

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:
12067 OAKLAND HILLS, LAS
VEGAS, NEVADA 89141; 54
CAROLINA CHERRY DRIVE, LAS
VEGAS, NEVADA 89141; 5608
QUIET CLOUD DRIVE, LAS VEGAS,
NEVADA 89141 AND 3321
ALCUDIA BAY AVENUE, LAS
VEGAS, NEVADA 89141

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN
POLICE DEPARTMENT,

Appellant,

vs.

LAURA ANDERSON,

Respondent.

No. 71536

Electronically Filed
Nov 09 2016 10:46 a.m.
Elizabeth A. Brown

DOCKETING STATEMENT
CIVIL APPEALS

GENERAL INFORMATION

All appellants not in proper person must complete this docketing statement. NRAP 14(a). The purpose of the docketing statement is to assist the Court in screening jurisdiction, classifying cases for en banc, panel, or expedited treatment, compiling statistical information and identifying parties and their counsel.

WARNING

This statement must be completed fully, accurately and on time. NRAP 14(c). The Court may impose sanctions on counsel or appellant if it appears that the information provided is incomplete or inaccurate. *Id.* Failure to fill out the statement completely or to file it in a timely manner constitutes grounds for the imposition of sanctions, including a fine and/or dismissal of the appeal.

A complete list of the documents that must be attached appears as Question 26 on this docketing statement. Failure to attach all required documents will result in the delay of your appeal and may result in the imposition of sanctions.

This court has noted that when attorneys do not take seriously their obligations under NRAP 14 to complete the docketing statement properly and conscientiously, they waste the valuable judicial resources of this court, making the imposition of sanctions appropriate. *See KDI Sylvan Pools v. Workman*, 107 Nev. 340, 344, 810 P.2d 1217, 1220 (1991). Please use tab dividers to separate any attached documents.

1. Judicial District: Eighth
Department: XXVIII
County: Clark
Judge: Honorable Ronald J. Israel
District Ct. Case No.: A-16-732077-C

2. **Attorney filing this docketing statement:**

Attorney: Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Telephone: (702) 382-0711
Firm: Marquis Aurbach Coffing
Address: 10001 Park Run Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89145
Client(s): Appellant, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

3. **Attorney(s) representing respondent(s):**

Attorney: Kathleen Bliss, Esq.
Telephone (702) 366-1888
Firm Kathleen Bliss Law, PLLC
Address 400 So. 4th Street, Suite 500, Las Vegas, NV 89101
Client(s) Respondent, Laura Anderson

4. **Nature of disposition below (check all that apply):**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after bench trial | <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after jury verdict | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of Jurisdiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summary judgment | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to state a claim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Default judgment | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to prosecute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of injunction | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce decree: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of declaratory relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Modification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review of agency determination | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other disposition (specify) Award of attorney's fees. |

5. **Does this appeal raise issues concerning any of the following:**

- ☐ Child Custody
☐ Venue
☐ Termination of parental rights

6. **Pending and prior proceedings in this court.** List the case name and docket number of all appeals or original proceedings presently or previously pending before this court which are related to this appeal:

This case has not been the subject of any appeal or writ proceeding in this Court.

7. **Pending and prior proceedings in other courts.** List the case name, number and court of all pending and prior proceedings in other courts which are related to this appeal (*e.g.*, bankruptcy, consolidated or bifurcated proceedings) and their dates of disposition:

In Re The Execution Search Warrants For: 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141; 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141; 5608 Quiet Cloud Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141; and 3321 Alcudia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141

Eighth Judicial District Court, Case No. A-16-7323077-C

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

Plaintiff sought return of personal property seized pursuant to search warrants. The District Court ordered LVMPD to return the seized property and, thereafter, Plaintiff moved for an award of attorney's fees and costs. The Court denied the motion for costs and for the full amount of fees requested, but awarded Plaintiff a portion of the attorney's fees requested.

9. **Issues on appeal.** State concisely the principal issue(s) in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):

- (1) Whether the District Court erred in granting Laura Anderson's Motion for Attorneys Fees?

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

None.

11. **Constitutional issues.** If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?

☒ N/A

☐ Yes

☐ No

If not, explain:

12. **Other issues.** Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?

- ☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))
- ☐ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions
- ☐ A substantial issue of first impression
- ☐ An issue of public policy
- ☐ An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's decisions
- ☐ A ballot question

If so, explain:

13. **Assignment to the Supreme Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court.** Briefly set forth whether the matter is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court or assigned to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, and cite the subparagraph(s) of the Rule under which the matter falls. If appellant believes that the Supreme Court should retain the case despite its presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals, identify the specific issue(s) or circumstance(s) that warrant retaining the case, and include an explanation of their importance or significance:

N/A

14. **Trial.** If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last? N/A
Was it a bench or jury trial? N/A

15. **Judicial Disqualification.** Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice recuse him/herself from participation in this appeal? If so, which Justice?

N/A

TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

16. **Date of entry of written judgment or order appealed from** September 22, 2016.

If no written judgment or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for seeking appellate review: N/A

17. Date written notice of entry of judgment or order was served. September 22, 2016.

Was service by:

☐ Delivery

☒ Mail/electronic/fax

18. If the time for filing the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion (NRCP 50(b), 52(b), or 59)

(a) Specify the type of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and the date of filing.

☐ NRCP 50(b) Date of filing

☐ NRCP 52(b) Date of filing

☐ NRCP 59 Date of filing

NOTE: Motions made pursuant to NRCP 60 or motions for rehearing or reconsideration may toll the time for filing a notice of appeal. *See AA Primo Builders v. Washington*, 126 Nev. ___, 245 P.3d 1190 (2010).

(b) Date of entry of written order resolving tolling motion N/A.

(c) Date written notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served N/A.

Was service by:

☐ Delivery

☐ Mail

19. Date notice of appeal filed. October 13, 2016.

If more than one party has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each notice of appeal was filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:

October 13, 2016

20. Specify statute or rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other

NRAP 4(a)

SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY

21. Specify the statute or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review the judgment or order appealed from:

(a)

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRAP 3A(b)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> NRS 38.205 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRAP 3A(b)(2) | <input type="checkbox"/> NRS 233B.150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRAP 3A(b)(3) | <input type="checkbox"/> NRS 703.376 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) NRAP 3A(b)(8) | |

(b) Explain how each authority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order:

NRAP 3A(b)(8) permits an appeal from a special order entered after final judgment.

22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court:

(a) Parties:

Laura Anderson

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, e.g., formally dismissed, not served, or other:

N/A

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

Laura Anderson moved and was awarded a portion of her requested attorneys fees. The district court entered the notice of entry of order on September 22, 2016.

24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?

☒ Yes

☐ No

25. If you answered “No” to question 24, complete the following:

(a) Specify the claims remaining pending below:

(b) Specify the parties remaining below:

(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

(d) Did the district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), that there is no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of judgment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

26. If you answered “No” to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):

27. Attach file-stamped copies of the following documents:

- The latest-filed complaint, counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party claims
- Any tolling motion(s) and order(s) resolving tolling motion(s)
- Orders of NRCP 41(a) dismissals formally resolving each claim, counterclaims, cross-claims and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidated action below, even if not at issue on appeal
- Any other order challenged on appeal
- Notices of entry for each attached order

Exhibit No.	Description
1	Laura Anderson’s Motion for Return of Seized Property (filed 2/19/16)

2	LVMPD's Opposition to Motion for Return of Seized Property (filed 3/10/16)
3	Laura Anderson's Reply in Support of Her Motion for Return of Seized Property (filed 3/24/16)
4	Notice of Entry of Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Return of Seized Property (filed 4/26/16)
5	Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Affidavit of Kathleen Bliss, Esq. in Support (filed 5/16/16)
6	LVMPD's Motion to Retax Costs (filed 5/20/16)
7	LVMPD's Opposition to Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs (filed 6/03/16)
8	Reply in Support of Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs (filed 6/15/16)
9	LVMPD's Reply in Support of Motion to Retax Costs (filed 6/16/16)
10	Court Minutes on All Pending Motions (filed 6/22/16)
11	LVMPD's Supplemental Brief in Opposition to the Motion for Attorneys Fees (filed 8/18/16)
12	Response to LVMPD's Supplemental Brief on Laura Anderson's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs
13	Court Minutes – Decision regarding Attorney Fees & Status of Return of Property (filed 9/07/16)
14	Notice of Entry of Order on Movant's Motion for Attorneys Fees (filed 9/22/16)

VERIFICATION

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

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept.
Name of appellant

Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Name of counsel of record

November 9, 2016
Date

/s/ Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Signature of counsel of record

Clark County, Nevada
State and county where signed

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 9th day of November, 2016, I served a copy of this completed docketing statement upon all counsel of record:

☒ By Electronic Service in accordance with the Master Service List:

Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

☒ By mailing it by first class mail with sufficient postage prepaid to the following address(es):

M. Nelson Segal, Esq.
624 South 9th Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Settlement Judge

Dated this 9th day of November, 2016.

/s/ Suzanne Boggs

Signature

EXHIBIT “1”


CLERK OF THE COURT

MOT

Kathleen Bliss, Esq.
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Attorneys for movant/real party
in interest Laura Anderson

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;
54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;
5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141; and
3321 Alcuia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

**LAURA ANDERSON'S MOTION FOR
RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY**

Movant/real party in interest, Laura Anderson, by and through counsel Kathleen Bliss, Esq., and Jason Hicks, Esq., of the law firm Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby moves the Court for an order requiring the return of property seized from her, and/or located and then seized, during the execution of Clark County search warrants on the below residences in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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This motion is made and based upon the following memorandum of points and authorities, the pleadings and papers on file, any exhibits attached hereto, the affidavits of Laura Anderson and Kathleen Bliss, Esq., and any argument that the Court may entertain at the time of hearing.

Dated this 18th day of February 2016.

KATHLEEN BLISS LAW PLLC

/s/ Kathleen Bliss

Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 7606

Jason Hicks, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 13149

400 S. 4th St., Suite 500

Las Vegas, NV 89101

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Facsimile: 702.793.4001

Attorneys for movant/real party in interest,
Laura Anderson

This motion is made and based upon the following memorandum of points and authorities, the pleadings and papers on file, any exhibits attached hereto, the affidavits of Laura Anderson and Kathleen Bliss, Esq., and any argument that the Court may entertain at the time of hearing.

Dated this 18th day of February 2016.

KATHLEEN BLISS LAW PLLC

/s/ Kathleen Bliss

Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 7606

Jason Hicks, Esq.

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400 S. 4th St., Suite 500

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Telephone: 702.793.4000

Facsimile: 702.793.4001

Attorneys for movant/real party in interest,
Laura Anderson

1 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

2 This motion must be treated as a civil complaint seeking equitable relief pursuant to NRS
3 179.085(5). Movant respectfully demands a jury trial, to the extent such a demand is required
4 under NRS 179.085 and the applicable rules of procedure, as well as damages in an amount
5 exceeding \$10,000, to be proved. This Court has jurisdiction pursuant to NRS 179.085 and the
6 Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution. Venue is proper as the parties, properties,
7 events, and search warrants took place in Clark County, Nevada.

8 **I. BACKGROUND**

9 On or about May 18, 2015, Judge Jerry Weiss approved search warrants for the following
10 five residential properties: (1) 12607 Oakland Hills Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141; (2) 54
11 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141; (3) 5608 Quiet Cloud Court, Las Vegas, Nevada,
12 89141; (4) 3321 Alcludia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141; and (5) 5108 Masotta Avenue,
13 Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD") detective Greg
14 Flores obtained these warrants based upon his suspicion that the offense of Pandering and Living
15 Off the Earnings of Prostitution, a violation of NRS 201.320, had been committed by Laura
16 Anderson ("Ms. Anderson" or "Movant") and several others. *See* Exhibit A (Search Warrant). The
17 LVMPD executed these warrants the same day and seized property belonging to movant/real party
18 in interest, Ms. Anderson, including vehicles, electronics, cash, and various other personal effects.

19 At or about the time that the search warrants were executed at the above addresses, Notices
20 of Intent to Seek Indictment, or *Marcum*¹ notices, were provided to the suspects.² During this
21 timeframe, the undersigned contacted Detective Flores, believed to be leading the investigation
22 based upon the fact that his affidavit of probable cause was used to secure the warrants. *See*
23 Affidavit of Kathleen Bliss, Esq., attached hereto. Detective Flores indicated that either Chief
24 Deputy District Attorney Noreen DeMonte or Deputy District Attorney Samuel Martinez would

25
26 ¹ *Sheriff v Marcum*, 105 Nev. 824 (1989) requires that a defendant be given reasonable notice that
he or she is the target of a grand jury investigation.

27 ² The suspects are all shareholders of Libra Group, Inc.: Persha Stanley, Heather Herrera, Sarah
28 Wedge, Inas Ward, Kathleen Caldwell and Ms. Anderson.

1 know the status of filing charges. *Id.* However, since the onset of the investigation, and up and
2 until counsel's last conversation with Detective Flores on Friday, October 23, 2015, it has been the
3 undersigned's clear understanding from Detective Flores that neither Ms. Anderson nor any other
4 shareholder of Libra Group, Inc., is a target subject to prosecution despite the *Marcum* notices. *Id.*

5 Presumably the computer forensic search has been completed over the last nine months, and
6 all of Ms. Anderson's electronic devices have been copied for analysis. It is now time, then, for
7 LVMPD to return the property as it has been duly preserved, and the continued retention of Ms.
8 Anderson's property is causing her ongoing damages. Moreover, the LVMPD has had ample time
9 in which to determine whether the remainder of Ms. Anderson's property that it seized, i.e., vehicles,
10 financial documents, casino chips, cash, jewelry, etc., has any independent evidentiary value (which
11 it does not).

12 The undersigned contacted the District Attorney's Office and counsel for the LVMPD by
13 way of letter on October 30, 2015, in an attempt to obtain the return of Ms. Anderson's property
14 without the necessity of the Court's intervention. See Exhibit B (Oct. 30, 2015, letter to counsel).
15 This letter went unanswered. Accordingly, by way of this motion Movant seeks an order directing
16 the immediate return of her property and compensating her for the damages sustained.

17 II. ARGUMENT

18 Nine months have now passed since the warrants were executed and Ms. Anderson's
19 property was seized. Despite this significant passage of time, no criminal charges have been filed
20 nor has a civil forfeiture action been initiated by the State. While the interests of law enforcement
21 in holding property that may potentially constitute evidence in an ongoing investigation are
22 generally legitimate, it appears, based upon the State's prolonged inaction, that an investigation into
23 Ms. Anderson is no longer taking place, and/or that the subject property does not have any
24 independent evidentiary value which would justify its protracted retention. While law enforcement
25 and prosecutors have a duty to faithfully serve the public in the execution of their official duties,
26 there remains a concomitant duty to forgo efforts when those efforts are obviously leading nowhere.

27 While the State sits on its hands, Ms. Anderson and her family members continue to be
28

1 harmed by its inaction. *See* Affidavit of Laura Anderson, attached hereto. Despite being deprived
2 of her vehicles for the last nine months, Ms. Anderson has nevertheless been required to continue
3 making her insurance payments on the seized vehicles in order to avoid losing her registrations and
4 receiving negative credit reporting. *Id.* Because these vehicles were also used for business
5 purposes, their deprivation has continued to impact her operations and cause harm to Ms.
6 Anderson's businesses. *Id.* Ms. Anderson has been required to obtain numerous rental vehicles to
7 use in the interim, unnecessarily costing her thousands of dollars. *Id.* She has also been required to
8 pay impound fees and, most damaging, she had to pay nearly \$120,000.00 to Mercedes Benz in
9 order to satisfy property dispositions for two of the vehicles. *Id.*

10 Further, the State has seized property related to a medical marijuana business for which Ms.
11 Anderson has a valid license to maintain. *Id.* Indeed, counsel for Ms. Anderson has since provided
12 the LVMPD and the State with said license, but has not gained any ground. *See* Affidavit of
13 Kathleen Bliss, Esq., attached hereto. This equipment includes marijuana plants, lights, tints and
14 other necessary paraphernalia purchased for over \$10,000.00 by Ms. Anderson.

15 Ms. Anderson is a businesswoman with ongoing projects in multiple industries such as
16 music, dance, limousine services, and cellular phone franchising, and has been forced to take out
17 nearly \$100,000.00 in loans from friends and family members in order to cover her expenses. *Id.*
18 All the while, the State has sat on tens of thousands of U.S. Currency seized from Ms. Anderson, in
19 addition to various personal items and vehicles worth several hundred thousand dollars more.

20 Finally, the State has also seized property that cannot reasonably said to constitute evidence
21 related to any pending investigation such as, for instance, a personal tablet belonging to Ms.
22 Anderson's autistic son, and a Rolex watch belonging to her deceased fiancée and father of her son.
23 Likewise, the remainder of Ms. Anderson's personal property, in particular her vehicles, jewelry,
24 financial documents and the like, cannot reasonably be said to have any independent evidentiary
25 value.³ Similarly, where there is no restitution or forfeiture action, currency generally has no

26 ³ While it is anticipated that the State will argue that the subject property does have independent
27 evidentiary value, Ms. Anderson does not have the ability to meaningfully dispute this assertion
28 because the probable cause affidavits remained sealed and the State has refused to produce them
upon request. To the extent that is the State's position, Ms. Anderson requests that the Court order

1 independent evidentiary value, as its existence and amount can be established by the testimony of
2 seizing officers, inventory logs, photographs, and/or by stipulation of the parties. *See, e.g., United*
3 *States v. Mills*, 991 F.2d 609 (9th Cir. 1993); *Buker v. Superior Court*, 25 Cal. App. 3d 1085, 1089-
4 90 (Ct. App. 1972); *Stern v. Superior Court*, 76 Cal. App. 2d 772, 775, 174 P.2d 34 (1946).

5 As it stands, the State is acting, or failing to act, in direct violation of the United States
6 Constitution's mandate that "[n]o State shall . . .deprive any person of . . .property without due
7 process of law." U.S. Const. amend. XIV, § 1. The Nevada Constitution contains the same
8 assurance that "[n]o person shall be deprived of . . .property, without due process of law." Nev.
9 Const. art. 1, § 8(5). "The Due Process Clause requires notice and an opportunity to be heard before
10 the government deprives a person of his or her property." *Maiola v. State*, 120 Nev. 671, 675
11 (2004)(citing *Levingston v. Washoe Co.*, 112 Nev. 479, 484 (1996)). Ms. Anderson has been
12 deprived of personal property valued in excess of several hundred thousand dollars for nearly nine
13 months without *any* process or opportunity to be heard. Unchecked, the State's actions offend the
14 basic premise of our judicial system that "every right, when withheld, must have a remedy, and
15 every injury its proper redress." *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137, 163 (1803).

16 This long-standing principle applies here, and Movant has a remedy through this Court's
17 exercise of its equitable powers and enforcement of NRS 179.085 to direct the return of property
18 that has been unreasonably held without process of law. That statute provides in relevant part:

19 1. A person aggrieved by an unlawful search and seizure *or the*
20 *deprivation of property* may move the court having jurisdiction
where the property was seized for the return of the property on the
ground that:

- 21 (a) The property was illegally seized without warrant;
22 (b) The warrant is insufficient on its face;
23 (b) There was not probable cause for believing the existence of
24 the grounds on which the warrant was issued;
25 (d) The warrant was illegally executed; or
26 (e) *Retention of the property by law enforcement is not*
reasonable under the totality of the circumstances.

27
28 the State to produce the sealed probable cause affidavits.

1 The judge shall receive evidence on any issue of fact necessary to
2 the decision of the motion.

3

- 4 3. If the motion is granted *on the ground set forth in paragraph (e)*
5 of subsection 1, the property *must* be restored, but the court may
6 impose reasonable conditions to protect access to the property
7 and its use in later proceedings.

8

- 9 5. If a motion pursuant to this section is filed when no criminal
10 proceeding is pending, the motion *must* be treated as a civil
11 complaint seeking equitable relief.

12 NRS 179.085 (emphasis added).

13 In 2004, the Nevada Supreme Court held that "NRS 179.085(1) strongly suggests that the
14 Legislature also intended to provide an *expeditious* method for return of [] property by motion."
15 *Maiola*, 120 Nev. at 678 (emphasis added). The Court's determination was founded upon its
16 conclusion that the statute "implies that the same court that has the jurisdiction to suppress the
17 evidence also has jurisdiction to return the property, since it equates the court that suppresses
18 evidence with the court that returns property." *Id.* In other words, the Court may exercise its
19 jurisdiction to resolve this matter in equity, post haste.

20 The *Maiola* Court accurately anticipated the Legislature's intent that NRS 179.085 serve
21 independent dual functions in (1) providing a method to suppress evidence *and/or* (2) obtaining the
22 return of seized property. This intent has recently been codified through several amendments to
23 NRS 179.085, effective October 1, 2015. In particular, the Legislature has expressed its desire that
24 the statute serve this independent dual function through its addition of an unambiguous directive
25 that "a person aggrieved by an unlawful search and seizure *or the deprivation of property* may move
26 the court having jurisdiction where the property was seized for the return of the property on the
27 ground that. . ." NRS 179.085(1)(emphasis added). It is therefore clear that a motion for the return
28 of property does not necessarily rest upon a preliminary showing that the property was illegally
seized, and a movant may request return without being required to attack the lawfulness of the
warrant, as is the case here.

1 There are two more recently enacted subsections that are of note here. First, an additional
2 basis for the return of property has been added in instances where the "[r]etention of the property
3 by law enforcement is not reasonable under the totality of the circumstances." NRS 179.085(1)(e).
4 The basis of Ms. Anderson's motion is, quite simply, that the State has withheld her property for
5 nine months without process of any kind, and without initiating criminal proceedings or a forfeiture
6 action, making the extended retention of it unreasonable under the totality of the circumstances.
7 Furthermore, continued requests by Ms. Anderson, through her counsel, have proved fruitless and
8 gone without resolution. The return of property under these circumstances fits squarely within the
9 equitable nature of the statute as noted by the *Maiola* Court and as contemplated by its federal
10 counterpart, discussed below.

11 Second, the Legislature has recently added language clarifying the proper procedural avenue
12 under these circumstances, adding that "[i]f a motion pursuant to this section is filed when no
13 criminal proceeding is pending, the motion must be treated as a civil complaint seeking equitable
14 relief." NRS 179.085(5). As with the other newly added subsections discussed above, this language
15 simply codifies a procedure already established by the Nevada Supreme Court in 2004, making clear
16 that this court may exercise its equitable jurisdiction to order the return of Ms. Anderson's property
17 under the present circumstances. *See Maiola*, 120 Nev. at 676-77 (holding that courts have equitable
18 jurisdiction to order the return of property based, in part, upon courts' inherent authority over those
19 who are officers of the court, such as the District Attorney's Office). Accordingly, the Court may
20 treat the instant motion as a civil complaint seeking equitable return of property, even without the
21 existence of pending criminal charges, because the motion is based upon the reasonableness of the
22 retention given the totality of the circumstances. *See* NRS 179.085(1)(e).

23 Because this language was added by the Legislature in 2015 and did not go into effect until
24 October 1, 2015, there is not yet any case law applying these particular subsections. However, in
25 the past, the Nevada Supreme Court has specifically relied on NRS 179.085's federal counterpart,
26 Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 41(g), in deciding motions for return of property. *See, e. g.,*
27 *Maiola v. State*, 82 P.3d 38, 40-41 (Nev. 2004)(*withdrawn and superseded on rehearing on other*
28

1 grounds by *Maiola v. State*, 120 Nev. 671 (2004)). Rule 41 closely mirrors Nevada's statute,
2 including the newly added subsections, and provides in pertinent part that "[a] person aggrieved by
3 an unlawful search and seizure of property or by the deprivation of property may move for the
4 property's return." See Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(g). Although dealing with the federal Rules, the Ninth
5 Circuit and various federal courts within its jurisdiction—including the District of Nevada—have
6 analyzed and applied Rule 41(g) in similar situations, and this authority is instructive here.

7 The Ninth Circuit has repeatedly held that, while Rule 41(g) is ordinarily used to seek return
8 of property after an indictment is issued, "'district courts have the [equitable] power to entertain
9 motions to return property seized by the government when there are no criminal proceedings
10 pending against the movant.'" *Ramsden v. United States*, 2 F.3d 322, 324 (9th Cir. 1993)(citing
11 *United States v. Martinson*, 809 F.2d 1364, 1366-67 (9th Cir. 1987); see also *United States v. Kama*,
12 394 F.3d 1236, 1238 (9th Cir. 2005). "Rule 41(e) does not set forth a precise test for determining
13 whether the illegally seized documents should be returned to a movant." *Ramsden*, 2 F.3d at 326.
14 Rather, "'reasonableness under all of the circumstances must be the test when a person seeks to
15 obtain the return of property.'" *Id.* (quoting Advisory Committee Notes to the 1989 Amendment of
16 Rule 41(e)). The government's "retention of the property generally is reasonable if it has a need for
17 the property in an investigation or prosecution." *Ramsden*, 2 F.3d at 326. "However, 'if the United
18 States' legitimate interests can be satisfied even if the property is returned, continued retention of
19 the property would become unreasonable.'" *Id.* at 326-27 (quoting Advisory Committee Notes to
20 the 1989 Amendment of Rule 41(e)).

21 As previously discussed, in all likelihood the State has already mirrored the data contained
22 on Ms. Anderson's computers, cellphones, and tablets. And, various items of personal property
23 such as her vehicles and cash have zero independent evidentiary value. The existence and amount
24 of these later items may be established by photographs, testimony of the officers, or stipulation of
25 the parties. Thus the State's "legitimate interests" can be satisfied with the return of this property,
26 and therefore continued retention is unreasonable. *Ramsden*, 2. F.3d at 326-27.

27 Indeed, the return of seized property is appropriate if the movant is "entitled to lawful
28

1 possession of the seized property," and the property is not contraband." *United States v. Van*
2 *Cauwenberghe*, 934 F.2d 1048, 1061 (9th Cir. 1991). A motion for the return of property may be
3 filed at any time after the seizure, and a criminal defendant is presumed to have the right to the
4 return of his property once it is no longer needed as evidence. *Id.* The *burden of proof is on the*
5 *government* to show "that it has a legitimate reason to retain the property" that is reasonable under
6 all of the circumstances. *Id.* (citing *Martinson* 809 F.2d at 1369)(emphasis added).

7 "Whenever the government seizes a significant amount of money and withholds it for an
8 unreasonable length of time without bringing charges and without offering evidence to justify its
9 continued withholding[,] and without any indication as to when if ever charges will be filed, the
10 plaintiff suffers irreparable harm." *Mr. Lucky Messenger Service, Inc. v. United States*, 587 F.2d
11 15, 18 (7th Cir. 1978). Ms. Anderson and her family have suffered such harm through the State's
12 prolonged and unreasonable retention of her lawfully owned property. Under these circumstances,
13 and as more time passes, the State's withholding of Ms. Anderson's property without initiating
14 criminal or civil proceedings becomes increasingly unjustifiable, and therefore progressively
15 violative of her Due Process rights and Nevada law. Absent a showing by the State of a legitimate
16 and objectively reasonable basis for this delay, Ms. Anderson is entitled to the return of her property.

17 III. PROPERTY SOUGHT TO BE RETURNED

18 Ms. Anderson respectfully requests that the Court order the return of all property belonging
19 to her including, but not limited to, the property specifically listed below. The property identified
20 below has been gathered from the various property return receipts and logs. It should be noted,
21 however, that the property logs and receipts do not match up in all instances, i.e., property listed in
22 one is not necessarily specified in the other. In the event the State has seized property belonging to
23 Ms. Anderson that is not specifically listed below, Ms. Anderson requests the Court order its return
24 as well.

25 A. 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141

- 26 I. The following thirteen (13) cellular telephones: (1) Samsung Galaxy Note II, gray in
27 color, serial number 99000208447938; (2) Samsung Galaxy Note II, white in color,
28

- 1 serial number 99000210823531; (3) Sony T-Mobile Xperia, black in color, serial
2 number 4170B-PM0520; (4) Samsung Galaxy Note 4, white in color, serial number
3 99000476790932; (5) Samsung Galaxy Note 4, black in color, serial number
4 99000472749763; (6) Samsung Galaxy Note 3, white in color, serial number
5 99000434509753; (7) Samsung Galaxy S II, white in color, serial number
6 000003062F80A; (8) Apple iPhone, white in color, serial number 358806053465371;
7 (9) Samsung Galaxy Note 4, white in color, serial number 99000474506325; (10)
8 Samsung Galaxy S III, black in color, serial number 99000115774423; (11) Apple
9 iPhone, white in color, serial number 3520004061630741; (12) Samsung Galaxy
10 Note 4, white in color, serial number 99000476776052; and (13) Apple iPhone, black
11 in color, serial number 357994053715077;
- 12 2. Three (3) laptop computers: (1) Apple MacBook Air, silver in color, serial number
13 4324A-BRCM1052; (2) Dell Inspiron 15-5547, silver in color, serial number
14 H1SSM602; and (3) Apple MacBook Pro, silver in color, serial number
15 4324ABRCM1055;
- 16 3. Three (3) computer tablets: (1) Samsung, white in color, serial number SM-T230NU;
17 (2) Samsung SM-900, white in color, serial number RF2F616X8JJ; and (3) Samsung,
18 white in color, serial number SM-T330NU;
- 19 4. Calendar;
- 20 5. Possessory items belonging to Laura Anderson;
- 21 6. Casino chips totaling \$2,648.00 in United States currency;
- 22 7. Ledgers;
- 23 8. Two (2) cashier check-customer copies from Bank of America;
- 24 9. Five (5) Visa credit cards;
- 25 10. Two (2) Visa debit cards;
- 26 11. Louis Vuitton purse;
- 27 12. Black wallet;
- 28

13. Ten (10) phone, laptop and/or tablet cases;
 14. Miscellaneous paperwork;
 15. Owe sheets;
 16. Checkbooks;
 17. Gaming receipts;
 18. Casino player's cards from: (1) the M Resort & Spa and (2) the Wynn/Encore Hotel & Casino;
 19. Bank statements;
 20. Credit card records;
 21. Organizers;
 22. Travel documentation;
 23. 40 caliber Smith & Wesson handgun, black in color, serial number 7111865;
 24. Two (2) silver colored skeleton keys;
 25. The package located inside the men's handbag recovered from the maroon 2015 Mercedes S550, Nevada license plate LVM4V1, containing \$500.00 in United States currency.
 26. Wireless headphones located in the Mercedes used for onboard entertainment;
 27. The package recovered from a purse located in the southeastern bedroom containing \$1,755.00 in United States currency;
 28. \$54,892.00 in United States currency recovered from a safe located in the master bedroom's closet;
 29. \$31.00 in United States currency recovered from Ms. Anderson's personal miscellaneous paperwork;
 30. Collection of men's and women's jewelry (watches, earrings, necklace, rings, etc.).
- B. 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141
1. Four cellular phones, make, model, and serial number unknown;
 2. Miscellaneous paperwork;

1 3. Photographs;

2 4. Tablet, make, model, and serial number unknown; and

3 C. 5608 Quiet Cloud, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141

4 1. Black 2014 Mercedes Sprinter van, VIN WDZPE8DC9E5856264, Nevada license
5 plate LVL0X3.

6 2. White 2009 Mercedes S550, VIN WDDNG71X09A272339, Nevada license plate
7 LVJ7K1.

8 3. 2 glass marijuana pipes;

9 4. Miscellaneous paperwork;

10 5. White cellphone, make, model, and serial number unknown;

11 6. HP Computer, serial number unknown;

12 7. Black iPad, serial number unknown;

13 8. White iPad, serial number unknown;

14 9. 2 Samsung tablets, serial numbers unknown;

15 10. Kodak camera, model and serial number unknown;

16 11. SD card;

17 12. ZTE phone, serial number unknown;

18 13. LG flip phone, serial number unknown;

19 14. Samsung Galaxy Note II, serial number unknown;

20 15. Samsung SL720 digital camera, serial number unknown;

21 16. Toshiba external hard drive, serial number unknown;

22 17. WD external hard drive, serial number unknown;

23 18. Dane 32g flash drive, serial number unknown;

24 19. SD card, make, model, and serial number unknown;

25 20. Purple iPod Shuffle, serial number unknown;

26 21. Xtreme Play tablet, serial number unknown;

27 22. Sony digital camera, model and serial number unknown; and

28

1 23. HP computer tower and cord, make and serial number unknown.
2 D. 3321 Alcudia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141
3 1. Marijuana plants;
4 2. CO2 tanks and gauges;
5 3. 3 Grow tents;
6 4. Grow trays
7 5. Lights
8 6. Miscellaneous chemicals;
9 7. Ballasts;
10 8. Grodans blocks;
11 9. Fans;
12 10. Portable A/C;
13 11. Sub pumps;
14 12. 55 gallon drums;
15 13. Duct work;
16 14. Buckets;
17 15. Mail key;
18 16. Miscellaneous paperwork;
19 17. Glass smoking pipes;
20 18. Hi-Point firearm;
21 19. 40 Smith & Wesson serial number 7111865.
22 \\\
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28

1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 Based upon the foregoing, movant/real party in interest, Laura Anderson, respectfully
3 requests that the Court enter an order directing the LVMPD and/or Clark County District Attorney's
4 Office to immediately return her above reference property. Ms. Anderson respectfully requests an
5 award for all damages incurred herein, in an amount to be proved, costs, reasonable attorneys' fees,
6 and any other relief deemed just and proper by the Court.

7 Dated this 18th day of February 2016.

8 Respectfully submitted,

9
10 KATHLEEN BLISS LAW PLLC

11
12 /s/ Kathleen Bliss

13 Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

14 Nevada Bar No. 7606

15 Jason Hicks, Esq.

16 Nevada Bar No. 13149

17 400 S. 4th St., Suite 500

18 Las Vegas, NV 89101

19 Telephone: 702.793.4000

20 Facsimile: 702.793.4001

21 *Attorneys for movant/real party in interest,*

22 *Laura Anderson*
23
24
25
26
27
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned, an employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby certifies that on this 18th day of February 2016, I did cause a true and correct copy of the **LAURA ANDERSON'S MOTION FOR RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY** to be served via e-mail and U.S. First Class mail to:

Noreen DeMonte
Chief Deputy District Attorney, Criminal
Noreen.DeMonte@clarkcountyda.com
Samuel Martinez
Deputy District Attorney, Criminal
Samuel.Martinez@clarkcountyda.com
District Attorney's Office
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Liesl Freedman
General Counsel
Charlotte Bible
Assistant General Counsel
C9479B@LVMPD.com
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
400 S. Martin Luther King Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106

/s/ Jason Hicks

An employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141; and

3321 Aloudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141

CASE NO.:

DEPT NO.:

AFFIDAVIT OF LAURA ANDERSON IN
SUPPORT OF HER MOTION FOR
RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY

STATE OF NEVADA)
)
COUNTY OF CLARK) :ss

I, LAURA ANDERSON, do affirm and state, under penalty of perjury, the following relevant facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

1. I am the movant/real party in interest the above-captioned action.
2. On or about May 18, 2015, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department executed search warrants on five (5) different residential properties and seized various items of my personal property and effects from these residences.
3. Since that time, I have been required to pay the insurance payments and impound fees for vehicles seized by the LVMPD in connection with these warrants. The prolonged deprivation of my vehicles, which are used for both personal and business purposes, has required me to commission several rental cars, incurring additional expenses. In addition, to the best of my knowledge and belief, I have also incurred further expenses related to the vehicles as follows:
 - a. Impound fees: \$350
 - b. Possession retrieval fee: \$300
 - c. Rental vehicles: In excess of \$5,000
 - d. Payment to Mercedes Benz in the amount of \$59,250.83 to satisfy disposition of property.
 - e. Payment to Mercedes Benz in the amount of approximately \$60,000.00 to satisfy the disposition of a second vehicle. I will supply supporting paperwork with the exact amount when required.

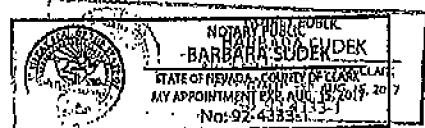
- 1 4. I have needed to purchases nine new cellular phones to replace those seized and held,
2 which cost me approximately \$1,800.00. I have also needed to purchase a new computer
3 and tablet for the same reason, which cost me approximately \$2,000.00 and \$300.00,
4 respectively.
- 5 5. To date, I have not been charged with any criminal offense(s). To my knowledge, civil
6 forfeiture proceedings have not been initiated against me or my property.
- 7 6. I hold a valid Nevada medical marijuana license and am therefore permitted to grow
8 marijuana up to a certain amount. The equipment I purchased and used to do so was also
9 seized and has not been return, despite the fact that I, through my attorney, presented my
10 medical marijuana license to the proper authorities at some point after the seizure of my
11 equipment. Said equipment cost me in excess of \$10,000.00.
- 12 7. The LVMPD's retention of my property for the last nine months has caused me harm in
13 that it has deprived me of funds necessary to pay my bills and expenses, interfered with the
14 operation of my businesses, caused me to continue paying for vehicles that I am no longer
15 in possession of in order to avoid losing my registrations and damaging my credit, and
16 required me to obtain loans.
- 17 8. I have been forced to secure loans from family and friends in order to cover my business
18 and personal expenses in the amount of approximately \$96,000.00.
- 19 9. The monetary amounts listed herein are exclusive of the actual monetary value of the
20 personal property which was seized, which I estimate to be more than \$100,000.00,
21 exclusive of the cash already seized.
- 22 10. As a result of these events I have been required to retain an attorney and incur costs and
23 attorneys' fees related to the seizure and retention of my property.

24 DATED this 12 day of February 2016.

25 *Laura Anderson*
26 Laura Anderson

27 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me
28 this 12 day of February 2016.

29 *[Signature]*
30 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State



31 My Commission Expires: _____

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141; and

3321 Alcludia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141

CASE NO.:

DEPT NO.:

AFFIDAVIT OF KATHLEEN BLISS IN
SUPPORT OF LAURA ANDERSON'S
MOTION FOR RETURN OF SEIZED
PROPERTY

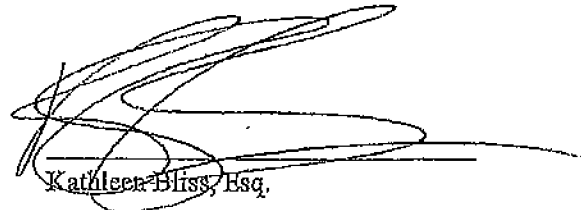
STATE OF NEVADA)
) :ss
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, KATHLEEN BLISS, do affirm and state, under penalty of perjury, the following relevant facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge:


1. I am counsel of record for the movant/real party of interest in the above captioned matter, Laura Anderson.
2. On or about May 18, 2015, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department executed search warrants on five (5) different residential properties and seized various items of Ms. Anderson's personal property and effects from these residences.
3. To date, no criminal charges have been filed against Ms. Anderson or the other members of her business, the Libra Group, nor have civil forfeiture proceedings been initiated.
4. At or about the time that the search warrants were executed at the above addresses, Notices of Intent to Seek Indictment, or *Marcum* notices, were provided to the suspects. During this timeframe, I contacted Detective Greg Flores, whom I believed to be leading the investigation based upon the fact that his affidavit of probable cause was used to secure the warrants. Detective Flores indicated that either Chief Deputy District Attorney Noreen DeMonte or Deputy District Attorney Samuel Martinez would know the status of filing charges.
5. I contacted the District Attorney's Office and counsel for the LVMPD by way of letter dated October 30, 2015, in an attempt to obtain the return of Ms. Anderson's property without the necessity of the Court's intervention. The property has not been returned.

- 1 6. Since the onset of the investigation, and up and until my last conversation with Detective
2 Flores on Friday, October 23, 2015, it has been my clear understanding from Detective
3 Flores that neither Ms. Anderson nor any other shareholder of Libra Group, Inc., is a target
4 subject to prosecution despite the *Marcum* notices.
5
6 7. I supplied Detective Flores with Ms. Anderson's medical marijuana card and requested
7 that he forward it to the proper parties in an effort to demonstrate that the seizure of Ms.
8 Anderson's lawfully owned medical marijuana plants and paraphernalia was improper.
9
10 8. Despite my efforts, it has been more nine months since the execution of the subject search
11 warrants without progress or legal process, necessitating the filing of the instant motion.
12
13 9. Attached as Exhibit A to the Motion is a true and correct copy of one of the search
14 warrants for the properties. Attached as Exhibit B is a true and correct copy of the letter I
15 sent to counsel for the LVMPD and the DA's office on October 30, 2015, requesting return
16 of Ms. Anderson's property.

17 DATED this 12th day of February 2016.

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Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

17 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me
18 this 12 day of February, 2016.

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NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State

My Commission Expires: 8-15-17

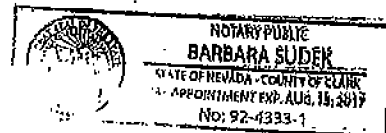


EXHIBIT A

SEARCH WARRANT

STATE OF NEVADA) Johnnie Green
) ss: ID#: 8109597
COUNTY OF CLARK) DOB: 05/04/1966 SS#: 458-39-9608

And

Laura Anderson
ID#: 8198199
DOB: 06/19/1987 SS#: 454-87-4529

The State of Nevada, to any Peace Officer in the County of Clark. Proof by Affidavit having been made before me by G. Flores, P# 6071, said Affidavit attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, that there is probable cause to believe that certain property, namely

A. Ledgers, records and any other form of documentation in writing or in computer software, or any other digital medium tending to demonstrate that the criminal offense of Pandering and Living Off the Earnings of Prostitution have been committed.

B. Records of prostitution activity including but not limited to: diaries, journals, organizers, customer lists, "owe sheets", gaming receipts, player cards, any related sports gaming documents, advertisements, and travel documentation.

C. Financial paperwork including but not limited to: tax records, employment records, bank statements, loan and lease records, vehicle ownership records, credit card records, safety deposit box account information, and documentation of expenditures.

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 2

D. Business and employment records including but not limited to: banking records, Federal tax forms and related documentation, financial records, checkbooks, receipts, financial ledgers, real estate papers, escrow files, operating agreements, and articles of incorporation.

E. Personal computers, laptop computers, electronic organizers, USB/data storage devices, cellular telephones, digital cameras, and similar electronic storage devices.

F. Keys used to open locking mechanisms of a safe, safety deposit box, storage structure or other secured storage container.

G. Photographs, film negatives, photo copies, discs, and undeveloped film negatives, digital storage devices, digital video discs which may contain evidentiary images or other visual representations of a sexual nature or depicting persons engaging in sexual activity.

H. Limited items of personal property which would tend to establish a possessory interest in the items sought to be seized pursuant to this search warrant, to include but not limited to: personal identification, utility company receipts, canceled mailed envelopes, rental agreements, telephone bills, prescription bottles, vehicle registration, vehicle repair receipts, insurance policies and letters, address and telephone records, governmental

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 3

notices, objects which bear a person's name, phone number or address.

I. United States Currency

and limited items of personal property which would tend to establish a possessory interest in the items seized pursuant to this search warrant, such as personal identification, photographs, utility receipts or addressed envelopes, are presently located at

- 1. 12067 Oakland Hills Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89141, more particularly described as:**
A single story residence located within the guard gated community of Southern Highlands Country Club. The residence is located on Oakland Hills Drive to the north of Robert Trent Jones Lane and sits on the west side of the street. The residence is tan stucco in color with white trim, a white two car garage door to the north which faces east, and a red tile roof. The numbers 12067 are black in color affixed to a white placard with a light over the numbers. The placard is affixed to the east front wall of the residence, to the south of the courtyard entry gate. The entry gate is black iron and is positioned in the center of the residence with a courtyard behind it. Beyond the courtyard is the front door of the residence which is white in color and faces east. Inside the courtyard is an orange patio umbrella which can be seen from the street of the residence. The landscape is adorned with grass and low cut shrubs leading to the entry gate. To the north of the driveway is a green mailbox with the numbers 12067 hanging on a placard below the box.

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 4

2. 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89141, more particularly described as:

A single story residence located within the guard gated community of Southern

~~Highlands Country Club and a second gated neighborhood within the Country~~

Club known as "The Masters." The residence sits at mid-block of Carolina Cherry Drive on the north side of the street. The residence is dark tan stucco in color, with a brown tile roof, and is adorned with a stone facade entry way that sits in the center of the residence. The numbers 54 are black in color and are affixed to a white placard with a light above the numbers. The placard is affixed to the garage wall to the west of the garage door, above the garage carriage light. The stone facade also surrounds the lower portion of the two car garage and single car garage. The single car garage contains one south facing window, flanked by two brown shutters. To the east of the casita's window is a decorative stone and iron arch. There are paved stone steps which lead to the entry way of the residence. The entry way is blocked by a small black iron gate which is placed in front of the center stone facade. Beyond the gate is the front door to the residence which is brown in color and faces south. The garage has two doors which are located to the west of the front door. The two car garage door is brown and the door faces south. The single car garage door shares the driveway with the two car door and faces west. The driveway is made of paved stone. The landscape of the residences is mostly stone with a small patch of synthetic grass to the east. Small shrubs are scattered throughout the front of the residence and one small tree sits to the east of the front gate.

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 5

3. 5608 Quiet Cloud Court, Las Vegas, NV 89141, more particularly described as: A two story residence located inside the gated community of Aberdeen. The residence is located on the northwest corner of Tapestry Winds Street and Quiet Cloud Court. The stucco exterior of the residence is tan in color, with dark tan tile roof, and a stone façade around the lower portion of the residence and surrounding the front door. The numbers 5608 are black in color and are affixed to a white illuminated placard. The placard is affixed to the south wall of the single car garage and is placed to the east of the garage window. The main entry door is green in color with a glass insert and faces southeast. Adjacent to the front door, to the west, is a green double French door with glass inserts. In between the front door and the French doors sits a decorative concrete fountain. Above the French doors, on the second story, is a single green door with glass insert that leads to a small balcony with an iron railing. The two car garage door is green in color, is positioned to the west on the south side of the residence, and faces south. The single car garage shares the driveway with the two car garage. The single car garage door is green in color and faces west. The landscaping of the residence consists of stone and grass. Inside the grass area, in front of the residence, are three large trees. Also, in the grass area, to the east of the driveway is a medium black iron lamp post. Small shrubs are scattered around the walkway to the front door. The west of the driveway consists of stone and two pine trees.

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 6

4. 5108 Masotta Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89141, more particularly described as: A two story residence inside the gated community of Monterosso Vintage. The residence is located on the north side of Masotta Avenue, being the fourth house, counting west from Montasola Street. The stucco exterior of the residence is tan in color, with a red tile roof, with light orange trim and accents. The numbers 5108 are black in color and are affixed to a white illuminated placard. The placard is affixed to the south front wall of the residence above the single car garage door. The front door of the residence is beige in color and faces south. The front door is flanked by two rectangular glass windows on each side of the door. The front east side of the residence contains a white two car garage door and a white single car garage door. The garage doors both face south. At the sidewalk to the west of the residence sits a gray square utility box. The landscaping consists of stone and grass. Contained inside the grass in the front yard is one large tree. Six small shrubs surround the walkway leading to the front door.

5. 3321 Alcludia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89141 More particularly described as: A Two story residence inside the gated community of San Niccolo. The residence is the fourth house on the south side of the street, counting west from the dead end. The stucco exterior of the residence is dark tan in color, with a brown tile roof, and contains light tan trim and accents. The numbers 3321 are black in color and are affixed to a white placard with a light above the numbers. The placard is affixed

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 7

to the top east side of the single car garage door. The front door of the residence sits under a covered porch area to the east of the residence. The front door is

~~brown in color and faces east. Under the covered porch area and adjacent to the~~

front door is a green illuminated entry light. The front west of the residence contains a tan two car garage door and a tan single car garage door. Both garage doors face north. The landscaping of the residence consists of grass to the east side of the single car garage door. Inside the grass area is one small tree. A gray utility box sits east of the grass area.

6. Black, 2015 Mercedes Sprinter Van, bearing NV license plate LVP7G7
7. Black, 2014 Mercedes Sprinter Van, bearing NV license plate LVL0X3
8. Black, 2015 Mercedes S550, bearing NV license plate LVR2F7
9. Dark Maroon, 2015 Mercedes S550, bearing NV license plate LVM4V1
10. White with a Black roof, 2011 Mercedes S550, bearing NV license plate LVG3U2
11. White, 2009 Mercedes S550, bearing NV license plate LVJ7K1
12. Silver, 2007 Mercedes S550, bearing TX license plate BZ3J953
13. White, 2008 BMW 3 Series, bearing CA license plate 6CAJ944
14. Black, 2011 Ford Expedition, bearing TX license plate AY14565
15. Black, 2008 Honda Civic, bearing TX license plate BV8G041

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 8

16. Black, 2002 Jaguar XJ8, bearing NV license plate 29A756

17. Any other vehicles parked within curtilage of the five listed residences, not specifically referenced, located upon service of this warrant.

18. The persons of adults or minors located at the premises at the time of execution of this warrant.

And as I am satisfied that there is probable cause to believe that said property is located as set forth above and that based upon the affidavit attached hereto there are sufficient grounds for the issuance of the Search Warrant.

You are hereby commanded to search forthwith said premises for said property, serving this warrant between the hours of 7:00 A.M. & 7:00 P.M., and if the property is there to seize it, prepare a written inventory of the property seized, and make a return for me within ten days, pursuant to NRS 179.075 and then, transfer said property to a sworn law enforcement officer employed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where such property shall be held subject to further order of a Nevada court or the Federal District court in and for Nevada, pursuant to NRS 179.105.

SEARCH WARRANT
(Continuation)

Page 9

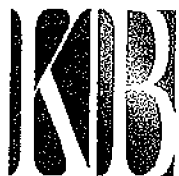
During the execution of this search warrant I authorize FBI law enforcement officers to
be present and assist Nevada authorities.

Dated this 15th day of May, 2015



JUDGE

EXHIBIT B



Kathleen Bliss Law Group

Trial Attorney

• Federal Indian Law • Federal Criminal and Financial Investigations •

4240 West Flamingo Road
Suite 220
Las Vegas, Nevada 89103
Phone: (702) 366-1888
Fax: (702) 366-1940

October 30, 2015

Liesl Freidman, General Counsel
Charlotte Bible, Assistant General Counsel
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
400 S. Martin L. King Blvd.
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Noreen DeMonte
Chief Deputy District Attorney, Criminal
Samuel Martinez
Deputy District Attorney, Criminal
Office of the District Attorney
200 Lewis Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Re: Return of Property and Status of Investigation, Event #14057-3035

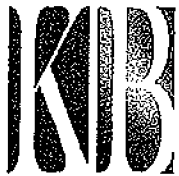
Dear Counsel:

As you know, I represent Laura Anderson and Libra Group, Inc., and its shareholders. On May 18, 2015, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) executed a series of search warrants at the following addresses that were legally occupied by my clients:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141,
5608 Quiet Cloud, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141, and
54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141

Another, seemingly unrelated search warrant, was executed at 3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89141, and was opened as 150517-2385. By separate letter I have requested the return of property seized at Alcudia Bay, as that property belongs to my client, Ms. Anderson, relative to her legally authorized medical marijuana patient cards, which I have provided to LVMPD and the Civil Division as suggested by LVMPD.

Property seized at the Oakland Hills, Quiet Cloud and Carolina Cherry Drive addresses included, but was not limited to, vehicles, computers, cell phones and financial records. Some of the computers belonged to children, like Ms. Anderson's autistic son.



Kathleen Bliss Law Group

Trial Attorney

• Federal Indian Law • Federal Criminal and Financial Investigations •

4240 West Flamingo Road
Suite 220

Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

Phone: (702) 366-1888

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Letter re Return of Property and Status of Investigation, Event No. 140507-3035

October 30, 2015

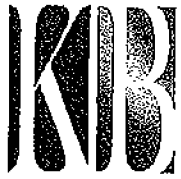
Page 2

At or about the time that the search warrants by LVMPD were executed at the above addresses, "Notices of Intent to Seek Indictment" or "Markum" notices were given to my clients, all shareholders of Libra Group, Inc.: Persha Stanley, Heather Herrera, Sarah Wedge, Inas Ward, Kathleen Caldwell and Ms. Anderson. During this timeframe, I contacted Detective Greg Flores, whom I understand is leading the investigation. He indicated that either Ms. DeMonte or Mr. Martinez would know the status of filing charges. However, since the onset of the investigation, and up and until my last conversation with Detective Flores on Friday, October 23, 2015, it has been my clear understanding from Detective Flores that neither Ms. Anderson nor anyone other shareholder of Libra Group, Inc. is a target, subject to prosecution despite the Markum notices.

I understand, too, that the computer forensic search is nearing completion and that all of the electronic devices have been copied for analysis. It is now time, then, for LVMPD to return the property as it has been duly preserved. Further, it is my earnest request that you return all property, including the financial documents of my clients, once LVMPD has determined that the property has no evidentiary value.

My clients have all suffered difficulties associated with the search of their residences. They have been penalized by credit agencies, they have had to expend thousands of dollars to replace their vehicles, which are essential to their families, and they have had to endure scorn by their neighbors. While I fully endorse the efforts of law enforcement and prosecutors in faithfully serving the public, there is a concomitant duty for public servants to forgo efforts when those efforts are obviously leading nowhere. Here, enough time has passed and you should act promptly to return the legally owned property of my clients lest they suffer further damage to their business and personal lives. This simple matter should be resolved without the necessity of me filing a motion for return of property.

I have attached the documents referenced here. Please review and authorize the release of my clients' property as expeditiously as possible but not later than November 18, 2015, which will mark six months since the seizures. Thank you for your prompt consideration.



Kathleen Bliss Law Group

Trial Attorney

• Federal Indian Law • Federal Criminal and Financial Investigations •

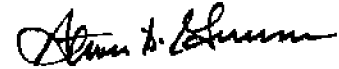
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89103

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EXHIBIT “2”



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **Marquis Aurbach Coffing**
2 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
3 Nevada Bar No. 8996
4 10001 Park Run Drive
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
6 Telephone: (702) 382-0711
7 Facsimile: (702) 382-5816
8 ncrosby@maclaw.com
9 Attorneys for LVMPD

6 **DISTRICT COURT**

7 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

8 **IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH**
9 **WARRANTS FOR:**

10 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
11 89141;

12 54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
13 89141;

14 5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
15 89141; and

16 3321 Alcludia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
17 89141,

Case No.: A-16-732077-C
Dept. No.: XXVIII

18 **LVMPD'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY**

19 The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("Department"), by and through its
20 attorney of record, Nick D. Crosby, Esq., of Marquis Aurbach Coffing, hereby files its
21 Opposition to Motion for Return of Seized Property.

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1 This Opposition is made and based upon the attached memorandum of points and
2 authorities, all papers and pleadings on file herein, and any oral argument permitted by the Court
3 at the time of the hearing.

4 Dated this 10th day of March, 2016.

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By 

Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 8996
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorney(s) for LVMPD

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

The motion is premature and the subject property should not be ordered to be returned because the case is pending review. Further, the motion fails to demonstrate why retention of the seized property is unreasonable and it is unclear whether Movant has an individual interest in the property identified. As such, the motion should be denied.

II. STATEMENT OF RELEVANT FACTS

A. THE WARRANT.

On or about May 18, 2015, officers served and executed a search warrant on five separate locations throughout the Las Vegas valley. (See Exh. A attached to Pl.'s Motion). The warrants were issued in furtherance of a pandering and living off the earnings of a prostitute criminal investigation.

B. THE MOTION.

Movant, Laura Anderson ("Movant"), filed the instant motion seeking the return of property seized from four of the five locations.¹ It is unclear whether Movant is the owner of *all*

¹ It is unclear as to why Movant only seeks return of property seized from four, rather than five, of the properties.

1 of the property identified in the motion. Movant identifies a company, Libra Group, Inc., in the
2 motion and the warrant identifies a Johnnie Green ("Green") as the subject of the warrants.
3 Green is not listed as a movant in the motion.

4 **III. LEGAL ARGUMENT**

5 **A. RELEASE OF ALL OF THE SEIZED PROPERTY IS PREMATURE.**

6 Retention of the seized property is not unreasonable because the case is currently pending
7 federal review. Nevada Revised Statute 179.085 provides, in relevant part:

8 1. A person aggrieved by an unlawful search and seizure or the deprivation
9 of property may move the court having jurisdiction where the property was seized
for the return of the property on the ground that:

10 ...

11 (e) Retention of the property by law enforcement is not reasonable under
the totality of the circumstances.

12 Nev. Rev. Stat. 179.085(1)(e). The statute further states:

13 The judge shall receive evidence on any issue of fact necessary to the decision of
14 the motion.

15 ...

16 3. If the motion is granted on the ground set forth in paragraph (e) of subsection
17 1, the property must be restored, but the court may impose reasonable conditions
to protect access to the property and its use in later proceedings.

18 ...

19 5. If a motion pursuant to this section is filed when no criminal proceeding is
20 pending, the motion must be treated as a civil complaint seeking equitable relief.

21 Id. at 179.085(3) and (5).

22 Here, Movant asserts, via declaration of counsel, that Movant is not a target of an
23 investigation or is no longer a suspect in the case. (Mot., p. 5:2-4). However, this assertion
24 appears to be limited to a *state* criminal case. The reality is that the underlying investigation is
25 currently pending federal review for potential violations of federal law. Releasing all of the
26 property at this stage in the case would improperly impede the case and put the proverbial cart
27 before the horse.
28

1 Movant does not assert the seizure of the property was improper or illegal and, instead,
2 only asserts that retention of the property is unreasonable. When property has an evidentiary
3 value and has been legally seized, the property does not have to be returned to the owner until
4 the evidentiary value of the property has been exhausted. U.S. v. Mills, 991 F.2d 609, 612 (9th
5 Cir. 1993), *citing* U.S. v. U.S. Currency Amounting to Sum of \$20,294.00 More or Less, 1495
6 F.Supp. 147, 150 (E.D.N.Y 1980). Once the government no longer has a need for the property,
7 the court has duty to return the property. U.S. v. Martinson, 809 F.2d 1364, 1370 (9th Cir.
8 1987). In this case, the Department has imaged the computer devices and is agreeable to
9 releasing the computer devices, as the mirrored images are sufficient to satisfy the government's
10 evidentiary needs in that respect. However, ordering the release of *all* of the property is
11 premature, given the pending federal review.

12 **B. FEDERAL LAW PROVIDES GUIDANCE ON THIS ISSUE AND**
13 **DEMONSTRATES RETURN OF THE PROPERTY IS PREMATURE.**

14 As noted in the motion, the statute relied upon by Movant closely mirrors that of Federal
15 Rule of Criminal Procedure 41(g). "To prevent the district courts from exercising their equitable
16 jurisdiction too liberally, the circuit courts have enumerated certain factors that must be
17 considered before a district court can reach the merits of a preindictment Rule 41[(g)] motion."
18 Ramsden v. United States, 2 F.3d 322, 324 (9th Cir. 1993). A court should consider: "(1)
19 whether the Government displayed a callous disregard for the constitutional rights of the movant;
20 (2) whether the movant has an individual interest in and need for the property she wants
21 returned; (3) whether the movant would be irreparably injured by denying return of the property;
22 and (4) whether the movant has an adequate remedy at law for the redress of his grievance." Id.

23 Here, there is no evidence offered to demonstrate the Department demonstrated a callous
24 disregard for the constitutional rights of Movant. As set forth above, Movant does not challenge
25 the sufficiency or legality of the warrants and, since the warrants were issued upon a showing of
26 probable cause, there can be no finding of callous disregard for Movant's rights because the
27 probable cause requirement of the Fourth Amendment is designed to protect the constitutional
28 interests of the moving party. See U.S. v. Comprehensive Drug Testing, 513 F.3d 1085, 1104

1 (9th Cir. 2008). In fact, when a court approves a search warrant, "great deference" should be
2 given to the finding of probable cause. See Illinois v. Gates, 462 U.S. 213, 236 (1983). Further,
3 it is not clear whether Movant has an *individual* interest in *all* of the seized property – which is a
4 requirement under a 41(g) analysis.

5 Further, Movant did not demonstrate that retention of the property caused irreparable
6 injury. Indeed, it is a well-recognized that temporary loss of income or money does not usually
7 constitute irreparable injury. Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum Commission v. Nat'l Football
8 League, 634 F.2d 1197, 1202 (9th Cir. 1980)(analyzing irreparable injury in the context of a
9 preliminary injunction). Here, Movant has only identified monetary losses stemming from the
10 retention of property. As such, Movant has failed to meet this requirement to permit the exercise
11 of the Court's equitable powers.

12 **C. MOVANT IS NOT ENTITLED TO DAMAGES OR ATTORNEYS FEES.**

13 In the motion, Movant not only requests the return of the seized property, but also
14 requests the Court award "all damages incurred herein, in an amount to be proven, costs,
15 reasonable attorneys' fees...." Even if the Court is inclined to grant the motion, it is without
16 authority to award damages or fees. Indeed, Nevada Revised Statute 179.085 provides no basis
17 for the Court to award damages or attorneys fees. As such, an award of fees, costs or damages
18 would be improper.

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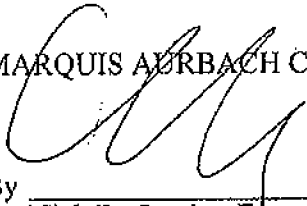
1 **IV. CONCLUSION**

2 Given the foregoing, the Department respectfully requests the Court deny the motion.
3 Alternatively, if the Court believes issues of fact exist with respect to the reasonableness of the
4 retention of property, an evidentiary hearing should be held to determine (1) ownership of the
5 subject property; and (2) the reasonableness of the Department's retention of the property.

6 Dated this 10th day of March, 2016.

7
8 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

9
10 By


11 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
12 Nevada Bar No. 8996
13 10001 Park Run Drive
14 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
15 Attorney(s) for LVMPD
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **LVMPD'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERTY** was submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the 10th day of March, 2016. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the E-Service List as follows:²

Kathleen Bliss Law Group PLLC

Contact
Jason Hicks

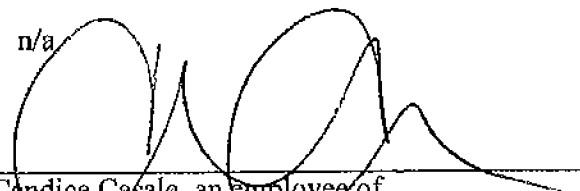
Email
jh@kathleenblisslaw.com

Kathleen Bliss Law Group, PLLC

Contact
Kathleen

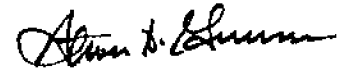
Email
kb@kathleenblisslaw.com

I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to:

n/a

Candice Casale, an employee of
Marquis Aurbach Coffing

² Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an E-Filed document through the E-Filing System consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

EXHIBIT “3”



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **RPLY**

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5 Jason Hicks, Esq.
6 Nevada Bar No. 13149
7 E-mail: jh@kathleenblisslaw.com

8 **Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC**
9 400 S. 4th St., Suite 500
10 Las Vegas, NV 89101
11 Telephone: 702.793.4000
12 Facsimile: 702.793.4001

13 Attorneys for movant/real party
14 in interest Laura Anderson

15
16 DISTRICT COURT
17 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

18 IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
19 WARRANTS FOR:

20 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
21 89141;

22 54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
23 89141;

24 5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
25 89141; and

26 3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
27 89141

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

**LAURA ANDERSON'S REPLY IN
SUPPORT OF HER MOTION FOR
RETURN OF SEIZED PROPERT**

Date of hearing: March 31, 2016

Time of hearing: 9:00 a.m.

28
29 Movant/real party in interest, Laura Anderson, by and through counsel Kathleen Bliss, Esq.,
30 and Jason Hicks, Esq., of the law firm Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby submits her reply in
31 support of her motion for return of property. This reply is made and based upon the following
32 memorandum of points and authorities, the pleadings and papers on file, any exhibits attached
33 hereto, and argument entertained by the Court at the time of hearing.

1 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

2 The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD") relies on three alternative
3 arguments in its Opposition: (1) Ms. Anderson's case is being reviewed by the federal authorities,
4 rendering her motion premature; (2) the retention of the property is reasonable under the
5 circumstances; and (3) it is unclear whether Ms. Anderson has an individual interest in the
6 property identified in her motion. *See* Opposition at 2:13-17. Each argument is without merit for
7 the following reasons.

8 **I. ARGUMENT**

9 **A. An alleged investigation by federal authorities is insufficient to justify retention of**
10 **Ms. Anderson's property by the State, and there is no evidence of such an**
11 **investigation.**

12 The basis for obtaining the State warrants rested upon suspicion of pandering and living
13 off of the earnings of prostitution occurring locally in Las Vegas—state offenses. There is no
14 federal jurisdiction over these allegations, as there is no indication that state lines were crossed
15 (nor does LVMPD argue as much).

16 More importantly, LVMPD has cited no authority for its argument that it is permitted to
17 retain property seized pursuant to a state court warrant and hold it indefinitely on behalf of federal
18 authorities who may or may not bring charges. This is a patent violation of the Fourth
19 Amendment and offends basic notions of comity between the state and federal governments.

20 Further, there are no extenuating circumstances present here which may ostensibly justify
21 LVMPD's contention; if the federal government is indeed investigating this matter—a bare
22 allegation for which LVMPD provides *no evidence* in support, through affidavit or otherwise—
23 then federal authorities are free to apply to a federal magistrate judge for a federal warrant, and the
24 United States Attorney's Office is free to convene a grand jury. None of this has happened, and
25 there is no reason to believe it will.

26 In fact, federal law requires that, "[i]n a case in which the property is seized by a State or
27 local law enforcement agency and turned over to a Federal law enforcement agency for the
28 purpose of forfeiture under Federal law, notice shall be sent not more than 90 days after the date

1 of seizure by the State or local law enforcement agency.” 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv)(emphasis
2 added). It has been approximately ten months since Ms. Anderson’s property was seized, yet no
3 notice has been sent to her by the federal government. Even if the State did wish to hand over Ms.
4 Anderson’s property to the federal authorities, federal law would prohibit authorities from
5 accepting it at this point as far longer than 90 days have passed from the initial seizure.¹

6 LVMPD’s assertion stance that it is holding property for the federal authorities does not
7 make its actions any more reasonable, and this vague assertion does nothing to satisfy LVMPD’s
8 obligation to demonstrate reasonableness under NRS 179.085(1)(c). To the contrary, this
9 argument simply reinforces Ms. Anderson’s contention that the prolonged retention of her
10 property has become unreasonable. As stated previously, upon information and belief, the
11 investigation was not a joint federal-state investigation, and was not conducted by a joint task
12 force. The federal authorities had absolutely no role in the investigation of Ms. Anderson and the
13 seizure of her property. Thus, the State has no justification for acting as a proxy for the federal
14 government in retaining property when it has no intention of bringing charges.

15 **B. The continued retention of Ms. Anderson’s property by the state is unreasonable on**
16 **its face.**

17 LVMPD concedes to the release of Ms. Anderson’s computer devices. *See* Opposition at
18 4:8-11. This concession is based upon the acknowledgment that the devices have been mirrored
19 and therefore hold no independent evidentiary value. *Id.* Inexplicably, however, LVMPD does
20 not apply this same logic to the remaining property, notably the vehicles, cash, and jewelry.

21
22 ¹ In addition, because the seizure was not effected by a joint task force, the State cannot continue
23 to hold the property without bringing charges in hopes that the federal government will assume it.
24 While at one point federal authorities were able to adopt seizures by state and local law
25 enforcement agencies for purposes of later initiating federal forfeiture proceedings, former
26 Attorney General Eric Holder issued an executive order on January 16, 2015, prohibiting this
27 practice unless the seizure was either effected pursuant to a federal warrant, seized in tandem with
28 federal authorities, or the property directly related to public safety concerns, such as firearms,
ammunition, explosives, and child pornography. *See* Exhibit C (accessed online at
<https://www.justice.gov/file/318146/download>). That is not the case here. **The Attorney
General’s order specifically lists “vehicles, valuables, and cash” as items that are subject to
its prohibition on federal adoption of property seized solely by state or local law
enforcement.**

1 Instead, LVMPD summarily claims that “ordering the release of *all* of the property is premature,
2 given the pending federal review.” *Id.* at ln.10-11 (emphasis in original). As stated above, the
3 property was seized in relation to suspicion of pandering and living off of the earnings of a
4 prostitute. Given the nature of the suspected crimes, as is true with the computer devices, the
5 remaining property no independent evidentiary value; there is no reason to retain it as there might
6 be if, for example, had the suspected crimes necessitated DNA testing. Even so, such testing
7 would have immediately occurred after the seizure. Regardless, that is not the case here—pictures
8 of the items, documentation, and testimony relating thereto are sufficient to establish their
9 existence and value. The items themselves are simply not needed by LVMPD or the District
10 Attorney’s Office to conduct a criminal investigation or bring charges.

11 On that note, LVMPD’s Opposition is largely a concession that the suspected charges have
12 no merit or, at the very least, that Ms. Anderson is no longer being investigated by State
13 authorities. *See generally* Opposition. LVMPD is simply silent on that point. What the State has
14 essentially done is effectively forfeit Ms. Anderson’s property while simultaneously depriving her
15 of the protections afforded by formal civil or criminal forfeiture proceedings and the Fifth
16 Amendment of the United States Constitution. LVMPD makes a vague claim that a federal
17 review is pending, however no target letters or notification by federal agencies has been issued to
18 Ms. Anderson. LVMPD’s claim is simply unsupported, and even if it did have merit, it still is not
19 justification for the ten month retention of Ms. Anderson’s property by *State* authorities.

20 **C. LVMPD’s reliance on Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(g) is a red herring.**

21 In her moving papers, Ms. Anderson cited to Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(g) only to illustrate the
22 general principle that the retention of her property under these circumstances is improper,
23 primarily because the revisions to Nevada’s statute, NRS 179.085, which serve as the basis for the
24 instant motion, were enacted a matter of months ago. As a result, there is not a body of case law
25 applying these revisions available for the Court’s consideration.

26 LVMPD’s insistence that Ms. Anderson must show that she would be irreparably injured
27 by denying return of the property, and that she must show the government displayed a callous
28

1 disregard for her constitutional rights are not appropriate points of inquiry under NRS 179.085(e).
2 See Opposition at 4:17-22 (citing *Ramsden v. United States*, 2 F.3d 322, 324 (9th Cir. 1993)). The
3 specific subsection under which this motion is brought requires only that Ms. Anderson
4 demonstrate that “[r]etention of the property by law enforcement is not reasonable under the
5 totality of the circumstances.” NRS 179.085(1)(e). Ms. Anderson is not challenging the retention
6 on the basis of the facial sufficiency of the warrant or the issuing Judge’s probable cause
7 determination, which are separate statutory basis. See NRS 179.085(1)(b)(sufficiency of warrant);
8 NRS 179.085(1)(e)(lack of probable cause). Therefore LVMPD’s discussion of probable cause
9 and irreparable injury are entirely inapplicable; Ms. Anderson is not required to challenge either.

10 **D. Ms. Anderson has an individual interest in the property specifically identified.**

11 Ms. Anderson resides at the Oakland Hills residence, where the majority of the property
12 listed was seized. She lives at this property with only her five-year-old son. It is quite clear that
13 Ms. Anderson has an individual interest in the property seized from this home.

14 With respect to the items seized from the other three houses listed in the motion, Ms.
15 Anderson is the owner of Libra Group, Inc., and also runs a d/b/a operating as Green Therapeutics.
16 The property seized at the other three residences belonged to her companies, and she clearly has a
17 possessory interest in the same.

18 Finally, an individual by the name of Johnnie Green resided at the fifth property, not
19 challenged here. The items seized from that home belonged to Mr. Green, and Ms. Anderson has
20 no business relationship with him. That is why Ms. Anderson seeks return of the specifically
21 identified property that was seized from four of the five homes searched. See Opposition, fn. 1 (“It
22 is unclear as to why Movant only seeks return of property seized from four, rather than five, of the
23 properties.”).

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1 **II. CONCLUSION**

2 Based upon the foregoing, movant/real party in interest, Laura Anderson, respectfully
3 requests that the Court enter an order directing the LVMPD and/or Clark County District Attorney's
4 Office to immediately return her above reference property.

5 Dated this 24th day of March 2016.

6 Respectfully submitted,

7
8 KATHLEEN BLISS LAW PLLC

9
10 
11 Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

12 Nevada Bar No. 7606

13 Jason Hicks, Esq.

14 Nevada Bar No. 13149

15 400 S. 4th St., Suite 500

16 Las Vegas, NV 89101

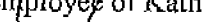
17 Telephone: 702.793.4000

18 Facsimile: 702.793.4001

19 *Attorneys for movant/real party in interest,*
20 *Laura Anderson*
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Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Marquis Aurbach Coffing
10001 Park Run Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89145
ncrosby@maclaw.com
Attorneys for Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department


An employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

An employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

EXHIBIT C



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

ORDER NO.

PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN FEDERAL ADOPTIONS OF SEIZURES
BY STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

By virtue of the authority vested in me as Attorney General, including 28 U.S.C. §§ 509 and 510, 18 U.S.C. §§ 981 and 982, and the other civil and criminal forfeiture statutes enforced or administered by the Department of Justice, I hereby direct that the following policy be followed by all Department of Justice attorneys and components, and all participants in the Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program concerning the federal adoption of property seized by state or local law enforcement under state law in order for the property to be forfeited under federal law ("federal adoption"):

Federal adoption of property seized by state or local law enforcement under state law is prohibited, except for property that directly relates to public safety concerns, including firearms, ammunition, explosives, and property associated with child pornography. To the extent that seizures of property other than these four specified categories of property are being considered for federal adoption under this public safety exception, such seizures may not be adopted without the approval of the Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division. The prohibition on federal adoption includes, but is not limited to, seizures by state or local law enforcement of vehicles, valuables, and cash, which is defined as currency and currency equivalents, such as postal money orders, personal and cashier's checks, stored value cards, certificates of deposit, travelers checks, and U.S. savings bonds.

This order does not apply to (1) seizures by state and local authorities working together with federal authorities in a joint task force; (2) seizures by state and local authorities that are the result of joint federal-state investigations or that are coordinated with federal authorities as part of ongoing federal investigations; or (3) seizures pursuant to federal seizure warrants, obtained from federal courts to take custody of assets originally seized under state law. This Order also does not affect the ability of state and local agencies to pursue the forfeiture of assets pursuant to their respective state laws.

This order is effective January 16, 2015, and applies prospectively to all federal adoptions. To the extent that prior Department of Justice orders, directives, and policies are inconsistent with this Order, those orders, directives, and policies are superseded.

January 16, 2015
Date

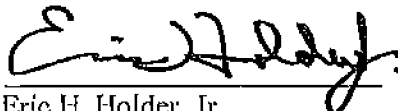
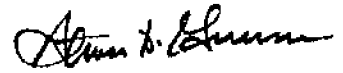

Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General

EXHIBIT “4”



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 NOTC
Kathleen Bliss, Esq.
2 Nevada Bar No. 7606
E-mail: kb@kathleenblisslaw.com
3 Jason Hicks, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 13149
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Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC
5 400 S. 4th St., Suite 500
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6 Telephone: 702.793.4000
Facsimile: 702.793.4001

7 Attorneys for Laura Anderson

8
9 DISTRICT COURT
10 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
11

12 IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
13 WARRANTS FOR:

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

14 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

15 54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

16 5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
17 89141; and

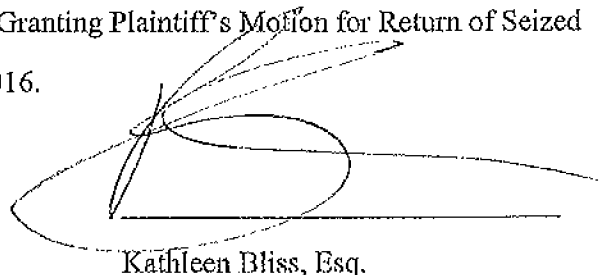
18 3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
19 89141

20 **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR RETURN**
21 **OF SEIZED PROPERTY**

22 TO: LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT BY AND THROUGH
23 ITS COUNSEL OF RECORD, NICHOLAS CROSBY, ESQ.

24 Please take notice that the attached Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion for Return of Seized
25 Property was entered by the Court on April 20, 2016.

26 Dated: April 26, 2016.



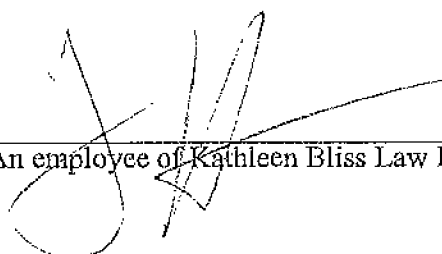
Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

As an employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, I hereby certify that I served a copy of the
**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR RETURN OF
SEIZED PROPERTY** on April 26, 2016, on the parties of record below, via e-mail and the Court's
electronic filing system, WizNet.

Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Marquis Aurbach Coffing
10001 Park Run Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89145
ncrosby@maclaw.com
Attorneys for LVMPD



An employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

1 **ORDR**

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5 Jason Hicks, Esq.
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13 Attorneys for Laura Anderson

14
15 DISTRICT COURT
16 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
17

18 IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
19 WARRANTS FOR:

20 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
21 89141;
22 54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
23 89141;
24 5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
25 89141; and
26 3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
27 89141
28

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION FOR RETURN OF SEIZED
PROPERTY**

Date of hearing: March 31, 2016

Time of hearing: 9:00 a.m.

29 On this 31st day of March 2016, the Court held a hearing on Plaintiff Laura Anderson's
30 motion for return of seized property. Both parties appeared. The Court, having considered the
31 pleadings of the parties and concession of Defendant Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
32 (LVMPD) that there is no federal investigation, which Defendant had submitted as its basis for
33 holding onto the property, FINDS as follows:

- 34 1. Plaintiff moved for return of numerous items seized on or about May 18, 2015, by the
35 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, pursuant to search warrants executed at the
36 above-captioned residences. Plaintiff sought relief under NRS 179.085(1)(e), the

<input type="checkbox"/> Voluntary Dismissal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Summary Judgment
<input type="checkbox"/> Involuntary Dismissal	<input type="checkbox"/> Stipulated Judgment
<input type="checkbox"/> Stipulated Dismissal	<input type="checkbox"/> Default Judgment
<input type="checkbox"/> Motion to Dismiss by Def(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Judgment of Arbitration

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1 Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article 1, § 8 (5) of the
2 Nevada Constitution. In support of her motion, Plaintiff submits that she attempted to
3 obtain the return of said property several times since its seizure without the Court's
4 intervention, having attached evidence of said communications to her motion.

- 5 2. In its opposition Defendant responded that a federal investigation precluded return of
6 the property. However, on March 30, 2016, counsel for Defendant confirmed that
7 there is no federal investigation. Therefore, Defendant does not object to the return of
8 all property for which Plaintiff seeks release.

9 **IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

10 Plaintiff's motion is **GRANTED**. Within thirty (30) days, Defendant SHALL return all
11 property seized in connection with the execution of the warrants subject herein, including, but not
12 limited to, the specific following property:

13 **A. 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141**

- 14 1. The following thirteen (13) cellular telephones: (1) Samsung Galaxy Note II, gray in
15 color, serial number 99000208447938; (2) Samsung Galaxy Note II, white in color,
16 serial number 99000210823531; (3) Sony T-Mobile Xperia, black in color, serial
17 number 4170B-PM0520; (4) Samsung Galaxy Note 4, white in color, serial number
18 99000476790932; (5) Samsung Galaxy Note 4, black in color, serial number
19 99000472749763; (6) Samsung Galaxy Note 3, white in color, serial number
20 99000434509753; (7) Samsung Galaxy S II, white in color, serial number
21 000003062F80A; (8) Apple iPhone, white in color, serial number 358806053465371;
22 (9) Samsung Galaxy Note 4, white in color, serial number 99000474506325; (10)
23 Samsung Galaxy S III, black in color, serial number 99000115774423; (11) Apple
24 iPhone, white in color, serial number 3520004061630741; (12) Samsung Galaxy
25 Note 4, white in color, serial number 99000476776052; and (13) Apple iPhone, black
26 in color, serial number 357994053715077;
27 2. Three (3) laptop computers: (1) Apple MacBook Air, silver in color, serial number
28

1 4324A-BRCM1052; (2) Dell Inspiron 15-5547, silver in color, serial number
2 H1SSM602; and (3) Apple MacBook Pro, silver in color, serial number
3 4324ABRCM1055;
4 3. Three (3) computer tablets: (1) Samsung, white in color, serial number SM-T230NU;
5 (2) Samsung SM-900, white in color, serial number RT2F616X8JJ; and (3) Samsung,
6 white in color, serial number SM-T330NU;
7 4. Calendar;
8 5. Possessory items belonging to Laura Anderson;
9 6. Casino chips totaling \$2,648.00 in United States currency;
10 7. Ledgers;
11 8. Two (2) cashier check-customer copies from Bank of America;
12 9. Five (5) Visa credit cards;
13 10. Two (2) Visa debit cards;
14 11. Louis Vuitton purse;
15 12. Black wallet;
16 13. Ten (10) phone, laptop and/or tablet cases;
17 14. Miscellaneous paperwork;
18 15. Owe sheets;
19 16. Checkbooks;
20 17. Gaming receipts;
21 18. Casino player's cards from: (1) the M Resort & Spa and (2) the Wynn/Encore Hotel
22 & Casino;
23 19. Bank statements;
24 20. Credit card records;
25 21. Organizers;
26 22. Travel documentation;
27 23. 40 caliber Smith & Wesson handgun, black in color, serial number 7111865;
28

1 24. Two (2) silver colored skeleton keys;

2 25. The package located inside the men's handbag recovered from the maroon 2015
3 Mercedes S550, Nevada license plate LVM4V1, containing \$500.00 in United States
4 currency.

5 26. Wireless headphones located in the Mercedes used for onboard entertainment;

6 27. The package recovered from a purse located in the southeastern bedroom containing
7 \$1,755.00 in United States currency;

8 28. \$54,892.00 in United States currency recovered from a safe located in the master
9 bedroom's closet;

10 29. \$31.00 in United States currency recovered from Ms. Anderson's personal
11 miscellaneous paperwork;

12 30. Collection of men's and women's jewelry (watches, earrings, necklace, rings, etc.).

13 B. 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141

14 1. Four cellular phones, make, model, and serial number unknown;

15 2. Miscellaneous paperwork;

16 3. Photographs;

17 4. Tablet, make, model, and serial number unknown; and

18 C. 5608 Quiet Cloud, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141

19 1. Black 2014 Mercedes Sprinter van, VIN WDZPE8DC9B5856264, Nevada license
20 plate LVL0X3.

21 2. White 2009 Mercedes S550, VIN WDDNG71X09A272339, Nevada license plate
22 LVJ7K1.

23 3. 2 glass marijuana pipes;

24 4. Miscellaneous paperwork;

25 5. White cellphone, make, model, and serial number unknown;

26 6. HP Computer; serial number unknown;

27 7. Black iPad, serial number unknown;

- 1 8. White iPad, serial number unknown;
- 2 9. 2 Samsung tablets, serial numbers unknown;
- 3 10. Kodak camera, model and serial number unknown;
- 4 11. SD card;
- 5 12. ZTE phone, serial number unknown;
- 6 13. LG flip phone, serial number unknown;
- 7 14. Samsung Galaxy Note II, serial number unknown;
- 8 15. Samsung SL720 digital camera, serial number unknown;
- 9 16. Toshiba external hard drive, serial number unknown;
- 10 17. WD external hard drive, serial number unknown;
- 11 18. Dane 32g flash drive, serial number unknown;
- 12 19. SD card, make, model, and serial number unknown;
- 13 20. Purple iPod Shuffle, serial number unknown;
- 14 21. Xtreme Play tablet, serial number unknown;
- 15 22. Sony digital camera, model and serial number unknown; and
- 16 23. HP computer tower and cord, make and serial number unknown.

17 **D. 3321 Alcudia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141**

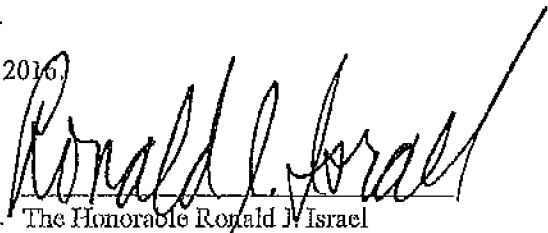
- 18 1. Marijuana plants;
- 19 2. CO2 tanks and gauges;
- 20 3. 3 Grow tents;
- 21 4. Grow trays
- 22 5. Lights
- 23 6. Miscellaneous chemicals;
- 24 7. Ballasts;
- 25 8. Grodans blocks;
- 26 9. Fans;
- 27 10. Portable A/C;
- 28

- 1 11. Sub pumps;
2 12. 55 gallon drums;
3 13. Duct work;
4 14. Buckets;
5 15. Mail key;
6 16. Miscellaneous paperwork;
7 17. Glass smoking pipes;
8 18. Hi-Point firearm;
9 19. 40 Smith & Wesson serial number 7111865.

10
11 It is **FURTHER ORDERED** that in the event the State has seized property belonging to
12 Plaintiff, that is not specifically listed below, LVMPD SHALL return said property to Plaintiff as
13 well.

14 The LVMPD SHALL return all property listed by Plaintiff in her motion and identified
15 herein within 30 days of this Order.

16 Dated this 20 day of April 2016.

17
18 
19 The Honorable Ronald J. Israel
20 Department XXVIII
21 Eighth Judicial District
Clark County, Nevada BB

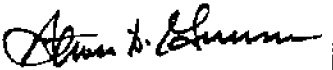
22 Submitted by:

23 /s/ Kathleen Bliss

24 Kathleen Bliss
25 Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC
26 400 South 4th Street
Suite 500
27 Las Vegas, NV 89101
702.793.4202
28 kb@kathleenblisslaw.com
Attorney for Plaintiff Laura Anderson

1 Agreed as to form and content:
2
3
4 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
5 Marquis Aurbach Coffing
6 10001 Park Run Dr.
7 Las Vegas, NV 89145
8 ncrosby@maclaw.com
9 Attorneys for Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
10
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EXHIBIT “5”


CLERK OF THE COURT

0011
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Attorneys for movant/real party
in interest Laura Anderson

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141; and

3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

**MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND
COSTS AND AFFIDAVIT OF
KATHLEEN BLISS, ESQ., IN SUPPORT**

Date of hearing:

Time of hearing:

Movant/real party in interest, Laura Anderson, by and through counsel Kathleen Bliss, Esq., and Jason Hicks, Esq., of the law firm Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby submits her motion for attorneys' fees and costs. This motion is made and based upon the following memorandum of points and authorities, the pleadings and papers on file, the affidavit of Kathleen Bliss, Esq. attached hereto, and argument entertained by the Court at the time of hearing.

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NOTICE OF MOTION

YOU, AND EACH OF YOU, will please take notice that the undersigned will bring the
above and foregoing motion on for hearing before this Court on the 22 day of
JUNE, 2016, at the hour of CHAMBERS .m. of said day, or as soon thereafter as
counsel can be heard in Department No. XXVIII.

Dated this 16th day of May 2016.

KATHLEEN BLISS LAW PLLC

/s/ Kathleen Bliss
Kathleen Bliss, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 7606
Jason Hicks, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 13149
400 S. 4th St., Suite 500
Las Vegas, NV 89101
Telephone: 702.793.4000
Facsimile: 702.793.4001
Attorneys for movant/real party in interest,
Laura Anderson

1 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

2 I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

3 The issues as they pertain to Movant Laura Anderson (hereinafter "Ms. Anderson") have
4 already been litigated and resolved in her favor. However, for the purpose of refreshing the
5 Court's recollection as to the events that led to the filing of the instant motion, in addition to
6 events taking place since the hearing on the same, a brief recapitulation of the facts is appropriate.

7 On or about May 18, 2015, Judge Jerry Weiss approved search warrants for the following
8 five residential properties: (1) 12607 Oakland Hills Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141; (2) 54
9 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141; (3) 5608 Quiet Cloud Court, Las Vegas, Nevada,
10 89141; (4) 3321 Alcludia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141; and (5) 5108 Masotta Avenue,
11 Las Vegas, Nevada, 89141. Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD") detective Greg
12 Flores obtained these warrants based upon his suspicion that the offense of Pandering and Living
13 Off the Earnings of Prostitution, a violation of NRS 201.320, had been committed by Laura
14 Anderson ("Ms. Anderson") and several others. The LVMPD executed these warrants the same day
15 (May 18, 2015) and seized property belonging to Ms. Anderson, including vehicles, electronics,
16 cash, and various other personal effects.

17 At or about the time that the search warrants were executed at the above addresses, Notices
18 of Intent to Seek Indictment, or *Marcum*¹ notices, were provided to the suspects.² During this
19 timeframe, the undersigned contacted Detective Flores, believed to be leading the investigation
20 based upon the fact that his affidavit of probable cause was used to secure the warrants. Since the
21 onset of the investigation, and up and until counsel's last conversation with Detective Flores on
22 Friday, October 23, 2015, it was the undersigned's clear understanding from Detective Flores that
23 neither Ms. Anderson nor any other shareholder of Libra Group, Inc., was a target subject to
24 prosecution despite the *Marcum* notices. This understanding was later confirmed through counsel

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26 ¹ *Sheriff v Marcum*, 105 Nev. 824 (1989) requires that a defendant be given reasonable notice that
he or she is the target of a grand jury investigation.

27 ² The suspects were all shareholders of Libra Group, Inc.: Persha Stanley, Heather Herrera, Sarah
28 Wedge, Kathleen Caldwell and Ms. Anderson.

1 for LVMPD through its exceedingly tardy concession to the relief requested.

2 The undersigned contacted the District Attorney's Office and counsel for the LVMPD by
3 way of letter on October 30, 2015, in an attempt to obtain the return of Ms. Anderson's property
4 without the necessity of the Court's intervention. That letter went unanswered. Counsel for Ms.
5 Anderson made further attempts to resolve the matter without Court intervention through multiple
6 phone calls and e-mails over the following months, which were likewise ignored.

7 After months of being ignored by LVMPD, Ms. Anderson was forced to file a motion for
8 return of property on February 19, 2016. This motion was made and based upon NRS 179.085, and
9 in particular subsection (c), which directs the return of seized property when "[r]etention of the
10 property by law enforcement is not reasonable under the totality of the circumstances." In its
11 opposition to this motion, LVMPD maintained as justification for its actions that the State's then
12 ten-month (and counting) retention of Ms. Anderson's property was reasonable because it was
13 possible that the federal government was investigating her case. See LVMPD Opposition to Motion
14 for Return of Property, on file herein. LVMPD provided zero evidence for this bare assertion, failing
15 to back up its claim with a single shred of support. Notably, LVMPD never claimed that it was still
16 investigating Ms. Anderson, thereby conceding that it was not.

17 While maintaining, without proof, that the federal government was investigating Ms.
18 Anderson, LVMPD completely ignored the legal impossibility of its claim.³ As set forth in Ms.
19 Anderson's reply in support of her motion, this contention had no legal basis because: (1) federal
20 law requires that "[i]n a case in which the property is seized by a State or local law enforcement
21 agency and turned over to a Federal law enforcement agency for the purpose of forfeiture under
22 Federal law, notice shall be sent not more than 90 days after the date of seizure by the State or
23 local law enforcement agency." 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv)(emphasis added); (2) while at one
24 point federal authorities were able to adopt seizures by state and local law enforcement agencies for

25
26 ³ And, in implicitly maintaining that the State has *carte blanche* to act as an unrestricted proxy for
27 the federal government (when the federal government has not obtained a warrant, indicted an
28 individual or done anything else), LVMPD also ignored the implication that its position would
have on issues of comity and the Fourth Amendment.

1 purposes of later initiating federal forfeiture proceedings, former Attorney General Eric Holder
2 issued an executive order on January 16, 2015 (months before LVMPD's seizure of Ms. Anderson's
3 property), prohibiting this practice unless the seizure was either effected pursuant to a federal
4 warrant, seized in tandem with federal authorities, or the property directly related to public safety
5 concerns, such as firearms, ammunition, explosives, and child pornography; and **none of these were**
6 **the case here**; and (3) that executive order specifically lists "vehicles, valuables, and cash" as items
7 that are subject to its prohibition on federal adoption of property seized solely by state or local law
8 enforcement. *See* Ms. Anderson's Reply in Support of Motion for Return of Property and
9 accompanying exhibits, on file herein.

10 LVMPD did not dispute these arguments, nor could it as the law is plain. Nevertheless, it
11 was not until the morning of the March 31, 2016, hearing on Ms. Anderson's motion that the
12 LVMPD, through its counsel Nick Crosby, informed counsel for Ms. Anderson, Kathleen Bliss, that
13 the federal government was not actually investigating Ms. Anderson's case. This concession was
14 made mere minutes before the hearing. At that point, LVMPD agreed to return the property, and
15 this Court ordered it so.

16 LVMPD has now held Ms. Anderson's property for what has now been one year, knowing
17 it was not going to bring charges against her, ignored her attempts to obtain her property without
18 the Court's intervention, and, when forced to respond to her Motion, justified its retention on its
19 unsupported, legally impossible, and later admittedly incorrect assertion that the federal government
20 was investigating Ms. Anderson. This sequence of events highlights the overall unreasonableness
21 of LVMPD's actions.

22 Adding insult to injury, LVMPD then released Ms. Anderson's vehicle to a tow yard on
23 April 27, 2016. Neither Ms. Anderson nor her counsel were informed. The tow yard then sent
24 Ms. Anderson a letter dated May 9, 2016, informing her that she had an additional week to pick up
25 her vehicle. Apparently, Ms. Anderson was supposed to pick up her vehicle within days after
26 LVMPD's release. But, because Ms. Anderson did not receive notice from the tow yard for
27 several weeks (and never received notice from LVMPD), her vehicle was re-impounded and she
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1 was forced to personally pay \$760 to obtain it from the tow yard. The tow yard has now filed a
2 lien on Ms. Anderson's vehicle.

3 No one from LVMPD bothered to pick up the telephone or send an e-mail to her or to her
4 counsel informing her of the release of her vehicle. This lack of communication was also in spite
5 of defense counsel's multiple e-mails and telephone calls to counsel for LVMPD over the last
6 several weeks inquiring as to the status of the release of property. These e-mails and telephone
7 calls went unanswered. Ms. Anderson has thus been forced to bear the brunt of LVMPD's
8 unprofessionalism and borderline incompetency, yet again.

9 **II. AN AWARD OF ATTORNEYS' FEES IN MS. ANDERSON'S FAVOR IS**
10 **APPROPRIATE.**

11 LVMPD was unreasonable in its retention of the property in the first instance and has
12 steadfastly remained so to date, acting dilatory in its handling of this matter at all times. In its
13 dereliction of its duties, LVMPD has required an innocent third-party to hire legal representation,
14 wait an entire year to obtain her personal property, and leave Ms. Anderson and her businesses to
15 pay for the repercussions of LVMPD's actions (and inactions). LVMPD's conduct should not be
16 left unchecked, and it should be held, at minimum, to pay for Ms. Anderson's legal fees and costs
17 incurred as a direct result of LVMPD's unreasonable and legally unjustified conduct.

18 Under Nevada law, a prevailing party is entitled to recover attorney's fees incurred in
19 bringing suit:

- 20 1. The compensation of an attorney and counselor for his or her
21 services is governed by agreement, express or implied, which is
not restrained by law.
- 22 2. In addition to the cases where an allowance is authorized by
23 specific statute, the court may make an allowance of attorney's
fees to a prevailing party:
 - 24 (a) When the prevailing party has not recovered more than
25 \$20,000; or
 - 26 (b) Without regard to the recovery sought, **when the court finds**
27 **that the claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party**
28 **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

1 **the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding**
2 **attorney's fees in all appropriate situations.** It is the intent
3 of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees
4 pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions pursuant to
5 Rule 11 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure in all
6 appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or
7 vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and
8 defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the
9 timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the
10 costs of engaging in business and providing professional
11 services to the public.

12 3. In awarding attorney's fees, the court may pronounce its
13 decision on the fees at the conclusion of the trial or special
14 proceeding without written motion and with or without
15 presentation of additional evidence.

16 4. Subsections 2 and 3 do not apply to any action arising out of a
17 written instrument or agreement which entitles the prevailing
18 party to an award of reasonable attorney's fees.

19 NRS 18.010 (emphasis added).

20 An award of attorney's fees lies within the discretion of the district court. *See Kahn v.*
21 *Morse & Mowbray*, 121 Nev. 464, 117 P.3d 227, 238 (2005); *Schouweiler v. Yancey Co.*, 101
22 Nev. 827, 833-34, 712 P.2d 786, 790 (1989). The method upon which a reasonable fee is
23 determined is subject to the discretion of the court, which is tempered by reason and fairness.
24 *Univ. of Nevada v. Tarkanian*, 110 Nev. 581, 879 P.2d 1180 (1994).

25 While Ms. Anderson (is still waiting) to recover her property, and that property is valued in
26 excess of \$20,000, she did not actually recover any monetary damages.⁴ Thus an award of fees
27 under NRS 18.010(2)(a) appropriate.

28 Alternatively, an award of attorneys' fees is also appropriate under NRS 18.010(2)(b).
29 NRS 18.010(2)(b) allows an award of fees to the prevailing party when the opposing party has
30 alleged a groundless claim that is not supported by credible evidence. *See Frantz v. Johnson*, 116
31 Nev. 455, 472, 999 P.2d 351, 362 (2000); *Allianz Ins. Co. v. Gagnon*, 109 Nev. 990, 996, 860 P.2d
32 720, 724 (1993)(A claim or defense is groundless if it is unsupported by any credible evidence.

33 ⁴ While not the proper forum at this time, the Court should be aware that, *in toto*, Ms. Anderson
34 has had to pay well over \$100,000 related to loans, mitigating the damage done to her credit score,
35 purchasing new equipment to replace that which was seized so that she may continue to run her
36 businesses, etc., all of which is a direct result of LVMPD's actions.

1)(citing *Western United Realty, Inc. v. Isaacs*, 679 P.2d 1063, 1069 (Colo. 1984). "To the extent
2 that a claim is fraudulent, it must also be groundless [within the meaning of NRS 18.010(2)(a)].
3 Therefore, a district court may award attorney's fees for defense of a fraudulent claim." *Allianz*
4 *Ins. Co.*, 109 Nev. at 996.

5 As set forth above, LVMPD's proffered basis for retaining her property and steadfastly
6 refusing to return it, even after litigation was commenced, was unreasonable. This is so because,
7 as admitted by LVMPD's counsel, Ms. Anderson was not actually under federal investigation,
8 making its prior claim to the contrary entirely fraudulent. Moreover, LVMPD's unsupported
9 assertion that Ms. Anderson was under federal investigation ignored clear federal law prohibiting
10 the same. Because LVMPD's position was neither supported by fact or by law, it follows that its
11 opposition was groundless within the meaning of Nevada statutory and case law, and that its
12 conduct was patently unreasonable within the meaning of NRS 18.010(2)(b).

13 Ms. Anderson was required to self-fund her litigation expenses and costs in seeking the
14 return of her own property, which was wrongfully held. Holding LVMPD accountable for its
15 unreasonable conduct by ordering it to pay for Ms. Anderson's legal fees and costs appeals to
16 equity and is in harmony with the spirit of the statute, which provides that courts "shall liberally
17 construe" the provision, as doing so is in line with the Legislature's intent. NRS
18 18.010(2)(b)(emphasis added).

19 The Nevada Supreme Court has identified the following factors to be considered in
20 determining the reasonable value of an attorney's services:

- 21 (1) the qualities of the advocate: his ability, his training, education,
22 experience, professional standing and skill;
- 23 (2) the character of the work to be done: its difficulty, its intricacy,
24 its importance, time and skill required, the responsibility
25 imposed and the prominence and character of the parties where
26 they affect the importance of the litigation;
- 27 (3) the work actually performed by the lawyer: the skill, time and
28

1 attention given to the work; [and]
2 (4) the result: whether the attorney was successful and what
3 benefits were derived.

4 *Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat. Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 349 (1969); *Schouweiler v. Yancey Co.*, 101
5 Nev. 827, 712 P.2d 786 (1985).

6 An analysis of the *Brunzell* factors demonstrates that Ms. Anderson's request for
7 \$25,412.50 in attorneys' fees. This amount is based upon an initial \$10,000 retainer, plus an
8 additional \$15,412.50 billed to date after the exhaustion of this retainer. The undersigned submits
9 that this amount is reasonable and appropriate after an evaluation of the *Brunzell* factors.

10 (1) The qualities of the advocate.

11 Kathleen Bliss has been in practice for 26 years. She has 22 years' experience as both a
12 civil and criminal Assistant United States Attorney, prosecuting a wide range of matters on behalf
13 of the United States. She has spent the last 4 years in private practice, litigating both criminal and
14 civil matters. Jason Hicks has been in practice for three years, litigating both criminal and civil
15 matters in state and federal courts. Both are members in good standing of the Nevada Bar. It is
16 submitted that Ms. Bliss' and Mr. Hicks' credentials and experience justify their fees charged.

17 (2) The character of the work to be done.

18 The character of the work involved included the review and analysis of constitutional and
19 statutory violations by LVMPD in connection with the execution of the five search warrants. The
20 implication of these serious issues, and the sophistication levels of the litigating parties,
21 represented a relatively complicated situation. Moreover, the revisions to the specific subsection
22 of NRS 18.010 implicated here were passed by the Legislature mere months ago, meaning there
23 was little, if any, prior case law to rely on.

24 (3) The work actually performed.

25 Counsel was required to review and analyze the five warrants, meet with Ms. Anderson on
26 numerous occasions to discuss the underlying facts and background, communicate (and attempt to
27 communicate) with LVMPD and its counsel, conduct legal research, draft the motion for return of
28

1 property and reply in support of the same, review and analyze LVMPD's opposition, attend the
2 hearing, and draft the instant motion. Between Kathleen Bliss and Jason Hicks, approximately 59
3 hours were spent on these tasks.

4 (4) The result.

5 As a direct result of counsel's efforts, LVMPD was forced to return Ms. Anderson's
6 property, and an order was entered by this Court reflecting the same. There can be no reasonable
7 dispute that Ms. Anderson is the prevailing party in this matter.

8 **III. AN AWARD OF COSTS IN MS. ANDERSON'S FAVOR IS APPROPRIATE.**

9 In pertinent part, NRS 18.020 provides that "costs *must* be allowed of course to the
10 prevailing party against any adverse party against whom judgment is rendered, . . .[i]n an action to
11 recover the possession of personal property, where the value of the property amounts to more than
12 \$2,500. The value must be determined by the jury, court or master by whom the action is tried."
13 NRS 18.020(2)(emphasis added). Further, NRS 18.050 provides that "[i]f, in the judgment of the
14 court, the plaintiff believes he or she was justified in bringing the action in the district court, and
15 the plaintiff recovers at least \$700 in money or damages, or personal property of that value, the
16 court may allow the plaintiff part or all of his or her costs." There can be no reasonable dispute
17 that the value of the property recovered, expensive items including multiple vehicles, cash,
18 jewelry, and electronics, is valued at well over the \$700 or \$2,500 thresholds.

19 As outlined above, Ms. Anderson is the prevailing party in this matter, and respectfully
20 requests that the Court award her **\$270.00** for the costs incurred in litigating this action. Pursuant
21 to NRS 18.110, Ms. Anderson is submitting a verified memorandum of costs with the clerk of the
22 Court concurrent herewith, and will serve the same upon counsel for LVMPD in compliance with
23 that statute.

24 \\\

25 \\\

26 \\\

27 \\\

28

1 **III. CONCLUSION**

2 Based upon the foregoing, Ms. Anderson respectfully requests that the Court grant her
3 motion for attorneys' fees, in the amount of \$25,412.50, and costs, in the amount of \$270.00, and
4 that the sum of said amounts, totaling \$25,682.50, be reduced to judgment.

5 Dated this 16th day of May 2016.

6 Respectfully submitted,

7
8 KATHLEEN BLISS LAW PLLC

9
10 /s/ Kathleen Bliss

11 Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

12 Nevada Bar No. 7606

13 Jason Hicks, Esq.

14 Nevada Bar No. 13149

15 400 S. 4th St., Suite 500

16 Las Vegas, NV 89101

17 Telephone: 702.793.4000

18 Facsimile: 702.793.4001

19 *Attorneys for movant/real party in interest,*

20 *Laura Anderson*
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned, an employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby certifies that on this 16th day of May 2016, I did cause a true and correct copy of the **MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS** to be served via electronic service through the Court's WizNet system to:

Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Marquis Aurbach Coffing
10001 Park Run Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89145
ncrosby@maclaw.com
Attorneys for Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

/s/ Jason Hicks

An employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141; and

3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

**AFFIDAVIT OF KATHLEEN BLISS IN
SUPPORT OF LAURA ANDERSON'S
MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND
COSTS**

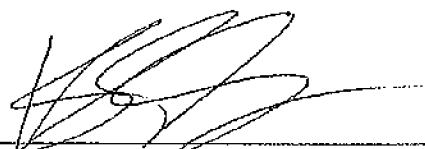
STATE OF NEVADA)
) :ss
COUNTY OF CLARK)

I, KATHLEEN BLISS, do affirm and state, under penalty of perjury, the following relevant facts are true and correct to the best of my knowledge:

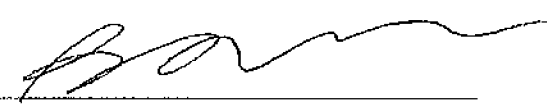
1. I am counsel of record for the movant/real party of interest in the above captioned matter, Laura Anderson. Jason Hicks, Esq., is my associate and co-counsel.
2. On or about May 18, 2015, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department executed search warrants on five (5) different residential properties and seized various items of Ms. Anderson's personal property and effects from these residences.
3. Ms. Anderson was never charged by the State.
4. I contacted the District Attorney's Office and counsel for the LVMPD by way of letter dated October 30, 2015, in an attempt to obtain the return of Ms. Anderson's property without the necessity of the Court's intervention. The property was not returned, and my communications were largely ignored.
5. Since the onset of the investigation, and up and until my last conversation with Detective Flores on Friday, October 23, 2015, it has been my clear understanding from Detective Flores that neither Ms. Anderson nor any other shareholder of Libra Group, Inc., remained a target subject to prosecution despite the *Marcum* notices. This understanding was confirmed via LVMPD's concession via omission of the same in its opposition brief.

- 1 6. Despite my efforts, it has been one year since the execution of the subject search warrants
2 without progress or legal process, which necessitated the filing of the motion for return of
3 property.
4 7. Instead, LVMPD maintained in its opposition to the motion that the federal government
5 was investigating Ms. Anderson. Such a representation was unsupported by any proof and,
6 even if true, would have been directly contrary to federal law.
7 8. Moments before the hearing on this motion, counsel for LVMPD, Nick Crosby, informed
8 me that Ms. Anderson was not actually under federal investigation, and that he would
9 concede to the return of the property. The hearing was conducted and the Court ordered
10 the return of the property at that time.
11 9. I have been a practicing attorney for 26 years, and have litigated a wide range of criminal
12 and civil matters as an Assistant United States Attorney and in my private practice. I
13 charged Ms. Anderson \$300.00 per hour for my work on this case. I billed my associate,
14 Jason Hicks, at \$225.00 for his work on this case.
15 10. Collectively, approximately 90 hours have been spent attempting to secure the return of
16 Ms. Anderson's property from LVMPD, with the work involving counseling my client,
17 conducting legal research, drafting legal briefs and memoranda, and attending court.
18 11. Ms. Anderson initially provided me with a \$10,000 retainer, which has since been
19 exhausted. After the exhaustion of that retainer, Ms. Anderson has been billed an
20 additional \$15,412.50. This totals \$25,412.50 for services rendered. I have reviewed the
21 billing statements and affirm that this approximate total was billed solely in connection
22 with this matter.
23

24 DATED this 16th day of May 2016.


Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

25 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me
26 this 16 day of May 2016.

27 
28 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State

My Commission Expires: 8-15-17

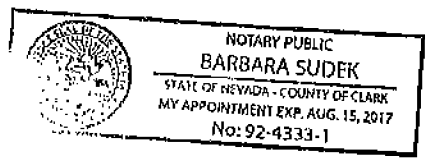
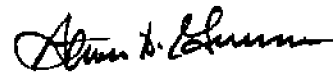


EXHIBIT “6”

1 Marquis Aurbach Coffing
2 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
3 Nevada Bar No. 8996
4 10001 Park Run Drive
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
6 Telephone: (702) 382-0711
7 Facsimile: (702) 382-5816
8 ncrosby@maclaw.com
9 Attorneys for LVMPD



CLERK OF THE COURT

6 DISTRICT COURT

7 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

8 IN RE THE EXECUTION SEARCH
9 WARRANTS FOR:

10 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141;

11 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
12 89141;

13 5608 Quiet Cloud Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
14 89141; and

15 3321 Alcludia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada
16 89141

Case No.: A-16-732077-C
Dept. No.: XXVIII

17 LVMPD'S MOTION TO RETAX COSTS

18 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD" and/or "the Department"), by
19 and through its counsel of record, Nick Crosby, Esq. with the law firm of Marquis Aurbach
20 Coffing, hereby submits its Motion to Retax Costs.

21 This Motion is made and based on the following memorandum of points and authorities,
22 any declarations and/or exhibits attached hereto, the pleadings and papers on file herein and any
23 oral argument this Court may allow at the time of hearing.

24 Dated this 20 day of May, 2016.

25 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING



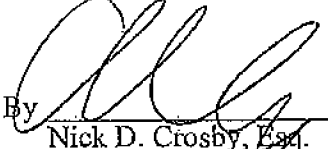
26 By
27 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
28 Nevada Bar No. 8996
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorney(s) for LVMPD

1 **NOTICE OF MOTION**

2 You and each of you, will please take notice that the LVMPD'S MOTION TO RETAX
3 COSTS will come on regularly for hearing on the 22 day of JUNE,
4 2016, at the hour of CHAMBERS m., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, in
5 Department XXVIII in the above-referenced court.

6 Dated this 20 day of May, 2016.

7 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

8
9 By 
10 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
11 Nevada Bar No. 8996
12 10001 Park Run Drive
13 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
14 Attorney(s) for LVMPD

15 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

16 **I. INTRODUCTION**

17 Laura Anderson's ("Anderson") Memorandum of Costs is improper because Nevada
18 Revised Statute 179.085 does not provide a legal basis for the Court to award costs. Further,
19 Anderson cannot avail herself to the cost-awarding provision of Nevada Revised Statute chapter
20 18 because her Memorandum of Costs was not filed within the five days required by Nevada
21 Revised Statute 18.110(1) and, in any event, Anderson did not receive a "judgment" in this case,
22 such that she can be awarded costs under chapter 18 of Nevada Revised Statutes. As such, the
23 Department respectfully requests the Court grant its Motion to Retax Costs and decline to award
24 Anderson her requested costs outlined in the Memorandum of Costs.

25 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS**

26 Anderson brought the instant action for the return of seized property under Nevada
27 Revised Statute 179.085. The Court signed an order for the return of seized property on April
28 10, 2016 and the same was entered April 20, 2016. The order did not award Anderson her costs.
Anderson filed the instant Memorandum of Costs on May 19, 2016, but did not cite to a legal
basis for the award of costs.

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
(702) 382-0711 FAX: (702) 382-5816

MARQUIS A. URBACH COFFING

(1006) Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
(702) 382-0711 FAX (702) 382-5816

1 **III. LAW AND ARGUMENT**

2 Anderson is not entitled to an award of costs because: (1) she does not have a legal basis
3 for the award of costs under Nevada Revised Statute 179.085; (2) if Nevada Revised Statute
4 18.020 is applicable, Anderson did not receive a "judgment" necessary to invoke the cost-
5 awarding provisions of that statute; and (3) even if Anderson had a legal basis to seek the
6 recovery of costs, her Memorandum of Costs is untimely.

7 **A. ANDERSON'S MEMORANDUM OF COSTS DOES NOT CITE A LEGAL**
8 **BASIS FOR AWARDING COSTS.**

9 At the outset, the Department asserts the Memorandum of Costs should be relaxed and
10 Anderson receive no costs because Anderson did not cite (and does not possess) a legal basis for
11 an award of costs. As this Court is aware, Anderson sought return of her property pursuant to
12 Nevada Revised Statute 179.085. That statute does not provide a basis for an award of costs and,
13 instead, provides a sole remedy of returning the property and suppression of the same. See Nev.
14 Rev. Stat. 179.085(2). For this reason alone, Anderson cannot be awarded costs in this matter.

15 **B. ANDERSON WOULD NOT BE ENTITLED TO AN AWARD OF COSTS**
16 **UNDER NEVADA REVISED STATUTE 18.020.**

17 Although Anderson did not cite Nevada Revised Statute 18.020 as a legal basis for
18 awarding costs, even if she had, an award of costs under this statute is improper. Nevada
19 Revised Statute 18.020 states:

20 **NRS 18.020 Cases in which costs allowed prevailing party.** Costs must be
21 allowed of course to the prevailing party against any adverse party against whom
22 *judgment* is rendered, in the following cases:

23 2. In an action to recover the possession of personal property, where the
24 value of the property amounts to more than \$2,500. The value *must be*
25 *determined by the jury, court or master by whom the action is tried.*

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

28 4. In a special proceeding, except a special proceeding conducted pursuant to
 NRS 306.040.

1 Nev. Rev. Stat. 18.010(2)-(4)(emphasis added). Assuming *arguendo* Nevada Revised Statute
2 18.020 applied to this action (i.e. the court determined the value of the property or it is
3 considered a "special proceeding"), Anderson would not be entitled to an award of costs because
4 she did not receive a "judgment" as required by the statute.

5 **C. THE MEMORANDUM OF COSTS IS UNTIMELY.**

6 Again, assuming *arguendo* Anderson had a basis for an award of costs and that basis was
7 chapter 18 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, her Memorandum of Costs is untimely. Nevada
8 Revised Statute 18.110 states a party "must file" a memorandum of costs "within 5 days of the
9 entry of judgment." Nev. Rev. Stat. 18.110(1). Counsel for Anderson recently sent the
10 undersigned an email stating that the order for the return of property was effective when the
11 Court announced the decision orally in court or, at the latest, April 20, 2016 when the notice of
12 entry of order was filed. Using April 20, 2016 for the operative trigger date to file a
13 Memorandum of Costs, Anderson was required – by statute – to file her verified memorandum of
14 costs no later than April 27, 2016 (omitting weekends and not counting the day the notice of
15 entry was filed). Anderson did not file her Memorandum of Costs until May 19, 2016 – nearly a
16 month past the statutory deadline. For this reason alone, Anderson is not entitled to an award of
17 costs.

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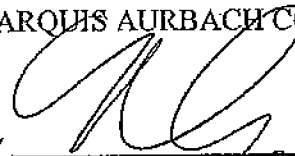
2 **IV. CONCLUSION**

3 Anderson is not entitled to an award of costs because she does not possess a statutory,
4 contractual or other basis for an award of costs. Notwithstanding the absence of a legal basis for
5 an award of costs, even if Anderson could avail herself to the cost awarding provisions of
6 chapter 18 of Nevada Revised Statutes, her request for costs fails as a matter of law because she
7 failed to timely file a memorandum of costs within the five days set forth in Nevada Revised
8 Statute 18.110(1) and, in any event, Anderson did not receive a "judgment" necessary under
9 Nevada Revised Statute 18.020 to obtain a basis to move the Court for an award of costs. As
10 such, the Department respectfully requests its Motion to Retax Costs be granted and Anderson
11 not be awarded any costs incurred in this matter.

12 Dated this 10 day of May, 2016.

13 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

14
15 By

16 
17 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
18 Nevada Bar No. 8996
19 10001 Park Run Drive
20 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
21 Attorney(s) for LVMPD
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

1 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

2 I hereby certify that the foregoing LVMPD'S MOTION TO RETAX COSTS was
3 submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the
4 26th day of May, 2016. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in
5 accordance with the E-Service List as follows:¹

6 **Kathleen Bliss Law Group PLLC**

7 **Contact**

8 Jason Hicks

9 Kathleen

10 Sylvia Bishai

Email

jh@kathleenblisslaw.com

kb@kathleenblisslaw.com

sb@kathleenblisslaw.com

11 I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy
12 thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to:

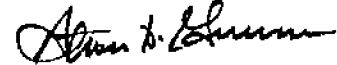
13 n/a

14
15 Candice Casale, an employee of
16 Marquis Aurbach-Coffing

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18
19
20
21
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23
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25
26
27 ¹ Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an E-Filed document through the E-Filing System
28 consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

EXHIBIT “7”

1 **Marquis Aurbach Coffing**
 2 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
 3 Nevada Bar No. 8996
 4 10001 Park Run Drive
 5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
 Telephone: (702) 382-0711
 Facsimile: (702) 382-5816
 ncrosby@maclaw.com
 Attorneys for LVMPD



CLERK OF THE COURT

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

8 IN RE THE EXECUTION SEARCH
 9 WARRANTS FOR:

10 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141;

11 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
 89141;

12 5608 Quiet Cloud Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
 89141; and

13 3321 Alcludia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada
 14 89141

Case No.: A-16-732077-C
 Dept. No.: XXVIII

LVMPD'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS

16 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD" and/or "the Department"), by
 17 and through its counsel of record, Nick Crosby, Esq. with the law firm of Marquis Aurbach
 18 Coffing, hereby submits its Opposition to Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and Affidavit of
 19 Kathleen Bliss, Esq., in Support.

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1 This Opposition is made and based on the following memorandum of points and
2 authorities, any declarations and/or exhibits attached hereto, the pleadings and papers on file
3 herein and any oral argument this Court may allow at the time of hearing.

4 Dated this 3 day of June, 2016.

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By 

Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 8996
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorney(s) for LVMPD

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

14 The motion for fees and costs must be denied because Anderson did not recover a money
15 judgment necessary to recover fees under Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(a) and did not prove
16 the Department's opposition to the motion for return of seized property contained a defense that
17 was without reasonable ground and did not argue the Department lodged the defense for
18 purposes of harassment. Furthermore, the motion is substantively deficient such that the Court
19 cannot determine whether the fees were actually incurred in this matter or whether they are
20 reasonable. Lastly, the request for costs is legally untenable and, in any event, untimely under
21 Nevada Revised Statute 18.110. As such, the motion should be denied in its entirety.

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. PROCEDURAL HISTORY.

23 Laura Anderson ("Anderson") filed a motion for the return of seized property on
24 February 19, 2016, seeking the return of property seized pursuant to valid search warrants.
25 During the time the motion was pending and filed with the Court, the Department was
26 investigating the suspected crime of living off the earnings of a prostitute. The Department filed
27 its opposition to the motion for the return of seized property on March 10, 2015 and in the
28

1 opposition, advised the Court (and counsel) that the matter was pending Federal review for
2 charges. After the motion and opposition were submitted with the Court, the undersigned
3 learned that there would no longer be any charges filed. On March 30, 2016, the undersigned
4 learned that a close friend unexpectedly passed away.¹ The hearing was set for the following
5 morning, March 31, 2016. On the morning of the hearing, the undersigned apologized for not
6 contacting Anderson's counsel prior to traveling to the courthouse for the hearing due to the
7 death of the undersigned's friend, which Ms. Bliss stated she understood. The undersigned
8 advised Anderson's counsel that there would not be Federal charges filed and that the
9 Department would return the property, as it no longer had an evidentiary need for the property.
10 The same was relayed to the Court and a notice of entry of an order directing the Department to
11 release the property was issued April 26, 2016.

12 **B. THE MOTION FOR FEES AND COSTS.**

13 On May 19, 2016, Anderson filed an untimely memorandum of costs, which the
14 Department responded to via motion to retax on May 20, 2016. On May 20, 2016, the
15 undersigned advised counsel that the memorandum was improper and untimely and requested the
16 same be taken off calendar (so the parties did not have to incur fees in arguing the memorandum
17 and motion to retax). That evening, counsel responded to the request to the memorandum off
18 calendar by stating, "Thanks, Nick. Go ahead and respond to our motion. Take Care." On May
19 16, 2016, Anderson filed the instant motion for fees and costs. In the motion, Anderson relies
20 upon Nevada Revised Statute 18.010 as the basis for recovery of fees and Nevada Revised
21 Statute 18.020 as a basis for costs. In the motion, Anderson admits that she did not recover any
22 monetary damages. (Mot., p. 7:18).

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27 ¹ <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/rgj/obituary.aspx?pid=179521702>.

1 **III. LAW AND ARGUMENT**

2 **A. ANDERSON IS NOT ENTITLED TO FEES UNDER NEVADA REVISED**
3 **STATUTE 18.101(2)(A).**

4 Nevada Revised Statute 18.010 states:

5 **NRS 18.010 Award of attorney's fees.**

6 1. The compensation of an attorney and counselor for his or her services is
7 governed by agreement, express or implied, which is not restrained by law.

8 2. In addition to the cases where an allowance is authorized by specific
9 statute, the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party:

10 (a) When the prevailing party has not recovered more than \$20,000; or

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

23 3. In awarding attorney's fees, the court may pronounce its decision on the
24 fees at the conclusion of the trial or special proceeding without written motion
25 and with or without presentation of additional evidence.

26 4. Subsections 2' and 3 do not apply to any action arising out of a written
27 instrument or agreement which entitles the prevailing party to an award of
28 reasonable attorney's fees.

29 The Nevada Supreme Court has expressly held that a party is the "prevailing party" if it

30 "succeeds on any significant issue in litigation which achieves some benefit it sought in
31 bringing the suit." Valley Elec. Assoc. v. Overfield, 121 Nev. 7, 10, 106 P.3d 1198, 1200
32 (2005) (quoting Smith v. Crown Financial Servs., 111 Nev. 277, 285, 890 P.2d 769, 774 (1995)).

33 However, achieving success on a significant issue is not the only requisite. Indeed, in 1995 the
34 Nevada Supreme Court authored the Crown Financial decision, addressing the legislative history
35 of NRS 18.010 and, after weighing all the possible scenarios regarding "prevailing parties,"
36 concluded the "*the recovery of a money judgment is a prerequisite to an award of attorney fees*
37 pursuant to NRS 18.010(2)(a)." Crown Financial, *supra*, 111 Nev. at 285, 890 P.2d at 774

(emphasis added). The prerequisite of a money judgment supported the legislative intent of the statute because to hold that something other than a money judgment (i.e. orders for equitable or declaratory relief) was sufficient, would allow every successful defendant to recover attorneys' fees under the statute, which is contrary to the intent of the statute. See id. at 111 Nev. at 282-286, 890 P.2d at 772-775; see also Shupe & Yost, Inc. v. Fallon Natl. Bank of Nev., 109 Nev. 99, 102, 847 P.2d 720, 722 (1993); Key Bank v. Donnels, 106 Nev. 49, 53, 787 P.2d 382, 385 (1990);

Here, Anderson admits that she did not obtain a money judgment. (Mot. at p. 7:18). Instead, Anderson obtained an order requiring the Department to return the lawfully seized property. Because Anderson did not obtain a judgment or a money judgment, she cannot recover her fees under Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(a).

B. NEVADA REVISED STATUTE 18.010(2)(B) OFFERS NO BASIS FOR ANDERSON TO RECOVER FEES AND COSTS.

As an alternative basis, Anderson argues she is entitled to fees under Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(b). (Mot. at p. 7:20-24; 8:1-4). That statute states, in relevant part:

NRS 18.010 Award of attorney's fees.

...

2. In addition to the cases where an allowance is authorized by specific statute, the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party:

...

(b). 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.

Nev. Rev. Stat. 18.010(2)(b). In argument, Anderson states it was "unreasonable" for the Department to retain the property "after litigation was commenced" because Anderson was not under federal investigation. (Mot. at p. 8:5-7). In fact, Anderson states that LVMPD's counsel

1 admitted that Anderson was not under Federal investigation. (Id. at p. 8:7). This is false. The
2 undersigned never once said Anderson was not under Federal investigation until the day of the
3 hearing. Despite this misstatement of Anderson, Anderson is not entitled to fees or costs under
4 Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(b).

5 For over 20 years the Nevada Supreme Court has held that an award of attorneys' fees
6 pursuant to NRS 18.010(2)(b) must be supported by evidence in the record that the proceedings
7 were brought without reasonable grounds or to harass the other party." Chowdhry v. NLVH,
8 Inc., 109 Nev. 478, 486, 851 P.2d 459, 464 (1993); see also Semenza v. Caughlin Crafted
9 Homes, 111 Nev. 1089, 901 P.2d 684 (1995). In Semenza, the Nevada Supreme Court reiterated
10 that a claim is groundless if the complaint contains allegations which "are not supported by any
11 credible evidence at trial." Semeza, 111 Nev. at 1095, 901 P.2d at 687-88 (citing Bergmann v.
12 Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 856 P.2d 560 (1993) and Fountain v. Mojo, 687 P.2d 496, 501
13 (Colo.Ct.App. 1984)). The Court noted that a motion for fees pursuant to NRS 18.010(2)(b)
14 requires the court to determine whether the party had reasonable grounds for the claims and this
15 analysis depends upon the "actual circumstances of the case." Id. (quoting Bergmann, supra, 109
16 Nev. at 675).

17 The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals denied a request for attorneys' fees incurred on an
18 appeal. Operating Engineers Local Un. No. 3 v. Newmont Mining Corp., 476 F.3d 690 (2007).
19 In Newmont, the Ninth Circuit held an award of fees for the appeal was not warranted because
20 there was no evidence the defendant acted "in bad faith, vexatiously, wantonly, or for oppressive
21 reasons." Id. at 694 (quoting Alyeska Pipeline Serv. Co. v. Wilderness Soc'y, 421 U.S. 240,
22 258-59 (1975)). In determining whether a claim is frivolous or groundless (i.e. lacking in any
23 reasonable ground for the action) the Court's analysis depends upon the actual circumstances of
24 the case. Semenza, 111 Nev. at 1095. Moreover, if an action is not frivolous at the time it is
25 commenced, but later becomes frivolous, does not support an award of fees. Id. (citing Duff v.
26 Foster, 110 Nev. 1306, 885 P.2d 589 (1994).

27 Anderson did not challenge the sufficiency or legality of the warrants or the execution of
28 the warrants – only the retention of the property. In essence, Anderson's challenge is that the

1 Department held onto the property too long (one year). There is no reasonable or unreasonable
2 timeframe in Nevada Revised Statute 179.085(1)(e) for a law enforcement agency's retention of
3 seized property. Instead, the statute allows a person to file a motion for return of seized property
4 when the "[r]etention of the property...is not reasonable under the totality of the circumstances."
5 Nev. Rev. Stat. 179.085(1)(e). Thus, simply holding property pursuant to a search warrant is not
6 *per se* unreasonable due to the length of time of the retention.

7 In order to recover fees, under Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(b), Anderson must
8 prove that the Department's opposition to the motion for return of seized property was "without
9 reasonable ground" or was intended to "harass" Anderson. Nev. Rev. Stat. 18.010(2)(b).
10 Anderson does not argue the opposition to the motion was designed or intended to harass
11 Anderson. As such, the only remaining basis under Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(b) for the
12 Court to consider is whether the opposition was without reasonable ground. This is different
13 from whether the retention of the property itself was reasonable or unreasonable, as Anderson is
14 not seeking return of the seized property in the motion for fees and, instead, is seeking an award
15 of fees because the Department's defense to the motion for return of seized property (i.e. that the
16 case was under Federal review at the time the motion for the return of seized property was filed)
17 was "without reasonable ground." As set forth in the opposition to the motion for the return of
18 seized property, and explained to counsel, the matter was under Federal review at the time the
19 motion was pending. When the undersigned learned that the Federal government was not going
20 to move forward on charges, Anderson's counsel was advised and the undersigned advised the
21 Court of the same. Opposing the motion for return of seized property because there were
22 discussions regarding filing Federal charges occurring contemporaneously with the opposition to
23 the motion is reasonable. Once the Department confirmed no charges would be filed (which
24 occurred after the filing of the motion for the return of seized property), Anderson was advised
25 the property would be released. As such, Anderson is not entitled to fees under Nevada Revised
26 Statute 18.010(2)(b).

1 **C. IN THE EVENT THE COURT IS INCLINED TO GRANT FEES, THE**
2 **MOTION DOES NOT PROVIDE SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO**
3 **EVALUATE THE REASONABLENESS OF THE FEES.**

4 In the event the Court is included to award fees, the award would be erroneous because
5 Anderson has not provided documentation demonstrating the fees incurred were necessary and
6 reasonable. In the affidavit in support of the motion for fees and costs, counsel identifies (1) a
7 \$10,000 retainer; (2) an additional \$15,412.50 in billed fees; and (2) hourly rates of \$300 for Ms.
8 Bliss and \$225.00 for Mr. Hicks. (Afft., p. 2, ¶¶ 9 and 11). Counsel then states "approximately
9 90 hours" were spent "attempting to secure the return of" the property. (Id. at ¶ 10).

10 First, the motion should be denied because the Court cannot evaluate the actual amount
11 of time spent on the action. Indeed, counsel can only approximate the amount of time spent on
12 the case, as noted at paragraph 10 of her affidavit.

13 Second, the motion for fees seems to encompass *all* of counsel's work in securing the
14 return of the property – including all time and efforts incurred *prior* to the filing of the motion
15 and *prior* to the Department's opposition (i.e. the basis for Anderson's motion for fees). Under
16 the plain language of Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(b), Anderson cannot recover fees
17 incurred prior to the filing of the motion or, more accurately, the opposition to the motion for
18 return of seized property. Indeed, the basis under which Anderson seeks an award of fees under
19 Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(b) requires the Court to find, in this instance, that a "defense"
20 was made without reasonable ground. Thus, there is no legal basis for the Court to award
21 Anderson fees from the genesis of the matter (i.e. the service of the search warrants). Despite the
22 plain language of the statute in this regard, it is evident Anderson is seeking to do just that, as the
23 affidavit in support of the motion for fees identifies, as justification for the amount of fees,
24 efforts counsel made *prior* to filing the motion for return of seized property including her
25 communications in October 2015 with the District Attorney's office (which is not the
26 Department) and her involvement in the "investigation" stage of the case. (See Afft. At ¶¶ 4-6).
27 Anderson cannot, as a matter of law, recover fees incurred in her retention of Ms. Bliss for the
28 criminal investigation. Because Anderson's motion is devoid of any billing statements outlining

1 when and what type of work was actually performed in regard to the motion for return of seized
2 property, the Court cannot award fees.

3 Along this same vein, the Court cannot award fees because Anderson failed to include
4 any billing statements or other evidence necessary for the Court to evaluate the reasonableness of
5 the fees. The Department does not deny the qualities of the advocates, the character of work
6 (only as it relates to the motion for return of seized property), nor does the Department believe
7 the hourly rate of pay is unreasonable, given the qualities of counsel. However, without billing
8 statements, the Court cannot determine whether the alleged work performed actually occurred,
9 how long each task took, and whether any identified tasks are reasonable. It would be an abuse
10 of discretion to award fees based solely upon the affidavit of counsel without the billing
11 statements. Moreover, the billing statements are necessary to determine whether the fees were
12 incurred in arguing the motion for return of seized property or incurred in connection with the
13 criminal investigation or informal efforts to recover the property. See infra; Barney v. Mt. Rose
14 Heating & Air Conditioning, -- Nev. --, 192 P.3d 730, 736-37 (2008) (holding district court
15 improperly awarded fees for matters outside of enforcement efforts of lien and abused its
16 discretion by awarding fees without making specific findings supporting award).

17 **D. THE AMOUNT OF FEES REQUESTED ARE UNREASONABLE.**

18 Additionally, in the event the Court is inclined to award attorneys fees, the Department
19 asserts the fees requested are unreasonable. While the Department does not dispute the fact it is
20 within the Courts' discretion to award attorneys fees, any fee awarded must be reasonable and
21 fair. See University of Nev. v. Tarkanian, 110 Nev. 581, 879 P.2d 1180 (1994). The Court is
22 unable to determine whether any award of fees is reasonable because Anderson has not offered
23 any evidence demonstrating what work was actually done, whether that amount of time was
24 reasonable, and, most importantly, whether the work was performed solely on the motion for
25 return of seized property. Thus, any award would be unfair and unreasonable.

26 Notwithstanding the fact the Court is deprived of any support to aide in a determination
27 of reasonableness of fees, the fees sought are unreasonable. When a district court is considering
28 the amount of attorneys fees to award, the analysis *must* include a consideration of the factors

1 enumerated by the Supreme Court in Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 455
2 P.2d 31 (1969). Those factors include: (1) *the qualities of the advocate*: her ability, her training,
3 education, experience, professional standing and skill; (2) *the character of the work to be done*:
4 its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, time and skill required, the responsibility imposed and
5 the prominence and character of the parties where they affect the importance of the litigation; (3)
6 *the work actually performed by the lawyer*: the skill, time and attention given to the work; (4) *the*
7 *result*: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits were derived. Id. at 349; see also
8 Shuette v. Beazer Homes Holdings Corp., 121 Nev. 837, 864–865, 124 P.3d 530, 548–549
9 (2005); Miller v. Wilfong, 121 Nev. 619, 623, 119 P.3d 727, 730 (2005). In fact, a district court
10 that does not consider the Brunzell factors, but nevertheless awards attorneys fees, commits
11 grounds for an automatic reversal of that attorneys fee award. See Shuette, 121 Nev. at 865, 124
12 P.3d at 549, n. 101 (citing Schouweiler v. Yancey Co., 101 Nev. 827, 712 P.2d 786 (1985)); see
13 also Beattie v. Thomas, 99 Nev. 579, 668 P.2d 268 (1983) (vacating an award of attorneys fees
14 based upon a lack of supporting evidence and findings to support the original award of fees).
15 Not only must the district court consider the Brunzell factors, but it must also provide findings
16 and sufficient reasoning in support of its ultimate fee determination. Shuette, 121 Nev. at 865,
17 124 P.3d at 549.

18 Again, the Department does not dispute the qualities of the advocates, but disagrees with
19 the work actually performed. Again, without the billing entries, the Court has no way of
20 determining what work was actually done, which attorney performed the work and, more
21 importantly, whether the work was performed on the motion for return of seized property. It
22 would be an abuse of discretion for the Court to award fees due to these deficiencies. Also,
23 without a billing statement itemizing the work performed and who performed the work, the
24 Court cannot determine the reasonableness of the fees sought, particularly considering counsel's
25 calculation seems suspect. Specifically, counsel states her firm spent “approximately” 90 hours
26 on this matter. (Aff. At ¶ 10). However, at a rate of \$300/hr, the *highest* amount of fees which
27 could have been incurred would be \$27,000.00 – just \$1,587.50 over what counsel is requesting.
28 The requested amount is confusing because Ms. Bliss stated in her affidavit that she used Mr.

1 Hicks to do work on this case. If Mr. Hicks performed all of the work on this case (which he did
2 not), the total amount of fees incurred would have been \$20,250.00 (\$225.00/hr x 90 hours).
3 This is \$5,162.50 less than what is requested. Obviously, the math is not adding up based upon
4 the affidavit of counsel; hence the requirement of billing records, which counsel omitted from
5 the motion.

6 Moreover, the amount of fees requested is absurd. Anderson seeks \$25,412.50 in fees.
7 The motion for return of seized property was 16 pages in length, of which 4 pages were a cut-
8 and-paste of the search warrant returns and four pages were comprised of the caption, notice of
9 motion and signature blocks. Essentially, the Motion was 8 pages long. The reply was six pages
10 long (of which, one page was primarily a signature block and one page the caption). This is, in
11 essence, a total of 12 pages of drafting and, at a rate of \$25,412.50, equates to over \$2,100 per
12 page.² By way of comparison, the undersigned's billing rate for this case is \$190.00/hour and
13 the total fees incurred in defending this action, meeting with the client, reviewing the case,
14 attending the hearing, researching and drafting the opposition and the motion to retax was
15 \$2,846.96. Clearly, counsel's fees are unreasonable and should not be awarded.

16 **E. ANDERSON IS NOT ENTITLED TO AN AWARD OF COSTS.**

17 Finally, Anderson cannot recover costs under Nevada Revised Statute 18.020. The
18 Department already addressed this erroneous request in its motion to retax, but because
19 Anderson included a request for costs in the instant motion, the Department will address the
20 same.

21 Nevada Revised Statute 18.020 states:

22 **NRS 18.020 Cases in which costs allowed prevailing party.** Costs must be
23 allowed of course to the prevailing party against any adverse party against whom
judgment is rendered, in the following cases:

24 ...

25 2. In an action to recover the possession of personal property, where the
26 value of the property amounts to more than \$2,500. The value *must be*
determined by the jury, court or master by whom the action is tried.

27 ² Counsel understands Anderson's counsel identified meetings with Anderson and research for the motion
28 and this calculation is used as an example of the absurdity of the amount requested.

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

3 4. In a special proceeding, except a special proceeding conducted pursuant to
4 NRS 306.040.

5 ...

6 Nev. Rev. Stat. 18.010(2)-(4)(emphasis added). Anderson is not entitled to an award of costs
7 because she did not receive a "judgment" as required by the statute. Further, the motion for costs
8 is untimely. Nevada Revised Statute 18.110 states a party "must file" a memorandum of costs
9 "within 5 days of the entry of judgment." Nev. Rev. Stat. 18.110(1). The notice of entry of
10 order was filed April 26, 2016. The instant motion for costs was not filed until May 16, 2016 -
11 well after the five day deadline. Anderson states, in the motion, that she is entitled to an award
12 of costs "[p]ursuant to NRS 18.110, yet ignored the five day timeframe in which to award costs.
13 As such, the motion should be denied.

14 **IV. CONCLUSION**

15 Anderson is not entitled to an award of fees under Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(a)
16 or (b). She did not obtain a money judgment required to prevail under Nevada Revised Statute
17 18.010(2)(a) and did not prove that the Department's defense was without reasonable ground
18 (and she did not argue the defense was asserted for purposes of harassment). Furthermore,
19 Anderson failed to provide the Court with sufficient evidence to evaluate the amount of fees
20 incurred and the reasonableness of the same. Finally, the motion for costs must be denied
21 because Anderson did not receive a "judgment" and, in any event, the request is untimely under
22 Nevada Revised Statute 18.110. As such, the motion in its entirety must be denied.

23 Dated this 3 day of June, 2016.

24 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

25 By

26 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
27 Nevada Bar No. 8996
28 10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorney(s) for LVMPD

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **LVMPD'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS** was submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the 3rd day of June, 2016. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the E-Service List as follows:³

Kathleen Bliss Law Group PLLC

Contact

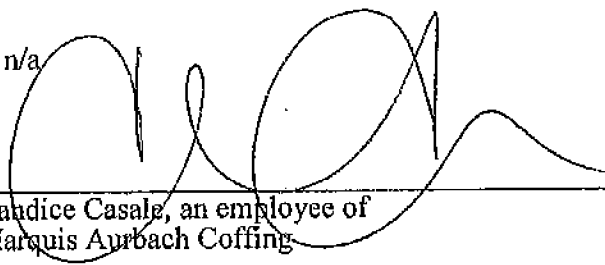
Jason Hicks
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Sylvia Bishai

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sb@kathleenblisslaw.com

I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to:

n/a

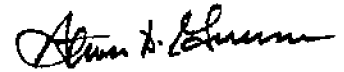

Candice Casale, an employee of
Marquis Aurbach Coffing

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
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³ Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an E-Filed document through the E-Filing System consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

EXHIBIT “8”



CLERK OF THE COURT

RPLY

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Attorneys for movant/real party
in interest Laura Anderson

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;
54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;
5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141; and
3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
89141

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

**REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS**

Hearing date: June 22, 2016, in chambers.

Movant/real party in interest, Laura Anderson, by and through counsel Kathleen Bliss, Esq., and Jason Hicks, Esq., of the law firm Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby submits this reply in support of her motion for attorneys' fees and costs. This reply is made and based upon the following memorandum of points and authorities, the pleadings and papers on file, and any argument entertained by the Court at the time of hearing.

///

///

///

1 MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

2 **I. LVMPD'S OPPOSITION IS UNTIMELY.**

3 Ms. Anderson filed her motion for attorneys' fees and costs on May 16, 2016, and it was
4 electronically served on counsel for LVMPD the same day through WizNet.¹ LVMPD then had
5 10 days, excluding the day of service, weekends, and holidays, to file to oppose the motion. *See*
6 EDCR 2.20(e). LVMPD thus had until May 31, 2016, to file its opposition. It did not file its
7 opposition until June 3, 2016, and Ms. Anderson was not served until June 6, 2016—making
8 LVMPD's opposition a week late, and warranting no recognition by the Court under the local
9 rules.

10 In this regard, the language of EDCR 2.20 is clear and mandatory, providing that “**Within**
11 **10 days after the service of the motion**, and 5 days after service of any joinder to the motion, the
12 **opposing party must serve and file written notice of nonopposition or opposition thereto. . .**”
13 (emphasis added). LVMPD did not obtain leave to file a late opposition, and its failure to file a
14 timely one “may be construed as an admission that [Ms. Anderson’s] motion and/or joinder is
15 meritorious and a consent to granting the same.” *Id.* LVMPD had adequate time to respond but
16 failed to do so in accordance with the rules, and Ms. Anderson requests that the Court decline to
17 take LVMPD’s untimely opposition into consideration. Indeed, LVMPD’s failure to comply with
18 the Court rules, in addition to its ongoing failure to comply with this Court’s order, as described
19 below, simply adds to the overall unreasonableness of its conduct in this matter.

20 **II. LVMPD'S CONDUCT HAS BEEN UNREASONABLE AS CONTEMPLATED BY**
21 **NRS 18.010 AND MS. ANDERSON SHOULD BE AWARDED HER ATTORNEYS'**
22 **FEES.**

23 As sole justification for its actions LVMPD repeatedly asserts that the matter was under
24 federal review. It did not support this assertion with *any* evidence when it originally made it in its
25 opposition to Ms. Anderson’s motion for return of property. LVMPD again failed to support this
26 assertion with *any* evidence when it repeated it in its opposition to Ms. Anderson’s motion for

27 ¹ Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an e-filed document through WizNet
28 consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

1 attorneys' fees and costs. Without evidence, LVMPD's defense (the supposed federal
2 investigation) is *per se* "baseless" and "unreasonable" within the meanings of NRS 18.010 and
3 NRS 179.085(1)(e). *See, e.g., Semenza v. Caughlin Crafted Homes*, 111 Nev. 1089, 1095 (1995)
4 (a claim is groundless if the allegations "are not supported by any credible evidence. . .").
5 *Semenza* is the some of the very authority that LVMPD cites in its opposition. *See* Opposition at
6 p. 6, ln. 9-11. Here, LVMPD's claim is not supported by *any* evidence, much less credible
7 evidence, rendering its position is groundless and therefore unreasonable.

8 Further, even if LVMPD could provide some evidence of a purported federal investigation
9 (which is unlikely, given that it has had multiple opportunities to do so, but has not) that
10 "evidence" would do nothing for its untenable position. That is because the very position
11 LVMPD now takes (i.e., that it was holding the property pending federal review) is explicitly
12 prohibited by law. Federal law requires that, "[i]n a case in which the property is seized by a State
13 or local law enforcement agency and turned over to a Federal law enforcement agency for the
14 purpose of forfeiture under Federal law, notice shall be sent not more than **90 days after the date**
15 **of seizure** by the State or local law enforcement agency." 18 U.S.C. § 983(a)(1)(A)(iv)(emphasis
16 added). It has been over one year since Ms. Anderson's property was seized, yet no notice was
17 sent to her by the federal government at any point. Even if the State did wish to hand over Ms.
18 Anderson's property to the federal authorities, federal law would prohibit authorities from
19 accepting it at this point (or at the point her motion for return was filed) as far longer than 90 days
20 have passed from the initial seizure.

21 In addition, because the seizure was not effected by a joint task force, the State cannot
22 continue to hold the property without bringing charges in hopes that the federal government will
23 assume it. While at one point federal authorities were permitted to adopt seizures by state and
24 local law enforcement agencies for purposes of later initiating federal forfeiture proceedings,
25 former Attorney General Eric Holder issued an executive order on January 16, 2015, prohibiting
26 this practice unless the seizure was either effected pursuant to a federal warrant, seized in tandem
27 with federal authorities, or the property directly related to public safety concerns, such as firearms,
28

1 ammunition, explosives, and child pornography. See Exhibit C to Ms. Anderson's Reply in
2 Support of Motion for Return of Property (also accessible online at
3 <https://www.justice.gov/file/318146/download>). That is not the case here, and the Attorney
4 General's order **specifically lists "vehicles, valuables, and cash" as items that are subject to its**
5 **prohibition on federal adoption of property seized solely by state or local law enforcement.**

6 This is the very same argument and authority that Ms. Anderson provided in her reply in
7 support of her motion for return of property. LVMPD did not dispute that authority then, and it
8 has not done so now. It is quite clear that the federal authorities were not actively investigating
9 Ms. Anderson, as there is no proof and the law explicitly forbids it under these circumstances.

10 When it there is not a joint state-federal investigation, as was the case here, the LVMPD
11 cannot serve indefinitely as a proxy for the federal government. This prohibition is quite clearly
12 spelled out in the former Attorney General's executive order, which has already been briefed by
13 Ms. Anderson in her reply in support of return of property. Had federal authorities actually been
14 conducting an active investigation into Ms. Anderson, they would have been required to appear
15 before a federal magistrate and obtain a federal warrant. LVMPD's supposed act of holding Ms.
16 Anderson's property on behalf of the federal government is therefore an entirely groundless,
17 baseless, and extremely unreasonable defense.

18 NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that fees should be awarded where:

19 Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the
20 claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party complaint **or**
21 **defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained**
22 **without reasonable ground** or to harass the prevailing party. **The**
23 **court shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in**
24 **favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations.**
25 **It is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's**
26 **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.

27 NRS 18.010(2)(b)(emphasis added).

28 It is submitted that the present circumstances are exactly the type the Legislature had in

1 mind when it chose to codify the lenient standard for an award of fees, and when it chose to
2 specifically direct courts to liberally construe NRS 18.010(2). Accordingly, this Court should do
3 so and find that LVMPD acted unreasonably under the totality of the circumstances in maintaining
4 its “federal investigation” defense as the sole basis for refusing to return the property, and award
5 Ms. Anderson her attorneys’ fees.

6 **III. LVMPD HAS FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THIS COURT’S ORDER TO**
7 **RETURN PROPERTY.**

8 In its Order signed April 20, 2016, this Court directed LVMPD to return all of Ms.
9 Anderson’s property. Ms. Anderson even specifically listed the property in the proposed order
10 signed by the Court in order to avoid any confusion on LVMPD’s part and to facilitate a smooth
11 return. LVMPD was given 30 days from the date of the Order to return her property. The Notice
12 of Entry of Order was filed and served on LVMPD on April 26, 2016. Excluding the day of
13 service, LVMPD thus had until May 27, 2016, at the latest, to comply.

14 LVMPD, through counsel, waited until the thirtieth and final day (May 27th, a Friday) to
15 inform Ms. Anderson her property was ready for her to pick up. Ms. Anderson then immediately
16 drove down to the station, only to learn that the division responsible for returning her property was
17 closed on Fridays. She was then forced to return the following week to obtain her property—
18 outside of the 30 day window ordered by this Court.

19 However, not all of Ms. Anderson’s property was returned to her at that time. The wireless
20 headphones and remotes, worth hundreds of dollars, if not more, that were used in the Mercedes’
21 entertainment system(s) and located in the vehicle at the time of its seizure, were not returned to
22 her and their location is unknown. Regretfully, LVMPD has made no attempt to reach counsel or
23 Ms. Anderson regarding the property LVMPD seized and held and was ordered by this Court to
24 return. This Court must recognize the impact of LVMPD’s conduct on an innocent citizen and its
25 disregard of this Court’s order.

26 Further, all of the items relating to her legal medical marijuana **remain in the possession**
27 **of the LVMPD to this day, nearly two months since the Order was signed, and more than**
28 **two and a half weeks past the final day for compliance as ordered by this Court.** Ms.

1 Anderson was told that this property could not be returned to her because it was in the possession
2 and control of a separate division within the LVMPD. Again, the LVMPD has **still** not returned
3 these items (which are worth thousands of dollars).

4 After this Court issued its order, Counsel for LVMPD was ostensibly responsible for
5 coordinating with the various LVMPD divisions to ensure that LVMPD complied with the Court's
6 order and returned **all** of Ms. Anderson's property in the time frame ordered by the Court. This
7 did not happen; Ms. Anderson received some property late, and is still unable to obtain the
8 remainder. Thus far, Ms. Anderson has held off on filing a motion to compel, for an order to show
9 cause, to be held in contempt, and for sanctions, despite these circumstances being clearly
10 appropriate for one, simply because of the costs associated with doing so.

11 LVMPD's complete and utter (and ongoing) failure to abide by the Court's order simply
12 highlights the unreasonable manner in which it has conducted itself throughout the entirety of
13 these events. From baseless defenses, to untimely oppositions, to being in contempt of Court,
14 LVMPD's conduct certainly warrants an order directing it, at minimum, to pay Ms. Anderson's
15 fees, as she has borne the brunt of LVMPD's laziness and unprofessional conduct.

16 **IV. THE FEES CLAIMED ARE REASONABLE.**

17 LVMPD concedes that counsel for Ms. Anderson are qualified, that the character of work
18 is reasonable, and that the rates charged are appropriate. *See* Opposition at p. 9, ln. 5-7. LVMPD
19 therefore admits that Ms. Anderson has satisfied the showing necessary to award attorneys' fees as
20 set forth in *Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat. Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 349 (1969). LVMPD's only
21 objection is that counsel did not submit a timesheet with its original motion and therefore it cannot
22 evaluate the time spent, to the minute. This is not a basis for outright denial of the relief sought.
23 Counsel for Ms. Anderson has a copy of the itemized billings prepared and ready for submission
24 for the Court's consideration, should the Court require it.

25 Finally, LVMPD takes issue with the payment of fees incurred prior to the filing of the
26 motion for return of property. NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides only that the Court should find the
27 "defense" was maintained without reasonable grounds. The statute makes no distinction with
28

1 regards to pre or post filing of a motion for return. To the contrary, the statute specifically states
2 that it is the Legislature's intent "to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and
3 defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the
4 timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in business and
5 providing professional services to the public." Through counsel, Ms. Anderson attempted to
6 resolve the matter without litigation on multiple occasions throughout the months prior to filing.
7 LVMPD essentially ignored these attempts. Had LVMPD acted reasonably from the outset, it
8 would have avoided litigation entirely and been asked to pay nothing. Because the aim of the
9 statute is to deter frivolous defenses and preserve judicial resources, it follows that requiring a
10 party to act reasonably *before* litigation arises is even more important in achieving the statute's
11 stated objectives, and such a requirement aligns precisely with the Legislature's intent.

12 **V. CONCLUSION**

13 Based upon the foregoing, Ms. Anderson respectfully requests that the Court grant her
14 motion for attorneys' fees and costs in full. Ms. Anderson also requests permission to supplement
15 her motion to include those fees and costs incurred since the filing of her motion through the
16 issuance of the Court's decision on the matter.

17 Dated this 15th day of June 2016.

18 Respectfully submitted,

19
20 KATHLEEN BLISS LAW PLLC

21
22 /s/ Kathleen Bliss

23 Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

24 Nevada Bar No. 7606

25 Jason Hicks, Esq.

26 Nevada Bar No. 13149

27 400 S. 4th St., Suite 500

28 Las Vegas, NV 89101

Telephone: 702.793.4202

Facsimile: 702.793.4001

Attorneys for Laura Anderson

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

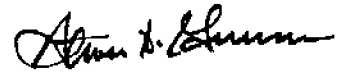
The undersigned, an employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby certifies that on this 15th day of June 2016, I did cause a true and correct copy of the **REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS** to be served via electronic service through the Court's WizNet system to:

Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Marquis Aurbach Coffing
10001 Park Run Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89145
ncrosby@maclaw.com
Attorneys for Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

/s/ Jason Hicks_____

An employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

EXHIBIT “9”



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **Marquis Aurbach Coffing**
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4 10001 Park Run Drive
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
6 Telephone: (702) 382-0711
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8 nerosby@maclaw.com
9 Attorneys for LVMPD

6 **DISTRICT COURT**

7 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

8 **IN RE THE EXECUTION SEARCH**
9 **WARRANTS FOR:**

10 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141;
11 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
12 89141;
13 5608 Quiet Cloud Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
14 89141; and
15 3321 Alcadia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada
16 89141

Case No.: A-16-732077-C
Dept. No.: XXVIII

15 **LVMPD'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO RETAX COSTS**

16 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD" and/or "the Department"), by
17 and through its counsel of record, Nick Crosby, Esq. with the law firm of Marquis Aurbach
18 Coffing, hereby submits its Reply in Support of Motion to Retax Costs.

19 This Reply is made and based on the following memorandum of points and authorities,
20 any declarations and/or exhibits attached hereto, the pleadings and papers on file herein and any
21 oral argument this Court may allow at the time of hearing.

22 Dated this 16 day of June, 2016.

23 **MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING**

24 

25 By _____
26 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
27 Nevada Bar No. 8996
28 10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorney(s) for LVMPD

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**I. INTRODUCTION**

Laura Anderson ("Anderson") failed to file an opposition to the Department's Motion to Retax. As such, this Court should grant the Department's Motion and deny any award of costs to Anderson, pursuant to EDCR 2.2(e).

II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Anderson brought the instant action for the return of seized property under Nevada Revised Statute 179.085. The Court signed an order for the return of seized property on April 10, 2016 and the same was entered April 20, 2016. The order did not award Anderson her costs. Anderson filed the instant Memorandum of Costs on May 19, 2016, but did not cite to a legal basis for the award of costs. The Department timely filed its Motion to Retax and Anderson did not file an opposition to the Motion to Retax.

III. LAW AND ARGUMENT

The Department set forth the substantive bases for denying costs in its Motion to Retax in the Motion and Anderson failed to oppose the same. As such, the Motion should be granted.

A. RELEVANT LEGAL STANDARD.

Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 2.20 states, in relevant part:

(e) Within 10 days after service of the motion, and 5 days after service of any joinder to the motion, the opposing party *must* serve and file written notice of nonopposition or opposition thereto...stating facts showing why the motion and/or joinder should be denied. *Failure of the opposing party to serve and file written opposition may be construed as an admission that the motion and/or joinder is meritorious and a consent to granting the same.*

EDCR 2.20(e)(emphasis added); see also Musso v. Ortis, --Nev. --, 2013 WL 3205599 (June 14, 2013)(unpublished); Las Vegas Fetish & Fantasy Halloween Ball, Inc. v. Ahern Rentals, Inc., 124 Nev. 272, 182 P.3d 764 (2008).

B. ANDERSON'S MEMORANDUM OF COSTS DOES NOT CITE A LEGAL BASIS FOR AWARDING COSTS.

In its Motion, the Department asserted the Memorandum of Costs should be retaxed and Anderson receive no costs because Anderson did not cite (and does not possess) a legal basis for an award of costs. Anderson sought return of her property pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute

1 179.085 and that statute does not provide a basis for an award of costs and, instead, provides a
2 sole remedy of returning the property and suppression of the same. See Nev. Rev. Stat.
3 179.085(2). Anderson failed to oppose this argument in the Motion and, therefore, the Motion
4 should be granted pursuant to EDCR 2.20(e).

5 **C. ANDERSON WOULD NOT BE ENTITLED TO AN AWARD OF COSTS**
6 **UNDER NEVADA REVISED STATUTE 18.020.**

7 Although Anderson did not cite Nevada Revised Statute 18.020 as a legal basis for
8 awarding costs, even if she had, an award of costs under this statute is improper because
9 Anderson did not receive a "judgment" as required by the statute. Again, Anderson did not
10 oppose this argument and, therefore, conceded the same is meritorious.

11 **D. THE MEMORANDUM OF COSTS IS UNTIMELY.**

12 Finally, Anderson's Memorandum of Costs was untimely in the first instance – another
13 argument raised by the Department. Again, Anderson did not oppose this argument, as she did
14 not file an opposition to the Motion. This is particularly troubling, considering the Department
15 notified Anderson's attorney that her Memorandum of Costs was untimely and requested the
16 same be withdrawn; to which Anderson's counsel refused. Instead of withdrawing the untimely
17 Memorandum, Anderson apparently wanted the Department to incur additional fees in
18 challenging the Memorandum, only to elect to not file an opposition to the Motion to Retax.

19 **IV. CONCLUSION**

20 Anderson failed to file an opposition to the Motion to Retax and, under EDCR 2.20(e),
21 the Motion should be granted for Anderson's failure to file an opposition.

22 Dated this 16 day of June, 2016.

23 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

24 

25 By _____
26 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
27 Nevada Bar No. 8996
28 10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorney(s) for LVMPD

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **LVMPD'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO RETAX COSTS** was submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the 6th day of June, 2016. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the E-Service List as follows:¹

Kathleen Bliss Law Group PLLC

Contact

Jason Hicks
Kathleen
Sylvia Bishai

Email

jh@kathleenblisslaw.com
kb@kathleenblisslaw.com
sb@kathleenblisslaw.com

I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to:

n/a

Candice Casale, an employee of
Marquis Aurbach Coffing

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
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¹ Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an E-Filed document through the E-Filing System consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

EXHIBIT “10”

RECEIVED

JUN 23 2016

**DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

Other Civil Matters

COURT MINUTES

June 22, 2016

A-16-732077-C

Laura Anderson, Plaintiff(s)

vs.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Defendant(s)

June 22, 2016

Chambers

All Pending Motions

All Pending Motions
(06/22/16)

HEARD BY: Israel, Ronald J.

COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 15C

COURT CLERK: Kathy Klein

PARTIES

PRESENT: None

JOURNAL ENTRIES

- MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS AND AFFIDAVIT OF KATHLEEN BLISS ESQ. IN
SUPPORT...LVMPD'S MOTION TO RETAX COSTS

Upon review of the papers and pleadings on file in this matter, COURT ORDERED, Matter SET for a
hearing.

07/21/16 9:00 AM MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS AND AFFIDAVIT OF
KATHLEEN BLISS ESQ. IN SUPPORT...LVMPD'S MOTION TO RETAX COSTS

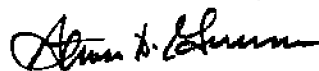
CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of this minute order was placed in the attorney folder(s) of: Kathleen Bliss,
Esq. and Nicholas Crosby, Esq. (Marquis Aurbach Coffing)

Route to:	NC
File No.	5766-9009
Amicus:	
Calendared by:	SMB



EXHIBIT “11”

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9 Attorneys for LVMPD



CLERK OF THE COURT

6 **DISTRICT COURT**
7 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

8 **IN RE THE EXECUTION SEARCH**
9 **WARRANTS FOR:**

10 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141;
11 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
12 89141;
13 5608 Quiet Cloud Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
14 89141; and
15 3321 Alcudia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada
16 89141

Case No.: A-16-732077-C
Dept. No.: XXVIII

17 **LVMPD'S SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION FOR**
18 **ATTORNEYS FEES**

19 Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department ("LVMPD" and/or "the Department"), by
20 and through its counsel of record, Nick Crosby, Esq. with the law firm of Marquis Aurbach
21 Coffing, hereby submits its Supplemental Brief in Opposition to the Motion for Attorneys Fees.

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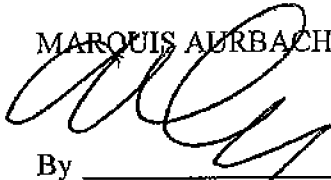
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1 This Brief is made and based on the following memorandum of points and authorities,
2 any declarations and/or exhibits attached hereto, the pleadings and papers on file herein and any
3 oral argument this Court may allow at the time of hearing.

4 Dated this 18 day of August, 2016.

5 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

6
7
8 By 
9 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
10 Nevada Bar No. 8996
11 10001 Park Run Drive
12 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
13 Attorneys for LVMPD

14 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

15 **I. INTRODUCTION**

16 When the parties appeared before the Court on Laura Anderson's ("Plaintiff") Motion for
17 Attorneys fees, Plaintiff's counsel – for the first time – provided billing statements in support of
18 the Motion for Fees. Per order of the Court, the Department hereby submits its supplemental
19 brief regarding the billing statements and hereby incorporates the arguments advanced in the
20 Opposition to the Motion for Attorneys Fees.

21 **II. STATEMENT OF FACTS AND ARGUMENT REGARDING BILLING**

22 **A. THE MOTION FOR FEES.**

23 In the Motion for Fees, Plaintiff claimed \$25,412.50 in attorneys fees, of which \$10,000
24 was attributed to an initial retainer. In the affidavit in support of the motion for fees, Plaintiff's
25 counsel stated that the hourly billing rate for Ms. Bliss was \$300 and for Mr. Hicks, \$225. (Afft.,
26 ¶ 9). The Motion did not include any billing statements for the claimed fees.

27 **B. THE BILLING STATEMENTS.**

28 In open court, Plaintiff's counsel provided LVMPD's counsel with three documents, to
wit: a Client Fees Listing ("CLL") (Exhibit A); Invoice #39 (Exhibit B); and Invoice #39
(Exhibit C). Counsel also provided these documents to the Court during the hearing. Exhibit B
and C are exact duplicates.

1 **1. Client Fees Listing.**

2 The CLL includes billing entries from October 30, 2015 through April 13, 2016. (Ex. A).
3 The total amount of fees "billed" in Exhibit A is 9,560.00. (Ex. A at p. 2). The CLL includes a
4 billing rate of \$300/hr for Ms. Bliss, as Ms. Bliss stated in her affidavit, but for Mr. Hicks, the
5 billing rate is \$200/hr – not \$225, as Ms. Bliss stated in her Affidavit. (*compare* Ex. A, p. 1 with
6 Afft. of K. Bliss at ¶ 9).

7 Nearly every time entry in the CLL is duplicative to those identified in Exhibits B and C.
8 One billed time entry that is not included in Exhibits B and C is a March 10, 2016 entry for
9 attorney Bliss for 0.70 hours for the task, "review opposition and discuss with JH reply."¹ (Ex.
10 A, p. 1). This entry totaled \$210.00. Finally, there is an entry – the first entry – that totals
11 \$1,710.00 for "0.00" hours of work and there is no description of the work performed and,
12 instead, the October 30, 2105 description of work states, "to be invoiced per KB/bank
13 statement." (*Id.* at p. 1). This entry cannot be considered because it does not describe what work
14 was performed, or the amount of time spent on the task and, therefore, the Court cannot evaluate
15 whether the same is reasonable.

16 The total amount billed under the CLL is \$9,560.00. (*Id.* at p. 2). Adjusting the CLL to
17 reduce the phantom, unexplained \$1,710 time entry, reduced the actual amount billed to
18 \$7,850.00, however, all of this time is incorporated in Exhibit B.

19 **2. Invoice 39.**

20 Because Exhibits B and C are the same, the Court need only look at one invoice for
21 purposes of reviewing the itemization of fees. As set forth above, the CLL is encompassed in its
22 entirety (with the execution of the 0.70 entry and the phantom \$1,710, addressed *supra*), thus the
23 total amount billed between the CLL and Exhibit B is incorrect, as the same time entries are
24 duplicated. Interestingly, there are two entries in Invoice 39 which are included in the CLL, but
25

26
27 ¹ There is an April 13, 2106 time entry for a timekeeper "SB" for 0.50 hours for the task of
28 "Correspondence to client with attachment of court minutes, re: return of seized property," but it appears
 from the reconciliation on the second page of Exhibit A, this time was not billed to Plaintiff.

list a different length of time spent for the same tasks. Specifically, on page 4 of Exhibit B, there are the following entries:

03/31/2106	Meet with and prep client	0.50	\$300	\$150
03/31/2016	Attend hearing	0.50	\$300	\$150

(Ex. B at p. 4). In the CLL, these same entries are listed as being billed as follows:

Mar 31/2016	meet with client pre hearing	0.30	\$300	\$90
Mar 31/2016	attend hearing	0.40	\$300	\$120

(Ex. A at p. 1). There is clearly a deficiency in the billing records between the CLL and Invoice 39, which appears to reflect that Plaintiff was billed for 0.30 of time that either did not occur or was inflated after the fact (or a \$90 increase in fees over the CLL). Furthermore, Invoice 39 lists a billing rate of \$225/hr for attorney Hicks, but the CLL – for the same entries on Invoice 39 – bills his rate at \$200/hr. Again, Plaintiff's counsel's records are not accurate in this regard. Moreover, Ms. Bliss billed a 0.40 (24 minutes) to "review electronic communication with Nick Crosby" on March 17, 2016. (Ex. B at p. 3). Attached hereto as exhibit D is the email counsel, according to the billing record, spent 24 minutes reviewing. (**Exhibit D**). The entirety of the email contains four sentences between counsel and Mr. Hick's initial email on that date was sent at 4:47 pm and the undersigned responded at 4:58 pm (11 minutes later). Somehow, according to the billing entries, counsel spent 24 minutes drafting two sentences and reading two sentences. (Id.) This billing entry is unreasonable.

The motion for return of seized property was not filed until February 19, 2016. Invoice 39 includes 13 entries which are clearly not in preparation/drafting of the motion for return of seized property. (See Ex. B at p. 1, entries 08/19/15-10/30/15). These entries total \$1,290.00. (Id.) The duplicate entries in Invoice 39 that also appear in the CLL total \$8,812.00. Excluding the duplicative items, the total amount under Invoice 39 is \$8,422.50. Because all of the CLL – with the exception of a \$210 entry and the phantom \$1,710 entry – are included in Invoice 39, the total amount of \$8,422.50 (Invoice 39) plus the \$210 entry, totals the actual amount billed as \$8,632.50.

1 There is absolutely no record demonstrating what work, if any, was performed under the
2 alleged \$10,000 retainer and, as such, the Court cannot evaluate the \$10,000 amount, as it has
3 not been presented with *any evidence* that any portion of the \$10,000 was used in furtherance of
4 the return of property. Moreover, Ms. Bliss asserted in open Court during the hearing that much
5 of the work she performed was credit repair for Plaintiff. Given Plaintiff's records, the absolute
6 highest amount of fees incurred for which the Court can even consider is \$8,632.50. By way of
7 comparison, the undersigned generated \$4,841.20 in this matter, at a rate of \$190/hr (or roughly
8 25 hours). Even under Ms. Bliss' rate of \$300/hr, that amount would be \$7,500 or under Mr.
9 Hicks' \$225/hr rate, \$5,625, or \$5,000 under Mr. Hicks' billed rate of \$200/hr under the CLL
10 records. No matter which way the Court views it, it is clear the requested \$25,412.50 is not
11 supported by the records presented to the Court. Furthermore, given the glaring inconsistencies
12 in the records provided by Plaintiff, and assuming the Court determines that Plaintiff has a legal
13 basis to recover fees and that she met her burden of proof, the Department maintains the records
14 are not sufficiently reliable for this Court to even issue an award of fees.

15 **III. CONCLUSION**

16 For the reasons set forth in the Opposition, the Department maintains Plaintiff is not
17 entitled to any fees. However, even if Plaintiff is entitled to fees, the requested amount is
18 unreasonable, inflated, undocumented and, therefore, cannot be awarded.

19 Dated this 18 day of August, 2016.

20 MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

21 

22 By _____
23 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
24 Nevada Bar No. 8996
25 10001 Park Run Drive
26 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
27 Attorneys for LVMPD
28

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **LVMPD'S SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO THE MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES** was submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the 18th day of August, 2016. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the E-Service List as follows:²

Kathleen Bliss Law Group PLLC**Contact**

Jason Hicks

Kathleen

Sylvia Bishai

Emailjh@kathleenblisslaw.comkb@kathleenblisslaw.comsb@kathleenblisslaw.com

I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to:

N/A


An employee of Marquis Aurbach Coffing

² Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an E-Filed document through the E-Filing System consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

EXHIBIT “A”

Date	Fee / Time	Hours	Amount	Inv#	Billing Status
Entry #	Explanation				
23	Anderson, Laura				
23-001	Anderson, Laura - Nevada State Return of 1				
Oct 30/2015	Fees To Lawyer KB	0.00	1710.00	40	Billed
930	To be invoiced per KB/bank statement				
Dec 10/2015	Lawyer: JKH 1.00 Hrs X 200.00	1.00	200.00	38	Billed
624	Review bill in advance of drafting motion for return of property				
Dec 18/2015	Lawyer: JKH 1.10 Hrs X 200.00	1.10	220.00	38	Billed
625	Legal research re: motion for return of property				
Dec 18/2015	Lawyer: JKH 1.90 Hrs X 200.00	1.90	380.00	38	Billed
626	Begin drafting motion for return of property				
Jan 11/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.80 Hrs X 200.00	0.80	160.00	38	Billed
627	Conduct additional legal research re: motion for return of property				
Jan 14/2016	Lawyer: JKH 1.10 Hrs X 200.00	1.10	220.00	38	Billed
628	Continue drafting motion for return of property				
Jan 14/2016	Lawyer: JKH 5.50 Hrs X 200.00	5.50	1100.00	38	Billed
647	Draft motion for return of property				
Jan 14/2016	Lawyer: JKH 1.90 Hrs X 200.00	1.90	380.00	38	Billed
648	Legal research re: motion for return of property				
Jan 18/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.80 Hrs X 200.00	0.80	160.00	38	Billed
649	Meeting with client regarding return of property				
Jan 18/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.90 Hrs X 200.00	0.90	180.00	38	Billed
650	Draft affidavits for Laura and Kathleen in support of motion for return of property				
Jan 19/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.70 Hrs X 200.00	0.70	140.00	38	Billed
651	Additional legal research re motion for return of property				
Jan 27/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.70 Hrs X 200.00	0.70	140.00	38	Billed
673	Meeting with client regarding return of property				
Feb 9/2016	Lawyer: JKH 1.00 Hrs X 200.00	1.00	200.00	38	Billed
688	Revise and supplemental Laura and Kathleen's affidavits in support of motion for return of property				
Feb 10/2016	Lawyer: JKH 2.80 Hrs X 200.00	2.80	560.00	38	Billed
692	Revision, supplementation, and editing of motion for return of property				
Feb 11/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.50 Hrs X 200.00	0.50	100.00	38	Billed
694	Edit motion for return of property				
Feb 12/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.30 Hrs X 200.00	0.30	60.00	38	Billed
700	Edit motion and supporting affidavits				
Feb 12/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.90 Hrs X 200.00	0.90	180.00	38	Billed
701	Meeting with client				
Feb 17/2016	Lawyer: JKH 1.00 Hrs X 200.00	1.00	200.00	38	Billed
706	Prepare motion for return of property for mailing (exhibits, redaction, etc)				
Feb 18/2016	Lawyer: JKH 1.30 Hrs X 200.00	1.30	260.00	38	Billed
710	Filing at state court, go to clerk's office, discuss with filing clerks				
Feb 18/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.50 Hrs X 200.00	0.50	100.00	38	Billed
714	Analysis of issues and formulate plan regarding hearing on motion for return of property with KB				
Feb 25/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.60 Hrs X 200.00	0.60	120.00	38	Billed
734	E-mails and phone calls with First Legal services regarding service of process on DA and LVMPD				
Feb 26/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.40 Hrs X 200.00	0.40	80.00	38	Billed
745	Draft certificate of service				
Feb 26/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.30 Hrs X 200.00	0.30	60.00	38	Billed
746	Revise and file certificate of service				
Feb 26/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.10 Hrs X 200.00	0.10	20.00	38	Billed
747	E-mail to client regarding setting of hearing date on motion for return of property				
Mar 4/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.10 Hrs X 200.00	0.10	20.00	59	Billed
1392	Email from opposing counsel regarding extension of time to oppose our motion				
Mar 10/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.80 Hrs X 200.00	0.80	160.00	59	Billed
1430	review and analysis of opposition to our motion in advance of drafting reply brief				
Mar 10/2016	Lawyer: KB 0.70 Hrs X 300.00	0.70	210.00	59	Billed
1502	review opposition and discuss with JH reply				
Mar 11/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.70 Hrs X 200.00	0.70	140.00	59	Billed
1435	Begin drafting reply brief in support of motion for return of property				
Mar 15/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.20 Hrs X 200.00	0.20	40.00	59	Billed
1443	Phone call with client regarding reply brief				
Mar 15/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.10 Hrs X 200.00	0.10	20.00	59	Billed
1444	Communication with opposition counsel regarding new hearing date				
Mar 15/2016	Lawyer: JKH 1.00 Hrs X 200.00	1.00	200.00	59	Billed
1445	Continue drafting reply brief				
Mar 15/2016	Lawyer: JKH 1.10 Hrs X 200.00	1.10	220.00	59	Billed
1446	Legal research on forfeiture issues between state and federal governments for reply brief				
Mar 21/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.10 Hrs X 200.00	0.10	20.00	59	Billed
1454	Review notice of change of hearing and letter				
Mar 21/2016	Lawyer: JKH 0.10 Hrs X 200.00	0.10	20.00	59	Billed
1455	Communication with client regarding new hearing date				
Mar 24/2016	Lawyer: JKH 2.80 Hrs X 200.00	2.80	560.00	59	Billed
1476	Complete draft, review, edit and supplement reply brief in support of motion for return of property				
Mar 24/2016	Lawyer: KB 0.80 Hrs X 300.00	0.80	240.00	59	Billed
1503	finalize reply and discuss with client				
Mar 31/2016	Lawyer: KB 1.20 Hrs X 300.00	1.20	360.00	59	Billed
1504	prepare for hearing by reviewing all filings, researching equitable relief and reviewing statute				
Mar 31/2016	Lawyer: KB 0.30 Hrs X 300.00	0.30	90.00	59	Billed
1505	meet with client pre hearing				
Mar 31/2016	Lawyer: KB 0.40 Hrs X 300.00	0.40	120.00	59	Billed
1506	attend hearing				
Mar 31/2016	Lawyer: KB 0.70 Hrs X 300.00	0.70	210.00	59	Billed
1507	prepare order for court and send to counsel				
Apr 13/2016	Lawyer: SB 0.50 Hrs X 125.00	0.50	62.50		Unbilled
1782	Correspondence to client with attachment of court minutes, re: return of seized property				

Kathleen Bliss Law
Client Fees Listing
ALL DATES
Working Lawyer

Date	Fee / Time	Hours	Amount	Inv#	Billing Status
Entry #	Explanation				
		Unbilled:	0.50	62.50	
		Billed:	37.20	9560.00	
		Total:	37.70	9622.50	
		Percent Billed:	98.67	99.35	

*** Summary by Working Lawyer ***

Working Lawyer	Hours				Fees			
	Unbilled	Firm %	Billed	Firm %	Total	% Bld	Unbilled	Firm %
KB - Kathleen Bl	0.00	0.00	4.10	11.02	4.10	100.00	0.00	0.00
JKH - Jason K Hic	0.00	0.00	33.10	88.98	33.10	100.00	0.00	0.00
SB - Sylvia Bish	0.50	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	62.50	100.00
Firm Total	0.50	100.00	37.20	100.00	37.70	98.67	62.50	100.00

*** Summary by Responsible Lawyer ***

Responsible Lawyer	Hours				Fees			
	Unbilled	Firm %	Billed	Firm %	Total	% Bld	Unbilled	Firm %
KB - Kathleen Bl	0.50	100.00	37.20	100.00	37.70	98.67	62.50	100.00
Firm Total	0.50	100.00	37.20	100.00	37.70	98.67	62.50	100.00

REPORT SELECTIONS - Client Fees Listing

Layout Template	Default
Advanced Search Filter	None
Requested by	JKH
Finished	Tuesday, August 09, 2016 at 08:44:23 AM
Ver	14.1 (14.1.20150324)
Date Range	ALL DATES
Matters	23-001
Clients	All
Major Clients	All
Client Intro Lawyer	All
Matter Intro Lawyer	All
Responsible Lawyer	All
Assigned Lawyer	All
Type of Law	All
Select From	Active, Inactive, Archived Matters
Matters Sort by	Default
New Page for Each Lawyer	No
Firm Totals Only	No
Client balances only	No
Matter balances only	No
Entries Shown - Billed Only	Yes
Entries Shown - Unbilled	Yes
Entries Shown - Billable Tasks	Yes
Entries Shown - Write Up/Down Tasks	Yes
Entries Shown - No Charge Tasks	Yes
Entries Shown - Non Billable Tasks	Yes
Working Lawyer	All

EXHIBIT “B”

Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

INVOICE

400 South 4th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
United States
Phone: 702-793-4202
www.kathleenblisslaw.com

Invoice # 39
Date: 08/09/2016
Due On: 09/08/2016

Laura Anderson
2946 Cimini Ct.

Henderson, NV 89052

00006-Anderson

Anderson, Laura - Nevada State Return of Property

Type	Date	Notes	Quantity	Rate	Total
Service	08/19/2015	Electronic communication to Charlotte Flores and review response	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	08/24/2015	Reviewed response/update from LVMPD and responses	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	09/14/2015	Review medical marijuana cards and forward to LVMPD	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	09/15/2015	Electronic communication to client re: Call to LVMPD re: medical marijuana cards	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	09/15/2015	Telephone call with Flores, re: status	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	09/15/2015	Electronic communication with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	09/18/2015	Meeting with client re: status	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	10/23/2015	Update application for LVMPD	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	10/23/2015	Telephone call with LVMPD Flores	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	10/23/2015	Update client	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	10/26/2015	Review article, re: medical marijuana arrests	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	10/26/2015	Draft and send letter to LVMPD; electronic communication to client	1.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Service	10/30/2015	Forward letter with electronic communication to client	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	12/18/2015	Review file in advance of drafting motion for return of property	1.20	\$225.00	\$270.00
Service	12/18/2015	Legal research, re: motion for return of property.	1.10	\$225.00	\$247.50

Service	12/18/2015	Begin drafting motion for return of property	1.90	\$225.00	\$427.50
Service	01/11/2016	Conduct additional legal research, re: motion for return of property	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	01/11/2016	Continue drafting motion for return of property	1.10	\$225.00	\$247.50
Service	01/14/2016	Draft motion for return of property	5.50	\$225.00	\$1,237.50
Service	01/14/2016	Legal research, re: motion for return of property	1.90	\$225.00	\$427.50
Service	01/18/2016	meeting with client re update and discussion of new law	1.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Service	01/18/2016	Meeting with client regarding return of property	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	01/18/2016	Draft affidavits for Laura and Kathleen in support of motion for return of property	0.90	\$225.00	\$202.50
Service	01/19/2016	Additional legal research, re: motion for return of property	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	01/27/2016	Meeting with client	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	01/27/2016	Meeting with client regarding return of property	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	02/09/2016	Review draft and affidavit	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	02/09/2016	Follow-up with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	02/08/2016	Revise and supplemental Laura and Kathleen's affidavits in support of motion for return of property	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	02/10/2016	Electronic communication with client, re: affidavit	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	02/10/2016	Revision, supplementation, and editing of motion for return of property	2.80	\$225.00	\$630.00
Service	02/11/2016	Electronic communication with client, re: affidavit	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	02/11/2016	Review draft motion affidavit	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	02/11/2016	Edit motion for return of property	0.50	\$225.00	\$112.50
Service	02/12/2016	meeting with client re preparation of documents in support of motion	1.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Service	02/12/2016	Edit motion and supporting affidavits	0.30	\$225.00	\$67.50
Service	02/12/2016	Meeting with client	0.90	\$225.00	\$202.50
Service	02/17/2016	Prepare motion for return of property for filing (exhibits, redaction, etc.)	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	02/18/2016	Filing at state court, go to clerk's office, discuss with filing clerks	1.30	\$225.00	\$292.50
Service	02/18/2016	Analysis of issues and formulate plan regarding hearing on motion for return of property with KB	0.50	\$225.00	\$112.50

Service	02/25/2016	Emails and phone calls with First Legal services regarding service of process on DA and LVMPD	0.60	\$225.00	\$135.00
Service	02/26/2016	Review hearing date	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	02/26/2016	Draft certificate of service	0.40	\$225.00	\$90.00
Service	02/26/2016	Revise and file certificate of service	0.30	\$225.00	\$67.50
Service	02/26/2016	Email to client regarding setting of hearing date on motion for return of property	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/04/2016	Electronic communication with Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/04/2016	Response to electronic communication with Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/04/2016	Email from opposing counsel regarding extension of time to oppose our motion	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/10/2016	Review opposition and discuss with Jason for preparation of Reply	0.70	\$300.00	\$210.00
Service	03/10/2016	Review and analysis of opposition to our motion in advance of drafting reply brief	0.60	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	03/11/2016	Begin drafting reply brief in support of motion for return of property	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	03/15/2016	Electronic communication with Nick Crosby, re: date	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/15/2016	Phone call with client regarding reply brief	0.20	\$225.00	\$45.00
Service	03/15/2016	Communication with opposing counsel regarding new hearing date	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/15/2016	Continue drafting reply brief	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	03/15/2016	Legal research on forfeiture issues between state and federal governments for reply brief	1.10	\$225.00	\$247.50
Service	03/17/2016	Review electronic communication with Nick Crosby	0.40	\$300.00	\$120.00
Service	03/18/2016	Review letter, re: reschedule	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/18/2016	Electronic communication with Crosby, re: date	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/21/2016	Review notice of change of hearing and letter	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/21/2016	Communication with client regarding new hearing date	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/24/2016	Finalize Reply and discuss with client	0.80	\$300.00	\$240.00
Service	03/24/2016	Complete draft, review, edit, and supplement reply brief in support of motion for return of property	2.80	\$225.00	\$630.00
Service	03/25/2016	Review electronic communication from Crosby's office	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/25/2016	Response to Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00

Service	03/25/2016	Review electronic communication from court	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/25/2016	Response to court	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/31/2016	Meet with and prep client	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	03/31/2016	Attend hearing	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	03/31/2016	Prepare Order for court and send to counsel	0.70	\$300.00	\$210.00
Service	03/31/2016	Revised Order	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	03/31/2016	Prepare for hearing by reviewing all filings, researching equitable relief and reviewing statute	1.20	\$300.00	\$360.00
Service	04/06/2016	Correspond with opposing counsel re: proposed order on motion for return of property	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	04/07/2016	Analysis of fees	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	04/10/2016	Plan for filing and attorney fees	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	04/11/2016	Update client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/12/2016	Electronic communication with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/12/2016	Additional electronic communication with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/12/2016	Research availability of attorneys fees and/or damages under NV law	1.30	\$225.00	\$292.50
Service	04/14/2016	Final Order for court signature	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/14/2016	Edit proposed order on motion for return of property	0.40	\$225.00	\$90.00
Service	04/14/2016	Draft letter to judge's chambers re: status of proposed order	0.30	\$225.00	\$67.50
Service	04/14/2016	Correspond with opposing counsel re: proposed order	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	04/15/2016	Begin drafting motion for attorneys fees and costs	2.10	\$225.00	\$472.50
Service	04/15/2016	Legal research on recovering fees and costs in this scenario	1.90	\$225.00	\$427.50
Service	04/26/2016	Review signed Order	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/26/2016	Review signed Order	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	04/26/2016	Electronic communication with client, re: deadline	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	04/26/2016	Telephone call to Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/26/2016	Draft notice of entry of order	0.20	\$225.00	\$45.00
Service	05/11/2016	Communications with counsel for LVMPD re: status of return of property	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	05/13/2016	Communications with client	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00

Service	05/16/2016	Complete, edit, supplement, and finalize motion for attorneys fees and costs	3.90	\$225.00	\$877.50
Service	05/16/2016	Draft KB affidavit in support of motion for fees and costs	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	05/16/2016	Phone call with client	0.20	\$225.00	\$45.00
Service	05/16/2016	Phone call with client	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	05/16/2016	Edit/revise motion for attorneys' fees and costs and my affidavit in support	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	05/16/2016	Complete motion for attorneys fees and costs	3.90	\$225.00	\$877.50
Service	05/16/2016	draft affidavit in support of motion for fees	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	05/20/2016	communications with Nick Crosby, Greg Flores and Laura Anderson re property for release	0.80	\$300.00	\$240.00
Service	05/20/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	05/21/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	05/23/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	05/23/2016	Review state's motion to relax	0.30	\$225.00	\$67.50
Service	05/24/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	06/06/2016	review LVMPD opposition and communicate with client re equipment and share opposition	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	06/06/2016	Review LVMPD's opposition to our motion for attorney fees	0.40	\$225.00	\$90.00
Service	06/06/2016	Begin drafting reply in support of motion for fees	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	06/15/2016	Complete reply brief in support of motion for attorneys fees	2.40	\$225.00	\$540.00
Service	06/15/2016	Edit/revise/supplement reply brief in support of motion for attorneys fees	0.50	\$225.00	\$112.50
Service	06/16/2016	finalize reply brief	0.80	\$300.00	\$240.00

Total \$18,255.00

Detailed Statement of Account

Current Invoice

Invoice Number	Due On	Amount Due	Payments Received	Balance Due
39	09/08/2016	\$18,255.00	\$0.00	\$18,255.00
Outstanding Balance				\$18,255.00
Total Amount Outstanding				\$18,255.00

Please make all amounts payable to: Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

Please pay within 30 days.

EXHIBIT “C”

Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

INVOICE

400 South 4th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
United States
Phone: 702-793-4202
www.kathleenblisslaw.com

Invoice # 39
Date: 08/09/2016
Due On: 09/08/2016

Laura Anderson
2946 Cimini Ct.

Henderson, NV 89052

00006-Anderson

Anderson, Laura - Nevada State Return of Property

Type	Date	Notes	Quantity	Rate	Total
Service	08/19/2015	Electronic communication to Charlotte Flores and review response	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	08/24/2015	Reviewed response/update from LVMPD re: responses	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	09/14/2015	Review medical marijuana cases and forward to LVMPD	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	09/15/2015	Electronic communication to client re: Call to LVMPD re: medical marijuana cases	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	09/15/2015	Telephone call with Flores, re: status	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	09/15/2015	Electronic communication with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	09/18/2015	Meeting with client re: status	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	10/23/2015	Update request for LVMPD	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	10/23/2015	Telephone call with LVMPD Flores	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	10/23/2015	Update client	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	10/26/2015	Review article, re: medical marijuana arrests	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	10/26/2015	Draft and sent letter to LVMPD, electronic communication to client	1.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Service	10/30/2015	Forward letter with electronic communication to client	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	12/18/2015	Review file in advance of drafting motion for return of property	1.20	\$225.00	\$270.00
Service	12/18/2015	Legal research, re: motion for return of property.	1.10	\$225.00	\$247.50

Service	12/18/2015	Begin drafting motion for return of property	1.90	\$225.00	\$427.50
Service	01/11/2016	Conduct additional legal research, re: motion for return of property	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	01/11/2016	Continue drafting motion for return of property	1.10	\$225.00	\$247.50
Service	01/14/2016	Draft motion for return of property	5.50	\$225.00	\$1,237.50
Service	01/14/2016	Legal research, re: motion for return of property	1.90	\$225.00	\$427.50
Service	01/18/2016	meeting with client re update and discussion of new law	1.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Service	01/18/2016	Meeting with client regarding return of property	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	01/18/2016	Draft affidavits for Laura and Kathleen in support of motion for return of property	0.90	\$225.00	\$202.50
Service	01/19/2016	Additional legal research, re: motion for return of property	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	01/27/2016	Meeting with client	0.60	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	01/27/2016	Meeting with client regarding return of property	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	02/09/2016	Review draft and affidavit	0.60	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	02/09/2016	Follow-up with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	02/09/2016	Revise and supplemental Laura and Kathleen's affidavits in support of motion for return of property	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	02/10/2016	Electronic communication with client, re: affidavit	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	02/10/2016	Revision, supplementation, and editing of motion for return of property	2.80	\$225.00	\$630.00
Service	02/11/2016	Electronic communication with client, re: affidavit	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	02/11/2016	Review draft motion affidavit	0.60	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	02/11/2016	Edit motion for return of property	0.50	\$225.00	\$112.50
Service	02/12/2016	meeting with client re preparation of documents in support of motion	1.00	\$300.00	\$300.00
Service	02/12/2016	Edit motion and supporting affidavits	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	02/12/2016	Meeting with client	0.90	\$225.00	\$202.50
Service	02/17/2016	Prepare motion for return of property for filing (exhibits, redaction, etc.)	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	02/18/2016	Filing at state court, go to clerk's office, discuss with filing clerks	1.30	\$225.00	\$292.50
Service	02/18/2016	Analysis of issues and formulate plan regarding hearing on motion for return of property with KB	0.50	\$225.00	\$112.50

Service	02/25/2016	Emails and phone calls with First Legal services regarding service of process on DA and LVMPD	0.60	\$225.00	\$135.00
Service	02/26/2016	Review hearing date	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	02/26/2016	Draft certificate of service	0.40	\$225.00	\$90.00
Service	02/26/2016	Revise and file certificate of service	0.30	\$225.00	\$67.50
Service	02/26/2016	Email to client regarding setting of hearing date on motion for return of property	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/04/2016	Electronic communication with Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/04/2016	Response to electronic communication with Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/04/2016	Email from opposing counsel regarding extension of time to oppose our motion	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/10/2016	Review opposition and discuss with Jason for preparation of Reply	0.70	\$300.00	\$210.00
Service	03/10/2016	Review and analysis of opposition to our motion in advance of drafting reply brief	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	03/11/2016	Begin drafting reply brief in support of motion for return of property	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	03/15/2016	Electronic communication with Nick Crosby, re: date	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/15/2016	Phone call with client regarding reply brief	0.20	\$225.00	\$45.00
Service	03/15/2016	Communication with opposing counsel regarding new hearing date	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/15/2016	Continue drafting reply brief	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	03/15/2016	Legal research on forfeiture issues between state and federal governments for reply brief	1.10	\$225.00	\$247.50
Service	03/17/2016	Review electronic communication with Nick Crosby	0.40	\$300.00	\$120.00
Service	03/18/2016	Review letter, re: reschedule	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/18/2016	Electronic communication with Crosby, re: date	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/21/2016	Review notice of change of hearing and letter	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/21/2016	Communication with client regarding new hearing date	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	03/24/2016	Finalize Reply and discuss with client	0.80	\$300.00	\$240.00
Service	03/24/2016	Complete draft, review, edit, and supplement reply brief in support of motion for return of property	2.80	\$225.00	\$630.00
Service	03/25/2016	Review electronic communication from Crosby's office	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/25/2016	Response to Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00

Service	03/25/2016	Review electronic communication from court	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/25/2016	Response to court	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	03/31/2016	Meet with and prep client	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	03/31/2016	Attend hearing	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	03/31/2016	Prepare Order for court and send to counsel	0.70	\$300.00	\$210.00
Service	03/31/2016	Revised Order	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	03/31/2016	Prepare for hearing by reviewing all filings, researching equitable relief and reviewing statute	1.20	\$300.00	\$360.00
Service	04/06/2016	Correspond with opposing counsel re: proposed order on motion for return of property	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	04/07/2016	Analysis of fees	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	04/10/2016	Plan for filing and attorney fees	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	04/11/2016	Update client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/12/2016	Electronic communication with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/12/2016	Additional electronic communication with client	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/12/2016	Research availability of attorneys fees and/or damages under NV law	1.30	\$225.00	\$292.50
Service	04/14/2016	Final Order for court signature	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/14/2016	Edit proposed order on motion for return of property	0.40	\$225.00	\$90.00
Service	04/14/2016	Draft letter to judge's chambers re: status of proposed order	0.30	\$225.00	\$67.50
Service	04/14/2016	Correspond with opposing counsel re: proposed order	0.10	\$225.00	\$22.50
Service	04/15/2016	Begin drafting motion for attorneys fees and costs	2.10	\$225.00	\$472.50
Service	04/15/2016	Legal research on recovering fees and costs in this scenario	1.90	\$225.00	\$427.50
Service	04/26/2016	Review signed Order	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/26/2016	Review signed Order	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	04/26/2016	Electronic communication with client re: deadline	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	04/26/2016	Telephone call to Nick Crosby	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	04/26/2016	Draft notice of entry of order	0.20	\$225.00	\$45.00
Service	05/11/2016	Communications with counsel for LVMPD re: status of return of property	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	05/13/2016	Communications with client	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00

Service	05/16/2016	Complete, edit, supplement, and finalize motion for attorneys fees and costs	3.90	\$225.00	\$877.50
Service	05/16/2016	Draft KB affidavit in support of motion for fees and costs	0.70	\$225.00	\$157.50
Service	05/16/2016	Phone call with client	0.20	\$225.00	\$45.00
Service	05/16/2016	Phone call with client	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	05/16/2016	Edit/revise motion for attorneys' fees and costs and my affidavit in support	0.50	\$300.00	\$150.00
Service	05/16/2016	Complete motion for attorneys fees and costs	3.90	\$225.00	\$877.50
Service	05/16/2016	draft affidavit in support of motion for fees	0.80	\$225.00	\$180.00
Service	05/20/2016	communications with Nick Crosby, Greg Flores and Laura Anderson re property for release	0.80	\$300.00	\$240.00
Service	05/20/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	05/21/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	05/23/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.10	\$300.00	\$30.00
Service	05/23/2016	Review state's motion to relax	0.30	\$225.00	\$67.50
Service	05/24/2016	Communication with client re: case status	0.20	\$300.00	\$60.00
Service	06/06/2016	review LVMPD opposition and communicate with client re equipment and share opposition	0.30	\$300.00	\$90.00
Service	06/06/2016	Review LVMPD's opposition to our motion for attorney fees	0.40	\$225.00	\$90.00
Service	06/06/2016	Begin drafting reply in support of motion for fees	1.00	\$225.00	\$225.00
Service	06/15/2016	Complete reply brief in support of motion for attorneys fees	2.40	\$225.00	\$540.00
Service	06/15/2016	Edit/revise/supplement reply brief in support of motion for attorneys fees	0.50	\$225.00	\$112.50
Service	06/16/2016	finalize reply brief	0.80	\$300.00	\$240.00

Total \$18,255.00

Detailed Statement of Account

Current Invoice

Invoice Number	Due On	Amount Due	Payments Received	Balance Due
39	09/08/2016	\$18,255.00	\$0.00	\$18,255.00
Outstanding Balance				\$18,255.00
Total Amount Outstanding				\$18,255.00

Please make all amounts payable to: Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

Please pay within 30 days.

EXHIBIT “D”

Nick Crosby

From: Nick Crosby
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 4:58 PM
To: Jason Hicks
Cc: Kathleen Bliss; Candice Casale; Suzanne Boggs
Subject: Re: Laura Anderson v. LVMPD [IWOV-iManage.FID875501]

I will have my office take care of it.

Suzanne - Can you please call the court and advise it that we need a new date for the hearing in this motion for the return of seized property? 5166-687

Thanks!

Sent from Nick's iPhone

Nick

On Mar 17, 2016, at 4:47 PM, Jason Hicks <jh@kathleenblisslaw.com> wrote:

From:
Sent: Nick, is your office taking care of informing the court/has that happened? I believe our reply would be due today with the current hearing date, so want to make sure we don't miss that deadline.
To:
Cc:
Subject:

Sent from my iPhone

On Mar 15, 2016, at 4:31 PM, Jason Hicks <jh@kathleenblisslaw.com> wrote:

Hi Nick. That is fine with us--the following Wednesday or Friday works best. Thank you.

<image001.png>

Jason Hicks / Attorney
jh@kathleenblisslaw.com

Thank

Sent fr

Nick

On W

From:

Sent:

To:

Cc:

Subject:

Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC
Office: 702.793.4201 / Fax: 702.793.4001
400 S. 4th St., Suite 500
Las Vegas, NV 89101
www.kathleenblisslaw.com

From: Nick Crosby [mailto:NCrosby@maclaw.com]

Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 4:22 PM

To: Kathleen Bliss <kb@kathleenblisslaw.com>

Cc: Candice Casale <ccasale@maclaw.com>; Jason Hicks <jh@kathleenblisslaw.com>

Subject: RE: Laura Anderson v. LVMPD [IWOV-iManage.FID875501]

Hi Kathleen -- I see that the motion is set for the 24th. I am going to be out of the country and do not return until late the 24th. Are you agreeable to seeing if the court will move the hearing to the following week?

Thanks!

From: Kathleen Bliss [mailto:kb@kathleenblisslaw.com]
Sent: Friday, March 04, 2016 12:00 PM
To: Nick Crosby
Cc: Candice Casale; Jason Hicks
Subject: RE: Laura Anderson v. LVMPD [IWOV-iManage.FID875501]

Certainly! I look forward to working with you.
BTW – My husband is Ted Quasula. Your firm represents him and the company that he operates. I don't see any conflict, but I wanted to let you know as I recognize Candice's name.
Finally, I am copying my associate, Jason Hicks.
Take care.
kb

From: Nick Crosby [mailto:NCrosby@maclaw.com]
Sent: Friday, March 4, 2016 11:17 AM
To: Kathleen Bliss <kb@kathleenblisslaw.com>
Cc: Candice Casale <ccasale@maclaw.com>
Subject: Laura Anderson v. LVMPD [IWOV-iManage.FID875501]

Good Morning Kathleen – The Department retained me to represent it in your motion for the return or seized property. In looking at the deadline, it appears a response is due March 7. I am in arbitration all day that day and I was wondering if you would be agreeable to a brief extension of time to March 10? Additionally, I am working with Det. Flores to determine whether a need exists to retain the property identified in the motion. I appreciate your professional courtesy in this regard.

Thank You,

<image003.jpg>
Nicholas D. Crosby, Esq.
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89145
t | 702.942.2133
f | 702.856.8932
ncrosby@maclaw.com | [vcard](http://vcard.maclaw.com)
maclaw.com

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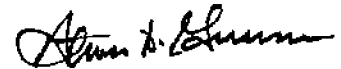
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For more information please visit <http://www.mimecast.com>

EXHIBIT “12”



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **SUPP**

2 Kathleen Bliss, Esq.

3 Nevada Bar No. 7606

4 E-mail: kb@kathleenblisslaw.com

5 Jason Hicks, Esq.

6 Nevada Bar No. 13149

7 E-mail: jh@kathleenblisslaw.com

8 **Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC**

9 400 S. 4th St., Suite 500

10 Las Vegas, NV 89101

11 Telephone: 702.793.4202

12 Facsimile: 702.793.4001

13 Attorneys for movant/real party

14 in interest Laura Anderson

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

15 IN RE THE EXECUTION OF SEARCH
16 WARRANTS FOR:

17 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada
18 89141;

19 54 Carolina Cherry Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
20 89141;

21 5608 Quiet Cloud Dr., Las Vegas, Nevada
22 89141; and

23 3321 Alcudia Bay Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada
24 89141

CASE NO.: A-16-732077-C

DEPT NO.: XXVIII

**RESPONSE TO LVMPD'S
SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF ON LAURA
ANDERSON'S MOTION FOR
ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS**

25 Movant/real party in interest, Laura Anderson, by and through counsel Kathleen Bliss, Esq.,
26 and Jason Hicks, Esq., of the law firm Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby submits this reply to
27 LVMPD's supplemental brief on Ms. Anderson's motion for attorneys' fees and costs. LVMPD's
28 supplement and Ms. Anderson's response were ordered by the Court at the August 9, 2016, hearing
on Ms. Anderson's motion for attorneys' fees and LVMPD's motion to retax costs.

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1 With regard to the fees themselves, LVMPD's supplement does little to contest the overall
2 fees amount, and instead takes issue with minutiae. Counsel responds to each in turn as follows.

3 **1. Inclusion of the itemized billing statements in the original motion for fees is not**
4 **required.**

5 In its opposition to Ms. Anderson's motion for fees and at the hearing on the same,
6 LVMPD asserted that Ms. Anderson did not comply with the requirements of *Brunzell v. Golden*
7 *Gate National Bank*, 85 Nev. 345 (Nev. 1969) because she failed to include an itemized billing
8 statement in her original motion. This Court agreed.

9 However, nothing in the language of *Brunzell* makes the inclusion of an itemized statement
10 in the motion a requirement. In fact, the language of *Brunzell* demonstrates that an itemized
11 statement is **not** required at any time, much less at the time of filing the motion.

12 We turn to consider appellant's other assignment of error—that the
13 district judge abused his discretion in allowing respondent counsel
14 fees in the sum of \$5,000. Counsel for the respondent took the
15 witness stand and testified regarding the nature and extent of the
16 services he performed. During cross-examination, respondent's
17 counsel admitted that he had not kept an hourly schedule of time
expended. Appellant urges that in the absence of such a schedule
the trial judge was unable to justify the \$5,000 award for counsel
fees made to respondent in the case. **We do not agree.** While
hourly time schedules are helpful in establishing the value of
counsel services, other factors may be equally significant.

18 *Brunzell*, 85 Nev. at 349 (emphasis added).

19 Not only did counsel in *Brunzell* fail to provide an itemized billing statement, he admitted
20 that he did not even keep one. *Id.* The Supreme Court noted that an itemized statement would be
21 helpful, but stated that it was not required. By contrast here, counsel for Ms. Anderson did keep
22 an itemized statement. However, LVMPD did not request it in its opposition to Ms. Anderson's
23 motion for fees. Ms. Anderson made clear in her reply brief that those statements were
24 nevertheless available for LVMPD's review. LVMPD again did not request them. Regardless,
25 counsel brought said statements to the hearing and provided them to counsel for LVMPD
26 anyways.

27 *Brunzell* created a showing of four, and only four, requirements: "(1) the qualities of the
28

1 advocate: his ability, his training, education, experience, professional standing and skill; (2) the
2 character of the work to be done: its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, time and skill required,
3 the responsibility imposed and the prominence and character of the parties where they affect the
4 importance of the litigation; (3) the work actually performed by the lawyer: the skill, time and
5 attention given to the work; (4) the result: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits
6 were derived.” *Id.* at 349. A showing of these four requirements was made in Ms. Anderson’s
7 original briefing on the fees issue. In fact, LVMPD has already conceded that counsel for Ms.
8 Anderson meets all four of the *Brunzell* requirements. Ms. Anderson **has** complied with *Brunzell*.
9 LVMPD takes issue only with the “discrepancies” in the billing statements, of which Ms.
10 Anderson submits there are none.

11 **2. There are no discrepancies between the statements.**

12 As referenced above, counsel recently changed accounting/billing software and
13 transitioned from “PCLaw” to “Clio” in early 2016. This accounts for the two different (by
14 appearance) itemized billing statements. This was explained to LVMPD’s counsel immediately
15 after the hearing when they met and conferred as ordered by the Court. LVMPD’s counsel
16 indicated he understood.

17 There are no “duplicative” entries—the Clio statements (which LVMPD refers to as
18 Exhibits B and C) are current through the time of filing the motion, and include the entries that
19 were reflected in the PCLaw program. Counsel for Ms. Anderson provided both simply to give
20 LVMPD a full accounting, although unnecessary, which seems to have served only to create
21 confusion on LVMPD’s part.

22 Further, Mr. Hicks’ rate as reflected in the PCLaw statements of \$200 was simply input
23 incorrectly into the software—a clerical error. Ms. Anderson did not pay her bill at that \$200 rate.
24 Instead, the engagement agreement clearly sets Mr. Hicks’ rate at \$225. This administrative error
25 was corrected when the firm switched to Clio and the entries from PCLaw were transferred over,
26 and all of Mr. Hicks’ time has actually been billed at that rate.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned, an employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC, hereby certifies that on this 30th day of August 2016, I did cause a true and correct copy of the **RESPONSE TO LVMPD'S SUPPLEMENTAL BRIEF ON LAURA ANDERSON'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES AND COSTS** to be served via electronic service through the Court's WizNet system to:

Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Marquis Aurbach Coffing
10001 Park Run Dr.
Las Vegas, NV 89145
ncrosby@maclaw.com
Attorneys for Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

/s/ Jason Hicks

An employee of Kathleen Bliss Law PLLC

EXHIBIT “13”

**DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

Other Civil Matters

COURT MINUTES

September 07, 2016

A-16-732077-C : Laura Anderson, Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department, Defendant(s)

September 07, 2016	Chambers	Decision.	Decision regarding Attorney Fees & Status of return of property
---------------------------	-----------------	------------------	--

HEARD BY: Israel, Ronald J.

COURTROOM: RJC Courtroom 15C

COURT CLERK: Kathy Klein

PARTIES None
PRESENT:

JOURNAL ENTRIES

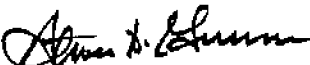
- Upon review of the papers and pleadings on file in this Matter, COURT ORDERED Attorney Fees & Status of Return of Property, GRANTED IN PART. Court will award \$18,255.00, detailed in the invoices, based upon NRS 18.010 and property obtained by Plaintiff, prevailing party.

CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of this minute order was placed in the attorney folder(s) of: Kathleen Bliss, Esq. and Nicholas Crosby, Esq. (Marquis Aurbach Coffing) kk /09/12/16.

EXHIBIT “14”

1 **Marquis Aurbach Coffing**
2 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
3 Nevada Bar No. 8996
4 10001 Park Run Drive
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
6 Telephone: (702) 382-0711
7 Facsimile: (702) 382-5816
8 ncrosby@maclaw.com
9 *Attorneys for LVMPD*

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CLERK OF THE COURT

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

IN RE THE EXECUTION SEARCH
WARRANTS FOR:

12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141;

54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141;

5608 Quiet Cloud Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141; and

3321 Alcudia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada
89141

Case No.: A-16-732077-C
Dept. No.: XXVIII

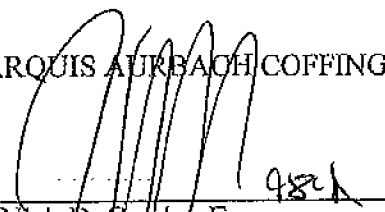
NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order on Movant's Motion for Attorneys Fees was
entered in the above referenced matter on September 21, 2016, a copy of which is attached
hereto.

Dated this 22 day of September, 2016.

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By


Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 8996
10001 Park Run Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorneys for LVMPD

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that the foregoing **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER** was submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the 22 day of September, 2016. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the E-Service List as follows:¹

Kathleen Bliss Law Group PLLC

Contact

Jason Hicks
Kathleen
Sylvia Bishai

Email

jh@kathleenblisslaw.com
kb@kathleenblisslaw.com
sb@kathleenblisslaw.com

I further certify that I served a copy of this document by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, postage prepaid, addressed to:

N/A


An employee of Marquis Aurbach Coffing

¹ Pursuant to EDCR 8.05(a), each party who submits an E-Filed document through the E-Filing System consents to electronic service in accordance with NRCP 5(b)(2)(D).

ORIGINAL

Alvin D. Colman

CLERK OF THE COURT

1 Marquis Aurbach Coffing
2 Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
3 Nevada Bar No. 8996
4 10001 Park Run Drive
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
6 Telephone: (702) 382-0711
7 Facsimile: (702) 382-5816
8 ncrosby@maclaw.com
9 Attorneys for LVMPD

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

8 IN RE THE EXECUTION SEARCH
9 WARRANTS FOR:

10 12067 Oakland Hills, Las Vegas, Nevada 89141;

11 54 Carolina Cherry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
12 89141;

13 5608 Quiet Cloud Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada
14 89141; and

15 3321 Alcludia Bay Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada
16 89141

Case No.: A-16-732077-C
Dept. No.: XXVIII

Decision Date: 9/14/2016

ORDER ON MOVANT'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS FEES

17 Movant, Laura Anderson ("Anderson") having submitted its Motion for Attorneys Fees
18 and Costs, and the Court having considered Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department's
19 ("LVMPD" and/or "the Department") opposition thereto, the Department's supplemental brief,
20 and Anderson's reply to the Motion and response to the supplemental brief, hereby grants the
21 Motion, in part, and denies the Motion in part, and finds and orders as follows:

FINDINGS OF FACTS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

22 1. Anderson is a "prevailing party" pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute 18.010(2)(a) and the
23 Motion for Fees is GRANTED, in part;

24 2. The Department is ordered to pay Anderson's attorneys fees in the amount of \$18,255.00;

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

9/16/16

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INC

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3. Anderson's Motion for Costs is DENIED.


IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 20 day of Apr, 2016.


DISTRICT COURT JUDGE


Approved as to form and content:

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By: 
Nick D. Crosby, Esq.
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Las Vegas, Nevada 89145
Attorney(s) for LVMPD

Approved as to form and content:

KATHLEEN BLISS-LAW, PLLC

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