

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI
WESTERN DIVISION**

IN RE: H&R BLOCK)	MDL No. 2474
IRS FORM 8863 LITIGATION)	
)	Master Case No. 4:13-MD-02474-FJG
ALL ACTIONS)	

INITIAL SCHEDULING ORDER

Upon consideration of the parties' proposed scheduling order (Doc. No. 17) as well as the arguments raised in the initial scheduling hearing on January 8, 2014, the Court enters the following initial scheduling order:

1. Defendants shall have until **JANUARY 27, 2014** to file any motion(s) to compel arbitration. If defendants do not intend to file a new motion to compel arbitration (and instead intend to rely solely on the motions to compel arbitration previously filed in Bullock v. HRB Tax Group, Inc., W.D. Mo. Case No. 13-0422-FJG, and Green v. H&R Block Inc., W.D. Mo. Case No. 13-1076-FJG), defendants shall file a statement to that effect on or before **JANUARY 27, 2014**.

2. Plaintiffs' response to any motion(s) to compel arbitration shall be filed on or before **FEBRUARY 26, 2014**. The Bullock Applicants (see Doc. Nos. 13 and 14) shall take the lead in preparing any response.

3. Defendants' reply suggestions shall be filed on or before **MARCH 10, 2014**.

4. No discovery will be allowed on the arbitration issue. Furthermore, no extensions of deadlines related to the motion(s) to compel arbitration will be allowed.

5. The parties shall exchange initial Rule 26 disclosures on or before **FEBRUARY 26, 2014**. In addition to the information required by Rule 26(a)(1), the Court specifically orders defendants to provide to plaintiffs a statement indicating the number of putative class members who opted out of defendants' arbitration agreement and the

number of putative class members who did not opt out of the arbitration agreement.

6. Other than as expressed in paragraph 5, above, this order in no way lifts the stay on discovery previously ordered by the Court.

The Court will address scheduling for the remainder of the case (including the deadline for filing a consolidated complaint) once it has addressed the anticipated motion(s) to compel arbitration.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Date: January 10, 2014
Kansas City, Missouri

S/ FERNANDO J. GAITAN, JR.
Fernando J. Gaitan, Jr.
United States District Judge