FILED
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CV16-00976
2018-03-08 02:47:56 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6568327 : yviloria

\$2515 1 NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK 2 Nevada Bar No. 6170 NWieczorek@clarkhill.com 3 JEREMY J. THOMPSON 4 Nevada Bar No. 12503 JThompson@clarkhill.com 5 COLLEEN E. MCCARTY Nevada Bar No. 13186 6 CMcCarty@clarkhill.com 7 CLARK HILL PLLC 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 500 8 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Telephone: (702) 862-8300 Facsimile: (702) 862-8400 10 Attorneys for Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC 11 12 13

AND ALL RELATED CASES.

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Electronically Filed Mar 12 2018 03:33 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

GENEVA M. REMMERDE

Plaintiff,

Vs.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et al

Defendants.

Case No.: CV16-00976
Dept. No.: 10

NOTICE OF APPEAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC ("MDB"), by and through its counsel of record Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq., Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq. and Colleen E. McCarty, Esq. of the law firm of Clark Hill PLLC, hereby appeals to the Supreme Court of Nevada from the Order granting Defendant/Cross-Claimant/Cross-Defendant Versa Products Company Inc.'s Motion to Strike Defendant/Cross-Claimant/Cross-Defendant MDB Trucking, LLC's Cross-Claim Pursuant to NRCP 35; or in the Alternative, for an

1	Adverse Jury Instruction, entered in this action on the 2 nd day of February, 2018.		
2	DATED this day of March, 2018		
3			
4	CLARK HILL PLLC		
5	By: allen E. Ihle		
6	NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK		
7	Nevada Bar No. 6170 JEREMY J. THOMPSON		
8	Nevada Bar No. 12503		
9	COLLEEN E. MCCARTY Nevada Bar No. 13186		
10	3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 500		
	Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Claimant		
11	MDB Trucking, LLC		
12			
13	<u>AFFIRMATION</u>		
14	Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned hereby affirms that this document filed in		
15	this court does not contain the social security number of any person.		
16	DATED this day of March, 2018.		
17			
18	CLARK HILL PLLC		
19	By: Oller E. Milant		
20	NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK		
21	Nevada Bar No. 6170 JEREMY J. THOMPSON		
22	Nevada Bar No. 12503		
23	COLLEEN E. MCCARTY Nevada Bar No. 13186		
	3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 500		
24	Las Vegas, Nevada 89169		
25	Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC		
26			
27			
28			

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of CLARK HILL PLLC, and on this 8th day of March 2018, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **NOTICE OF APPEAL** was served via electronic service upon the following:

JOSH COLE AICKLEN, ESQ.
DAVID B. AVAKIAN, ESQ.
PAIGE S. SHREVE, ESQ.
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP
6385 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 600
Las. Vegas, Nevada 89118
Attorneys for Defendant
VERSA PRODUCTS CO., INC.

An employee of Clark Hill PLLC

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Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
ransaction # 6568349 : vvilor

1 Transaction # 6568349 : yviloria 1310 NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK Nevada Bar No. 6170 Email: NWieczorek@clarkhill.com JEREMY J. THOMPSON 4 Nevada Bar No. 12503 Email: JThompson@clarkhill.com COLLEEN E. MCCARTY Nevada Bar No. 13186 6 Email: CMcCarty@clarkhill.com 7 **CLARK HILL PLLC** 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 500 8 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Telephone: (702) 862-8300 Facsimile: (702) 862-8400 10 Attorneys for Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC 11 SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 12 13 WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA 14 Case No.: CV16-00976 GENEVA M. REMMERDE 15 Dept. No.: Plaintiff. 16 VS. CASE APPEAL STATEMENT 17 MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et al 18 Defendants. 19 AND ALL RELATED CASES. 20 21 Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC ("MDB"), by and through its counsel of record 22 Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq., Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq. and Colleen E. McCarty, Esq. of the 23 law firm of Clark Hill PLLC, hereby submits its Case Appeal Statement, pursuant to Rule 3(f)(3) 24 25 of the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure, as follows: 26 27 28

(E) Whether an attorney identified in response to subparagraph (D) is not licensed to practice law in Nevada, and if so, whether the district court granted that attorney permission to appear under SCR 42, including a copy of any district court order granting that permission:

Not applicable.

(F) Whether the appellant was represented by appointed counsel in the district court, and whether the appellant is represented by appointed counsel on appeal:

Not applicable.

(G) Whether the district court granted the appellant leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and if so, the date of the district court's order granting that leave:

Not applicable.

(H) The date that the proceedings commenced in the district court:

MDB Trucking, LLC filed its Third Party Complaint against Versa Products Company, Inc. and RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc., f/k/a Ranch Manufacturing Company (subsequently dismissed party) in the district court on June 22, 2016. The original filing date for the above-captioned Case No. CV16-00976 was May 2, 2016.

(I) A brief description of the nature of the action and result in the district court, including the type of judgment or order being appealed and the relief granted by the district court:

This case arises from a personal injury action. A complaint was filed by Ernest and Carol Fitzsimmons on December 4, 2015, *Fitzsimmons v. MDB Trucking, LLC, et al.*, Second Judicial District Court Case No. CV15-02349 (the "Fitzsimmons Action"). Numerous other plaintiffs were consolidated into the Fitzsimmons Action. Two additional cases, the instant matter and one other, were filed outside of the Fitzsimmons Action. The personal injury claims all related to multiple traffic accidents which occurred when a semi-trailer owned and operated by MDB Trucking, LLC ("MDB") inadvertently dumped a load of gravel on the freeway.

2.0

In the instant case being appealed, the Third Party Complaint at issue filed by MDB is one for Contribution from Versa Products Company, Inc. ("Versa"). On May 15, 2017, Versa filed a Motion to Strike MDB's Third Party Complaint, pursuant to NRCP 37, wherein it sought sanctions for the alleged spoliation of evidence. Following briefing and a hearing on August 29, 2017 in the Fitzsimmons Action, the District Court issued an Order dated September 22, 2017 in which it found "there would be some sanctions levied on MDB for their discovery abuse: the actual sanction was not determined." The District Court's Order set the matter for evidentiary hearing and further stated "Each party will be familiar with *Young*, *supra*, *Nevada Power*, *supra*, and their progeny and present witnesses in support of their respective positions." The District Court issued its September 22, 2017 Order without discussion of the Supreme Court's holding in *Bass-Davis v. Davis*, 122 Nev. 442, 134 P.3d 103 (2006).

The District Court held the evidentiary hearing to determine what sanctions to issue against MDB on October 13, 2017. At the conclusion of the hearing the District Court informed the parties that Versa's Motion to Strike would be granted and that case concluding sanctions would be imposed. Thereafter the District Court vacated the October 30, 2017 trial date in the Fitzsimmons Action, and took the matter under submission. At the time it granted case concluding sanctions and vacated the trial date pending shortly thereafter, the District Court had nineteen (19) pre-trial motions under advisement.

The District Court subsequently entered its final written Order in the Fitzsimmons Action on December 8, 2017. Thereafter, in the instant matter, the District Court issued an Order dated January 22, 2018 which held that the aforementioned Order in the Fitzsimmons Action shall be considered dispositive herein as "[t]he issues are identical, as are the relevant parties." Versa

¹ This matter is also pending before the Supreme Court, styled as MDB Trucking, LLC v. Versa Products Company, Inc., Supreme Court Case No. 75022.

1	served MDB with Notice of Entry of the District Court's Order on February 8, 2018, and MDB's			
2	timely appeal followed. In imposing case concluding sanctions pursuant to NRCP 37, the			
3	District Court again failed to consider the Supreme Court's long-standing spoliation of evidence			
4 5	jurisprudence, including the limitations on the degree of sanctions to be imposed for negligent			
6	spoliation of evidence under <i>Bass-Davis v. Davis</i> .			
7	(J) Whether the case has previously been the subject of an appeal to or original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals and, if so, the caption and docket number of the prior proceeding.			
9	Not applicable.			
11	(K) Whether this appeal involves child custody or visitation:			
12	Not applicable.			
13	(L) Whether this appeal involves the possibility of settlement:			
14	Yes.			
15	DATED this Am day of March, 2018.			
17	CLARK HILL PLLC			
18	By: Collen E. Malast			
19	NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK			
20	Nevada Bar No. 6170 JEREMY J. THOMPSON			
21	Nevada Bar No. 12503 COLLEEN E. MCCARTY			
23	Nevada Bar No. 13186 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 500			
24	Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Claimant			
25	MDB Trucking, LLC			
26				
27				
28				

AFFIRMATION

Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned hereby affirms that this document filed in this court does not contain the social security number of any person.

DATED this game day of March, 2018

CLARK HILL PLLC

NICHOLAS M WIECZOPE

Nevada Bar No. 6170

JEREMY J. THOMPSON

Nevada Bar No. 12503

COLLEEN E. MCCARTY

Nevada Bar No. 13186

3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 500

Las Vegas, Nevada 89169

Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Claimant

MDB Trucking, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of Clark Hill PLLC, and that on this _____ day of March, 2018, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing CASE APPEAL STATEMENT via electronic means, by operation of the Court's electronic filing system upon each party in this case who is registered as an electronic case filing user with the Clerk, or by U.S. Mail, postage prepaid thereon, to:

JOSH COLE AICKLEN, ESQ.
DAVID B. AVAKIAN, ESQ.
PAIGE S. SHREVE, ESQ.
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD
& SMITH LLP
6385 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 600
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Attorneys for Defendant
VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.

An employee of Clark Hill PLLC

SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT STATE OF NEVADA COUNTY OF WASHOE

Case History - CV16-00976

Case Description: GENEVA M. REMMERDE VS. MDB TRUCKING ETAL (D10)

Case Number: CV16-00976 Case Type: AUTO - Initially Filed On: 5/2/2016

Partie	s
Party Type & Name	Party Status
JUDG - ELLIOTT A. SATTLER - D10	Active
PLTF - GENEVA M REMMERDE - @1292731	Active
DEFT - DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI - @1123354	Active
DEFT - MDB TRUCKING, LLC - @1280259	Active
3DEF - DRAGON ESP, LTD @1294651	Active
3DEF - RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC @1293583	Active
3DEF - THE MODERN GROUP GP-SUB, INC - @1294650	Active
ATTY - Sarah Marie Quigley, Esq 11518	Active
ATTY - Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq 12503	Active
ATTY - Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq 6170	Active
ATTY - Jessica Woelfel, Esq 11885	Active
ATTY - Colleen E. McCarty, Esq 13186	Active
ATTY - Josh Cole Aicklen, Esq 7254	Active
ATTY - Matthew Christopher Addison, Esq 4201	Active
ATTY - Jacob D. Bundick, Esq 9772	Active
ATTY - Katherine F. Parks, Esq 6227	Active
ATTY - Kathleen A. Sigurdson, Esq 6823	Party ended on: 10/25/2016 12:00:00AM
ATTY - Brian M. Brown, Esq 5233	Active
ATTY - Thierry Vincent Barkley, Esq 724	Active
Disposed He	arings

- Department: D10 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 8/10/2016 at 15:36:00

 Extra Event Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S Event Disposition: S200 9/21/2016
- Department: D10 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 9/8/2016 at 09:04:00 Extra Event Text: MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT (NO ORDER)

Event Disposition: S200 - 10/26/2016

3 Department: D10 -- Event: STATUS HEARING -- Scheduled Date & Time: 11/4/2016 at 09:00:00

Extra Event Text: STATUS HEARING (1 HOUR)(COURT REPORTER NEEDED)

Event Disposition: D435 - 11/4/2016

Department: D10 -- Event: STATUS HEARING -- Scheduled Date & Time: 12/16/2016 at 15:00:00

Event Disposition: D435 - 12/16/2016

Department: D10 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 6/6/2017 at 16:07:00

Extra Event Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AGAINST DEFENDANT/THIRD-PA

Event Disposition: S200 - 6/28/2017

6 Department: D10 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 7/17/2017 at 16:54:00

Extra Event Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AGANIST DEFENDANT/THIRD PAI Event Disposition: S200 - 8/1/2017

7 Department: D10 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 8/3/2017 at 16:12:00

Extra Event Text: VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING PRODUCTION FOR TRADE SECRET DOCUMENT: Event Disposition: S200 - 8/9/2017

8 Department: D10 -- Event: PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE -- Scheduled Date & Time: 10/5/2017 at 14:00:00

Extra Event Text: PRETRIAL CONFERENCE (TRIAL SET FOR OCTOBER 30, 2017)(1/2 HOUR)

Event Disposition: D870 - 11/29/2016

9 Department: D10 -- Event: TRIAL - JURY -- Scheduled Date & Time: 10/30/2017 at 08:30:00

Extra Event Text: NO. 1 SETTING-JURY TRIAL-PERSONAL INJURY MATTER (5 DAYS)

Event Disposition: D870 - 11/29/2016

10 Department: D10 -- Event: PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE -- Scheduled Date & Time: 12/1/2017 at 10:00:00

Extra Event Text: PRETRIAL CONFERENCE (TRIAL SET FOR JANUARY 22, 2018)(1 HOUR)

Event Disposition: D845 - 12/1/2017

11 Department: D10 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 12/12/2017 at 16:05:00

Extra Event Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDA

Event Disposition: S200 - 1/22/2018

12 Department: D10 -- Event: TRIAL - JURY -- Scheduled Date & Time: 1/22/2018 at 08:30:00

Extra Event Text: NO. 1 SETTING-JURY TRIAL-PERSONAL INJURY MATTER (5 DAYS)

Event Disposition: D870 - 12/5/2017

Actions

Filing Date - Docket Code & Description

1 5/2/2016 - \$1425 - \$Complaint - Civil

Additional Text: Transaction 5494076 - Approved By: MFERNAND: 05-02-2016:14:35:51

2 5/2/2016 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$260.00 was made on receipt DCDC538769.

3 5/3/2016 - 4090 - ** Summons Issued

Additional Text: (2)

4 5/27/2016 - 4085 - Summons Filed

Additional Text: DANIEL ANTHONY - 5/19/16 - Transaction 5536424 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 05-27-2016:11:31:25

5 5/27/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5536603 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 05-27-2016:11:33:13

6 6/8/2016 - 1130 - Answer ...

Additional Text: THIERRY V BARKLEY FOR MDB TRUCKING LLC AND DANIEL A KOSKI - Transaction 5552708 - Approved By: SWOLFE : 06-08-2016:13:13:17

7 6/8/2016 - \$1560 - \$Def 1st Appearance - CV

Additional Text: MDB TRUCKING LLC - Transaction 5552708 - Approved By: SWOLFE: 06-08-2016:13:13:17

- 8 6/8/2016 \$DEFT \$Addl Def/Answer Prty/Appear
 - Additional Text: DANIEL A KOSKI Transaction 5552708 Approved By: SWOLFE: 06-08-2016:13:13:17
- 9 6/8/2016 PAYRC **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$243.00 was made on receipt DCDC542667.

- 10 6/8/2016 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5552797 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-08-2016:13:14:18
- 11 6/8/2016 1580 Demand for Jury

Additional Text: Transaction 5552960 - Approved By: PMSEWELL: 06-08-2016:14:53:33

- 12 6/8/2016 JF **First Day Jury Fees Deposit
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5552960 Approved By: PMSEWELL: 06-08-2016:14:53:33
- 13 6/8/2016 PAYRC **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$320.00 was made on receipt DCDC542693.

- 14 6/8/2016 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5553155 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-08-2016:14:54:34
- 15 6/9/2016 4085 Summons Filed

Additional Text: CAROLINA GRALICIN RA FOR MDB TRUCKING 6/02/16 - Transaction 5554278 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 06-09-2016: 11:15:56

- 16 6/9/2016 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5554620 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-09-2016:11:18:44
- 17 6/9/2016 3840 Request Exemption Arbitration

Additional Text: DEFENDANT'S (DANIEL A KOSKI) REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM COURT ANNEXED ARBITRATION PROGRAM-Transaction 5555644 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 06-09-2016:16:10:58

- 18 6/9/2016 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5556037 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-09-2016:16:12:29
- 19 6/22/2016 \$4180 \$Third Party Complaint
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5574280 Approved By: RKWATKIN: 06-22-2016:13:05:40
- 20 6/22/2016 1130 Answer ...
 - Additional Text: ANSWER TO COMPLAINT Transaction 5574284 Approved By: RKWATKIN: 06-22-2016:13:34:41
- 21 6/22/2016 PAYRC **Payment Receipted
 - Additional Text: A Payment of \$135.00 was made on receipt DCDC544068.
- 22 6/22/2016 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5574494 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-22-2016:13:06:40
- 23 6/22/2016 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 5574595 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-22-2016:13:35:29
- 24 6/23/2016 4090 ** Summons Issued
 - Additional Text: X4
- 25 6/24/2016 4085 Summons Filed
 - $Additional\ Text:\ MATTHEW\ ADDISON\ -\ 6/24/16\ -\ Transaction\ 5579583\ -\ Approved\ By:\ RKWATKIN\ :\ 06-24-2016:14:57:12$

26 6/24/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5579627 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-24-2016:14:58:11

27 6/24/2016 - 1356 - Certificate of Mailing

Additional Text: TO MATTHEW ADDISON, ESQ, JESSICA WOEFEL, ESQ AND JOSH AICKLEN, DAVID AVAKIAN ON 6/24/16 - Transaction 5579744 - Approved By: SWOLFE: 06-24-2016:16:40:10

28 6/24/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5579833 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-24-2016:16:41:07

29 7/5/2016 - 4085 - Summons Filed

Additional Text: GREGORY CAMPISI OBO VERSA PRODUCTS - 6/27/16 - Transaction 5592389 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 07-05-201 6:13:02:36

30 7/5/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5592748 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-05-2016:13:03:31

31 7/5/2016 - 3975 - Statement ...

Additional Text: DEFENDANT'S (MDB TRUCKING, LLC) NRCP 7.1 CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT - Transaction 5592919 - Approved By: TBRITTON: 07-05-2016:15:46:23

32 7/5/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5593345 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-05-2016:15:47:13

33 7/7/2016 - A120 - Exemption from Arbitration

Additional Text: Transaction 5596876 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-07-2016:09:46:03

34 7/7/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5596878 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-07-2016:09:46:51

35 7/12/2016 - 3696 - Pre-Trial Order

Additional Text: Transaction 5603702 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-12-2016:11:06:57

36 7/12/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5603713 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-12-2016:11:10:00

37 7/14/2016 - 1165 - Answer Third Party Complaint

Additional Text: Transaction 5607744 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 07-14-2016:09:50:32

38 7/14/2016 - \$1560 - \$Def 1st Appearance - CV

Additional Text: RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC - Transaction 5607744 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 07-14-2016:09:50:32

39 7/14/2016 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$213.00 was made on receipt DCDC546303.

40 7/14/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5608007 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-14-2016:09:52:14

41 7/18/2016 - 1817 - Initial Appear. Fee Disclosure

Additional Text: Transaction 5614156 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 07-19-2016:08:26:10

42 7/18/2016 - \$1560 - \$Def 1st Appearance - CV

Additional Text: VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. - Transaction 5614156 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 07-19-2016:08:26:10

43 7/19/2016 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$213.00 was made on receipt DCDC546657.

44 7/19/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5614385 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-19-2016:08:27:03

45 7/19/2016 - 2315 - Mtn to Dismiss ...

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFF, MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP12(B)(5) - Transaction 5614508 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 07-19-2016:09:56:34

46 7/19/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5614703 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-19-2016:09:57:27

47 7/29/2016 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ...

Additional Text: OPPOSITION TO THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT'S [VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.] MOTIONS TO DISMISS - Transaction 5634033 - Approved By: TBRITTON: 07-29-2016:13:18:23

48 7/29/2016 - 2275 - Mtn to Consolidate

Additional Text: PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE ENTIRE CASE - Transaction 5634135 - Approved By: CSULEZIC : 07-29-2016: 14-17-08

49 7/29/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5634321 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-29-2016:13:19:23

50 7/29/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5634529 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-29-2016:14:18:15

51 8/1/2016 - 2315 - Mtn to Dismiss ...

Additional Text: THIRD PARTY DEFENDANT THE MODERN GROUP GP-SUB, INC.'S AND DRAGON ESP LTD.'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT - Transaction 5636778 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 08-02-2016:08:28:03

52 8/1/2016 - \$1560 - \$Def 1st Appearance - CV

Additional Text: THE MODERN GROUP GP-SUB, INC - Transaction 5636778 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 08-02-2016:08:28:03

53 8/2/2016 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$213.00 was made on receipt DCDC548259.

54 8/2/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5637080 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-02-2016:08:28:52

55 8/8/2016 - 3795 - Reply...

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP 12(B)(5) - Transaction 5647531 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 08-08-2016:16:53:07

56 8/8/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5648130 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-08-2016:16:55:07

57 8/10/2016 - 3860 - Request for Submission

Additional Text: Transaction 5652012 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 08-10-2016:15:36:15

DOCUMENT TITLE: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP 12(8)(5) (NO ORDER)

PARTY SUBMITTING: JOSH AICKLEN

DATE SUBMITTED: 8/10/16
SUBMITTED BY: RKWATKIN
DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:

58 8/10/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5652495 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-10-2016:15:37:04

- 59 8/15/2016 2645 Opposition to Mtn ...
 - Additional Text: 3RD PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC'S OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE ENTIRE CASE Transaction 5658911 Approved By: SWOLFE: 08-16-2016:10:30:24
- 60 8/16/2016 NEF Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5660277 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-16-2016:10:31:31

61 8/16/2016 - 1830 - Joinder...

Additional Text: DEFENDANTS' IMDB & DANIEL KOSKI JOINDER TO THIRD PARTY DEFENDANT'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE THE ENTIRE CASE - Transaction 5661523 - Approved By: TBRITTON: 08-17-2016:08:13:05

62 8/17/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5662071 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-17-2016:08:14:01

63 8/18/2016 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ...

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANTS' THE MODERN GROUP AND DRAGON ESP, LTD's MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT - Transaction 5666336 - Approved By: SWOLFE: 08-18-2016:15:42:44

64 8/18/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5666866 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-18-2016:15:43:42

65 8/23/2016 - 4301 - Withdrawal of Motion

Additional Text: PLAINTIFF'S WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE - Transaction 5673711 - Approved By: MFERNAND: 08-24-2016:08:37:53

66 8/24/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5674104 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-24-2016:08:38:53

67 8/29/2016 - 3795 - Reply...

Additional Text: Reply in Support of Third Party Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Third Party Complaint - Transaction 5682580 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 08-29-2016:16:55:33

68 8/29/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5683053 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-29-2016:16:57:18

69 8/30/2016 - 2529 - Notice of Early Case Conferenc

Additional Text: Transaction 5684539 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-30-2016:14:04:00

70 8/30/2016 - 2605 - Notice to Set

Additional Text: 9/26/16 @9:30 - Transaction 5684541 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 08-30-2016:15:13:36

71 8/30/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5684561 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-30-2016:14:07:15

72 8/30/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5685056 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-30-2016:15:14:55

73 8/31/2016 - 4085 - Summons Filed

Additional Text: THE MODERN GROUP 8/30/16 - Transaction 5686307 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 08-31-2016:13:13:33

74 8/31/2016 - 4085 - Summons Filed

Additional Text: RA CT CORPORATION SYSTEMS 8/30/16 - Transaction 5686322 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 08-31-2016:13:17:06

75 8/31/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5686696 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-31-2016:13:14:24

76 8/31/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5686718 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-31-2016:13:18:16

77 9/7/2016 - 3860 - Request for Submission

Additional Text: Transaction 5696618 - Approved By: RKWATKIN: 09-08-2016:09:02:50 DOCUMENT TITLE: MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT (NO ORDER)

PARTY SUBMITTING: JACOB BUNDICK, ESQ

DATE SUBMITTED: 9/8/16
SUBMITTED BY: RKWATKIN
DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:

78 9/8/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5696977 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-08-2016:09:04:06

79 9/21/2016 - 3105 - Ord Granting ...

Additional Text: ORDER GRANTING THIRD PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFF, MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP 12(B)(5). - Transaction 5719768 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-21-2016:17:01:45

80 9/21/2016 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet

No additional text exists for this entry.

81 9/21/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5719769 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-21-2016:17:03:55

82 9/23/2016 - 2540 - Notice of Entry of Ord

Additional Text: Transaction 5722889 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-23-2016:11:06:32

83 9/23/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5722893 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-23-2016:11:07:35

84 9/28/2016 - 1250E - Application for Setting eFile

Additional Text: FOR PRETRIAL CONFERENCE ON OCTOBER 5, 2017, AT 2:00 P.M. AND JURY TRIAL ON OCTOBER 30, 2017, AT 8:30 A.M. - Transaction 5730562 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-28-2016:12:57:00

85 9/28/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5730567 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-28-2016:12:57:52

86 10/10/2016 - 3370 - Order ...

Additional Text: [CONSOLIDATING CASE INTO CV15-02410 - ks] - Transaction 5749821 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-10-2016:16:42:35

87 10/10/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5749831 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-10-2016:16:44:09

88 10/11/2016 - 1485 - Corrected Judgment or Ord

Additional Text: Transaction 5750342 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-11-2016:09:50:13

89 10/11/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5750351 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-11-2016:09:51:34

90 10/11/2016 - 3242 - Ord Setting Hearing

Report Date & Time: 3/8/2018 at 4:24:03PM

Additional Text: ORDER SETTING JOINT STATUS HEARING FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2016, AT 9:00 A.M. - Transaction 5751641 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-11-2016:15:05:57

91 10/11/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5751644 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-11-2016:15:06:57

92 10/19/2016 - 1105 - Amended Ord and/or Judgment

Additional Text: AMENDED ORDER GRANTING THIRD PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY - Transaction 5765941 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-19-2016:14:09:34

93 10/19/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 5765948 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-19-2016:14:10:25 94 10/25/2016 - 4075 - Substitution of Counsel Additional Text: SARAH QUIGLEY ESQ - Transaction 5775547 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 10-25-2016:16:54:19 10/25/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 95 Additional Text: Transaction 5776244 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-25-2016:16:55:19 96 10/26/2016 - 3025 - Ord Granting/Denying in Part Additional Text: MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY COMPLAINT - Transaction 5778225 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-26-2016:15:51 ·17 97 10/26/2016 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet No additional text exists for this entry. 98 10/26/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 5778243 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 10-26-2016:15:53:39 11/3/2016 - 2540 - Notice of Entry of Ord 99 Additional Text: Transaction 5789437 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-03-2016:12:40:32 100 11/3/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 5789439 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-03-2016:12:41:22 11/4/2016 - MIN - ***Minutes 101 Additional Text: 11/4/16 - STATUS HRG - Transaction 5791793 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-04-2016:13:17:45 102 11/4/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 5791800 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-04-2016:13:18:43 11/17/2016 - 3835 - Report... 103 Additional Text: JOINT STATUS REPORT - Transaction 5810893 - Approved By: TBRITTON: 11-17-2016:10:29:10 11/17/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 104 Additional Text: Transaction 5811102 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-17-2016:10:30:17 11/28/2016 - 4050 - Stipulation ... 105 Additional Text: STIPULATION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE - Transaction 5823809 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 11-28-2016:15:40:14 11/28/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 106 Additional Text: Transaction 5824579 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-28-2016:15:41:38 107 11/29/2016 - 3020 - Ord Granting Continuance Additional Text: ORDER GRANTING STIPULATION TO CONTINUE TRIAL DATE; PARTIES WILL RESET - Transaction 5825395 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-29-2016:09:34:09 108 11/29/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 5825400 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 11-29-2016:09:35:11 109 12/16/2016 - 2610 - Notice ... Additional Text: Joint Discovery Plan & Proposed Scheduling Order - Transaction 5859491 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 12-16-2016:16: 53:18 12/16/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 110 Additional Text: Transaction 5859864 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-16-2016:16:54:13

111 12/16/2016 - MIN - ***Minutes

Additional Text: 12/16/16 - STATUS HRG - Transaction 5859917 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-16-2016:17:14:46

112 12/16/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5859922 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-16-2016:17:15:46

113 12/21/2016 - 1250E - Application for Setting eFile

Additional Text: FOR PRETRIAL CONFERENCE ON DECEMBER 1, 2017, AT 10:00 A.M. AND JURY TRIAL ON JANUARY 22, 2018, AT 8:3 0 A.M. - Transaction 5865768 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-21-2016:11:33:41

114 12/21/2016 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5865784 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-21-2016:11:35:08

115 1/17/2017 - 4050 - Stipulation ...

Additional Text: DFX: DOCUMENT CONTAINS IMPROPER SIGNATURES - Transaction 5900378 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 01-17-2017:1 6:46:34

116 1/17/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5901247 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 01-17-2017:16:47:36

117 2/2/2017 - 4050 - Stipulation ...

Additional Text: Transaction 5931756 - Approved By: PMSEWELL: 02-02-2017:15:52:41

118 2/2/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5931875 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-02-2017:15:53:51

119 2/3/2017 - 3105 - Ord Granting ...

Additional Text: ORDER GRANTING STIPULATION WITH REGARDS TO JOINT CASE CONFERENCE REPORT - Transaction 5932543 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-03-2017:09:19:42

120 2/3/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 5932551 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-03-2017:09:20:45

121 5/3/2017 - \$2200 - \$Mtn for Summary Judgment

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY INC'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AGAINST DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT - Transaction 6082232 - Approved By: YVII ORIA: 05-03-2017:13:55:17

122 5/3/2017 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$200.00 was made on receipt DCDC574158.

123 5/3/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6082353 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 05-03-2017:13:56:21

124 5/4/2017 - 2610 - Notice ...

Additional Text: of Association of Counsel - MCDONALD CARANO, LLP ASSOCIATES WITH GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP FOR THE MODERN GROUP GP-SUB AND DRAGON ESP, LTD - Transaction 6084574 - Approved By: PMSEWELL: 05-04-2017:13:49:43

125 5/4/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6084748 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 05-04-2017:13:50:51

126 5/12/2017 - 2165 - Mtn for Protective Ord

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING PRODUCTION OF TRADE SECRET DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED - Transaction 6097383 - Approved By: PMSEWELL: 05-12-2017:08:58:51

127 5/12/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6097509 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 05-12-2017:08:59:52

Page 9 of

128 5/15/2017 - 2475 - Mtn to Strike...

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO NRCP 35; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION - Transaction 6100499 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 05-15-2017:13:32:31

129 5/15/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6100532 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 05-15-2017:13:33:37

130 5/15/2017 - 1650 - Errata...

Additional Text: ERRATA TO THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO NRCP 37; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION - Transaction 6100950 - Approved By: PMSEWELL: 05-15-2017:15:49:55

131 5/15/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6101097 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 05-15-2017:15:50:41

132 5/16/2017 - 1650 - Errata...

Additional Text: ERRATA TO THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANTIFHIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MOB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO NRCP 37; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION - Transaction 6101522 - Approved By: TBRITTON: 05-16-2017:09:11:44

133 5/16/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6101729 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 05-16-2017:09:12:39

134 6/6/2017 - 3860 - Request for Submission

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AGAINST DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MOB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT (PAPER ORDER NOT PROVIDED) -

Transaction 6135039 - Approved By: TBRITTON: 06-06-2017:15:56:00

PARTY SUBMITTING: JOSH C. AICKLEN, ESQ

DATE SUBMITTED: JUNE 6, 2017 SUBMITTED BY: TBRITTON DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:

135 6/6/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6135414 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-06-2017:15:57:02

136 6/28/2017 - 3105 - Ord Granting ...

Additional Text: ORDER GRANTING MDB'S JOINT MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE AS TO CROSS DEFENDANTS VERSA'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT - Transaction 6170963 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-28-2017:12:21:55

137 6/28/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6170969 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-28-2017:12:22:54

138 6/28/2017 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet

No additional text exists for this entry.

139 7/7/2017 - 2610 - Notice ...

Additional Text: NOTICE OF ASSOCIATION OF COUNSEL - MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LLP / MDB TRUCKING, LLC AND DANIEL KOSKI - Transaction 6184199 - Approved By: TBRITTON: 07-07-2017:14:17:31

140 7/7/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6184566 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-07-2017:14:18:27

141 7/7/2017 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ...

Additional Text: MDB Opposition to Third Party Defendant Motion for Summary Judgment - Transaction 6185383 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 07-10-2017:09:36:57

142 7/10/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6185695 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-10-2017:09:37:57

143 7/17/2017 - 3860 - Request for Submission

Additional Text: Transaction 6199496 - Approved By: SWOLFE: 07-17-2017:16:52:54

DOCUMENT TITLE: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT AGANIST

DEFENDANT/THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT (NO ORDER PROVIDED)

PARTY SUBMITTING: NICHOLAS WIECZOREK, ESQ

DATE SUBMITTED: 7/17/17 SUBMITTED BY: SWOLFE DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:

144 7/17/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6200127 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-17-2017:16:54:05

145 7/20/2017 - 2610 - Notice ...

Additional Text: Notice of Firm Name Change - Transaction 6206344 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 07-20-2017:14:59:48

146 7/20/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6206516 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-20-2017:15:00:43

147 8/1/2017 - 3347 - Ord to Set

Additional Text: ORDER TO SET HEARING ON MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT - Transaction 6225306 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-01-2017:10:53:42

148 8/1/2017 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet

Additional Text: PARTIES WILL SET HEARING

149 8/1/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6225329 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-01-2017:10:55:22

150 8/3/2017 - 3860 - Request for Submission

Additional Text: VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING PRODUCTION FOR TRADE SECRET DOCUMENTS AND INFORMATION which was filed on May 12, 2017 - Transaction 6231332 - Approved By: CSULEZIC: 08-03-2017:14:58:17

PARTY SUBMITTING: JOSH AICKLEN ESQ

DATE SUBMITTED: 8/03/17 SUBMITTED BY: CS

DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:

151 8/3/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6231503 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-03-2017:15:00:39

152 8/4/2017 - 2630 - Objection to ...

Additional Text: MDB TRUCKING LLC'S OBJECTION TO VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION AND ALTERNATIVE REQUEST FOR JUDICIAL NOTICE - Transaction 6234178 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 08-07-2017:08:15:03

153 8/7/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6234343 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-07-2017:08:16:03

154 8/9/2017 - 3370 - Order ...

Additional Text: ORDER STAYING DECISION ON MOTION FOR PROTECTIVE ORDER - Transaction 6240624 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-09-2017:15:02:20

155 8/9/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6240629 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-09-2017:15:03:19

156 8/9/2017 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet

No additional text exists for this entry.

157 12/5/2017 - 3990 - Stip & Ord Dismiss W/Prejudice

Additional Text: Transaction 6423822 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-05-2017:13:30:03

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158
      12/5/2017 - F120 - Stipulated Dismissal
           No additional text exists for this entry.
159
      12/5/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
           Additional Text: Transaction 6423826 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-05-2017:13:31:04
      12/5/2017 - 2990 - Ord Return of Jury Fees
160
           Additional Text: Transaction 6424394 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-05-2017:15:35:24
161
      12/5/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
           Additional Text: Transaction 6424402 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-05-2017:15:36:27
      12/6/2017 - CHECK - **Trust Disbursement
162
           Additional Text: A Disbursement of $320.00 on Check Number 33708
163
      12/12/2017 - 3860 - Request for Submission
           Additional Text: Transaction 6436001 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 12-12-2017:15:54:39
           DOCUMENT TITLE: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMA
           NT/CROSS-DEFENDANT MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM
           PARTY SUBMITTING: JOSH COLE AICKLEN ESQ
           DATE SUBMITTED: DEC 12, 2017
           SUBMITTED BY: YV
           DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:
      12/12/2017 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
164
           Additional Text: Transaction 6436057 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 12-12-2017:15:57:31
165
      1/22/2018 - 3105 - Ord Granting ...
           Additional Text: ORDER GRANTING VERSA'S MOTION TO STRIKE MDB'S CROSS CLAIM; CROSS CLAIM DISMISSED - Transaction
           6492566 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 01-22-2018:16:16:30
      1/22/2018 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet
166
           No additional text exists for this entry.
      1/22/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
167
           Additional Text: Transaction 6492571 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 01-22-2018:16:17:29
      2/8/2018 - 2540 - Notice of Entry of Ord
168
           Additional Text: Transaction 6522570 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-08-2018:13:14:26
169
      2/8/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
           Additional Text: Transaction 6522574 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-08-2018:13:15:16
170
      2/9/2018 - 1950 - Memorandum of Costs
           Additional Text: VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS - Transaction 6524284 - Approved By:
           SWILLIAM: 02-09-2018:09:49:47
171
      2/9/2018 - 1950 - Memorandum of Costs
           Additional Text: VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY INC'S VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS - Transaction 6524406 - Approved By:
           SWILLIAM: 02-09-2018:10:34:00
      2/9/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
172
           Additional Text: Transaction 6524476 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-09-2018:09:51:11
173
      2/9/2018 - 2010 - Mtn for Attorney's Fee
           Additional Text: Transaction 6524529 - Approved By: PMSEWELL: 02-09-2018:11:02:30
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- 174 2/9/2018 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 6524643 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-09-2018:10:34:50
- 175 2/9/2018 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
 - Additional Text: Transaction 6524777 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-09-2018:11:03:38
- 176 2/20/2018 2430 Mtn to Retax Costs

Additional Text: MOTION TO RETAX AND SETTLE VERSA'S VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS - Transaction 6539629 - Approved By: PMSEWELL: 02-20-2018:14:08:45

177 2/20/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6539956 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 02-20-2018:14:09:51

178 3/1/2018 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ...

Additional Text: CROSS-CLAIMANT MDB TRUCKING LLC'S OPPOSITION TO CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 37 AND NRCP 68 - Transaction 6557212 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 03-01-2018:15:27:05

179 3/1/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6557498 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 03-01-2018:15:28:09

180 3/8/2018 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ...

Additional Text: THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S OPPOSITION TO THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDG TRUCKING LLC'S MOTION TO RETAX AND SETTLE COSTS - Transaction 6567745 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 03-08-2018:13:26:33

181 3/8/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6567776 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 03-08-2018:13:27:24

182 3/8/2018 - \$2515 - \$Notice/Appeal Supreme Court

Additional Text: Transaction 6568327 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 03-08-2018:15:10:16

183 3/8/2018 - SAB - **Supreme Court Appeal Bond

Additional Text: Transaction 6568344 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 03-08-2018:15:16:44

184 3/8/2018 - 1310 - Case Appeal Statement

Additional Text: Transaction 6568349 - Approved By: YVILORIA: 03-08-2018:15:10:39

185 3/8/2018 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$34.00 was made on receipt DCDC602918.

186 3/8/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6568466 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 03-08-2018:15:11:25

187 3/8/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6568467 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 03-08-2018:15:11:35

188 3/8/2018 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$500.00 was made on receipt DCDC602921.

189 3/8/2018 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 6568488 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 03-08-2018:15:19:45

190 3/8/2018 - 1350 - Certificate of Clerk

Additional Text: CERTIFICATE OF CLERK AND TRANSMITTAL - NOTICE OF APPEAL - Transaction 6568794 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 03-08-2018:16:22:53

FILED
Electronically
CV16-00976
2018-01-22 04:15:56 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6492566

GENEVA M. REMMERDE,

VS.

Plaintiff,

Case No. CV16-00976

Dept. No. 10

DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; MDB TRUCKING, LLC; et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

Presently before the Court is THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC's THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO NRCP 35; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Motion"). The Motion was filed by Defendant/Cross-Claimant/Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. ("Versa") on May 15, 2017. Defendant/Cross-Claimant MDB TRUCKING, LLC ("MDB") did not file an Opposition to the Motion. See WDCR 12(2). The Motion was submitted for the Court's consideration on December 12, 2017.

This case arises from a personal injury action. A COMPLAINT was filed by plaintiffs Ernest Bruce Fitzsimmons and Carol Fitzsimmons, on December 4, 2015 ("the Fitzsimmons Action"). The Fitzsimmons Action was assigned Second Judicial District Court case number CV15-02349.

¹ The issues presented in the Motion were fully briefed in FITZSIMMONS, et al. v. MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et al., CV15-02349.

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Numerous other plaintiffs were joined into the Fitzsimmons Action. Two additional cases were filed and prosecuted outside of the Fitzsimmons Action: the instant case and JAMES BIBLE v. MDB TRUCKING, LLC et al., CV16-01914 ("the Bible Action"). The instant action was filed on May 2, 2016. The Bible Action was filed September 20, 2016. It is alleged in all three actions that on July 7, 2014, Defendant Daniel Anthony Koski ("Koski"), while driving a truck for MDB, negligently spilled a load of gravel into the roadway. The spilled gravel caused the driving plaintiffs to lose control of their vehicles and numerous accidents occurred resulting in the three separate cases. The plaintiffs sustained physical and emotional injuries as a result of the accidents. In response to the complaint filed in the instant action, MDB filed a THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT ("the MDB Cross-Claim") June 22, 2016. The MDB Cross-Claim had two causes of action relative to Versa: Implied Indemnification and Contribution.² MDB alleges it was not Koski's negligence that caused the gravel to spill; rather, the spill was caused by the "unreasonably dangerous and defective" design and manufacture of the trailer that held the gravel. The MDB Cross-Claim, 4:6-8. Therefore, MDB brought the Cross-Claim against the manufacturers of the trailer and its components, including Versa. MDB avers Versa produced a solenoid valve which would, "activate inadvertently allowing the gates to open and release the load [of gravel] carried by the trailer." The MDB Cross-Claim, 4:9-11. MDB also claims there were safer alternatives available to Versa; the solenoid valve was unreasonably dangerous and defective; and Versa failed to provide appropriate safety mechanisms regarding the solenoid valve. The MDB Cross-Claim, 4:15-22.

The Motion is the same as the motion practice in the Fitzsimmons Action and the Bible Action. The issues are identical, as are the relevant parties. The Court issued an ORDER ("the December Order") on December 8, 2017, in the Fitzsimmons Action. The December Order conducted a thorough analysis of the issue presented in the Motion. *See generally Young v. Johnny Ribeiro Building, Inc.*, 106 Nev. 88, 787 P.2d 777 (1990), and NRCP 37. The Court found in the December Order case concluding sanctions were an appropriate sanction for MDB's spoliation of

² Versa filed THIRD PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFF, MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP 12(B)(5) ("the MTD") on July 19, 2016. The court granted the MTD on October 19, 2016. The only remaining cause of action alleged by MDB against Versa is for Contribution.

³ The Court notes D.C.R. 13(3) states, "[f]ailure of the opposing party to serve and file his written opposition may be construed as an admission that the motion is meritorious and a consent to granting the same." Versa has not moved to have the Motion granted under this standard.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, County of Washoe; that on this _____ day of January, 2018, I deposited in the County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal Service in Reno, Nevada, a true copy of the attached document addressed to:

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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for the County of Washoe; that on the 22 day of January, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to the following:

MATTHEW ADDISON, ESQ. JOSH AICKLEN, ESQ. KATHERINE PARKS, ESQ. BRIAN BROWN, ESQ. THIERRY BARKLEY, ESQ. SARAH QUIGLEY, ESQ. JESSICA WOELFEL, ESQ. JACOB BUNDICK, ESQ. NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK, ESQ.

Judicial Assistant

EXHIBIT "A"

FILED
Electronically
CV15-02349
2017-12-08 02:59:29 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6431279

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

ERNEST BRUCE FITZSIMMONS, et al.,

Plaintiffs.

Case No. CV15-02349

Dept. No. 10

VS.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC; et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

Presently before the Court is DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO NRCP 35; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Motion"). The Motion was filed by Defendant/Cross-Claimant/Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS, INC. ("Versa") on May 15, 2017. Defendant/Cross-Claimant, MDB Trucking, LLC ("MDB") filed MDB'S OPPOSITION TO VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND/OR SPOLIATION INSTRUCTIONS ("the Opposition") on June 2, 2017. Versa filed DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA

¹ Versa filed the ERRATA TO DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT MDB TRUCKING, LLC's CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO NRCP 37; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Errata") on May 5, 2017. The Errata clarifies Versa is bringing the Motion pursuant to NRCP 37, not NRCP 35 as noted in the caption to the Motion. The reference to NRCP 35 is made only in the caption to the pleading; therefore, the Court presumes it is merely a typographical error.

 PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S REPLY TO MDB'S OPPOSITION TO VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO NRCP 37; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Reply") on June 12, 2017, and contemporaneously submitted the matter for the Court's consideration. The Court entered an ORDER on August 1, 2017, setting the Motion for oral argument.² The Court heard the arguments of counsel on August 29, 2017, and took the matter under submission.

The Court felt case concluding sanctions were a potential discovery sanction for the alleged abuse following the oral argument. An evidentiary hearing affording both sides the opportunity to present witnesses was required given this conclusion. See generally, Nevada Power v. Fluor Illinois, 108 Nev. 638, 837 P.2d 1354 (1992). The Court entered an ORDER ("the September Order") on September 22, 2017, directing the parties to set the matter for an evidentiary hearing. The evidentiary hearing was conducted on October 13, 2017 ("the October Hearing"). Versa called one expert witness, Scott Palmer ("Palmer"), and one lay witness Garrick Mitchell ("Mitchell") at the October Hearing. MDB called one expert witness, Dr. David Bosch ("Dr. Bosch"), and two lay witnesses, Patrick Bigby ("Bigby") and Erik Anderson ("Anderson") at the October Hearing. The Court admitted numerous exhibits during the October Hearing. The Court permitted the parties to argue their respective positions. Trial was scheduled to begin on October 30, 2017. The Court was aware of its obligation to make detailed findings of facts and conclusions of law. Further, the Court wanted to fulfill these obligations in a thoughtful manner and in writing pursuant to the mandates of the Nevada Supreme Court. The Court informed the parties the Motion would be granted and vacated the trial date. The Court took the matter under submission. This written ORDER follows.

This case arises from a personal injury action. A COMPLAINT ("the Complaint") was filed by Plaintiffs Ernest Bruce Fitzsimmons and Carol Fitzsimmons, on December 4, 2015. Numerous other plaintiffs were joined into the Fitzsimmons case. It is alleged on July 7, 2014, Defendant Daniel Anthony Koski ("Koski"), while driving a truck for MDB, negligently spilled a load of

² There were numerous other pre-trial motions scheduled for oral argument on the same date.

 gravel into the roadway. The spilled gravel caused the driving plaintiffs to lose control of their vehicles and numerous accidents occurred. The plaintiffs sustained physical and emotional injuries as a result of the accidents. In response to the Complaint, MDB filed a THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT ("the MDB Cross-Claim") June 15, 2016. The MDB Cross-Claim had two causes of action relative to Versa: Implied Indemnification and Contribution.³ MDB alleges it was not Koski's negligence that caused the gravel to spill; rather, the spill was caused by the "unreasonably dangerous and defective" design and manufacture of the trailer that held the gravel. The MDB Cross-Claim, 3:5-7. Therefore, MDB brought the Cross-Claim against the manufacturers of the trailer and its components, including Versa. MDB avers Versa produced a solenoid valve which would, "activate inadvertently allowing the gates to open and release the load [of gravel] carried by the trailer." The MDB Cross-Claim, 3:10-11. MDB also claims there were safer alternatives available to Versa; the solenoid valve was unreasonably dangerous and defective; and Versa failed to provide appropriate safety mechanisms regarding the solenoid valve. The MDB Cross-Claim, 3:12-18.

Versa has denied its product is defective and further denies any responsibility for the spilling of the gravel. Additionally, Versa filed DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS ERNEST BRUCE FITZSIMMONS AND CAROL FITZSIMMONS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; AND DOES I-X, INCLUSIVE ("the Versa Cross-Claim") on June 29, 2016. The Versa Cross-Claim alleges one cause of action against MDB: Contribution. Versa alleges MDB "negligently operated, maintained, owned, serviced and/or entrusted the subject trailer...." The Versa Cross-Claim, 10:17-18. Versa and MDB are the only remaining parties in this litigation: all of the plaintiffs consolidated into these proceedings, and all of the other defendants have been dismissed and/or settled.

³ Versa filed CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS CROSS-CLAIMANT, MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP 12(B)(5) ("the MTD") on June 27, 2016. The Court granted the MTD on October 19, 2016. The only remaining cause of action alleged by MDB against Versa is for Contribution.

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The Motion avers MDB has destroyed or disposed of critical evidence which directly impacts Versa's ability to represent itself in the instant litigation. Specifically, the Motion contends after the accident MDB continued to use the truck in question; failed to keep the truck in the same condition as it was on the day in question; serviced the truck routinely; repaired and replaced the electrical systems that control the solenoid which operated the Versa valve; and failed to take steps to preserve this critical evidence knowing litigation was highly probable. The Opposition contends there has been no spoliation of evidence in this case. Further, the Opposition posits there was nothing more than routine maintenance done on the trailer; therefore, Versa's ability to defend itself has not been impaired.

The Motion avers MDB had a duty to preserve the discarded electrical systems in anticipation of the underlying action. In *Fire Ins. Exchange v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 103 Nev. 648, 651, 747 P.2d 911, 914 (1987), the Nevada Supreme Court held, "even where an action has not been commenced and there is only a potential for litigation, the litigant is under a duty to preserve the evidence which it knows or reasonably should know is relevant to the action." The Motion concludes the appropriate sanction for the failure to preserve this crucial evidence should be dismissal of the entire action. *See generally Young v. Johnny Ribeiro Building Inc.*, 106 Nev. 88, 787 P.2d 777 (1990), and NRCP 37.

Discovery sanctions are within the discretion of the trial court. See Stubli v. Big D Int'l Trucks, Inc., 107 Nev. 309, 312, 810 P.2d 785, 787 (1991), and Kelly Broadcasting v. Sovereign Broadcast, 96 Nev. 188, 192, 606 P.2d 1089, 1092 (1980). "Generally, sanctions may only be imposed where there has been willful noncompliance with the court's order, or where the adversary process has been halted by the actions of the unresponsive party." Zenith, 103 Nev. at 651, 747 P.2d at 913 (citing Finkelman v. Clover Jewelers Blvd. Inc., 91 Nev. 146, 147, 532 P.2d 608, 609 (1975) and Skeen v. Valley Bank of Nevada, 89 Nev. 301, 303, 511 P.2d 1053, 1054 (1973)). Accord GNLV Corp. v. Service Control Corp., 111 Nev. 866, 869, 900 P.2d 323, 325 (1995). Dismissal of an entire action with prejudice is a dramatic punishment for a discovery abuse. The Nevada Supreme Court cautions district courts the use of such a Draconian sanction should be approached with caution. "The dismissal of a case, based upon a discovery abuse such as the

destruction or loss of evidence, 'should be used only in extreme situations; if less drastic sanctions are available, they should be utilized." *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 326 (citation omitted). Additionally, the *Nevada Power* Court held it was an abuse of discretion for a district court to grant case concluding sanctions without an evidentiary hearing. The *Nevada Power* Court held the party facing a case terminating sanction needs an "opportunity to present witnesses or to cross-examine [the movant] or their experts with regard to [the discovery violations]." *Nevada Power*, 108 Nev. at 646, 837 P.2d at 1360. *Cf. Bahena v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. ("Bahena II")*, 126 Nev. 606, 612, 245 P.3d 1182, 1186 (2010).

The Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure provide that a party who fails to comply with discovery orders or rules can be sanctioned for that failure. NRCP 37(b). Sanctions against a party can be graduated in severity and can include: designation of facts to be taken as established; refusal to allow the disobedient party to support or oppose designated claims or defenses; prohibition of the offending party from introducing designated matters in evidence; an order striking out pleadings or parts thereof or dismissing the action; or rendering a judgment by default against the disobedient party. NRCP 37(b)(2). Case concluding sanctions need not be preceded by other less severe sanction. *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325. A disobedient party can also be required to pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney fees caused by the failure. NRCP 37(b)(2)(E).

The Young Court adopted an eight factor analysis ("the Young factors") district courts must go through if they feel a discovery abuse is so severe it warrants dismissal. The Young Court held, "every order of dismissal with prejudice as a discovery sanction be supported by an express, careful and preferably written explanation of the court's analysis of the pertinent factors." Young, 106 Nev. at 93, 787 P.2d at 780. The Young factors are as follows: (1) the degree of willfulness of the offending party; (2) the extent to which the non-offending party would be prejudiced by a lesser sanction; (3) the severity of the sanction of dismissal relative to the severity of the discovery abuse; (4) whether any evidence has been irreparably lost; (5) the feasibility and fairness of less severe sanctions; (6) the policy favoring adjudication on the merits; (7) whether sanctions unfairly operate to penalize a party for the misconduct of his or her attorney; and (8) the need to deter parties and future litigants from similar abuses. Id. In discovery abuse situations where possible case-

concluding sanctions are warranted, the trial judge has discretion in deciding which factors are to be considered on a "case-by-case" basis. *Bahena II*, 126 Nev. at 610, 245 P.3d at 1185 (citing *Higgs v. State*, 126 Nev. 1, 17, 222 P.3d 648, 658 (2010)). The *Young* factor list is not exhaustive and the Court is not required to find that all factors are present prior to making a finding. "Fundamental notions of fairness and due process require that discovery sanctions be just and . . . relate to the specific conduct at issue." *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325.

The Nevada Supreme Court has addressed orders of case concluding sanctions on numerous occasions. The *Zenith* Court found a party whose agent destroyed and/or lost a television prior to the commencement of the underlying action, after the party's expert had an opportunity to test the television and opine on the television as a cause of a fire, had committed a discovery abuse warranting case concluding sanctions.⁴ The *Zenith* Court held, "[t]he actions [of the appellant] had the effect of reserving to itself all expert testimony based upon examination of the television set." 103 Nev. at 652, 747 P.2d at 914.

The Kelly Broadcasting Court held the striking of an answer and entry of a judgment in favor of the non-offending party (Kelly) was an appropriate sanction for failing to complete discovery by the offending party (Sovereign). Kelly Broadcasting, 96 Nev. at 192, 606 P.2d at 1092. Sovereign argued a lesser sanction of striking only the affirmative defense to which the interrogatories applied was a more appropriate sanction. The Kelly Broadcasting Court disagreed, noting "[t]he question is not whether this court would as an original matter have entered a default judgment as a sanction for violating a discovery rule; it is whether the trial court abused its discretion in so doing. We do not find an abuse of discretion in this case." Id.

The Stubli Court upheld case concluding sanctions when the appellant or its agents failed to preserve evidence related to the cause of a trucking accident. The respondent provided expert affidavits which posited the cause of the accident could have been something other than the respondent's work on the truck. "The experts further asserted that appellant's failure to preserve the

⁴ The trial court actually struck the appellant's expert witness from the trial. The appellant indicated it had insufficient evidence to proceed without its expert and the trial court granted summary judgment in favor of the respondent. *Zenith*, 103 Nev. at 651, 747 P.2d at 913.

[truck and its components] had made it impossible for respondents to establish their defense theory." Stubli, 107 Nev. at 312, 810 P.2d at 787. See also, North American Properties v. McCarran International Airport, 2016 WL 699864 (Nev. Supreme Court 2016). But see, GNLV, supra (case concluding sanctions not appropriate when other evidence existed which experts could use to assist in their analysis including the statements of witnesses who saw the spoliated evidence).

The Court has considered the arguments of counsel, all of the pleadings on file in the instant action, the testimony of the witnesses at the evidentiary hearing, the exhibits admitted at that hearing, and the relevant case law discussed, *supra*. The issue presented in the case is actually very narrow: MDB claims it was a defective solenoid manufactured by Versa that malfunctioned causing a truck full of gravel to dump onto one of the two busiest roadways in Washoe County. MDB does not dispute the electrical systems were not preserved in anticipation of the trial or potential testing. MDB took no steps to warn its employees to keep any components in the electrical system should they need to be replaced. There are no pictures taken of the electrical system or the components. MDB's employees cannot testify to the condition of the components when they were replaced. Versa avers there were other potential causes of the malfunction, including an electrical issue. Versa further contends it cannot present these issues to the jury in support of its defense because the evidence no longer exists. The Court reviews the *Young* factors as follows:

I. Willfulness

The first Young factor is willfulness. In Childers v. State, 100 Nev. 280, 283, 680 P.2d 598, 599 (1984), the Nevada Supreme Court found the term willful, "implies simply a purpose or willingness to commit the act or to make the omission in question. The word does not require in its meaning any intent to violate law, or to injure another, or to acquire any advantage." Willfulness may be found when a party fails to provide discovery and such failure is not due to an inability on the offending party's part. Havas v Bank of Nevada, 96 Nev. 567, 570, 613 P.2d 706, 708 (1980). The Nevada Supreme Court has not opined that it is necessary to establish wrongful intent to establish willfulness.

Clearly MDB should have anticipated extensive litigation as a result of the incident that occurred on July 7, 2014. This was not a mere "slip and fall" where the putative plaintiff initially claims he/she is not injured only later to come back and sue. There were numerous accidents and injuries as a result of collisions occurring on a highway. MDB, or its counsel, had to know there would be litigation as a result of these events. The Court heard no testimony that MDB took any steps to preserve the truck or trailer in any way. There was no testimony indicating memorialization of the condition of the vehicle was ever contemplated by anyone at MDB. On the contrary, the truck and trailer continued to be in use after the events of July 7, 2014. It was subject to "routine" maintenance. The Court may have condoned the continued use of the truck, and even the trailer, had there been *any* steps taken to preserve the appearance of these items as they existed at the time of the event, or prior to the "routine" maintenance. The memorialization did not occur.

It would have been simple to inform the shop staff to photograph the truck and trailer on or about July 7, 2014. It would have required minimal effort to inform the shop staff to preserve any electrical parts taken off the truck or trailer during the maintenance. If these steps had been taken the Court would be looking at this case through the prism of *GNLV* because both parties would have had alternative ways to prove or disprove their theory of the case. Based on the inaction of MDB in preserving or memorializing the condition of the truck and trailer the Court must view this case through the prism of *Stubli* and *Zenith*: MDB alone has the ability to call experts to support their position. Versa's expert has a theory he can neither confirm nor refute based on the loss of the electrical components. The Court does not find MDB intentionally disposed of the components in order to harm Versa, nor were MDB's employees acting with any malevolence; however, the Court does find MDB is complicit of benign neglect and indifference to the needs of Versa regarding discovery in this action.

II. The possibility of a lesser sanction

The second *Young* factor is possible prejudice to Versa if a lesser sanction were imposed. The Court would consider lesser sanctions, including an adverse inference instruction, a rebuttable presumption instruction, and the striking of the MDB's expert as alternative sanctions. The Court

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does not find any of these sanctions strike the appropriate balance between MDB's actions and the harm imposed on Versa's case. Should the Court strike Dr. Bosch from being a witness at the trial MDB would be in the same position as the appellant in Zenith: unable to prove its case given the lack of expert testimony and subject to a motion for summary judgment. This outcome would be a patent waste of limited judicial resources and of the jury's time. The Court does not find an adverse inference instruction pursuant to NRS 47.250(3) and Bass-Davis v. Davis, 122 Nev. 442, 134 P.3d 103 (2006), is appropriate under the circumstances before the Court.⁵ As noted by the Zenith Court, "[t]he actions of [MDB] had the effect of reserving to itself all expert testimony based upon examination of the [electronic components]. Any adverse presumption which the court might have ordered as a sanction for the spoliation of evidence would have paled next to the testimony of the expert witness." Zenith, 103 Nev. at 652, 747 P.2d at 914. Additionally, an adverse inference instruction requires an "intent to harm another party through the destruction and not simply the intent to destroy evidence." Bass-Davis, 122 Nev. at 448, 134 P.3d at 106. The Court does not find MDB intended to harm Versa by destroying or disposing of the electrical components; therefore, it could not give this instruction. The Court can conceive of no other sanction which would be appropriate under these circumstances.

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Recently the Nevada Supreme Court has declared that the Bass versus Davis case is the prevailing case on the spoliation of evidence, not Young versus Ribeiro. And in a case called Walmart Stores, Inc. versus the Eighth Judicial District, No. 48488, January 31st of 2008, the court said, "It is an abuse of discretion for a district court not to consider the case of Bass-Davis versus Davis when imposing sanctions pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 37 for an allegation of spoliation."

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENTIARY HEARING, 208:15-24. The citation to an unpublished disposition of the Nevada Supreme Court issued prior to January 1, 2016, is a violation of ADKT 0504 and SCR 123 (the SCR was repealed by the ADKT). The Court found it difficult to believe the Nevada Supreme Court would make such a sweeping change to firmly established precedent as that represented by counsel in an unpublished disposition. The Court was unfamiliar with Walmart, so the Court endeavored to familiarize itself with the case. The Court looked up the case number provided by counsel on the Nevada Supreme Court webpage. Troublingly, the Court was unable to verify the veracity of the proposition proffered by MDB because the parties agreed to dismiss their proceedings and the Nevada Supreme Court vacated the order upon which MDB makes its argument. The Nevada Supreme Court had granted a Writ of Mandamus on January 31, 2008; however, it withdrew that order on a subsequent date. The Nevada Supreme Court webpage indicates the parties contacted the Supreme Court on February 2, 2008, and indicated they had settled their case. The Nevada Supreme Court entered an order vacating the January 31, 2008, order upon which MDB relies and "den[ied] the petition as moot" on February 13, 2008. In short, the "case" MDB relies upon does not even exist.

III. The severity of the sanction of dismissal relative to the severity of the discovery abuse

"The dismissal of a case, based upon a discovery abuse . . . should be used only in extreme situations; if less drastic sanctions are available, they should be utilized." *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325 (citing Young, 106 Nev. at 92, 787 P.2d at 779-80). The Court is keenly aware that granting the Motion effectively ends the case. The Court does not take this action lightly. The only issue in this case is why the door to the trailer opened causing the gravel to dump into the roadway. The Court finds MDB's disposal of the electronic components without memorializing them in any way effectively halted the adversarial process. It left all of the "cards" in MDB's hands and left Versa with nothing other than a theory it could neither prove nor disprove. MDB could simply rely on its expert during trial and argue Versa had no proof of its theory and the theory itself was preposterous. This is the position taken by MDB at the evidentiary hearing. Versa is left with no way of verifying its theory of the case.

Counsel for MDB directed the Court's attention at the evidentiary hearing to the strength of their expert (Dr. Bosch) and the weakness of Versa's expert (Palmer). Counsel further emphasized the lack of plausibility of the Palmer's conclusions that it could have been an abraded wire which caused an electrical failure rather than some issue with the solenoid or the Versa valve. The Court is not convinced this should be the deciding factor in resolving the issue of case concluding sanctions for the following reasons:

 MDB's own employee (the same employees who serviced the truck and trailer) acknowledged at the evidentiary hearing that the abrasions Palmer referenced actually do occur;⁶ and

⁶ Q: Okay. You also mentioned that you want to replace those cords, the seven and the – the seven-conductor and the four-conductor cords because they will get cut on the deck plate, they will get abraded, they will become cracked; is that correct?

A: I have seen that, yes.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENTIARY HEARING (testimony of Patrick Bigby), 154:1-6.

2. Dr. Bosch had to acknowledge, though grudgingly and with great circumspection, that it was possible though highly unlikely the electrical system could have caused the valve in question to open.⁷

The Court's decision regarding the issue presented in the Motion is not predicated on who has the "stronger case" or the "better expert" at the evidentiary hearing. If this were the analysis the Court would agree with MDB: Dr. Bosch is a very credible witness and it is likely MDB has the more compelling argument to present to the jury. This, however, is not the issue. The issue in the Court's analysis is MDB's actions deprived Versa of *any* ability to prove its case: the adversarial process was stymied by MDB regarding the most critical pieces of evidence. Had MDB's witnesses testified the abrasions never occur, or abrasions were photographed and/or documented and none existed on this truck, the Court's conclusion may have been different. Here we know it *could have occurred* as Palmer suggested.

IV. Whether evidence is irreparably lost

Clearly the relevant evidence is lost. The employees of MDB testified at the evidentiary hearing the electronic components had been thrown away.

V. The feasibility and fairness of a less severe sanctions

The Court discussed the possibility of less severe sanctions in section II. The same analysis applies here. There does not appear to be any sanction short of case concluding sanctions which would be appropriate under the circumstances of this case. The Court also acknowledges that progressive sanctions are not always necessary. The circumstances presented in the Motion are unique and the most severe sanction is appropriate.

⁷Q: Is there any scenario under which current from the seven-prong cord having contact with the four-prong cord could open the versa valve?

A: Anything is possible, but it's highly improbable in this case.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENTIARY HEARING (testimony of Dr. Bosch), 161:5-9. Dr. Bosch's testimony clearly established he did not believe there was a short or other electrical failure that caused the valve to open.

VI. The policy favoring adjudication on the merits; and

VII. The need to deter parties and future litigants from similar abuse

The Court considers the sixth and eighth *Young* factors together. Nevada has a strong policy, and the Court firmly believes, that cases should be adjudicated on their merits. *See*, *Scrimer v. Dist. Court*, 116 Nev. 507, 516-517, 998 P.2d 1190, 1196 (2000). *See also*, *Kahn v. Orme*, 108 Nev. 510, 516, 835 P.2d 790, 794 (1992). Further, there is a need to deter litigants from abusing the discovery process established by Nevada law. When a party repeatedly and continuously engaged in discovery misconduct the policy of adjudicating cases on the merits is not furthered by a lesser sanction.

Foster, 126 Nev. at 65, 227 P.3d at 1048. The case *sub judice* is not one of systemic discovery abuse. However, the Court concludes to allow the case to go forward as it is currently postured would be the antithesis of allowing it to proceed "on the merits." The merits of Versa's case would not be able to be evaluated by the jury because Versa could not test its theory on the actual components. The jury would be left to guess about what may have occurred rather than weigh the competing theories presented. MDB would have an overwhelmingly unfair advantage given its action.

The Court balances the laudable policy of trial on the merits against the need to deter future litigants from abusing the discovery process. The Court turns back to the *Zenith* Court's direction to all potential litigants regarding their duty to preserve evidence. The *Zenith* Court stated, "[i]t would be unreasonable to allow litigants, by destroying physical evidence prior to a request for production, to sidestep the district court's power to enforce the rules of discovery." *Id.* 103 Nev. at 651, 747 P.2d at 913. *Accord, Colfer v. Harmon*, 108 Nev. 363, 832 P.2d 383 (1992). To allow this case to go forward, when the only evidence which may have supported Versa's defense was in the sole possession of MDB and MDB did nothing to preserve or document that evidence, would set a dangerous precedent to similarly situated parties in the future. It would also be antithetical to a potential litigant's obligation to preserve the very evidence it may have to produce during discovery.

When the Court balances the sixth and eighth Young factor it concludes dismissal of MDB's claims against Versa are appropriate.

VIII. Whether sanctions unfairly operate to penalize a party for the misconduct of his or her attorney

There is no evidence to show MDB's counsel directed MDB to destroy or fail to memorialize the evidence in question. The Court finds this factor to be inapplicable to the *Young* analysis.

"Fundamental notions of fairness and due process require that discovery sanctions be just and . . . relate to the specific conduct at issue." *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325 (citing Young, 106 Nev. at 92, 787 P.2d at 779-80). The Court recognizes that discovery sanctions should be related to the specific conduct at issue. The discovery abuse in this case crippled one party's ability to present its case. Weighing all eight factors above the Court concludes the dismissal of the MDB Cross-Claim is appropriate. Due to the severity of MDB's discovery abuse there are no lesser sanctions that are suitable.

It is hereby **ORDERED** DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO NRCP 35; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION is **GRANTED**. MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM is DISMISSED.

DATED this _____ day of December, 2017.

ELLIOTT A. SATTLER

District Judge

1 CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 2 Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial 3 District Court of the State of Nevada, County of Washoe; that on this _____ day of December, 2017, I deposited in the County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal 4 5 Service in Reno, Nevada, a true copy of the attached document addressed to: 6 CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE 7 I hereby certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of 8 Nevada, in and for the County of Washoe; that on the ______ day of December, 2017, I 9 electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system which will 10 send a notice of electronic filing to the following: 11 12 JOSH AICKLEN, ESQ. 13 MATTHEW ADDISON, ESQ. KATHERINE PARKS, ESQ. 14 BRIAN BROWN, ESQ. THIERRY BARKLEY, ESO. 15 SARAH QUIGLEY, ESQ. 16 JESSICA WOELFEL, ESQ. JACOB BUNDICK, ESQ. 17 NICHOLAS WIECZOREK, ESQ. 18 19 20 Judicial Assistant 21 22 23 24 25 26

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CV16-00976
2018-02-08 01:13:47 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6522570

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6	6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600			
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8	FAX: 702.893.3789 Attorneys for Third-Party Defendant VERSA			
9	PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.			
10	DISTRIC	T COURT		
11	WASHOE COL	JNTY, NEVADA		
12				
13	GENEVA M. REMMERDE,	Case No. CV16-00976		
14	Plaintiff,	Dept. 10		
15	VS.	NOTICE OF ENTRY		
	DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; MDB			
16	TRUCKING, LLC; DOES I-X and ROE I-V,			
17	Defendants.			
18	AND ALL RELATED CASES.			
19				
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21	TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:			
22	111			
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LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4810-9078-7930.1

1 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Order was entered by the above-entitled Court on the 22nd day of January, 2018, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1 and made 2 3 a part hereof. **AFFIRMATION** 4 5 Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned hereby affirms that this document filed in this court does not contain the social security number of any person. DATED this 8th day of February, 2018 7 8 Respectfully Submitted, 9 LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 10 11 12 By /s/ Josh Cole Aicklen JOSH COLE AICKLEN 13 Nevada Bar No. 007254 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 14 Nevada Bar No. 009502 PAIGE S. SHREVE 15 Nevada Bar No. 013773 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 16 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Defendant 17 VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

4810-9078-7930.1

LIST OF EXHIBITS

3 Exhibit 1 Order

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4810-9078-7930.1

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** I hereby certify that on this 8th day of February, 2018 a true and correct copy 2 3 of NOTICE OF ENTRY was served via the Court's electronic e-filing system addressed 4 as follows: 5 Matthew C. Addison, Esq. McDONALD CARANO WILSON LLP 100 W. Liberty St., 10th Floor Reno, NV 89501 7 RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC. Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq. Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq. CLARK HILL PLLC 3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Ste. 500 Las Vegas, NV 89169 10 Attorneys for MDB TRUCKING, LLC and DANIEĽ ANTHONY KOSKI 11 12 13 /s/ Susan Kingsbury 14 An Employee of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6522570

EXHIBIT 1

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2018-01-22 04:15:56 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6492566

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

GENEVA M. REMMERDE,

Plaintiff.

Case No. CV16-00976

Dept. No. 10

vs.

DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; MDB TRUCKING, LLC; et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

Presently before the Court is THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS

COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB

TRUCKING, LLC's THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO NRCP 35; OR IN THE

ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Motion"). The Motion was

filed by Defendant/Cross-Claimant/Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.

("Versa") on May 15, 2017. Defendant/Cross-Claimant MDB TRUCKING, LLC ("MDB") did not

file an Opposition to the Motion. See WDCR 12(2). The Motion was submitted for the Court's

consideration on December 12, 2017.

This case arises from a personal injury action. A COMPLAINT was filed by plaintiffs Ernest Bruce Fitzsimmons and Carol Fitzsimmons, on December 4, 2015 ("the Fitzsimmons Action"). The Fitzsimmons Action was assigned Second Judicial District Court case number CV15-02349.

¹ The issues presented in the Motion were fully briefed in FITZSIMMONS, et al. v. MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et al., CV15-02349.

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Numerous other plaintiffs were joined into the Fitzsimmons Action. Two additional cases were filed and prosecuted outside of the Fitzsimmons Action: the instant case and JAMES BIBLE v. MDB TRUCKING, LLC et al., CV16-01914 ("the Bible Action"). The instant action was filed on May 2, 2016. The Bible Action was filed September 20, 2016. It is alleged in all three actions that on July 7, 2014, Defendant Daniel Anthony Koski ("Koski"), while driving a truck for MDB, negligently spilled a load of gravel into the roadway. The spilled gravel caused the driving plaintiffs to lose control of their vehicles and numerous accidents occurred resulting in the three separate cases. The plaintiffs sustained physical and emotional injuries as a result of the accidents. In response to the complaint filed in the instant action, MDB filed a THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT ("the MDB Cross-Claim") June 22, 2016. The MDB Cross-Claim had two causes of action relative to Versa: Implied Indemnification and Contribution. MDB alleges it was not Koski's negligence that caused the gravel to spill; rather, the spill was caused by the "unreasonably dangerous and defective" design and manufacture of the trailer that held the gravel. The MDB Cross-Claim, 4:6-8. Therefore, MDB brought the Cross-Claim against the manufacturers of the trailer and its components, including Versa. MDB avers Versa produced a solenoid valve which would, "activate inadvertently allowing the gates to open and release the load [of gravel] carried by the trailer." The MDB Cross-Claim, 4:9-11. MDB also claims there were safer alternatives available to Versa; the solenoid valve was unreasonably dangerous and defective; and Versa failed to provide appropriate safety mechanisms regarding the solenoid valve. The MDB Cross-Claim, 4:15-22.

The Motion is the same as the motion practice in the Fitzsimmons Action and the Bible Action. The issues are identical, as are the relevant parties. The Court issued an ORDER ("the December Order") on December 8, 2017, in the Fitzsimmons Action. The December Order conducted a thorough analysis of the issue presented in the Motion. See generally Young v. Johnny Ribeiro Building, Inc., 106 Nev. 88, 787 P.2d 777 (1990), and NRCP 37. The Court found in the December Order case concluding sanctions were an appropriate sanction for MDB's spoliation of

² Versa filed THIRD PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS THIRD PARTY PLAINTIFF, MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP 12(B)(5) ("the MTD") on July 19, 2016. The Court granted the MTD on October 19, 2016. The only remaining cause of action alleged by MDB against Versa is for Contribution.

critical evidence. The Court finds a restatement of the December Order is unnecessary in the instant action. Given the indistinguishable issues the Court attaches hereto and incorporates herein as EXHIBIT A the December Order which shall be considered dispositive of the issue raised in the Motion.³

It is hereby **ORDERED** THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/THIRD-PARTY PLAINTIFF MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT PURSUANT TO NRCP 35; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION is **GRANTED**. MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM is **DISMISSED**.

DATED this 22 day of January, 2018.

ELLIOTT A. SATTLER
District Judge

³ The Court notes D.C.R. 13(3) states, "[f]ailure of the opposing party to serve and file his written opposition may be construed as an admission that the motion is meritorious and a consent to granting the same." Versa has not moved to have the Motion granted under this standard.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, County of Washoe; that on this _____ day of January, 2018, I deposited in the County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal Service in Reno, Nevada, a true copy of the attached document addressed to:

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for the County of Washoe; that on the 22 day of January, 2018, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to the following:

MATTHEW ADDISON, ESQ.
JOSH AICKLEN, ESQ.
KATHERINE PARKS, ESQ.
BRIAN BROWN, ESQ.
THIERRY BARKLEY, ESQ.
SARAH QUIGLEY, ESQ.
JESSICA WOELFEL, ESQ.
JACOB BUNDICK, ESQ.
NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK, ESQ.

Sheila Mansfield

Judicial Assistant

EXHIBIT "A"

FILED
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2017-12-08 02:59:29 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6431279

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

ERNEST BRUCE FITZSIMMONS, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

Case No. CV15-02349

Dept. No. 10

VS.

.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC; et al.,

Defendants.

ORDER

Presently before the Court is DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO NRCP 35; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Motion"). The Motion was filed by Defendant/Cross-Claimant/Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS, INC. ("Versa") on May 15, 2017. Defendant/Cross-Claimant, MDB Trucking, LLC ("MDB") filed MDB'S OPPOSITION TO VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE AND/OR SPOLIATION INSTRUCTIONS ("the Opposition") on June 2, 2017. Versa filed DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA

¹ Versa filed the ERRATA TO DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT MDB TRUCKING, LLC's CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO NRCP 37; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Errata") on May 5, 2017. The Errata clarifies Versa is bringing the Motion pursuant to NRCP 37, not NRCP 35 as noted in the caption to the Motion. The reference to NRCP 35 is made only in the caption to the pleading; therefore, the Court presumes it is merely a typographical error.

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PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S REPLY TO MDB'S OPPOSITION TO VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO NRCP 37; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION ("the Reply") on June 12, 2017, and contemporaneously submitted the matter for the Court's consideration. The Court entered an ORDER on August 1, 2017, setting the Motion for oral argument.² The Court heard the arguments of counsel on August 29, 2017, and took the matter under submission.

The Court felt case concluding sanctions were a potential discovery sanction for the alleged abuse following the oral argument. An evidentiary hearing affording both sides the opportunity to present witnesses was required given this conclusion. See generally, Nevada Power v. Fluor Illinois, 108 Nev. 638, 837 P.2d 1354 (1992). The Court entered an ORDER ("the September Order") on September 22, 2017, directing the parties to set the matter for an evidentiary hearing. The evidentiary hearing was conducted on October 13, 2017 ("the October Hearing"). Versa called one expert witness, Scott Palmer ("Palmer"), and one lay witness Garrick Mitchell ("Mitchell") at the October Hearing. MDB called one expert witness, Dr. David Bosch ("Dr. Bosch"), and two lay witnesses, Patrick Bigby ("Bigby") and Erik Anderson ("Anderson") at the October Hearing. The Court admitted numerous exhibits during the October Hearing. The Court permitted the parties to argue their respective positions. Trial was scheduled to begin on October 30, 2017. The Court was aware of its obligation to make detailed findings of facts and conclusions of law. Further, the Court wanted to fulfill these obligations in a thoughtful manner and in writing pursuant to the mandates of the Nevada Supreme Court. The Court informed the parties the Motion would be granted and vacated the trial date. The Court took the matter under submission. This written ORDER follows.

This case arises from a personal injury action. A COMPLAINT ("the Complaint") was filed by Plaintiffs Ernest Bruce Fitzsimmons and Carol Fitzsimmons, on December 4, 2015. Numerous other plaintiffs were joined into the Fitzsimmons case. It is alleged on July 7, 2014, Defendant Daniel Anthony Koski ("Koski"), while driving a truck for MDB, negligently spilled a load of

² There were numerous other pre-trial motions scheduled for oral argument on the same date.

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gravel into the roadway. The spilled gravel caused the driving plaintiffs to lose control of their vehicles and numerous accidents occurred. The plaintiffs sustained physical and emotional injuries as a result of the accidents. In response to the Complaint, MDB filed a THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT ("the MDB Cross-Claim") June 15, 2016. The MDB Cross-Claim had two causes of action relative to Versa: Implied Indemnification and Contribution. MDB alleges it was not Koski's negligence that caused the gravel to spill; rather, the spill was caused by the "unreasonably dangerous and defective" design and manufacture of the trailer that held the gravel. The MDB Cross-Claim, 3:5-7. Therefore, MDB brought the Cross-Claim against the manufacturers of the trailer and its components, including Versa. MDB avers Versa produced a solenoid valve which would, "activate inadvertently allowing the gates to open and release the load [of gravel] carried by the trailer." The MDB Cross-Claim, 3:10-11. MDB also claims there were safer alternatives available to Versa; the solenoid valve was unreasonably dangerous and defective; and Versa failed to provide appropriate safety mechanisms regarding the solenoid valve. The MDB Cross-Claim, 3:12-18.

Versa has denied its product is defective and further denies any responsibility for the spilling of the gravel. Additionally, Versa filed DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFFS ERNEST BRUCE FITZSIMMONS AND CAROL FITZSIMMONS' FIRST AMENDED COMPLAINT AND CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; AND DOES I-X, INCLUSIVE ("the Versa Cross-Claim") on June 29, 2016. The Versa Cross-Claim alleges one cause of action against MDB: Contribution. Versa alleges MDB "negligently operated, maintained, owned, serviced and/or entrusted the subject trailer...." The Versa Cross-Claim, 10:17-18. Versa and MDB are the only remaining parties in this litigation: all of the plaintiffs consolidated into these proceedings, and all of the other defendants have been dismissed and/or settled.

³ Versa filed CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY INC.'S MOTION TO DISMISS CROSS-CLAIMANT, MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION FOR IMPLIED INDEMNITY PURSUANT TO NRCP 12(B)(5) ("the MTD") on June 27, 2016. The Court granted the MTD on October 19, 2016. The only remaining cause of action alleged by MDB against Versa is for Contribution.

 The Motion avers MDB has destroyed or disposed of critical evidence which directly impacts Versa's ability to represent itself in the instant litigation. Specifically, the Motion contends after the accident MDB continued to use the truck in question; failed to keep the truck in the same condition as it was on the day in question; serviced the truck routinely; repaired and replaced the electrical systems that control the solenoid which operated the Versa valve; and failed to take steps to preserve this critical evidence knowing litigation was highly probable. The Opposition contends there has been no spoliation of evidence in this case. Further, the Opposition posits there was nothing more than routine maintenance done on the trailer; therefore, Versa's ability to defend itself has not been impaired.

The Motion avers MDB had a duty to preserve the discarded electrical systems in anticipation of the underlying action. In *Fire Ins. Exchange v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 103 Nev. 648, 651, 747 P.2d 911, 914 (1987), the Nevada Supreme Court held, "even where an action has not been commenced and there is only a potential for litigation, the litigant is under a duty to preserve the evidence which it knows or reasonably should know is relevant to the action." The Motion concludes the appropriate sanction for the failure to preserve this crucial evidence should be dismissal of the entire action. *See generally Young v. Johnny Ribeiro Building Inc.*, 106 Nev. 88, 787 P.2d 777 (1990), and NRCP 37.

Discovery sanctions are within the discretion of the trial court. See Stubli v. Big D Int'l Trucks, Inc., 107 Nev. 309, 312, 810 P.2d 785, 787 (1991), and Kelly Broadcasting v. Sovereign Broadcast, 96 Nev. 188, 192, 606 P.2d 1089, 1092 (1980). "Generally, sanctions may only be imposed where there has been willful noncompliance with the court's order, or where the adversary process has been halted by the actions of the unresponsive party." Zenith, 103 Nev. at 651, 747 P.2d at 913 (citing Finkelman v. Clover Jewelers Blvd. Inc., 91 Nev. 146, 147, 532 P.2d 608, 609 (1975) and Skeen v. Valley Bank of Nevada, 89 Nev. 301, 303, 511 P.2d 1053, 1054 (1973)). Accord GNLV Corp. v. Service Control Corp., 111 Nev. 866, 869, 900 P.2d 323, 325 (1995). Dismissal of an entire action with prejudice is a dramatic punishment for a discovery abuse. The Nevada Supreme Court cautions district courts the use of such a Draconian sanction should be approached with caution. "The dismissal of a case, based upon a discovery abuse such as the

destruction or loss of evidence, 'should be used only in extreme situations; if less drastic sanctions are available, they should be utilized." *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 326 (citation omitted). Additionally, the *Nevada Power* Court held it was an abuse of discretion for a district court to grant case concluding sanctions without an evidentiary hearing. The *Nevada Power* Court held the party facing a case terminating sanction needs an "opportunity to present witnesses or to cross-examine [the movant] or their experts with regard to [the discovery violations]." *Nevada Power*, 108 Nev. at 646, 837 P.2d at 1360. *Cf. Bahena v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. ("Bahena II")*, 126 Nev. 606, 612, 245 P.3d 1182, 1186 (2010).

The Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure provide that a party who fails to comply with discovery orders or rules can be sanctioned for that failure. NRCP 37(b). Sanctions against a party can be graduated in severity and can include: designation of facts to be taken as established; refusal to allow the disobedient party to support or oppose designated claims or defenses; prohibition of the offending party from introducing designated matters in evidence; an order striking out pleadings or parts thereof or dismissing the action; or rendering a judgment by default against the disobedient party. NRCP 37(b)(2). Case concluding sanctions need not be preceded by other less severe sanction. *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325. A disobedient party can also be required to pay the reasonable expenses, including attorney fees caused by the failure. NRCP 37(b)(2)(E).

The Young Court adopted an eight factor analysis ("the Young factors") district courts must go through if they feel a discovery abuse is so severe it warrants dismissal. The Young Court held, "every order of dismissal with prejudice as a discovery sanction be supported by an express, careful and preferably written explanation of the court's analysis of the pertinent factors." Young, 106 Nev. at 93, 787 P.2d at 780. The Young factors are as follows: (1) the degree of willfulness of the offending party; (2) the extent to which the non-offending party would be prejudiced by a lesser sanction; (3) the severity of the sanction of dismissal relative to the severity of the discovery abuse; (4) whether any evidence has been irreparably lost; (5) the feasibility and fairness of less severe sanctions; (6) the policy favoring adjudication on the merits; (7) whether sanctions unfairly operate to penalize a party for the misconduct of his or her attorney; and (8) the need to deter parties and future litigants from similar abuses. Id. In discovery abuse situations where possible case-

concluding sanctions are warranted, the trial judge has discretion in deciding which factors are to be considered on a "case-by-case" basis. *Bahena II*, 126 Nev. at 610, 245 P.3d at 1185 (citing *Higgs v. State*, 126 Nev. 1, 17, 222 P.3d 648, 658 (2010)). The *Young* factor list is not exhaustive and the Court is not required to find that all factors are present prior to making a finding. "Fundamental notions of fairness and due process require that discovery sanctions be just and . . . relate to the specific conduct at issue." *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325.

The Nevada Supreme Court has addressed orders of case concluding sanctions on numerous occasions. The Zenith Court found a party whose agent destroyed and/or lost a television prior to the commencement of the underlying action, after the party's expert had an opportunity to test the television and opine on the television as a cause of a fire, had committed a discovery abuse warranting case concluding sanctions.⁴ The Zenith Court held, "[t]he actions [of the appellant] had the effect of reserving to itself all expert testimony based upon examination of the television set." 103 Nev. at 652, 747 P.2d at 914.

The Kelly Broadcasting Court held the striking of an answer and entry of a judgment in favor of the non-offending party (Kelly) was an appropriate sanction for failing to complete discovery by the offending party (Sovereign). Kelly Broadcasting, 96 Nev. at 192, 606 P.2d at 1092. Sovereign argued a lesser sanction of striking only the affirmative defense to which the interrogatories applied was a more appropriate sanction. The Kelly Broadcasting Court disagreed, noting "[t]he question is not whether this court would as an original matter have entered a default judgment as a sanction for violating a discovery rule; it is whether the trial court abused its discretion in so doing. We do not find an abuse of discretion in this case." Id.

The Stubli Court upheld case concluding sanctions when the appellant or its agents failed to preserve evidence related to the cause of a trucking accident. The respondent provided expert affidavits which posited the cause of the accident could have been something other than the respondent's work on the truck. "The experts further asserted that appellant's failure to preserve the

⁴ The trial court actually struck the appellant's expert witness from the trial. The appellant indicated it had insufficient evidence to proceed without its expert and the trial court granted summary judgment in favor of the respondent. Zenith, 103 Nev. at 651, 747 P.2d at 913.

[truck and its components] had made it impossible for respondents to establish their defense theory."

Stubli, 107 Nev. at 312, 810 P.2d at 787. See also, North American Properties v. McCarran

International Airport, 2016 WL 699864 (Nev. Supreme Court 2016). But see, GNLV, supra (case concluding sanctions not appropriate when other evidence existed which experts could use to assist in their analysis including the statements of witnesses who saw the spoliated evidence).

The Court has considered the arguments of counsel, all of the pleadings on file in the instant action, the testimony of the witnesses at the evidentiary hearing, the exhibits admitted at that hearing, and the relevant case law discussed, *supra*. The issue presented in the case is actually very narrow: MDB claims it was a defective solenoid manufactured by Versa that malfunctioned causing a truck full of gravel to dump onto one of the two busiest roadways in Washoe County. MDB does not dispute the electrical systems were not preserved in anticipation of the trial or potential testing. MDB took no steps to warn its employees to keep any components in the electrical system should they need to be replaced. There are no pictures taken of the electrical system or the components. MDB's employees cannot testify to the condition of the components when they were replaced. Versa avers there were other potential causes of the malfunction, including an electrical issue. Versa further contends it cannot present these issues to the jury in support of its defense because the evidence no longer exists. The Court reviews the *Young* factors as follows:

I. Willfulness

The first Young factor is willfulness. In Childers v. State, 100 Nev. 280, 283, 680 P.2d 598, 599 (1984), the Nevada Supreme Court found the term willful, "implies simply a purpose or willingness to commit the act or to make the omission in question. The word does not require in its meaning any intent to violate law, or to injure another, or to acquire any advantage." Willfulness may be found when a party fails to provide discovery and such failure is not due to an inability on the offending party's part. Havas v Bank of Nevada, 96 Nev. 567, 570, 613 P.2d 706, 708 (1980). The Nevada Supreme Court has not opined that it is necessary to establish wrongful intent to establish willfulness.

Clearly MDB should have anticipated extensive litigation as a result of the incident that occurred on July 7, 2014. This was not a mere "slip and fall" where the putative plaintiff initially claims he/she is not injured only later to come back and sue. There were numerous accidents and injuries as a result of collisions occurring on a highway. MDB, or its counsel, had to know there would be litigation as a result of these events. The Court heard no testimony that MDB took any steps to preserve the truck or trailer in any way. There was no testimony indicating memorialization of the condition of the vehicle was ever contemplated by anyone at MDB. On the contrary, the truck and trailer continued to be in use after the events of July 7, 2014. It was subject to "routine" maintenance. The Court may have condoned the continued use of the truck, and even the trailer, had there been *any* steps taken to preserve the appearance of these items as they existed at the time of the event, or prior to the "routine" maintenance. The memorialization did not occur.

It would have been simple to inform the shop staff to photograph the truck and trailer on or about July 7, 2014. It would have required minimal effort to inform the shop staff to preserve any electrical parts taken off the truck or trailer during the maintenance. If these steps had been taken the Court would be looking at this case through the prism of *GNLV* because both parties would have had alternative ways to prove or disprove their theory of the case. Based on the inaction of MDB in preserving or memorializing the condition of the truck and trailer the Court must view this case through the prism of *Stubli* and *Zenith*: MDB alone has the ability to call experts to support their position. Versa's expert has a theory he can neither confirm nor refute based on the loss of the electrical components. The Court does not find MDB intentionally disposed of the components in order to harm Versa, nor were MDB's employees acting with any malevolence; however, the Court does find MDB is complicit of benign neglect and indifference to the needs of Versa regarding discovery in this action.

II. The possibility of a lesser sanction

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The second *Young* factor is possible prejudice to Versa if a lesser sanction were imposed. The Court would consider lesser sanctions, including an adverse inference instruction, a rebuttable presumption instruction, and the striking of the MDB's expert as alternative sanctions. The Court

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does not find any of these sanctions strike the appropriate balance between MDB's actions and the harm imposed on Versa's case. Should the Court strike Dr. Bosch from being a witness at the trial MDB would be in the same position as the appellant in Zenith: unable to prove its case given the lack of expert testimony and subject to a motion for summary judgment. This outcome would be a patent waste of limited judicial resources and of the jury's time. The Court does not find an adverse inference instruction pursuant to NRS 47.250(3) and Bass-Davis v. Davis, 122 Nev. 442, 134 P.3d 103 (2006), is appropriate under the circumstances before the Court.⁵ As noted by the Zenith Court, "[t]he actions of [MDB] had the effect of reserving to itself all expert testimony based upon examination of the [electronic components]. Any adverse presumption which the court might have ordered as a sanction for the spoliation of evidence would have paled next to the testimony of the expert witness." Zenith, 103 Nev. at 652, 747 P.2d at 914. Additionally, an adverse inference instruction requires an "intent to harm another party through the destruction and not simply the intent to destroy evidence." Bass-Davis, 122 Nev. at 448, 134 P.3d at 106. The Court does not find MDB intended to harm Versa by destroying or disposing of the electrical components; therefore, it could not give this instruction. The Court can conceive of no other sanction which would be appropriate under these circumstances.

⁵ At oral argument counsel for MDB stated:

Recently the Nevada Supreme Court has declared that the Bass versus Davis case is the prevailing case on the spoliation of evidence, not Young versus Ribeiro. And in a case called Walmart Stores, Inc. versus the Eighth Judicial District, No. 48488, January 31st of 2008, the court said, "It is an abuse of discretion for a district court not to consider the case of Bass-Davis versus Davis when imposing sanctions pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 37 for an allegation of spoliation."

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENTIARY HEARING, 208:15-24. The citation to an unpublished disposition of the Nevada Supreme Court issued prior to January 1, 2016, is a violation of ADKT 0504 and SCR 123 (the SCR was repealed by the ADKT). The Court found it difficult to believe the Nevada Supreme Court would make such a sweeping change to firmly established precedent as that represented by counsel in an unpublished disposition. The Court was unfamiliar with Walmart, so the Court endeavored to familiarize itself with the case. The Court looked up the case number provided by counsel on the Nevada Supreme Court webpage. Troublingly, the Court was unable to verify the veracity of the proposition proffered by MDB because the parties agreed to dismiss their proceedings and the Nevada Supreme Court vacated the order upon which MDB makes its argument. The Nevada Supreme Court had granted a Writ of Mandamus on January 31, 2008; however, it withdrew that order on a subsequent date. The Nevada Supreme Court webpage indicates the parties contacted the Supreme Court on February 2, 2008, and indicated they had settled their case. The Nevada Supreme Court entered an order vacating the January 31, 2008, order upon which MDB relies and "den[ied] the petition as moot" on February 13, 2008. In short, the "case" MDB relies upon does not even exist.

III. The severity of the sanction of dismissal relative to the severity of the discovery abuse

"The dismissal of a case, based upon a discovery abuse . . . should be used only in extreme situations; if less drastic sanctions are available, they should be utilized." GNLV, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325 (citing Young, 106 Nev. at 92, 787 P.2d at 779-80). The Court is keenly aware that granting the Motion effectively ends the case. The Court does not take this action lightly. The only issue in this case is why the door to the trailer opened causing the gravel to dump into the roadway. The Court finds MDB's disposal of the electronic components without memorializing them in any way effectively halted the adversarial process. It left all of the "cards" in MDB's hands and left Versa with nothing other than a theory it could neither prove nor disprove. MDB could simply rely on its expert during trial and argue Versa had no proof of its theory and the theory itself was preposterous. This is the position taken by MDB at the evidentiary hearing. Versa is left with no way of verifying its theory of the case.

Counsel for MDB directed the Court's attention at the evidentiary hearing to the strength of their expert (Dr. Bosch) and the weakness of Versa's expert (Palmer). Counsel further emphasized the lack of plausibility of the Palmer's conclusions that it could have been an abraded wire which caused an electrical failure rather than some issue with the solenoid or the Versa valve. The Court is not convinced this should be the deciding factor in resolving the issue of case concluding sanctions for the following reasons:

 MDB's own employee (the same employees who serviced the truck and trailer) acknowledged at the evidentiary hearing that the abrasions Palmer referenced actually do occur;⁶ and

⁶ Q: Okay. You also mentioned that you want to replace those cords, the seven and the – the seven-conductor and the four-conductor cords because they will get cut on the deck plate, they will get abraded, they will become cracked; is that correct?

A: I have seen that, yes.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENTIARY HEARING (testimony of Patrick Bigby), 154:1-6.

2. Dr. Bosch had to acknowledge, though grudgingly and with great circumspection, that it was possible though highly unlikely the electrical system could have caused the valve in question to open.⁷

The Court's decision regarding the issue presented in the Motion is not predicated on who has the "stronger case" or the "better expert" at the evidentiary hearing. If this were the analysis the Court would agree with MDB: Dr. Bosch is a very credible witness and it is likely MDB has the more compelling argument to present to the jury. This, however, is not the issue. The issue in the Court's analysis is MDB's actions deprived Versa of any ability to prove its case: the adversarial process was stymied by MDB regarding the most critical pieces of evidence. Had MDB's witnesses testified the abrasions never occur, or abrasions were photographed and/or documented and none existed on this truck, the Court's conclusion may have been different. Here we know it could have occurred as Palmer suggested.

IV. Whether evidence is irreparably lost

Q

Clearly the relevant evidence is lost. The employees of MDB testified at the evidentiary hearing the electronic components had been thrown away.

V. The feasibility and fairness of a less severe sanctions

The Court discussed the possibility of less severe sanctions in section II. The same analysis applies here. There does not appear to be any sanction short of case concluding sanctions which would be appropriate under the circumstances of this case. The Court also acknowledges that progressive sanctions are not always necessary. The circumstances presented in the Motion are unique and the most severe sanction is appropriate.

⁷Q: Is there any scenario under which current from the seven-prong cord having contact with the four-prong cord could open the versa valve?

A: Anything is possible, but it's highly improbable in this case.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, EVIDENTIARY HEARING (testimony of Dr. Bosch), 161:5-9. Dr. Bosch's testimony clearly established he did not believe there was a short or other electrical failure that caused the valve to open.

VI. The policy favoring adjudication on the merits; and

VII. The need to deter parties and future litigants from similar abuse

The Court considers the sixth and eighth Young factors together. Nevada has a strong policy, and the Court firmly believes, that cases should be adjudicated on their merits. See, Scrimer v. Dist. Court, 116 Nev. 507, 516-517, 998 P.2d 1190, 1196 (2000). See also, Kahn v. Orme, 108 Nev. 510, 516, 835 P.2d 790, 794 (1992). Further, there is a need to deter litigants from abusing the discovery process established by Nevada law. When a party repeatedly and continuously engaged in discovery misconduct the policy of adjudicating cases on the merits is not furthered by a lesser sanction.

Foster, 126 Nev. at 65, 227 P.3d at 1048. The case sub judice is not one of systemic discovery abuse. However, the Court concludes to allow the case to go forward as it is currently postured would be the antithesis of allowing it to proceed "on the merits." The merits of Versa's case would not be able to be evaluated by the jury because Versa could not test its theory on the actual components. The jury would be left to guess about what may have occurred rather than weigh the competing theories presented. MDB would have an overwhelmingly unfair advantage given its action.

The Court balances the laudable policy of trial on the merits against the need to deter future litigants from abusing the discovery process. The Court turns back to the Zenith Court's direction to all potential litigants regarding their duty to preserve evidence. The Zenith Court stated, "[i]t would be unreasonable to allow litigants, by destroying physical evidence prior to a request for production, to sidestep the district court's power to enforce the rules of discovery." Id. 103 Nev. at 651, 747 P.2d at 913. Accord, Colfer v. Harmon, 108 Nev. 363, 832 P.2d 383 (1992). To allow this case to go forward, when the only evidence which may have supported Versa's defense was in the sole possession of MDB and MDB did nothing to preserve or document that evidence, would set a dangerous precedent to similarly situated parties in the future. It would also be antithetical to a potential litigant's obligation to preserve the very evidence it may have to produce during discovery.

When the Court balances the sixth and eighth Young factor it concludes dismissal of MDB's claims against Versa are appropriate.

VIII. Whether sanctions unfairly operate to penalize a party for the misconduct of his or her attorney

There is no evidence to show MDB's counsel directed MDB to destroy or fail to memorialize the evidence in question. The Court finds this factor to be inapplicable to the *Young* analysis.

"Fundamental notions of fairness and due process require that discovery sanctions be just and . . . relate to the specific conduct at issue." *GNLV*, 111 Nev. at 870, 900 P.2d at 325 (citing Young, 106 Nev. at 92, 787 P.2d at 779-80). The Court recognizes that discovery sanctions should be related to the specific conduct at issue. The discovery abuse in this case crippled one party's ability to present its case. Weighing all eight factors above the Court concludes the dismissal of the MDB Cross-Claim is appropriate. Due to the severity of MDB's discovery abuse there are no lesser sanctions that are suitable.

It is hereby **ORDERED** DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT
VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT/CROSSCLAIMANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM PURSUANT TO
NRCP 35; OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, FOR AN ADVERSE JURY INSTRUCTION is **GRANTED**. MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-CLAIM is DISMISSED.

DATED this day of December, 2017.

ELLIOTT A. SATTLER District Judge

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial

District Court of the State of Nevada, County of Washoe; that on this _____ day of December, 2017,

I deposited in the County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal

Service in Reno, Nevada, a true copy of the attached document addressed to:

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, in and for the County of Washoe; that on the ______ day of December, 2017, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court by using the ECF system which will send a notice of electronic filing to the following:

JOSH AICKLEN, ESQ.
MATTHEW ADDISON, ESQ.
KATHERINE PARKS, ESQ.
BRIAN BROWN, ESQ.
THIERRY BARKLEY, ESQ.
SARAH QUIGLEY, ESQ.
JESSICA WOELFEL, ESQ.
JACOB BUNDICK, ESQ.

NICHOLAS WIECZOREK, ESQ.

Sheila Mansfield Judicial Assistant

FILED
Electronically
CV16-00976
2016-11-04 01:17:12 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 5791793

CASE NO. CV15-01337 OLIVIA JOHN ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL CASE NO. CV15-02349 FITZSIMMONS ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL CASE NO. CV16-00519 JULIE KINS VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL CROSSLAND ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL CASE NO. CV16-00626 GENEVA REMMERDE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL CASE NO. CV16-00976 STATE FARM VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL CASE NO. CV16-01087 CASE NO. CV16-01335 CORTHELL ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL JOSE NACULANGGA VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL CASE NO. CV16-01410 CASE NO. CV16-01914 JAMES BIBLE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL

DATE, JUDGE OFFICERS OF

COURT PRESENT

APPEARANCES-HEARING

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11/4/16 **STATUS HEARING**

HONORABLE 9:04 a.m. – Court convened.

ELLIOTT A.

SATTLER <u>Counsel present on behalf of the Plaintiffs:</u>

DEPT. NO. 10 M. White **Joseph Bradley, Esq.**, was present on behalf of Plaintiffs Ernest & Carol Fitzsimmons. **Sarah Quigley, Esq.**, was present on behalf of Plaintiffs Angela Wilt, Benjamin & Rosa

Robles, Julie Kins, and Geneva Remmerde.

L. Urmston (Reporter)

(Clerk)

Terry Friedman, Esq., was present on behalf of Plaintiff Olivia John.

Craig Murphy, Esq., was present on behalf of Plaintffs Christy & Shawn Corthell.

James Sloan, Esq., was present on behalf of Plaintiff James Bible.

Kevin Berry, Esq., was present on behalf of Plaintiffs Beverly, Patrick & Ryan Crossland.

Riley Clayton, Esq., was present on behalf of Plaintiff State Farm Mutual Auto Insurance Company.

Counsel present on behalf of the Defendants:

Brian Brown, Esq., was present on behalf of Defendants, MDB Trucking, LLC and Daniel A. Koski.

Paige Shreve, Esq., was present on behalf of Defendant Versa Products Company, Inc. **Lisa Zastrow, Esq.**, was present on behalf of Defendants The Modern Group GP-SUB, Inc., and Dragon ESP, Ltd.

Jessica Woelfel, Esq., was present on behalf of Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. **Stephen Kent, Esq.**, was present on behalf of Defendant MDB Trucking, LLC, in CV16-01087.

Brent Harsh, Esq., was present on behalf of Defendant Vicki Meissner.

COURT reviewed the procedural history of the cases, noting that they were assigned to various departments throughout the Second Judicial District Court, and Chief Judge Flanagan decided that it would be more prudent for all cases to be handled by a single department, and therefore all cases have been transferred to this Court; and he further noted that if any other actions are filed in Washoe County as a result of the July 2014 incident, they will be assigned to Department Ten.

CASE NO. CV15-01337	<u>OLIVIA JOHN ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL</u>
CASE NO. CV15-02349	FITZSIMMONS ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-00519	JULIE KINS VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-00626	CROSSLAND ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-00976	GENEVA REMMERDE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01087	STATE FARM VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01335	CORTHELL ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01410	JOSE NACULANGGA VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01914	JAMES BIBLE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL

DATE, JUDGE OFFICERS OF COURT PRESENT

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APPEARANCES-HEARING

11/4/16 HONORABLE ELLIOTT A. SATTLER DEPT. NO. 10 M. White (Clerk) L. Urmston

(Reporter)

STATUS HEARING

Counsel Clayton advised the Court that the State Farm case (CV16-01087) has been settled, and he will be getting settlement documents to the Court within the next couple of weeks. **COURT** excused counsel Clayton from the remainder of the hearing. Counsel Kent concurred with counsel Clayton regarding CV16-01087, however noted that he has filed a new case regarding the carriers, in which MDB Trucking is the Plaintiff, and all clients present today have been named in the new lawsuit; and he further advised the Court that it is his intention today to get the parties served, and to perhaps set up a global mediation.

At this point in the hearing, the Clerk determined that the new case number is CV16-02091, MDB Trucking, LLC etal vs. Financial Pacific Insurance Company etal, and it is assigned to Department Eight.

COURT advised the parties that his Judicial Assistant has been contacted by the Clerk, and she is working on getting CV16-02091 transferred to Department 10. Counsel Brown advised the Court that he has not been served in CV16-01410, and therefore he is not appearing in that case.

COURT noted that no parties have been served in CV16-01410; and he further reviewed the procedural history of the cases.

Discussion ensued between the Court and counsel Bradley regarding the trial date set in CV15-02349, which was originally set for March 20, 2017, in Department Fifteen, however when the case was transferred to Department Ten, the March 20, 2017, date was vacated.

Upon questioning by the Court, counsel Bradley indicated that they would not object to some of the other cases being consolidated into their case.

Discussion ensued between the Court and respective counsel regarding consolidation of the cases.

Counsel Brown presented the Court and respective counsel with a draft of proposed discovery deadlines; and he further gave the Court information regarding the incident that occurred in these cases, which is why he believes that there will be 2 phases of discovery – first to determine why the gravel was on the road, and second to determine damages. Counsel Brown requested that the Court eventually enter an order which will guide the discovery process as the cases move forward.

CASE NO. CV15-01337	<u>OLIVIA JOHN ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL</u>
CASE NO. CV15-02349	FITZSIMMONS ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-00519	JULIE KINS VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-00626	CROSSLAND ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-00976	GENEVA REMMERDE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01087	STATE FARM VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01335	CORTHELL ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01410	JOSE NACULANGGA VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
CASE NO. CV16-01914	JAMES BIBLE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL

DATE, JUDGE OFFICERS OF

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COURT PRESENT

APPEARANCES-HEARING **STATUS HEARING**

11/4/16 **HONORABLE** ELLIOTT A. **SATTLER** DEPT. NO. 10 M. White (Clerk) L. Urmston

(Reporter)

COURT noted that he is aware that the parties were granted a preferential trial setting in CV15-02349; further discussion ensued regarding the March 20, 2017, trial date that was set in Department Fifteen, prior to the case being transferred to Department Ten. Discussion then ensued between the Court and respective counsel regarding the possibility of settlement work.

Counsel Brown indicated that the parties have been working together very well, and he suggested that the Court require them to submit a joint status report.

COURT ORDERED: A Joint Status Report shall be filed by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 16, 2016; all parties must participate in the Joint Status Report (with the exception of the Naculangga matter.)

COURT FURTHER ORDERED: The previous trial date set in CV15-02349 shall be maintained, and therefore a ten (10) day Jury Trial shall be set in CV15-02349 for March 20, 2017, at 8:30 a.m., in Department Ten.

Counsel Zastrow gave the Court information regarding the Motions to Dismiss that have been fully briefed but not submitted, noting that she is holding off on submission of the Motions as she is working on a stipulation with some of the other parties.

Counsel Murphy advised the Court that he intends to file a Motion to Consolidate in his case, CV16-01335.

Discussion ensued between the Court and respective counsel regarding an additional Status Hearing.

Counsel Zastrow noted that it is costly for her to appear in person at Status Hearings, and requested that she be allowed to be present telephonically.

COURT DENIED counsel Zastrow's request, noting that all counsel must be present in person at all future hearings.

COURT ORDERED: An additional Status Hearing is set for **December 16, 2016, at** 10:00 a.m.

10:33 a.m. – Court adjourned.

FILED
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CV16-00976
2016-12-16 05:14:12 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 5859917

CASE NO. CV15-02349
CASE NO. CV16-00976
CASE NO. CV16-01410

FITZSIMMONS ETAL VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
GENEVA REMMERDE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL
JOSE NACULANGGA VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL

CASE NO. CV16-01914 **JAMES BIBLE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL**

CASE NO. CV16-02091 MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL VS. FINANCIAL PACIFIC INS. ETAL

DATE, JUDGE Page 1

OFFICERS OF

COURT PRESENT APPEARANCES-HEARING

12/16/16 STATUS HEARING

HONORABLE 3:07 p.m. – Court convened.

ELLIOTT A.

SATTLER <u>Counsel present on behalf of the Plaintiffs:</u>

DEPT. NO. 10 **Sarah Quigley, Esq.**, was present on behalf of Plaintiffs Ernest & Carol Fitzsimmons,

M. White
(Clerk)

L. Urmston

Angela Wilt, Benjamin & Rosa Robles, Julie Kins, and Geneva Remmerde.

Julie Throop, Esq., was present on behalf of Plaintiff Olivia John.

James Sloan, Esq., was present on behalf of Plaintiff James Bible.

(Reporter) **Kevin Berry, Esq.**, was present on behalf of Plaintiffs Beverly, Patrick & Ryan

Crossland.

Stephen Kent, Esq., was present telephonically on behalf of MDB Trucking, LLC in case number CV16-02091.

Counsel present on behalf of the Defendants:

Thierry V. Barkley, Esq., was present on behalf of Defendants, MDB Trucking, LLC and Daniel A. Koski.

Ken Bick, Esq., was present on behalf of Defendant Versa Products Company, Inc. **Jacob Bundick, Esq.**, was present telephonically on behalf of Defendants The Modern Group GP-SUB, Inc., and Dragon ESP, Ltd.

Matt Addison, Esq., was present on behalf of Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. **Ted Kurtz, Esq.**, was present telephonically on behalf of Associated International Insurance Company in case number CV16-02091.

COURT advised respective counsel that he has recently discovered that his wife and counsel Brown's wife are friends, and while this will not impact his ability to be fair and impartial in this case in any way, he must put this information on the record, and the parties are free to file a motion regarding this issue if they wish.

COURT further reviewed the procedural history of the cases, noting that the upcoming trial date in CV15-02349 was vacated.

Counsel Quigley advised the Court that the parties have agreed to reset the trial date in CV15-02349 for October 31, 2017.

Counsel Barkley advised the Court that there will additional subrogation cases filed. Discussion ensued between the Court and respective counsel regarding this matter being declared complex litigation.

CASE NO. CV15-02349
CASE NO. CV16-00976
CASE NO. CV16-01410

CASE NO. CV16-01914 **JAMES BIBLE VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL**

CASE NO. CV16-02091 MDB TRUCKING, LLC ETAL VS. FINANCIAL PACIFIC INS. ETAL

DATE, JUDGE Page 2

OFFICERS OF

COURT PRESENT APPEARANCES-HEARING

12/16/16 **STATUS HEARING**

HONORABLE **COURT ORDERED:** CV15-02349 shall be declared complex litigation pursuant to

ELLIOTT A. NRS 16.1 (f).

SATTLER **COURT** advised respective counsel that with regards to the consolidated cases, all

DEPT. NO. 10 documents must now be filed in CV15-02349.

M. White Upon questioning by the Court, counsel Addison recommended that two additional status hearings be set, equidistant between now and the trial date.

status hearings be set, equidistant between now and the trial date. Discussion ensued regarding discovery, and the Pretrial Order.

L. Urmston Discussion ensued regarding discovery, and the Pretrial Order.

(Reporter) **COURT** advised respective counsel to pay close attention to the Pretrial Order, specifically to submission deadlines for pretrial motions and motions in limine.

Discussion ensued regarding how long the parties expect the trial to last in CV15-02349.

COURT ORDERED: Respective counsel shall meet and confer, and then contact the Department Ten Judicial Assistant, Sheila Mansfield, to set two additional status hearings; one hearing shall be set in April 2017, and one shall be set in August 2017.

Counsel must be present in person at all future hearings.

3:41 p.m. – Court adjourned.

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Transaction # 6568794

Code 1350

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

GENEVA M. REMMERDE,

Case No. CV16-00976

Plaintiff,

Dept. No. 10

VS.

DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; MDB TRUCKING, LLC; et al.,

Defendants.

CERTIFICATE OF CLERK AND TRANSMITTAL - NOTICE OF APPEAL

I certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, County of Washoe; that on the 8th day of March, 2018, I electronically filed the Notice of Appeal in the above entitled matter to the Nevada Supreme Court.

I further certify that the transmitted record is a true and correct copy of the original pleadings on file with the Second Judicial District Court.

Dated this 8th day of March, 2018

Jacqueline Bryant Clerk of the Court

By <u>/s/ Yvonne Viloria</u> Yvonne Viloria Deputy Clerk

