

# FEDERAL LITIGATION TIMELINE — Northern District of Georgia (NDGA) | Civil Cases

Updated to reflect NDGA Local Rules (eff. Dec 1, 2025) | See: [www.gand.uscourts.gov](http://www.gand.uscourts.gov)

STAGE	KEY EVENT	DEADLINE / AUTHORITY	MOTION BRIEFING (LR 7.1)	
			FILING	DEADLINE / AUTHORITY
Case Initiation	Complaint Filed	Day 1   FRCP 3	Motion Filed	Day 0   LR 7.1
	Service of Process	Within 90 days of filing   FRCP 4(m)   Failure may result in dismissal w/o prejudice	Motion Response	14 days after service   LR 7.1(B)
	Answer to Complaint	21 days after service   FRCP 12(a)(1)(A)   60 days if United States is defendant	Reply Brief	14 days after response   LR 7.1(C)
	Jury Trial Demand	No later than 14 days after last pleading directed to the issue   FRCP 38(b)	SJ Response	21 days after service   LR 56.1
Early Case Management	Rule 26(f) Conference	Within 16 days after defendant appears by answer or motion   LR 26.1 / FRCP 26(f)	Motion for Reconsideration	28 days after order   LR 7.2(E)
	Joint Preliminary Report & Discovery Plan	30 days after first defendant's appearance or removal   LR 16.2	General Motions (not specially limited)	Within 30 days after start of discovery   LR 7.1A(2)
	Initial Disclosures	14 days after Rule 26(f) conference   FRCP 26(a)(1)(C)	FILING FORMAT (LR 5.1)	
	Deadline to Join Parties / Amend Pleadings	Per Scheduling Order   LR 16.2   Typically 60-90 days after Rule 26(f)	REQUIREMENT	SPECIFICATION
Discovery Phase	Discovery Track Assignment	0-Mo: Bankruptcy appeals (no discovery/SJ/PTO)   4-Mo: Standard (tort, property, civil rights)   8-Mo: Patent/complex   LR 26.3 / App. F	Page Layout	Single-sided   1" margins all sides
	Expert Reports	Per Scheduling Order   Typically 30-90 days before discovery closes	Line Spacing	Double-spaced body text
	Motions to Compel	Before close of discovery or within 14 days after service of response   LR 37.1   (Prior version incorrectly stated 21 days)	Font	Times New Roman   Min. 14-point
	Close of Discovery	Per Court Scheduling Order	Page Numbers	Consecutive   Bottom center
Post-Discovery	Settlement Conference	Per Court Scheduling Order   LR 16.3   Required on 4-Mo and 8-Mo tracks; not required on 0-Mo track	E-Filing	CM/ECF required   LR 5.1 / App. H
Dispositive Motions	Summary Judgment Motion	Within 30 days after close of discovery   LR 56.1   Unless otherwise permitted by order	DISCOVERY LIMITS (LR 26.2)	
	LR 56.1 Statement of Material Facts	Required with every SJ motion and response   LR 56.1(B)   Numbered paragraphs; opponent must admit or deny each	TOOL	LIMIT / AUTHORITY
	Summary Judgment Response	21 days after service of motion   LR 56.1 / NDGA Pretrial Instructions   (Not the standard 14-day deadline)	Interrogatories	Max 40 per party incl. subparts   LR 26.2(A)
	Summary Judgment Reply	14 days after service of response   LR 7.1	Depositions	Max 6 hours per deponent   LR 26.2(B)
	Motion for Reconsideration	Within 28 days after entry of order or judgment   LR 7.2(E)	RFAs / RFPs	No NDGA limit   FRCP proportionality   FRCP 36/34
Pretrial Prep	Proposed Consolidated Pretrial Order	30 days after close of discovery OR after SJ ruling, whichever later   LR 16.4 / App. B, Form III   Mandatory form	<b>Notes:</b> Always verify deadlines against the assigned judge's Standing Order. LR 5.1 updated Dec 1, 2025. Removed cases: time periods run from the filing date in this Court (LR 26.1(B)(4)). <b>Reference only — not legal advice.</b>	
	Pretrial Conference	Per Court Scheduling Order   Mandatory attendance   Failure may result in sanctions		
	Trial	Per Court Trial Calendar		