

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

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JENNIFER V. ABRAMS; AND THE  
ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM,

Appellants,

vs.

STEVE W. SANSON; AND VETERANS  
IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

Respondents.

JENNIFER V. ABRAMS; AND THE  
ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM,

Appellants,

vs.

STEVE W. SANSON; AND VETERANS  
IN POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

Respondents.

) Docket No: 73838

)  
)  
) Electronically Filed  
) May 26 2020 11:35 a.m.  
) Elizabeth A. Brown  
) Clerk of Supreme Court

) Docket No: 75834

**MOTION FOR RECUSAL OF CHIEF JUSTICE PICKERING AND FOR  
THE APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR JUSTICES AND/OR DISTRICT  
COURT JUDGES TO PARTICIPATE IN APPELLANT’S EN BANC  
RECONSIDERATION**

COME NOW Appellants, JENNIFER V. ABRAMS and THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM, by and through their attorneys of record, Marshal S. Willick, Esq., of Willick Law Group and Mitchell J. Langberg, Esq., of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, and hereby move this Court for the recusal of Chief Justice Pickering from participation in Appellant’s recently filed *Petition for En Banc Reconsideration* and for the designation of three (or two, if Chief Justice Pickering

does not recuse) additional senior justices and/or district court judges to replace Chief Justice Pickering, as well as Justices Cadish and Silver who have both previously recused.

#### **A. Introductory Statement**

By this motion, Petitioners do not intend to attack the integrity of Chief Justice Pickering or to suggest she has engaged in any misconduct. Rather, recusal is necessitated by the ongoing misconduct of Respondents Steve Sanson and Veterans In Politics International, Inc.

Justice Pickering announced her reelection bid in November 2019. On May 4, 2020, all parties received notice that Petitioners would be filing a Petition for En Banc Reconsideration, which necessarily would require Justice Pickering to consider this case. Only after that (and only four weeks before the election), on May 11, 2020, Veterans in Politics International very publicly endorsed Justice Pickering.

Not every endorsement should trigger recusal by a judge. But the timing of *this* endorsement and the history of *this* party (which has caused to the recent recusal of many judges), makes recusal necessary to preserve the integrity of the judicial system and to prevent the appearance of bias.

Two justices of this Court have already recused themselves from this case. Regardless of whether this motion is granted, pursuant to this Court's Internal Operating Procedures, "substitute judges" should be appointed to fill the vacant seats so that the issue of reconsideration can be considered by the "full court."

## **B. Procedural history**

This matter was decided via published opinion by the Southern Nevada Panel of this Court—consisting of Justices Gibbons, Hardesty, and Stiglich—on March 5, 2020. Due to several legal and factual errors made by the Panel that formed the basis for this Court’s decision, Appellants sought a rehearing. That petition was denied by the Panel on April 24, 2020. On May 22, 2020 Appellants filed a *Petition for En Banc Reconsideration* with the full Court.

## **C. Chief Justice Pickering should recuse from hearing this matter**

Chief Justice Pickering, who was not on the Southern Nevada Panel of this Court which issued the opinion at issue, is currently running in a contested re-election campaign to retain her seat on the Nevada Supreme Court. Every election cycle, Respondents, Steve Sanson and Veterans in Politics International, interview candidates for public office and give out endorsements for federal, state and local elections, including a heavy-handed focus on judicial races.

On May 11, 2020, Mr. Sanson announced during a “square table” discussion of judicial candidates that Chief Justice Pickering had been “endorsed for re-election” by the Nevada chapter of Veterans In Politics International. Multiple email blasts and social media posts from him and his organization have touted the

endorsement.<sup>1</sup> Chief Justice Pickering also displays the endorsement on her re-election website. Mr. Sanson has made clear that it is his organization's long-standing policy that only candidates who participate in the organization's interview process are eligible for endorsement. Thus, it appears that Chief Justice Pickering has been in recent contact with Respondents as it relates to her bid for re-election.

NRAP 35(a) permits a party to an action to file a motion to disqualify any justice or judge of the Supreme Court or Court of Appeals. In fact, pursuant to Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct (NCJC) Rule 2.11(A), Chief Justice Pickering should recuse herself. Comment 1 to the rule makes clear that no actual bias is required: "Under this Rule, a judge is disqualified whenever the judge's impartiality *might reasonably be questioned*, regardless of whether any of the specific provisions of paragraphs (A)(1) through (6) apply." (emphasis added).

This is not an attack on Chief Justice Pickering's integrity. It is the result of Sanson's relentless attempts to corrupt the judicial process in this and many other cases.

This case was filed on January 9, 2017. Four months *later*, in April 2017, Steve Sanson publicly declared "War" on the Clark County Family Court<sup>2</sup> for the

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<sup>1</sup> See emails and social media posts from Mr. Sanson and Veterans In Politics International, attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

<sup>2</sup> See **Exhibit 2**. To be clear, Sanson's focus on family court only began *after* he was sued for defamation. The false and defamatory statements about Abrams were disseminated as part of an extortion scheme and were not part of any regular



purpose of trying to retroactively “legitimize” the defamatory statements for which he was sued. On July 14, 2017, Steve Sanson emailed a letter to Chief Judge Elizabeth Gonzales discussing issues in this case.<sup>3</sup> That correspondence was emailed to every judge in the Eighth Judicial District and to the Justices of this Court. These were not the only efforts to influence the outcome of the case.

A *Notice of Appeal* was filed on August 21, 2017. Justice Cherry had not yet retired. On January 6, 2018, Steve Sanson announced that Justice Michael Cherry would be appearing as a guest on Veterans In Politics talk-show that Saturday.<sup>4</sup> This was the first time Justice Cherry was scheduled to appear on the show. When the conflict was brought to Justice Cherry’s attention,<sup>5</sup> he canceled his scheduled appearance on the show and later recused from a related appeal, *Veterans In Politics Intl. v. Willick*.<sup>6</sup>

After receiving notice on May 4, 2020 of Appellant’s intent to file a *Petition for En Banc Reconsideration* with the full Court, Sanson publicly announced his endorsement of Chief Justice Pickering on May 11, 2020.

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“reporting” about family court or part of the “War” on family court that was not even begun until months after the lawsuit was filed.

<sup>3</sup> See **Exhibit 3**.

<sup>4</sup> See announcement attached as **Exhibit 4**.

<sup>5</sup> See **Exhibit 5**.

<sup>6</sup> Justice Cherry had already retired by the time this matter completed briefing and was heard.

These are not isolated incidents. Documentation of Sanson's prior deliberate attempts to influence the outcome of pending cases is extensive.

The complaint in the *Willick v. Sanson* matter was filed on January 27, 2017. After bouncing among departments due to multiple recusals, the matter was assigned to Department 18, which at the time, was vacant and presided over by rotating senior judges. In August 2017, the Hon. Mark B. Bailus was appointed by Governor Sandoval to the vacant Department 18 seat. Sanson promptly contacted him.

On November 18, 2017, Sanson announced that he had scheduled Judge Bailus to appear on the VIPI talk-show on November 25, 2017.<sup>7</sup> Judge Bailus did, in fact, appear on the talk-show, during which Sanson provided him with campaign advertising on the air. This was the first time Mark Bailus was invited on the show.

Willick filed a *Motion to Disqualify Judge* based on the out-of-court communications between Sanson and Judge Bailus, including the judge's appearance on the VIPI radio show while the case was pending in his department. Before the Motion was heard, Judge Bailus recused himself from the case.<sup>8</sup>

In September 2017, Sanson attempted to influence the Hon. Bryce Duckworth on behalf of litigant Douglas Ansell, in a case where Willick represented Mrs. Ansell. **Sanson called Judge Duckworth on his cell phone to discuss the Ansell**

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<sup>7</sup> See **Exhibit 6**.

<sup>8</sup> Even though the appearance occurred while the case was stayed pending appeal and Judge Bailus voluntarily recused himself, the Commission on Judicial Discipline still took action as appropriate under the circumstances. See **Exhibit 7**.

case *ex parte*. Due to the interference in the judicial process by Sanson, Judge Duckworth was compelled to recuse himself after presiding over the case for two years. Judge Duckworth's findings make clear that Sanson's intention was to use *ex parte* manipulation to influence the outcome of the pending litigation:

[N]otwithstanding his self-proclaimed faux cover of seeking to "expose injustice and corruption," Mr. Sanson's sole motivation for communicating with this Court was to intimidate and harass the Court. Mr. Sanson proudly proclaims that he has "declared war" on the Family Court. There is no doubt that the courts are under attack and that the entire judiciary of this great State of Nevada is on notice that, behind that false banner of "justice and corruption" is an individual and group who seek to manipulate, intimidate and control. The arsenal of weapons that Mr. Sanson utilizes include attempts to manipulate, intimidate and control the judicial process through off-the-record communications. This case has exposed the reality of his tactics.

Judge Duckworth explained Sanson's lack of remorse and his attempt to deflect blame to the Court:

What should be frightening to this Court (and members of the Nevada judiciary in general) is that Mr. Sanson refused to acknowledge at the August 30, 2017 hearing that his communication with the Court about a pending case was inappropriate. Specifically, Mr. Sanson, through his counsel, suggested it was the Court's fault based on the earlier conversation cited above. This Court reiterates that it is inappropriate to communicate with a judicial officer off the record about a pending case – ***at any time and under any circumstances***. Mr. Sanson's attempts to deflect blame to the Court are appalling.

Judge Duckworth explained that Sanson retaliates against those who don't "kowtow and cower to his manipulation and control:"

Is there anything more corrupt than the influence Mr. Sanson sought to exert over the Court? And he proclaims that he seeks to expose corruption? Because this Court called him out on the inappropriateness

of his communication and refused to kowtow and cower to his manipulation and control, Mr. Sanson predictably let the Court know that his wrath was coming out against the Court. This type of threat to any judicial officer strikes at the very core of the integrity of the judicial process. Moreover, such threatening behavior is an attempt to manipulate and control judicial officers if they do not succumb to Mr. Sanson's desired result.<sup>9</sup>

When this order and the related hearing started circulating on the internet, Mr. Sanson promptly used VIPI and his "Family Court WAR" movement to launch a smear campaign against Judge Duckworth. In a Facebook photo known as a "meme," Mr. Sanson likened Department Q to a dumpster fire.<sup>10</sup> Sanson continued his attacks on Judge Duckworth, ignoring Sanson's own attempted corruption and instead, falsely alleging a conflict with "Willick's litigant."<sup>11</sup>

As a result of Sanson's corrupt behavior, the *Ansell* divorce was permanently assigned to a senior judge.

In this and the *Willick* case, Sanson hunted down several judges assigned to this case, in *ex parte* communications trying to alter the outcome of the litigation. As a result of Sanson's relentless efforts to corrupt the judicial process, a *Motion to Disqualify Eighth Judicial District Court Elected Judiciary, And For Permanent Assignment to the Senior Judge Program or, Alternatively, To A District Court*

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<sup>9</sup> 8 AA 1529-1539

<sup>10</sup> See Facebook photo posted on a page managed by Mr. Sanson, attached hereto as **Exhibit 8**.

<sup>11</sup> See **Exhibit 9**.

*Judge Outside of Clark County* was filed in both the *Abrams v. Sanson* and *Willick v. Sanson* cases on January 24, 2018.

Both cases were assigned to the senior judge program. The cases were assigned to Senior Judge Kathy Hardcastle on March 5, 2018.

In January 2019, Sanson entered Judge Hardcastle's courtroom in an unrelated case and was asked to leave. On this basis, Sanson filed a meritless judicial discipline complaint against Judge Hardcastle. On May 20, 2020 Sanson used his own meritless filing as a pretext for filing a *Motion to Disqualify Senior Judge* which is currently pending.

There are many more instances of Sanson's interference in the judicial process—it is part and parcel of a deliberate attempt to corrupt judicial proceedings in numerous cases over an extended period of time. And, as called out by Judge Duckworth and the newspapers, judicial corruption is actually what business Sanson is *in*—all his other actions simply support that business model.<sup>12</sup>

In this context, the endorsement received by Chief Justice Pickering is more than a “de minimis” interest that could be substantially affected by the proceeding. See NCJC Rule 2.11(A)(2)(c). NCJC provisions on “Terminology” define “[d]e minimis” as “an insignificant interest that could not raise a reasonable question regarding the judge’s impartiality.” The potential retraction of Veterans In Politics

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<sup>12</sup> See **Exhibit 10**.

International’s endorsement and backlash from the organization should the Chief Justice rule against Respondents cannot help but be a legitimate concern—to her, and to us.

In the context Sanson and his extensive history of both currying relationships with and retaliating against judges, the fact that the Chief Justice would be put in a position to rule on a dispute concerning *this* endorser is concerning. Any reasonable person would question whether a jurist who has received such an endorsement in the midst of a pending matter could be impartial.

The timing of the endorsement is of particular concern. The time for Appellant to file a *Petition for En Banc Reconsideration* began to run on April 24, 2020. An *Order Granting Telephone Extension* was filed and served on May 4, 2020. The first notice of Veterans In Politics “endorsement” of Chief Justice Pickering was a week later in the May 11, 2020 “square table” broadcast, followed up by written material dated May 13, 2020.<sup>13</sup>

A motion to disqualify generally needs to be filed “within 60 days after docketing of the appeal”; however, there is an exception for good cause when a party only later learned of the grounds for disqualification,<sup>14</sup> and the rule does not apply where a justice has not previously participated in the case.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> See Exhibit 1.

<sup>14</sup> *Allum v. Valley Bank*, 112 Nev. 591, 915 P.2d 895 (1996)

<sup>15</sup> *Snyder v. Viani*, 112 Nev. 568, 916 P.2d 170 (1996), cert. denied, 519 U.S. 963, 117 S. Ct. 385, 136 L. Ed. 2d 302 (1996)

Here, the facts concerning this motion were only recently discovered after Mr. Sanson and Chief Justice Pickering announced that the Chief Justice had received the endorsement of Veterans In Politics International. Chief Justice Pickering has also not previously participated in this case.

It would be appropriate for Chief Justice Pickering to recuse based on the appearance of impropriety and the reasonable concern that the Chief Justice has communicated with Mr. Sanson or his representatives during the time period when the filing of Appellant’s *Petition for En Banc Reconsideration* was pending.

**D. Senior justices and/or district court judges should be appointed to hear Appellant’s *Petition for En Banc Reconsideration*.**

Two members of this Court—Justices Cadish and Silver—joined over a dozen district court judges in Clark County<sup>16</sup> who have recused themselves from any matter concerning Mr. Sanson or Veterans In Politics International. Two of the three members of the Southern Nevada Panel of this Court who ruled against Appellants have now appeared in photographs online physically embraced by Respondent Steve Sanson.<sup>17</sup> Only two other members of this Court remain to hear this matter—Chief Justice Pickering (who, as detailed above, should recuse) and Justice Parraguirre.

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<sup>16</sup> VII AA 1284

<sup>17</sup> See photograph of Respondent Steve Sanson (wearing a “Veterans In Politics” t-shirt) physically embracing Justice Lydia Stiglich, attached as **Exhibit 11**. Also in the photograph is Anat Levy, Sanson’s attorney in the *Sanson v. Willick* matter which was also pending before this court en banc in Case No. 72778.

See photograph of Respondent Steve Sanson (wearing a “Veterans In Politics” t-shirt) physically embracing Justice Mark Gibbons, attached as **Exhibit 12**.

The Internal Operating Procedures (IOP) of this Court states, at Rule 12(a), in relevant part that “[a]ll petitions for en banc reconsideration are reviewed and determined by the full court.” The determination of whether such a petition is granted or denied is governed by Rule 12(c), which states in relevant part that “[w]hen two or more justices vote to reconsider a panel decision, en banc reconsideration shall be granted.”

In this matter, this Court is already operating two members short of a “full court” due to the recusals of Justices Cadish and Silver. Should Chief Justice Pickering recuse, only Justice Parraguirre would be left as the sole set of “fresh eyes” on this matter. Appellants would naturally be at a severe disadvantage for the much-needed review with only a four-member Court, as opposed to the seven-member “full” Court required under IOP Rule 12(a).

IOP Rule 1(g)(4) allows for the appointment of “substitute judges” selected from the district courts or by “recall for temporary duty a retired justice or senior justice possessing the qualifications stated in Nev. Const. art. 6, § 19, to sit in place of a justice who is disqualified or recused.” Article 6, Section 4, Subsection 2 of the Nevada Constitution provides, in relevant part, that: “In case of the disability or disqualification, for any cause, of a justice of the Supreme Court, the Governor may designate a judge of the court of appeals or a district judge to sit in the place of the disqualified or disabled justice.”



Appellants request that this Court cause to have senior justices and/or district court judges from any judicial district outside of the eighth<sup>18</sup> assigned to hear this matter in a number that would ensure a full seven-member Court for review of Appellant's *Petition for En Banc Reconsideration*.

DATED Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLICK LAW GROUP

/s/ Marshal S. Willick  
Marshal S. Willick, Esq.  
Nevada State Bar Number: 2515  
3591 E. Bonanza Road  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89110  
Attorney for Appellants

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER  
SCHRECK, LLP

/s/ Mitchell J. Langberg  
Mitchell J. Langberg, Esq.  
Nevada State Bar Number: 10118  
100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89106  
Attorneys for Appellants

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<sup>18</sup> In response to the *Motion To Disqualify Eighth Judicial District Court Elected Judiciary, And For Permanent Assignment To The Senior Judge Program Or, Alternatively, To A District Court Judge Outside Of Clark County*, attached hereto as **Exhibit 13**, this case was assigned to a Senior Judge.

VERIFICATION PURSUANT TO NRAP 35(a)(2)(B)

STATE OF NEVADA     )  
                                      )     ss:  
COUNTY OF CLARK    )

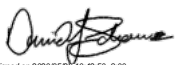
JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, being first duly sworn, hereby states that:

1. I am the Appellant in the above-entitled action.
  2. I am above the age of majority and am competent to testify to the facts contained in this affidavit, and the facts herein are made of my own personal knowledge.
  3. I first discovered the facts set forth in the instant motion on or about May 12, 2020, after I received an email blast from Respondents that Chief Justice Pickering had been endorsed by Veterans In Politics International. Upon further investigation, I discovered that Chief Justice Pickering accepted the endorsement and advertised it on her campaign website.
- FURTHER, AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

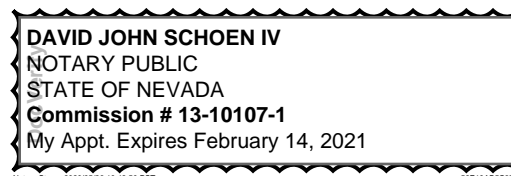
Jennifer V. Abrams  
Signed on 2020/05/26 10:42:50 -8:00

JENNIFER V. ABRAMS

Subscribed and sworn to before me on  
this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020, by Jennifer V. Abrams.

  
Signed on 2020/05/26 10:42:50 -8:00

NOTARY PUBLIC



This notarial act was performed using  
audio/visual communication as authorized by the  
Electronic Notarization Enabling Act, NRS  
240.181 to 240.206, inclusive.



## **CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL PURSUANT TO NRAP 35(a)(2)(C)**

I, MARSHAL S. WILLICK, ESQ., attorney of record for Appellants, JENNIFER V. ABRAMS and THE ABRAMS AND MAYO LAW FIRM, hereby certify, pursuant to NRAP 35(a)(2)(C), that:

1. I am the signing attorney to this motion, and I have the motion and supporting documents.
2. The motion and supporting documents are in the form required by this NRAP 35.
3. Based on personal investigation, I believe all grounds asserted to be legally valid and all supporting factual allegations to be true, and that the motion is made in good faith and not for purposes of delay or for other improper motive.

DATED Tuesday, May 26, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

WILLICK LAW GROUP

/s/ Marshal S. Willick, Esq.

Marshal S. Willick, Esq.

Nevada State Bar Number: 2515

3591 E. Bonanza Road

Las Vegas, Nevada 89110

Attorney for Appellant

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I am an employee of Willick Law Group, and that the foregoing *Motion for Recusal of Chief Justice Pickering and for the Appointment of Senior Justices and/or District Court Judges to Participate in Appellant's En Banc Reconsideration* was filed electronically with the Nevada Supreme Court in the above-entitled matter on Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List, pursuant to NEFCR 9, as follows:

Margaret A. McLetchie, Esq.  
McLetchie Shell LLC  
Attorney for Respondent

/s/Justin K Johnson

---

An Employee of Willick Law Group

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

**From:** Veterans In Politics International, Inc. (R) <postmaster@veteransinpolitics.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 12, 2020 11:09 PM  
**To:** JVAGroup  
**Subject:** \*\*\*Spam\*\*\* Endorsements and Recommendations for the Supreme Court and Civil/Criminal Judicial Candidates

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.



**VETERANS  
IN POLITICS**

## Endorsements and Recommendations for the Supreme Court and Civil/Criminal Judicial Candidates

CLICK HERE TO VIEW VIDEO: Endorsements and Recommendations for the Supreme Court and Civil/Criminal Judicial Candidates 5/11/20



Steve Sanson



Jim Jonas

Veterans In Politics  
International, Inc.



Paid for by Veterans In Politics

Clark County Nevada  
May 12, 2020

**Veterans In Politics International Endorsements and Recommendations for the  
Supreme Court and Civil/Criminal Judicial Candidates**

**Nevada Supreme Court, Seat B**  
Pickering Mary Kristina **ENDORSED**

**Nevada Supreme Court, Seat D**  
Nelson Erven Tebbs **RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 2**  
Scotti, Richard **ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 3**  
Trujillo, Monica **RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 4**  
Krall, Nadia **RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 5**  
Coffing, Terry **RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 15**  
Breedon, Adam **ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 19**  
Kephart, William "Bill" **ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 21**  
Reynolds, Jacob **RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 23**  
Armstrong, Karl W. **RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 24**  
Vadala, Joe **RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 28**  
Israel, Ron **RECOMMENDED**



Paid for by Nelson Nevada

**Erv** ★  
**NELSON**

**For Nevada Supreme Court**



Friends of  
Veterans  
In Politics

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND ENDORSEMENTS FOR THE CLARK COUNTY FAMILY DIVISION

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW VIDEO: LIVE Square table Primary Election discussion on the Clark County Family Court Judicial Candidates](#)





LIVE Square table Primary Election discussion on the Clark County Family Court  
Judicial Candidates – Veterans In Politics International

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT A**  
VOY, WILLIAM OAKS Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT I**  
CHEVALIER, YVETTE Endorsement

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT J**  
MACDONALD, JOHN SCOTT Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT M**  
HUGHES, LYNN NEVILLE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT P**  
PAGE, FRED C Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT S**  
SZYC, LISA MARIE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT T**  
CUTTER, NADIN J Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT U**  
THRONE, DAWN RENEE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT V**  
FLEEMAN, JACK WESLEY Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT Y**  
CHARTER, STEPHANIE ANNE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT Z**  
PEREZ, ROMEO RUIZ Recommendation

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW VIDEO: Judge Richard Scotti Clark County District Court Endorsed by](#)

Veterans In Politics International

CLICK HERE TO VIEW VIDEOS: Incumbent Judge Kephart, Candidate Breeden, and Candidate

Chevalier-Lopez ENDORSED by Veterans In Politics International



**Vote ADAM BREEDEN**  
District Court Judge  
Department 15 • Breeden4Judge.com

Endorsed by **VETERANS IN POLITICS**  
Authorized and paid for by Breeden for Judge



**Elect Yvette CHEVALIER LOPEZ**  
FAMILY COURT JUDGE DEPT. I

ENDORSED BY VETERANS IN POLITICS  
Paid For By Committee To Elect Yvette Chevalier

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by Veterans In Politics International



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NOT A CAREER POLITICIAN

Endorsed by **VETERANS IN POLITICS**

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University Regent District 5  
ENDORSED BY VETERANS IN POLITICS

**SKILLED WORK FORCE  
SCHOOL CHOICE ▽ AUDIT CCSD**



Endorsed By  
Veterans in Politics

**— VOTE —**

**Christopher Craig**

District E Trustee - U.S. Marine

**[www.Craig4Trustee.com](http://www.Craig4Trustee.com)**



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**Veterans In Politics International, INC (R)**

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**Las Vegas, Nv. 89126**

**702-283-8088**

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[www.veteransinpolitics.org](http://www.veteransinpolitics.org)

Veterans In Politics International, Inc. (R)

PO Box 28211, Las Vegas, NV 89126





Steve Sanson ▶ Steve Sanson

May 12 · 🌐

...

**Nevada Supreme Court, Seat B**

**Pickering Mary Kristina ENDORSED**

**Nevada Supreme Court, Seat D**

**Nelson Erven Tebbs RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 2**

**Scotti, Richard ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 3**

**Trujillo, Monica RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 4**

**Krall, Nadia RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 5**

**Coffing, Terry RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 15**

**Breeden, Adam ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 19**

**Kephart, William "Bill" ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 21**

**Reynolds, Jacob RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 23**

**Armstrong, Karl W. RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 24**

**Vadala, Joe RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 28**

**Israel, Ron RECOMMENDED**



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## Endorsements

**Veterans In Politics International Endorsements and Recommendations for the Supreme Court and 2020 ELECTIONS** <https://www.facebook.com/steve.sanson.3/videos/10222616>

**Nevada Supreme Court, Seat B**

**Pickering Mary Kristina ENDORSED**

**Nevada Supreme Court, Seat D**

**Nelson Erven Tebbs RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 2**

**Scotti, Richard ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 3**

**Trujillo, Monica RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 4**

**Krall, Nadia RECOMMENDED**

[ATI](#)

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 5**

**Coffing, Terry RECOMMENDED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 15**

**Breeden, Adam ENDORSED**

[CC](#)

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 19**

**Kephart, William “Bill” ENDORSED**

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 21**





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## DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, DEPARTMENT 28

Israel, Ron RECOMMENDED

LIVE Square table Primary Election discussion on the Clark County Family Court Judicial Candidates -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcATrFHiNEw&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR36dalCwjvWfaNM8cV9EOyTmupbu6L4FcCblr)

[v=VcATrFHiNEw&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR36dalCwjvWfaNM8cV9EOyTmupbu6L4FcCblr](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcATrFHiNEw&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR36dalCwjvWfaNM8cV9EOyTmupbu6L4FcCblr)

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT A**  
VOY, WILLIAM OAKS Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT I**  
CHEVALIER, YVETTE Endorsement

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT J**  
MACDONALD, JOHN SCOTT Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT M**  
HUGHES, LYNN NEVILLE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT P**  
PAGE, FRED C Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT S**  
SZYC, LISA MARIE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT T** [ATI](#)  
CUTTER, NADIN J Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT U**  
THRONE, DAWN RENEE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT V**  
FLEEMAN, JACK WESLEY Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT Y**  
CHARTER, STEPHANIE ANNE Recommendation

**DISTRICT COURT JUDGE, FAMILY DIV DEPARTMENT Z**  
PEREZ, ROMEO RUIZ Recommendation



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## ***Citlaly Labrios-Elias ENDORSED***

Joseph Maridon

Robert Van Strawder Jr.

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YVfi4Y2GYzw8>

REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS DISTRICT 3,

### NO ENDORSEMENT

Ed S. Bridges II

Brian Nadell

Corwin “Cory” Newberry

Dr. Dennis Sullivan

Tiffany Ann Watson

Victor R. Willert

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKxyG28Ad0o&>

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 4,

[ATI](#)

### NO ENDORSEMENT

Esper M. Hickman

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrmYhSVuoG0&>

Sunday, April 5, 2020

[CC](#)

STATE SENATE DISTRICT 11,

## ***Joshua Dowden ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IKzN3PV18d0&>



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Click onto the link to view video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcLJs\\_NyibA&](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kcLJs_NyibA&)

Monday, April 6, 2020

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 5,

***Mack Miller ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GS5gOjJH6FE&>

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 6,

***Geraldine Lewis ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5GA2zsNswIA&>

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 7,

***Anthony “Tony” Palmer ENDORSED***

John Stephens III

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8XIeC5vEnhs&>

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 8,

***Edward “Eddie” Facey ENDORSED***

[ATI](#)

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o16zsdflfLY&>

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 12,

**NO ENDORSEMENT**

[CC](#)

John Cardiff Gerhardt

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O3zU9B3Xnw8&>

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 14,



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## ***Joseph Sacco ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRcJ7fjePx8&f>

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 17,

NO ENDORSEMENT

Jack Polcyn

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDxK9ricOh0&>

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 20,

## ***Michael McAuliffe ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWLS\\_9cJiZQ&](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWLS_9cJiZQ&)

Thursday, April 9, 2020

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 21,

## ***David Bagley ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_fd52XRPqB0&](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_fd52XRPqB0&)

Friday, April 10, 2020

[ATI](#)

STATE ASSEMBLY, DISTRICT 41,

## ***Dr. Erika Smith ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bUQtampwVck&>

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT A,

[CC](#)

## ***Michael Thomas ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sOTEAKifl7I&>

Saturday, April 11, 2020



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COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT D,

NO ENDORSEMENT

Isaac Barron North Las Vegas City Councilman

David L. Washington Retired Las Vegas Fire Chief

Stanley L. Washington

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L3HwQrivCXc&>

REGENT, STATE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT 3,

Swadeep Nigam

***Stephen Hayward Silberkraus ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4IpVtYVcDY&>

Monday, April 13, 2020

REGENT, STATE UNIVERSITY DISTRICT 5,

Patrick Boylan

Kevin L. Child

[ATI](#)

***Dr. Nick “Doc” Spirtos ENDORSED***

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d12VgGmXlfk&>

MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION DISTRICT 3,

***Felicia Ortiz Member ENDORSED***

[CC](#)

Click onto the link to view video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDr\\_U\\_alYb0&](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDr_U_alYb0&)

TRUSTEE, CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT A,

***Kari Deike ENDORSED***



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Chris E. Shank

Jack Stanley

***Katie Williams ENDORSED***Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TI03xEH-P5g&>

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

TRUSTEE, CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT C,

***Antonio Bowen ENDORSED***

Walter Jones III

Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sHZXaIVCA2I&>

TRUSTEE, CLARK COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT E,

Elysa Arroyo

***Christopher Craig ENDORSED***Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cNmRh5laDRs&>

U.S. House of Representatives, District 4,

[ATI](#)

Rosalie Bingham

Leo Blundo

George J. Brucato

Jonathan Royce Esteban

[CC](#)

Gregory Kempton

***Sam Peters ENDORSED***Click onto the link to view video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5o0vt1rENQ&>

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Stan Berk

**Washoe School Board District E**

Angie Taylor

**Washoe School Board District G**

Craig Wesner

**Nevada Assembly District 25**

Jill Tolles

**Nevada Assembly District 26**

Lisa Krasner

**Nevada Assembly District 27**

Barb Hawn

**Nevada Assembly District 30**

Randy Hoff

**Nevada Assembly District 31**

David Espinosa

**Nevada Senate District 15**

Heidi S. Gansert

[VI](#)

Through a stringent election process, Veterans In Politics, International, Inc. open candidates. VIPI panelists then deliberate in closed voting sessions, and vote to se endorse. VIPI endorsement panels are made up of VIPI members as well as invited including but not limited to; former and/or sitting judges, attorneys, political activ backgrounds, former and/or current elected representatives, lay-people, veterans [CC](#) VIPI endorsement panels are politically varied and unbiased, random, and different

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Below are links to all our past and present interview schedules, endorsement announcements, and video's.

Click on the appropriate link to find the interview/endorsement you are interested in.

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[2014 Endorsement Process](#)

[ATI](#)



EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2



**Steve Sanson**

WAR declared on Clark County Nevada Family Court System.

[https://www.youtube.com/attribution\\_link?a=mclRtusDAIY&u=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DXYHOAch7yDk%26feature%3Dshare](https://www.youtube.com/attribution_link?a=mclRtusDAIY&u=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DXYHOAch7yDk%26feature%3Dshare)

**Veterans in Politics Family Court**

youtube.com

4/13/2017 6:11 PM (UTC -07:00)

0 comments.

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### VeteransIn Politics

WAR declared on Clark County Nevada Family Court System.



**Veterans in Politics Family Court**  
youtube.com



4/13/2017 6:23 PM (UTC -07:00)

23 likes: Robert Escobar, Karen Steelmon, Steven Wright, Gustavo Plascencia, Karen Nevada Benzer, Mary Nall, Yolly Alforque Tan, Lorenzo Lozano, Chris Howell, Sanchez Tessa, Chuck Hall, Michelle Ravell, Wes Brummitt, Jim Jonas, Jason Brooks, Scott Stalker, Stephanie Allen, Troy Ethan Warren, John Stralla, Tracey Dawn, Bladimir González Hernandez, Sara Denton, Tony Stinziano

14 comments.



**Tracey Dawn** We stand with you..

4/14/2017 9:46 PM (UTC -07:00)



**Vicky Smith** Very well said! My experience was baffling to put it mildly. It felt like an episode of the Twilight Zone. It's appalling they are allowed to collude with certain attorneys and make the rules as they go along. I know I sound like a broken record, but \$\$ shouldn't be the deciding factor whether you receive a "fair" hearing or not. Anything I can do to be of help, just say.

4/15/2017 11:27 AM (UTC -07:00)



**VeteransIn Politics** Come on the radio show.

4/15/2017 12:22 PM (UTC -07:00) · [Reply](#)



**Vicky Smith** Anytime. Just let me know.

4/15/2017 12:39 PM (UTC -07:00) · [Reply](#)



**VeteransIn Politics** Any Saturday after June 10th

4/15/2017 12:50 PM (UTC -07:00) · [Reply](#)



**Vicky Smith** Ok. Sounds good.

4/15/2017 2:31 PM (UTC -07:00) · [Reply](#)



**Leslie Hormats Newman** More than one judge in Clark county. My mother was caught up in the guardianship scam. As a result, she lost her life.

4/15/2017 4:54 PM (UTC -07:00)



**Yvonne M Schuhmacher** My husband was exploited for his house, stock and bank accounts, many forged checks by his granddaughter. Her attorney Cary Colt Payne and Judge Herndon through all his evidence out and gave everything to a granddaughter that NEVER showed up in court. Fraud on the courts and corruption she had a million to pay everyone off. My husband lost his life April 7, 2014.

4/16/2017 12:24 AM (UTC -07:00) · [Reply](#)



**Leslie Hormats Newman** So sorry. Such a helpless feeling in an out of control court. The loss is terrible.

4/18/2017 3:22 PM (UTC -07:00) · [Reply](#)



**Stephanie Allen** Thank you Steve.

4/16/2017 12:15 AM (UTC -07:00)



**Stephanie Allen** Yvonne M Schuhmacher

4/16/2017 12:16 AM (UTC -07:00)



**VeteransIn Politics** <https://www.facebook.com/WARdeclaredonClarkCountyNevadaFamilyCourtSystem/>

**WAR declared on Clark County Nevada Family Court System**

"A Judges decision impacts your life on a very personal level for the rest of your life" Don't you owe it to yourself and family to know who they



are?"

4/16/2017 4:03 PM (UTC -07:00)



**Mike Colian** Why don't you start trashing the Veterans groups who take peoples money and not give it to Veterans. Your organization is radical, tired of you slamming people and organizations. Maybe your Organization needs to be investigated.

4/18/2017 2:55 PM (UTC -07:00)



**Robert Escobar** You can count me in on that one!! You have my permission to use my case as an example of the corruption by former family court Judge Gail Nathan! I submitted a video to judge Nathan of over 12 child abuse incidents of my ex crimes.

And the judge and her personal church friend that happened to be my exes attorney turned it around and put me in supervise visits for eight months. Took away my custody and gave it to a illegal immigrant connected to the Mexico City Cartel and LA MS13 Gang. Show my ex could use the children as a shield to stay in United States and no one did nothing.. as you know!

When I have no criminal record, no drug history, no violence history nor child abuse history.

She destroyed my children when they have psychological there should be a class action lawsuit against her!!

4/19/2017 9:03 AM (UTC -07:00)



Steve Sanson

Steve Sanson's photo

**WAR  
DECLARED  
ON THE  
FAMILY  
COURT  
SYSTEM,  
CORRUPT  
FAMILY COURT  
LAWYERS**

4/26/2017 6:00 PM (UTC -07:00)

1 comments.

**WAR  
DECLARED  
ON THE  
FAMILY  
COURT  
SYSTEM,  
CORRUPT  
FAMILY COURT  
LAWYERS**

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 3



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# CLARK COUNTY FAMILY COURT SYSTEM

**100 Litigants will protest against corruption;  
Judges failure to follow the laws and unethical behaviors**



**Friday, Sept. 15th  
8:00-11:00AM**

Family Court  
601 North Pecos Road  
(the corner of Pecos and Bonanza)

**For more information, contact Steve Sanson 702-283-8088**

**— COME JOIN US —**

"Letter sent to investigate the problematic Clark County Family Court System"





# VETERANS IN POLITICS

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the Judiciary Committee Steve Yeager, Nevada State Senate Chairman of the Judiciary Committee Tick Segerblom and Chairman of the Clark County Board of Commissioners Steve Sisolak to investigate the long history of corruption and willful violation of Federal, State and County laws.

Please click onto the original letter below:

July 14, 2017

VIA MAIL

**Chief Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez**

Eighth Judicial District Court

200 Lewis Avenue

Las Vegas, Nv 89155

**Subject: Carnage Within the Clark County Family Court System**

Dear Judge Gonzalez:

We are writing to bring to your attention what appears to be a dire situation in Clark County's family court system. As the Chief Judge, we urge you to please take immediate steps to investigate the situation.

As you may be aware, Veterans In Politics International, Inc. ("VIPI") is a government watchdog organization and media outlet. Pursuant to numerous past and recent complaints we received about abuses by family court judges, we recently put together a team of court observers to sit in on various family court hearings. What we found surprised even us.



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We are copying each of the Justices of the Supreme Court, the heads of the state's legislative judiciary committees, the FBI's division of public corruption, Nevada's Attorney General and Clark County's Chief County Commissioner, so that everyone in key decision-making positions can be aware of the problems, and can take action to investigate and rectify what appears to be a horrendous situation. At the end of this letter, we also list key laws and policies that we believe should be changed or implemented to help mitigate the abuse in the future.

Also, please note that on April 16, 2017 we created a Facebook page entitled "War Declared on Clark County Nevada Family Court System." In the short time it has been up, we have received hundreds of complaints from litigants who believe they were victimized by our family courts. We invite you to visit the site and review their comments.

Below are examples of what we believe are systemic violations in family court:

## 01. Violations of the 5<sup>th</sup> Amendment Right Against Self-Incrimination

The Fifth Amendment guarantees our right against self-incrimination. Yet, family court judges are routinely violating this right by ordering civil litigants to undergo drug testing. In some cases, litigants agree to take these tests out of fear that the Court will deny custody and/or visitation with their child should the litigant refuse to take a drug test. Yet, it is well known that civil courts cannot order a litigant to undergo a drug test, and should not make any inference from the fact that a litigant may not want to submit to one. Drug testing is reserved for criminal cases, not civil cases.

We have also received information, but are not in a position to confirm, that a certain family court judge who often orders drug testing from a Nevada service provider, may have a financial interest in that provider, and fails to disclose this to litigants. We are available to give you the names of the judge and the service provider. We have also received information from several litigants, which information we are again not in a position to confirm but ask that you or others cc'd on this letter do so, that this same service provider is intentionally overcharging litigants, issuing false positives on their reports, and sometimes remotely turn off ankle bracelets or otherwise alter them, so that when a litigant "messes" with the device to see what is wrong with it the litigant is accused of illegally "tampering" with the device and more revenue is generated for the provider in dealing with this. We are informed that the facility is geared to keep litigants "in the system" for financial reasons. Again, we will give you the name of this provider separately and we ask that you and/or others cc'd on this letter please look into this.



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Military service connected disability benefits are exempt under federal law, and more recently under Nevada law as well, from all garnishments including taxes, collections, bankruptcies and levies. In Clark County, however, family court judges count these disability benefits towards child support and alimony. VIPI lobbied for Assembly Bill 140 and 271, which passed into law, stating that a veteran's service connected disability benefits cannot be used in connection with alimony payments. However, family court judges are disregarding this law. We recently filed a complaint with Family Court Presiding Judge Hoskins about this, but have not heard back.

### **03. Over-Priced Third Party Service Providers; Children Being Held Hostage Until Payment is Made; Violations of Relocation Rules.**

Judges in family court appear to be ordering litigants to use court appointed third party service providers, such as family therapists, at prices that appear excessively high.

D-05-331190, the *Velasco* case: Judge Mathew Harter ordered the parties to retain third party therapist, Claudia Schwarz, M.A., L.M.F.T., for a child custody evaluation at a price reportedly set by the evaluator at a flat \$8,000. Judge Harter ordered each party to pay half of the fee. When Mom couldn't pay her half of the fee, the judge awarded full custody to Dad and told Mom that she wouldn't see her child until her half of the bill was paid. Consequently, Mom has not seen her child for several months. Not only is holding the child as hostage for bill payment unlawful and outrageous, but our investigation indicates that the typical court appointed evaluator should only cost between \$800 to \$3,000. On what basis was \$8,000 ordered, and who is receiving these extra fees? We recently filed a Judicial Disciplinary Complaint about this, and a complaint against Ms. Schwarz with the Nevada State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy. We have not yet heard back.

D-10-424830-Z, *Abid v. Abid*: Our information is that Mathew Harter in 2013 granted an evidentiary hearing on Dad's motion to relocate with the child. It's our understanding that notwithstanding that Dad never produced elements of relocation like a job, housing and proof of improvement for the child due to relocation, the judge nevertheless ordered a custody evaluation to be performed by psychologist Dr. John Paglini. This psychologist reportedly charged the litigants \$14,000 for an evaluation. Afterwards, Dad indicated he didn't want to relocate and the parties settled. Judge Harter then reportedly ordered that if there were any further issues between the parties, they would have to retain a private Parent Coordinator, have the Parent Coordinator handle the issue (and often write a report), all to be paid for by the parties before he would allow them to go to court. Neither party had requested this, and it appears unlawful to essentially place a financial barrier on litigants' access to court.

In our opinion, Judge Harter appears to rely especially heavily on third party service providers who to charge high rates. We ask that you please investigate why this is happening and whether Judge H is incentivized or receiving any benefits from these third parties.



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testimony. This procedural violation makes any evidence the litigant gives in court inadmissible on appeal. There is no reason for family court judges to fail to have witnesses, including pro-se litigants, sworn in before testifying.

## 05. Judicial Conflicts of Interests

-

Often family court judges have a personal or business relationship with attorneys who appear before them and either fail to disclose the relationship or fail to recuse themselves when recusal is appropriate.

-

D-08-395501-Z, *Holyoak* case: Judge Ochoa was presiding over this case, in which attorney Marshal Willick was representing Mom. We received information that Judge Ochoa failed to disclose that at the same time he was presiding over the case, Mr. Willick was also representing Judge Ochoa personally in a separate matter. So at the same time that Judge Ochoa was adjudicating a case in which Mr. Willick was representing a party, Mr. Willick was also representing the Judge in a separate matter, and the Judge failed to disclose it.

D-12-471941-P, *Yury Fedotov vs. Olga Ciesielski*: Mom was unrepresented by counsel throughout the proceedings. Dad was represented by attorney Edward Kainen. Family court judge, Denise Gentile, was renting a room from Mr. Kainen (Dad's attorney) at the time she presided over the matter. The judge disclosed the relationship, but did not recuse herself, choosing instead to simply promise to be unbiased. The judge should have recused herself given that she was living with the lawyer in the case, particularly since the other litigant was unrepresented, and should have at a minimum avoided the "appearance of impropriety." We are advised that at one point, after Mom testified on her own behalf in a hearing, Dad's lawyer reportedly asked the judge words to the effect of "Who are you going to believe, [Mom] or me, your friend of 20 years?" According to our information, Judge Gentile's orders ultimately did not reflect neutrality. In that case, Judge Gentile did not schedule a hearing that Mom asked for in connection with enforcing a prior stipulated custody order, and instead, entered a revised order that was submitted by Dad's lawyer on an ex parte basis, without Mom's opportunity for input and without a hearing. The revised order changed Mom's custody rights and gave Dad *sole legal custody*. This also appears to have been a violation of Mom's Due Process rights.

## 06. Lack of Due Process for Litigants; Failure to Follow the Rules of Evidence

-



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D-16-537243-D, *Johnson* case: We are advised that Judge Bryce Duckworth ordered a litigant install an intoxalock device on his vehicle on a mere allegation, without any evidence, of alcohol abuse. The litigant had to pay for this device and have it installed.

D-13-488682-D, *Pelkola v. Pelkola*: Dad is a retired USAF Sargent in good standing, and is now a civilian contractor at Creech AFB. We are advised that Judge Elliott took the following unwarranted actions in this case based on Mom's beliefs instead of based on evidence.

01. Dad was ordered to not drink any beer at least 12 hours before his visitation and during his visitation; this was based on Mom's belief that Dad's DUI three years prior meant that he was an alcohol abuser. We are advised that there was no evidence of present alcohol abuse.

02. Dad was ordered to take gun safety classes even though he had 20 years of military firearms training, and ordered LVPD to inspect Dad's gun storage at his residence. This was reportedly based on Mom being afraid of guns and upset that Dad bought their 7 year old son a BB gun. Dad reportedly bought the BB gun to teach his son self-defense and only let him use under supervision.

01. Judge ordered the removal of a service dog from the home; the dog belonged to a household member who has Asperger's Syndrome. We are advised that there was just an allegation, but no evidence, that the dog was violent or posed a threat.

D-15-518905-D, *McDonald vs. McDonald*: We received information that Judge Linda Marquis proceeded with a parental termination trial even though Dad's lawyer committed suicide shortly before the hearing, and Dad requested a continuance of the trial so he could secure new counsel. Dad's request was denied and Dad was required to proceed with the trial unrepresented, losing visitation rights with his children.

## 07. Sealing Cases

The Nevada Supreme Court has recognized, consistent with federal law, that the public has a constitutional First Amendment right to access court documents and proceedings, absent a finding by the court that there is a compelling state interest in keeping a particular document or hearing private, and moreover, the portion kept private must be the minimum necessary to protect the compelling interest. In the family law case, *Del Papa v. Steffen*, 915 P.2d 245, 248 (1996), ("a state may deny this right of publ



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without any express written order at all.

Further, when a case is sealed in family court, the family law clerks are removing the entire case from public access. The case completely “disappears” from public online records searches and even from the court’s attorney online records searches. It is as if the case does not exist. This is a violation of NRS 125.110(1) which requires that certain documents and information, such as the case name, number, summons, court orders, etc. remain accessible to the public even when cases are sealed. The Nevada Supreme Court has been very clear on this point, stating that it is a manifest abuse of discretion of the court to seal entire cases. *See, Johanson v. District Court*, 182 P.3d 94 (2009).

## 08. “Closed Hearings” Where Only Court Observers are Kicked Out

In our efforts to monitor family courtrooms, we were often kicked out of the courtroom on the premise that the “hearing is closed.” This occurred even in courtrooms where there were no litigants standing before the court and the hearings had not even commenced. Moreover, we noticed that we were the only ones who were being kicked out, while litigants, attorneys and others were permitted to remain in the courtroom. If the hearings were actually closed, then NRS 126.211 requires that all those who are not involved in the case be kicked out and not just those whom the Judge or the Marshals feel like kicking out. We were subjected to this primarily in the courtrooms of Judge Robert Teuton, Judge Cynthia Giuliani, Hearing Master Jon Norheim courtrooms. In one such hearing, we were told that the hearing was one dealing with adoption and was therefore closed. When we asked why the many other people were allowed to remain in the courtroom, we were told by the Marshal “it’s a big family.” We recently filed a complaint about this with the family court; we have not yet heard back.

## 09. Marijuana Consumption Being Punished

Marijuana consumption is legal under Nevada state law for medical purposes and most recently, for recreational use, but judges appear to be punishing parents for consuming marijuana.

D-17-552831-C, the *Amanda Macias* case: Senior Retired Judge Nancy Saitta, who sat for family court Judge Jennifer Elliot told the litigant if he tested dirty for marijuana he will only have supervised visits with his child.





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...The D.A.'s office is supposed to help these litigants correct unpaid child support, yet many are not getting the D.A.'s assistance despite repeated requests. Examples are the cases of Colleen Smith (case D-08-399100 and R-13-179244) who was owed about \$75,000 and the case of Beatriz Trujillo (case no. R078764) who is owed over \$100,000. We have recently reached out to the D.A. on these two cases who has launched an investigation on these cases.

## 11. Hearing Masters Issuing Bench Warrants

We observed Hearing Master Sylvia Teuton stating that she is "issuing a bench warrant" when hearing masters are not allowed to issue bench warrants. We have seen bench warrants that were actually signed by the hearing masters him/herself. This is clearly beyond the authority of a hearing master. We recently filed a complaint with the Presiding Judge of Family Court, but have not yet heard back.

## 12. Ex-Parte Communications

D-12-467820-D, *Silva* matter: The mother is a pro-se-litigant and Clark County family court Judge Rena Hughes removed the mother from the courthouse property and proceeded with the hearing adjudicating custody of the child with only the father and his attorney and the minor unrepresented 12 year old daughter present. The Judge harshly interrogated the young girl as the girl sat alone at counsel table without her Mom or any representation and lied to the girl threatening to throw her in jail at Child Haven. Not only did the judge traumatize the child, but this was a complete violation of the Mom's rights and constituted a court-ordered ex parte communication/hearing with the judge. We filed a judicial disciplinary complaint against Judge Hughes on this and were advised that an investigation is underway and Judge Hughes was required to recuse herself from the case.

## 13. Parent's Right to Educate

D-14-505292-C, *Tiffany Wagner* case: We were advised that Judge Rena Hughes took away Mom's right to provide a home IEP (Individual Education Program) for her 3 year old disabled daughter even though she had been caring and obtaining special services for her daughter at home since birth and there were no problems. There was no showing as to why the services could not be performed in Mom's house. This is a violation of Mom's due process rights and her right to care and educate her child at home instead of in a facility. Under Nevada Senate Bill 314 all parents have a fundamental right to educate their child; the bill is now law. We filed a judicial complaint against Judge Hughes on this and have not yet heard back.



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We observed Melissa De La Garza, a Juvenile Hearing Master, during her court calendar on July 7, 2017 from 11am to 12pm. During that single hour, we found numerous instances of unfair and excessive penalties to children, all of whom were minorities, and all of whom were still in custody when we left the courtroom.

01. A 14 year old boy was in custody for "petty larceny." Turned out his crime was stealing a bottle of water from a Clark County truck. This occurred during scorching weather in Clark County. The boy was ordered to remain in custody, he was sentenced to take a Petty Larceny class, was given probation and ordered to wear a GPS ankle bracelet. All this punishment, child trauma, and tax dollars spent for stealing a water bottle during the heat of the summer.

01. In another case, a 17 year old girl was in custody for "walking away from a police officer" and violating the curfew law. The girl was booked for "obstruction of an officer," she was ordered to be detained, and was inexplicably deemed to be "a danger to the community and a danger to herself."

01. A 15 year old boy was in custody for smoking (not selling or distributing) a marijuana joint. He was sentenced to six month's probation, Thug Class suspended, community service, ordered to attend a drug awareness program and was ordered to have a mentor. All this, for smoking a joint.

-

## 15. Cases Excessively Prolonged:

D-11-449918-C, *Terabelian vs. Klatt*: Our information is that this case has been prolonged/canceled 8 times. Judge Marquis had continued it 8 times, before the plaintiff got a new lawyer, who happened to be on Judge Marquis' recusal list, and the case was therefore transferred to Judge Rebecca Burton. We have learned of numerous other cases in which Judge Marquis has unnecessarily postponed cases.

D-09-408072-7, *Plog v. Plog*: This case has been ongoing for *eight years*. The judge is Bryce Duckworth. We observed Mr. Plog break down in open court saying that he simply can't take more family court proceedings – the protracted litigation has killed his will to fight, and that he's at the point of giving up all his rights, stop fighting for his daughter, and just commit suicide!

This is one example of the toll that protracted litigation is having on people and families. There is no reason for our family courts to be party to inflicting this kind of torment on those before them.





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D-13-486094-D, in the matter of *Marisella Barry*: Our information is that Mom had a court order from two prior judges for child support arrears that was being enforced by the District Attorney Child Support Division case UPI-076902200A. Judge Rena Hughes inexplicably stopped all collections of arrears without any legal cause or hearings.

## 17. Judge Wrongfully Detained Mother and Children

D-10-43924-Z, the *Kerrigan* case: Our information is that Judge Cheryl Moss locked Mom up for not turning the children over to an abusive Dad for visitation. Dad had been convicted of domestic battery, DUI, and had a protective order against him by a girlfriend. The 2 children involved also did not want to go to their abusive Dad, so the judge banished them both to Child Haven.

## 18. Violation of Nevada Custody Laws

Vincent Ochoa: In a 2014 radio interview on AM 720, in which attorney Michele Lobello was interviewing Judge Ochoa during his re-election campaign, Judge Ochoa blatantly admitted that he does not grant overnight visits for the first six months of the life of a child to the father. Judge Ochoa admitted to factoring the gender of the parent into his custody orders, which was a violation of then-in-effect NRS 125.480 which provided that "preference must not be given to either parent for the sole reason that the parent is the mother or the father of the child."

D-14-505292-C, *Tiffany Wagner* case: Judge Rena Hughes reportedly denied Mom her first right of refusal to babysit her own child and instead ordered the child to stay with a babysitter for Dad, even though Mom was available and wanted to care for her child.

## 19. Unethical Behavior By a Judge

Vincent Ochoa: D-10-432708-D, *Smith vs. Vaughn* case: "Ashley," once known as Divinity James, changed her model name to Chevy Nicole to hide the fact that she was still performing online and doing porn with the child at home. Our information is that while presiding over her case, Judge Ochoa "friended" her on his personal Facebook page, as well as personally "liking" her nude pictures as of August 15, 2014, and pictures of the minor child that he took away from Dad. Mom in turn "likes" personal page and his re-election page. We previously complained about this to the Judicial Disciplinary



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Harter's son was found to be in possession of stolen property inside Judge Harter's home including a hand gun, ammunition, and drugs. The property was from a burglary of a police officer's home. Several teens who were friends of Judge Harter's teen son were arrested and convicted in connection with the incident, yet Judge Harter's son was never arrested, and was whisked off to live with his mom in Utah, which is surprising given that in divorce papers Judge Harter reportedly stated that she was a drug abuser. In any event, we ask that you look into whether Judge Harter used his influence to keep his son from being arrested and prosecuted. We previously reported this to the Judicial Discipline Commission and were advised, without any reason given, that they would not pursue this matter.

Judge Linda Marquis: D-10-424830-Z, *Abid v Abid*: We received information that in 2015, Judge Marquis ignored settlements between parents to have joint physical custody, ignored a binding order issued by a judge who preceded her, and allowed an illegally recorded conversation that Mom had with a third party in Mom's home, to be played in open court (against NRS 200.650) and to be used against Mom by an expert witness. The conversation had been taped by Dad who had slipped a recording device into his child's backpack to secretly record private conversations in Mom's home. Such taping is a class D felony under NRS 200.690 and should have been thrown out and sanctioned. When Mom objected to its use in court, arguing that it was a violation of her Fourth Amendment rights of privacy, Judge Marquis reportedly replied words to the effect of: "Fourth Amendment Rights certainly don't exist in this courtroom".

## 20. Laws and Policies that We Believe Need to Be Changed:

### 01. Closing Hearings And Sealing Documents:

As stated above, court proceedings are supposed to be open to the public as a matter of First Amendment constitutional right. In the family law case of *Del Papa v. Steffen*, 915 P.2d 245, 248 (1996), the Nevada Supreme Court held that courts are presumptively open to the public and "a state may deny this right of public access only if it shows that the denial is necessitated by a compelling government interest, and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest." See also, *Civil Rights for Seniors, Non-profit Corp. v. Admin. Office of the Courts*, 313 P.3d 216, 129 Nev.Adv.Op. 80 (Nev. 2013) (the public has a First Amendment right of access in criminal and civil judicial proceedings). This indeed is the law nationwide. NRS 1.090 also recognizes this important public policy and provides that "the sitting of every court of justice shall be public except as otherwise provided by law."

NRS 432B.430(c): This statute provides for the mandatory closing of hearings in all family law cases which the court must determine whether there is enough evidence of neglect or abuse to remove a child from his/her home, unless the judge finds that keeping the proceedings open is in the best interest of the



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case by case basis, but a compelling state interest must be shown in each case and the restrictions must be narrowly tailored. Secondly, the statute's requirement that the hearing only be open if it can be shown to be in the best interests of the child appears to make no sense, and appears to be an amorphous bar to reach.

NRS 432B.430 (1) (a): This statute provides that proceedings pertaining to the permanent placement of the child are presumed to be open "unless the judge or master, upon his or her own motion or upon the motion of another person, determines that all or part of the proceeding must be closed to the general public because such closure is in the best interest of the child..." This statute is also unconstitutional. The test is not whether keeping a hearing open is in the best interests of the child. The legal test must be whether the state can show a compelling state interest, on a case by case basis, of the need to close the hearing, and to what extent the hearing needs to be closed – typically, only a portion of the hearing if any can be closed. The findings of such compelling state interest must be specifically argued and found to be compelling in the order closing the hearing. This is particularly true where the termination of parental rights is at stake. The public should have full transparency on such a vital issue.

Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 5.02 was repealed as of 1/27/2017, but it had provided for many years that family court cases could be "closed" to members of the public simply upon the request of one of the parties. No good cause or any other factors had to be shown or justified. This was unconstitutional. Many hearings were closed pursuant to this rule. The courts need to review whether any cases which are still open and which took advantage of this Rule without a showing of a compelling state interest stated on the record, continue to hold such closed hearings. The judges must be instructed to abide by constitutional protections for open court before granting such closed hearings again in those or other cases.

01. Judges' Campaign Financing – we have seen for years that judges running for re-election are soliciting campaign funds and the throwing of fundraisers from lawyers and/or parties who have open cases before them. This is not in keeping with a judge's requirement to avoid the "appearance of impropriety." The fact that a judge may disclose the campaign contribution on a government filed Contribution and Expense Report months later of is no import to avoiding the appearance of impropriety. By comparison, California requires the recusal of judges who accept more than \$1,500 from any party or lawyer at any time during the prior 6 year period. In Nevada, judges are making calls to litigants' counsels and *asking for* and accepting up to \$10,000 for their campaigns while their case is pending. We have also spoken to numerous lawyers who have felt pressured to contribute to the judge when he/she calls for money, or feel compelled not to contribute to a different candidate they would otherwise support, because they have an open case before the judge asking for funds and are afraid of retaliation. This practice of taking money when there are open cases, which is not even engaged in by our politicians in Nevada, is fertile ground for corruption and results in a loss of trust in our judicial system – a system that is supposed to serve as the very *safeguard* against corruption.


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fundamental rights of parenting that they should be subject to a jury trial, rather than being subject to the decision of one person.

## 01. Judge Meetings Should Be Subject To Open Meeting Laws or At Least Open to the Public:

Nevada's judges are elected officials. Yet they routinely hold private meetings. These meetings should be subject to Open Meeting Laws or at a minimum be open to the public. We recently asked to sit in on a family court judicial meeting and were turned away at the door. We also asked to at least get a copy of the agenda for the meeting, and were again advised by the court officials, including counsel, that we could not have a copy of the agenda. When we asked to be put on the agenda for the next judicial meeting in order to express our concerns about numerous abuses, we were advised that we would not be put on the agenda. There is no question that our courts need to be as transparent as possible. Secret meetings, where secret agenda items are discussed, no agenda is available to the public, and no minutes are available to the public do nothing to foster the public's confidence in our court system, and serves as fertile ground for corruption, particularly in a court system that is already fraught with impropriety.

## 01. Transparency Needed in Disciplinary Proceedings and With Disciplinary Complaints:

Presently, when someone files a complaint with the state bar or with the judicial disciplinary commission the complainants simply get a letter stating whether the commission is proceeding with an investigation or not. If there is no investigation, the commission does not give the complainant any reasons for its decision or a copy of the judges/lawyer's response to their complaint. This can give the complainant the impression that the commission simply didn't want to act for whatever nefarious reason. If there is a reason for not proceeding with an investigation, the complainant should be made aware of the reason.

Further, even when the commission or Bar proceed with an investigation and actually file a complaint against the judge or lawyer, there is no copy of that complaint made available to the public, and with regard to lawyers, the State Bar's website does not even show that any charges are pending or any proceedings or complaints have been filed against the attorney. The website instead continues to show that the attorney is "in good standing." This is even the case after Bar finds the attorney guilty of malfeasance, and even if the lawyer has agreed to be suspended. The attorney's status is only changed once the Supreme Court has signed an order agreeing to the punishment of the attorney, which could be months later. In the meantime, potential clients are unaware that there are any issues. Yet, the job of the Bar, and the Judicial Disciplinary Commission, is to protect the public – not to protect the lawyer or the judge. The public should be made aware if there is a proceeding pending, should have access to the pleadings and records, and should frankly even be entitled to sit in on hearings upon request. There reason for our disciplinary bodies to operate in the shadows, when their very existence is to protect the



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It is our sincere hope that this letter prompts you and others who are copied on it to take action on these important issues. There is no doubt in our minds that the credibility of our family courts is at stake and that many litigants have lost hope of getting fair treatment. We have even heard from several unrelated litigants that they have the impression that some judges purposely grant custody to abusive parents so that the protective parent has to keep fighting for custody and the family is forced to "stay in the system" churning fees for lawyers, third party service providers, and the entire "machine" of judges, hearing masters, juvenile court authorities, etc. that is involved in the multi-billion dollar generating family court system. We certainly hope that is not the case, and ask that you please look into the above reports and do whatever you can to restore the public's trust in our family court system.

Please let us know the results of your investigation, and whether we can be of further help.

Sincerely,

Steve Sanson

President, Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

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**Justice James W. Hardesty**

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**Justice Lidia S. Stiglich**

Supreme Court of Nevada



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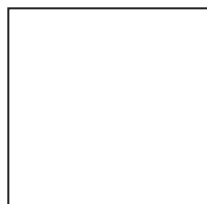
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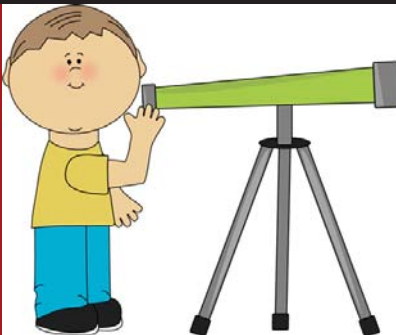
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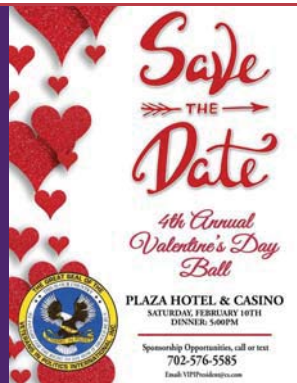
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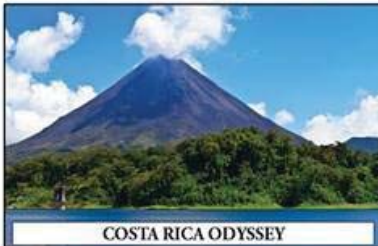
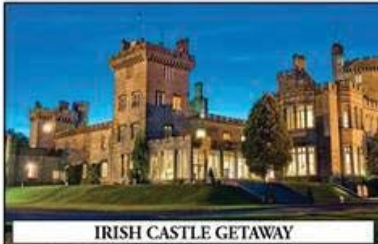
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EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5

EXHIBIT 5



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Wednesday, January 10, 2018

Hon. Michael Cherry, Justice  
Nevada Supreme Court  
201 South Carson Street  
Carson City, NV 89701

Re: **Veterans In Politics International radio appearance, scheduled for January 13, 2018**  
*Veterans In Politics Int'l, Inc. vs. Willick*, docket no. 72778  
*Abrams vs. Sanson*, docket no. 73838  
*Saiter vs. Saiter*, docket no. 72819

Dear Justice Cherry:

We have received an "e-mail blast" from Steve Sanson and Veterans in Politics International ("VIPI") claiming that you have agreed to be a "guest" on Mr. Sanson's radio show. We believe this would be inappropriate.

There are three cases now pending before the Nevada Supreme Court to which Mr. Sanson is a party or is otherwise connected.<sup>1</sup> He has an established pattern of contacting and attempting to have out-of-court communications with judges before whom he has matters pending. The recent affidavit filed by Judge Bailus while recusing from one of those cases, noting at minimum the appearance of impropriety, is attached.

Our moving papers leading to that recusal noted:

Plaintiffs did not file their motion to disqualify over a misunderstanding or out of caution—this motion was necessary to address the systemic, organized efforts by Defendants to intimidate judges, build a personal rapport with them, and try to groom them to rule in Defendants' favor.

The *Reply* is attached.

---

<sup>1</sup> *Veterans In Politics Int'l, Inc. vs. Willick*, docket no. 72778; *Abrams vs. Sanson*, docket no. 73838; and *Saiter vs. Saiter*, docket no. 72819

---

† Board Certified Family Law Specialist

\* Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers; Admitted in Nevada, California, and Louisiana

‡ Admitted in Nevada and Washington



In August, Judge Duckworth was quite blunt in describing this pattern of activity:

[N]otwithstanding his self-proclaimed faux cover of seeking to “expose injustice and corruption,” Mr. Sanson’s sole motivation for communicating with this Court was to intimidate and harass the Court. Mr. Sanson proudly proclaims that he has “declared war” on the Family Court. There is no doubt that the courts are under attack and that the entire judiciary of this great State of Nevada is on notice that, behind that false banner of “justice and corruption” is an individual and group who seek to manipulate, intimidate and control. The arsenal of weapons that Mr. Sanson utilizes include attempts to manipulate, intimidate and control the judicial process through off-the-record communications. This case has exposed the reality of his tactics.

\*\*\*

What should be frightening to this Court (and members of the Nevada judiciary in general) is that Mr. Sanson refused to acknowledge at the August 30, 2017 hearing that his communication with the Court about a pending case was inappropriate. Specifically, Mr. Sanson, through his counsel, suggested it was the Court’s fault based on the earlier conversation cited above. This Court reiterates that it is inappropriate to communicate with a judicial officer off the record about a pending case - *at any time and under any circumstances*. Mr. Sanson’s attempts to deflect blame to the Court are appalling.

\*\*\*

Is there anything more corrupt than the influence Mr. Sanson sought to exert over the Court? And he proclaims that he seeks to expose corruption? Because this Court called him out on the inappropriateness of his communication and refused to kowtow and cower to his manipulation and control, Mr. Sanson predictably let the Court know that his wrath was coming out against the Court. This type of threat to any judicial officer strikes at the very core of the integrity of the judicial process. Moreover, such threatening behavior is an attempt to manipulate and control judicial officers if they do not succumb to Mr. Sanson’s desired result.

*Order of Recusal* in *Ansell v. Ansell*, filed September 5, 2017, in Eighth Judicial District Court case number D-15-521960-D (emphasis in original), also attached.

We have considered the possibility that this communication might be attacked as itself being an *ex parte* communication, but we don’t think so, for two reasons. First, it is being copied to Sanson’s counsel. Second, everything in this letter is part of the record in the cases now before the Nevada Supreme Court, and therefore the Court is already on notice of them.

Wednesday, January 10, 2018

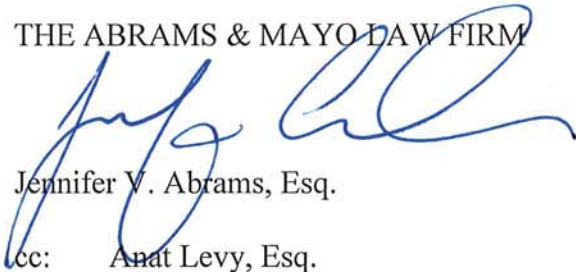
Page 3 of 3

The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm

For all these reasons, we respectfully request that no "appearances" or other meetings with Mr. Sanson would be appropriate without creating, at minimum, an "appearance of impropriety." Thank you.

Sincerely,

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer V. Abrams", is written over the printed name.

Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.

cc: Anat Levy, Esq.  
Maggie McLetchie, Esq.  
Louis C. Schneider, Esq.



EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK  
LAW GROUP,

Plaintiffs,

CASE NO. A-17-750171-C  
DEPT. NO.: XVIII

v.

STEVE W. SANSON; VETERANS IN  
POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

Defendants.

AFFIDAVIT OF MARK B. BAILUS IN RESPONSE TO  
PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO DISQUALIFY JUDGE

I, Mark B. Bailus, solemnly swear as follows:

1. I make this Affidavit on my own knowledge except for those matters based on information and belief and as to those matters believe them to be true.
2. I am a District Court Judge, presiding over Department XVIII of the Eighth Judicial District Court and am competent to testify to all the matters stated herein.
3. The above-entitled case ("Subject Case") is assigned to Department XVIII.
4. On December 1, 2017, my Chambers was served with Plaintiffs' Motion to Disqualify Judge ("Motion") filed on November 29, 2017. Plaintiffs' Motion seeks to disqualify me from presiding over the Subject Case at some point in the future in the event the appeal from the denial of the Defendants' *Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et. seq.* ("Anti-SLAPP Motion") is returned to



1 Department XVIII for further proceedings, if any.

2         5.       Based on the Court's Odyssey system, the complaint was filed on January  
3 27, 2017. After a peremptory challenge was filed by Plaintiffs, Marshal S. Willick  
4 ("Willick") and Willick Law Group ("WLG") (collectively, "Plaintiffs") and some  
5 administrative reassignments due to recusals, this case was assigned to Department XVIII  
6 on March 1, 2017 (which was vacant at the time and presided over by rotating senior  
7 judges). After the Subject Case was initiated, Defendants, Veterans in Politics  
8 International, Inc. ("VPII") and Steven W. Sanson ("Sanson") (collectively,  
9 "Defendants"), filed an *Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650*  
10 *et. seq.* ("Anti-SLAPP Motion") on February 17, 2017. Defendants' Anti-SLAPP Motion  
11 was heard by the Honorable J. Charles Thompson, Senior Judge, who denied the same on  
12 March 30, 2017. Defendants appealed said denial on April 3, 2017. Said appeal is  
13 currently pending before the Nevada Supreme Court and has been stayed in the District  
14 Court pending resolution of Defendants' appeal of Senior Judge Thompson's Anti-  
15 SLAPP order.

16         6.       While the appeal was pending, I was appointed to fill the vacancy in  
17 Department XVIII and took the bench on May 31, 2017.

18         7.       I submit this Affidavit, pursuant to NRS 1.235(6), in response to the  
19 Plaintiffs' Motion.

20         8.       NRS 1.230(1) provides: "[a] judge shall not act as such in an action or  
21 proceeding when he entertains actual bias or prejudice for or against one of the parties to  
22 the action." Furthermore, Canon 2 of the Revised Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct  
23 ("NCJC") provides: "[a] judge shall perform the duties of judicial office impartially,  
24 competently, and diligently." More specifically, NCJC, Rule 2.11(A)(1) provides, in  
25  
26  
27  
28

1 pertinent part, that a judge shall disqualify himself "in any proceeding in which the  
2 judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, including [circumstances where] the  
3 judge has a personal bias or prejudice concerning a party or a party's lawyer, or personal  
4 knowledge of facts that are in dispute in the proceeding." However, the mere appearance  
5 of bias or prejudice is not sufficient to warrant disqualification. Implied bias is only  
6 grounds for disqualification in certain limited circumstances not applicable here, pursuant  
7 to NRS 1.230(2). A judge is "presumed to be impartial, [and] 'the burden is upon the  
8 party asserting the challenge to establish sufficient factual grounds warranting  
9 disqualification.' " See *Ybarra v. State*, 127 Nev. 47, 247 P.3d 269, 274 (2011), quoting  
10 *Goldman v. Bryan*, 104 Nev. 644, 649, 764 P.2d 1296, 12996 (1988).

11  
12 9. On Saturday, November 25, 2017 at 2:00 p.m., I appeared on the VP11  
13 Radio Show where I was interviewed by Mr. Sanson and/or his co-host, about my  
14 background, appointment, qualifications, judicial philosophy, election and other related  
15 matters. At no time was there any discussion during the VP11 Radio Show about the  
16 Subject Case. Plaintiffs in their Motion (at 5 and 16) seem to acknowledge the same.

17  
18 10. I have never met or spoken to Mr. Sanson prior to my appearance on the  
19 VP11 Radio Show and at no time was I alone with him on the day of the radio show's  
20 taping. I arrived at the location for the radio show approximately 20 minutes before it  
21 was to air. At that point, Mr. Sanson had not yet arrived. I was chatting with another  
22 guest, i.e., Constable Jordan Ross, Laughlin Township, when Mr. Sanson arrived at the  
23 studio shortly before the radio show was to air. After his arrival, Mr. Sanson and his co-  
24 host promptly started the radio show. I left the studio after my segment was completed.  
25 At no time before, on the day of the radio show or after was the Subject Case discussed  
26 with Mr. Sanson.  
27  
28

1           11. I have reviewed Mr. Sanson's Declaration and my recollection is that his  
2 Declaration substantially accurately reflects the manner in which the appearance was  
3 scheduled and that there were no discussions of any kind regarding the Subject Case.

4           12. Over the Thanksgiving Holiday, an email was sent on Saturday,  
5 November 25, 2017 at 10:55 a.m. by Mark DiCiero to my Chambers. After returning  
6 from the Thanksgiving Holiday, I reviewed Mr. DiCiero's email which advised that it  
7 was his understanding that I was "currently presiding over a case involving Mr. Sanson  
8 and a local attorney." Mr. DiCiero's November 25, 2017 email did not identify the "local  
9 attorney." Notwithstanding, Mr. DiCiero suggested in his November 25, 2017 email that  
10 he was concerned about the "appearance of impropriety" that would exist by my  
11 appearance on the VPII Radio Show.  
12

13           13. A trial judge has a duty to sit and "preside to the conclusion of all  
14 proceedings, in the absence of some statute, rule of court, ethical standard, or other  
15 compelling reason to the contrary." *See Las Vegas Downtown Redev. v. Dist. Ct.*, 116  
16 Nev. 640, 643, 5 P.3d 1059, 1061 (2000) (quoting *Ham v. District Court*, 93 Nev. 409,  
17 415, 566 P.2d 420, 424 (1977)). Accordingly, a Judge has a general duty to sit, unless a  
18 judicial canon, statute, or rule requires the Judge's disqualification.  
19

20           14. I will not be swayed by public clamor or fear of criticism. I will do my  
21 duty as a Judge and hear the cases assigned to me, unless prevented by rule, statute, or  
22 case law.  
23

24           15. I can be fair and impartial to all parties in the Subject Case.

25           16. I have no actual or implied bias or prejudice toward or against any party to  
26 this action and/or their counsel.  
27  
28



1           17.     If I believed I could not be fair and impartial to any litigant in the  
2 underlying matter, I would recuse as the rules require me to do.

3           18.     In their Motion, Plaintiffs make no allegation of actual or implied bias. I  
4 have not heard and/or decided any matter in this case as this case is currently pending  
5 before the Nevada Supreme Court before I was even appointed to the bench. In addition,  
6 there is an Order staying in the District Court the proceedings in the Subject Case.  
7 Rather, Plaintiffs' Motion (at 7) alleges, *inter alia*, that "[t]he circumstances surrounding  
8 Judge Bailus' appearance on the VIPI web radio show create *at least* the appearance of  
9 impropriety." (Emphasis in original.)  
10

11           19.     One of the purposes behind NCJC, Rule 2.11 is to avoid even the  
12 appearance of partiality and promote confidence in the judiciary. Thus, the possibility or  
13 appearance of prejudice in the minds of the public is of significant concern for me. The  
14 issue is not whether I am impartial, there is no question I am. Rather, the issue is whether  
15 a reasonable person would conclude that the judge's impartiality "might be reasonably  
16 questioned." *See* NCJC, Rule 2.11(A). "A judge should disclose on the record  
17 information that the judge believes the parties or their lawyer might reasonably consider  
18 relevant to a possible motion for disqualification, even if the judge believes there is no  
19 basis for disqualification. A judge making such a disclosure should, where practicable,  
20 follow the procedure set forth in Rule 2.11(C)." *See* NCJC, Rule 2.11, cmt. [5]. Due to  
21 Plaintiffs' Motion, it is not practical to follow the procedure in Rule 2.11(C).  
22

23           20.     Notwithstanding, it has been my practice in any proceeding where my  
24 impartiality might reasonably be questioned that I have disclosed on the record the basis  
25 of my concern as to even the appearance of partiality and ask the parties and their lawyers  
26 to consider outside my presence and court staff, court officials and others subject to the  
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28



1 Judge's direction and control whether to waive the disqualification. *See* NCJC, Rule  
2 2.11(A) and (C).

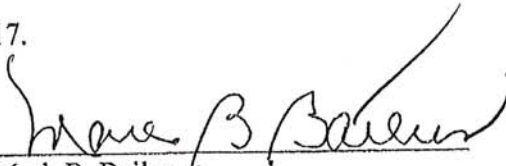
3       21. In the Subject Case, if it had come back before me, I would have disclosed  
4 to Mr. Willick that I appeared on the VP11 Radio Show and that Mr. Sanson was one of  
5 the hosts and there was a broad discussion regarding my appointment, background,  
6 qualifications, judicial philosophy, election, etc. I did not receive any monetary  
7 compensation for appearing on the VP11 Radio Show. However, it may be perceived that  
8 I received some favorable publicity. Similarly, I would have disclosed to Mr. Sanson that  
9 Mr. Willick had been retained by my client, Lisa Rizzolo, as an expert witness in the  
10 *Henry v. Rizzolo*, Case No. 2:08-cv-00635-PMP-GWF ("Henry Case"), and had prepared  
11 an expert report. In conjunction with the Henry Case, I had multiple discussions with Mr.  
12 Willick, and he was paid an initial retainer of \$10,000.00 and I am informed and believe  
13 additional fees in the amount of \$24,539.00.  
14  
15

16       22. While I have no actual bias or prejudice in this matter toward or against  
17 either party and can be fair and impartial in any action involving either party, in order to  
18 avoid even the appearance of impropriety, I would request that any decisions regarding  
19  
20  
21  
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1 future proceedings and/or filings by either party should be handled by another department  
2 or a senior judge.

3 Further your Affiant sayeth naught.

4 DATED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

5  
6   
7 Mark B. Bailus  
8 District Court Judge

9 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to  
10 before me this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017.

11   
12 NOTARY PUBLIC



**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I do hereby certify that on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2017, that a true and correct copy of the attached **AFFIDAVIT OF MARK B. BAILUS IN RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO DISQUALIFY JUDGE**, served via the Court's electronic filing/service system (Odyssey) to all parties on the current service list.

Alex Ghibaud, Esq. alex@alexglaw.com

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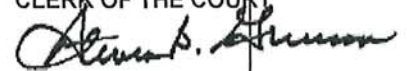
Reception Email@willicklawgroup.com

Susan Russo srusso@baileykenedy.com

By:



Shannon J. Fagin, JEA  
District Court Dept. XVIII



1 **RPLY**

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5 6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100  
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7 Phone: (702) 222-4021  
8 Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com  
9 Attorney for Plaintiffs

6  
7 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
8 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

8 MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW )	Case No.:	A-17-750171-C
9 GROUP, )		
10 )	Department:	XVIII /XI
11 Plaintiff, )		
12 vs. )		
13 )	Hearing date:	January 5, 2018
14 STEVE W. SANSON; VETERANS IN )	Hearing time:	(In Chambers)
15 POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC., )		
16 Defendant. )		
17 )		

14  
15 **REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISQUALIFY JUDGE,  
16 AND OPPOSITION TO REQUEST FOR SANCTIONS**

17 **COME NOW** the Plaintiffs, MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW  
18 GROUP, by and through their attorney of record, Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq., of The  
19 Abrams & Mayo Law Firm, and Joshua Gilmore, Esq. of Bailey Kennedy, and hereby  
20 submit their *Reply to Opposition to Motion to Disqualify Judge, and Opposition to  
21 Request for Sanctions.*

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

This *Reply and Opposition* is made and based upon the attached Points and Authorities, all papers and pleadings on file herein, and any oral argument adduced at the hearing of this matter.

DATED Thursday, December 28, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

/s/ Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.

Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.

Nevada State Bar Number: 7575

6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100

Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

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Attorney for Plaintiffs



1                                   **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

2   **I.     REPLY TO OPPOSITION**

3       **A. Judge Bailus agrees this matter should be reassigned.**

4           In his affidavit filed on December 6, 2017, Judge Bailus states that “in order to  
5 avoid even the appearance of impropriety, [he] would request that any decisions  
6 regarding future proceedings and/or filings by either party should be handled by  
7 another department or a senior judge.”<sup>1</sup> That statement is enough to warrant the  
8 relief requested.<sup>2</sup>

9           While NRS 1.235(5) permits Judge Bailus to voluntarily recuse and transfer  
10 this matter to another department on his own accord, it appears he left the  
11 reassignment to the Chief Judge in order to decide where this matter is reassigned.

12          Defendants have tainted the judicial pool to such a severe degree that the only  
13 sound options in this matter are to either assign this matter to a senior judge (who is  
14 not subject to elections and, thus, campaign attacks by the Defendants) or, to remove  
15 this matter to another judicial district with a judge who has no connection to any  
16 party to this case.

17                           **B. Defendants’ opposition to this motion is indicative of their corrupt**  
18                           **efforts to gain control over the local judiciary.**

19          Plaintiffs did not file their motion to disqualify over a misunderstanding or  
20 out of caution—this motion was necessary to address the systemic, organized efforts  
21 by Defendants to intimidate judges, build a personal rapport with them, and try to  
22 groom them to rule in Defendants’ favor.

23           <sup>1</sup> *Affidavit of Mark B. Bailus in Response to Plaintiffs’ Motion to Disqualify Judge*, filed  
December 6, 2017, beginning at page 6, line 17.

24           <sup>2</sup> *See* NCJC Canon 1 (noting that a judge “shall avoid . . . the appearance of impropriety”).  
Defendants even admit that Judge Bailus’ opinion on the matter involving disqualification must be  
given “substantial weight.”

1 Even though this case was not specifically discussed, the underlying issues in  
2 this case were absolutely at the forefront of the *ex parte* communications. For  
3 example, Willick's *Complaint* alleges that Veterans in Politics International (VIPI) is  
4 a sham organization who launches internet "smear campaigns" for pay. In other  
5 words, Willick argues that VIPI is not a legitimate veteran's organization.

6 By his appearance on the VIPI "radio show," Judge Bailus is now necessarily  
7 less likely to find that VIPI is a sham organization than if he had not been asked to  
8 appear on the show and had not actually appeared on the show. Anyone who  
9 voluntarily appears on a "radio show" of an organization is necessarily less likely to  
10 view their own appearance as illegitimate or the organization hosting such  
11 appearance as illegitimate. This is bias, which is defined as "prejudice in favor of or  
12 against one thing, person, or group compared with another, usually in a way  
13 considered to be unfair."<sup>3</sup> It is very unlikely, if not impossible, for Judge Bailus not to  
14 have been influenced by these events and made less likely to find (as any trier of fact  
15 should and will) that VIPI is, in fact, a sham organization which launches internet  
16 "smear campaigns" for pay.

17 Defendants argue that, even if Judge Bailus's appearance on the "radio show"  
18 was a campaign contribution, such contributions are permitted because the elected-  
19 judiciary system mandated by the Nevada Constitution makes campaign activities  
20 necessary. However, Defendants' citation to *Ivey*<sup>4</sup> is misplaced. While campaign  
21 contributions alone are not sufficient to determine actual bias, the *Ivey* court stated  
22  
23

24 <sup>3</sup> "Bias." Def. 1. *Oxford English Dictionary Online*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, December 2017

<sup>4</sup> *Ivey v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct. (Ivey)*, 129 Nev. \_\_\_, 299 P.3d 354 (2013).



1 that “[a] court must also review the timing of the campaign contributions in relation  
2 to the judge's election and the status of the contributor's case.”<sup>5</sup>

3 Here, the timing of Defendants’ invitation to Judge Bailus is beyond  
4 “suspect.” Judge Bailus was appointed by Governor Sandoval to Department XVIII  
5 where Defendants’ case is assigned and, very shortly after taking the bench, was  
6 invited by Mr. Sanson to appear on his “radio” show. During the interview, Judge  
7 Bailus acknowledged that Mr. Sanson had no interest in Bailus’ appearance on the  
8 show until he was appointed, and Mr. Sanson made multiple statements to Judge  
9 Bailus questioning his viability in future elections—elections that Mr. Sanson has  
10 publicly targeted in the past when candidates or sitting judges do not agree with him.

11 Defendants are quick to point out in their numerous social media postings  
12 that Mr. Willick was hired as an expert witness in one of Bailus’ cases years before he  
13 was appointed to Department XVIII. There is a vast difference between a *litigant*  
14 directly communicating with the assigned judge *in the litigant’s own pending*  
15 *case* vs. a lawyer who was retained in his professional capacity as an expert witness  
16 years before the Judge was appointed or the pending case came into existence; the  
17 two are not even remotely comparable.

18 This is not about a lawyer/expert/judge communication in some other case at  
19 a remote point in the past in some other case; it is not about a State Bar approved  
20 CLE; it is not about a committee meeting, etc. This is about a litigant seeking out the  
21 judge assigned to preside over his case, attempting to establish a personal  
22 connection to that judge, attempting to legitimize his organization in the eyes of that  
23 judge, and publically interrogating that Judge about his ability to maintain a “future”

24  

---

<sup>5</sup> *Id.*, at 357, citing *Caperton v. A. T. Massey Coal Co.*, 556 U.S. 868, 886 (2009).

1 on the bench. It defies logic for Defendants to even suggest that such events do not  
2 cast doubt on Judge Bailus' ability to remain impartial in this case.

3 Defendants correctly state that Judge Bailus has never heard a single matter  
4 in this case. Contrary to Defendants' suggestion, if the Nevada Supreme Court  
5 somehow finds that Defendants were sued for making communications that fall  
6 within the purview of NRS 41.637(4) (they were not), this case will be remanded for  
7 the District Court to address the second part of the anti-SLAPP analysis (e.g.,  
8 whether Plaintiffs presented prima facie evidence of a probability of prevailing on  
9 their claims). The Nevada Supreme Court will *not* undertake that analysis in the first  
10 instance.<sup>6</sup> That is a very compelling reason to re-assign the case—nothing will be  
11 lost (*i.e.*, this matter won't have to start over with a new judge), and it won't make  
12 any difference if Judge Bailus never hears this case.

13 This is far from an isolated instance of such misconduct by Defendants—it is  
14 part and parcel of a deliberate attempt to corrupt judicial proceedings in numerous  
15 cases over an extended period of time. As noted by the Administrator of Nevada  
16 Court Watchers, Mark DiCiero, Defendants have “put[] together quite a history of  
17 getting recusals for members of his disgruntled War mob – all while crying foul and  
18 corruption at the same time. Hypocrisy at its finest.”<sup>7</sup> The observation goes on to  
19 identify multiple instances of attempted judge tampering by the Defendants in this  
20

---

21 <sup>6</sup> See, e.g., *Ryan's Express v. Amador Stage Lines*, 128 Nev. \_\_\_, 279 P.3d 166, 172-73 (2012)  
22 (“An appellate court is not particularly well-suited to make factual determinations in the first  
23 instance.”); see also *Dorfinan v. Proactive Inventory, Inc.*, No. 05-16-01286-CV, 2017 WL 2953058,  
24 at \*2 (Tex. App. July 11, 2017) (“However, by determining the Estate was not entitled under the  
[Texas Citizens Participation Act] to seek dismissal of appellees' claims because the Estate denied  
making the communications that form the bases of those claims, the trial court did not reach the  
substantive merits of the Estate's motion. We conclude the trial court should have the initial  
opportunity to do so.”)

<sup>7</sup> DiCiero, Mark. (2017, December 27). Nevada Court Watchers [Facebook group]. Retrieved  
from <https://www.facebook.com/groups/433293260115971/permalink/1322318161213472/>



1 case, including Judge Duckworth in *Ansell v. Ansell*, Judge Hughes in *Silva v. Silva*,  
2 Judge Hughes in *Wagner v. Marino*, Judge Hughes in *Bourn v. Bourn*, Judge Bailus  
3 in *Willick v. Sanson*, and Judge Marquis in *McDonald v. McDonald*.

4 The bottom line is that the various interests identified by Judge Bailus in his  
5 affidavit: public perception, trust in the judiciary, appearance of impropriety, etc.;  
6 **all** require a reassignment to a senior judge or another judicial district.

7 For these reasons, the Chief Judge should not only grant the motion to  
8 disqualify requested by Plaintiffs and stipulated to by Judge Bailus, but should  
9 further order the disclosure of **all** records of communication between Defendants  
10 (or their agents and representatives) and Judge Bailus (or his staff and  
11 representatives).

## 12 **II. OPPOSITION TO COUNTERMOTION FOR SANCTIONS**

13 Defendants move this Court for sanctions against Plaintiffs for filing their  
14 motion to disqualify—a motion made necessary by Defendants’ *ex parte* attempts to  
15 influence the judge in this pending action. Ironically, Defendants cite NRCP 11 as a  
16 basis for their request, while simultaneously larding their request<sup>8</sup> with pure  
17 fabrications that could not have been made had there been any kind of “inquiry  
18 reasonable under the circumstances.” In turn:

19 1. Public IRS records do show that VIPI hasn’t filed a tax return since  
20 2009 and lost its “non-profit” designation in December 2013 (though Defendants  
21 falsely claim on page 2, line 16 of their opposition that “VIPI is a non-profit media  
22 outlet”);

---

23 <sup>8</sup> Defendants did not comply with Rule 11 in seeking sanctions, and therefore, the Chief Judge  
24 should deny their sanctions request without further review. See, e.g., *Stubbs v. Strickland*, 129 Nev.  
\_\_\_, 297 P.3d 326, 331 n.2 (2013); see also *Woods v. Truckee Meadows Water Auth.*, No. 3:06-CV-  
0189-LRH (VPC), 2007 WL 2264509, at \*3 (D. Nev. Aug. 6, 2007) (noting that a party must strictly  
comply with the procedural and safe harbor requirements of Rule 11).

1           2.     The undersigned does not have a daughter named “Kelly Grob” and  
2 never sent Mr. Sanson “anonymous text messages,” as falsely alleged;

3           3.     Plaintiffs or their representatives did not steal Mr. Sanson’s SIM from  
4 his cell phone, as falsely alleged;

5           4.     Plaintiffs or their representatives are not the registered owners of the  
6 “Warmonger’s Facebook Page,” nor do they have any control over the postings on  
7 said page, as falsely alleged; and

8           5.     Plaintiffs have no control over Mr. DiCiero’s social media postings.

9           On the other hand, there have been judicial FINDINGS by Judge Duckworth  
10 that “behind that false banner of ‘justice and corruption’ is an individual and group  
11 who seek to manipulate, intimidate and control. The arsenal of weapons that Mr.  
12 Sanson utilizes include attempts to manipulate, intimidate and control the judicial  
13 process through off-the-record communications. This case has exposed the reality of  
14 his tactics.”

### 15   **III.   CONCLUSION**

16           Defendants’ should be sanctioned for their continued attempts to manipulate,  
17 intimidate and control judicial officers in pending cases. Defendants should be  
18 sanctioned for their continued false allegations regarding a phantom “daughter” of  
19 Plaintiff’s counsel and a bogus SIM card theft. Plaintiffs should be made whole for  
20 having to fight for the disqualification of a Judge that **Defendants attempted to**  
21 **corrupt in this pending case.**

22           Based upon the foregoing, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court deny  
23 Defendants’ request for sanctions and order that a full disclosure of  
24 communications be made between Judge Bailus and Defendants, that Judge Bailus

1 be disqualified from this matter, and that this matter be reassigned to a senior  
2 judge.

3 DATED Thursday, December 28, 2017.

4 Respectfully submitted:

5 THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

6 /s/ Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.

7 Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq.

8 Nevada State Bar Number: 7575

6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100

9 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

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10 Attorney for Plaintiffs

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/s/ David J. Schoen, IV, ACP  
An Employee of The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm



*Steven D. Grierson*

1  
2 ORDR  
3  
4

5 DISTRICT COURT  
6 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

7 IRINA ANSELL, )

8 Plaintiff, )

9 v. )

CASE NO. D-15-521960-D  
DEPT NO. Q

10 DOUGLAS ANSELL, )

11 Defendant. )

Date of Hearing: August 30, 2017  
Time of Hearing: 2:00 p.m.

12  
13  
14 ORDER OF RECUSAL

15 This matter came on for a hearing before this Court on August 30, 2017. The  
16 matters before the Court included:

- 17  
18 (1) Non-Party, Veterans In Politics International, Inc. and Steve Sanson's  
19 Motion to Quash Subpoena Served on Verizon Wireless (Jul.26, 2017);  
20 (2) Non-Parties Steve Sanson, Veterans In Politics International, Inc., and  
21 Sanson Corporation's Motion to Quash Subpoena Duces Tecum and  
22 Deposition Subpoena Served on Steve Sanson on July 22, 2017 (Aug. 4,  
23 2017); and  
24 (3) This Court's Amended Notice of Rescheduling of Hearing and Setting  
25 Calendar Call (Aug. 28, 2017).

26 Associated motions and papers were considered and reviewed by the Court,  
27 including requests for attorney's fees and Plaintiff's Motion to Compel (Aug. 10,  
28 2017). The discovery issues previously were assigned to be heard by the Discovery  
Commissioner on August 20, 2017. The Discovery Commissioner, however, recused

BRYCE C. DUCKWORTH  
DISTRICT JUDGE

FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. Q  
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101



1  
2 and the matter was placed on this Court's calendar on the above-referenced date.  
3 Plaintiff did not appear personally, but was represented by her attorney, Marshal  
4 Willick, Esq. Defendant did not appear personally, but was represented by his  
5 attorney, John Jones, Esq. Steve Sanson appeared personally and with his attorney,  
6 Anat Levy, Esq.  
7

8 As previously noted, this Court reviewed a multitude of papers filed by and on  
9 behalf of Plaintiff and Mr. Sanson or Veterans In Politics International (hereinafter  
10 referred to individually and collectively as "Mr. Sanson") in preparation for the hearing.  
11 This Court's preparation included review of the Omnibus Supplemental Declaration  
12 of Steve Sanson in Support of: Motions to Quash Subpoenas Duces Tecum Served on  
13 Verizon Wireless and Steve Sanson and Deposition Subpoena Served on Steve on July  
14 22, 2017; Motion for Attorneys Fees (Aug. 22, 2017) (hereinafter referred to as Mr.  
15 Sanson's "Sworn Declaration"). Therein, Mr. Sanson described his off-the-record  
16 communications with this Court about this matter. Upon reviewing Mr. Sanson's  
17 Sworn Declaration, this Court determined that it should recuse from any further  
18 proceedings in this matter. This determination is based on the findings stated on the  
19 record at the August 30, 2017 hearing and additional findings stated herein.  
20  
21  
22  
23

24 It is undisputed that Defendant designated Mr. Sanson as a witness. Moreover,  
25 although Mr. Jones argued it was unlikely, Defendant could not definitively rule out  
26 the possibility that Mr. Sanson might be called as a witness in future proceedings. It  
27 also is undisputed that Mr. Sanson made specific reference to this case in a  
28 communication directed at this Court off the record. In fact, this Court scheduled an

1  
2 immediate hearing in May 2017 to address Mr. Sanson's ex-parte communication with  
3 the Court.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Sanson's filing of his Sworn Declaration, however, was the first  
4 instance in which this Court became aware that Mr. Sanson had stated in writing the  
5 nature of his communications with the Court.  
6

7 This Court noted that it was unaware of any legal authority that would excuse  
8 someone from a deposition who had been designated as a witness in the matter. This  
9 Court also noted its concern that the Subpoena Duces Tecum served on Mr. Sanson  
10 was overbroad and should be narrowed significantly. Because, however, this Court  
11 recognized the conflict created by Mr. Sanson's Sworn Declaration, the Court did not  
12 rule on the discovery motions and determined that the Court's recusal from this matter  
13 was appropriate.  
14

15  
16 In Mr. Sanson's Sworn Declaration, he acknowledged that he asked the  
17 Court off the record: "Why do you allow Marshal Willick to get away with so much  
18  
19 ...  
20 ...  
21 ...  
22 ...  
23

24  
25 <sup>1</sup>At the May 17, 2017 hearing, this Court disclosed Mr. Sanson's communications with  
26 the Court. This Court also noted for the record the nature of the Court's relationship with Mr.  
27 Sanson in the past. This has included this Court's endorsement by Veterans in Politics as a  
28 candidate for office and his prior professional communications about general issues (including  
Mr. Sanson repeatedly stating that he believed this Court should serve as the presiding judge  
in the Family Division). At the time of the May 2017 communication, Mr. Sanson was aware  
that litigation before the Court should never be discussed. Thus, any communication about  
a specific case was completely unexpected.



1  
2 crap in Doug Ansell's case?"<sup>2</sup> For sake of completeness, the text messages and  
3 telephone communication between Mr. Sanson and the Court took place as follows:

- 4       • On May 11, 2017 at 8:20 p.m., Mr. Sanson texted: "Judge I need to  
5       speak to you."
- 6       • On May 12, 2017 at 6:52 a.m., the Court texted Mr. Sanson: "What do  
7       you need to talk about?"
- 8       • On May 12, 2017 at 9:29 a.m., Mr. Sanson responded with: "Call me at  
9       your convenience or we can grab a cup of tea."
- 10      • The Court called Mr. Sanson on May 13, 2017. After prefatory remarks  
11      that included Mr. Sanson declaring that this Court should be the  
12      presiding judge in the family division, Mr. Sanson, without prompting,  
13      asked: "Why do you allow Marshal Willick to get away with so much  
14      "crap" in Doug Ansell's case?"

15       <sup>2</sup>On a number of occasions, this Court has lamented that *both* parties have engaged in,  
16 to borrow Mr. Sanson's term, "crap" during this case. This Court repeatedly has chastised both  
17 sides for their practice of hyperbole and exaggeration. Mr. Willick has almost incessantly  
18 argued that this Court has allowed Defendant (Mr. Ansell) to get away with "crap" without  
19 repercussion. Both Mr. Willick and Mr. Jones are adept at selectively handpicking those areas  
20 of perceived wrongdoing of the other side and advocating through their myopic lenses. On Mr.  
21 Jones' part, this was exemplified during the August 30, 2017 hearing through his argument that  
22 the Court had given Plaintiff a "free pass" with respect to her alleged violation of the Order to  
23 Seal Records (Oct. 16, 2015) (hereinafter referred to as the "Sealing Order"). The Sealing  
24 Order *drafted and submitted by Defendant (Mr. Ansell)*, ordered that "all papers, records,  
25 proceedings and evidence, including exhibits and transcripts of testimony in the above-entitled  
26 matter, be, and the same hereby are, sealed and shall not be opened to inspection *except by the*  
27 *parties* and their attorneys, or when required as evidence in another action or proceeding."  
28 (Emphasis added). Mr. Jones' argument in Court notwithstanding, this matter was adjudicated  
by the Court. See Order (Aug. 30, 2016). Thus, the Sealing Order *drafted and submitted by*  
*Defendant (Mr. Ansell)*, did not prohibit the conduct about which Defendant complained. NRS  
125.110 provides that the papers sealed "shall not be open to inspection except *to* the parties  
and their attorneys." The Sealing Order *prepared by Defendant* changed the statutory language  
and provided that the papers sealed "shall not be opened to inspection except *by* the parties  
and their attorneys." Recognizing the error of his own drafting, Defendant (Mr. Ansell)  
submitted a second Order to Seal Records (Nov. 23, 2016). Mr. Jones knew these facts when  
he lambasted the Court during the August 30, 2017 hearing for purportedly allowing Plaintiff  
to violate a Sealing Order that did not proscribe the alleged conduct. Apart from these  
examples of "crap," the Court has endured "crap" from *both* parties throughout this litigation.

- After immediately terminating the call, this Court texted Mr. Sanson as follows: "Please do not ever talk to me again about a pending case before me. I hold you in higher esteem than that. I'm sorry to end the call so abruptly. My integrity means too much to me than to be influenced by others outside of the courtroom and it shakes the very core of our system when anyone communicates with a judicial officer in this fashion. It simply cannot happen. I know that you know that and I have always trusted your judgment in that regard."
- Mr. Sanson's immediate text response reads: "You asked me a question because of our relationship I gave you my honest answer, so you can understand what direction we are headed."

This Court scheduled a hearing immediately (heard on May 17, 2017) to disclose the improper communication. Based on Mr. Sanson's testimony on August 30, 2017, he admitted that his communication with the Court was not intended to relay specific factual information about the Ansell case. When offered the opportunity to provide specific examples of "crap" perpetrated by Mr. Willick (such as a miscalculation by Mr. Willick, a fabricated fact, or some other specific example of "crap"), Mr. Sanson had nothing specific. As such, *the only purpose of his communication with the Court was to influence and intimidate the Court through a corrupt communication outside of court.*

Mr. Sanson could have limited his communication with the Court to a *general* accusation that Mr. Willick "gets away with crap," and left it at that.<sup>3</sup> If Mr. Sanson's sole motivation was merely to attack Mr. Willick *in general* and not to influence the

---

<sup>3</sup>Based on the papers filed herein, this Court is aware that litigation is pending between Mr. Willick and Mr. Sanson. This Court's familiarity with this civil matter is limited to the disclosures contained in the papers filed in the Ansell matter. The animosity resulting from this civil litigation is palpable. Nevertheless, this animosity is not an excuse to attempt to manipulate and intimidate this Court – *particularly in regards to a specific case.*



1  
2 Court about a specific case, he could have done so. Although such communication  
3 remains improper, it is more egregious that Mr. Sanson *knowingly and intentionally*  
4 *identified Doug Ansell's case*. It also is significant that Mr. Sanson's response was not  
5 to offer an apology, or to assure the Court that he would refrain from doing so again.  
6 Even at the August 30, 2017 hearing, Mr. Sanson remained unapologetic. In fact, his  
7 demeanor and conduct was defiant, even lashing out at Mr. Willick to the point of  
8 being admonished by the Court. Instead of apologizing to the Court, his follow-up  
9 communication was a veiled threat to the Court. This threat by Mr. Sanson, as stated  
10 by Mr. Sanson and interpreted by the Court, was to harass the Court and to hurl  
11 baseless and defamatory accusations about the Court.  
12

13  
14 Mr. Sanson argues that his organization "exposes public corruption and  
15 injustices." Further, despite the fact that Mr. Ansell designated Mr. Sanson as *his*  
16 witness, Mr. Sanson states with emphasis that neither he nor VIPI "*have anything to do*  
17 *with this case*." To reiterate for the record, Mr. Sanson intentionally interjected himself  
18 into this matter by communicating with the Court in reference to this specific case.  
19 Plaintiff understandably and justifiably has sought to determine the full extent of such  
20 off-the-record communications. To be clear, however, Mr. Sanson's involvement in this  
21 matter is not about exposing "injustice" or corruption. Mr. Sanson acknowledged that  
22 he had never met Plaintiff and proclaimed that he meant her no "ill will." Indeed, Mr.  
23 Sanson appeared to be unaware that Defendant (Doug Ansell) was the prevailing party  
24 with respect to the child custody issues in this case – an issue that is of the highest  
25 significance in *most* cases.  
26  
27  
28

1  
2 As noted previously, when given the opportunity at the August 30, 2017 hearing  
3 to explain the "crap" that was occurring in the Ansell matter, Mr. Sanson was unable  
4 to identify any singular fact. As such, notwithstanding his self-proclaimed faux cover  
5 of seeking to "expose injustice and corruption," Mr. Sanson's sole motivation for  
6 communicating with this Court was to intimidate and harass the Court. Mr. Sanson  
7 proudly proclaims that he has "declared war" on the Family Court. There is no doubt  
8 that the courts are under attack and that the entire judiciary of this great State of  
9 Nevada is on notice that, behind that false banner of "justice and corruption" is an  
10 individual and group who seek to manipulate, intimidate and control. The arsenal of  
11 weapons that Mr. Sanson utilizes include attempts to manipulate, intimidate and  
12 control the judicial process through off-the-record communications. This case has  
13 exposed the reality of his tactics.

14  
15 Rather than apologize for his unethical and corrupt conduct, *Mr. Sanson has the*  
16 *audacity to blame this Court for his improper communication.* Specifically, Mr. Sanson  
17 alleges under oath in his Sworn Declaration that his off-the-record *question* to the Court  
18 was somehow an answer to a same-day related conversation. The timing of this entire  
19 narrative offered by Mr. Sanson is significant as it belies Mr. Sanson's story. Mr.  
20 Sanson alleges in his Sworn Declaration that his originating text message took place on  
21 the *same day* as a conversation with the Court in the courtroom (i.e., May 11, 2017).  
22 To this end, Mr. Sanson's narrative suggests that his text message was intended merely  
23 to follow-up on a conversation earlier that same day. Mr. Sanson's narrative, however,  
24 is a *factual impossibility*. In this regard, May 11, 2017 was this Court's Chamber  
25  
26  
27  
28



1  
2 Calendar day. No hearings were scheduled in Department Q on May 11, 2017. There  
3 was no conversation on May 11, 2017 as Mr. Sanson has alleged.<sup>4</sup> Regardless, even if  
4 Mr. Sanson's sworn recitation of facts is believed, his communication with the Court  
5 *remains improper.*  
6

7 What should be frightening to this Court (and members of the Nevada judiciary  
8 in general), is that Mr. Sanson refused to acknowledge at the August 30, 2017 hearing  
9 that his communication with the Court about a pending case was inappropriate.  
10 Specifically, Mr. Sanson, through his counsel, suggested it was the Court's fault based  
11 on the earlier conversation cited above. This Court reiterates that it is inappropriate  
12 to communicate with a judicial officer off the record about a pending case – *at any*  
13 *time and under any circumstances.* Mr. Sanson's attempts to deflect blame to the  
14 Court are appalling.  
15

16 This Court's abrupt termination of the telephone call and immediate text to Mr.  
17 Sanson that his communication was inappropriate was not Mr. Sanson's desired  
18 response or reaction from the Court. It is now obvious that Mr. Sanson was looking  
19 for a response from the Court more along the lines of: "I'm so sorry Mr. Sanson, I'll  
20 make sure that Mr. Willick doesn't get his way," or, "I'm so sorry Mr. Sanson, I'll make  
21 sure Mr. Ansell comes out on top," or even, "message received Mr. Sanson." *Is there*  
22  
23  
24  
25

26 <sup>4</sup>This is not simply a matter of "oops, I got the date wrong." Any change to the date  
27 changes the entire narrative and creates a logical disconnection in time. This Court's staff  
28 checked the videotape of the hearings in all cases held in Department Q on the preceding  
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of that same week and was unable to find Mr. Sanson in  
the gallery at the beginning or conclusion of any case.

1  
2 *anything more corrupt than the influence Mr. Sanson sought to exert over the Court?*

3 And he proclaims that he seeks to expose corruption? Because this Court called him  
4 out on the inappropriateness of his communication and refused to kowtow and cower  
5 to his manipulation and control, Mr. Sanson predictably let the Court know that his  
6 wrath was coming out against the Court. This type of threat to any judicial officer  
7 strikes at the very core of the integrity of the judicial process. Moreover, such  
8 threatening behavior is an attempt to manipulate and control judicial officers if they  
9 do not succumb to Mr. Sanson's desired result.  
10

11  
12 Mr. Jones argued that there is no evidence that Defendant had anything to do  
13 with Mr. Sanson's communication with the Court or that he put Mr. Sanson "up to it."  
14 Mr. Jones is correct that there was no testimony offered that indicates that Defendant  
15 is responsible for Mr. Sanson's behavior. Defendant did not appear at the hearing to  
16 offer his version of events. Although this Court is unable to attribute Mr. Sanson's  
17 actions to Defendant directly, this Court notes that Mr. Sanson's communication with  
18 the Court was not the first, nor the second, occasion in which the Court has received  
19 outside communications about Defendant.<sup>5</sup>  
20  
21

22  
23 <sup>5</sup>This Court previously disclosed at a prior hearing that an individual recently employed  
24 by Defendant was this Court's direct ecclesiastical leader (Kurt Teshima). This Court disclosed  
25 to the parties that the Court holds Mr. Teshima in high esteem. These disclosures were made  
26 for full transparency in the event that either party desired that the Court recuse from the  
27 matter. Mr. Willick offered (as an offer of proof) at the August 30, 2017 hearing that  
28 Defendant, *together with Mr. Sanson*, had a breakfast meeting with Mr. Teshima. As an  
additional offer of proof, when Defendant and Mr. Sanson attempted to discuss the divorce,  
Mr. Teshima redirected the conversation to business matters. This Court is not surprised by  
this redirection by Mr. Teshima and emphasizes that at no time has Mr. Teshima *ever* discussed  
this matter with the Court. This Court has never felt any pressure or attempts to influence the  
path of this case from Mr. Teshima.



1  
2 This Court recognizes the judicial duty to sit. Mr. Sanson's Sworn Declaration  
3 filed on August 22, 2017, however, creates a conflict for the Court. Moreover, it has  
4 become evident based on the history of this matter that any decision by this Court that  
5 favors Defendant in any manner is perceived by Plaintiff as being influenced by  
6 something that has happened outside of this courtroom. Similarly, Defendant may  
7 have the perception that, because this Court has declared its disgust and disdain for  
8 outside efforts to influence this matter, the Court is somehow overcompensating to  
9 counter Plaintiff's perception. These perceptions (although untrue on both accounts)  
10 are unfair to both parties. Accordingly, it is appropriate that this Court recuse from  
11 this matter.  
12  
13

14 Finally, because there have been outside attempts to influence this Court in this  
15 matter, complete transparency is warranted to maintain public confidence in the  
16 administration of justice. Notably, Mr. Sanson (through counsel) argued that this  
17 matter was improperly sealed. To clarify this Court's findings at the August 30, 2017  
18 hearing, this Court concurs that the hearings in this matter and orders entered by the  
19 Court should not be sealed and should be available for public inspection. However,  
20 this Court recognizes that filings of the parties and experts contain sensitive  
21 information related to both custody issues and financial issues. Consistent with NRS  
22 125.110, those papers should remain sealed.  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

1  
2 Based on the foregoing, and good cause appearing therefor,

3 It is hereby ORDERED that this Court RECUSE from this case. It is further  
4 ORDERED that, to the extent possible, this matter be referred to the Senior Judge  
5 Program for further proceedings.  
6

7 It is further ORDERED that the hearings pending before this Court, including  
8 trial dates and hearings related to discovery issues, should be re-calendared upon the  
9 reassignment of this matter.  
10

11 It is further ORDERED that the hearing videos and orders entered by this Court  
12 should be unsealed.

13 DATED this 5<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.  
14

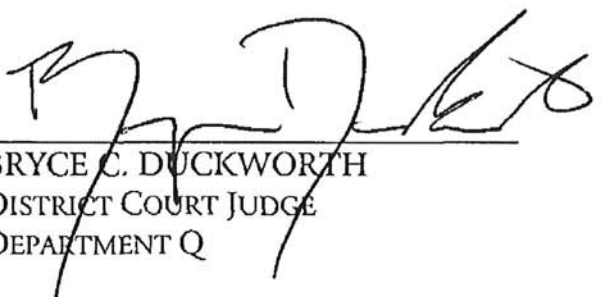
15  
16   
17 BRYCE C. DUCKWORTH  
18 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  
19 DEPARTMENT Q  
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EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 6

EXHIBIT 6



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**From:** Veterans In Politics International Inc. <devildog1285@cs.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, November 18, 2017 3:34 PM  
**To:** JVA Group  
**Subject:** Jordan Ross & Mark Bailus & Lindsey Licari to appear on the Veterans In Politics video Talk-show

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here www.veteransinpolitics.org](http://www.veteransinpolitics.org)

Hi, just a reminder that you're receiving this email because you have expressed an interest in Veterans In Politics International Inc.. Don't forget to add devildog1285@cs.com to your address book so we'll be sure to land in your inbox!

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.



**VETERANS  
IN POLITICS**

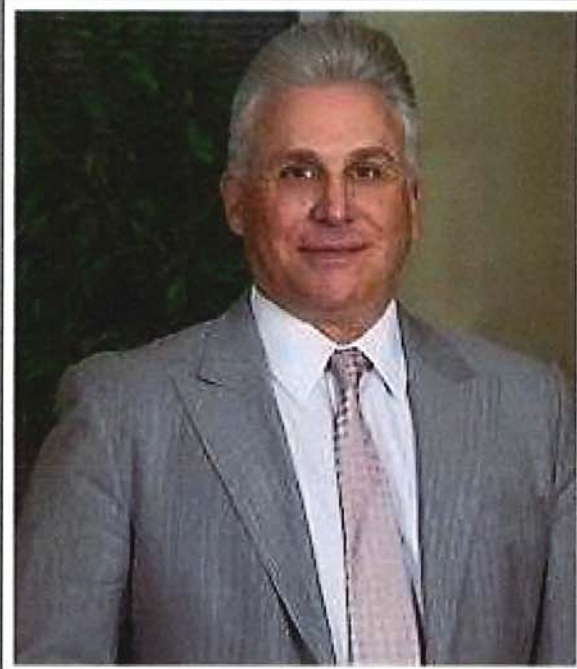
**Jordan Ross & Mark Bailus & Lindsey  
Licari  
to appear on the Veterans In Politics  
video talk-show**

**Call into the show (702) 685-8380**





Jordan Ross Constable,  
Laughlin Township



Mark Bailus Clark  
County District Court  
Judge Department 18



Lindsey Licari a discussion on  
starting a foundation for cancer  
survivors: Aydens Army of  
Angels



Join us in the  
Celebration of Life  
Johnny Spicer The  
Ceremony will be held  
on Wednesday  
November 22nd from  
5PM to 8PM at the  
Marine Corps League of  
Greater Nevada 4360  
West Spring Mountain  
Road Las Vegas NV



89102 on the North East corner of Spring Mountain and Arville across from China Town. Johnny was an officer in Veterans In Politics for the past 12 years. For Directions please call 702 368-1775

**Veterans In Politics** proudly announces **Jordan Ross** Constable, Laughlin Township and **Mark Bailus** Clark County District Court Judge Department 18 and **Lindsey Licari** a discussion on starting a foundation for cancer survivors: Aydens Army of Angels, all will appear as a special guests on the Veterans In Politics internet video talk-show **Saturday November 25, 2017.**

**FIND OUT MORE**

Listen to the **Veterans In Politics** Talk-Show every Saturday from 14:00-15:00 (2:00pm-3:00pm PT) on **World Wide Digital Broadcasting Corp.**



The **VIP Talk-Show** is a trusted source of information. For more than a decade, **Steve Sanson**, **Jim Jonas** and co-hosts



**Shyla Rose**, **Mantis Toboggan** and guest co-host **Christina Ortiz** have informed the listeners about important local and national issues. Not only do they discuss major national issues, but they also bring public's attention to multiple local issues affecting our community that other news sources choose to ignore. Past guests are politicians, candidates running for public office, organization leaders, published authors, business owners and citizens. **VIP**'s involvement in local affairs has led to investigations of multiple government agencies and corrupt individuals. **VIP** received special recognition and multiple awards from government officials and non-profit organizations.

If you would like to be a guest on our show, please call or e-mail us.

Contact Us at 702 283 8088

Show Archive on World Wide  
Digital Broadcast

We are proud to announce that  
our website [familycourtwar.com](http://familycourtwar.com)  
is now live.

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**Veterans Day Celebration**

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## **Veterans Award Ceremony at the Plaza Hotel & Casino**



## **Officiated the Ceremony: Commissioner Steve Sisolak**

### **Recipients of the Award:**

**Cpl. Mike Edwards USMC**  
**Cpl. Tom Martin USMC**  
**Staff Sgt. Jason Brooks USMC**  
**Sgt. Kaine Marzola USMC**  
**Sgt. Tevin Flores USA**  
**PFC. Benjamin Visser USA**



## Litigants Corner



**The taken of children from loving, caring, responsible parents will come to a drastic END!**

**Against a CORRUPT Family Court System that's driven by money, power and association.**

**This is a CIVIL DEATH! WE want to hear your story.**

**It's up to us to let the System know that they are NOT above the law.**

**Must see news footage:**



The Violation of YOUR Constitutional Rights is a Nation Wide Epidemic  
within the Family Court System!

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## Opinion Corner

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**THE ONLY  
PEOPLE WHO  
ARE MAD AT  
YOU FOR  
SPEAKING THE  
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**KEEP SPEAKING  
THE TRUTH**



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EXHIBIT 7

EXHIBIT 7

EXHIBIT 7





GARY VAUSE  
Chairman

STATE OF NEVADA  
**COMMISSION ON JUDICIAL DISCIPLINE**  
P.O. Box 48  
Carson City, Nevada 89702  
Telephone (775) 687-4017 • Fax (775) 687-3607  
Website: <http://www.judicial.state.nv.us>

PAUL C. DEYHLE  
General Counsel and  
Executive Director

February 27, 2018

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Jennifer Abrams, Esq.  
6252 S. Rainbow Blvd. Suite 100  
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Re: Case No. 2017-188

Dear Ms. Abrams:

The Nevada Judicial Discipline Commission met on February 23, 2018, and decided to dismiss the complaint you filed in the above-referenced case based on a review of the relevant court records obtained by Commission staff.

You asserted that the judge appeared on Steve Sanson's webcast Veterans in Politics International ("VIPI") on November 25, 2017, while Mr. Sanson had a case pending before the judge. A review of the record shows that the judge appeared on the VIPI webcast while Mr. Sanson's case before him was stayed pending appeal; however, the judge subsequently recused himself after he realized that his appearance on the webcast created an appearance of impropriety. Although the Commission has dismissed your complaint, it has taken what it considers to be appropriate action under the circumstances.

Thank you for bringing the facts set forth in your complaint to the Commission's attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill Davis", written over a horizontal line.

Jill Davis  
Associate General Counsel

EXHIBIT 8

EXHIBIT 8

EXHIBIT 8



## Nevada Veterans In Politics

May 18 at 3:26pm · 🌐

Family Court Judge Bryce Duckworth was endorsed by Veterans In Politics International, when he first ran for office and we helped work to get him into office. We also recommended him to be the Presiding Judge over Family Court. But somewhere along the way something happened and as an organization, we are sickened by many of his rulings, his lack of ability to control his courtroom and he repeatedly fails to hold litigants in contempt when they violate the court orders



👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9



**Steve Sanson** is at Home.

9 mins · 🌐

The corruption in the Clark County Family Court runs deep!

**Why is disgraced attorney Marshall Willick allowed to appear in Duckworth's court room? Willick helped to shape the family court system providing proposals/feedback to Family Court presiding judge who is none other than Bryce Duckworth!  
Conflict of interest!**

**Duckworth recused himself from Willick case only after a court watchdog group noticed favoritism in court room. Duckworth's Mormon bishop was affiliated with Willick's litigant**

**"Kids for Cash" funnels high conflict cases through court funded programs to make money for family court**

**THIS JUDGE NOT WORTH A DUCK!**

**JUDGE DUCKWORTH  
FAMILY COURT DEPT Q**

**Engages in ex-parte communications with attorneys who back his re-election**

**Duckworth against fathers!**

**Allows his religious beliefs to affect outcome of cases**

**go to [www.judgeduckworth.com](http://www.judgeduckworth.com)**



**Don't be fooled these ratings are his crony attorney friends rating his ability to drag out cases to make money for the court**

10 Shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

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EXHIBIT 10

EXHIBIT 10

EXHIBIT 10

LAS VEGAS SHOOTING UPDATES ([HTTPS://WWW.REVIEWJOURNAL.COM/LAS-VEGAS-SHOOTING/](https://www.reviewjournal.com/las-vegas-shooting/))

THE FALLEN: THOSE WHO DIED (/VICTIMS-OF-THE-LAS-VEGAS-ROUTE-91-HARVEST-FESTIVAL-SHOOTING/)

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Connect with other survivors of the Las Vegas shooting > [Click Here \(https://www.reviewjournal.com/survivorsconnection/\)](https://www.reviewjournal.com/survivorsconnection/)

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>> [Jane Ann Morrison \(https://www.reviewjournal.com/.//news/news-columns/jane-ann-morrison/\)](https://www.reviewjournal.com/.//news/news-columns/jane-ann-morrison/)

## Judges' ties with Sanson have courts in tight spot



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By Jane Ann Morrison Las Vegas Review-Journal  
January 20, 2018 - 11:19 pm



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Internet radio show host, self-proclaimed veterans advocate and judicial endorser Steve Sanson is in a legal no man's land.

Sanson's years of providing District Court judges with free advertising — and judges foolishly appearing on his show and pursuing his political support — are now working against him.

Local judges don't want to hear a defamation lawsuit filed against the social media and email bomb thrower.

Seven District Court judges have recused themselves from his defamation case. Elissa Cadish, Jim Crockett, David Jones and Valerie Adair were the first to say they wouldn't hear his case, some citing the Nevada Code of Judicial Ethics.

Judge Kerry Earley issued a minute order taking herself off the case "to avoid the appearance of impropriety and implied bias" because she knows Sanson.

Judge Adriana Escobar did the same, citing "a professional relationship" with Sanson during previous campaigns, including the endorsement of his organization, Veterans in Politics International.

One judge, Mark Bailus, a newbie who was appointed to the bench in May 2017, showed incredibly poor judgment. Bailus appeared on Sanson's show even though he was hearing the defamation case Las Vegas attorney Marshal Willick filed against Sanson a year ago.

When Sanson's case was assigned to him, he initially insisted he would not be biased. Later he conceded he should take himself off the case, so Chief Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez did it for him.

Willick alleged that Sanson and Veterans in Politics International have a "continuing campaign of malicious, false and/or misleading statements regarding (Willick's) reputation and business."

Willick wanted the case assigned to a senior judge who doesn't have to run for election and won't be intimidated by Sanson's antics. Sanson fought to keep Bailus on the defamation case. It's clear now that Sanson won't be able to leverage his relationships with judges to obtain favorable treatment in court.

Veterans in Politics, which many years ago was a nonprofit, is now Veterans in Politics International, a for-profit organization because of its political activism. Sanson is president.

Because it's no longer a nonprofit, it doesn't have to file documents that report income and how revenues are spent. It's Sanson's business, and he describes himself as "president and owner." He says on his website it's a 100 percent all-volunteer operation.

But how many people who donate to Veterans in Politics International realize it's no longer a nonprofit and hasn't been for about six years? How many voters realize that Sanson's endorsements are, in fact, a business plan?

There's a lot of smoke surrounding Sanson, whose big fundraiser is Feb. 10, a Valentine's Day event at the Plaza. Expect some judges to be in attendance.

Folks paying \$125 each or \$1,000 for a table for eight need to know they can't deduct it on their taxes. Don't be fooled by his website, veteransinpolitics.org (<https://veteransinpolitics.org/>). A dot-org URL can be used by for-profit entities, but the public typically does not make that association. Don't expect Sanson to change the domain name to a dot-com to better reflect that he's operating a business.

Sanson is a friend to some elected officials and a foe to others. He sees himself as a political power player. Plenty of veterans and political figures see him as a poser.

He cozies up to politicians, claiming that his endorsements are powerful in the veterans community. He can be a vicious enemy as well, filing multiple complaints against judges who ignore him and won't go on his show. He bashes some judges and endorses others on his radio show.

In August, Family Court Judge Bryce Duckworth accused Sanson of trying to intimidate him and took himself off a divorce and child custody case (<https://www.reviewjournal.com/local/local-las-vegas/family-court-judge-accuses-agitator-steve-sanson-of-intimidation/>) after Sanson, who was not a party in the matter, tried to contact him directly about the case.

Duckworth made a finding I agree with 100 percent: "Notwithstanding his self-proclaimed faux cover of seeking to 'expose injustice and corruption,' Mr. Sanson's sole motivation for communicating with this Court was to intimidate and harass the Court."

Sanson is riding on the backs of veterans to give himself a political profile. In September, I wrote about his four failures to become an elected official himself (<https://www.reviewjournal.com/news/news-columns/jane-ann-morrison/sansons-latest-complaint-like-him-a-political-loser/>).

Several people have said Sanson needs to be investigated, including Duckworth. You'd think his request would have some clout with the proper agency.

At least two other men have also asked government officials to investigate Sanson. Mark DiCiero, a former longtime local morning radio personality, and attorney Stephen Stubbs have urged scrutiny of Sanson.





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**Officiated the Ceremony: Commissioner Steve Sisolak**

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**Cpl. Tom Martin USMC**  
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**Sgt. Tevin Flores USA**  
**PFC. Benjamin Visser USA**

---

Pvt. Ayleen Ortega USA

## Litigants Corner



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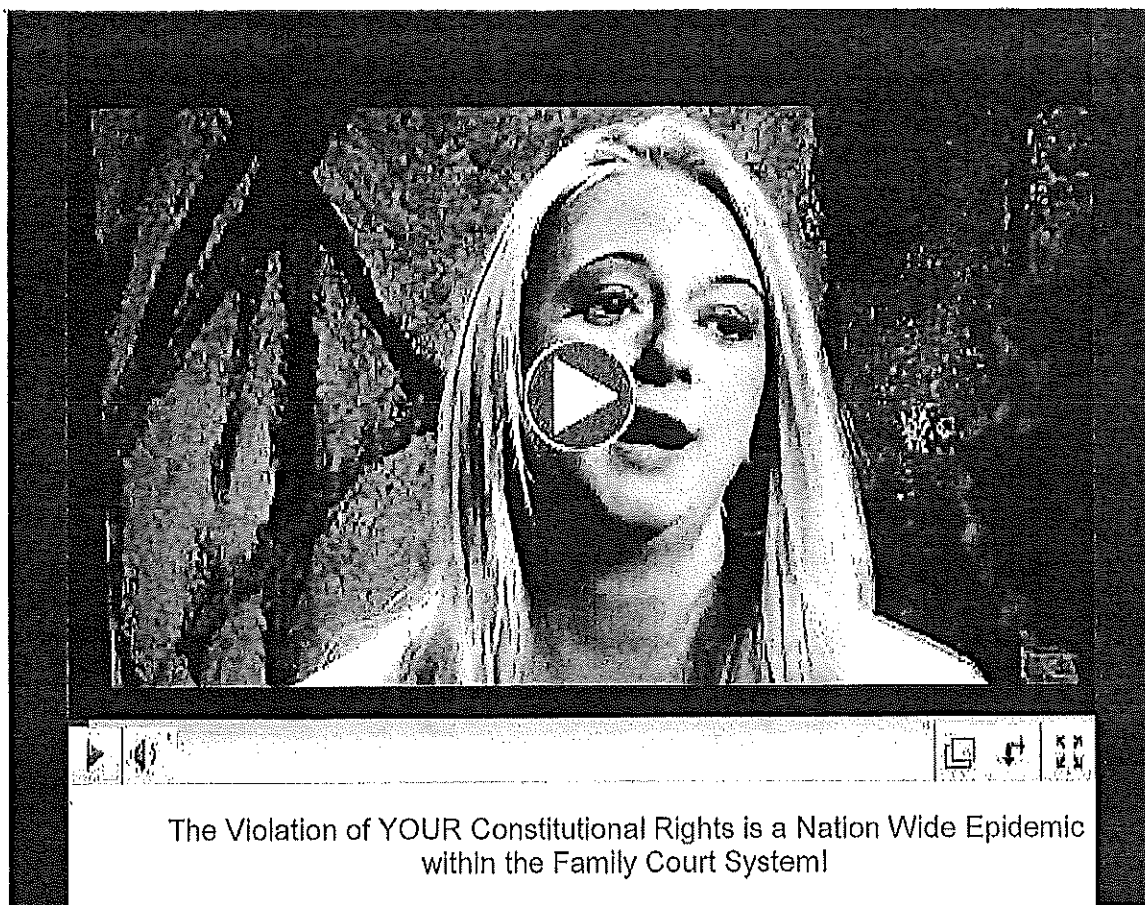
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**It's up to us to let the System know  
that they are **NOT** above the law.**

Must see news footage:



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## Opinion Corner

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**KEEP SPEAKING  
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EXHIBIT 11

EXHIBIT 11

EXHIBIT 11



Steve Sanson shared a memory.

6d · 🌐



3 Years Ago  
See Your Memories >



Steve Sanson is with Steve Sanson and Anat Levy.

May 19, 2017 · 🌐

I had the absolute pleasure to finally meet our new Nevada Supreme Court Justice Lidia Stiglich at the Annual Meet The Judges Convention.



EXHIBIT 12

EXHIBIT 12

EXHIBIT 12



**Steve Sanson**

· October 8, 2013 ·

Mark Gibbons Nevada Supreme Court Justice with Co-Host Melody Howard on Eye on Nevada Politics a KLAV Special — with Andre Haynes, Samira Knight, Mark Gibbons, Mark Gibbons, Steve Sanson and Melody Howard.



8

2 Comments 2 Shares



Like



Comment



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**Melody Howard** Thanks Steve for inviting me to co-host and letting me quiz Justice Gibbons on the Appellate Court.



1

Like · Reply · 6y



Write a comment...



EXHIBIT 13

EXHIBIT 13

EXHIBIT 13



A-17-749318-C

**DISTRICT COURT  
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

**Intentional Misconduct**

**COURT MINUTES**

**March 02, 2018**

---

A-17-749318-C      Jennifer Abrams, Plaintiff(s)  
vs.  
Louis Schneider, Defendant(s)

---

**March 02, 2018      2:58 PM      All Pending Motions**

**HEARD BY:** Gonzalez, Elizabeth      **COURTROOM:** Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Dulce Romea

**PARTIES**      None. Minute order only – no hearing held.  
**PRESENT:**

**JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO DISQUALIFY EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT ELECTED JUDICIARY, AND FOR PERMANENT ASSIGNMENT TO THE SENIOR JUDGE PROGRAM OR, ALTERNATIVELY, TO A DISTRICT COURT JUDGE OUTSIDE OF CLARK COUNTY...MINUTE ORDER RE: CASE REASSIGNMENT

COURT ORDERED, given the high number of recusals by sitting district judges, this matter is referred to the senior judge department for assignment of a senior judge to this case.

COURT FURTHER ORDERED, motion to disqualify OFF CALENDAR.

CLERK'S NOTE: Parties notified by distributing a copy of this minute order via the E-Service list. / 3-5-18

PRINT DATE: 03/05/2018

Page 1 of 1

Minutes Date: March 02, 2018