IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

TRUDI LEE LYTLE; AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST,

Appellant,

v.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Respondents.

Supreme Court No.: 77007
District Court Case No.: A-17-765372-C

MOTION FOR Extremically Filed
FILE OPENIN ABJECT2019 10:24 a.m.

Elizabeth A. Brown
[Third Request Clerk of Supreme Court

Motion For Extension To File Opening Brief

(Docket 77007)

RICHARD HASKIN

Nevada Bar No. 11592 GIBBS, GIDEN, LOCHER, TURNER, SENET, & WITTBRODT, LLP

> 1140 N. Town Center Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89144 (702) 836-9800

Attorneys for Appellants

Thereafter, Appellants filed a Motion to Reconsider the Order Granting Attorneys' Fees and Costs after filing the foregoing appeal. The district court heard the matter on November 27, 2018. During the hearing, the district court found that it ruled on the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs prematurely and would not have granted and would have deferred ruling on the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs pending determination of Nevada Supreme Court Docket No. 73039, which involves other parties to this consolidated litigation. Hearing Transcript ("Tran.") 18:13 – 25; 19:16 – 20:8, Exhibit B.

The district court, citing *Foster v. Dingwall*, 228 P.3d 453 (2010), EDRC 2.24, certified to the Nevada Supreme Court that it intended to reconsider the Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and set a hearing thereon. Tran. 18:13 – 25; 19:16 – 20:8, Exhibit 2. This would allow the district court to consider the motion in light of the Nevada Supreme Court's ruling in *Frederic & Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC*, 427 P.3d 104, 134 Nev. Adv. Rep. 69 (2018). Tran., 17:1 – 23, Exhibit B.

Appellants submitted a written order to the district court, but Judge Bailus was replaced, temporarily, by a senior judge to hear all matters related to this case. The district court, Senior Judge Barker set the matter for hearing on April 3, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. At the hearing, Judge Barker stated that the matter was complex due to the overwhelming amount of background history and facts, and he asked the parties to

consent to send the matter back to District Court Judge Timothy Williams, who originally heard the matter but had to temporarily recuse himself. The parties consented at the hearing to send the matter to Judge Williams because he was familiar as to the background facts and history between the parties.

The matter is now set to be heard on May 16, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Williams. *See* Stipulation and Order, Exhibit C.

Appellants respectfully request additional time, through May 31, 2019, to file and serve their Opening Brief so that Judge Williams can consider Judge Bailus' intent to certify to the Supreme Court the district court's intent to reconsider the award of attorneys' fees and costs to Respondents, which will be heard on May 16, 2019.

DATED this 22nd day of April, 2019.

GIBBS, GIDEN, LOCHER, TURNER, SENET & WITTBRODT, LLP

By: /s/ Richard E. Haskin

Richard E. Haskin
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Attorneys for Appellants

LIST OF EXHIBITS TO MOTION

Exhibit A	Order Granting Attorneys' Fees and Costs	
Exhibit B	Transcript from November 27, 2018 Hearing	
Exhibit C	Stipulation and Order re Hearing Date	

Certificate of Service

1. Electronic Service:

I hereby certify that on this date, the 22nd day of April 2019, I submitted the foregoing MOTION FOR EXTENSION TO FILE OPENING BRIEF (Docket 77007) for filing and service through the Court's eFlex electronic filing service. According to the system, electronic notification will automatically be sent to the following:

Daniel T. Foley, Esq. FOLEY & OAKS 626 S. 8th Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Christina H. Wang, Esq. FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Laura J. Wolff, Esq. CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

2. Traditional Service:

Daniel T. Foley, Esq. FOLEY & OAKS 626 S. 8th Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Christina H. Wang, Esq. FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

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> Sham Bung Shara Berry

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DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements (hereafter collectively "Plaintiffs' Motion") filed by the September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Dennis & Julie Gegen") (collectively the "Plaintiffs") in Case No. A-17-765372-C, and Defendants' Motion to Retax and Settle Memorandum of Costs ("Defendant's Motion") filed by Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust ("Lytle Trust") in Case No. A-17-765372-C, which came on for hearing on July 26, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. and August 9, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVIII of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. of Christensen James & Martin appeared on behalf of the Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis & Julie Gegen. Richard Haskin, Esq. of Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt LLP appeared on behalf of the Lytle Trust. John M. Oakes, Esq. of Foley & Oakes, PC appeared on behalf of Marjorie B. Boulden, Trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, amended and restated dated July 17, 1996 ("Boulden

Trust") and Linda Lamothe and Jacques Lamothe, Trustees of the Jacques and Linda Lamothe Living Trust ("Lamothe Trust"). Christina H. Wang, Esq. of Fidelity Law Group appeared on behalf of Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman ("Robert & Yvonne Disman").

The Court having considered the Plaintiffs' Motion and exhibits and Defendant's Motion to Re-Tax and Exhibits, all Oppositions Replies and exhibits thereto, and having heard the arguments of counsel, and with good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby enters the following Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

In August and September of 2016, the Lytles recorded with the Clark County Recorder's office four (4) abstracts of the Final Judgment ("Abstracts of Judgment") obtained against the Rosemere Association on August 16, 2016 in Case No. A-09-593497-C, Department XII. The Abstracts of Judgment were recorded against eight of the individual parcels or properties within the Rosemere Subdivision, including properties owned by the Plaintiffs. The owners of the encumbered properties were not Judgment Debtors under the Abstracts of Judgment.

On or about December 8, 2016, a case was filed against the Lytle Trust by the Bouldens, who owned Parcel No. 163-03-313-008, 1960 Rosemere Court, and the Lamothes, who own Parcel No. 163-03-313-002, 1830 Rosemere Court, each located in the Rosemere Subdivision, to remove the Abstracts of Judgment and plead causes of action for Quiet Title, Declaratory Relief and Slander of Title. On February 24, 2017, the Bouldens and Lamothes filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on their Quiet Title and Declaratory Relief causes of action, which the Court granted on July 25, 2017 ("Order").

In its Order, the Court found that, among other things, the Abstracts of Judgment were improperly recorded and must be expunged and stricken from the record. Following the Court's

direction in the Order, the Lytle Trust released its liens against the Boulden and Lamothe properties.

The Plaintiffs in this Action each own a property in the Rosemere Subdivision that was encumbered by the Defendants' recording of the Abstracts of Judgment. Prior to initiating this Action, on September 26, 2017, Plaintiffs sent a demand letter to Defendant's attorney requesting that the Abstracts of Judgment be expunged from Plaintiffs' Properties as well, based on the Court's Order and the identical factual and legal circumstances of the Plaintiffs' properties. On several occasions, Plaintiffs' attorneys also spoke to the Lytle Trust's attorney requesting that the Abstracts of Judgment be removed. The Plaintiffs requested to be placed in the same position as the Bouldens and Lamothes, with the Appeal to continue and the Defendants' appeal rights preserved. However, the Lytle Trust refused to release the Abstracts of Judgment.

On November 30, 2017, the Plaintiffs filed a Complaint and Motion for Summary Judgment in Case No. A-17-765372-C, Department XXVIII, requesting that the Lytle Trust's Abstracts of Judgment be removed from their Properties, just as the Court had ordered for the Bouldens and Lamothes. On February 21, 2018, Case No. A-17-765372-C was consolidated with Case No. A-16-747900-C.

On February 9, 2018, the Defendants filed an Opposition to Motion for Summary Judgment, Or, In the Alternative, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and Countermotion for Summary Judgment ("Countermotion"). On February 21, 2018, Plaintiffs filed a Reply to the Opposition and an Opposition to the Countermotion. On March 14, 2018, Defendants filed a Reply to the Plaintiffs' Opposition to the Countermotion. The Motion and Countermotion came on for hearing on March 21, 2018 and May 2, 2018, where the Court decided in the favor of the Plaintiffs, adopting Judge Williams' prior Order as "law of the case."

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

NRS 18.010(2)(b), provides that the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party

Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party complaint or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. The court shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations. It is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions pursuant to Rule 11 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure in all appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in business and providing professional services to the public.

The Defendants had notice of the Order entered by Judge Williams in Case No. A-16-747900-C in favor of substantially similarly situated property owners as the Plaintiffs. After the Order was entered and prior to this Case being filed by the Plaintiffs, the Defendants were given opportunity to avoid this litigation and to preserve their legal arguments for appeal. As this Court has already held, Judge Williams' Order is *law of the case* and binding on this Court. Therefore, given the directive in NRS 18.010(b) to liberally construe the paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees, the Court finds that the Defendants' defense to this action was maintained without reasonable ground. An award of Attorney's Fees to the Plaintiffs is therefore warranted. Having prevailed in this Action, the Court finds that the Plaintiffs are also entitled to an award of Costs pursuant to NRS 18.020 and NRS 18.050.

In considering the reasonableness of the amount of the Plaintiffs' requested legal fees, the Court considered the factors set forth in *Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat. Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 349, 455 P.2d 31, 33 (1969), to wit: 1) The qualities of the advocate: his ability, his training, education, experience, professional standing and skill; 2) The character of the work to be done: its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, time and skill required, the responsibility imposed and

the prominence and character of the parties where they affect the importance of the litigation; 3)
The work actually performed by the lawyer: the skill, time and attention given to the work; and
4) the result: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits were derived.

Having considered the *Brunzell* factors and the Defendants' Motion to Retax Costs, the Court finds that the Plaintiffs are entitled to their attorney's fees and costs, but exercises its discretion to reduce the legal fees and costs awarded. Accordingly, the Court awards Attorney's Fees and Costs to the Plaintiffs in the following amounts:

Plaintiff	Attorney's Fees	Costs	Total
September Trust	\$13,513.26	\$250.87	\$13,764.13
Zobrist Trust	\$13,331.26	\$250.87	\$13,582.13
Sandoval Trust	\$12,616.26	\$250.87	\$12,867.13
Gegen	\$12,590.26	\$250.87	\$12,841.13
Totals	\$52,051.04	\$1,003.48	\$53,054.52

<u>ORDER</u>

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements are hereby granted in part and denied in part, in that the Court is awarding attorney's fees and costs to the Plaintiffs but in a reduced amount.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust's Motion to Retax and Settle Memorandum of Costs is hereby granted in part and denied in part, in that the Court is awarding costs to the Plaintiffs but in a reduced amount.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust shall pay Thirteen Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Four and 13/100 Dollars (\$13,764.13) to the September Trust for its attorney's fees and costs.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust shall pay Thirteen Thousand Five Hundred Eighty-Two and 13/100 Dollars (\$13,582.13) to the Zobrist Trust for its attorney's fees and costs.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust shall pay Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Seven and 13/100 Dollars (\$12,867.13) to the Sandoval Trust for its attorney's fees and costs.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust shall pay Twelve Thousand Eight Hundred Forty-One and 13/100 Dollars (\$12,841.13) to Dennis & Julie Gegen for their attorney's fees and costs.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the total amount ordered to be paid by the Lytle Trust to the Plaintiffs collectively for attorney's fees and costs is Fifty-Three Thousand Fifty-Four and 52/100 Dollars (\$53,054.52).

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust is hereby ordered to pay the attorney's fees and costs as Ordered herein by certified check made payable to "Christensen James & Martin Special Client Trust Account" in the amount of Fifty-Three Thousand Fifty-Four and 52/100 Dollars (\$53,054.52) and delivered to the Plaintiffs' attorneys within ten (10) days after the date of Notice of Entry of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED. 1 2 Dated this ___ day of August, 2018. 3 4 5 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 6 Submitted by: 7 **CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN** 8 9 Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 10 Laura J. Wolff, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6869 11 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, 12 Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and 13 Dennis & Julie Gegen 14 Approved as to Form and Content by: 15 FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 16 GIBBS GIDEN LOCHER TURNER SENER & WITTBRODT LEP 17 CHRISTINA H. WANG, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9713 18 Attorneys for Counter-Defendants/Cross-RICHARD E. HASKIN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 11592 Claimants Robert & Yvonne Disman 19 TIMOTHY P. ELSON, ESQ. FOLEY & OAKES, P.C. Nevada Bar No. 11559 20 Attorneys for Defendants/Counter-Claimants Lytle Trust 21 DANIEL T. FOLEY, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 1078 22 Attorneys for Plaintiffs/Counter-Defendants/Cross-Defendants Boulden Trust 23 and Lamothe Trust 24 25 26 27

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1	IT IS SO ORDERED.	
2		
3	Dated this day of August, 2018.	
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5		DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
6	Submitted by:	
7	CONNECTIVITY OF A LABOR OF MARKET AND THE STATE OF THE ST	
8	CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN	
9	Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871	
10	Laura J. Wolff, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6869	
11	7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117	
12	Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and	
13	Dennis & Julie Gegen	
14	Approved as to Form and Content by:	
15	FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP	
16 17	CHRISTINA H. WANG, ESQ.	GIBBS GIDEN LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP
18	Nevada Bar No. 9713/ Attorneys for Counter-Defendants/Cross-	RICHARD E. HASKIN, ESQ.
19	Claimants Robert & Yvonne Disman FOLEY & OAKES, P.C. DANIEL T. FOLEY, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 1078	Nevada Bar No. 11592 TIMOTHY P. ELSON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 11559 Attorneys for Defendants/Counter- Claimants Lytle Trust
20		
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22	Attorneys for Plaintiffs/Counter-	
23	Defendants/Cross-Defendants Boulden Trust and Lamothe Trust	
24		
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A-16-747 800-C Marjori e O. Bolden Trust v. Trudi Lytle

1 IT IS SO ORDERED. 2 Dated this / day of August, 2018. 3 4 5 COURT JUDGE DISTRICT 6 Submitted by: 7 **CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN** 8 9 Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 10 Laura J. Wolff, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6869 11 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 12 Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and 13 Dennis & Julie Gegen 14 Approved as to Form and Content by: 15 FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 16 GIBBS GIDEN LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP 17 CHRISTINA H. WANG, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9713 18 Attorneys for Counter-Defendants/Cross-RICHARD E. HASKIN, ESQ. Claimants Robert & Yvonne Disman Nevada Bar No. 11592 19 TIMOTHY P. ELSON, ESQ. FOLEY & ØAKES, P.C. Nevada Bar No. 11559 20 Attorneys for Defendants/Counter-Claimants Lytle Trust 21 DANIEL T. FOLEY, ES Nevada Bar No. 1078 22 Attorneys for Plaintiffs/Counter-Defendants/Cross-Defendants Boulden Trust 23 and Lamothe Trust 24 25 26 27

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RTRAN 1 2 3 4 DISTRICT COURT 5 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 6 7 CASE NO: A-16-747800-C MARJORIE B. BOULDEN 8 TRUST. DEPT. XVIII 9 Plaintiff, 10 VS. 11 TRUDI LYTLE, 12 Defendant. 13 BEFORE THE HONORABLE MARK B. BAILUS, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 14 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2018 15 RECORDER'S TRANSCRIPT OF HEARING RE: REQUEST OF COURT - CLARIFICATION OF ORDER: IN RE: 16 COMPETING ORDERS; DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO RECONSIDER 17 COURT'S RULING GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' ATTORNEYS' FEES

(Appearances on Page 2)

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RECORDED BY: ROBIN PAGE, COURT RECORDER

APPEARANCES: For September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. & Julie Gegen: RICHARD E. HASKIN, ESQ. For Lytle Trust: CHRISTINA H. WANG, ESQ. For Robert & Yvonne Disman:

THE COURT: -- the Dismans. And I denied that motion.

MR. HASKIN: Correct.

THE COURT: Okay.

And that's the motion I've received competing orders in.

MR. HASKIN: Correct.

THE COURT: Okay.

MS. WANG: That's correct.

THE COURT: And here is my issue. In your competing orders, you do findings of facts and conclusions of law. And that's typically under Rule 56(c). When you grant a motion for summary judgment it says an order granting -- the last sentence of subparagraph (c) says, an order granting summary judgment shall -- shucks -- an order granting summary judgment shall set forth the undisputed material facts and legal determination on which the Court granted summary judgment.

I denied summary judgment. I believe Rule 56(d), not Rule 56(c), is the controlling subparagraph. And I'm not going to go through -- it says if on the motion under the -- this rule judgement is not rendered upon the whole case or for all the relief asked and a trial is necessary, the Court at the hearing of the motion by examining the pleadings and evidence before it and by interrogating counsel shall, if practical, ascertain what material facts exist without substantial controversy and what material facts are actually and in good faith controverted.

So it's always been my understanding that that's discretionary with the Court. If the Court can make a determination as to what the undisputed facts are and then what the disputed facts are, you can put it

in the order. And I know in Federal Court they actually allow for a separate document that sets forth the undisputed facts and the disputed facts and you have to refer to the record what each of those facts are.

Now, the undisputed facts don't have to be stipulated to, but if I make a determination as to undisputed facts then it says, upon the trial of the action the facts so specified shall be deemed established and the trial shall be conducted accordingly. So I'm going to leave it to counsel. I told you to prepare the order consistent with your opposition. That doesn't mean I adopted everything in your opposition.

In other words, your argument basically was, there was nothing for me to make a determination of -- I -- to me, it almost sounded like a mootness argument, you know, that -- and I -- and it was my understanding that the reason was based on Judge Williams' previous order; correct?

MR. HASKIN: Correct.

THE COURT: And then I made an order --

MR. HASKIN: Correct.

THE COURT: -- that granted summary judgment.

And so what I thought you were arguing to me is based on Judge Williams' order because your -- you purchased the property --

MS. WANG: From --

THE COURT: -- subsequently; correct? Your clients purchased the property separate. If you look at my -- if you look at Judge Williams' order, then you look at my order granting summary judgment, the request that you were seeking for your declaratory relief

has been resolved. I've issued -- there's been two previous orders. So that's --

MS. WANG: Resolved.

THE COURT: -- why I didn't grant summary judgment, is because the orders go to the land, not to your client. Your clients were subsequent purchasers. So that's what I thought I was ruling. It almost was a mootness argument, like I said.

There's a case called *Personhood Nevada versus Bristol*, 126

Nevada Reports 599 and it basically says, a controversy must be present through all stages of the proceeding. And even though a case may present a live controversy at the beginning, subsequent events may render the case moot.

So that was my thought process that I've already entered it,
Judge Williams entered an order that determined that to be law of the
case. You call it *NRED* I, II, III, I think the opposing counsel calls it

Rosemere I, II, III, but I thought my subsequent order resolved the issue
that you're seeking declaratory relief on. So that was the basis of my
order. So I needed to clarify that and you need, based on this
clarification, submit an order to me.

Now, if counsel cannot agree on what the undisputed facts are and what the disputed facts and, you know, case law, that's fine. Then put in there -- then track the language of NRCP -- NRCP -- Rule 56, subparagraph (d) that it wasn't practical, you know, and then they -- then we'll have to litigate it at trial.

MR. HASKIN: Understood, Your Honor.

THE COURT: So I did want to put this on for a clarification, but basically my ruling was what you had put in your opposition. There was really nothing for me to adjudicate at this stage. And since you were the subsequent purchaser, I granted summary judgment, I believe, as to the original purchaser and the order went to the land, preventing them from various abstracts and things that you were requesting declaratory relief on.

So I'll leave it up to counsel to submit the appropriate order.

MR. HASKIN: I'll -- Your Honor, I'll prepare a revised order

based on --

THE COURT: And don't take liberties. Let's keep it clean.

MS. WANG: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: I don't want to put a lot in there that we don't need to put in there.

MR. HASKIN: Understood.

THE COURT: This was a denial.

MR. HASKIN: Understood.

THE COURT: All right.

MS. WANG: Thank you for your clarification, Your Honor.

That was the gist of what we got from the Court's ruling that the issue was moot before the Court and that was the substance of my proposed order. I will attempt to work with counsel once again on synthesizing them.

THE COURT: And it wasn't actually argued as mootness, he didn't use the word moot, but that's pretty much what his argument was.

That there's nothing for me to adjudicate regarding declaratory relief because of the previous orders entered in this case.

MS. WANG: Does such an order even require findings of fact when there's already been subsequent orders?

THE COURT: Rule 56(d) on the denial. You can put in there that it wasn't practical to make a determination and --

MR. HASKIN: I think that's what we'll do.

MS. WANG: That's what we will do.

THE COURT: That's fine.

MR. HASKIN: Yeah.

MS. WANG: I think that was a large part of our dispute.

THE COURT: Well, like I said --

MR. HASKIN: Well --

THE COURT: -- this is a legal term, but it's not a legal term. Let's keep it clean.

MR. HASKIN: Okay, Your Honor.

THE COURT: It was a denial, all right.

MS. WANG: Thank you, Your Honor.

THE COURT: We have another matter on, the motion for reconsideration. All right.

And I did look at EDCR Rule 2.24 -- you did it differently than I always did it. I used to file a motion for leave and a motion for reconsideration and then the Court would usually make a determination of whether it was going to rehear the matter. And if it did rehear it, it usually set argument for the motion for reconsideration, but if you look at

the local rule, you can do it all in one hearing.

You didn't really object to him filing it as a motion for reconsideration so, theoretically, under Rule, I mean, not theoretically -- I could view it under 2.20(e) subparagraph (e) that you waived any procedural defect and you just wanted to argue the substantive aspect of the case.

MR. SMITH: Well, I wouldn't agree with that, Your Honor. First of all this was on a --

THE COURT: Well, you didn't oppose it. You only opposed the substantive; you didn't say that he needed to do anything differently.

MR. SMITH: Well, what he brought was a motion for you to certify it to the Supreme Court.

THE COURT: All right. Why the motion for reconsideration?

MR. SMITH: Yeah, but he also said directly in there that you do not have jurisdiction over this matter because it's been appealed.

THE COURT: He filed a *Huneycutt* motion or he wants me -- MR. SMITH: Exactly.

THE COURT: -- versus he filed --

MR. SMITH: That's the procedure that we don't oppose. If it's followed as the *Huneycutt* procedure, we're fine with that.

THE COURT: And that's what I will do, I will follow -- and just as a trivia question, *Dingwalll versus Foster* was my firm's case. Not -- my partner handled it, so I'm very familiar with the underlying facts in *Dingwall versus Foster* and -- and that was relied upon by the parties.

Do you want to be heard in argument on the motion for

 reconsideration?

MR. HASKIN: Your Honor, just very briefly.

I think we put everything in the brief, but, Your Honor, with respect to the motion for reconsideration and I -- and I think we did argue this at the underlying motion for attorneys' fees. But Your Honor's prior ruling with respect to attorneys' fees hinges on the fact that the Lytle's really affirmation and continuance with their answer and defense in this case was done for the purpose -- was done either without reasonable grounds or to harass the other party in this case. I think that the *Fredric and Barbara Rosenberg Living Trust* case that was handed down by the Supreme Court merely two days after Your Honor's prior ruling clarifies what that really means.

And, I think, parallels the Lytle's case in a number of ways. But the Lytle's in this case and in the prior case Judge Williams has heard have really affirmed their basis for being able to collect upon the Defendants, or, sorry, in this case the Plaintiff's property. And I think that, without any question, there's some novelty in the law and there's some ambiguity and, certainly, some gaps in the law with respect to Chapter 116 and the ability to collect on a unit owner's property for a limited purpose association. And that's what we have here, that's the question in the law.

The Lytle's have steadfastly maintained that they have that right; they're now pursuing that right before the Supreme Court. They have not abandoned that right. And I don't think that the constant affirmation of that right and seeking of clarity of the law is either without

reasonable grounds or designed to harass the other party. And I believe that the recent Supreme Court case sheds light on the fact that a party, even when that party is wrong, and even when the case law seems to counter that party, there can be reasonable grounds for seeking clarification of the law especially where there are novel concepts of the law. I think that's exactly what we have in this case.

THE COURT: Do you have a copy of my order? I thought I'd made a copy --

MR. HASKIN: I don't have a copy of your order.

THE COURT: -- of it and I don't have it.

MR. SMITH: I have a copy of it, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Can you approach. Let me just --

MR. SMITH: Yes. It was actually attached to Defendant's motion.

THE COURT: Oh, okay. What exhibit? If it's attached to the motion, I have the motion. What's the -- what's the exhibit number on the motion?

MR. HASKIN: I believe it's the first exhibit in the motion.

MR. SMITH: Yeah, exhibit 1.

THE COURT: Motion for reconsideration. Okay. Let me see it real quick. I apologize. Thank you. Approach please.

Anything further, Counsel?

MR. HASKIN: Nothing further from me. Your Honor.

THE COURT: You want to be heard in opposition?

MR. SMITH: I do, briefly.

I just want to make two important points and that's that if they're doing a motion to reconsider under Rule 60(b) then you have to find grounds under 60(b) to reconsider your prior opinion. There are no grounds under 60(b) for new law that's been decided or for a change in the law for a new case that's come out after the judgment. There's only five enumerated points under 60(b) and none of them address that.

Now, it could be argued that you could do it under a 60(b)(5), but the Supreme Court has actually rejected that, specifically. And *Ford versus Branch Banking and Trust Company*, it's 353 P.3d 1200. And the Court said, here we are asked to determine whether new or changed precedent from this Court justifies NRCP 60(b)(5) relief. We include that NRCP 60(b)(5) does not allow a District Court to set aside judgments solely based on new or changed precedent. And this next sentence is specifically addressed in the -- or to this case. Additionally, we conclude that NRCP 60(b)(5) does not allow District Court to set aside monetary judgments merely because new or changed precedent makes enforcement inequitable.

So, first of all, you don't even have grounds under 60(b)(5) to reconsider this order. But, secondly, if you want to look at this case they've brought up, the *MacDonalds Highlands* case that was issued by the Nevada Supreme Court recently; it doesn't actually give you grounds for relief, either. Because it talks about how if there is no evidence that the claim was brought with unreasonable grounds, then you shouldn't grant attorneys' fees and costs.

It goes back to the rule itself, rule -- or to the statute itself NRS

18, but you specifically found when you issued your order on attorneys' fees that there was no reasonable ground because, number one, they had already argued the same arguments to Judge Williams and lost.

And they had notice of that. And number two, we approached them before filing this case and gave them the opportunity to avoid this litigation and preserve their appeal rights, which had already been taken to the Supreme Court.

So these novel issues, by definition, cannot be novel because they had already been argued and lost. And they were given the opportunity --

THE COURT: Wait a minute --

MR. SMITH: -- to preserve those arguments for appeal.

THE COURT: -- I thought it was still pending. I thought the William's appeal was still pending.

MR. SMITH: It is still pending, Your Honor.

MR. HASKIN: It is still pending.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. SMITH: It's been submitted for decision.

THE COURT: So what did they argue and lose before Judge Williams? You said they have argued and lost, I'm not clear on your argument or what argument you're referencing.

MR. SMITH: All of these -- all of these arguments that he's talking about for a change in NRS 116 or for clarifications of these so-called loop holes in NRS 116. He's made those arguments to Judge Williams; he lost that.

THE COURT: Correct. And now it's up on appeal.

MR. SMITH: It is up on appeal.

THE COURT: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SMITH: And our whole -- our whole approach to this case was we will allow you to make those arguments on appeal. Let -- take your novel arguments to the Supreme Court, we understand that you have those arguments. You can take them. The Nevada Supreme Court will address those. You will have your day in court. And that will be a binding precedent upon any other similarly situated homeowner in this subdivision. They declined to do that, Your Honor.

And that is why it was unreasonable ground to proceed in this matter. This is the same thing that we argued before; you specifically found that. There is simply no reason to reconsider your prior order.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. HASKIN: Your Honor, for clarification real quick, there is a distinction. The -- Judge Williams only decided on what we phrase the NRED I case; they call a Rosemere I case. The -- Your Honor decided with respect to NRED I, II, and III. There were two other pieces of litigation that were never before Judge Williams. Your Honor decided those last two parts and Your Honor's most recent decision by applying Judge Williams' reasoning to the other two parts.

We respectfully disagree with that, but that's what Your Honor did. And that's the difference in these two cases. What Mr. Smith says is right, only with respect to *NRED I*, there were two parts still outstanding. We could not give up on those two parts of the case.

That's what this all came down to.

Those other two parts are distinct, Your Honor. They have different facts. We argued with respect t to *NRED II*, there was a stipulation entered into between the underlying parties to that litigation that said the amended CC&Rs were the governing document for that case. We had an argument that was different with respect to that case as opposed to *NRED I*, a very different argument. And Your Honor may have decided against us with respect to that, but that was a novel issue. That was an issue that Judge Williams never heard, Judge Williams never decided and we could not agree on how to handle that with respect to the appeal because it's not subject to appeal, it's not subject to appeal.

THE COURT: All right. Well, I try to be clear on the record on my ruling, so.

When you brought your motion for attorneys' fees and costs, it was under NRS 18.010, I believe, subparagraph (2)(b), which provided in pertinent part, with regard to the recovery sought, when the Court finds that the claim, counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party complaint or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. And then it says, the Court shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorneys' fees and all appropriate situations. It is the intent of the legislature the Court award attorneys' fees pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions. And then goes on further. So that was the plain language of the statute.

After my ruling, the Nevada Supreme Court came down with Rosenberg versus -- shucks -- Rosenberg Living Trust versus

MacDonald Highlands Realty. And I actually brought this to counsel's attention, this case, because this portion of the decision is what I was concerned about. And it says, though we agree that the evidence produced and Nevada's current jurisprudence does not fully support the Trust's suit, we disagree that the Trust lacked reasonable grounds to maintain the suit, as it presented a novel issue in state law, which, if successful, could have resulted in expansion of Nevada's case law regarding restrictive covenants.

And then it cites to *Rodriguez versus Primadonna Company*, standing for the proposition affirming the District Court's denial of attorneys' fees under NRS 18.010, subparagraph (2)(b) where the claim, quote, presented a novel issue in Nevada law concerning the potential expansion of common law liability, closed quote, close paren. Though we understand the legislatures desire to deter frivolous lawsuits, this must be balanced with the need for attorneys to pursue novel legal issues argued for clarification or modification of existing law.

And they cited as an example, *Stubbs v. Strickland*, standing for the proposition determining a party did not file suit for an improper purpose because you argued for a change or clarification of existing law. Accordingly, we reverse the District Court's award of attorneys' fees and costs to Malek.

And to be quite frank with you, Counsel, when we were in court the last time, we were talking about the supersedeas bond. And

while you were making your argument, I kept thinking to myself, how is this case up on appeal since I denied the countermotion for summary judgment. So I pulled the appellate calendar and I've noticed that they've issued an order show cause for you to explain how a granting of a motion for attorneys' fees and costs can be appealed when the ongoing case is still pending.

I mean, I have my opinion on what's going to happen. And so what I may do today may be, you know, may not be necessary. This case may be back before the District Court Judge on your motion for reconsideration. What I'd be willing to do -- you asked that I, you know, that I deny the motion for attorneys' fees and costs. I wouldn't have been willing to do that if I'd had the subsequent case.

What I would have done and what I would be willing to certify to the Nevada Supreme Court is I would have deferred ruling on the motion for attorneys' fees and cost pending the appeal from Judge Williams' decision. Because I base my granting of motions for summary judgment based on his decisions being the law of the case. So I would have deferred ruling until the appeal was completed. So I'd be willing to certify to the Supreme Court that's what would have done. I would not have granted the motion; I just would have just deferred the ruling to conclusion of the appellate case.

I don't know if that is going to be meaningful or not because it will be interesting to see, you know, if the Nevada Supreme Court determines there's -- determines if there's a jurisdictional defect and remands the case back to the District Court.

MR. HASKIN: Well, Your Honor, we -- the OSC gave us 30 days to respond. What -- ordinarily the motion for attorneys' fees would be an appealable order because the granting of the summary judgment because this case is consolidated with a case that's ongoing.

THE COURT: Okay. But again --

MR. HASKIN: That's --

THE COURT: -- you can't do it as a Rule 54(b) certification.

There are still parties involved.

MR. HASKIN: Only because of the consolidation, Your Honor, Which is -- which is why, I think, Your Honor, after reading the case law, I think what we're going to end up doing is dismissing that appeal; voluntarily dismissing it, so I think it's going to come back to Your Honor. I think you're right.

THE COURT: Well, it will come back to a new Judge.

MR. HASKIN: Correct.

THE COURT: So that's what I'd be willing to certify that the Supreme Court -- I wouldn't have granted and I wouldn't have denied it. I would have -- I wouldn't have granted it; I would have deferred ruling until a determination was made by the Nevada Supreme Court, regarding Judge Williams' orders and making a determination of what the law was.

MR. HASKIN: Your Honor, just for -- to clarify that, I think, wouldn't you have to grant it at least in part because you've already made a ruling awarding them attorneys' fees.

THE COURT: I wouldn't have granted it, I would have --

based on the new decision, I would have deferred ruling until the -- until a determination was made by the Nevada Supreme Court as to Judge Williams' rulings because if Judge Williams' rulings were incorrect, then my rulings on summary judgment would have been incorrect because I based it on the law of the case.

So that would have required me then to revisit my rulings on summary judgment. And if I didn't grant summary judgment then the motions for attorneys' fees would not be appropriate.

MR. HASKIN: Okay.

I'm thinking out loud here, Your Honor, because I'm -- I'm --

THE COURT: This can be dangerous, thinking out loud.

MR. HASKIN: Well --

THE COURT: Because we're on the record.

MR. HASKIN: That's okay; I think I'm going to the right place. Your Honor, if that's the case, then the award of attorneys' fees remains intact; correct?

THE COURT: No. I can't make a ruling on your motion to reconsider. That's what *Huneycutt and Dingwall versus Foster*. What I can do is certify to the Supreme Court, and what I would be willing to certify to the Supreme Court, that if I had had this subsequent decision, I would not have granted the motion for attorneys' fees and costs. I would have deferred ruling until such time as the Supreme Court made a determination as to Judges -- Judge Williams' orders. Because my rulings were based on his rulings as being law of the case.

MR. HASKIN: Correct. And I understand that, Your Honor.

provide it to you for approval as to content and form.

MR. SMITH: Absolutely.

So my understanding of that certification is you would be saying what grounds you would be -- what grounds you would be changing your position on; right?

THE COURT: Right.

MR. SMITH: And that would have to be under the rule --

THE COURT: I actually pulled the *Dingwall versus Foster* certification.

MR. SMITH: Yes.

THE COURT: And it said, it is hereby ordered adjudged and decreed that this Court will certify to the Supreme Court that if jurisdiction is returned to the District Court, the District Court would order a rehearing only of damages as to Yang, Chai, and Dingwall. That was the certification.

So what I would certify is that I would have deferred ruling on the motion until the -- whatever the Nevada Supreme Court case number is regarding Judge Williams' order is resolved by the Nevada Supreme Court.

MR. SMITH: Okay, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Because that would affect my underlying motion -- granting of the motions for summary judgment.

So, obviously, if they uphold Williams, then the motion for summary judgment would -- the order granting the summary judgment would remain and then I would address the motion for attorneys' fees

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1	and costs.		
2	MR. HASKIN: Which you've already granted, Your Honor.		
3	So that's		
4	THE COURT: Okay.		
5	MR. HASKIN: All right.		
6	THE COURT: All right. That is what I'd be willing to certify to		
7	the Supreme Court.		
8	MR. SMITH: Okay.		
9	THE COURT: Anything further?		
10	MR. HASKIN: No.		
11	MR. SMITH: No, Your Honor.		
12	[Proceeding concluded at 10:03 a.m.]		
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21	ATTEST: I do hereby certify that I have truly and correctly transcribed the audio/video proceedings in the above-entitled case to the best of my ability.		
22	audio/video proceedings in the above character as the best of my domey.		
23	Kotum 1 agr		
24	Robin Page Court Recorder/Transcriber		
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Electronically Filed 4/22/2019 9:29 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

1 SAO CHRISTINA H. WANG, ESQ. 2 Nevada Bar No. 9713 FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 3 1701 Village Center Circle, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 4 Tel: (702) 667-3000 Fax: (702) 243-3091 5 Email: christina.wang@fnf.com Attorneys for Counter-Defendants/Cross-Claimants Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman 6 7

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE) MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACOUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST, STIPULATION AND ORDER TO

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

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Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

PENDING MOTIONS

HEARING DATE(S) ENTERED IN

CONTINUE HEARING DATE ON

Defendants.

Current Hearing Date: May 1, 2019 Current Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

19

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AND ALL RELATED MATTERS

New Hearing Date: May 16, 2019 New Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

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It is hereby stipulated and agreed by and between the parties, Plaintiffs/Counter-Defendants/Cross-Defendants MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, and LINDA LAMOTHE and JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACOUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST ("Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys of record, Foley & Oaks, PC; Defendants/Counter-Claimants TRUDI LEE LYTLE and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST, by and through their attorneys of record, Gibbs Giden Locher Turner Senet & Wittbrodt, LLP; and Counter-

Fidelity National Law Group 1701 Village Center Circle, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89134 (702) 667-3000

Page 1 of 3

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1 2	DATED this day of April, 2019.	DATED this 12th day of April, 2019.			
	FOLEY & OAK, PC	CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN			
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4	(1070)	100			
5	DANIEL T. FOLEY, ESQ.	WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ.			
6	Nevada Bar No. 1078 626 S. 8th Street	Nevada Bar No. 11871 7440 W. Sahara Avenue			
7	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Attorneys for Plaintiffs/Counter-	Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust,			
8	Defendants/Cross-Defendants Marjorie B. Boulden, Trustee of The Marjorie B.	Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis & Julie Gegen			
9	Boulden Trust, amended and restated dated July 17, 1996; and Linda Lamothe and				
10	Jacques Lamothe, Trustees of the Jacques and Linda Lamothe Living Trust				
11	ORDER				
12	IT IS SO ORDERED.				
13	DATED this 16 day of April . 2019.				
14		-3-17			
15		DISTRICT COURT JUDGE			
16		DISTRICT COOKT TODGE			
17					
18	Respectfully submitted by:				
19	FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP				
20	and the same				
21	Mush H. Aller				
22	CHRISTINA H. WANG, ÉSQ. Nevada Bar No. 9713				
23	1701 Village Center Circle, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89134				
24 25	Attorneys for Counter-Defendants/Cross-Claimants Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman				
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