

1 **IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**
2 **CASE NO. 70504**

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5 JAMES NALDER, GUARDIAN AD LITEM ON BEHALF OF
6 CHEYANNE NALDER; AND GARY LEWIS, INDIVIDUALLY
7
8 _____
9 Elizabeth A. Brown
10 Clerk of Supreme Court

6 Appellants,

7 v.

8 UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY,
9

10 Respondent,
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13 **RESPONDENT'S RESPONSE TO APPELLANTS' MOTION TO STAY**
14 **BRIEFING PENDING THIS COURT'S DECISION ON APPELLANTS'**
15 **MOTION TO STRIKE PORTIONS OF RESPONDENT'S**
16 **SUPPLEMENTAL ANSWERING BRIEF TO SECOND CERTIFIED**
17 **QUESTION AND APPENDIX**
18
19

20 Thomas E. Winner, Esq.
21 Matthew J. Douglas, Esq.
22 ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD
23 1117 South Rancho Drive
24 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

20 Thomas E. Scott, Esq.
21 Scott A. Cole, Esq.
22 COLE, SCOTT & KISSANE, P.A.
23 9150 South Dadeland Boulevard
24 Suite 1400
25 Miami, Florida 33156

1 **NRAP 26.1 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

2 The undersigned counsel of record certifies that the following are the persons
3 and entities as described in NRAP 26.1(a)(1), and must be disclosed. These
4 representations are made in order that the justices of this Court may evaluate possible
5 disqualification or recusal:
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7 Atkin, Winner & Sherrod – counsel for United Automobile Insurance
8 Company

9 Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A. – counsel for United Automobile Insurance
10 Company

11 Matthew J. Douglas, Esq. – Atkin, Winner & Sherrod

12 Scott A. Cole, Esq. – Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.

13 Thomas E. Scott, Esq. – Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.


14 Thomas E. Winner, Esq. – Atkin, Winner & Sherrod

15 **Dated this 18th day of December, 2018.**

16
17 **COLE, SCOTT & KISSANE, P.A.**

18 /s/ Thomas E. Scott
19 **Thomas E. Scott, Esq.**
20 Florida Bar No.: 149100
21 **Scott A. Cole, Esq.**
22 Florida Bar No.: 885630
23 9150 South Dadeland Boulevard
24 Suite 1400
25 Miami, FL 33156
26 *Counsel for Respondent*

17 **ATKIN, WINNER & SHERROD**

18 
19 Matthew J. Douglas, Esq.
20 Nevada Bar No. 11371
21 Thomas E. Winner, Esq.
22 1117 South Rancho Drive
23 Las Vegas, NV 89102
24 *Counsel for Respondent*

1 Respondent, UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY
2 (“UAIC”), by and through its Counsel of Record, Matthew J. Douglas, Esq. of Atkin
3 Winner and Sherrod and Thomas E. Scott, Esq., of Cole Scott & Kissane, P.A.,
4 hereby files this Response in Opposition to Appellants’ Motion to Stay Briefing
5 pending this Court’s decision on Appellants’ Motion to Strike Portions of
6 Respondent’s Supplemental Answering Brief to Second Certified Question and
7 Appendix and states as follows:
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10 1. Appellants are requesting that this Court *indefinitely* stay briefing in
11 this matter pending this Court’s decision on Appellants’ Motion to Strike Portions
12 of Respondent’s Supplemental Answering Brief to Second Certified Question and
13 Appendix.
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16 2. UAIC has filed a separate Response in Opposition to Appellants’
17 Motion to Strike Portions of Respondent’s Supplemental Answering Brief to Second
18 Certified Question and Appendix, which it adopts and incorporates by reference
19 herein.
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21 3. In addition to its arguments in opposition to Appellants’ Motion to
22 Strike, UAIC further objects to Appellants’ request for a stay because Appellants
23 have engaged in gamesmanship tactics which should not be condoned by this Court.
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25 4. As UAIC noted in its Supplemental Answering Brief to Second
26 Certified Question, Appellants’ counsel Mr. Christensen and his co-counsel
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1 requested multiple extensions of time to file their Opening Brief with this Court on
2 the question of the expired judgment. On each request, Mr. Christensen and his co-
3 counsel asserted that the extension was not sought for any improper purpose or for
4 the purpose of delay and, out of professional courtesy, UAIC agreed and did not
5 oppose said extension requests.
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8 5. Unbeknownst to UAIC, however, Appellants had secretly begun
9 proceedings to try to “fix” the expired default judgment during the time period in
10 which extensions on the Opening Brief were being sought by Appellants. Had UAIC
11 known of these secret tactics earlier it would have opposed Appellants’ previous
12 extensions as it is clear now that Appellants were merely abusing this professional
13 courtesy in an attempt to alter the default judgment and proceedings below.
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16 6. Now, Appellants seek not only to strike any reference by UAIC to these
17 subsequent efforts to “fix” the expired judgment, but also to *indefinitely* stay briefing
18 in this matter until such time as this Court rules on their Motion to Strike, thereby
19 obtaining even more time to continue to pursue these efforts while simultaneously
20 depriving this Court of its rightful jurisdiction to determine the Second Certified
21 Question. Such machinations constitute not only an attempt to improperly alter a
22 proceeding before this Court but also an attempt at forum shopping.
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25 7. This Court has harshly criticized tactical gamesmanship from attorneys
26 on procedural matters, stating that it “tarnish[es] the concept of impartial justice.”
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1 *See Millen v. Eighth Judicial District Court*, 122 Nev. 1245, 1257, 148 P.3d 694,
2 702 (2006). This Court has also directly addressed the issue of gamesmanship and
3 dilatory conduct in the context of filing briefs with the Court. In *Dias v. State*, 95
4 Nev. 719, 601 P.2d 706 (1979), when a respondent filed an answering brief three
5 days later despite numerous extensions, this Court expressed its “strong disapproval
6 of such dilatory conduct,” *id.* at 709, but nevertheless allowed the late filing as “no
7 prejudice to the appellant appears.” Here, in contrast, UAIC has been prejudiced by
8 having to defend against Appellants’ improper subsequent efforts to “fix” the
9 expired judgment. To grant Appellants’ Motion to Stay Briefing under these
10 circumstances would be to condone behavior which has been universally
11 reprimanded. Appellants should not be permitted to further delay proceedings
12 before this Court.

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17 8. Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, as well as those stated in
18 UAIC’s Response in Opposition to Appellants’ Motion to Strike Portions of
19 Respondent’s Supplemental Answering Brief to Second Certified Question and
20 Appendix, which it adopts and incorporates by reference herein, UAIC respectfully
21 urges this Court to deny Appellants’ Motion to Stay Briefing pending this Court’s
22 decision on Appellants’ Motion to Strike Portions of Respondent’s Supplemental
23 Answering Brief to Second Certified Question and Appendix.
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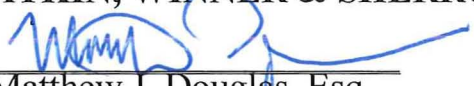
1 WHEREFORE, Respondent respectfully requests that this Court denying
2 Appellants' Motion to Stay Briefing pending this Court's decision on Appellants'
3 Motion to Strike Portions of Respondent's Supplemental Answering Brief to Second
4 Certified Question and Appendix.
5

6 **Dated this 18th day of December, 2018.**
7

8 **COLE, SCOTT & KISSANE, P.A.**

9 /s/ Thomas E. Scott
10 **Thomas E. Scott, Esq.**
11 Florida Bar No.: 149100
12 **Scott A. Cole, Esq.**
13 Florida Bar No.: 885630
14 9150 South Dadeland Boulevard
15 Suite 1400
16 Miami, FL 33156
17 *Counsel for Respondent*

8 **ATKIN, WINNER & SHERROD**

9 
10 Matthew J. Douglas, Esq.
11 Nevada Bar No. 11371
12 Thomas E. Winner, Esq.
13 1117 South Rancho Drive
14 Las Vegas, NV 89102
15 *Counsel for Respondent*

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Richard Christensen, Esq.
Thomas Christensen
CHRISTENSEN LAW OFFICES
1000 S. Valley View Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89107

Dennis M. Prince, Esq.
Kevin T. Strong, Esq.
EGLET PRINCE
400 South 7th Street, 4th Floor
Las Vegas, NV 89101

ATKIN, WINNER & SHERROD

Matthew J. Douglas, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11371
Thomas E. Winner, Esq.
1117 South Rancho Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Counsel for Respondent