 an injunction that runs against the President himself” is “well taken” and “vacat[ing] the district
12 court’s order to the extent the order runs against the President”). Because the Court lacks
13 jurisdiction to enjoin the President in the performance of his official duties, it cannot order
14 discovery of the President.

15 Even assuming the President were a proper defendant and could be subject to a civil
16 discovery order, discovery directed to the President in civil litigation would raise significant
17 separation-of-powers concerns and should not be allowed. *Cheney v. U.S. Dist. Court*, 542 U.S.
18 367, 385 (2004). The Court in *Cheney* noted that the public interest requires that a coequal
19 branch of Government ““afford Presidential confidentiality the greatest protection consistent with
20 the fair administration of justice.”” *Id.* at 382 (quoting *United States v. Nixon*, 418 U.S. 683, 715
21 (1974)). Moreover, “special considerations control when the Executive Branch’s interests in
22 maintaining the autonomy of its office and safeguarding the confidentiality of its
23 communications are implicated.” *Id.* at 385. Accordingly, the Court should, at a minimum, first
24 require Plaintiffs to exhaust alternative sources of non-privileged discovery before subjecting the
25 President to discovery.

26 In addition, the presidential communications privilege shields from discovery the
27 President’s “communications in performance of [his] responsibilities,” *Nixon*, 418 U.S. at 711, or
28 “documents or other materials that reflect presidential decisionmaking or deliberations,” *In re*

1 *Sealed Case*, 121 F.3d 729, 744 (D.C. Cir. 1997). The privilege also protects communications
2 authored or solicited and received by immediate White House advisers in the Office of the
3 President and their staff. *See id.* at 752.

4 Finally, much of the information Plaintiffs have sought from the President is subject to
5 other privileges, including, but not limited to, the deliberative process privilege, attorney-client
6 privilege, and attorney work product.

7 **E. Proposed Limitations on Discovery**

8 **1. Plaintiffs' Statement**

9 Plaintiffs propose that the Rule 30(a)(2)(A)(ii) limit on the number of depositions per
10 side be increased from 10 to 15 depositions, given the number of individuals likely to have
11 discoverable information concerning the challenged policy. Courts in other cases challenging
12 the policy have similarly permitted 15 depositions per side. *See, e.g., Stone v. Trump*, No. 1:17-
13 CV-2459-MJG, Dkt. No. 100 (D. Md. Dec. 27, 2017). Where appropriate and feasible, Plaintiffs
14 may be able to rely upon depositions taken in these other cases, but they should not be prohibited
15 from obtaining the particular discovery they believe is necessary to prosecute their own case.
16 Furthermore, although Plaintiffs oppose Defendants' request under Rule 56(d) for a continuance
17 to oppose summary judgment, Plaintiffs note that Defendants themselves have indicated that
18 they anticipate taking up to 19 depositions. Dkt. No. 179, ¶¶ 4-6. Plaintiffs also do not agree
19 that any *decrease* in the number of document requests, interrogatories, or requests for admission
20 permitted in ordinary litigation would be appropriate in this case.

21 **2. Defendants' Statement**

22 Because Plaintiffs may participate in the depositions that are taking place in the other
23 three related cases, and Plaintiffs may use any of the discovery Defendants are producing in the
24 other cases, a decrease in the presumptive discovery limits are appropriate here. In particular,
25 Defendants suggest that Plaintiffs be limited to five depositions beyond those that are taking
26 place in the other cases, 20 interrogatories, 20 requests for admissions, and 20 document
27 production requests. These limitations are proportionate to the needs of the case, particularly
28 given the voluminous discovery Defendants are providing in the other related cases. The parties

1 do not propose any additional limitations on discovery beyond those provided by the Federal
2 Rules of Civil Procedure and local rules for the Western District of Washington.

3 **F. Need for Discovery-Related Orders**

4 Plaintiffs filed motions for summary judgment on January 25, 2018. Defendants filed a
5 Rule 56(d) response to Plaintiffs' motions for summary judgment on February 12, 2018,
6 requesting the opportunity to take discovery before the Court addresses the merits of Plaintiffs'
7 summary judgment motion. Plaintiffs oppose that request for the reasons stated in their replies
8 filed on February 16, 2018.

9 **V. Local Civil Rule 26(f)(1) Items**

10 **A. Prompt Case Resolution**

11 The parties have met and discussed the possibility of settling or otherwise resolving the
12 case. The parties have been unable to come to any agreements that obviate the need for this
13 Court to resolve Plaintiffs' claims and Defendants' defenses.

14 **B. Alternative Dispute Resolution**

15 The parties do not intend to seek mediation or arbitration at this time.

16 **C. Related Cases**

17 Plaintiffs have notified this Court of other actions in other jurisdictions challenging the
18 Ban. *See* Dkt. No. 27.

19 **D. Discovery Management**

20 At this time, the parties do not expect significant or protracted discovery. The parties
21 agree to cooperate in a manner that minimizes expenses while preserving each side's ability to
22 assert their claims and defenses. The parties are amenable to resolving discovery disputes
23 through informal means (such as through telephone conferences or letter briefs) at the Court's
24 direction. The parties have also agreed that service via email is acceptable pursuant to Federal
25 Rule of Civil Procedure 5(b)(2)(E). The parties also agree that for any third-party that has
26 provided a declaration on behalf of a party, the party that has submitted the declaration will agree
27 to accept service of a Rule 45 subpoena on behalf of that third party where authorized to do so.
28

1 **E. Anticipated Discovery Sought**

2 The parties anticipate written discovery, depositions, and third-party discovery.

3 **F. Phasing Motions**

4 Not at this time.

5 **G. Preservation of Discoverable Information**

6 The parties do not anticipate any issues preserving discoverable information.

7 **H. Privilege Issues**

8 *See* Section IV.D, *supra*.

9 **I. Model Protocol for Discovery of ESI**

10 The parties are currently negotiating an ESI protocol that will be used in this case as well
11 as in *Doe v. Trump*, No. 17-1597 (D.D.C.), *Stone v. Trump*, No. 17-2459 (D. Md.), and *Stockman*
12 *v. Trump*, No. 17-cv-1799 (C.D. Cal.).

13 **J. Alternatives to Model Protocol**

14 None at this time (*see* Section V.I, *supra*).

15 **VI. Date for Discovery Completion**

16 The parties propose a discovery cutoff of **May 31, 2018**, inclusive of both fact and expert
17 discovery. The parties propose that proponents serve expert reports no later than **April 6, 2018**,
18 and that opponents serve any rebuttal reports no later than **May 4, 2018**.

19 **VII. Bifurcation of Liability and Damages Issues or Other Issues**

20 Plaintiffs are not seeking damages. At this time, the parties do not believe that the case
21 should be bifurcated.

22 **VIII. Pretrial Statements and Pretrial Order**

23 At this time, the parties are not willing to waive pretrial statements and the pretrial order.

24 **IX. LCR 39.2 Individualized Trial Program**

25 The parties do not agree to an Individualized Trial Program.

26 **X. Other Suggestions for Shortening or Simplifying Case**

27 As explained above, Plaintiffs filed motions for summary judgment on January 25, 2018.

28 Defendants filed a Rule 56(d) response to Plaintiffs' motions for summary judgment on February

1 12, 2018, requesting the opportunity to take discovery before the Court addresses the merits of
2 Plaintiffs' summary judgment motion.

3 **XI. Month of Trial**

4 **A. Plaintiffs' Statement**

5 Plaintiffs propose June 2018 as the trial month.

6 **B. Defendants' Statement**

7 The district court should first resolve the parties' summary judgment motions before
8 setting a trial date. In addition, the trial date in this action will need to be coordinated with any
9 trials scheduled in *Doe v. Trump*, No. 17-1597 (D.D.C.), *Stone v. Trump*, No. 17-2459 (D. Md.),
10 and *Stockman v. Trump*, No. 17-cv-1799 (C.D. Cal.).

11 **C. Jury / Non-Jury Trial**

12 Plaintiffs have not demanded a jury.

13 **XII. Length of Trial**

14 The parties estimate 5-10 days.

15 **XIII. Trial Counsel**

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7 **C. For Defendants**

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10 Ashley Cheung, U.S. Department of Justice

11 Courtney Enlow, U.S. Department of Justice

12 Robert Norway, U.S. Department of Justice

13 Matthew Skurnik, U.S. Department of Justice

14 **XIV. Service Status**

15 All Defendants have been served.

16 **XV. Scheduling Conference**

17 To the extent necessary to resolve any disputes, or if it would be of assistance to the
18 Court, the parties are available for a scheduling conference.

19 **XVI. Corporate Disclosure Statement**

20 Plaintiffs Human Rights Campaign, the American Military Partners Association, and
21 Gender Justice League have filed corporate disclosure statements. *See* Docket Nos. 2, 3, 114.

22 **XVII. Video Recording of Proceedings**

23 The parties agree to the use of cameras and/or video equipment at trial in this matter.
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1 Respectfully submitted February 16, 2018.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

1
2 The undersigned certifies under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of
3 America and the laws of the State of Washington that all participants in the case are registered
4 CM/ECF users and that service of the foregoing documents will be accomplished by the
5 CM/ECF system on February 16, 2018.

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7 

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