## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

FREDERIC AND BARBARA ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, Appellant/Cross-Respondent,

VS.

MACDONALD HIGHLANDS REALTY, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company; MICHAEL DOIRON, an Individual; and FHP VENTURES, a Nevada Limited Partnership,

Respondents/Cross-Appellants.

FREDERIC AND BARBARA ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, Appellant,

VS.

SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, Respondent. 70478 (Consolidated)

Electronically Filed Supreme Court No. 2939 5 2016 10:24 a.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

District Court Case No. A689113

RESPONDENT SHAHIN MALEK'S APPENDIX

On Appeal from Judgment Granted by the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for Clark County Case No. A689113

> James E. Shapiro, Esq. Nevada Bar No: 7907 Sheldon A. Herbert, Esq. Nevada Bar No: 5988 SMITH & SHAPIRO, PLLC 2520 St. Rose Pkwy, Suite 220 Henderson, NV 89074 (702) 318-5033 Attorneys for Respondent, SHAHIN MALEK

DOCUMENT	DATE	PAGE
Notice of Lis Pendens (Arbitration	09/30/13	RA_000001-
Exemption Claimed: Action		RA_000002
Concerning Title to Real Property and		
Injunctive Relief Sought)		
Amended Notice of Lis Pendens	10/24/13	RA_000003-
(APN 178-27-218-002)		RA_000006
Order Regarding Shane Malek's	01/09/14	RA_000007-
Motion to Dismiss		RA_000008
Plaintiff's Motion to Retax and Settle	09/14/15	RA_000009-
Memorandum of Costs and		RA_000015
Disbursements		
Defendant Shahin Shane Malek's	10/02/15	RA_000016-
Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to		RA_000021
Retax		
Defendant Shahin Shane Malek's	11/19/15	RA_000022-
Reply in Support of Motion for		RA_000031
Attorney's Fees		
Order on Defendant Shahin Shane	01/13/16	RA_000032-
Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees		RA_000038
and Costs and Plaintiff The Frederic		
and Barbara Rosenberg Living		
Trust's Motion to Retax Costs		
Notice of Appeal (The Frederic and	05/23/16	RA_000039-
Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust)		RA_000041

Dated this 14th day of December, 2016.

## SMITH & SHAPIRO, PLLC

/s/ James E. Shapiro, Esq.

James E. Shapiro, Esq.

Nevada Bar No: 7907

Sheldon A. Herbert, Esq.

Nevada Bar No: 5988

2520 St. Rose Pkwy, Suite 220

Henderson, NV 89074

Attorneys for Respondent, SHAHIN MALEK

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

1. I hereby certify that this brief complies with the formatting
requirements of N.R.A.P. 32(a)(4), the typeface requirements of N.R.A.P. 32(a)(5)
and the type style requirements of NRAP 32(a)(6) because:
[X] This brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using
Word Perfect in 14 point font Times New Roman type style; or
[] This brief has been prepared in a monospaced typeface using [state name
and version of word-processing program] with [state number of characters per
inch and name of type style].
2. I further certify that this brief complies with the page- or type-volume
limitations of N.R.A.P. 32(a)(7) because, excluding the parts of the brief exempted
by N.R.A.P. 32(a)(7)(C), it is either:
[X] Proportionately spaced, has a typeface of 14 points or more, and
contains 680 words; or
[] Monospaced, has 10.5 or fewer characters per inch, and contains
words or lines of text; or
[ ] Does not exceed 30 pages.
3. Finally, I hereby certify that I have read this appellate brief, and to the
best of my knowledge, information, and belief, it is not frivolous or interposed for

any improper purpose. I further certify that this brief complies with all applicable

Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure, in particular N.R.A.P. 28(e)(1), which requires every assertion in the brief regarding matters in the record to be supported by a reference to the page and volume number, if any, of the transcript or appendix where the matter relied on is to be found. I understand that I may be subject to sanctions in the event that the accompanying brief is not in conformity with the requirements of the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Dated this 14th day of December, 2016.

SMITH & SHAPIRO, PLLC

/s/ James E. Shapiro, Esq.
James E. Shapiro, Esq.
Nevada Bar No: 7907
Sheldon A. Herbert, Esq.
Nevada Bar No: 5988
2520 St. Rose Pkwy, Suite 220
Henderson, NV 89074
Attorneys for Respondent,
SHAHIN MALEK

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2016, I served a copy of this **RESPONDENT SHAHIN MALEK'S APPENDIX** via this Court's e-filing system on counsel of record for all parties to the action.

/s/ Jill M. Berghammer

Jill M. Berghammer, an employee of SMITH & SHAPIRO, PLLC

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1 LISP PETER C. BERNHARD **CLERK OF THE COURT** 2 Nevada Bar No. 0734 LISA J. ZASTROW Nevada Bar No. 9727 3 KAEMPFER CROWELL 8345 West Sunset Road, Suite 250 4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 (702) 792-7000 Telephone: Fax: (702) 796-7181 pbernhard@kcnvlaw.com lzastrow@kcnvlaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff The Fredric and 7 Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 Case No.: A-13-689113-C THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA 11 Dept. No.: Ι ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, 12 Plaintiff, **NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS** 13 vs. 14 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, a (ARBITRATION EXEMPTION 15 **CLAIMED: ACTION CONCERNING** foreign limited partnership; TITLE TO REAL PROPERTY AND DRAGONRIDGE PROPERTIES, LLC; 16 INJUNCTIVE RELIEF SOUGHT) DRAGONRIDGE GOLF CLUB, INC. is a Nevada corporation; 17 MACDONALD PROPERTIES, LTD., a Nevada corporation; 18 MACDONALD HIGHLANDS REALTY, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company; 19 MICHAEL DOIRON, an individual; SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an individual; 20 REAL PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC., a Nevada corporation; 21 DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROE BUSINESS ENTITY I through XX, inclusive, 22 Defendants. 23 24

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## **NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an action was commenced and is pending in the above-entitled Court by THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, the above-entitled Plaintiff, against DRAGONRIDGE PROPERTIES, LLC, an above-named Defendant, seeking relief as stated in the Complaint, filed September 23, 2013, for unjust enrichment, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, negligent misrepresentation, easement and declaratory relief.

The real property affected by this action is situated in Clark County, Nevada and generally described as that certain .34-acre portion as Assessor's Parcel No. 178-28-520-001, which is a portion of MacDonald Highlands Golf Hole #9 in the NW quarter of Section 27, Township 22 South, Range 62 East, M.D.M., generally located northwest of MacDonald Ranch Drive and Stephanie Street, Henderson, Clark County, Nevada.

DATED this 30 day of 8 pt Man, 2013.

KAEMPFER CROWELL

By

PETER C. BERNHARD

Nevada Bar No. 0734

LISA J. ZASTROW Nevada Bar No. 9727

8345 West Sunset Road, Suite 250

Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

Attorneys for Plaintiff

The Fredric and Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust

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ALIS 1 PETER C. BERNHARD CLERK OF THE COURT 2 Nevada Bar No. 0734 LISA J. ZASTROW Nevada Bar No. 9727 3 JAMES E. SMYTH II Nevada Bar No. 6506 4 KAEMPFER CROWELL 8345 West Sunset Road, Suite 250 5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Telephone: (702) 792-7000 6 Fax: (702) 796-7181 pbernhard@kcnvlaw.com 7 lzastrow@kcnvlaw.com jsmyth@kcnvlaw.com 8 Attorneys for Plaintiff The Fredric and Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust DISTRICT COURT 10 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 11 Case No.: A-13-689113-C THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA 12 ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, Dept. No.: Ι 13 Plaintiff, AMENDED NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS 14 vs. (APN 178-27-218-002) 15 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, a 16 foreign limited partnership; DRAGONRIDGE PROPERTIES, LLC; 17 DRAGONRIDGE GOLF CLUB, INC. is a Nevada corporation; 18 MACDONALD PROPERTIES, LTD., a Nevada corporation; 19 MACDONALD HIGHLANDS REALTY, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company; 20 MICHAEL DOIRON, an individual; SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an individual; 21 REAL PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT GROUP, INC., a Nevada corporation; DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROE BUSINESS ENTITY I through XX, inclusive, 23 Defendants. 24 1323051\_7.docx 16907.1

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### AMENDED NOTICE OF LIS PENDENS

(APN 178-27-218-002)

COMES NOW, Plaintiff THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, the above-entitled Plaintiff, by and through its counsel, KAEMPFER CROWELL, and hereby provides notice that an action was commenced and is pending in the above-entitled Court by THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, the above-entitled Plaintiff, against SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an above-named Defendant, seeking relief as stated in the Complaint, filed September 23, 2013, for easement and declaratory relief.

The real property affected by this action is situated in Clark County, Nevada and generally described and commonly known as that certain .34-acre bare lot portion of Assessor's Parcel No. 178-27-218-002, bounded and described as follows:

## SEE LEGAL DESCRIPTION ATTACHED HERETO

### AND MADE A PART HEREOF AS "EXHIBIT A"

and subject to restrictions, conditions, reservations, rights, rights of way and easements now of record, if any, or any that actually exist on the property.

DATED this 2412 day of October, 2013.

KAEMPFER CROWELL

Ву

PETER C. BERNHARD

Nevada Bar No. 0734

LISA J. ZASTROW Nevada Bar No. 9727

JAMES E. SMYTH II

Nevada Bar No. 6506

8345 West Sunset Road, Suite 250

Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

Attorneys for Plaintiff

The Fredric and Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust

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WALLACE • MORRIS SURVEYING, INC. Land Survey Consulting

APN: 178-27-218-002

**EXHIBIT "A"** 

**EXPLANATION:** 

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION FOR THAT CERTAIN AREA TO BE ADDED TO LOT 2, BLOCK 1 MACDONALD HIGHLANDS A.K.A. FOOTHILLS @ MACDONALD RANCH PLANNING AREA 10.

#### **BASIS OF BEARING:**

THE BASIS OF BEARING FOR THIS PROPERTY DESCRIPTION BEING, SOUTH 04°03'35" WEST, BEING THAT CERTAIN CENTERLINE OF STEPHANIE STREET, DESCRIBED AS "S04°03'35" W 398.21 FEET" AS SHOWN PER BOOK 92, PAGE 100 OF PLATS, RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY.

BEING A PORTION OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF SECTION 27, TOWNSHIP 22 SOUTH, RANGE 62 EAST, MON, IN THE CITY OF HENDERSON, COUNTY OF CLARK, STATE OF NEVADA, MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT THE CENTERLINE INTERSECTION OF MACDONALD RANCH DRIVE AND STEPHANIE STREET AS SHOWN PER BOOK 92, PAGE 100 OF PLATS, RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF SAID COUNTY.

THENCE ALONG THE CENTERLINE OF SAID STEPHANIE STREET,

NORTH 04°03'35" EAST, 389.11 FEET;

THENCE DEPARTING SAID LINE, NORTH 85°56'25" WEST, 40.00 FEET, SAID POINT BEING THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARY LINE OF "THE FOOTHILLS AT MACDONALD RANCH, LOT 10" A.K.A., PLANNING AREA 10" AS PER MAP RECORDED IN BOOK 92, PAGE 100 OF PLATS;

THENCE ALONG THE NORTHERLY EXTERIOR BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID BOOK 92,

PAGE 100 OF PLATS, SOUTH 81°15'00" WEST, 20.51 FEET TO THE

POINT OF BEGINNING:

THENCE ALONG SAID LINE THE FOLLOWING TWO (2) COURSES:

SOUTH 81°15'00" WEST, 106.47 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 62°21'00" WEST, 73.00 FEET;

THENCE DEPARTING SAID LINE, NORTH 36°04'33" EAST, 65.60 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 80°02'19" EAST, 41.47 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 68°55'54" EAST, 29.88 FEET;

THENCE NORTH 46°00'15" EAST, 56.90 FEET TO A POINT ON A CURVE TO WHICH A RADIAL LINE BEARS, SOUTH 65°17'22" WEST;

THENCE SOUTHEASTERLY, ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE LEFT, CONCAVE NORTHEASTERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 155.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 16°00'58", AN ARC DISTANCE OF 43.33 FEET TO A POINT ON A CURVE TO WHICH A RADIAL LINE BEARS, NORTH 49°16'24" EAST;

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5740 S. Arville Street, Suite 206, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118, Ph: 702.212.3967 Fx: 702.212.3963

THENCE SOUTHERLY, ALONG THE ARC OF A CURVE TO THE RIGHT, CONCAVE WESTERLY, HAVING A RADIUS OF 644.00 FEET, THROUGH A CENTRAL ANGLE OF 07°00'16", AN ARC DISTANCE OF 78.24 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 04°03'35" WEST, 13.64 FEE TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THE EXTERIOR BOUNDARY LINE OF SAID BOOK 92, PAGE 100 OF PLATS, SAID POINT BEING THE POINT OF BEGINNING.

SAID PARCEL CONTAINS 14,840 SQ. FT., MORE OR LESS.

## **END OF DESCRIPTION**

TERRY L. HAMBLET P.L.S.
NEVADA LICENSE NO. 11828

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5740 S. Arville Street, Suite 206, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118, Ph: 702.212.3967 Fx: 702.212.3963

1 ORD Patrick G. Byrne (Nevada Bar #7636) CLERK OF THE COURT 2 Justin A. Shiroff (Nevada Bar #12869) SNELL & WILMER L.L.P. 3883 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 1100 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Telephone: 702.784.5200 4 Facsimile: 702.784.5252 5 Email: pbyrne@swlaw.com ishiroff@swlaw.com 6 Attorneys for Defendant 7 Shahin Shane Malek DISTRICT COURT 8 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 9 CASE NO.: A-13-689113-C THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA 10 ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, DEPT. NO.: I 11 Plaintiff, 12 ORDER 13 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP, a foreign limited Hearing Date: Dec. 19, 2013 14 partnership; DRAGONRIDGE PROPERTIES, LLC; DRAGONRIDGE GOLF CLUB, INC., a Nevada corporation; Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m. 15 MACDONALD PROPERTIES, LTD, a 16 Nevada corporation; MACDONALD HIGHLANDS REALTY, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company; MICHAEL DOIRON, an individual; SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an individual; REAL 17 18 PROPERTIES MANAGEMENT GROUP, 19 INC., a Nevada corporation; DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROES I through 20 X, inclusive, 21 Defendants. 22 This matter having come before the Court on defendant Shahin Shane Malek's Motion To 23 Dismiss, and the Court having considered the opposition, the papers and pleadings on file with 24 the Court, and having entertained oral argument, GRANTS Defendant's motion in part and 25 DENIES Defendant's motion in part and finds and orders as follows: 26 Plaintiff's Complaint is sufficient to withstand dismissal under NRCP 12(b)(5) for 1. 27 the reasons stated by the Court on the record. 28

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1883 HOWARD HUGGHES PARKWAY, SUITI

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1 **MRTX CLERK OF THE COURT** HOWARD KIM, ESQ. 2 Nevada Bar No. 10386 E-mail: howard@hkimlaw.com 3 KAREN L. HANKS, ESO. Nevada Bar No. 009578 4 E-mail: karen@hkimlaw.com HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110 Henderson, Nevada 89014 6 Telephone: (702) 485-3300 Facsimile: (702) 485-3301 7 Attorneys for Plaintiff DISTRICT COURT 8 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 9 Case No. A-13-689113-C THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA 10 ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, Dept. No. I 11 Plaintiff, 12 PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO RETAX AND vs. SETTLE MEMORANDUM OF COSTS AND 13 DISBURSEMENTS BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BAC HOME 14 LOANS SERVICING, LP, a foreign limited partnership; MACDONALD HIGHLANDS 15 REALTY, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company; MICHAEL DOIRON, an 16 individual; SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an 17 individual; PAUL BYKOWSKI, an individual: THE FOOTHILLS AT 18 MACDONDALD RANCH MASTER ASSOCIATION, a Nevada limited liability 19 company; THE FOOTHILLS PARTNERS, a Limited Partnerships; DOES I through X; and 20 ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, 21 inclusive, 22 Defendants. 23 Plaintiff, THE FREDRIC AND BARBARA ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, by and through its 24 counsel of record, HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES, hereby moves this Court for an order to retax and 25 settle the Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements filed by Defendant, Shahin Shane Malek. 26 27

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This Motion is made pursuant to NRS 18.020, NRS 18.110, and based on the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities.

## **NOTICE OF MOTION**

TO: All Interested Parties

Their respective counsel of record TO:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Plaintiff will bring the foregoing Motion on for hearing before Department 1 on the  $\frac{19}{2}$  day of  $\frac{0ct}{2}$ , 2015 at the hour of  $\frac{10}{2}$  Chambers or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard.

Dated this 14th day of September, 2015.

### **HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES**

Nevada Bar No. 009578 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Ste 110 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Attorneys for SFR Investments Pool 1, LLC

## MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### PREFATORY STATEMENT I.

On September 9, 2015, Defendant, Shahin Shane Malek, ("Malek") served upon Plaintiff a Verified Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements. The Memorandum claims costs in the amount of \$12,270.45, which Malek seeks to recover as the prevailing party. Plaintiff opposes the Memorandum on the following grounds. First, the Memorandum is late, and therefore must be denied. Second, NRS 18.020 does not permit the recovery of costs in this type of action. Finally, certain costs are unreasonable or disallowed by Nevada law. Accordingly, Plaintiff requests that Malek's Memo be denied in its entirety, or at a minimum be reduced to \$3,720.25.

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#### II. LEGAL ARGUMENT

## A. Malek's Memo is Untimely, and Therefore Must be Denied.

NRS 18.110(1) provides that "[t]he party in whose favor judgment is rendered, and who claims costs, must file with the clerk, and serve a copy upon the adverse party, within 5 days after the entry of judgment...a memorandum of the items of costs in the action..." (emphasis added). Here, Malek's Notice of Entry of Order was filed on August 20, 2015. As such, the deadline to file the Memo of Costs was August 27, 2015. Yet, Malek filed the instant Memo of Costs on September 9, 2015, nine (9) judicial days after the deadline. Having failed to timely file the Memo of Costs, Malek's Memo must be denied in its entirety, and he is not entitled to recover any costs.

# B. Malek's Memo of Costs Must be Denied Because NRS Chapter 18 Does Not Allow Costs for this Type of Action.

NRS 18.020 lists five types of actions where costs must be awarded to the prevailing party, and an action for declaratory/injunctive relief is not listed. In this case, Plaintiff's sought a declaration from this Court that a restrictive covenant existed over the golf course, and therefore the portion of golf course sold to Malek must remain golf course in terms of its use. This type of action is not contemplated by any of the enumerated actions in NRS 18.020. As such, Malek is not entitled to costs.

## C. Malek's Memo of Costs Includes Unreasonable Costs or Costs Disallowed by Nevada Law.

Should this Court disregard the lateness of Malek's Memo and disregard the fact that NRS Chapter 18 does not allow costs for this type of action, Malek's Memo should, at a minimum, be retaxed because it includes unreasonable costs or costs disallowed by Nevada law. Under Nevada law, the determination of which expenses are recoverable as costs is left largely to the sound discretion of the trial court. Bergman v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 679, 856 P.2d 560, 565-566 (1993). Because statutes permitting recovery of costs are in derogation of common law, they should be strictly construed by the Court. Gibellini v. Klindt, 110 Nev. 1201, 1205, 885 P.2d 540, 543 (1994). Thus, this Court's discretion should be sparingly exercised when considering whether to allow an expense not specifically authorized by statute or case precedent.

In this case, this Court should exercise its discretion, and deny (1) Malek's deposition transcript fees in the amount of \$3,480.20; (2) expert deposition witness fees in the amount of \$1,470.00; and (3) JAMS mediation fess in the amount of \$3,600.00. With regard to the deposition transcript fees, it was completely unnecessary, and therefore unreasonable for Malek to order the deposition transcripts of Craig Jiu (Plaintiff's dimunition of value expert against the other named Defendants), Michael Tassi (City of Henderson 30(b)(6) witness), Scott Dugan (MacDonald/Doiron's expert witness), Matthew Lubawy (Bank of America's expert witness), and Jessica Woodbridge (Bank of America's 30(b)(6) witness). These witnesses had no bearing whatsoever on the claims Plaintiff brought against Malek or Malek's defenses to those claims. All of these witnesses dealt directly with Plaintiff's claims against the other named Defendants. This is particularly true of the expert witnesses. These witnesses were named to opine as to money damages should a restrictive covenant not exist on the golf course. These witnesses had no bearing on whether a covenant existed. As such, it was unreasonable for Malek to order these transcripts. Nothing under NRS Chapter 18 or Nevada law requires a non-prevailing party to pay for costs that were inappropriately, and unnecessarily incurred by the prevailing party.

As to the expert deposition witness fees, it is baffling as to why Malek agreed to share in the costs of the deposition of Plaintiff's dimunition of value expert, when this expert had absolutely no bearing on the claims/defenses between Plaintiff and Malek. Again, Craig Jiu was hired by Plaintiff to support the claims brought against other parties in this action, and these claims were only alternative to the extent a restrictive covenant did not exist over the golf parcel. In other words, Mr. Jiu intended to testify, in terms of dollars, the loss of value to Plaintiff's property once Malek built the home he intended to build on the golf parcel. Under no set of circumstances would Malek have ever been affected by Mr. Jiu's opinions because Mr. Jiu's opinions were only relevant to the extent a restrictive covenant did not exist over the golf course, and were offered to support money damages against the other named defendants. Therefore sharing in the costs of this deposition was, to put it mildly, senseless. A cost thoughtlessly incurred should not be the responsibility of Plaintiff.

Finally, with respect to the JAMS mediation fees, a prevailing party cannot recover costs for an expense the parties agreed to share in equally. <u>Carr Business Enterprises</u>, <u>Inc. v. City of Chowchilla</u>, 82 Cal.Rptr.3d 135, 138-39 (Cal.Ct.App. 2008) (trial court erred in awarding prevailing party 50% of

referee fee, when parties agreed to split this cost); Friguquip Corp. v. Parker-Hannifin Corp., 75 F.R.D. 605, 613 (Okla. 1976) (court denied transcription costs to prevailing party where parties agreed to split); A-Cal Copiers, Inc. v. North American Van Lines, Inc., 180 F.R.D. 183, 191 (Mass. 1998) (holding that as a matter of equity, prevailing party is not entitled to cost of an expense that both parties agreed to share); Schmidt v. Colonial Terrace Associates, 694 P.2d 1340, 1346 (Mont. 1985) (holding that trial court did not err in excluding from prevailing party's cost bill amount attributable to their share of special master's fee, where parties agreed to share equally in this fee); Thomas v. Duralite Co, Inc., 524 F.2d 577, 590 (3rd Cir. 1975) (holding that because both parties agreed to share expenses of daily transcripts district court properly denied this cost to prevailing party); Eliscu v. Paramount Pictures, 73 F.Supp. 881, 886 (D.C. Cal. 1947) (recognizing costs of jury not recoverable by prevailing party if parties agreed to split); Boston Belting Co. v. City of Boston, 183 Mass. 254, 261 (Mass. 1903) (where parties agree to split costs of stenographer, the law does not recognize such payments as costs to be taxed by the prevailing party).

In the present case, Plaintiff and Malek made the decision to engage in mediation, with a private mediator. In fact, it was Malek who approached Plaintiff about settlement. The parties agreed to equally split the fees for this mediation. Because the parties agreed to split the mediation fee, Malek cannot now claim he is entitled to the share he already agreed to pay, irrespective of whether he prevailed. If that were not enough, NRS 18.005 does not allow for the recovery of this cost. As such, this Court should deny this cost. In short, if this Court is inclined to allow costs, at a minimum, it should disallow costs in the amount of \$8,550.20.

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# III. CONCLUSION Based on the lateness of

Based on the lateness of Malek's Motion and the fact that NRS 18.020 does not allow costs for actions such as the one against Malek, this Court should deny Malek's Memo of Costs in its entirety. Alternatively, should this Court ignore the timing of Malek's Motion and NRS 18.020, this Court should retax and reduce Malek's costs by \$8,550.20, thereby only awarding Malek a total of \$3,720.25 in costs.

DATED this 144 day of September, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:

**HOWARD KIM & ASSOCIATES** 

KAREN L. HANKS, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 009578

1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110

Henderson, Nevada 89014 Telephone: (702) 485-3300 Facsimile: (702) 485-3301

Attorneys for Plaintiff,

The Fredric and Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust

Dans Kof7

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE				
2	I hereby certify that on the Jurday of September, 2015, pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I served via				
3	the Eighth Judicial District Court electronic service system the foregoing, PLAINTIFF'S MOTION				
4	TO RETAX AND SETTLE MEMORANDUM OF COSTS AND DISBURSEMENTS, to the				
5	following parties:				
6					
7	THE FIRM, P.C. Preston P. Rezaee, Esq.				
8	Preston.thefirm-lv.com				
9	Attorneys for Shahin Shane Malek				
10	AKERMAN LLP Natalie L. Winslow, Esq.				
11	Natalie.winslow@akerman.com Attorneys for Bank of America, N.A.				
12	Kemp, Jones & Coulthard, LLP				
13	Spencer H. Gunnerson, Esq.				
14	s.gunnerson@kempjones.com Attorneys for Michael Doiron, MacDonald				
15	Highlands Realty LLC and FHP Ventures				
16	Dave Life				
17	An Employee of Howard Kim & Associates				
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**OPPM** 1 Preston P. Rezaee, Esq. CLERK OF THE COURT Nevada Bar No. 10729 Jay DeVoy, Esq., of counsel Nevada Bar No. 11950 3 THE FIRM, P.C. 4 200 E. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89104 5 Telephone: (702) 222-3476 Facsimile: (702) 252-3476 Attorneys for Defendant, SHAHIN SHANE MALEK 7 DISTRICT COURT 8 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 9 THE FREDERIC AND BARBARA CASE NO.: A-13-689113-C 10 DEPT NO.: I ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, 11 Plaintiff, vs. 12 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BAC HOME) DEFENDANT SHAHIN SHANE 13 LOANS SERVICING, LP, a foreign limited) MALEK'S OPPOSITION TO 14 partnership; MACDONALD HIGHLANDS) PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO RETAX REALTY, LLC, a Nevada limited liability) COSTS 15 company; MICHAEL DOIRON, an individual;) SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an individual;) 16 PAUL BYKOWSKI, an individual; THE) FOOTHILLS AT MACDONALD RANCH) 17 MASTER ASSOCIATION, a Nevada limited) 18 FOOTHILLS) liability company; THE PARTNERS, a Nevada limited partnership;) 19 DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROE) BUSINESS ENTITY I through XX, inclusive, ) 20 Defendants. 21

## I. Introduction

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This Court has broad discretion to control deadlines for party submissions. *Dornbach v. Tenth Jud. Dist. Ct.*, 130 Nev. Adv. Rep. 33, 324 P.3d 369 (2014); *Arnold v. Kip*, 123 Nev. 410, 418, 168 P.3d 1050, 1055 (2007). Independent of Malek's separately pending motion for attorneys' fees and costs, the Court has discretion to evaluate his verified memorandum of costs. This is consistent with

Page 1 of 6

the Court's broad discretion to award attorneys' fees and costs and manage the proceedings before it. Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 856 P.2d 560 (1993); see Borger v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct., 120 Nev. 1021, 1030, 102 P.3d 600, 606 (2004) (supporting use of discretionary powers to manage litigation).

The Trust selectively recalls its positions in this case when asserting that NRS 18.020 does not allow for Malek to recover his costs. NRS 18.020(1) allows for an award of costs in "an action for the recovery of real property or a possessory right thereto," while NRS 18.020(5) allows the Court to award costs "in an action which involves the title or boundaries of real estate." At the inception of this litigation, the Trust immediately filed a *lis pendens* on Malek's property, which is only proper in actions "affecting the title or possession of real property." NRS 14.010(1).

Now, the Trust contradicts its earlier positions by contending this is *not* an action concerning possession or title of property under NRS 18.020. It was the Trust, rather than Malek, that first defined this case as one about possession and title to property by filing its *lis pendens*. Now, despite its Notice of *Lis Pendens* and Amended Notice of *Lis Pendens* filings, the Trust attempts to persuade the Court that this case was never about having a possessory interest in Malek's land, in order to avoid the costs it imposed on Malek with its unsuccessful litigation. It cannot do so.

## II. Argument

Malek's deposition fees were necessary and proper in the defense of this case. In fact, one of the depositions the Trust claims to be irrelevant to Malek's case was heavily relied upon in his successful summary judgment motion. Similarly, NRS 18.005(5) warrants the Court awarding Malek his full expert expenses paid in this action, and NRS 18.005(17) vests the Court with discretion to award him his mediation costs in connection with this action.

### A. Malek's Deposition Fees Were Reasonable and Necessary.

The Trust's contention that Malek had no need to obtain the deposition transcripts of Michael Tassi and Jessica Woodbridge is without merit. Both of these transcripts were used in Malek's motion for summary judgment, and provided specific, necessary facts to prove that the Trust could not prevail on its claims. Specifically, Tassi discussed the zoning change on Malek's golf parcel, which was foundational to the Trust's claim that an easement existed over it, precluding its use for residential purposes. (Malek Statement of Undisputed Material Facts §§ 9, 27, 30-33, 36-48) Ms. Woodbridge's

deposition confirmed the addresses and information related to Bank of America's receipt of the community notices mailed in connection with the re-zoning of Malek's property. (Id. at §§ 34, 49-51)

Similarly, the Trust's argument that Malek had no interest in or need for the deposition transcripts of Messrs. Jiu, Lubawy, and Dugan is incomplete. The Trust contends that because these experts dealt only with the Trust's alleged economic damages, while the Trust sought only injunctive relief against Malek, Malek had no reason to obtain those transcripts. An understanding of injunctive relief's role as a remedy available only where monetary damages are unable to make the injured party whole reveals why the Trust's argument does not withstand scrutiny.

Injunctive relief is only available to prevent irreparable harm, and where a party has no adequate remedy at law. Finkel v. Cashman Professional, Inc., 128 Nev. Adv. Rep. 6, 270 P.3d 1259, 1264-65 (2012) (holding that injunctive relief is appropriate where irreparable harm exists); State Dept. of Bus. & Indus. v. Nev. Ass'n Servs., 128 Nev. Adv. Rep. 34, 294 P.3d 1223, 1228 (2012) (finding irreparable harm only where monetary damages would not suffice). Where "the threat of an injunction is employed simply for undue leverage in negotiations, legal damages may well be sufficient to compensate" for suffered harm. eBay Inc. v. MercExchange LLC, 547 U.S. 388, 396 (2006). Actual, irreparable harm must exist to support the Court's entry of an injunction. MGM Resorts Int'l v. Unknown Registrant of www.imgmcasino.com, Case No. 2:14-cv-01613-GMN-VCF 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 128397 at \*32-33 (D. Nev. July 8, 2015) (denying request for permanent injunction). Where remedies are available at law to compensate for harm, such as money damages, injunctive relief is inappropriate. Hadel v. Willis Roof Consulting, Inc., Case No. 2:06-cv-01032-RLH-RJJ 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 42399 at \*4, 9-10 (D. Nev. Sept. 23, 2008), citing eBay, 547 U.S. at 390.

Malek's analysis of the expert testimony in this case goes to the core of the Trust's desire for injunctive relief to enforce its purported easements on his property. As explained above, injunctive relief may be appropriate where there is no adequate legal remedy. But in this case, the Trust was simultaneously seeking legal damages from the other defendants. With the Trust having its remedy in the form of monetary damages, there would be no basis for the Court to enter an injunction against Malek's use of his property even if easements existed in it. Malek's discovery into the Trust's valuation of its damages arising from his potential construction was necessary to mount a full defense

of the Trust's claims and desired remedies. This also was necessary to prevent the Trust from obtaining a double recovery in the form of both monetary damages from other defendants and an injunction against Malek.

While Malek prevailed on summary judgment, the scheduling of this case required him to prepare for trial, and to ascertain all the facts relevant to his defenses. This included the Trust's pursuit of monetary damages from the other defendants while seeking a contradictory award of injunctive relief from Malek. The valuation of the Trust's damages as contained in the depositions of Jiu, Dugan, and Lubawy were necessary to Malek's defense of this action. The Trust, rather than Malek, should bear these costs.

## B. Malek's Expert Fees Are Properly Taxable Under NRS 18.005(5).

Related to the argument above about Malek's need to depose the Trust's expert, Craig Jiu, his deposition and its expense were necessary. NRS 18.005(5) expressly allows the recovery of this expense, and within the amount Malek seeks in his memorandum of costs. All Malek seeks is for the Court to enforce 18.005(5) as it is written and award him the expenses due to him under that statute.

## C. The Court's Treatment of Malek's Mediation Fees Are Left to the Court's Discretion.

The Trust's legal argument concerning Malek's expenses for private mediation stands on its own. Malek contends that this expense may be taxed to the Trust in the Court's discretion as a "reasonable and necessary expense incurred in connection with the action." NRS 18.005(17). What Malek cannot countenance, however, is the Trust's discussion of how mediation came about. (Mot. at 5:15 ("In fact, it was Malek who approached Plaintiff about settlement."))

The substance of such communication is privileged under both Nevada law and the parties' private mediation agreement. See NRS 48.105, 48.109. It should not be considered in the Court's evaluation of Malek's memorandum of costs. There is no conceivable justification for the Trust bringing this privileged information before the Court.

### III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should deny the Trust's motion to retax Malek's costs in full. At minimum, Malek's deposition expenses were necessary, and his expert witness expenses are

compensable under NRS 18.005(5). Even though the Trust divulges the substance of settlement-privileged communication to dispute Malek's mediation costs, the Court has the discretion to award them as well under NRS 18.005(17), and should do so in this case.

DATED this 2nd day of October, 2015.

## THE FIRM, P.C.

## BY: /s/Jay DeVoy

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RIS 1 Preston P. Rezaee, Esq. **CLERK OF THE COURT** Nevada Bar No. 10729 2 Jay DeVoy, Esq., of counsel Nevada Bar No. 11950 3 THE FIRM, P.C. 200 E. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89104 Telephone: (702) 222-3476 Facsimile: (702) 252-3476 Attorneys for Defendant, SHAHIN SHANE MALEK 7 DISTRICT COURT 8 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 9 CASE NO.: A-13-689113-C THE FREDERIC AND BARBARA 10 DEPT NO.: I ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, 11 Plaintiff, VS. 12 BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BAC HOME) DEFENDANT SHAHIN SHANE 13 LOANS SERVICING, LP, a foreign limited) MALEK'S REPLY IN SUPPORT 14 partnership; MACDONALD HIGHLANDS) OF MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES REALTY, LLC, a Nevada limited liability) AND COSTS 15 company; MICHAEL DOIRON, an individual;) SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an individual;) PAUL BYKOWSKI, an individual; THE) 17 FOOTHILLS AT MACDONALD RANCH) MASTER ASSOCIATION, a Nevada limited) 18 THE FOOTHILLS) liability company; PARTNERS, a Nevada limited partnership;) 19 DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROE) BUSINESS ENTITY I through XX, inclusive, ) 20 21 Defendants. 22

#### I. Introduction

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The Fredric and Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust (the "Trust") failed to timely oppose Malek's motion for attorneys' fees and costs. At the time of the Court's October 22, 2015 hearing on Malek's motion, the Trust still had not opposed the motion. Based on the colloquy between the parties' counsel and the Court at that hearing, it seemed that the Trust had provided a copy of its opposition to the Court, but never filed it or supplied it to Malek's counsel. The Trust's counsel did not even have a

copy for Malek to review at the hearing. Only *after* the Court's properly noticed hearing on Malek's motion did Malek's counsel, for the very first time, see the Trust's opposition. It was not filed until the following day, October 23, 2015. (Opp. at 1)

The Trust's opposition is silent about this fatal issue. To the extent the Court even considers the Trust's opposition, it only further demonstrates why the Court is well within its discretion in awarding Malek his attorneys' fees and costs. The Trust misapprehends the Court's standard in awarding fees under NRS 18.010(2)(b), and argues the Court should apply a higher standard than the statute requires. It should not do so, and should not be persuaded by the hypothetical arguments the Trust advances to justify its conduct in this litigation. The Court is fully equipped to evaluate Malek's motion for attorneys' fees and costs, and should award Malek the fees he has incurred as a result of the Trust suing him, its next-door neighbor, in this action designed to stop him from building his home.

## II. Argument

The Trust's untimely opposition to Malek's motion should be disregarded. Under EDCR 2.20(e), the Trust should be deemed to have consented to Malek's motion. Yet, to the extent the Court wishes to consider the Trust's opposition, it fails to show that the Trust brought or maintained this action with reasonable grounds. The plain language of NRS 18.010(2)(b) calls for this Court to award fees in order to discourage actions such as this one, and conserve its own limited judicial resources.

None of the justifications the Trust offers for its conduct show that its claims were made or pursued with any reasonable grounds. Instead, the Trust's opposition relies on hypothetical scenarios where its litigation campaign might, possibly, have found some solace in Nevada law. Here, though, decades-old Nevada law expressly prohibited the very positions the Trust took in this case. While the Trust cannot show to the Court that its claims against Malek were reasonable, the Court can readily find that Malek's attorneys' fees incurred in defense of this action were, and would be within its discretion to award them to him.

## A. The Trust Consented to Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs by Failing to Timely Oppose It.

The Trust's failure to file any form of opposition to Malek's motion until the day after its scheduled hearing is sufficient for the Court to grant Malek's motion in full. Eighth Judicial District

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Court Rule 2.20(e) provides that the Court may construe an opposing party's failure to serve and file a written opposition as "an admission that the motion [...] is meritorious," and the opponent's consent to the motion. This alone warrants the Court granting Malek's motion in full. Additionally, Nevada's Supreme Court has affirmed that other district courts granting attorneys' fees and costs under this rule's previous version were rightly within their discretion to do so. Las Vegas Fetish & Fantasy Halloween Ball, Inc. v. Ahern Rentals, Inc., 124 Nev. 272, 278, 182 P.3d 764, 768 (2008) (affirming award of attorneys' fees and costs where motion was unopposed, as allowed under EDCR 2.20(b), EDCR 2.20(e)'s predecessor); see Foster v. Dingwall, 126 Nev. Adv. Rep. 6, 227 P.3d 1042, 1046 (2010) (approving district court's construal of an unopposed motion for sanctions as admitted by the opponent).

The Trust never filed its opposition until after the Court's originally scheduled hearing on Malek's motion for attorneys' fees and costs. The Trust's attempt to include a certificate of service dated September 28, 2015—and no other explanation for its tardiness—is unavailing. This Court's electronic filing system could have provided ample data showing that the Trust's timely attempt to file its opposition failed. The Trust had nearly a month to contact the Court and Malek to remedy this issue, yet it utterly failed to do so. Its opposition is bereft of any explanation for its delay, or any justification for requiring Malek to incur the fees of preparing for, and attending, another hearing on his motion.

## B. Nevada Law Supports Malek's Request for Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and the Trust's Arguments to the Contrary Ring Hollow.

In awarding attorneys' fees and costs under NRS 18.010(2)(b), the Court's analysis "depends upon the actual circumstances of the case rather than a hypothetical set of facts favoring plaintiff's arguments." Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 675, 856 P.2d 560, 563 (1993). In Bergmann, as in the case here, the plaintiff's complaint survived a motion to dismiss under Rule 12(b)(5), but the Supreme Court nonetheless found a number of plaintiff's claims were "groundless" and warranted the award of attorneys' fees. Id. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564. While the Trust argues that its case could

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> This decision favorably cites Fountain v. Mojo, 687 P.2d 496, 501 (Colo. Ct. App. 1984), which holds that a claim is groundless if "the complaint contains allegations sufficient to survive a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim, but which are not supported by any credible evidence at trial."

theoretically have merit and the Court merely disagreed with its positions (Opp. at 2:2-7), Nevada law holds that this is no defense to liability for a prevailing party's attorneys' fees and costs. *Id*.

The Trust's position further relies on an inaccurate reading of NRS 18.010(2)(b), focusing only on its use of the words "frivolous" or "vexatious." This misstates the standard for when the Court may award attorneys' fees and costs to a prevailing party: when the action is "brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party." NRS 18.010(2)(b). The Trust also ignores the Legislative directive that Nevada's District Courts should "liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees." *Id.* This section goes on to state that "It is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees pursuant to this paragraph," both to deter frivolous and vexatious litigation and to conserve "limited judicial resources." *Id.* Read in full, NRS 18.010(2)(b) operates in a manner much different than how the Trust contends (Opp. at 3:23-25), and favors the Court granting Malek his attorneys' fees in this action.

## 1. Nevada Law Never Supported The Trust's Easement Claim.

The Court granted Malek's Motion for Summary Judgment on the Trust's easement claim based on two cases: *Boyd v. McDonald*, 81 Nev. 642, 650-51, 408 P.2d 717, 722 (1965), and *Probasco v. City of Reno*, 85 Nev. 563, 565, 459 P.2d 772, 774 (1969). (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 9:20-11:2) Because the Trust's only identifiable bases for claiming an easement in Malek's property were the protection of its view, light and privacy, the Court entered judgment in Malek's favor. (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 7:21-8:5) The Trust's feared loss of view, light, and privacy fell squarely within the scope of implied easements prohibited by *Boyd* and *Probasco*.

The Trust did not seek to extend Nevada law into a new frontier, or bring a murky doctrine into the light; its main theory of the case was premised on a doctrine Nevada "expressly repudiated" nearly 50 years prior. *Probasco*, 85 Nev. at 565, 459 P.2d at 774, *citing Boyd*, 81 Nev. 642, 408 P.2d 717. Where proper research would reveal that a claim is barred by existing law, it is brought or maintained without any reasonable ground. *Huettig & Schromm, Inc. v. Landscape Contractors Council*, 582 F. Supp. 1519, 1522 (N.D. Cal. 1984) (imposing sanctions where counsel "knew or should have known" no cause of action existed, and that an argument for extension or modification of existing law was unfounded); *Innkeepers' Telemanagement & Equip Corp. v. Hummert Management Group*, Case No.

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92 C 8416 1994 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16075 at \*28 (N.D. Ill. Nov. 2, 1994) (finding that plaintiff's failure to adequately investigate the controlling precedent could not be construed as an argument for extension or modification of existing law). Here, the Trust's entire case was predicated on seeking an implied easement to protect its view, light, and privacy, despite Nevada law's express refusal to recognize such easements since 1965. See Probasco, 85 Nev. at 565, 459 P.2d at 774.

In defense of its litigation, the Trust cites nearly 20 cases, with little if any explanation, for the proposition that implied restrictive covenants exist. (Opp. at 4:26-6:7) The Trust's research into the existence of implied restrictive covenants misses the mark. The issue actually before the Court in this case was not whether Nevada law recognizes implied restrictive covenants in the abstract, but whether the Trust could assert one to protect its view, light and privacy—the only potential losses the Trust identified in this case's voluminous discovery. (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 7:21-8:5) In fact, the Trust even cites Boyd as one of the cases justifying its position in this litigation (Opp. at 5:4-5), despite the Court's reliance on it in granting Malek judgment on the Trust's claims. (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 9:20-10:20) While the Trust conclusorily asserts that it "did research the issue," (Opp. at 4:23-24) it fails to explain the depth or breadth of its efforts, if any. This silence about the Trust's diligence stands athwart its insistence that it had reasonable grounds to pursue its claims.

The Trust's claimed research is exactly the kind of hypothetical rationalization that Bergmann prohibits when analyzing a party's reasonable grounds for bringing or maintaining suit. 109 Nev. at 675, 856 P.2d at 563. It is possible that the Trust's positions would have been viable if the facts of this case had been different, or it sought an easement for anything other than to protect its view, light, or privacy. But it did not (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 7:21-8:5), and controlling Nevada precedent from 1965 required that the Trust lose. This was not a new legal development, nor a decision that came down from the Nevada Supreme Court during the litigation.

In addition, and relevant to the Court's consideration of this case's "actual circumstances" in assessing whether the Trust had reasonable grounds to bring suit, the Court must consider all of the Trust's available resources. Bergmann, 109 Nev. at 675, 856 P.2d at 563. The Trust had access not only to sophisticated counsel, but had a seasoned real estate agent as its trustee, and yet another Las Vegas attorney as its beneficiary. (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 5:24-6:8); in light of extant law and the

resources available to it, the Trust cannot credibly claim it expected to win this case, rather than use it as a vehicle to impose significant legal costs upon Malek. (See Mot. Exhs. B-D) There were no reasonable grounds for the Trust to bring its claims against Malek. There is, however, ample basis to see this litigation as a mechanism for the Trust to harass Malek, and coerce him to abandon his plans to build his home.

## 2. The Trust's Arguments In Support of its Other Claims Fail to Show They Were Brought or Maintained on Reasonable Grounds.

The Trust's opposition devotes exactly one paragraph to discussing its reasonable grounds for bringing a novel claim of implied restrictive covenant, and styling its requests for injunctive and declaratory relief as separate causes of action. (Opp. at 6:8-16) The Trust cites no case law supporting its positions, and does not grapple with extant Nevada law showing these claims were barred, or would be rejected.<sup>2</sup> (Mot. at 7:12-8:3; Mot. Exh. A at 11-12)

In particular, Nevada's legal tradition has long opposed the recognition of new causes of action with inconsistent elements and subjective standards of application. Brown v. Eddie World LLC, 131 Nev. Adv. Rep. 19, 348 P.3d 1002 (2015); Badillo v. Am. Brands, 117 Nev. 34, 42, 16 P.3d 435, 440 (2001); Greco v. U.S., 111 Nev. 405, 408-09, 893 P.2d 345, 347-58 (1995). The Trust had access to this information before filing suit, as well as the disparate standards for an implied restrictive covenant claim within the jurisdictions that recognized it (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 11:3-20), yet pursed this cause of action anyway. Nevada's recognition of declaratory and injunctive relief only as remedies, rather than causes of action, also long pre-dated this litigation. (Order of Aug. 13, 2015 at 12:3-18) The Trust's opposition does nothing to address, let alone refute, the weight of Nevada law against any reasonable ground for these claims, whether in their current form or as any professed extension of existing law.

## 3. The Trust's Only Supporting Evidence for Its Opposition Was Never Attached as An Exhibit to Its Brief.

Within its opposition, the Trust cites extensively to the Court's transcript from its hearing on Malek's Motion for Summary Judgment. (Opp at 6:27-7:14) Although claiming to have attached the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> This, too, essentially qualifies as a concession to Malek's motion under EDCR 2.20(e), which requires a party to file a memorandum of points and authorities – generally understood to require legal argument under EDCR 2.20(c).

transcript as Exhibit 1 to the motion, this exhibit was never attached to the brief the Trust filed on October 23, 2015. (See generally, Opp.) While Malek does not doubt the accuracy of the quoted excerpts, the Trust's failure to attach the exhibit impairs his ability to put the Court's statements in their proper context.

The Court's colloquy with the parties at that hearing did not prevent it from entering its clear and forceful order granting judgment to Malek on the Trust's claims (Order of Aug. 13, 2015). Nor did it stop the Court from granting the MacDonald Highland Defendants' motion for attorneys' fees and costs. (Order of Nov. 10, 2015) The Court's award of these attorneys' fees and costs was based on the premise that the Trust's rejection of those defendants' offer of judgment in January of 2015 was objectively unreasonable in light of the known facts and applicable law at the time. (See Id.)

Whatever the Court may have said at the time it heard Malek's motion, its written orders remove any doubt about its holdings. The Court's actions, rather than its words, are consistent with the Trust bringing "or maintaining" its suit against Malek without reasonable ground, or solely to harass him. NRS 18.010(2)(b). This, too, weighs in favor of the Court granting Malek his attorneys' fees and costs.

## C. Malek's Requested Fees and Costs are Reasonable, and can be Ascertained by the Court.

The Trust's opposition concludes with a cursory discussion of the factors this Court must consider in awarding attorneys' fees and costs under *Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 455 P.2d 31 (1969). (Opp. at 7-8) The Trust takes no issue with the qualifications of Malek's counsel, the rates or amounts charged, or the quality of work performed in this case.<sup>3</sup> (Opp. at 7:17-8:9) Indeed, Malek's counsel was successful in defeating the Trust's claims, demonstrating the efficacy of their work.

Instead, the Trust hones in on the redaction of Malek's invoices, and the reasonableness of the sums charged by Malek's predecessor counsel, Snell & Wilmer. First and foremost, redactions to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Similarly, the Trust's opposition is silent on Malek's request for post-judgment interest on the Court's award of attorneys' fees and costs. (See generally, Opp.) Malek specifically requested post-judgment interest in his motion (Mot. at 10:1-10), and the Court may deem the Trust to have consented to that request under EDCR 2.20(e).

invoices submitted with a motion for attorneys' fees and costs "do not unduly inhibit [the Court's] ability to determine the reasonableness" of those time entries. Branch Banking & Trust Co. v. Jarrett, Case No. 3:13-cv-00235-RCJ-VPC 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 129531 at \*6 (D. Nev. Sept. 16, 2014). Such redaction is even more appropriate in this case where confidential and work product-privileged information may be ascertained from even partially redacted time entries. This unredacted information would be directly relevant to the appeal that the Trust has stated, in open Court, that it intends to pursue. See Id; see also MGIC Indem. Corp. v. Weisman, 803 F.2d 500, 505 (9th Cir. 1986) (allowing redactions to preserve confidential information and maintain the work product privilege).

If the Court has questions as to any time entries, it may conduct an in camera review of the billing records in order to determine what amount is reasonable to award Malek. U.S. v. \$167,070.00 in U.S. Currency, Case No. 3:13-cv-00324-LRH-VPC 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 112556 at \*14 (D. Nev. Aug. 24, 2015) (confirming that "the court can conduct an in camera review if necessary" to review confidential billing information), citing MGIC Indem. Corp., 803 F.2d at 505. If the Court should request them, Malek will provide wholly unredacted copies of these records for the Court to review in chambers. In doing so, the Court would maintain the confidentiality of this information while allowing it to exercise its discretion in awarding Malek's attorneys' fees. Id.

The reasonableness of Snell & Wilmer's billings is, too, evident from the docket in this case. Malek's predecessor counsel incurred \$16,926.50 in attorneys' fees (Mot. Exh. C at 5) moving to dismiss the Trust's initial complaint against Malek, and successfully expunging the *lis pendens* the Trust wrongfully filed on Malek's property. This process involved the unconventional step of both the Trust and Malek submitting supplemental briefing in December 2013, prior to a hearing on all pending motions. Based on the Court's familiarity with Snell & Wilmer, the voluminous public information available about the firm's prowess, and its advocacy for Malek in this case, the Court can independently assess the reasonableness of its fees—and award them to Malek.

Finally, the Court's familiarity with the filings in this case empowers it to determine the appropriate amount of fees awarded to Malek in prevailing on the Trust's claims. Exact time entry descriptions are not necessary for the Court to account for the reasonable value of attorneys' fees and costs Malek expended in obtaining judgment on the Trust's claims; the reasonableness of his fees can

be assessed based on the litigation conducted in this case. See Marrocco v. Hill, 291 F.R.D. 586 (D. Nev. 2013) (basing award of attorneys' fees upon review of materials submitted to court); see also Hologram, Inc. v. Pulse Evolution Corp., Case No. 2:14-cv-00772-GMN-NJK 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 121248 (D. Nev. Sept. 11, 2015) (basing award of attorneys' fees upon review of docket activity). To the extent more detailed information is desired, though, Malek stands ready to provide unredacted billing records to the Court for in camera review.

#### III. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should grant Malek's motion for attorneys' fees and costs, if only for the Trust's failure to timely oppose it. The Trust's actions, as detailed in this reply brief, demonstrate that the Court would be soundly within its discretion awarding Malek his reasonable attorneys' fees. As such, the Court should award Malek his attorneys' fees of \$109,763.38<sup>4</sup> in addition to the \$7,568.50 the Court awarded him during its October 22, 2015 hearing on the Trust's motion to re-tax his Memorandum of Costs.

DATED this 19th day of November, 2015.

## THE FIRM, P.C.

## BY: /s/Jay DeVoy

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Because of the need for two hearings on this issue, Malek's attorneys' fees in this matter continue to accrue, and the amount he has actually and necessarily incurred to date is greater than those sought in his motion.

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	I hereby certify that one this 19th day of November, 2015, pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I served via the
3	Eighth Judicial District Court electronic service system and to be placed in the United States Mail,
4	with first class postage prepaid thereon, and addressed the foregoing DEFENDANT SHAHIN
5	SHANE MALEK'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND
6	COSTS to the following parties:
7	
8	Howard C. Kim, Esq. Email: Howard@hkimlaw.com
9	Diana S. Cline, Esq.
10	Email: Diana@hkimlaw.com Jacqueline A. Gilbert, Esq.
11	Email: Jackie@hkimlaw.com  Attorneys for Plaintiff
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Preston P. Rezaee, Esq. CLERK OF THE COURT 1 Nevada Bar No. 10729 Jay DeVoy, Esq., of counsel 2 Nevada Bar No. 11950 THE FIRM, P.C. 3 200 E. Charleston Blvd. Las Vegas, NV 89104 Telephone: (702) 222-3476 5 Facsimile: (702) 252-3476 Attorneys for Defendant / Counterclaimant, 6 SHAHÎN SHANÊ MALEK 7 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 8 CASE NO.: A-13-689113-C 9 THE FREDERIC AND BARBARA DEPT NO.: I ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, 10 Plaintiff, 11 VS. 12 DEFENDANT SHAHIN BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; BAC HOME) ORDER ON **FOR** LOANS SERVICING, LP, a foreign limited) MALEK'S **MOTION** SHANE 13 partnership; MACDONALD HIGHLANDS) ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS AND FREDERIC AND 14 REALTY, LLC, a Nevada limited liability) PLAINTIFF THE LIVING company; MICHAEL DOIRON, an individual;) BARBARA ROSENBERG 15 SHAHIN SHANE MALEK, an individual;) TRUST'S MOTION TO RETAX COSTS PAUL BYKOWSKI, an individual; THE) FOOTHILLS AT MACDONALD RANCH) MASTER ASSOCIATION, a Nevada limited) 17 FOOTHILLS) liability company; THE 18 PARTNERS, a Nevada limited partnership;) DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROE) 19 BUSINESS ENTITY I through XX, inclusive, ) 20 Defendants. 21 22 Before the Court is Defendant/Counterclaimant Shahin Shane Malek's ("Malek['s]") Motion for 23 Attorneys' Fees and Costs, and Plaintiff The Fredric and Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust's (the 24 "Trust['s]") Motion to Retax Malek's Memorandum of Costs. A detailed history of these motions and 25 the Court's order deciding them follows. 26 27 28

## I. Relevant Procedural History

On September 9, 2015, Malek filed his Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Verified Memorandum of Costs in this action. On September 21, 2015, the Trust filed its Motion to Re-Tax Malek's Memorandum of Costs. Malek opposed the Trust's motion on October 2, 2015.

The Court scheduled both motions decided in this Order to be heard in its chambers on October 12, 2015, but scheduled argument for October 22, 2015 following the Trust's request for a hearing on these motions. Karen Hanks, Esq. and Jackie Gilbert, Esq. for the Trust, Jay DeVoy, Esq. for Malek, and Matthew Carter, Esq. for defendants MacDonald Highlands Realty, Michael Doiron, and FHP Ventures, attended the October 22, 2015 hearing. During this scheduled argument, the Court heard the Trust's Motion to Retax Malek's Memorandum of Costs. The Court also called Malek's motion for attorneys' fees and costs, to which the Trust had not filed an opposition. By agreement of counsel for the Trust and Malek, the Court continued the hearing on Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs until December 1, 2015, when the Court calendared its next hearing on Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs. The Court, however, did not indicate a time during this hearing.

Following the October 22, 2015 hearing, the Trust filed its opposition to Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs on October 23, 2015. Malek timely filed his reply in support of his Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs on November 19, 2015. Jay DeVoy, Esq., then appeared for Malek at the December 1, 2015 hearing; no counsel appeared for any other party, including the Trust. Mr. DeVoy represented that he had left a voice mail for Ms. Hanks confirming the time of the December 1, 2015 hearing on the late afternoon before, November 30, 2015.

## II. Legal Analysis

The Court grants in part, and denies in part, both the Trust's Motion to Retax Costs, and Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs. As set forth below, the Court awards Malek a total of \$25,986.00 in Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Additionally, the Court sanctions the Trust \$500 for conduct requiring more than one hearing for Malek's counsel to argue the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

### A. The Trust's Motion to Retax Malek's Memorandum of Costs

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Trust filed its Notice of Hearing for the October 22, 2015 hearing on these motions, pursuant to its request for hearing, on October 14, 2015.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> It was not until the hearing that the Trust became aware there was an issue with filing of the Opposition, as the Trust counsel believed it had been filed.

The Trust's Motion to Retax Malek's Costs is granted to the extent it seeks to disallow a full reimbursement of the funds paid to Craig Jiu in connection with his deposition. Additionally, the mutually agreed-upon costs of private mediation that Malek sought in his memorandum of costs cannot be imposed on the Trust. All other costs in Malek's memorandum of costs are reasonably and necessarily incurred incident to this litigation, and the Court exercises its jurisdiction to award them to Malek in the amount of \$7,568.50.

### B. Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs

The Court grants in part Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs under NRS 18.010(2)(b) on the basis that the Trust lacked reasonable grounds to maintain this litigation, even if it initially had reasonable grounds to file suit. Based on the facts and law presented in Malek's Motion for Summary Judgment filed on April 16, 2015, it was unreasonable for the Trust to maintain this litigation against him from that date onward. Having reviewed the requested fees and Trust's Opposition<sup>3</sup> to Malek's motion, the Court finds Malek's requested fees from April 17, 2015 until the date of the Motion's filing, for a total of \$18,417.50, to be reasonably incurred. The Court therefore awards attorneys' fees to Malek in the amount of \$18,417.50, as they were incurred after the Trust lacked reasonable grounds to maintain this action against him.

### C. Sanctions

The Court's inherent powers include the orderly administration of cases before it. Because of the delayed hearing on Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and then the Trust's failure to appear at the scheduled December 1, 2015 hearing, the Court exercises its discretion to impose a monetary sanction on the Trust.<sup>4</sup> The Court's sanction upon the Trust shall be in the amount of \$500.00, based on a calculation of the two hours Mr. DeVoy waited for this matter to be called and heard on the December 1, 2015 hearing date, calculated based on the \$250 per hour rate submitted in Malek's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs.

This sanction is imposed on the trust itself, as a party, and not upon its counsel.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED 4 5 6 DISTRICT JUDGE 7 8 Respectfully Sabmitted: Approved in content and form by: 9 10 Preston P. Rezaee aren Hanks 11 Nevada Bar No. 10729 Nevada Bar No. 9578 Jay DeVoy, of counsel Howard Kim & Associates 12 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110 Nevada Bar No. 11950 Henderson, NV 89014 13 Sarah Chavez, of counsel Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterclaim Nevada Bar No. 11935 14 THE FIRM, P.C. Defendant. 200 E. Charleston Blvd. The Fredric and Barbara Living Trust 15 Las Vegas, NV 89104 Telephone: (702) 222-3476 16 Facsimile: (702) 252-3476 17 Attorneys for Defendant/Counterclaimant. Shahin Shane Malek 18 Approved in content and form by: Approved in content and form by: 19 20 21 J. Randall Jones Darren Brenner Nevada Bar No. 1927 Nevada Bar No. 8386 22 Spencer H. Gunnerson Steven Shevorski Nevada Bar No. 8810 Nevada Bar No. 8256 23 Kemp, Jones & Coulthard William Habdas 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, 17th Floor Nevada Bar No. 13138 24 Las Vegas, NV 89169 Akerman LLP 25 Attorneys for Defendants 1160 Town Center Drive, Suite 330 MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, Las Vegas, NV 89144 26 Michael Doiron, and Attorneys for Defendants FHP Ventures Bank of America N.A. and BAC Home Loans 27 (formerly The Foothills Partners). Servicing, LP.

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It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Malek be awarded and

entitled to \$7,568.50 in costs, \$18,417.50 in his reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action, and a

sanction of \$500, against the Trust, in a total amount of \$26,486.00.

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It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Malek be awarded and 1 entitled to \$7,568.50 in costs, \$18,417.50 in his reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action, and a 2 sanction of \$500, against the Trust, in a total amount of \$26,486.00. 3 IT IS SO ORDERED 4 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2015 5 6 DISTRICT JUDGE 7 8 Approved in content and form by: Respectfully Submitted: 9 10 Karen Hanks Preston P. Rezaee 11 Nevada Bar No. 9578 Nevada Bar No. 10729 Howard Kim & Associates Jay DeVoy, of counsel 12 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110 Nevada Bar No. 11950 Henderson, NV 89014 Sarah Chavez, of counsel 13 Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterclaim Nevada Bar No. 11935 14 Defendant, THE FIRM, P.C. The Fredric and Barbara Living Trust 200 E. Charleston Blvd. 15 Las Vegas, NV 89104 Telephone: (702) 222-3476 16 Facsimile: (702) 252-3476 Attorneys for Defendant/Counterclaimant, 17 Shahin Shane Malek 18 Approved in content and form by: Approved in content and form by: 19 20 Darren Brenner 21 J. Randall Jones Nevada Bar No. 8386 Nevada Bar No. 1927 22 Steven Shevorski Spencer/H. Gunnerson Nevada Bar No. 8256 Nevada Bar No. 8810 23 William Habdas Kemp, Jones & Coulthard Nevada Bar No. 13138 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, 17th Floor 24 Akerman LLP Las Vegas, NV 89169 1160 Town Center Drive, Suite 330 25 Attorneys for Defendants Las Vegas, NV 89144 MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 26 Attorneys for Defendants Michael Doiron, and Bank of America N.A. and BAC Home Loans FHP Ventures

Servicing, LP.

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(formerly The Foothills Partners).

1	It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUIT	OGED, AND DECREED that Malek be awarded and
2		is reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action, and a
3	sanction of \$500, against the Trust, in a total a	amount of \$26,486.00.
4	IT IS SO ORDERED	
5	Dated:, 2015	
6		Promotor II ID CIP
7		DISTRICT JUDGE
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9	Respectfully Submitted:	Approved in content and form by:
10		
11	Preston P. Rezaee Nevada/Bar No. 10729	Karen Hanks Nevada Bar No. 9578
12	Jay DeVoy, of counsel	Howard Kim & Associates
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13	Sarah Chavez, of counsel	Henderson, NV 89014
14	Nevada Bar No. 11935	Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterclaim
14	THE FIRM, P.C.	Defendant,
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17	Attorneys for Defendant/Counterclaimant,	,
18	Shahin Shane Malek	
	A	A
19	Approved in content and form by:	Approved in content and form by:
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	June Hum	
21	J Randall Jones Nevada Bar No. 1927	Darren Brenner Nevada Bar No. 8386
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	Attorneys for Defendants MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC,	Las Vegas, NV 89144
26	Michael Doiron, and	Attorneys for Defendants
27	FHP Ventures	Bank of America N.A. and BAC Home Loans
	(formerly The Foothills Partners).	Servicing, LP.
28		

It is therefore ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Malek be awarded and 1 entitled to \$7,568.50 in costs, \$18,417.50 in his reasonable attorneys' fees incurred in this action, and a 2 sanction of \$500, against the Trust, in a total amount of \$26,486.00. 3 IT IS SO ORDERED 4 Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_, 2015 5 6 DISTRICT JUDGE 7 8 Respectfully Submitted: Approved in content and form by: 9 10 Preston P. Kezaee Karen Hanks 11 Nevada Bár No. 10729 Nevada Bar No. 9578 Howard Kim & Associates Jay DeVoy, of counsel 12 1055 Whitney Ranch Drive, Suite 110 Nevada Bar No. 11950 13 Sarah Chavez, of counsel Henderson, NV 89014 Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterclaim Nevada Bar No. 11935 14 THE FIRM, P.C. Defendant, The Fredric and Barbara Living Trust 200 E. Charleston Blvd. 15 Las Vegas, NV 89104 Telephone: (702) 222-3476 16 Facsimile: (702) 252-3476 17 Attorneys for Defendant/Counterclaimant, Shahin Shane Malek 18 Approved in content and form by: Approved in content and form by: 19 20 21 J. Randall Jones Darren Brenner Nevada/Bar No. 1927 Nevada Bar No. 8386 22 Spencer H. Gunnerson Steven Shevorski Nevada Bar No. 8810 Nevada Bar No. 8256 23 Kemp, Jones & Coulthard William Habdas 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, 17th Floor Nevada Bar No. 13138 24 Las Vegas, NV 89169 Akerman LLP 25 1160 Town Center Drive, Suite 330 Attorneys for Defendants MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, Las Vegas, NV 89144 26 Michael Doiron, and Attorneys for Defendants Bank of America N.A. and BAC Home Loans FHP Ventures 27 (formerly The Foothills Partners). Servicing, LP. 28

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CLERK OF THE COURT

-1-

The FREDRIC AND BARBARA ROSENBERG LIVING TRUST, by and through its counsel of record, Kim Gilbert Ebron, hereby appeals the following:

The Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Judgment on
 Defendant/Counterclaimant Shahin Shane Malek's Motion for Summary Judgment, entered on
 August 13, 2015; and

2. All other orders made appealable thereby.

DATED this 23th day of May, 2016.

#### KIM GILBERT EBRON

/s/Jacqueline A. Gilbert
HOWARD C. KIM, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 10386
JACQUELINE A. GILBERT, ESQ.
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Attorneys for Plaintiff

# KIM GILBERT EBRON 7625 DEAN MARTIN DRIVE, SUITE 110 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89139 (702) 485-3300 FAX (702) 485-3301

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 23th day of May, 2016, pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I served, via the Eighth Judicial District Court electronic filing system, the foregoing NOTICE OF APPEAL, to the following parties:

	Select All Select None		
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Steven G. Shevorski, Esq.	steven shevorski@akerman.com	1	Ø
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An Employee of Howard Kim & Associates