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CV16-01914
2018-03-08 01:13:00 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6567742 : yviloria

EXHIBIT 4

4845-3057-6394.1

CASE NO. 16-10DC-0824 DEPT NO. I 3 4 5 6 JAMES BIBLE, Plaintiff, 8 9 VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC, a Nevada Limited 10 Liability Company; RMS LAMAR HOLDÍNGS, INC. a Colorado Corporation; VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC., a 12 | New Jersey Corporation; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; ABC CORPORATIONS; BLACK AND WITH 131 COMPANIES; XYZ PARTNERSHIPS; and DOES I through X, inclusive Defendants. 15 VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC., 16 Cross-Claimant, 17 18 VS. MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL 19 ANTHONY KOSKI; and DOES I - X, 20 inclusive, Cross-Defendants. 21 22 23

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COPY

IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEWDA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHURCHILL

> Case No. 16-10DC-0824 Dept. No. I

DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMIANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF JAMES BIBLE'S COMPLAINT AND CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; and DOES I - X, INCLUSIVE

COMES NOW, Defendant/Cross-Claimant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. ("Defendant") by and through it's attorneys of record, Josh Cole Aicklen, Esq., and David Avakian, Esq., of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP, and hereby responds to Plaintiff's Complaint and Cross-Claims as follows:

4821-1824-8757.1

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

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RESPONSES TO GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- Answering Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant is 1. without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of said paragraphs and, on that basis, denies each and every allegation of set forth therein.
- Answering Paragraph 4 of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant admits VERSA 2. PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. is a New Jersey corporation. Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations the remainder of said paragraph and, on that basis, denies each and every allegation set forth therein.
- Answering Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of Plaintiff's Complaint Defendant is 3. without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the 13 | allegations of said paragraphs and, on that basis, denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

RESPONSES TO FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION (Negligence)

- Answering Paragraph 8 of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant repeats and 4. realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1-7 as if fully set forth herein.
- Answering Paragraphs 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20 of 5. || Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations of said paragraphs and, on that basis, denies each and every allegation set forth therein.

RESPONSES TO SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Negligence per se)

- Answering Paragraph 21 of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant repeats and 6. realleges its responses to Paragraphs 1-20 as if fully set forth herein.
- Answering Paragraphs 22, 23 and 24 of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant is 7. without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the

allegations of said paragraphs and, on that basis, denies each and every allegation set				
forth therein.				
(Stri	RESPONSES TO THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION ict Products Liability as to RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC.)			
8. Ans	wering Paragraph 25 of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant repeats and			
realleges its respo	onses to Paragraphs 1-24 as if fully set forth herein.			
9. Ans	wering Paragraphs 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31 of Plaintiff's Complaint,			
Defendant is with	out sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of			
the allegations of	said paragraphs and, on that basis, denies each and every allegation			
set forth therein.				
(Strict F	RESPONSES TO FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION Products Liability as to VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.)			
10. Ans	wering Paragraph 32 of Plaintiff's Complaint, Defendant repeats and			
realleges its respo	onses to Paragraphs 1-31 as if fully set forth herein.			
11. Ans	wering Paragraphs 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 of Plaintiff's Complaint,			
Defendant is with	out sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of			
the allegations of	said paragraphs and, on that basis, denies each and every allegation			
set forth therein.				
	AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES			
	FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE			
That it has	been necessary for Defendant to employ the services of an attorney to			
defend this action	defend this action and a reasonable sum should be allowed it as and for attorneys' fees,			
together with costs expended in this action.				
	SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE			
Defendant	alleges that no contract exists between the parties sufficient to support			
a claim for proper	ty damage and/or personal injuries.			
	THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE			
Defendant avers that the allegations contained in the Complaint fail to state a				

cause of action upon which relief can be granted.

FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff has failed to mitigate his damages.

FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that the damages, if any, suffered by Plaintiff, as set forth in the Complaint, were caused in whole or in part by the negligence of a third party over which Defendant had no control.

SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff by his conduct has waived and/or abandoned any and all claims as alleged herein against Defendant.

SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant cannot be compelled to make contribution beyond its equitable share.

EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The claims in Plaintiff's Complaint are barred or limited by the doctrines of estoppel, waiver, release and/or license.

NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The damages, if any, incurred by Plaintiff are not attributable to any act, conduct or omission on the part of Defendant; that Defendant denies that it was negligent in any manner or in any degree with respect to the matter set forth in the Plaintiff's Complaint.

TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

If, in fact, any untoward, unsafe, or defective condition existed in the product mentioned in the Complaint, which this answering Defendant denies, said condition was caused and contributed to by the negligence of the Plaintiff and/or other third parties, and not by any tortious actions or failure to act by this answering Defendant.

ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

If, in fact, any untoward, unsafe, or defective condition existed in the product mentioned in the Complaint, which this answering Defendant denies, said condition was caused and contributed to by the actions or inactions of Plaintiff and/or other third parties,

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recovery against this answering Defendant.

TWELFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

in that it/they changed and altered said product, thereby barring Plaintiff's right to

Between this answering Defendant and the Plaintiff and/or other third parties, the equities do not so preponderate in favor of the Plaintiff so as to allow recovery against this answering Defendant.

THIRTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

That any and all events and happenings in connection with the allegations contained in the Complaint, and any resulting injuries and damages, were proximately 10 | caused and contributed to by the negligence of other entities; and that Defendant's liability to Plaintiff, if any, is proportionate only to its respective degree of negligence in comparison to all other responsible entities, as determined by the trier of fact.

FOURTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

That the events, injuries and damages complained of in Plaintiff's Complaint, if 15 | any, were the result of an unavoidable accident insofar as Defendant is concerned and 16 | incurred without any negligence, want of care, default, breach of warranty or other breach of duty to Plaintiff on the part of Defendant.

FIFTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that the Plaintiff and/or other third-parties are responsible for comparative fault in the matter set forth in the Complaint and said comparative fault on the Plaintiff and/or other third-parties part caused or contributed to the injuries or 22 damages complained of, if any. The Court is requested to determine and 23 | allocate the percentage of negligence attributable to said Plaintiff and/or other third-24 parties.

SIXTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff and/or other third-parties had knowledge of the risks and hazards set forth in the Complaint and the magnitude thereof, and did voluntarily assume the risks thereof.

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SEVENTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that the injury, damage, or loss, if any, sustained by the Plaintiff and/or other third-parties was due to and proximately caused by the misuse, abuse, and misapplication of the product described in the Complaint.

EIGHTEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that the injury, damage or loss, if any, sustained by the Plaintiff and/or other third parties, was due to the use of a product for a purpose for which it was not intended.

NINETEENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The product identified in the Complaint was altered or modified in such a way that was not reasonably foreseeable by Defendant and precludes or reduces the liability of Defendant, if any.

TWENTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

The product identified in the Complaint conformed with the state of the art at the time of the sale.

TWENTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff and/or other third-parties use of the subject product identified in the Complaint was contrary to instructions and/or warnings provided with the subject product thereby precluding recovery against or reducing the liability of this answering Defendant.

TWENTY-SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant alleges that Plaintiff and/or other third-parties injuries, if any, were aggravated by their failure to mitigate such damages.

TWENTY-THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff and/or other third-parties claims are barred by disclaimer.

TWENTY-FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff and/or other third-parties and this answering Defendant are not in privity of contract.

TWENTY-FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant had no duty to warn of any alleged danger where such danger was open and obvious to all persons of ordinary intelligence and experience, including the Plaintiff and/or other third parties.

TWENTY-SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred in that a manufacturer or seller has no duty to warn of patent or obvious dangers.

TWENTY-SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred in that the product was not in a reasonably dangerous or defective condition at the time it left Defendant's control.

TWENTY-EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred in that Defendant was not and is not a merchant within the meaning of the implied warranty of merchantability.

TWENTY-NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's claims are barred in that this answering Defendant is not the manufacturer of the allegedly defective product(s).

THIRTIETH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Plaintiff's damages, if any there were, are barred and/or Plaintiff's recovery must be reduced due to Plaintiff's own comparative fault.

THIRTY-FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

Defendant hereby incorporates by reference those affirmative defenses enumerated in Rule 8 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure as if fully set forth herein. In the event further investigation or discovery reveals the applicability of any such defenses, Defendant reserves the right to seek leave of court to amend this Answer to specifically assert any such defenses. Such defenses are herein incorporated by reference for the specific purpose of not waiving any such defenses.

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DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; AND DOES I-X,

COMES NOW, Defendant/Cross-Claimant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. (hereinafter "Cross-Claimant") and alleges and files a Cross-Claim against MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSK; I and DOES I - X, inclusive, and each of them, as follows:

FIRST CROSS-CLAIM

(Contribution against Cross-Defendants MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; and DOES I through X, inclusive, and each of them)

That Cross-Claimant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. is at all times relevant hereto, a foreign limited liability company.

- Cross-Claimant is unaware of the true names and legal capacities, whether 1. individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of the Cross-Defendants sued herein as DOES I - X, inclusive, and therefore sues said Cross-Defendants by fictitious names. Cross-Claimant prays for leave of court to insert said Cross-Claim true names and legal capacities when they are ascertained.
- Cross-Claimant is informed and believes, and thereupon alleges, that each 2. 18 of the Cross-Defendants designated herein as a DOE is in some way directly or vicariously responsible and liable for the events referred to herein and proximately caused the damages alleged, if any, in that the DOE negligently owned, operated, maintained, serviced and/or entrusted the subject tractor trailer.
 - Cross-Claimant alleges that Cross-Defendants MDB TRUCKING, LLC; 3. DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; and DOES I - X, inclusive, and each of them, negligently operated, maintained, owned, serviced and/or entrusted the subject tractor trailer as alleged by Plaintiff in her Complaint.
 - Cross-Claimant alleges that Cross-Defendants MDB TRUCKING, LLC; 4. DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI and DOES I - X, inclusive, and each of them, are liable to Cross-Claimant for any judgment rendered against it in this action.

- In the event of any judgment for the Plaintiff and against Cross-Claimant, 5. said Cross-Claimant is entitled to contribution from said Cross-Defendants MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI and DOES I - X, inclusive, and each of them, pursuant to NRS 17.225, et. seq.
- By reason of this action it has been necessary for Cross-Claimant to incur costs and retain an attorney to defend and prosecute this action on their behalf, and therefore Cross-Claimant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. is entitled to costs of suit and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Defendant/Cross-Claimant VERSA PRODUCTS, INC. prays for judgment as follows:

For judgment over and against Cross-Defendants MDB TRUCKING, LLC; 1. 13 DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI and DOES I - X, inclusive, inclusive, and each of them, for 14 | their pro-rata share and contribution for the amount of any judgment entered against the 15 Cross-Claimant and in favor of Plaintiffs JAMES BIBLE.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE day of July, 2016, a true and correct copy I hereby certify that on this of DEFENDANT/CROSS-CLAIMIANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF JAMES BIBLE'S COMPLAINT AND CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI and DOES I - X, INCLUSIVE was served by U.S. Mail addressed as follows: James F. Sloan, Esq. JAMES F. SLOAN LTLD. 977 W. Williams Ave. Fallon, NV 894063 Attorney for Plaintiff JAMES BIBLE LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

BRISBOIS
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& SMITHLE

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EXHIBIT 3

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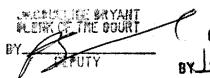
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THORNDAL ARMSTRONG DELK BALKENBUSH 27 & EISINGER 3590 S. McCarran, Suite B Rono, Nevada 89509 775) 786-2882 28 FILED

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IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHURCHILL

JAMES BIBLE,

CASE NO. 16-10DC-0824

[The undersigned hereby affirms this document does not contain a social security number]

DEPT. NO. I

Plaintiff,

VS.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC; a Nevada Limited Liability Company; RMS [sic] LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC.; a Colorado Corporation; VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.; a New Jersey Corporation; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI, et. al.,

Defendants.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Cross-Claimant.

VS.

RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC., a Colorado corporation; VERSA PRODUCTS INC., a New Jersey Corporation; and DOES 1-10, and BLACK AND WHITE COMPANIES 1-10,

Cross-Defendants.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S CROSS-**CLAIM AGAINST RMC** LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC. (fka RANCH MANUFACTURING COMPANY) AND VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.

> CV16 01914 $\mathcal{I}_{\mathcal{L}}$

Defendant and Cross-Claimant, MDB Trucking, LLC, by and through its counsel of record Thorndal Armstrong Delk Balkenbush & Eisinger hereby brings its cross-claim against Cross-Defendants RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. (fka Ranch Manufacturing Company) and Versa Products Company, Inc.

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THORNDAL ARMSTRON DELK BALKENBUSH 27 & EISINGER

775) 786-2882 28

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(General Allegations)

- That Defendant/Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC was at all relevant times a 1. Nevada limited liability company authorized to conduct business within the state of Nevada.
- That Cross-Defendants DOES 1-10 and BLACK AND WHITE COMPANIES 1-2. 10 are sued herein under fictitious names and capacities of said Defendants are not known by Cross-Claimant, who ask leave of this court to amend this Cross-Claim to set forth same as they become known or ascertained.
- Cross-Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. (fka Ranch Manufacturing 3. Company) was at all relevant times hereto a Colorado corporation engaged in the business of designing and manufacturing trailers and semi-trailers and placed same into the stream of commerce and was doing business in the State of Nevada.
- Cross-Defendant Versa Products Company, Inc. was at all relevant times hereto a New Jersey Corporation engaged in the business of designing and manufacturing pneumatic air solenoid valves specifically for bottom dump trailers and gate activated controls and placed into the stream of commerce and was doing business in the State of Nevada.
- A Complaint was filed on July 7, 2016 in the Tenth Judicial District Court, Case 5. No. 16-10DC-0824, Department I in which the Plaintiff James Bible prayed for damages against Defendant MDB Trucking, LLC alleging negligence with regard to an accident which occurred on July 7, 2014 where a Ranco trailer owned by MDB Trucking, LLC spilled a load of gravel causing an accident and injury which are claims presented by Plaintiffs.
- That upon information and belief, the Ranco trailer was activated inadvertently 6. causing the gates of the semi-trailer to release the subject load of gravel on the highway and was defective in part or in whole as designed by Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. (fka Ranch Manufacturing Company) (also known by the trade name and trademark Ranco).
- 7. Cross-Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. manufactured the subject Ranco trailer in 2002 under the vehicle brand Ranco with vehicle identification number 1R9BP45082L008431 Idaho Plate #TE3528.

8.		Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC was the last purchaser and end user of the
ubject R	anco	trailer in 2012.

- 9. On or about 2002, the Ranco trailer that left Cross-Defendant's control as designed, assembled and manufactured by the Cross-Defendant was unreasonably dangerous and defective in one or more of the following respects:
- a. The semi-trailer was designed, assembled, and manufactured and/or configured in such a manner that the Versa solenoid valve would activate inadvertently allowing the gates to open and release the load carried by the trailer; and,
- b. That the Ranco trailer was designed, assembled, manufactured, and/or configured in such a manner that the Versa Valve was not equipped with a safety lock to prevent inadvertent activation allowing the gates to open.
- c. That Versa Valve manufactured an alternate safer design available in 2002 including a manual lock system which was available to Ranco.
- 10. On or about July 7, 2014, that Versa Valve solenoid control as a component to the Ranco trailer was unreasonably dangerous and defective in one or more of the following respects:
- a. The Versa Valve solenoid valve would activate inadvertently allowing the gates to open and release the load carried by the trailer; and,
- b. Versa Products Company, Inc. had a safer design available in the stream of commerce on or before 2002 which employed a manual lock safety design that should have been provided to its end use customers in lieu of the Versa Valve installed both at the time of the manufacturer in 2002 and directly sold to MDB as a standard maintenance replacement in 2013.
- 11. That to the extent Plaintiff was injured as a proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous conditions and defects at the time of manufacturing or negligent design, such is a direct and proximate result of the negligence of the Cross-Defendants; and, any negligence that exists as alleged by Plaintiff is expressly denied. Cross-Defendants were actively negligent and Cross-Claimant was passively negligent but also an innocent defendant with no culpable fault at all.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Implied Indemnification as to VERSA)

- 21. Cross-Claimant repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1- 20 above as if more fully set forth herein.
- 22. Cross-Claimant is entitled to complete indemnity against Versa Products Company, Inc. with respect to all allegations or liabilities set forth in the First Amended Complaint.
- 23. That Cross-Claimant is therefore entitled to all costs and fees expended in the defense of claims of negligence in this matter as well as prosecution of the Cross-Complaint.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Contribution as to VERSA)

- 24. Cross-Claimant repeats and realleges each and every allegation contained in paragraphs 1-23 above as if more fully set forth herein.
- 25. Cross-Claimant is entitled to contribution from Cross-Defendant Versa Products, Company, Inc. with respect to any settlement, judgment, awards, or any other type of resolution of the claims brought forward by the Plaintiffs in their First Amended Complaint on file herein.
- 26. Cross-Claimant is entitled to all costs and fees expended in the defense of the claims for negligence in this matter as well as prosecution of the Cross-Complaint.

WHEREFORE, Cross-Claimant demands judgment against Cross-Defendants as follows:

- 1. For implied indemnification with respect to all negligence claims brought against Cross-Claimant in this matter;
- 2. For contribution with respect to all negligence claims brought against Cross-Claimant in this matter;
- 3. For attorneys' fees and costs expended in this matter; and

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THORNDAL ARMSTRONG DELK BALKENBUSH & EISINGER 65/10 S. McCarran, Suite B Reno, Nevada 895/19 (775) 786-2882

DELK BALKENBUSH

For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper in the 4. premises.

DATED this 2th day of August, 2016.

THORNDAL ARMSTRONG DELK BALKENBUSH & EISINGER

Katherine F. Parks, Esq., State Bar No. 6227 Brian M. Brown, Esq., State Bar No. 5233 Thierry V. Barkley, Esq., State Bar No. 724 6590 S. McCarran Blvd., Suite B Reno, Nevada 89509

Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Claimant MDB TRUCKING, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

2	Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of Thorndal Armstrong Delk
3	Balkenbush & Eisinger, and that on this date I caused the foregoing MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S
4	CROSS-CLAIM AGAINST RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC. (fka RANCH
5	MANUFACTURING COMPANY) AND VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. to be
6	served on all parties to this action by:
7	✓ placing an original or true copy thereof in a sealed, postage prepaid, envelope in the
8	United States mail at Reno, Nevada.
9	hand delivery
10	electronic means (fax, electronic mail, etc.)
11	Federal Express/UPS or other overnight delivery fully addressed as follows:
12	
13	James F. Sloan, Esq. 977 West Williams Avenue
14	Fallon, Nevada 89506 Attorneys for Plaintiff
15	Attorneys for 1 minutes
16	Matthew C. Addison, Esq. Jessica L. Woelfel, Esq.
17	McDonald Carano Wilson LLP 100 W. Liberty Street, Tenth Floor
18	Reno, NV 89501 Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings
19	Detendant Rive Damas Aviolage
20	Josh Cole Aicklen David B. Avakian
21	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP 6385 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 600
22	Las Vegas, NV 89118 Defendant Versa Products Co., Inc.
23	Detendant versa 1100000 con, 2220
24	DATED this <u>/5</u> day of August, 2016.
25	Chin Elm
26	An employee of Thorndal Armstrong Delk Balkenbush & Eisinger

THORNDAL ARMSTRONG
DELK BALKENBUSH
& EISINGER
6590 S. McCarran. Suite B
Reno, Nevada 89309
(775) 786-2882
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EXHIBIT 2

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Check No.: 11783 Vendor No.: 93565 Judicial District Court, Tenth Voucher Account No./ Disb. Invoice No. File No. **Amount** Code Date Invoice No. Description 198.00 2021758 27350-1553 5 LV-05022 Filing for Cross-Claim regarding Bible v. Versa 7/28/16 **Products**

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LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. San Francisco, CA

CHECK NO. 11783

ATTORNEYS
LAS VEGAS OFFICE
6385 SOUTH RAINBOW BOULEVARD. SUITE 600
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89118
(702) 893-3383

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DATE 07/29/2016

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EXHIBIT 1

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Transaction # 6524896: yviloria

JOSH COLE AICKLEN Nevada Bar No. 007254 Josh.aicklen@lewisbrisbois.com DAVID B. AVAKIAN Nevada Bar No. 009502 David.avakian@lewisbrisbois.com PAIGE S. SHREVE Nevada Bar No. 013773 5 || Paige.shreve@lewisbrisbois.com LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 6 | 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 702.893.3383 FAX: 702.893.3789 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. 9

DISTRICT COURT

WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

JAMES BIBLE,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et. al.

Defendants.

AND ALL RELATED CASES.

Case No. CV16-01914

Dept. 10

CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS

COMES NOW, Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC., by and through its attorneys of record, Josh Cole Aicklen, Esq., David B. Avakian, Esq. and Paige S. Shreve, Esq., of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP, and submits the following Verified Memorandum of Costs to be recovered against Cross-Claimant MDB TRUCKING, LLC pursuant to NRS 18.005; NRS 18.020; and NRS 18.110.

This Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements is based upon VERSA's Offer of Judgment under NRCP 68, NRS 18.005, NRS 18.020; and NRS 18.110, the pleadings and papers on file herein, the verification of attorneys' fees and costs by defense counsel, and any evidence to be considered by this Court.

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 10

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VERSA submits its verified Memorandum of Costs within five (5) days of entry of 1 2 Judgment pursuant to NRS 18.110(1). The undersigned hereby verifies, under penalty of perjury, that the following costs 3 were incurred by Cross-Defendant in the defense of this matter: 4 COSTS FROM LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP (LBBS) 5 398.00 6 1. Court Filing Fees 43.74 2. Mail 834.00 7 3. **Records Reproduction** \$1,274.74 8 LEGAL COSTS: **AFFIRMATION** 9 Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned hereby affirms that this document 10 filed in this court does not contain the social security number of any person. 11 DATED this 9th day of February, 2018. 12 13 Respectfully Submitted, 14 LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 15 16 17 /s/ Josh Cole Aicklen By JOSH COLE AICKLEN 18 Nevada Bar No. 007254 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 19 Nevada Bar No. 009502 PAIGE S. SHREVE 20 Nevada Bar No. 013773 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 21 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant 22 VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. 23 24 25 26 27 28

BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLE

AFFIDAVIT OF JOSH COLE AICKLEN IN SUPPORT OF CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA 1 PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS 2 STATE OF NEVADA 3 SS. COUNTY OF CLARK 4 5 I, JOSH COLE AICKLEN, ESQ., do declare and state as follows: 6 I am an Owner of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, and am duly 7 licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada. I am competent to testify to the matters 8 set forth in this Affidavit, and will do so if called upon. I am the attorney of record 9 representing Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. in the subject 10 lawsuit currently pending in Department 10 of the Second Judicial District Court for the 11 State of Nevada, Case Number CV16-01914. 12 I participated in the entirety of the litigation, which culminated in an 2. 13 evidentiary hearing on October 13, 2017 in the FITZSIMMONS and BIBLE matter with the 14 Court finding in favor of Cross-Defendant and striking MDB's cross-claims. 15 3. The total costs in the case were \$ 1,275.74. 16 The entirety of the costs in this case were reasonable and customary for 4. 17 Washoe County. 18 JOSH COLE AICKLEN, ESQ. 19 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before 20 me this 9th day of February, 2018. 21 E. WILCZYNSKI NOTARY PUBLIC STATE OF NEVADA **NOTARY PUBLIC in and** 22 unission Expires: 01-27-20 Certificate No: 12-8640-1 for said COUNTY and STATE 23 24 25 26 27

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 28

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 Disbursement Diary and Supporting Documentation for Costs

BRISBOIS
BISGAARD
& SMITH LLP
ATTORNESS AT LAW

4843-8097-6988.1

- 1	
1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
2	I hereby certify that on this 9th day of February, 2018 a true and correct copy
3	of CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S VERIFIED
4	MEMORANDUM OF COSTS was served via the Court's electronic e-filing system
5	addressed as follows:
6	Matthew C. Addison, Esq. McDONALD CARANO WILSON LLP
7 8	100 W. Liberty St., 10 th Floor Reno, NV 89501 RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC.
9	Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq.
10	Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq. CLARK HILL PLLC
11	3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Ste. 500 Las Vegas, NV 89169
12	Attorneys for MDB TRUCKING, LLC and DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI
13	
14	/s/ Susan Kingsbury
15	An Employee of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP
16	LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SWITTI EEF
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LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 27

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4843-8097-6988.1

FILED
Electronically
CV16-01914
2018-02-09 11:33:48 AM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6524896 : yviloria

EXHIBIT 1

P02	

DBDRY

Disbursement Diary

2/2/2018 10:37:31 AM brittnie.gonzalez

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Matter Total

Records Reproduction

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Cost Advance Ticket

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0	Prof. Consulting / Service Fee	8	0	COD Transcription (Involce Needed)**	G
0	Expert Witness Fee**	J	0	Reproduction / Copies	R
0	Jury Fees	JF	0	Reproduction / Medical Records	RR
0	Deposition	н			

Any client-related requests over \$500.00 require Lane Ashley's approval. All educational expenses/seminars require Karl Loureiro's approval.

3. 4. 5. 6. 7.	Client and F Client and N Amount:	letter No.:		Bible v. Versa Products 27350-1553 \$198.00 Tenth Judicial District Court	
6.	Payee / Vend			73 N. Maine St., Ste. B	
7.	Mailing Add	/ess:		Fallon, NV 89406	
8. 9.	Payee's Tele Payee's Tax			775-423-6088	
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Remember to have Attorney Sign and Attach all Supporting Backup

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Page 1 Distribution Level

27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 7/29/16
WIP Seq#: 508,648,060
Check#: 11783
Amount: 198.00

Vendor: Voucher: Doc ID:

93565 Tenth Judicial District Court 2021758 Distribution 4752915 Distribution Level 0001MHYZ Page 2

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL
OFFICIAL FEE SCHEDULE
Effective July 1, 2018 - Undeted Changes Highlighted in Red
Please be advised that all payments that relate to filing fees
fines, administrative assessments, restitution, etc. must be submitted in the form of a cashier's check or money order.
The Court will continue to accept payment by check from legal counsel and from businesses who have received Court
approval of this method of payment. Any exceptions to this policy may only be approved by the Court Administrator. Cash
will continue to be accepted for copies and certification of documents as long as the amount does not exceed \$23.00.

Adoptions	When filing a new Adoption proceeding	\$213.00		
	When filing a new Adoption proceeding for a special needs child pursuent to NRS 19.034	\$1.00		
Answer or Appearance	When a defendant answers a complaint, to be paid upon the filing of the first paper in the action for Civil cases and Domestic cases not contained in NRS 125	\$196.00		
	For each additional defendant named in a civil enswer or first appearance	\$30.00		
	When a delendant enswers an action for constructional detect or any other action defined as complex	\$448.00		
	Divorce, Annuiment, Separate Maintenance answer or first appearance	\$187.00		
	Child Custody enewer of first appearance	\$187.00		
Appeal from a Justice or I	Municipal Court			
	Whee filing an appeal from a Justice Court or Municipal Court. NRS 18 013 (842), 19 020 (85), 19 030 (837), 18 031 (825), 18 03158 (810.00), CC 4.090.080 (820)	\$134.00		
Appesi/Supreme Court	When Bling a Notice of Appeal	\$24.00		
	Bonds for Costs on Appeal - Cash or surely deposited by the appellant in the district court with the Notice of Appeal	\$500.00		
	Supreme Court Appeal filing fee (payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court)	\$250.00		
Compleints				
Annulment or Separal	to Maintenance When Sting a Complaint for Annulment or a Complaint for Separate Maintenance. Miss rests des, respects, 19 cos just, 19 cs; pts; restrepts, respects,	\$274.00		
Child Custody	When filing a Complaint for Child Custody. MRS 18.013 (868), 18.030 (83), 18.030 (832), 18.031 (814), 18.03135 (810), 18.0302 (806), CC 4.080.080 (830)	\$234.00		
Civil	When Sling a new Civil action or proceeding	\$245.00		
	For each additional plaintiff named in a civil complaint or amended civil complaint	\$30.00		
	When filing an action for constructional defect or other action defined as complex. NRS 19.913 (849, 18.020 (93), 18.030 (832), 18.031 (825), 19.031 (810), 19.0322 (8349), CC 4.080.040 (829)	\$495.00		
	When filing a third party complaint	\$135.00		
Divorce	When Sting for a Divorce	\$274.00		
Domestic Not Specific	od Above When Bing, a domestic case not specified above	\$245.00		
Confession of Judgment	For filing a Confession of Judgment	\$26.00		
Contest/Objection (Probate/Guardiana hip)				
	When fiting a petition to context any will or codicil, or on the fiting of an objection or cross-petition to the appointment of an executor, administrator or guardian or an objection to the settlement of account or any answer in an extension and account or any account or any account of the settlement of account or any account or account o	\$198.00		
	NIES 19.813 (844), (8.031 (829), 19.03135 (810), 19.0302 (809), CC 4.090,040 (829)			

Fee Schodule 7-1-15 Updated 5-24-15

For each page copied from any file stamped document(s); unless such fee is welved by Clerk of Court NRS 18.913 (8.90) Copies For each page copied that is not a file stamped document. Certify/Exemplify (Copy fees of \$.50 per page also apply) Filing of Declaration of Do NRS 41.195 Declaration of Domicile **Demand for Jury Trial** etic Case-Reopen Foreign Judgment or Order Foreign Support Order or Decrees (UIFSA) Petition for appointment of Buardian Ad Litem (Cart fee paid upon filing of complaint).......... Guardian Ad Litem **Guardianehip/Probets** Where value of Estate is \$2,500 or less.... NRS 19.913 . Frivolous or Excessive When Sting an application regarding frivolous or excessive liens. NRS 18,020 (83), 18,830 (832), 18,031 (828), 18,03136 (810), 100,2278 (986) \$155.00 or's Compromise Motions Only Fee Schedule 7-1-16 Updated 9-34-16

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Tenth Judicial District Court
Distribution 4752915
Page 3 Distribution Level

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27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 7/29/16
WIP Seq#: 508,648,060
Check#: 11783
Amount: 198.00

1st Time Opposing Motion Modify, Adjust, Enforce Decree of Divorce Joint Petition Divorces Only 68384 - New Section to NRS 19 \$245.00 me Change Filing a petition for a same change...... NRS 18.013 (854), 18.020 (83), 18.000 (832), 19.031 (825), 18.03135 (810), 19.0302 (800), CC 4.080.080 (820) \$10.00 Initiating Case Packets All other Multi document packets Packets of Forms \$5.00 No Fee Waiver of Fees and Costs Paremptory challenge of a Judge (payable to the Clark of the Supreme Court)..... Peremotory Challenge Petition to Seal Records er of Attorney For performing a search of the records per year, per name; unless such fee is weived by Clerk of Court 80.50 NRS 18413 (8.89) Position for Termination of Parental Rights. \$246.00 MRS 19.013 (886), 18.020 (83), 19.030 (832), 19.030 (832), 19.031 (836), 18.03136 (810), 19.0302 (809), CC 4.060.080 (820) District Court or County \$15.00 \$10.00 Writ of Hebess Corpus

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Tenth Judicial District Court
Distribution 4752915 Distribution Level
Page 4

Fee Schedule 7-1-15 Updated 9-24-15

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Cost Advance Ticket Check Request

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LV-05023

7/28/16 1. 2. Check — Date Needed:

Type of Expense:

**Finance Committee approval required

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0	Witness Fee	7	0	Mediation / Arbitration Fee**	AM
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	Expert Witness Fee**	J	0	Reproduction / Copies	R
09	Jury Fees	JF	0	Reproduction / Medical Records	RR
	Deposition	Н			

Any client-related requests over \$500.00 require Lane Ashley's approval. All educational expenses/seminars require Karl Loureiro's approval.

3.	Client and File Name:	Bible v. Versa Products
4.	Client and Matter No.:	27350-1553
5.	Amount:	\$320.00
6.	Payes / Vendor:	Tenth Judicial District Court
7.	Mailing Address:	73 N. Maine St., Ste. B
•		Fallon, NV 89406
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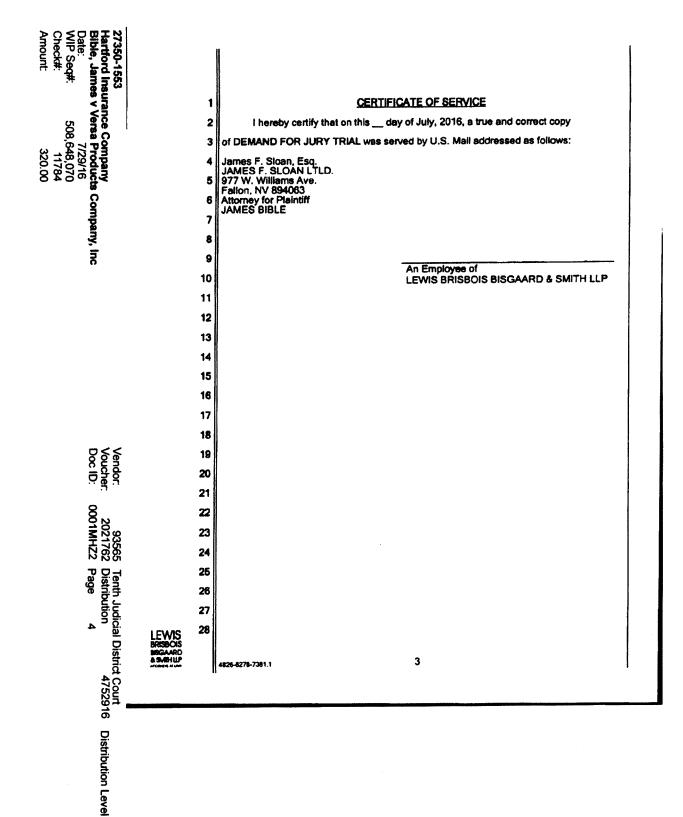
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93565 Tenth Judicial District Court 2021762 Distribution 4752916 Distribution Level 0001MHZ2 Page 1

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uran		1	CASE NO. 16-10DC-0824 DEPT NO. I		
27350-1553 Partford insurance Company Bible, James v Versa Products 7/29/16 WIP Seq#: 508,648,070 Check#: 11784 Amount: 320.00			·		
			IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA		
8		5	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHURCHILL		
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pany		8	Plaintiff,	Dept. No. I	
Company, Inc		9	VS.		
O		_	II .		
		11	Liability Company; RMS LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC. a Colorado Corporation;		
		12	VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC., a New Jersey Corporation; DANIEL		
		13	MDB TRUCKING, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company; RMS LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC. a Colorado Corporation; VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC., a New Jersey Corporation; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; ABC CORPORATIONS; BLACK AND WITH COMPANIES: YZ PARTNERSHIPS; and		
		14	COMPANIES; XYZ PARTNERSHIPS; and DOES I through X, inclusive		
		15	Defendants.		
		16	VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.,		
		17	Cross-Claimant,		
		18	vs.		
Vendor. Vouche Doc ID:		19	MDB TRUCKING, LLC; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI and DOES I - X,		
Vendor. Voucher Doc ID:		20	inclusive,		
		21	Cross-Defendants.		
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93565 2021762 001MHZ2		23		R JURY TRIAL	
		25	COMES NOW, Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. by and through its attorneys of record, Josh Cole Aicklen, Esq. and David B. Avakian, Esq. of LEWIS		
Tenth Judic Distribution Page		26	The distriction of topological action of the control of the contro		
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Tenth Judicial District Court Distribution 4752916 Page 2					
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COMPEX INVOICE DATE\DATE OF SERVICE: 05/09/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE V MOB TRUCKING

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

INVOICE NO.: 22759911 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO: ILLEU TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
\$386 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE \$600
LAS VEGAS, NV \$6118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN
702-803-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720 PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

H80567- A	DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN 8 ERVICES CLAUSE: MEDICAL/BILLS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	30. 60 3. 50 . 60 . 60 14. 50 25. 60	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
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INVOICE NO.: 22759981 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

INVOICE DATE DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISSOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86967 LOS ANGELES, CA 90066-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

ORDENED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
SISS SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS YEGAS, NV 80118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN
702-869-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738

TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800,788,8831 FAX 310,781,9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 ACCOUNT #: 43138

H89534- A	REMSA AMBULANCE SERVICE CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip	1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00
	,	Rush Shipping and Handling	i	8.00	8.00
		SUS TOTAL			B1. 00
		TOTAL DUE			81. 00
				RECEI	VED
				MAY 16	2017
			AC	COUNTS PA	YABLE-LA
	-> PLEASE USE 8 DIGIT INVOICE N	HANGE TO INCLINE PR	MOT	CDENT	

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Distribution 5053736
Page 1

Vendor: Voucher: Doc ID:

27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,470
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759952 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

INVOICE DATE/DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TUCKING

DATE OF LOSS:

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 80367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90068-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
S385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #800
LAS VEGAS, NV 99118
DAVID B. AVARGAN
702-883-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO:

P.O. BOX 2738

TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 ACCOUNT #: 43138

H89540- A	YRC FREIGHT CLAUSE: SPECIAL (OTHER) NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
		TOTAL DUE			81.00
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				MAY 16 COUNTS PA	2017
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27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,480
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759937 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

INVOICE DATE/DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE V MDB TRUCKING

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90006-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

Ordered By: Lewis Brissois Bisgaard & Smith 6385 Sotuh Rainbow Boulevard, Suite #600 LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 702-803-3363

PLEASE REMIT TO:

P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800,788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3363 ACCOUNT #: 43138

H80558- A	NEVADA PRESCRIPTION MONITORING P ROGRAM CLAUSE: MEDICAL/BILLS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	30.00 3.50 .00 .00 14.50 25.00 8.00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
		TOTAL DUE			81. 0
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			ACX	MAY 16 : OUNTS PA	
2275 99 37	- PLEASE USE 8 DIGIT INVOICE NU	MBER TO INSURE PR	омрт	CREDIT	

Vendor: Voucher: Doc ID: 640 2129630 0001SFNE Compex Legal (Distribution Page 1 Services, Inc. 5053738

INVOICE NO.: 22759919 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17 INVOICE DATE DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS : NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE V MOB TRUCKING

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

CLIENT/INSURED: MOB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAM

ONDERED BY: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH 6396 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600 LAS YEGAS, NY 89118 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 702-883-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720 PHONE #: 702-893-3383 ACCOUNT #: 43138

H88684- A	RAIVS TEAM CLAUSE: SPECIAL (OTHER) NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Out of Area Custodiel Fee Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 20. 00 200. 00 8. 00	30. 60 3. 50 . 00 . 00 20. 00 200. 00 8. 00 261. 50
		TOTAL DUE			261.50
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TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

CLIENTANSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 85367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
\$356 SOTUM RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 80118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN
702-663-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO:

P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

H89534- D	RENO RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES CHT D CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS/FILMS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Besic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Out of Area Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 20. 00 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 20. 00 25. 00 8. 00
		TOTAL DUE			86. 50
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			٨	MAY 16	ł

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27350-1553
Hartford insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,510
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759984 **ORDER DATE: 04/25/17**

INVOICE DATE/DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING.

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

ORDERED BY: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH 6386 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600 LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738

TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

H89534- C	RENOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS/FILMS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
		TOTAL DUE			81.00
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Page 1

27350-1553
Hartford insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,520
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759962 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

INVOICE DATEADATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

CLIENT/INSURED: MOB TRUCKING

DATE OF LOSS:

BILLED TO:

RLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 36367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90066-0967 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

ORDERED BY: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH 6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600 LAS VEGAS, NV 99118 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 702-603-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO:

P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 ACCOUNT #: 43138

H89534- B	RENOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS/FILMS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Besic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
	·	TOTAL DUE			81. 00
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				MAY 16	2017
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Stat: blank-	Amount:	27350-1553 Hartford insurance Company Bible, James v Versa Products C. Date: 6/14/17 WIP Seq#: 546,027,930				273570-1553
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Stat: blank-WIP Open; W-WIP Written-off; B-Billed & Unpaid; P-Paid; SN-Sent to client for direct payment; PW-partially paid/partially written-off. Source: A/P-Accounts Payable Vendor Not Paid: A/P-P-Accounts Payable-Vendor Paid: DSB-Disb entry: APWFL-A/P Workflow		Ÿ	Payment Summary Payment Acct Last Billing Name: Billing Address: Phone Number: Email Address:	7: Mastercard payment for \$200.00. 24: ************************************		
Sent to			Signature	Motion for Sur	many Judgmo	nt
o client for d		Vendor Voucher Doc ID:			, -	
irect payment		94005 2146974 I 0001TUFN I				
PW-partially FL-A/P Wor		Comerica Co Distribution Page 797				
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written-off.		Commercial Card Services n 5098732 Distribution Level 97				The second se

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CV16-01914
2018-03-08 01:13:00 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6567742 : yviloria

1 JOSH COLE AICKLEN Nevada Bar No. 007254 Josh.aicklen@lewisbrisbois.com DAVID B. AVĀKIAN Nevada Bar No. 009502 David.avakian@lewisbrisbois.com PAIGE S. SHREVE Nevada Bar No. 013773 Paige.shreve@lewisbrisbois.com LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 702.893.3383 FAX: 702.893.3789 Attorneys Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. 9 10 DISTRICT COURT 11 WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA 12 JAMES BIBLE. Case No. CV16-01914 13 Plaintiff, Dept. 10 14 DEFENDANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VS. 15 VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et. al. OPPOSITION TO CROSS-CLAIMANT 16 MDB TRUCKING LLC'S MOTION TO Defendants. RETAX AND SETTLE COSTS 17 AND ALL RELATED CASES. 18 19 20 COMES NOW, Defendant/Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC., by and through it's attorneys of record, Josh Cole Aicklen, Esq., David B. Avakian, 22 Esq. and Paige S. Shreve, Esq., of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP, and 23 hereby opposes MDB TRUCKING LLC'S Motion to Retax and Settle Costs. 24 25 26 27 28

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

4846-5528-9438.1

Docket 76396 Document 2018-30088

This Opposition is made and based on the pleadings and papers filed herein, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities; NRS 18.020; NRS 18.110; NRS 18.005; the entire records in this case, the attached Affidavit of Paige S. Shreve, Esq.; and any other evidence the Court may entertain at the Hearing on this Motion.

DATED this 6 day of March, 2018.

Respectfully Submitted,

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

/s/ Josh Cole Aicklen By JOSH COLE AICKLEN Nevada Bar No. 007254 DAVID B. AVAKIAN Nevada Bar No. 009502 PAIGE S. SHREVE Nevada Bar No. 013773 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODÚCTS COMPANY, INC.

28

4846-5528-9438.1

AFFIDAVIT OF PAIGE S. SHREVE, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S OPPOSITION TO CROSS-CLAIMANT MDB TRUCKING LLC'S MOTION TO RETAX AND SETTLE COSTS

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF CLARK) ss)

PAIGE S. SHREVE, ESQ., being first duly sworn, deposes and states as follows:

- 1. I am an Associate at LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP, and I am duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada.
- 2. I am competent to testify to the matters set forth in this Affidavit, and will do so if called upon.
- 3. I am an attorney of record representing Defendant/Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. in the subject lawsuit currently pending in Department 10 of the Second Judicial District Court for the State of Nevada, Case Number CV16-01914.
- 4. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** is a true and correct copy of VERSA timely filed its Verified Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements.
- 5. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** is a true and correct copy of check for filing fees.
- 6. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 3** is a true and correct copy of MDB's Cross-Claim.
- 7. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 4** is a true and correct copy of VERSA's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint and MDB's cross-claim and VERSA's cross-claim against MDB.

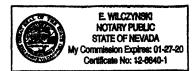
FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

RAIGE S. SHRÉVE, ESQ.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this day of March, 2018.

NOTARY PUBLIC

In and for said County and State



,

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

On February 8, 2018, VERSA filed the Notice of Entry of Judgment in this matter. On February 9, 2018, VERSA timely filed its Verified Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Thereafter, MDB filed the instant Motion, disputing some of VERSA's costs. MDB mistakenly argues that the Court must reject all \$1,275.74 of VERSA's costs for one of the following reasons: 1) VERSA failed to provide "justifying documentation;" 2) Costs are unrelated to MDB's Cross-claim for contribution; and 3) Costs were incurred after the Offer of Judgement. However, MDB's arguments are wholly unsupported. There is simply no requirement, pursuant to NRS 18.110, that VERSA provide justifying documentation, *i.e.*, a disbursement diary and vendor bills, at that time. However, VERSA properly itemized it's costs into the various categories, provided a disbursement diary, which totals the itemization on the memorandum of costs and provided numerous vendor bills. Id.

VERSA had no reason to believe that MDB would oppose the requested costs as they are clearly reasonable and were necessarily incurred in defending MDB's cross-claim. Id. Additionally, VERSA had no reason to believe that a disbursement diary which shows the court fees paid, etc., invoices and documentation with the check number paid would not be a sufficient "justifying document." If MDB did not oppose the costs, VERSA would still be entitled to an award of costs without going through the costly effort of gathering each and every credit card receipt/vendor bills, even for items which are justified in the disbursement diary.

However, at MDB's request, VERSA has provided a copy of the check, a copy of which is attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**. If the Court feels these documents are insufficient to establish "justifying documentation," VERSA will provide gladly provide any additional documentation the Court believes it needs in addition to what was already provided.

II. <u>LEGAL ARGUMENT</u>

A. <u>VERSA Provided "Specific Itemization" and "Justifying Documents" for an Award of Costs Pursuant to NRS 18.110</u>

necessarily incurred in defending MDB's cross-claims. See, Exhibit 1. As such, VERSA

respectfully requests an Order, awarding Defendant its costs in the amount of \$1,275.74.

VERSA is entitled to all of the requested costs as they were reasonable and

MDB mistakenly claims that \$198.00 of the \$1,275.74 in costs was not specifically itemized or no "justifying documentation" was provided. However, VERSA attached a disbursement diary and additional "justifying documentation," rendering MDB's argument moot. The \$198.00 reflects the filing fee for VERSA's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint and MDB's cross-claim. See, Exhibit 4. The documentation provided shows the check number and the amount paid.

Further, none of the case law cited by MDB explicitly requires the justifying documentation to be attached to the Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements. Such a requirement would conflict with NRS 18.110, which only requires that the pleading be verified and state that "the items are correct, and that the costs have been necessarily incurred in the action or proceeding." See, NRS 18.110. In any event, VERSA has now provided the Court a detailed disbursement diary (Exhibit 1) and a copy of the check (Exhibit 1 & 2), which allows this Court to adjudicate the reasonableness of VERSA's costs. Therefore, MDB's legal argument is without any merit.

B. All of VERSA's Costs Were Related to MDB's Cross-Claim for Contribution

MDB mistakenly argues that \$1,053.87 of VERSA's costs were unrelated to MDB's cross-claim. However, the medical records MDB cited in its Motion are clearly relevant to MDB's cross-claim against VERSA. MDB's cross-claim sought contribution "with respect to any settlement, judgement, awards, or any other type of resolution of claims brought forward by the Plaintiffs in their First Amended Complaint. See, MDB's Cross-Claim, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 3 at P.5:19-21. As such, any depositions, medical records, etc. that involve the Plaintiff or his claimed damages

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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directly relate to MDB's cross-claim as it sought contribution from VERSA for all of Plaintiff's claimed damages and any amount paid in settlement. Additionally, as MBD is aware, Plaintiff's counsel in this case did not provide any medical records to opposing counsel, only authorizations. Further, the authorizations were provided weeks before the mediation which necessitated the rush.

Lastly, in regards to the filing fee¹ and the federal express postage, this case was originally filed in Churchill County, which does not have electronic service. As such, VERSA had to mail all documents to ensure proper and timely service. As indicated above, the charges specifically relate to VERSA's response to MDB's cross-claim. As such, filing of a response to MDB's cross-claim and the postage to file the document was necessary in defending against the cross-claim. See, Exhibit 4. Therefore, all of these costs are clearly awardable.

B. <u>VERSA is Entitled to All Costs as the Prevailing Party Pursuant to NRS 18.020 and NRS 18.005</u>

MDB mistakenly argues that the Court must reject \$21.87 in costs because the documentation clearly demonstrates the costs were incurred after the offer of judgment. However, this argument is irrelevant as VERSA is entitled to an award of its costs pursuant to NRS 18.020 as the prevailing party². NRS 18.020 states in relevant part as follows:

Costs must be allowed of course to the prevailing party against any adverse party against whom judgment is rendered, in the following cases:

3. <u>In an action for the recovery of money or damages, where the plaintiff seeks to recover more than \$2,500</u>.

See, NRS 18.020 (emphasis added).

¹ Which MDB appears to duplicate from the above section.

² This is also indicated on VERSA's Verified Memorandum of Costs. <u>See</u>, **Exhibit 1** at P. 1:23-28.

A prevailing party is allowed to recover a number of costs under NRS 18.005 including:

2. Reporters' fees for depositions, including a reporter's fee for one copy of each deposition.

* * *

5. Reasonable fees of not more than five expert witnesses in an amount of not more than \$1,500 for each witness, <u>unless the court allows a larger fee after determining that the circumstances surrounding the expert's testimony were of such necessity as to require the larger fee.</u>

* * *

15. Reasonable costs for travel and lodging incurred taking depositions and conducting discovery.

See, NRS 18.005(5) (emphasis added).

MDB alleges it suffered damages in excess of \$10,000.00 in damages. Thus, NRS 18.020(3) is applicable to this matter. The use of the word "must" in NRS 18.020 makes an award of VERSA's costs as outlined in NRS 18.050 (as the prevailing party) mandatory, rather than discretionary.

VERSA prevailed against MDB on it's Motion to Strike MDB's Cross-Claim, thus requiring MDB to pay VERSA's costs. The statute makes no mention that the costs in which the prevailing party is allowed is only applicable after an offer of judgement. VERSA's costs are itemized (with supporting documentation) in the Verified Memorandum of Costs. See, Exhibits1 and 2. As such, these costs are awardable following judgment in this action.

III. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, VERSA respectfully requests that this Court deny MDB's Motion to Retax and Settle Costs in it's entirety. Further, VERSA respectfully requests that the Court award the full amount of costs in this matter.

AFFIRMATION Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned hereby affirms that this document 2 filed in this court does not contain the social security number of any person. 3 DATED this 4 5 Respectfully Submitted, 6 LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 7 8 9 /s/Josh Cole Aicklen By JOSH COLE AICKLEN 10 Nevada Bar No. 007254 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 11 Nevada Bar No. 009502 PAIGE S. SHREVE 12 Nevada Bar No. 013773 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 13 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

1	<u>LIST OF EXHIBITS</u>					
2	Exhibit 1	VERSA timely filed its Verified Memorandum of Costs and				
3		Disbursements.				
4	Exhibit 2	Check paid for filing fees.				
5	Exhibit 3	MDB's Cross-Claim				
6	Exhibit 4	VERSA's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint and MDB's cross-claim				
7		and VERSA's cross-claim against MDB.				
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LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 28

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this of March, 2018, a true and correct copy of DEFENDANT/CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY. OPPOSITION TO CROSS-CLAIMANT MDB TRUCKING LLC'S MOTION TO RETAX AND SETTLE COSTS was served electronically via the Court's e-filing system addressed as follows:

Matthew C. Addison, Esq. Jessica L. Woelfel, Esq. McDONALD CARANO WILSON LLP 100 W. Liberty St., 10th Floor Reno, NV 89501 RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC.

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Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq. Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq. CLARK HILL PLLC 3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Ste. 500 Las Vegas, NV 89169 Attorneys for MDB TRUCKING, LLC and DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI

/s/ Susan Kingsbury

An Employee of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP

BRISBOIS &SMTH ШР

4846-5528-9438.1

EXHIBIT "A"

FILED
Electronically
CV16-01914
2018-02-20 12:47:38 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6539636 : pmsewell

EXHIBIT "A"

Bible v. MDB Trucking LLC, et al., Case No. CV16-01914

	Cost	Description	Amount	Date	Grounds for Retaxing	Taxable Amount
1	NRS 18.005(1)	Filing Fee – Versa Cross Claim against MDB	\$198.00	7/29/2016	-No justifying documentation; -Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Pre-dates OOJ	\$0.00
2	NRS 18.005(14)	Federal Express	\$21.87	8/5/2016	-Pre-dates OOJ	\$0.00
3	NRS 18.005(14)	Federal Express	\$21.87	9/16/16	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Pre-dates OOJ	\$0.00
4	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – Health & Human Services	\$81.00	5/9/2012	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00
5	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – REMSA ambulance	\$81.00	5/10/2017	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00
6	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – YRC Freight	\$81.00	5/10/2017	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00
7	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – NV Prescription Monitoring Program	\$81.00	5/10/2017	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00
8	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – RAIVS Team	\$261.50	5/10/2017	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00
9	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – Reno Radiological	\$86.50	5/10/2017	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00
10	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – Renown Med. Center	\$81.00	5/10/2017	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00
11	NRS 18.005(17)	Compex Legal Services – Renown Med. Center	\$81.00	5/10/2017	-Not related to MDB cross-claim; -Not taxable cost	\$0.00

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Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court

1 2430 Transaction # 6539636 : pmsewell NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK 2 Nevada Bar No. 6170 Email: NWieczorek@clarkhill.com 3 JEREMY J. THOMPSON Nevada Bar No. 12503 4 Email: JThompson@clarkhill.com 5 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 9 Facsimile: (702) 862-8400 10 Attorneys for Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC 11 IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA 12 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE 13 14 JAMES BIBLE Case No.: CV16-01914 Dept. No.: 10 15 Plaintiff, CROSS-CLAIMANT MDB TRUCKING 16 VS. LLC'S MOTION TO RETAX AND 17 SETTLE CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et al PRODUCTS COMPANY INC.'S 18 VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS Defendants. 19 AND ALL RELATED CASES. 20 21 Pursuant to NRS 18.110(4), Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC ("MDB"), by and 22 through its counsel of record Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq., Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq. and 23 Colleen E. McCarty, Esq. of the law firm of Clark Hill PLLC, hereby moves this Court to retax 24 and settle the costs contained in Cross-Defendant Versa Products Company, Inc.'s Verified 25 Memorandum of Costs ("Memorandum"), which was filed on February 9, 2018. As set forth 26 27 ¹ MDB's argument in opposition to Versa's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 37 and NRCP 28

68, which if granted would result in the disallowance of all costs, is incorporated by reference herein. The remainder of MDB's Motion will address why the majority of Versa's specific claimed costs should be retaxed and settled in the event the Court determines it is appropriate to consider them at all.

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below, Versa's Memorandum seeks costs that are not supported by justifying documentation, not related to MDB's cross-claim for contribution, not timely because they pre-date Versa's Offer of Judgment, and are not authorized by NRS 18.005.

This Motion to Retax and Settle Costs ("Motion") is made and based on the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the exhibits thereto, the pleadings and papers on file in this case, and any oral argument permitted by the Court.

Dated this _____ day of February, 2018.

CLARK HILL PLLC

By:

NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK

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 Telephone: (702) 862-8300 Attorneys for Cross-Claimant

MDB Trucking, LLC

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I.

INTRODUCTION

The Memorandum filed by Cross-Defendant Versa Products Company, Inc. ("Versa"), seeks \$1,274.74² in costs which it claims it incurred (1) in defense of the cross-claim for Contribution brought against it by Cross-Claimant, MDB Trucking LLC ("MDB"), and (2) after it served MDB with an Offer of Judgment on May 4, 2017. *See* Versa's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 37 and NRCP 68 ("Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs") at 4:13-14 [Affidavit of Josh Cole Aicklen]. Even a cursory review of the Memorandum,

² In what is assumed to be an error in calculation, the amounts claimed by Versa add up to \$1,275.74, not \$1,274.74 as plead.

however, reveals that these assertions are false and contain numerous deficiencies which require the Court to deny all of the costs being claimed.³

First, the Memorandum improperly seeks costs which are devoid of any documentation to substantiate that they are reasonable, necessary and actually incurred. Specifically, the costs asserted for Court Filing Fees are identified only by Versa's counsel's self-serving "Disbursement Diary" and "Check Request," but have no corresponding bills, invoices or receipts. Second, even for those claimed costs with purported supporting documentation, the Memorandum improperly seeks reimbursement for amounts clearly unrelated to MDB's Contribution cross-claim, which is the only matter in which Versa can assert prevailing party status. Third, the Memorandum improperly seeks reimbursement for amounts incurred prior to Versa's May 4, 2017 Offer of Judgment, despite Versa's counsel's claim to the contrary. Finally, the Memorandum improperly seeks reimbursement for amounts not permitted by the authorizing statute, NRS 18.005, period.

Based on these substantial and indefensible deficiencies, MDB respectfully requests this Court deny all improper costs requests contained in Versa's Memorandum, as discussed more fully below.

II.

ARGUMENT

A. <u>LEGAL STANDARD</u>.

Statutes permitting an award of costs are strictly construed in Nevada, and an award of costs is improper when requested without appropriate or sufficient documentation. *Bobby Berosini, Ltd. v. PETA*, 114 Nev. 1348, 1352, 971 P.2d 383, 385-86 (1998). In *Bobby Berosini, Ltd.*, the Nevada Supreme Court held that it is an abuse of discretion to award costs based on a Memorandum that fails to contain "specific itemization" or "justifying documentation." *Id.* Without such documentation it is impossible to determine the reasonableness of the alleged

³ Exhibit A to this Motion is a table that analyzes the cost provided for each item and recalculates accordingly.

costs, making an award based on such a deficient memorandum improper. *Id.* And, as the Nevada Supreme Court recently clarified, "'justifying documentation' must mean something more than a memorandum of costs. In order to retax and settle costs upon motion of the parties pursuant to NRS 18.110, a district court must have before it evidence that the costs were reasonable, necessary, and actually incurred." *Cadle Co. v. Woods & Erickson, LLP*, 131 Nev. Adv. Op. 15, 345 P.3d 1049, 1054 (2015). Any cost that is not substantiated by justifying documentation should be stricken. *Id.* at 1055 (reversing certain awards of costs and modifying others due to lack of documentary support).

Accordingly, the party seeking costs bears the burden of providing documentation to establish that each cost was actually incurred and the reason for each cost. *Vill. Builders 96, L.P. v. U.S. Labs, Inc.*, 121 Nev. 261, 277-78, 112 P.3d 1082, 1093 (2005); *see also Bobby Berosini, Ltd.*, 114 Nev. at 1352-53, 971 P.2d at 386 (reversing a district court award for investigative fees, photocopy fees, long distance phone costs, and juror's fees because the party failed to show "how such fees were necessary to and incurred in the present action" and failed to provide supporting documentation to show that the fees "were accurately assessed" and reasonably incurred); *Waddell v. L.V.R.V., Inc.*, 122 Nev. 15, 25-26, 125 P.3d 1160, 1166-67 (2006) (refusing to allow a party to recover costs for computerized legal research "because those costs were not sufficiently itemized").

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Although not specifically itemized in the Motion, the chart reflects the multiple bases upon which this Court may

B. ANALYSIS.

1. Versa Failed to Provide "Specific Itemization" or "Justifying Documentation" for \$198.00 of the \$1,274.74 Being Claimed.

Versa has not provided any documentation or explanation to show that \$198.00 of its costs were reasonable, necessary, and actually incurred. The Court may exclude expenses if the party does not offer any proof or explanation of the services provided or their necessity. *Gilman v. Nev. Bd. of Veterinary Med. Exam'rs*, 120 Nev. 263, 273-74, 89 P.3d 1000,1007 (2004) (excluding costs related to investigation and hearing attendance fees for individuals because billing statements did not provide any explanation of the services provided). This requirement applies to each and every cost a party seeks.

First, each cost must be sufficiently itemized. *Waddell*, 112 Nev. at 25-26, 125 P.3d at 1166-67 (affirming order denying computerized legal research because the costs were not sufficiently itemized). In order to satisfy this burden, a party must provide more than the type, date and amount of each cost. *Bobby Berosini, Ltd.*, 114 Nev. at 1353, 971 P.2d at 386 (holding that the district court abused its discretion in awarding long distance telephone charges that were not itemized and photocopying charges for which the party had provided only the date and amount of each charge). Even if the Court were to consider Versa's counsel's internal accounting set forth in its "Disbursement Diary" and "Check Request" to be sufficiently reliable, Versa has provided nothing more than a date, type and amount with respect to \$198.00 of its claimed filing fees. The Memorandum contains no receipts, invoices, or proof of payment for these costs and without such proper supporting documentation Versa cannot demonstrate a right to recovery.

deny each cost.

Even for the remaining \$1,076.74 in costs for which Versa provided documentation, \$1,053.87 of that amount must be denied because it does not pertain to the claim upon which Versa prevailed, i.e. MDB's Contribution cross-claim. Costs cannot be awarded to a party unless that party is the "prevailing party" in an action – i.e. the party that obtained judgment. See NRS 18.020 (costs may be awarded to the "prevailing party"); Nevada N. R. R. v. Ninth Judicial Dist. Court, 51 Nev. 201, 204-05, 273 P. 177, 178 (1928) (in determining which party is the "prevailing party," courts must primarily consider "the end attained").

In the instant case, no reasonable argument can be made that Versa was the prevailing party in the underlying plaintiff's claims. As this Court is aware, MDB settled plaintiff's claims pre-trial on May 5, 2017, without any contribution from Versa. Thereafter, on July 17, 2017, this Court granted the motion for good faith settlement resolving the instant personal injury action against MDB and Versa. Versa in no way prevailed in this matter and is not entitled to recover any costs related thereto, as follows:

•	Compex Legal Services – Health and Human Services	\$81.00
•	Compex Legal Services – REMSA Ambulance	\$81.00
•	Compex Legal Services – YRC Frieght	\$81.00
•	Compex Legal Services –	\$81.00
	NV Prescription Monitoring Program	
•	Compex Legal Services – RAIVS Team	\$261.50
•	Compex Legal Services – Reno Radiological	\$86.50
•	Compex Legal Services – Renown Med. Center	\$81.00
•	Compex Legal Services – Renown Med. Center	\$81.00
•	Filing Fee – Versa's Cross-Claim against MDB	\$198.00
•	Federal Express – delivery of Versa Cross-Claim	\$21.87

See Exhibit 1 to the Memorandum.

Despite Versa's characterization of some of the above-referenced costs as "Records Reproduction," the invoices reflect legal services to authorize, rush and ship the medical records/bills and tax information of plaintiff James Bible, as opposed to the actual cost of

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making photocopies. Such services are not a taxable costs pursuant to NRS 18.005. Further, Mr. Bible's medical records/bills and tax information were in no way relevant to the strict products liability theory at issue in MDB's cross-claim against Versa, i.e. the inadvertent activation of the Versa valve when exposed to external electromagnetic fields. Such records related only to Mr. Bible's personal injury claims and not MDB's cross-claim for Contribution against Versa.

Likewise, Versa did not prevail on its cross-claim against MDB, yet it seeks clerk's fees for its filing, and additional mailing costs for its delivery to the Tenth Judicial District Court. As these costs are in no way associated with MDB's cross-claim for Contribution against Versa, and with respect to the legal services fees are not authorized by statute, Versa's request for \$1,053.87 legal services fees, filing fees and postage must also be denied.

2. <u>Versa Improperly Seeks \$21.87 of the Remaining Costs, Where the Costs Were Incurred Prior to Versa's May 4, 2017 Offer of Judgment.</u>

The remaining \$21.87 in mailing costs must be denied because the documentation clearly demonstrates the costs were incurred prior to Versa serving MDB with its Offers of Judgment on May 4, 2017. Where Versa based its entitlement to costs on NRCP 68 (see Memorandum at 1:26) and falsely claimed that all costs were subsequently incurred (see Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs at 4:13-14), the remaining \$21.87 must also be denied.

III.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Cross-Claimant MDB respectfully requests that this Court retax and settle the costs claimed by Cross-Defendant Versa by denying all unsupported and improperly applied for costs in Versa's Verified Memorandum of Costs in the amount of \$1,275.74.

AFFIRMATION PURSUANT TO NRS 239B.030 The undersigned does hereby affirm that this document does not contain the social security number of any person. Dated this 20 day of February, 2018. **CLARK HILL PLL** By: NICHOLAS M. WIECZOREK 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 Telephone: (702) 862-8300 Attorneys for Cross-Claimant MDB Trucking, LLC

LIST OF EXHIBITS

EXHIBIT A: Chart of Costs.

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE					
2	Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of Clark Hill PLLC, and that on					
3	this oday of February, 2018, I served a true and correct copy of CROSS-CLAIMANT					
4	MDB TRUCKING, LLC'S MOTION TO RETAX AND SETTLE CROSS-DEFENDANT					
5	VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS via					
6 7						
8	electronic means, by operation of the Court's electronic filing system upon each party in this					
9	case who is registered as an electronic case filing user with the Clerk, or by U.S. Mail, postage					
10	prepaid thereon, to:					
11	JOSH COLE AICKLEN, ESQ.					
12	DAVID B. AVAKIAN, ESQ. PAIGE S. SHREVE, ESQ.					
13	LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP					
14	6385 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118					
15	Attorneys for Defendant					
16	VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.					
17	Subbre Surveye					
18	An employee of Clark Hill PLLC					
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Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6524896 : yviloria

EXHIBIT 1

4845-3057-6394.1

DBDRYP02

Disbursement Diary

2/2/2018 10:37:31 AM brittnie.gonzalez

1909232 1909232 1909232 1909232 1909232 1909232 1909232 1740978 1740978 1909232 1909232 Amount Stat/Source Invoice No. *Public/ladc-sqln01#acct/LDBData Selections: Client-Matter: 27350-1553 to 27350-1553 *Include Write-Offs* A/P-P AP-P ≥ ≥ ۵ ۵. ۵. ۵ ۵. ۵ ۵. ۵ ۵. ۵ 81.00 81.00 198.00 81.00 21.87 21.87 81.00 81.00 81.00 320.00 261.50 20 8 Rate Units 11783 11784 189865 189865 189865 189865 189865 189865 189865 165792 168900 189865 Check No. 00/00/0 SBOWERS Trans Date: 05/03/2017 Washoe Co 2nd Dist Gen, Filing fee for motio 22759981 Records of Bible, James from Remsa Ambulance Service on 04/25/17. 22759989 Records of Bible, James from Reno Radiological Associates CHTD on 22759937 Records of Bible, James from Nevada Prescription Monitoring Progra Through Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn: Accts Receivable In Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn: Accts Receivable In Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn: Accts Receivable In Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn: Accts Receivable In Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn. Accts Receivable In Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn: Accts Receivable In Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn: Accts Receivable In Records Reproduction: Compex Legal Services, Inc. Attn: Accts Receivable In 22759984 Records of Bible, James from Renown Regional Medical Center on Federal Express Mail: Federal Express Inv#:5-504-03131 07/29/16 Recipient: Federal Express Mail: Federal Express Inv#:5-547-56483 09/07/16 Recipient: 22759982 Records of Bible, James from Renown Regional Medical Records 22759911 Records of Bible, James from Department of Health and Human Court filing fee: Comerica Commercial Card Services Inv#:063017STMT-Court filing fee: Tenth Judicial District Court Inv#:LV-05023 Fee to file D Court filing fee: Tenth Judicial District Court Inv#:LV-05022 Filing for Cr 00/00/0 22759952 Records of Bible, James from YRC Freight on 04/25/17 22759919 Records of Bible, James from Raivs Team on 04/25/17 Judicial District Court Sender: Josh Cole Aicklen 776880733313 Churchill County Sender: David B. Avakian 777173407850 From Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc Jury Trial regarding Bible v. Versa Products regarding Bible v. Versa Products Processing Center on 04/25/17. Hartford Insurance Company Services on 04/25/17. Description on 04/25/17. 04/25/17 04/25/17 Date DsbCd RR 5/10/17 RR 5/10/17 RR 5/10/17 RR 5/10/17 RR 5/10/17 RR 5/10/17 RR 5/09/17 RR 2 9/16/16 F 8/05/16 F 7/29/16 5 7/29/16 5 27350 5/10/17 6/14/17

Disbursements by Type:

Court filing fee: SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT- COURT FILING FEE.

for summary judgment.

12/18/17 5

Records Reproduction Federal Express Mail Court filing fee

Matter Total

1,275.74

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Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Cost Advance Ticket Check Request

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7/28/16

Check - Date Needed: 2.

Type of Expense:

**Finance Committee approval required

(2)	Filing Fee	5		Court Reporter Fee	CR
0	Witness Fee	7		Mediation / Arbitration Fee**	AM
0	Prof. Consulting / Service Fee	s	0	COD Transcription (Invoice Needed)**	G
0	Expert Witness Fee**	J	0	Reproduction / Copies	R
	Jury Fees	JF	0	Reproduction / Medical Records	RR
	Deposition	Н			

Any client-related requests over \$500.00 require Lane Ashley's approval. All educational expenses/seminars require Karl Loureiro's approval.

3.	Client and File Name:
4	Client and Matter No :

Bible v. Versa Products 27350-1553 \$198.00

5. Amount:

6. 7. Payee / Vendor: **Mailing Address:** Tenth Judicial District Court 73 N. Maine St., Ste. B Fallon, NV 89406 775-423-8088

8. Payee's Telephone No.:

Payee's Tax I.D. No.: **Explanation for billing purposes:**

Filing for Cross-Claim

Attorney:

10.

David B.

Ext: 1720

Secretary:

Avakian Susan Kingsbury,

4383

Auth, by/

Return to: Floor:

Remember to have Attorney Sign and Attach all Supporting Backup

93565 Tenth J 2021758 Distribu 0001MHYZ Page Tenth Judicial District Court
Distribution 4752915

27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 7/29/16
WIP Seq#: 508,648,060
Check#: 11783
Amount: 198.00

Vendor: Voucher: Doc ID:

93565 Tenth Judicial District Court 2021758 Distribution 4752915 Distribution Level 0001MHYZ Page 2

TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
CHURCHILL
OFFICIAL FEE SCHEDULE
Effective July 1, 2015 - Updated Changes Highlighted in Red
Please be advised that all payments that relate to filing fees
fines, administrative essessments, restitution, etc. must be submitted in the form of a cashier's check or money order.
The Court will continue to accept payment by check from legal counsel and from businesses who have received Court
approved of this method of payment. Any exceptions to this policy may only be approved by the Court Administrator. Cash
will continue to be accepted for copies and certification of documents as long as the amount does not exceed \$28.00.

Adoptions	When filing a new Adoption proceeding	\$213.00
	When filing a new Adoption proceeding for a special needs child pursuant to NRS 19.034	\$1.00
Answer or Appearance	When a defendant answers a complaint, to be paid upon the filing of the first paper in the action for Civil cases and Domestic cases not contained in NRS 125	\$198.00
	For each additional defendant named in a civil answer or first appearance	\$30.00
	When a delendant answers an action for constructional defect or any other action defined as complex NRS 19.013 (\$44), 19.031 (\$25), 19.03135 (\$10), 19.0302 (\$349), CC 4.090.060 (\$20)	\$448.00
	Divorce, Annulment, Separate Maintenance answer or first eppearance	\$187.00
	Child Custody enswer or first appearance	\$187.00
Appeal from a Justice or I	funicipal Court	
	When filling an appeal from a Justice Court or Municipal Court	\$134.00
Appeal/Supreme Court	When filing a Notice of Appeal	\$24.00
	Bonds for Costs on Appeal - Cash or surety deposited by the appellant in the district court with the Notice of Appeal	\$500.00
	Supreme Court Appeal filing fee (payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court)	\$250.00
Complaints		
Annulment or Separat	B Maintenance When filling a Comptaint for Annulment or a Complaint for Separate Maintenance	\$274.00
Child Custody	When filing a Complaint for Child Custody	\$234.00
Civil	When filing a new Civil action or proceeding	\$245.00
	For each additional plaintiff named in a civil complaint or amended civil complaint	\$30.00
	When filing an action for constructional defect or other action defined as complex. NRS 19.013 (\$56), 19.020 (\$3), 19.030 (\$32), 19.031 (\$25), 19.03135 (\$10), 19.0302 (\$349), CC 4.090.040 (\$20)	\$495.00
	When filing a third party complaint	\$135.00
Divorce	When filling for a Divorce	\$274.00
Domestic Not Specifie	d Above When filing a domestic case not specified above	\$245.00
Confession of Judgment	For filing a Confession of Judgment	\$28.00
Contest/Objection (Probat	e/Guardianship)	
· ·	When filing a petition to contest any will or codicil, or on the filing of an objection or cross-petition to the appointment of an executor, administrator or guardian or an objection to the settlement of account or any answer in an estateor guardianship matter. NRS 19.013 (844), 19.031 (325), 19.03135 (810), 19.0302 (899), CC 4.090.000 (920)	\$196.00

Fee Schedule 7-1-15 Updated 6-24-15

Amount:

Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 7/29/16
WIP Seq#: 508,648,060
Check#: 11783

Copie

For each page copied from any file stamped document(s); unless such fee is waived by Clerk of Court NRS 19.013 (8-50) \$0.25 For each page copied that is not a file stamped document..... \$25.00 Certify/Exemplify To certify copies of any document(s) prepared by the clerk...... (Copy fees of \$.50 To exemplify any document(s) prepared by the clerk...... \$6.00 per page also apply) NRS 19.013 (\$6) To examine and certify a copy of any document(s) prepared by another...... \$9.00 Declaration of Domicile Demand for Jury Trial When filling a motion or other paper that seeks to modify or adjust a final order issued pursuant to Domestic Case-Reopen NRS 125, 125B and 125C and on filing any enswer or response to such a motion or other paper, excluding those exceptions noted in NRS 19.0312. (effective 11/04/02)... Foreign Judgment or Order Foreign Support Order or Decrees (UIFSA) Petition for appointment of Guardian Ad Litem (Civil fee paid upon filing of complaint)..... Guardian Ad Litem Guardianship/Probate Where value of Estate is more than \$200,000..... NRS 19.013 (\$72), 19.020 (\$1.50), 19.030 (\$32), 19.031 (\$25), 19.03135 (\$10), 19.0302 (\$352), CC 4.090.060 (\$20) Liens, Frivolous or Excessive Minor's Compromise scellaneous Filings To file other papers to be kept by the clerk, except for papers filed in court or filed by public \$15.00 \$6.00 58388 - New Section to NRS 19

Fee Schedule 7-1-16 Updated 9-24-15

Page 2

\$0.50

93565 2021758 0001**M**HYZ Page Tenth Judicial District Court Distribution 47529 4752915

Vendor: Voucher Doc ID:

27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 7/29/16
WIP Seq#: 508,648,060
Check#: 11783

Joint Petition Divorces 1st Time Opposing Motion Modify, Adjust, Enforce Decree of Divorce Only\$245.00 Name Change Filing a petition for a name change.... NRS 18:013 (\$56), 19:020 (\$3), 19:030 (\$32), 19:031 (\$25), 19:03135 (\$10), 19:0302 (\$99), CC 4:090:080 (\$20) Packets of Forms Initiating Case Packets
All other Multi document packets \$10.00 Waiver of Fees and Costs No Fee Peremptory Challenge Peremptory challenge of a Judge (payable to the Clerk of the Supreme Court)..... \$450.00 Petition to Seal Records Power of Attorney For performing a search of the records per year, per name; unless such fee is waived by Clerk of Court NRS 19.013 (8.50) \$0.50 Transfer from another District Court or County Transfer from a Justice or Municipal Court When transferring a case from a Justice Court or Municipal Court. \$231.00 NRS 18.013 (842), 18.020 (83), 19.030 (832), 19.030 (899), 19.031 (825), 19.03135 (\$10), CC 4.090.080 (\$20) \$15.00

> For the issuance of any writ of attachment, writ of garnishment, writ of execution or any other

Writ of Habeas Corpus

93565 2021758 0001MHYZ

Tenth Judicial District Court
Distribution 4752915

Distribution Leve

Fee Schedule 7-1-15 Updated 9-24-15

\$10.00

Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP **Cost Advance Ticket**

Check Request	

Check — Date Needed: 7/28/16

Type of Expense:

**Finance Committee approval required

0	Filing Fee	5		Court Reporter Fee	CR
0	Witness Fee	7	0	Mediation / Arbitration Fee**	AM
0	Prof. Consulting / Service Fee	s		COD Transcription (Invoice Needed)**	G
	Expert Witness Fee**	J		Reproduction / Copies	R
Œ	Jury Fees	JF		Reproduction / Medical Records	RR
	Deposition	н			

Any client-related requests over \$500.00 require Lane Ashley's approval. All educational expenses/seminars require Karl Loureiro's approval.

Client and File Name: Client and Matter No.:

Bible v. Versa Products 27350-1553

Amount:

\$320.00

5. 6. 7. Payee / Vendor:

Tenth Judicial District Court 73 N. Maine St., Ste. B Fallon, NV 89406

Mailing Address:

775-423-6088

8. Payee's Telephone No.:

Payee's Tax I.D. No.: **Explanation for billing purposes:**

Fee to file Demand for Jury Trial

Attorney:

David Avakian

1720 Ext:

Secretary:

Susan Kingsbury

4383 Ext:

LV-05023

Return to: Floor:

Remember to have Attorney Sign and Attach all Supporting Backup

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Tenth Judicial District Court Distribution 4752916

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27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/09/17
WIP Seq#: 544,141,160
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759911 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

INVOICE DATE\DATE OF SERVICE: 05/09/17

COMPEX

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE V MDB TRUCKING

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN
702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738

TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

H89567- A	CLAUSE: MEDICAL/BILLS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1 1	\$0.00 3.50 .00 .00 14.50 25.00 8.00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
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640 Compex Legal Services, Inc. 2130236 Distribution 5055527 0001SGXO Page 1 Page

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

DAVID B. AVAKIAN

INVOICE NO.: 22759981 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
8385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN
702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720 PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

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H89534- A	REMSA AMBULANCE SERVICE CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
		TOTAL DUE			81. 00
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Vendor: Voucher: Doc ID:

640 Compex Legal 2129628 Distribution 0001SFN7 Page 1 al Services, Inc. 5053736

27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,470
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759952 **ORDER DATE: 04/25/17**

INVOICE DATE\DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO:

HILLEU TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 88367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TUCKING

DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:

ORDERED BY: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH 6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600 LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738
TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738
TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720 PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

H89540- A	YRC FREIGHT CLAUSE: SPECIAL (OTHER) NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
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640 Compex Legal Services, Inc. 2129629 Distribution 5053737 0001SFNA Page 1

27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,480
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759937 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17 INVOICE DATE/DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE V MDB TRUCKING

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN
702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738

TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

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Page Compex Legal Distribution Services, Inc. 5053738

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE V MDB TRUCKING

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

INVOICE NO.: 22759919 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING

DATE OF LOSS:

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118
DAYID B. AVAKIAN
702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720 PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

H89564- A	RAIVS TEAM CLAUSE: SPECIAL (OTHER) NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Out of Area Custodial Fee Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 20. 00 200. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 20. 00 200. 00 8. 00 261. 50
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640 Compex Legal 2129631 Distribution 0001SFNK Page 1

Services, Inc. 5053739 Distribution Level

27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,500
Check#: 189865
Amount: 86.50

Vendor: Voucher: Doc ID: 640 Compex Legal 2129633 Distribution 0001SFNS Page 1 Page Services, Inc. 5053741

Distribution Level

INVOICE DATE DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

INVOICE NO.: 22759989 ORDER DATE: 04/25/17

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

CLIENTANSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN 702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720 PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

189534- D	RENO RADIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATES CHT D CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS/FILMS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Out of Area Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1 1 1	30, 00 3, 50 . 00 . 00 20, 00 25, 00 8, 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 20. 00 25. 00 8. 00
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27350-1553
Hartford Insurance Company
Bible, James v Versa Products Company, Inc
Date: 5/10/17
WIP Seq#: 541,390,510
Check#: 189865
Amount: 81.00

INVOICE NO.: 22759984

ORDER DATE: 04/25/17 INVOICE DATE\DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN
700-903-9099

702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738 TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720 PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

H89534- C	RENOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS/FILMS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
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640 Compex Legal Services, Inc. 2129634 Distribution 5053742 0001SFOC Page 1

INVOICE DATE/DATE OF SERVICE: 05/10/17

TERMS: NET 30 DAYS

TAX ID: 95-4443964

CASE NAME: JAMES BIBLE, V MDB TRUCKING,

RECORDS OF: BIBLE, JAMES

FILE/CLAIM NO.: 27350.1553/27350.1553

BILLED TO: LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH

P.O. BOX 86367 LOS ANGELES, CA 90086-0367 DAVID B. AVAKIAN

CLIENT/INSURED: MDB TRUCKING

DATE OF LOSS:

ORDERED BY:
LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH
6385 SOTUH RAINBOW BOULEVARD, SUITE #600
LAS VEGAS, NV 89118
DAVID B. AVAKIAN

702-893-3383

PLEASE REMIT TO: P.O. BOX 2738

TORRANCE, CA 90509-2738 TEL 800.788.8831 FAX 310.781.9720

PHONE #: 702-893-3383 **ACCOUNT #: 43138**

Н89534- В	RENOWN REGIONAL MEDICAL RECORDS PROCESSING CENTER CLAUSE: AUTH - MEDS/BILLS/FILMS NOTES: CLOSED: CASE SETTLED	Basic Charge - Auth Phone Call/Status Authorization Prep Authorization Service Field Trip Rush Shipping and Handling SUB TOTAL	1 1 1 1 1	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00	30. 00 3. 50 . 00 . 00 14. 50 25. 00 8. 00
		TOTAL DUE			81. 00
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640 Compex Legal Services, Inc. 2129635 Distribution 5053743 0001SFOH Page 1

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Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6524896 : yviloria

1 JOSH COLE AICKLEN Nevada Bar No. 007254 2 Josh.aicklen@lewisbrisbois.com DAVID B. AVAKIAN Nevada Bar No. 009502 David.avakian@lewisbrisbois.com PAIGE S. SHREVE Nevada Bar No. 013773 Paige.shreve@lewisbrisbois.com LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 702.893.3383 FAX: 702.893.3789 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. 9 10

DISTRICT COURT

WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

JAMES BIBLE,

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Plaintiff,

VS.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et. al.

Defendants.

AND ALL RELATED CASES.

Case No. CV16-01914

Dept. 10

CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA
PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S
VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS

COMES NOW, Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC., by and through its attorneys of record, Josh Cole Aicklen, Esq., David B. Avakian, Esq. and Paige S. Shreve, Esq., of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP, and submits the following Verified Memorandum of Costs to be recovered against Cross-Claimant MDB TRUCKING, LLC pursuant to NRS 18.005; NRS 18.020; and NRS 18.110.

This Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements is based upon VERSA's Offer of Judgment under NRCP 68, NRS 18.005, NRS 18.020; and NRS 18.110, the pleadings and papers on file herein, the verification of attorneys' fees and costs by defense counsel, and any evidence to be considered by this Court.

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4843-8097-6988.1 Docket 76396 Document 2018-30088

VERSA submits its verified Memorandum of Costs within five (5) days of entry of 1 2 Judgment pursuant to NRS 18.110(1). The undersigned hereby verifies, under penalty of perjury, that the following costs 3 were incurred by Cross-Defendant in the defense of this matter: 4 COSTS FROM LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP (LBBS) 5 398.00 6 1. Court Filing Fees \$ 43.74 2. 7 **Records Reproduction** 834.00 \$1,274.74 8 LEGAL COSTS: 9 **AFFIRMATION** Pursuant to NRS 239B.030, the undersigned hereby affirms that this document 10 filed in this court does not contain the social security number of any person. 11 DATED this 9th day of February, 2018. 12 13 Respectfully Submitted, 14 LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 15 16 17 By /s/ Josh Cole Aicklen JOSH COLE AICKLEN 18 Nevada Bar No. 007254 DAVID B. AVAKIAN 19 Nevada Bar No. 009502 PAIGE S. SHREVE 20 Nevada Bar No. 013773 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 21 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Attorneys for Cross-Defendant 22 VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. 23 24 25 26 27 28

BRISBOIS
BISGAARD
& SMITH LLP

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AFFIDAVIT OF JOSH COLE AICKLEN IN SUPPORT OF CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S VERIFIED MEMORANDUM OF COSTS

STATE OF NEVADA) SS. COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, JOSH COLE AICKLEN, ESQ., do declare and state as follows:

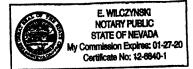
- 1. I am an Owner of Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP, and am duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada. I am competent to testify to the matters set forth in this Affidavit, and will do so if called upon. I am the attorney of record representing Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC. in the subject lawsuit currently pending in Department 10 of the Second Judicial District Court for the State of Nevada, Case Number CV16-01914.
- 2. I participated in the entirety of the litigation, which culminated in an evidentiary hearing on October 13, 2017 in the FITZSIMMONS and BIBLE matter with the Court finding in favor of Cross-Defendant and striking MDB's cross-claims.
 - 3. The total costs in the case were \$ 1,275.74.

4. The entirety of the costs in this case were reasonable and customary for

Washoe County.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 9th day of February, 2018.

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said COUNTY and STATE



JOSH COLE AICKLEN, ESQ.

27

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1

Disbursement Diary and Supporting Documentation for Costs

WIS 28

4843-8097-6988.1

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE					
2	I hereby certify that on this 9th day of February, 2018 a true and correct copy					
3	of CROSS-DEFENDANT VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.'S VERIFIED					
4	MEMORANDUM OF COSTS was served via the Court's electronic e-filing system					
5	addressed as follows:					
6	Matthew C. Addison, Esq. McDONALD CARANO WILSON LLP					
7	100 W. Liberty St., 10 th Floor Reno, NV 89501					
8	RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC.					
9	Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq. Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq.					
10	CLARK HILL PLLC 3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Ste. 500					
11	Las Vegas, NV 89169 Attorneys for MDB TRUCKING, LLC and					
12	DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI					
13						
14	/s/ Susan Kingsbury					
15	An Employee of LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP					
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LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW 26

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Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
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EXHIBIT 1

4845-3057-6394.1

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2018-01-22 04:08:51 PM
Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6492531

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

JAMES BIBLE,

VS.

7 ||

Plaintiff,

Case No. CV16-01914

Dept. No. 10

MDB TRUCKING, LLC; et al.,

Defendants.

<u>ORDER</u>

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 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.

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 GENEVA M. REMMERDE v. MDB TRUCKING, LLC et al., CV16-00976 ("the Remmerde Action"). The instant action was filed on September 20, 2016. The Remmerde Action was filed May 2, 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") September 20, 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, 4:3-5. 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, 4:6-8. 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, 4:12-15.

The Motion is the same as the motion practice in the Fitzsimmons Action and the Remmerde 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

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² 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 September 21, 2016. A Stipulation was filed on November 23, 2016, agreeing to dismiss MDB's Cross-Claim for Implied Indemnity. The only remaining cause of action alleged by MDB against Versa is for Contribution.

December Order case concluding sanctions were an appropriate sanction for MDB's spoliation of 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** 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 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 2 ay 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

_,

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

I 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.

to provide appropriate safety mechanisms regarding the solenoid valve. The MDB Cross-Claim,

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.

3:12-18.

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.

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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.

Clearly MDB should have anticipated extensive litigation as a result of the incident that

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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could not give this instruction. The Court can conceive of no other sanction which would be 16 appropriate under these circumstances. 17

18 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."

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

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:

1. 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

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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/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 2 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, 201
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

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CV16-01914
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Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6522573

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	JOSH COLE AICKLEN Nevada Bar No. 007254 Josh.aicklen@lewisbrisbois.com DAVID B. AVAKIAN Nevada Bar No. 009502 David.avakian@lewisbrisbois.com PAIGE S. SHREVE Nevada Bar No. 013773 Paige.shreve@lewisbrisbois.com LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 702.893.3383 FAX: 702.893.3789 Attorneys for Defendant/Cross-Claimant/Cross-Defendant VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY, INC.		Clerk of the Cou Transaction # 6522	
10	THOODOTO CONII AIVI, IIVO.			
11	DISTRIC	T COURT		
12	WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA			
13	JAMES BIBLE,	Case No. CV16-01914		
14	Plaintiff,	Dept. 10		
15	VS.	NOTICE OF ENTRY		
16	MDB TRUCKING, LLC, et. al.			
17	Defendants.			
18	AND ALL RELATED CASES.			
19				
20				
21	TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:			
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LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4831-8898-8506.1

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

4831-8898-8506.1

LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 Order

LEWIS BRISBOIS BISGAARD & SMITH LLP ATTORNEYS AT LAW

4831-8898-8506.1

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

LEWIS
BRISBOIS
BISGAARD
& SMITH LLP

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Jacqueline Bryant
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 6492531

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JAMES BIBLE,

VS.

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

Plaintiff,

Case No. CV16-01914

Dept. No. 10

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 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.

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 GENEVA M. REMMERDE v. MDB TRUCKING, LLC et al., CV16-00976 ("the Remmerde Action"). The instant action was filed on September 20, 2016. The Remmerde Action was filed May 2, 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") September 20, 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, 4:3-5. 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, 4:6-8. 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, 4:12-15. The Motion is the same as the motion practice in the Fitzsimmons Action and the Remmerde

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

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² 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 September 21, 2016. A Stipulation was filed on November 23, 2016, agreeing to dismiss MDB's Cross-Claim for Implied Indemnity. The only remaining cause of action alleged by MDB against Versa is for Contribution.

December Order case concluding sanctions were an appropriate sanction for MDB's spoliation of 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** 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 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 2 ay 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.

 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. 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

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. 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:

1. 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; and

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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.

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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 2 day of December, 2017.

ELLIOTT A. SATTLER District Judge

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, 4 I deposited in the County mailing system for postage and mailing with the United States Postal 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, ESQ. 15 SARAH QUIGLEY, ESQ. 16 JESSICA WOELFEL, ESQ. JACOB BUNDICK, ESQ. 17 NICHOLAS WIECZOREK, ESQ. 18 19 20

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Judicial Assistant

DC_09900080656-043 MDB TRUCKING, 7 Pages 09/20/2016 04:05 PM 4180 CV16-01914 JAMES BIBLE VS M District Court Washoe County 1

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CASE NO. 16-10DC-0824 DEPT. NO. I

[The undersigned hereby affirms this document does not contain a social security number]

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SUE SEVON COURT CLERK MORPUTY

IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CHURCHILL

JAMES BIBLE.

Plaintiff.

VS.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company; RMC LAMAR HOLDINGS, INC., a Colorado Corporation; VERSA PRODUCTS COMPANY INC., a New Jersey Corporation; DANIEL ANTHONY KOSKI; et al

Defendants.

AND RELATED CROSS-CLAIMS.

MDB TRUCKING, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Third-Party Plaintiff,

VS.

THE MODERN GROUP GP-SUB, INC., a Texas corporation and general partnership; DRAGON ESP, LTD., a Texas limited partnership; and DOES 1-10 and BLACK AND WHITE COMPANIES 1-10,

Third-Party Defendants.

THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT

CV16 01914

COMES NOW the Defendant/Third-Party Plaintiff, MDB Trucking, LLC (hereinafter "MDB") by and through its counsel of record Thorndal Armstrong Delk Balkenbush & Eisinger, and hereby brings this Third-Party Complaint against Third-Party Defendants the Modern Group GP-Sub, Inc. and Dragon ESP, Ltd. and hereby allege as follows.

THURNDAL ARMSTRONG DELK BALKENBUSH & EISINGER 6590 S. McCarran, Suite B Reno. Nevada 82509 (775) 786-2882 28

Docket 76396 Document 2018-30088

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(General Allegations)

- Third-Party Plaintiff incorporates herein that Plaintiffs' First Amended Complaint 1. solely for the purposes of establishing that a First Amended Complaint has been filed against MDB Trucking, LLC, but without admitting the truth of any allegation therein except for such allegations which may have been admitted in Third-Party Plaintiff's Answer. Third-Party Plaintiff is informed and believes and therefore alleges that the matters referred to in Third-Party Plaintiff's Complaint were proximately caused by the acts and omissions of Third-Party Defendants.
 - 2. Third-Party Plaintiff MDB Trucking, LLC was at all relevant times a Nevada limited liability company authorized to conduct business within the State of Nevada.
 - Third-Party Defendants DOES 1-10 and BLACK AND WHITE COMPANIES 1-3. 10 are sued herein under fictitious names and the true names and capacities of said Third-Party Defendants are not known by Third-Party Plaintiff who asked leave of court to amend this Third-Party Complaint to set forth same as it becomes known or ascertained.
 - 4. Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. (fka Ranch Manufacturing) was at all relevant times hereto a Colorado corporation engaged in the business of designing and manufacturing trailers and semi-trailers and placed same into the stream of commerce and was doing business in the State of Nevada.
 - 5. Third-Party Defendant the Modern Group GP-Sub, Inc. was at all relevant times hereto a Texas corporation and the general partner of Dragon ESP, Ltd., a Texas limited partnership.
 - Third-Party Defendant Dragon ESP, Ltd. was at all relevant times a Texas limited 6. partnership.

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& EISINGER

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7.	A Complaint was filed on July 7, 2016 in the Tenth Judicial District Court, Case
No. 16-10	DC-0824, Department I in which the Plaintiff James Bible prayed for damages agains
Defendan	t MDB Trucking, LLC alleging negligence in regards to an accident which occurred or
July 7, 20	14 where a trailer owned by MDB Trucking, LLC spilled a load of gravel causing an
accident a	and injury which are claims presented by Plaintiff.

- 8. Upon information and belief, the Ranco trailer was activated inadvertently causing the gates of the semi-trailer to release a subject load of gravel on the highway and was defective in whole or in part as designed by the Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. (fka Ranch Manufacturing Company) (also known by the trade name and trademark Ranco).
- Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings, Inc. manufactured the subject Ranco trailer in 2002 under the vehicle brand Ranco with VIN No. 1R9BP45082L008431 Idaho Plate No. TE3528.
- Third-Party Defendants acquired Ranch Manufacturing on or about August 1,
 2007 through an Asset Purchase Agreement.
- 11. Upon information and belief, Third-Party Defendant Dragon, ESP has continued to sell Ranco trailers and semi-trailers with the same components within the same general market and to same customers.
- 12. Third-Party Defendant Dragon ESP has maintained its manufacturing and assembly locations in the same venue of Lamar, Colorado after its acquisition of Ranch Manufacturing Company.
- 13. William Carder the former President and owner of Ranch Manufacturing, Inc. became an officer with Dragon ESP, Ltd. and maintained his position as Vice-President for Ranco through all relevant times up to and including 2013.
- Upon information and belief, Dragon ESP, Ltd. is a *de facto* successor to Ranch Manufacturing, Inc. and has engaged in substantial continuation of Ranco's business.
- Dragon ESP, Ltd. is liable to Third-Party Plaintiff to the same extent as RMC
 Lamar Holdings, Inc. (fka Ranch Manufacturing Company).

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- 16. Third-Party Plaintiff MDB Trucking, LLC in 2012 was the last purchaser and end user of the subject Ranco trailer.
- 17. On or before 2002, the Ranco trailer that left Ranch Manufacturing's control as designed, assembled, and manufactured by Ranco was unreasonably dangerous and defective in one or more of the following respects:
- a. The semi-trailer was designed, assembled and manufactured and/or configured in such a manner that the Versa solenoid valve would activate inadvertently allowing the gates to open and release the load carried by the trailer; and
- b. The Ranco trailer was designed, assembled, manufactured and/or configured in such a manner that the Versa Valve was not equipped with a safety lock to prevent inadvertent activation allowing the gates to open.
- 18. Ranch Manufacturing knew that Versa Products Company, Inc. had a safer design available in the stream of commerce on or about 2002 which employed a manual lock safety design, and that same should have been provided to its end use customers in lieu of the Versa Valve model incorporated in the subject Ranco trailer.
- 19. To the extent Plaintiff was injured as a proximate result of the unreasonably dangerous conditions and defects at the time of manufacturing or negligent design, such as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Third-Party Defendants; and any negligence that exists as alleged by the Plaintiffs is expressly denied. Third-Party Defendants were actively negligent and Third-Party Plaintiff was passively negligent.
- 20. Third-Party Defendants' breach of duty of care owed to the Third-Party Plaintiff and Third-Party Defendants are required to indemnify and hold Third-Party Plaintiff harmless with respect to all allegations and liabilities as set forth in the First Amended Complaint filed in this matter.
- Third-Party Plaintiff has placed Third-Party Defendants on notice of claims pending in this matter.

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& EISINGER 6590 S. McCanan, Suite B eno, Nevada 89509 775) 786-2882

DELK BALKENBUSH

& EISINGER

For such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper in the 4. premises.

DATED this 1264 day of August, 2016.

THORNDAL ARMSTRONG DELK BALKENBUSH & EISINGER

By:

Katherine F. Parks, Esq., State Bar No. 6227 Brian M. Brown, Esq., State Bar No. 5233 Thierry V. Barkley, Esq., State Bar No. 724 6590 S. McCarran Blvd., Suite B

Reno, Nevada 89509

Attorneys for Defendant/Third-Party Plaintiff MDB TRUCKING, LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

2	Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of Thorndal Armstrong Delk			
3	Balkenbush & Eisinger, and that on this date I caused the foregoing THIRD-PARTY			
4	COMPLAINT to be served on all parties to this action by:			
5	placing an original or true copy thereof in a sealed, postage prepaid, envelope in the			
6	United States mail at Reno, Nevada.			
7	hand delivery			
8	electronic means (fax, electronic mail, etc.)			
9	Federal Express/UPS or other overnight delivery fully addressed as follows:			
10				
11	James F. Sloan, Esq. 977 W. Williams Ave			
12	Fallon, Nevada 89406 Attorneys for Plaintiff			
13	Actorneys for Financial			
14	Matthew C. Addison, Esq. Jessica L. Woelfel, Esq.			
15	McDonald Carano Wilson LLP 100 W. Liberty Street, Tenth Floor			
16	Reno, NV 89501 Defendant RMC Lamar Holdings			
17				
18	Josh Cole Aicklen David B. Avakian			
19	Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith, LLP 6385 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 600			
20	Las Vegas, NV 89118 Defendant Versa Products Co., Inc.			
21				
22				
23	DATED this <u>13</u> day of August, 2016.			
24	1/. /			
25	An employee of Thorndal Armstrong			
26	Delk Balkenbush & Eisinger			

THORNDAL ARMSTRONG
DELK BALKENBUSH
& EISINGER
6590 S. McCarran, Suite B
Reno, Nevada 89369
(775) 786-2882
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-7-

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

MDB TRUCKING, LLC,

VS.

Supreme Court No.: 76396

Appellant,

Electronically Filed

District Court Case NA 6 06 020 14 6 02:32 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown

Dept. 10

Clerk of Supreme Court

VERSA PRODUCTIONS COMPANY, INC.,

DOCKETING STATEMENT **CIVIL APPEALS**

Respondent.

1. Judicial District: Second Judicial District Department: 10

> Judge: The Honorable Elliott A. Sattler County: Washoe

District Ct. Case No.: CV16-01914

2. Attorney(s) filing this docketing statement:

Attorneys: Nicholas M. Wieczorek, Esq.; Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq.; and Colleen E. McCarty, Esq.

Telephone: (702) 862-8300

Firm: Clark Hill PLLC

Address: 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 500, Las Vegas, Nevada 89169

Client: MDB Trucking, LLC ("MDB")

3. Attorney(s) representing Respondent(s):

Attorney: Josh Cole Aicklen, Esq.; David B. Avakian, Esq.; and Paige S. Shreve, Esq.

Telephone: (702) 893-3383

Firm: Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP

Address: 6385 S. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 600, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

Client(s): Versa Products Company, Inc. ("Versa")

4.	Nature of disposition below (check al	I that a	oply):		
	Judgment after bench trial		Dis	missal	
	Judgment after jury verdict			Lack of jur	risdiction
	Summary judgement			Failure to s	state a claim
	Default judgment			Failure to p	prosecute
	Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief			Other (spec	cify):
	Grant/Denial of injunction		Div	orce Decree:	
	Grant/Denial of declaratory relief		o o	riginal	☐ Modification
	Review of agency determination	Ord Part Cos and MD	er (1) Versits Pur (2) G B's M	Granting in a's Motion for suant to NR ranting in Par	Part and Denying in or Attorney's Fees and CP 37 and NRCP 68 rt and Denying in Part ax and Settle Verified
5.	Does this appeal raise issues concerni	ng any	of the	following?	Not applicable.
	□ Child Custody□ Venue□ Termination of parental rights				
	Pending and prior proceedings in this peals or original proceedings presently of to this appeal:				
	MDB Trucking, LLC v. Versa Products Case Nos. 75022, 75319, 75321, 76395		,		
	Pending and prior proceedings in other pending and prior proceedings in other proceedings, consolidated or bifurcated proceed	er courts	s which	ch are relate	d to this appeal (e.g.,
	Fitzsimmons v. MDB Trucking, LLC, et Remmerde v. MDB Trucking, LLC, et al				
which	On June 7, 2018, the Court filed its poswere the same or substantially similar				

were noticed on July 13, 2018 and have also been appealed and cross-appealed.

8. Nature of the action. Briefly describe the nature of the action and the result below:

The matter underlying this appeal arises from a personal injury action. On December 4, 2015, Ernest and Carol Fitzsimmons filed a complaint styled Fitzsimmons v. MDB Trucking, LLC, et al., in the Second Judicial District Court, Case No. CV15-02349 (the "Fitzsimmons Action"). Numerous other plaintiffs' cases were subsequently consolidated into the Fitzsimmons Action. Two additional cases resulting from the same accident were filed but not consolidated with the Fitzsimmons Action, e.g. Remmerde v. MDB Trucking, LLC, Case No. CV-00976, and the case which is the subject of the instant appeal, Bible v. MDB Trucking, LLC, Case No. CV16-01914. The personal injury claims all related to multiple traffic accidents, which occurred when a semi-trailer owned and operated by MDB inadvertently dumped a load of gravel on the freeway. MDB settled all of the underlying plaintiffs' claims and thereafter pursued a Cross-Claim for Contribution against Versa. The Fitzsimmons Action was subsequently dismissed by the District Court's Order entered on December 8, 2017 and noticed on December 29, 2017, which granted case-ending sanctions, pursuant to NRCP 37. And, based upon that decision, the District Court filed an Order dismissing MDB's Cross-Claim in the instant underlying case, as well as in the Remmerde matter. All three cases are currently on appeal from that Order, in Supreme Court Case Nos. 75022 (Fitzsimmons), 75319 (Remmerde) and 75321 (Bible), respectively.

On February 9, 2018, Versa filed a post-judgment Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 37 and NRCP 68 ("Motion for Attorneys' Fees"), and a Verified Memorandum of Costs ("Memorandum of Costs"), wherein it sought attorneys' fees in the amount of \$724.50 and costs in the amount of \$1,274.74 from MDB. Thereafter, MDB timely filed a Motion to Retax and Settle Costs ("Motion to Retax") and opposed the Motion for Attorneys' Fees. After full briefing, the District Court heard oral argument on the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Motion to Retax on April 6, 2018, at which time it took the matters under advisement. In a final written Order on the post-judgment motions entered on June 7, 2018, and noticed on June 13, 2018, the District Court granted in part and denied in part the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Motion to Retax. Specifically, Versa's request for attorneys' fees was denied, and its Verified Memorandum of Costs was reduced by \$198.00. MDB was ordered to pay Versa costs in the amount of \$1,076.74 and is appealing said cost award in its entirety.

- 9. **Issues** on appeal. State specifically all issues in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):
- Whether the District Court abused its discretion by awarding \$1,053.87 in costs to Versa for costs pertaining exclusively to Versa's defense of the underlying plaintiffs' personal injury actions for which Versa was not the prevailing party. See NRS 18.020; see also Nevada N. R. R. v. Ninth Judicial Dist. Court, 51 Nev. 201, 204-05, 273 P. 177, 178 (1928) (MDB having settled the plaintiffs' personal injury claims pre-trial, without any contribution from Versa, is preclusive of Versa claiming "prevailing party" status).
- 2) Whether the District Court abused its discretion by awarding \$21.87 to Versa for costs which predate its Offers of Judgment, in contravention of its Motion for Attorneys' Fees, wherein Versa specifically requests costs incurred after the service of the Offers of Judgment.

10. Pending proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues. If you are aware of any proceedings presently pending before this court which raises the same or similar issues raised in this appeal, list the case name and docket number and identify the same or similar issue raised.

Fitzsimmons v. MDB Trucking, LLC, et al., Case No. 75022 Remmerde v. MDB Trucking, LLC, et al., Case No. 76397

- 11. **Constitutional issues.** If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?
 - X N/A
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

If not, explain:

- 12. Other issues. Does this appeal involve any of the following issues? Not applicable.
 - Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the cases(s))
 - ☐ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions
 - ☐ A substantial issue of first impression
 - ☐ An issue of public policy
 - An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's decisions
 - ☐ A ballot question

If so, explain:

13. Assignment to the Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court.

MDB respectfully asserts that this matter, which is an appeal of a post-judgment Order related to the appeal of a case-ending sanctions Order in Case No. 75321, is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court, pursuant to NRAP 17(a)(10) and/or (11). The Supreme Court previously clarified its spoliation jurisprudence in *Bass-Davis v. Davis*, 122 Nev. 442, 134 P.3d 103 (2006), but it remains a question of first impression and/or inconsistency in the published decisions of the Appellate Courts what impact the *Bass-Davis* decision has on a district court's exercise of discretion to impose sanctions under NRCP 37. It is MDB's position in the instant case that the District Court failed to recognize the limitations on the degree of sanctions to be imposed for negligent or willful spoliation of evidence under *Bass-Davis* and abused its discretion in entering case concluding sanctions.

To the extent this matter could otherwise be viewed as presumptively assigned to the Court of Appeals pursuant to NRAP (17)(b)(5), MDB respectfully requests the Supreme Court retain the case despite the presumptive assignment for all of the reasons stated above.

14.	Trial.	If this action pro	oceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last?
	Not ap	oplicable.	
	Was i	t a bench or jury to	rial?
	Not ap	oplicable.	
15. recuse		ial Disqualification erself from participa	Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice tion in this appeal? If so, which Justice?
	Not ap	oplicable.	
16.	Date of	of entry of written	judgment or order appealed from.
	Order	filed on June 7, 201	8.
seekin		written judgment of late review.	or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for
	Not ap	oplicable.	
17.	Date v	written notice of en	atry of judgment or order appealed from: June 13, 2018.
	Was se	ervice by: Delivery Mail/electronic/fax	X.
18.	Date v	written notice of en	atry of Judgment or order was served: June 13, 2018
19. (NRC)		time for filing the 1, 52(b), or 59).	notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion
	Not ap	pplicable.	
		ecify the type of mo	otion, the date and method of service of the motion, and the date
		NRCP 50(b) NRCP 52(b) NRCP 59	Date of filing Date of filing Date of filing

	(b) Date of entry of written order resolving tolling motion(c) Date written notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served
	Was service by: ☐ Delivery ☐ Mail
20.	Date notice of appeal filed: July 13, 2018.
	If more than one party has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each notice of appeal was filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:
	Versa filed a Notice of Cross-Appeal on July 24, 2018.
21.	Specify statute or rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other.
	N.R.A.P. 4(a)(1)
	SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY
22.	Specify the statue or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review the judgment or order appeal from: (a)
	X NRAP 3A(b)(1)
	\square NRAP 3A(b)(2) \square NRS 233B.150
	\square NRAP 3A(b)(3) \square NRS 703.376
	☐ Other (specify)
	(b) Explain how each authority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order:
	N.R.A.P. 3A(b)(1) allows an appeal to be taken from the final judgment or orders of a district court. The District Court's Order resolved all issues in dispute raised by Versa's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and MDB's Motion to Retax. There is nothing remaining to be adjudicated by the parties.
22.	List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court:
	(a) Parties: (1) MDB Trucking, LLC (2) Versa Products Company, Inc.
	(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, e.g., formally dismissed, not served, or other:

The claims of all other parties were settled in the district court.

23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, or third-party claims and the date of formal disposition of each claim.

Versa's Motion for Attorneys' Fees against MDB granted in part and denied in part by Order entered on June 7, 2018. MDB's Motion to Retax against Versa granted in part and denied in part by the same Order entered on June 7, 2018.

		e same Order entered on June 7, 2018.
24. and the		lgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?
	X Yes No	
25.	If you answ	vered "No" to question 23, complete the following: Not applicable.
	(a) Specify	the claims remaining pending below:
	(b) Specify	the parties remaining below:
		district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final ursuant to NRCP 54(b)?
		Yes
		No
		district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of
		Yes
		No
26. appel		wered "No" to any part of question 24, explain the basis for seeking e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):

Not applicable.

- 27. Attach file-stamped copies of the following documents:
 - The latest-filed complaint, counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party claims
 - Any tolling motion(s) and order(s) resolving tolling motion(s)

- Order of NRCP 41(a) dismissals formally resolving each claim, counterclaims, crossclaims and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidated action below, even if not at issue on appeal
- Any other order challenged on appeal
- Notices of entry for each attached order

VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this docketing statement, that the information provided in this docketing statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I have attached all required documents to this docketing statement.

MDB Trucking, LLC	Nicholas Wieczorek, Jeremy Thompson and
Name of appellant	Colleen E. McCarty
	Name of counsel of record
8/5/18	
Date	Signature of counsel of record
Nevada, Clark County State and County where signed	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the _____ day of August, 2018, I served a copy of this completed

- ☐ By personally serving it upon him/her; or
- X By mailing it by first class mail with sufficient postage prepaid to the following address(es): (NOTE: If all names and addresses cannot fit below, please list names below and attached a separate sheet with the addresses.)

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 Respondent/Cross-Appellant
Versa Products Company, Inc.

docketing statement upon all counsel of records:

An Employee of Clark Hill PLLC