

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
CIVIL MINUTES—GENERAL

Case No. **CV 09-07084 DMG (PLAx)** Date September 2, 2011

Title **John G. Branca, et al. v. Heal the World Foundation, et al.** Page 1 of 1

Present: The Honorable **DOLLY M. GEE, UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**

VALENCIA VALLERY

Deputy Clerk

Attorneys Present for Plaintiff(s)  
None Present

NOT REPORTED

Court Reporter

Attorneys Present for Defendant(s)  
None Present

**Proceedings: IN CHAMBERS—ORDER SETTING GUIDELINES FOR FILING DOCUMENTS UNDER SEAL**

Courts “recognize a general right to inspect and copy public records and documents, including judicial records and documents.” *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 597, 98 S.Ct. 1306, 55 L.Ed.2d 570 (1978) (footnotes omitted). Aside from a “narrow range of documents” in criminal proceedings that traditionally have been kept secret for important policy reasons, courts employ a “strong presumption in favor of access.” *Kamakana v. City and County of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178 (9th Cir. 2006) (quoting *Foltz v. State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co.*, 331 F.3d 1122, 1135 (9th Cir. 2003)) (quotation marks omitted). Thus, a party seeking to seal documents must generally demonstrate “compelling reasons.” *Pintos v. Pac. Creditors Ass’n*, 605 F.3d 665, 678 (9th Cir. 2010). Compelling reasons include preventing the use of judicial records to “gratify private spite, promote public scandal, circulate libelous statements, or release trade secrets.” *Kamakana*, 447 F.3d at 1179. A lower burden applies when a party wishes to seal material attached to nondispositive motions, which requires only “good cause.” *Pintos*, 605 F.3d at 678.

Given the strong policy in favor of access, the parties shall narrowly tailor future requests for filing under seal and shall not ask the Court to seal documents that do not disclose confidential information. Confidential information which may be filed under seal in this case includes, for example, the substance and terms of the parties’ confidential settlement agreement but not the fact of its existence. When filing a motion or other document that contains multiple attachments, the parties shall seek to file under seal only those documents that contain confidential information. Where practicable, the parties shall request to file a redacted version of documents in lieu of filing them entirely under seal. The parties shall refrain from gratuitously disclosing confidential information in all documents, such as in captions.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**