convictions on Ct. 1 (Attempt Murder With Use of a Deadly Weapon in Violation of Temporary Protective Order) and Ct. 3 (Battery With Use of a Deadly Weapon Constituting Domestic Violence Resulting in Substantial Bodily Harm in Violation of a Temporary Protective Order).

- 8. **Sentence for each count:** \$25 Admin. fee; \$150 DNA analysis fee; genetic testing; Ct. 1 8-20 years plus a consecutive term of 5-15 years for use of a deadly weapon; as to Cts. 2 and 3, habitual criminal treatment; Ct. 2 8-20 years in prison; Ct. 2 concurrent with Ct. 1; Ct. 3 8-20 years; Ct. 3 consecutive to Cts. 1 and 2; 581 days CTS.
 - 9. **Date district court announced decision:** February 26, 2015.
 - 10. Date of entry of written judgment: May 1, 2015
 - 11. Habeas corpus: N/A.
 - 12. Tolling by Post-judgment motions: N/A
- 13. **Notice of appeal filed:** A notice of appeal was prematurely filed in District Court on March 16, 2015, prior to the entry of a written judgment or order. Pursuant to NRAP 4(b)(2), "[a] notice of appeal filed after the announcement of a decision, sentence or order but before entry of the judgment or order shall be treated as filed after such entry and on the day thereof." As a result, the notice of appeal was deemed "filed" in this case on

May 1, 2015, the day the District Court entered its written Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Correct Illegal Sentence.

- 14. Rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal: NRAP 4(b).
- 15. Statute which grants jurisdiction to review the judgment:

 NRS 177.015(1)(b); see also Haney v. State, 124 Nev. 408, 185 P.3d 350 (2008) (granting appeal from denial of motion to correct an illegal sentence).
- 16. **Disposition below:** Order Denying Defendant's Motion to Correct Illegal Sentence, filed May 1, 2015.
- 17. Pending and prior proceedings in this court: Bennett Grimes v. State, Case No. 62835 (filed 03/20/2013); Bennett Grimes v. State, Case No. 67741 (filed 04/07/2015).
- 18. Pending and prior proceedings in other courts: Bennett Grimes v. State, PCR Petition, Eighth Judicial District Court, Department XII, Case No. C-11-276163-1, currently pending.
- 19. **Proceedings raising same issues.** Appellate counsel is unaware of any proceedings raising the same issues raised herein.
- 20. Pursuant to NRAP 17, is this matter presumptively assigned to the Court of Appeals? Identify issues or circumstances that override any presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals or require retention

by the Supreme Court. Issues should be identified and explained with specific reference to arguments in the Fast Track Statement. This matter appears to be presumptively assigned to the Court of Appeals because it is a "direct appeal from a judgment of conviction that challenges only the sentence imposed" pursuant to NRAP 17(b)(1). However, to the extent the Nevada Supreme Court deems this case to raise "as a principal issue a question of first impression involving the United States or Nevada constitution" (see Sections 23 and 26, infra), the Nevada Supreme Court should retain jurisdiction pursuant to NRAP 17(a)(13).

21. Procedural history.

On September 9, 2011, the State filed a three-count Information charging Bennett with: (1) attempt murder with use of a deadly weapon in violation of temporary protective order, (2) burglary while in violation of a temporary protective order, and (3) battery with use of a deadly weapon constituting domestic violence resulting in substantial bodily harm in violation of a temporary protective order. (Appellant's Appendix, Vol. I: 9-11).\(^1\)
Bennett pled not guilty to all charges. (I: 230; II: 266). After amending the Information several times, Bennett eventually went to trial on the charges set

¹Hereinafter, citations to the Appellant's Appendix will start with the volume number, followed by the specific page number. For example, (Appellant's Appendix, Vol. I: 9-11) will be shortened to (I: 9-11).

forth in a Third Amended Information on October 10, 2012. (I: 14-16, 65-67, 173-75, II: 250-51). The Third Amended Information charged Bennett with: (1) attempt murder with use of a deadly weapon in violation of a temporary protective order, (2) burglary while in possession of a deadly weapon in violation of a temporary protective order, and (3) battery with use of a deadly weapon constituting domestic violence resulting in substantial bodily harm in violation of a temporary protective order. (I:173-75).

On October 15, 2012, a jury convicted Bennett of all three charges. (I: 211-12). On October 22, 2012, Bennett filed a Motion for New Trial. (I: 213-16). After denying that motion, the District Court sentenced Bennett on February 13, 2013 and filed the Judgment of Conviction on February 21, 2013. (I: 224-25; II: 258, 263-64). On March 8, 2013, Bennett timely filed a Notice of Appeal. (I: 226).

While Bennett's first direct appeal was pending, he filed a Motion to Correct an Illegal Sentence in District Court on September 9, 2013. (VI: 1103-30). The District Court heard oral argument on that Motion on October 3, 2013 and took the matter under advisement. (VI: 1169-90). Before the District Court ruled on Bennett's Motion to Correct an Illegal Sentence, this Court issued an Order of Affirmance, affirming Bennett's convictions on February 27, 2014. (IV: 1196-1204).

Almost exactly one year later, on February 26, 2015, the District Court denied Bennett's Motion to Correct an Illegal Sentence. (IV: 1094). The District Court entered a Written Order denying the Motion on May 1, 2015. (IV: 1167). Bennett timely appealed from that Order. (IV:1231-33). See also NRAP 4(b)(2).

22. Statement of facts.

The State charged Bennett with two counts that were based on the same underlying act: the act of "stabbing at and into the body of the said ANEKA GRIMES" with a knife on July 22, 2011. (I: 173-75, 178-79; VI: 1104, 1114-15). Count 1 charged Bennett with attempt murder with use of a deadly weapon in violation of a temporary protective order and Count 3 charged Bennett with battery with use of a deadly weapon constituting domestic violence resulting in substantial bodily harm in violation of a temporary protective order. (I: 173-75, 178-79; VI: 1104, 1114-15).

After reviewing the Information and the crimes charged, Defense Counsel advised Bennett that he could not be adjudicated and sentenced on both Counts 1 and 3 because they were "redundant" under then-existing Nevada Supreme Court precedent (e.g., Salazar v. State, 119 Nev. 224, 70 P.3d 749 (2003)), because they punished the exact same criminal act: the act of "stabbing at and into the body of the said ANEKA GRIMES". (VI: 1104).

Additionally, during trial the District Court repeatedly stated that Bennett could not be adjudicated guilty of both Counts 1 and 3. (IV: 1104).

Defense Counsel did not foresee that the Nevada Supreme Court would overturn Salazar v. State and reject the "redundancy" doctrine which had been applied in Nevada since 2003. (IV: 1104). Indeed, during trial, Defense Counsel had an opportunity to object to the verdict form and request that Count 3 (battery) be listed as a lesser included offense of Count 1 (attempt murder). (IV: 1104). The District Court indicated that it would have granted this request had Defense Counsel made it. (IV: 1104). However, Defense Counsel did not make this request because, under the law as it existed at the time, Counts 1 and 3 were "redundant" and, regardless of whether they were listed together on the verdict form, Bennett could not have been convicted and sentenced for both crimes. (IV: 1104).

A jury found Bennett guilty Counts 1 and 3 on October 15, 2012. (I: 211-12). Two months later, this Court issued its decision in <u>Jackson v. State</u>, 128 Nev. —, 291 P.3d 1274 (2012), overruling Nevada's redundancy doctrine. Although the redundancy doctrine was still in effect at the time of Bennett's underlying crimes, the District Court nevertheless applied <u>Jackson</u> and sentenced Bennett to consecutive time on Counts 1 and 3 in February of 2013. (I: 224-25). As to Count 1 (attempt murder), the District Court

sentenced Bennett to a term of 8 to 20 years plus a consecutive term of 5 to 15 years for the weapons enhancement. (I: 224-25). For Count 3, the District Court sentenced Bennett to a term of 8 to 20 years consecutive to Counts 1 and 2. (I:224-25). In his Motion to Correct an Illegal Sentence, Bennett argued that his redundant sentence on Count 3 was illegal under the law in effect at the time the crimes were committed. (IV:1188). The District Court denied Bennett's motion. (IV: 1167).

23. **Issue on appeal:** Whether <u>Jackson v. State</u>, 128 Nev. —, 291 P.3d 1274 (2012), could be applied retroactively in a case where the defendant and his attorneys relied on the redundancy doctrine to make legal decisions during trial and where the application of <u>Jackson</u> increased the defendant's sentence by an additional 8 to 20 years that would have been impermissible at the time his crimes were committed?

24. Legal argument, including authorities:

A. Standard of Review/Issue on Appeal

This Court will review a District Court decision denying a motion to correct an illegal sentence for an abuse of discretion. <u>Haney</u>, 124 Nev. at 411, 185 P.3d at 352. As set forth herein, the District Court abused its discretion by denying Bennett's motion to correct an illegal sentence, where his sentence

on Count 3 was imposed in violation of the judicial *ex post facto* doctrine and his constitutional right to due process.

B. The Redundancy Doctrine of Salazar v. State Governs Bennett's Sentence in this Case.

In Salazar v. State, 119 Nev. 224, 228, 70 P.3d 749, 751 (2003), the Nevada Supreme Court ruled that "where a defendant is convicted of two offenses that, as charged, punish the exact same illegal act, the convictions are redundant" and a defendant cannot be punished for both offenses without violating the Double Jeopardy Clause of the United States Constitution. Described as the "redundancy doctrine", the rule in Salazar required the courts to apply a fact-based "same conduct" test (in addition to a traditional Blockburger analysis) when determining the permissibility of cumulative punishment under different statutes. See Jackson v. State, 291 P.3d 1274, 1282, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. 55, -- (2012). Under Salazar, "multiple convictions factually based on the same act or course of conduct cannot stand, even if each crime contains an element the other does not." Jackson, 291 P.3d at 1280, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. at -- (emphasis in original). When Salazar was in effect. Nevada courts were required to determine "whether the material or significant part of each charge is the same even if the offenses are not the same" under Blockburger. Salazar, 119 Nev. at 227-28, 70 P.3d at 751.

8 9

11 12

10

13

14

15

16 17

18

19

20 21

22

23 24

25

26

27

28

Where the factual "gravamen" of two different offenses was the same, a defendant could not be punished for both offenses under Salazar -- even if the statutes in question passed the Blockburger test. Id. at 228, 70 P.3d at 752 (defendant could not be punished for both battery and mayhem because the "gravamen" of both offenses - cutting the victim which resulted in nerve damage – was the same for both offenses).

Nevada's "redundancy doctrine" remained in effect from June 11, 2003 until December 6, 2012 when the Supreme Court issued its en banc ruling in Jackson v. State. In Jackson, the Court rejected the defendants' redundancy challenges under Salazar and directed Nevada courts to apply a strict Blockburger analysis when faced with Double Jeopardy questions going forward. 291 P.3d at 1282, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. at --. As a result of the ruling in Jackson, courts may no longer apply the "redundancy doctrine" when considering a Double Jeopardy challenge. Instead, Nevada courts must analyze Double Jeopardy issues as follows:

If the Legislature has authorized – or interdicted – cumulative punishment, that legislative directive controls. Absent express legislative direction, the Blockburger test is employed. Blockburger licenses multiple punishment unless, analyzed in terms of their elements, one charged offense is the same or a lesser-included offense of the other.

Jackson, 291 P.3d at 1282-83, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. at --. Under Blockburger, the court must determine "whether each offense contains an element not

contained in the other; if not, they are the 'same offence' and double jeopardy bars additional punishment and successive prosecution." <u>Jackson</u>, 291 P.3d at 1978, 128 Nev. Adv. Op. at -- (citing <u>United States v. Dixon</u>, 509 U.S. 688, 696, 113 S.Ct. 2849 (1993)).

C. The Court Erroneously Applied <u>Jackson v. State</u> to Bennett's Sentence in Violation of the Judicial Ex Post Facto Doctrine.

It is undisputed that <u>Salazar v. State</u> was still good law on July 22, 2011, the date Bennett committed the offense at issue in this case. (VI: 1104). The District Court's refusal to apply the redundancy doctrine set forth in <u>Salazar v. State</u> violated Bennett's constitutional rights under the Ex Post Facto and Due Process clauses of the federal and state constitutions. <u>See U.S. Const. art I, § 9, cl. 3</u> (Ex Post Facto Clause); <u>U.S. Const. amend. XIV</u> (Due Process Clause); <u>Nev. Const. art 1, § 15</u> (Ex Post Facto Clause); <u>Nev. Const. art 1, § 8, cl. 5</u> (Due Process Clause).

There are four types of ex post facto laws that are constitutionally prohibited: (1) "Every law that makes an action done before the passing of the law, and which was innocent when done, criminal; and punishes such action"; (2) "Every law that aggravates a crime, or makes it greater than it was, when committed"; (3) "Every law that changes the punishment, and inflicts a greater punishment, than the law annexed to the crime, when committed"; and (4) "Every law that alters the legal rules of evidence, and

receives less, or different, testimony than the law required at the time of the commission of the offence, in order to convict the offender." Calder v. Bull, 3 Dall. 386, 390 (1798). Because the Ex Post Facto Clause expressly limits legislative powers, it "does not of its own force apply to the Judicial Branch of government." Marks v. United States, 430 U.S. 188, 191, 97 S. Ct. 990 (1977). Nevertheless, both the United States Supreme Court and the Nevada Supreme Court have held that ex post facto principles also apply to the judiciary through the Due Process Clause. Bouie v. Columbia, 378 U.S. 437, 353-54, 84 S. Ct. 1697 (1964) (observing that the Due Process Clause precludes courts "from achieving precisely the same result" through judicial construction as would application of an ex post facto law); accord Stevens v. Warden, 114 Nev. 1217, 969 P.2d 945 (1998).

In <u>Stevens v. Warden</u>, the Nevada Supreme Court set forth a three-part test for determining when a judicial decision violates ex post facto principles: (1) the decision must have been "unforeseeable"; (2) the decision must have been applied "retroactively"; and (3) the decision must "disadvantage the offender affected by it." 114 Nev. at 1221-22, 969 P.2d at 948-49. Analyzing the three Stevens factors, it is clear that the District Court's application of <u>Jackson</u> -- rather than <u>Salazar</u> -- when determining Bennett's' sentence

violated the judicial *ex post facto* doctrine and resulted in the imposition of an illegal sentence on Count 3.

First, the Nevada Supreme Court's wholesale abandonment of the "redundancy doctrine" -- which was good law in Nevada for nearly 10 years -was not foreseeable. Defendants had relied on Salazar and related cases to obtain the dismissal of redundant charges for nearly a decade and would have continued to do so had the Supreme Court not ruled as it did in <u>Jackson</u>. The decision in Jackson was by no means a foregone conclusion. Indeed, even the Jackson court recognized that other jurisdictions currently employ redundancy-type tests in evaluating the propriety of multiple punishments for a single act. See Jackson, 291 P.3d at 1283 n. 10, 128 Nev. Adv. Opp. at --(citing State v. Swick, 279 P.3d 747, 755 (N.M. 2012) and State v. Lanier, 192 Ohio App.3d 762, 950 N.E.2d 600, 603 (2011)). In this very case, the District Court was prepared to dismiss Count 3 based on redundancy principals, right up until the point where the State raised the Jackson decision as a basis for rejecting redundancy. (VI: 1104-05).

Second, there can be no doubt that <u>Jackson</u> was applied retroactively in Bennett's case. When determining whether a decision is being applied "retroactively", Nevada courts look to "what [the defendant] could have anticipated at the time he committed the crime." <u>Stevens</u>, 114 Nev. at 1221,

969 P.2d at 948 ("the relevant date of inquiry is the date that [defendant] committed the offense"). In this case, Bennett committed the offense on July 22, 2011, almost a year-and-a-half before the Nevada Supreme Court's decision in <u>Jackson</u>, at a time when <u>Salazar</u> was still good law. Therefore, <u>Jackson</u> was applied retroactively in this case. <u>See Stevens</u>, 114 Nev. at 1222, 969 P.2d at 948-49.

Finally, Bennett was disadvantaged by the District Court's application of Jackson instead of Salazar at sentencing in this case. Up until the State raised the Jackson decision at sentencing on February 7, 2013, the District Court was prepared to dismiss Count 3 because it was redundant to Count 1. (VI: 1104-05). Throughout trial, the District Court acknowledged to the parties that Bennett could not be adjudicated on both Counts 1 and 3. (VI: 1104-05). Under Salazar, the "gravamen" of Counts 1 and 3 as charged in the Second Amended Information is the exact same act -- "stabbing at and into the body of the said ANEKA GRIMES" with a knife on July 22, 2011. See Salazar, 119 Nev. at 228, 70 P.3d at 752 (defendant could not be punished for both battery and mayhem because the "gravamen" of both offenses - cutting the victim which resulted in nerve damage – was the same for both offenses). Since Bennett would not have been convicted of both Counts 1 and 3 under Salazar, he was disadvantaged by the Court's application of Jackson at

Stevens 114 Nev. at 1222-23, 969 P.2d at 949 ("assuming applying Bowen to Stevens would increase his sentence, we conclude that to do so would violate the Due Process Clause"). Accordingly, Bennett's conviction and sentence on Count 3 violates the judicial *ex post facto* doctrine and must be vacated because it is illegal.

In Ex. Parte Scales, the *en banc* Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas faced a remarkably similar issue to the one at bar. Ex. Parte Scales, 853 S.W.2d 856 (Ct. Crim App. Tex. 1993) (en banc). At the time that Donald Scales committed the crimes at issue in his case (possession of a prohibited weapon and aggravated assault), the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals still applied the "carving doctrine" which barred "multiple prosecutions and convictions 'carved' out of a single criminal transaction." 853 S.W.2d at 586-87. At some point thereafter, the court abandoned the "carving doctrine". Id. at 587. Mr. Scales petitioned for a writ of habeas corpus on the basis that the court's retroactive abandonment of the "carving doctrine", which led to his successive prosecution and conviction for aggravated assault, was barred by ex post facto principles. In ruling that the "carving doctrine" was a substantive rule of law which should have been applied to Mr. Scales, the Court observed:

In this very case, applicant is now liable to conviction for two offenses, or more. Under the carving doctrine, if he engaged in

only one criminal transaction, he would be liable to only one criminal conviction because, under the carving doctrine, the transaction was the offense. Likewise, where he might once have been exposed only to the punishment prescribed for unlawfully carrying a weapon, he must now expect to face the punishment prescribed for aggravated assault as well, even though he may have committed but a single criminal transaction. And finally, where the law once entitled him to prevent prosecution for aggravated assault after a conviction for the same criminal transaction, he is now denied the benefit of this substantive defensive theory. Therefore our decision to make the abandonment of the "carving doctrine" retroactive in *Ex Parte Clay* violated the Due Process Clause of the Federal Constitution.

853 S.W.2d at 588. Here, as in Ex Parte Scales, Bennett faced an additional criminal conviction and sentence for battery that would not have been permissible under Salazar. Indeed, "where he might once have been exposed only to the punishment prescribed for [attempted murder], he must now expect to face the punishment prescribed for [battery] as well", even though the "gravamen" of both offenses was the same under Salazar. 853 S.W.2d at 855. Accordingly, this Court should vacate Bennett's illegal redundant conviction and sentence for battery pursuant to the Ex Post Facto and Due Process clauses of the federal and state constitutions. See U.S. Const. art I, § 9, cl. 3 (Ex Post Facto Clause); U.S. Const. amend. XIV (Due Process Clause); Nev. Const. art 1, § 15 (Ex Post Facto Clause); Nev. Const. art. 1 § 8, cl. 5 (Due Process Clause).

///

D. The Court's Application of <u>Jackson</u> was Fundamentally Unfair to Bennett under the Fifth Amendment.

The Fifth Amendment Due Process Clause "guarantees that a criminal defendant will be treated with the fundamental fairness essential to the very concept of justice." U.S. v. Valenzuela-Bernal, 458 U.S. 858, 872, 102 S.Ct. 3440 (1982) (internal quotations and citation omitted); see also U.S. Const. amend. XIV (Due Process Clause); Nev. Const. art. 1 § 8, cl. 5 (Due Process Clause). In the instant case, it was fundamentally unfair for the District Court to convict and sentence Bennett on Count 3 (battery). Both prior to and during trial, Defense Counsel advised Bennett that he could not be convicted and sentenced on both Counts 1 and 3 based on then existing law. (VI:1104-05). During trial, Defense Counsel could have objected to the verdict form and requested that Count 3 be listed as a lesser included offense of Count 1. (VI:1104-05). Had Defense Counsel done so, the District Court would have granted such request which would have prevented Bennett from being convicted and sentenced on both counts. (VI:1104-05). However, Defense Counsel chose not to do so with the understanding that the District Court would later dismiss Count 3 at time of sentencing, in the event of a conviction on both Counts 1 and 3. (VI:1104-05). Given Bennett's reliance on existing law, and his reasonable expectation that the Court would later dismiss Count 3

as promised, it is fundamentally unfair for him to be convicted and sentenced on that count.

- 25. **Preservation of issues:** Bennett filed a Motion to Correct Illegal Sentence in the District Court, thereby preserving a direct appeal from the District Court's denial of that Motion. See <u>Haney v. State</u>, 124 Nev. 408, 185 P.3d 350 (2008) (granting appeal from denial of motion to correct an illegal sentence).
- 26. Issues of first impression or of public interest: This Court has not yet addressed whether the retroactive application of <u>Jackson v.</u>

 <u>State</u> may violate the judicial *ex post facto* doctrine or a defendant's constitutional right to due process.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILIP J. KOHN CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By /s/Deborah L. Westbrook

DEBORAH L. WESTBROOK, #9285
Deputy Public Defender
309 South Third St., Ste. 226
Las Vegas, NV 89155-2610
(702) 455-4685

VERIFICATION

1. I hereby certify that this fast track statement complies with the formatting requirements of NRAP 32(a)(4), the typeface requirements of NRAP 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of NRAP 32(a)(6) because:

This fast track statement has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Times New Roman in 14 font size;

2. I further certify that this fast track statement complies with the page or type-volume limitations of NRAP 3C(h)(2) because it is either:

[XX] Proportionately spaced, has a typeface of 14 points or more, and contains 3, 936 words.

3. Finally, I recognize that pursuant to NRAP 3C I am responsible for filing a timely fast track statement and that the Supreme Court of Nevada may sanction an attorney for failing to file a timely fast track statement, or failing to raise material issues or arguments in the fast track statement, or failing to cooperate fully with appellate counsel during the course of an appeal. I therefore certify that the information provided in this fast track statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

DATED this 2nd day of July, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILIP J. KOHN CLARK COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

By /s/ Deborah L. Westbrook

DEBORAH L. WESTBROOK, #9285
Deputy Public Defender
309 South Third St., Ste. 226
Las Vegas, NV 89155-2610
(702) 455-4685

<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>	
I hereby certify that this document was filed electronically with	
the Nevada Supreme Court on the 2 nd day of July, 2015. Electronic Service of	
4 the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service	
List as follows:	
CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO	DEBORAH L. WESTBROOK
STEVEN S. OWENS	HOWARD S. BROOKS
I South an equify that I garried	a copy of this document by mailing
I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing	
a true and correct copy thereof, postage pre-paid, addressed to:	
BENNETT GRIMES	•
	I hereby certify that this doc the Nevada Supreme Court on the 2 nd day the foregoing document shall be made in List as follows: CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO STEVEN S. OWENS I further certify that I served a true and correct copy thereof, postage pro-

NDOC NO: 1098810 c/o High Desert State Prison P.O. Box 650 Indian Springs, NV 89018

BY /s/ Carrie M. Connolly Employee, Clark County Public Defender's Office