# **EXHIBIT 8**

A TKIN WINNER S SHERROD

Electronically Filed 11/26/2018 11:30 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

**MCSD** 1 THOMAS E. WINNER Nevada Bar No. 5168 2 MATTHEW J. DOUGLAS Nevada Bar No. 11371 3 ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD 4 1117 South Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 Phone (702) 243-7000 5 Facsimile (702) 243-7059 mdouglas@awslawyers.com 6

Attorneys for Intervenor United Automobile Insurance Company

### EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

A-18-772220-C

CASE NO.: 07A549111

DEPT. NO.: XX

CHEYANNE NALDER,

Plaintiff,

vs.

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GARY LEWIS and DOES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

INTERVENOR'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE ON ORDER SHORTENING TIME

COMES NOW, Intervenor, United Automobile Insurance Company, by and through their counsel of record, Thomas E. Winner and Matthew J. Douglas of the law firm Atkin Winner & Sherrod, hereby moves this Court for an Order to Consolidate Case No. A-18-772220-C into the preceding case, Case No. 07A549111, pursuant to Nev. R. Civ. P. 42(a) and EDCR 2.50(a). This Motion is based upon the pleadings and papers on file herein, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities attached hereto and any oral arguments this Court may entertain at the hearing of this Motion.

Page 1 of 14 INTERVENOR'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

# ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

	DATED this day of November, 2018.
2	ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD
3	111
4	/VVMV )
5	Thomas E. Winner
6	Nevada Bar No. 5168   Matthew J. Douglas
7	Nevada Bar No. 11371 1117 South Rancho Drive
8	Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
9	Attorneys for Intervenor
10	ORDER SHORTENING TIME
11	Good cause appearing therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the time for hearing the
12	Motion to Consolidate on an Order Shortening Time is hereby shortened to the 20th day of
13	November 2018 at the hour of 10:30 (a.m.) p.m. or as soon as counsel may be heard in the
14	above-entitled Department of the District Court, Clark County, Nevada.
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16	DATED this 2/ day of November 2018
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18	- Ch
19	DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
20	ERÍCJOHNSON
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22	Submitted by,
23	ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD
24	Way /
	Thomas E. Winner.
25	Nevada Bar No. 5168  Matthew J. Douglas  Nevada Bar No. 11371
26	Nevada Bar No. 11371 1117 South Rancho Drive
27	Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 Attorneys for Defendant
28	

Page 2 of 14 INTERVENOR'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

# TKIN WINNER SHERROD

# AFFIDAVIT OF COUNSEL IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE AND FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME

STATE OF NEVADA	)
COUNTY OF CLARK	) SS )

Matthew J. Douglas, Esq., having been first duly sworn, deposes and states:

- I am a duly licensed and practicing attorney of the State of Nevada and I am partner of
  the law firm of Atkin Winner & Sherrod maintaining offices at 1117 South Rancho
  Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102.
- 2. I represent Intervenor, UAIC, in the above-captioned action as well as in another cases titled *Nalder v Lewis*, Case No. A-18-772220-C.
- 3. I have reviewed the facts and circumstances surrounding this matter and I am competent to testify to those facts contained herein upon personal knowledge, or if so stated, upon my best information and belief.
- 4. That the following is true and accurate to the best of affiant's knowledge and information.
- That prior to October 24, 2018 both the instant action and, Nalder v Lewis, Case No. A-18-772220-C were proceeding together before the same judge, The Honorable David Jones, Department 29
- 6. on October 24, 2018, for a hearing, Additional Counsel for Gary Lewis in Case No. A-18-7722220-C, Thomas Christensen, Esq., asked the Court to recuse itself for what Counsel perceived as a conflict.
- 7. At that time, Judge Jones recused himself on both cases and the matters were sent to the Clerk to be re-assigned and, thereafter, on October 29, 2018, the Clerk randomly reassigned this action to this Department, but re-assigned Case No. A-18-7722220-C to Department 1. However, following a challenge, Case No. A-18-7722220-C was then reassigned to Department 19, Judge Kephart, on October 31, 2018 and, accordingly, these to cases are proceeding in different Departments.

Page 3 of 14 INTERVENOR'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

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- 8. Moreover, each case had similar Motions pending before it at the time of the reassignments and, accordingly, each newly assigned Department has issued new hearing dates on the pending Motions.
- 9. That, currently, in Case No. A-18-7722220-C there are hearing set for November 8, 2018 (in Chambers) as well as December 11, 2018 and December 13, 2018. A copy of the Order re-assigning Case No. A-18-7722220-C to Department 19 with attendant hearing dates is attached hereto as Exhibit 'A.'
- 10. That although the parties are attempting to agree on a stipulation to move all hearings in both cases to one date for each case, there is no agreement as of yet and, further, the Plaintiff has not agreed to consolidation.
- 11. That Intervenor requests this order be heard on an Order shortening time so that this motion may be heard and, these cases may be consolidated, prior to the first currently set Chambers hearing date in Case No. A-18-7722220-C, which is set for November 8, 2018.
- 12. The cases that are the subject of Intervenor's Motion to Consolidate arise from the same motor vehicle accident, which occurred on July 8, 2007 in Pioche, Nevada, and in regards to the same policy of insurance between United Automobile Insurance Company ("UAIC") and Gary Lewis.<sup>1</sup>
- 13. That is has been alleged that, Gary Lewis was operating his vehicle when he backed into and hit Plaintiff Cheyanne Nalder causing injury in the July 8, 2007 accident. A Suit was brought for same injuries in this matter and, a judgment entered against Lewis in 2008.
- 14. Thereafter, Plaintiff Nalder alleging to have an assignment from Defendant Lewis, filed a bad faith action against UAIC. UAIC defended that claim asserting Lewis' policy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Complaint, Case No. 07A549111, attached hereto as Exhibit "B"; See also Complaint, Case No. A-18-772220-C, attached hereto as Exhibit "C";

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- 14. Thereafter, Plaintiff Nalder alleging to have an assignment from Defendant Lewis, filed a bad faith action against UAIC. UAIC defended that claim asserting Lewis' policy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Complaint, Case No. 07A549111, attached hereto as Exhibit "B"; See also Complaint, Case No. A-18-772220-C, attached hereto as Exhibit "C";

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expired and, was not renewed prior to the loss. The Federal District Court judge hearing that case agreed with UAIC and granted summary judgment. Plaintiff appealed to the Ninth Circuit and that court found an ambiguity in the renewal statement and remanded.Back in the district Court, on subsequent cross-Motions for summary judgment, the Court found that, due to the ambiguity in the renewal, the Court implied a policy at law as between UAIC and Lewis for the July 2007 loss - however, the Court also specifically found no bad faith on the part of UAIC as they had issued a reasonable denial. UAIC paid its applicable \$15,000 to Nalder, plus her attorney's fees of nearly \$90,000.00.

- 15. Plaintiff, however, appealed to the Ninth Circuit again, claiming, among other things. that UAIC owed them the 2008 default judgment (for \$3.5 million) as a consequential damage of their breach of the duty to defend and, the Ninth Circuit certified this question to the Nevada Supreme Court. While that matter was pending before the Nevada Supreme Court UAIC noticed that Plaintiff had failed to renew the 2008 judgment against Lewis in 2014 and, thus, moved to dismiss the appeal as the judgment had expired. The Ninth Circuit then certified that issue to the Nevada Supreme Court, where it remains pending.
- 16. While Plaintiff's other counsel in the appeals moved for extensions to file their brief earlier this year, Plaintiff here filed her ex-parte motion to "amend the judgment" in March 2018 in this case. Thereafter, Plaintiff then filed a "new" action against Lewis in Case No. A-18-7722220-C.
- 17. As this Court can see, both actions involve the same parties, for issues regarding damages for the same loss and, indeed, regarding issues of the legitimacy of the judgment in this case.

Page 5 of 14 INTERVENOR'S MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE

EXHIBIT 7

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10/19/2018 9:55 AM
Steven D. Grierson
CLERK OF THE COURT
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MATTHEW J. DOUGLAS
Nevada Bar No. 11371
ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD
1117 South Rancho Drive
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mdouglas@awslawyers.com

Attorneys for Intervenor United Automobile Insurance Company

## EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CHEYANNE NALDER,

CASE NO.: A-18-772220-C DEPT. NO.: 29

Plaintiff,

VS.

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GARY LEWIS and DOES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

### **ORDER**

Intervenor UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY'S Motion to Intervene came on for hearing on the Chambers Calendar before the Honorable Judge David Jones, on September 19, 2018, and upon review of and consideration of the proceedings and circumstances of this matter, the papers and pleadings on file, and for good cause appearing,

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Page 1 of 2

Case Number: A-18-772220-C

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Intervenor UNITED AUTOMBILE INSURANCE COMPANY'S Motion to Intervene is GRANTED;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Intervenor UNITED AUTOMBILE INSURANCE COMPANY'S shall file its responsive pleading within seven (7) days from the date of entry of this Order.

DATED this day of October 2018

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Submitted by:

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

Matthew J. Douglas Nevada Bar No.11371 1117 South Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Attorneys for Intervenor UNITED

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY

# EXHIBIT 6

MATTHEW J. DOUGLAS Nevada Bar No. 11371 ATKIN WINNER & SHERI 1117 South Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 Phone (702) 243-7000 Facsimile (702) 243-7059 mdouglas@awslawyers.com			CLERK OF THE COURT
Attorneys for Intervenor Uni	ited Automobile Insu	rance Company	
E	DISTRICT COURT		
18 James	CLARK COUN	ITY, NEVADA	
CHEYANNE NALDER,	Plaintiff,	CASE NO.: 07A549 DEPT. NO.: 29	0111
VS.			
GARY LEWIS and DOES I inclusive,	through V,		
	Defendants.		

### <u>ORDER</u>

Intervenor UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY'S Motion to Intervene came on for hearing on the Chambers Calendar before the Honorable Judge David Jones, on September 19, 2018, and upon review of and consideration of the proceedings and circumstances of this matter, the papers and pleadings on file, and for good cause appearing, and the Court's minute order stating there being no Opposition,

Page 1 of 2

Electronically Filed 10/19/2018 9:52 AM Steven D. Grierson IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Intervenor UNITED AUTOMBILE INSURANCE COMPANY'S Motion to Intervene is GRANTED;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Intervenor UNITED AUTOMBILE INSURANCE COMPANY'S shall file its responsive pleading within seven (7) days from the date of entry of this Order.

DATED this // day of October 2018

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Submitted by:

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

Matthew J. Douglas Nevada Bar No.11371 1117 South Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Attorneys for Intervenor UNITED

AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY

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# EXHIBIT 5

**Electronically Filed** 10/8/2018 4:36 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COUR OPPS (CIV) David A. Stephens, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 00902 STEPHENS & BYWATER, P.C. 3636 North Rancho Drive 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 Telephone: (702) 656-2355 Facsimile: (702) 656-2776 Email: dstephens@sgblawfirm.com Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder 6 **DISTRICT COURT** 7 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 8 CHEYENNE NALDER, 9 Plaintiff, 10 Case No. A-18-772220-C 11 VS. Dept. No. XXIX GARY LEWIS, 12 13 Defendant. 14 PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS 15 Date: 10/31/2018 Time: 9:00 a.m. 16 Cheyenne Nalder, through her attorney, David A. Stephens, Esq., opposes the 17 Defendant's Motion to Dismiss, as follows: 18 POINTS AND AUTHORITIES 19 20 I. INTRODUCTION Cheyenne Nalder, ("Nalder"), by and through her attorney, David A. Stephens, 21 Esq., opposes Defendant's Motion to dismiss. UAIC's motion, which was modified 22 slightly from the motion attached to its own Motion to Intervene, was filed on behalf 23 of Gary Lewis, ("Lewis"). 24 The UAIC motion to dismiss is based only on the mistaken belief that the 25 original judgment is not valid. As set forth in the opposition to the motion to set aside 26 the judgment and here, this motion should be denied because the three actions 27 alternatively pled are valid actions. First, Nalder has pled an action on the judgment to obtain a new judgment not an amended judgment as misstated by UAIC.

Case Number: A-18-772220-C

This option is specifically authorized by NRS 11.190a)(1). "A judgment creditor may enforce his judgment by the process of the court in which he obtained it, or he may elect to use the judgment as an original cause of action and bring suit thereon and prosecute such suit to final judgment." *Mandlebaum v. Gregovich*, 24 Nev. 154, 161, 50 P. 849, 851 (1897) (emphasis added). This is Nalder's main claim.

The other two actions are pled in the alternative only if the court finds the action on the judgment is no longer available in Nevada. If Nalder's main claim, an action on the judgment, is not available Nalder requests declaratory relief as to when a renewal under NRS 17.214 must be filed. Finally, if the answer to the declaratory relief action is that the time for filing under NRS 17.214 has gone by and the Judgment is no longer valid then Nalder brings her personal injury actions within two years of her majority.

If the two claims set forth above do not provide relief for Nalder then this action is not the subject of claim preclusion because the parties are different, the claims for relief are different and the judgment would have been found by the court to be invalid

### II. Factual background of the underlying case and the insurance coverage

The underlying matter arises from an auto accident that occurred on July 8, 2007, wherein Lewis accidentally ran over Nalder. Nalder was born April 4, 1998 and was a nine-year-old girl at the time.

At the time of the accident Lewis maintained an auto insurance policy with United Auto Insurance Company ("UAIC"), which was renewable on a monthly basis. Before the subject incident, Lewis received a statement from UAIC instructing him that his renewal payment was due by June 30, 2007. The renewal statement also instructed Lewis that he remit payment prior to the expiration of his policy "[t]o avoid lapse in coverage." The statement provided June 30, 2007 as the effective date of the policy. The statement also provided July 31, 2007 as the

expiration date of the policy. On July 10, 2007, Lewis paid UAIC to renew his auto policy. Lewis's policy limit at this time was \$15,000.00.

Following the incident, Cheyenne's father, James Nalder, extended an offer to UAIC to settle Nalder's injury claim for Lewis's policy limit of \$15,000.00. UAIC never informed Lewis that James Nalder offered to settle Cheyenne Nalder's claim. UAIC never filed a declaratory relief action. UAIC rejected Nalder's offer. UAIC rejected the offer because it believed that Lewis was not covered under his insurance policy given that he did not renew his policy by June 30, 2007.

After UAIC rejected Nalder's offer, Nalder, on behalf of Cheyenne, filed a lawsuit against Lewis in the Nevada state court. UAIC was notified of the lawsuit but declined to defend Lewis or file a declaratory relief action regarding coverage. Lewis failed to appear and answer the complaint. As a result, Nalder obtained a default judgment against Lewis for \$3,500,000.00. Notice of entry of judgment was filed on August 26, 2008. (See case number 07A549111).

### III. Factual Background of the Claims Handling Case Against UAIC

On May 22, 2009, Nalder and Lewis filed suit against UAIC alleging breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, bad faith, fraud, and violation of NRS 686A.310. Lewis assigned to Nalder his right to "all funds necessary to satisfy the Judgment" and retaining to himself any funds recovered above the judgment.

Lewis left the state of Nevada and relocated to California prior to 2010. Neither Lewis, nor anyone on his behalf, has been subject to service of process in Nevada since 2010.

Once UAIC removed the underlying case to federal district court, UAIC filed a motion for summary judgment as to all of Lewis and Nalder's claims, alleging Lewis did not have insurance coverage on the date of the subject collision. The U.S. District Court court granted UAIC's summary judgment motion because it determined the insurance contract was not ambiguous as to when Lewis had to make

payment to avoid a coverage lapse. Nalder and Lewis appealed this decision to the Ninth Circuit. The Ninth Circuit reversed and remanded the matter because Lewis and Nalder had facts to show the renewal statement was ambiguous regarding the date when payment was required to avoid a coverage lapse.

On remand, the U.S. District Court concluded the renewal statement was ambiguous and therefore, Lewis was covered on the date of the incident because the court construed this ambiguity against UAIC. The U.S. District Court also determined UAIC breached its duty to defend Lewis, but did not award damages because Lewis did not incur any fees or costs in defense of the Nevada state court action. Based on these conclusions, the U.S. District Court ordered UAIC to pay the policy limit of \$15,000.00. UAIC then made three payments on the judgment: June 23, 2014; June 25, 2014; and March 5, 2015.

Both Nalder and Lewis appealed that decision to the Ninth Circuit, which ultimately led to certification of the first question to the Nevada Supreme Court, namely whether an insurer that breaches its duty to defend is liable for all foreseeable consequential damages to the breach.

After the first certified question was fully briefed and pending before the Nevada Supreme Court, UAIC had the idea that the underlying judgment could only be renewed pursuant to NRS 17.214. Even though UAIC knew at this point that they owed a duty to defend Lewis, they did not undertake to investigate the factual basis or the legal grounds, or discuss this idea with Lewis, or seek declaratory relief on Lewis' behalf regarding the statute of limitations on the judgment. All of these actions would have been a good faith effort to protect Lewis. Instead, UAIC filed a motion to dismiss Lewis and Nalder's appeal with the Ninth Circuit for lack of standing. This allegation had not been raised in the trial court. It was something UAIC concocted solely for its own benefit. This allegation was brought for the first time in the appellate court. If UAIC's self-serving affidavit is wrong, this action will leave Lewis with a valid judgment against him and no cause of action against UAIC.

UAIC ignored all of the tolling statutes and presented new evidence into the appeal process, arguing Nalder's underlying \$3,500,000.00 judgment against Lewis is not enforceable because the six-year statute of limitation to institute an action upon the judgment or to renew the judgment pursuant to NRS 11.190(1)(a) expired. The only proof that it expired was UAIC counsel's affidavit that no renewal pursuant to NRS 17.124 had been filed. As a result, UAIC contends Nalder can no longer recover damages above the \$15,000.00 policy limit for breach of the contractual duty to defend because the judgment lapsed after the judgment (in the case against UAIC) was entered in the U.S. District Court. This would be similar to arguing on appeal that a plaintiff is no longer entitled to medical expenses awarded because the time to file a lawsuit to recover them expired while the case was on appeal.

Even though Nalder believes the law is clear that UAIC is bound by the judgment, regardless of its continued validity against Lewis, Nalder, in an abundance of caution, took action in Nevada and California to demonstrate the continued validity of the judgment against Lewis. These Nevada and California state court actions will demonstrate that UAIC has again tried to escape responsibility by making misrepresentations to the Federal and State Courts.

### IV. Factual Background of 2018 cases

Nalder reached the age of majority on April 4, 2016. Nalder hired David A. Stephens, Esq. to maintain her judgment. First, counsel obtained an amended judgment in Nalder's name as a result of her reaching the age of majority. This was done appropriately, by demonstrating to the court that the judgment, as a result of the tolling provisions, was still within the applicable statute of limitations.

Nalder then filed a separate action with three distinct claims for relief, pled in the alternative. The first claim is an action on the amended judgment which will result in a new judgment which will have the total principal and post judgment interest reduced to judgment, so that interest would now run on the new, larger principal amount.

 The second alternative claim is for declaratory relief as to when a renewal under NRS 17.214 must be filed and when the statute of limitations, which is subject to tolling provisions, is running on the judgment. And finally, the third claim, should the Court determine that the judgment is invalid, is an action on the injury claim within the applicable statute of limitations for injury claims, that is, two years after her reaching the age of majority.

Nalder also retained California counsel, who filed a judgment in California, which has a ten-year statute of limitations regarding actions on a judgment. Nalder maintains that all of these actions are unnecessary to the questions on appeal, and most are unnecessarily early; however, out of an abundance of caution, she brings them to maintain a judgment against Lewis and to demonstrate the actual way this issue should have been litigated in the Eighth Judicial District Court of Nevada, not midway into an appeal by a self-serving affidavit of counsel for UAIC.

UAIC made representations that it would be responsible for any judgment entered in this case in order to gain intervention. UAIC also mischaracterized the position Lewis took regarding representation appointed by UAIC in order to gain intervention. Lewis made it clear that if he felt the proposed course by UAIC was not just a frivolous delay and was based on sound legal research (and not just the opinion of UAIC's counsel), that it could be pursued. UAIC did not provide any Nevada authority for this unique reading of the chapter on statutes of limitation with their tolling provisions. UAIC instead used the confidential client communications requesting the legal basis for UAIC's position, then misstated it to the Court.

UAIC, without notice to Lewis or any attorney representing him, filed two motions to intervene which were both defective in service on the face of the pleading. Counsel for Nalder, through diligence, discovered the filings on the court website and obtained them through the court's attorney portal. As noted in the Affidavit attached hereto as Exhibit 1, Counsel for Nalder contacted Matthew Douglas, Esq. to advise

that he had not been served and asked for additional time to file an opposition.<sup>1</sup> His requests were denied in violation of NRPC 3.5A. Oppositions were filed and courtesy copies supplied to the court. Replies were also filed---all before the in "chambers hearing," but the Court granted the motions and cited "no opposition was filed."

No order has been issued and UAIC has yet to file any pleading in intervention in this case, but, suddenly, Randall Tindall, Esq., another attorney being paid by UAIC, has filed almost an identical pleading to the pleading attached to UAIC's motion to intervene. He filed this pleading on behalf of Lewis.

### V. LAW ON MOTION TO DISMISS

A court considering a Rule 12(b)(5) motion must accept the plaintiff's factual allegations as true and draw every reasonable inference in the plaintiff's favor to determine whether the allegations are sufficient to state a claim for relief. *Jacobs v. Adelson*, 130 Nev. Adv. Op. 44, 325 P.3d 1282, 1285, reh'g denied (Aug. 7, 2014). It may not grant the motion without also granting leave to amend unless there is no set of facts the Plaintiff can allege that would state a valid claim.

### VI. ARGUMENT

The validity of the judgment against UAIC is the only issue before the Ninth Circuit. The basis for the enforceability against UAIC is the nature of the action filed against UAIC, the effect of the assignment and the timing of the judgment. The continued enforceability against Lewis is not determinative. All of those arguments

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Exhibit 2 attached hereto, which includes copies of the first page of each Motion to Intervene as well as each Certificate of Service. In case number 18-772220, electronic service is marked. In case number 07A549111, no type of service is marked. Exhibit 3 attached here to is a print out of the Service Contact History from the Court's efiling system for each case. This Exhibit demonstrates that David A. Stephens, Esq., was not added to the electronic service contact list until September 4, 2018 and September 18, 2018 respectively. Filing and serving through the Court's efiling system requires affirmative clicks by the filer wherein it would have been obvious to the filer that he/she was not really serving anyone with the Motions to Intervene on August 16th and 17th, 2018.

 would result in UAIC being liable for the judgment, even if it was expired as to Lewis now. As a result, Nalder is not required to have a continuing valid judgment against Lewis.

Whether UAIC is responsible for the judgment is the issue before the Supreme Court of Nevada. Independent from that issue, Nalder has now instituted an action on the Nevada State Court judgment to demonstrate and maintain its continued validity against Lewis.

### A. The Judgment is not expired because the statute is tolled

The Nevada six-year statute of limitations to pursue an action on the judgment was tolled by the three payments UAIC made on the judgment. NRS 11.200. As a result of just that tolling statute, the Nevada statute of limitations on the judgment would not expire until March 5, 2021 six years from the last payment.

The Nevada statute of limitations was also tolled during the period of time that Nalder was a minor. NRS 11.250. She reached the age of majority on April 4, 2018. As a result, the statute of limitations does not run until April 4, 2022.

Lewis' California residency also continues to toll the six-year statute of limitations because Lewis has not been subject to service of process in the State of Nevada from 2010 to the present. NRS 11.300. The Nevada statute of limitations has not run and is still tolled to this day.

Finally, California's statute of limitations on a judgment is ten years from the date the judgment became final. There are also applicable tolling statutes in California. The Nevada judgment became final, at the earliest, August 26, 2008. Nalder obtained the sister state judgment in California prior to August 26, 2018.

Though the statute of limitations on Nalder's judgment is not even close to running, this action was taken because Nalder's tort statute of limitations was about to run. If the judgment is deemed not valid, then Nalder still wants to protect her tort claim. Also, this action is the appropriate way to litigate and clarify the Nevada statutory scheme for actions on a judgment and judgment renewal.

judgment or renewal of the judgment for three reasons. UAIC made three undisputed 2 payments toward the judgment on June 23, 2014; June 25, 2014; and March 5, 2015. 3 8 9

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Pursuant to "NRS 11.200 Computation of time. The time in NRS 11.190 shall be deemed to date from the last transaction . . . the limitation shall commence from the time the last payment was made." Further, when any payment is made, "the limitation shall commence from the time the last payment was made." Therefore, UAIC's last payment on the judgment extended the expiration of the six-year statute of limitations to March 5, 2021.

Additionally, NRS 11.250 outlines various circumstances that prevent the running of the statute of limitations and states, in relevant part:

The judgment remains collectible even in the absence of an action upon the

"If a person entitled to bring an action other than for the recovery of real property be, at the time the cause of action accrued, either:

"1. Within the age of 18 years;

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"the time of such disability shall not be a part of the time limited for the commencement of the action."

NRS 11.250 (emphasis added).

Nalder was a minor when she obtained the judgment. She turned 18 on April 4, 2016. Therefore, the earliest that the six-year statute of limitations runs is April of 2022. This judgment was never recorded and the provisions of NRS 17.214 relating to real property have no application here.

Pursuant to NRS 11.300, the absence of Lewis from the State of Nevada tolls the statute of limitations to enforce a judgment and it remains tolled because of his absence. See Bank of Nevada v. Friedman, 82 Nev. 417, 421, 420 P.2d 1, 3 (1966).

UAIC submits that North Dakota is a state with similar renewal methods to Nevada. While UAIC is partially correct, the language of the renewal statute in North Dakota contains a ten year period in the body of the statute and does not refer back to

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27 28 the chapter on statutes of limitations and its tolling provisions as does Nevada's statute. Further, the case cited by UAIC, F/S Manufacturing v. Kensmoe, 798 N.W.2d 853 (N.D. 2011) supports Nalder's contentions here. (See, Exhibit 4 attached hereto for a complete copy of the case decision, which is provided for the Court's convenience.) As that North Dakota Court notes:

"Of course, it may be easier to renew a judgment by affidavit; but it by no means follows that the old judgment may not be made the basis of a new suit, and many cases arise where it is an advantage to be able to bring suit, instead of renewing by affidavit — the case at bar being an example. It is our conclusion that the two remedies are not inconsistent, and that a judgment creditor may either sue upon his judgment, or renew it by affidavit, if he complies with the respective laws."

Id. at 857, emphasis added.

"We express no opinion, however, whether the statute of limitations for an action on a judgment was tolled during the pendency of the bankruptcy automatic stay. See N.D.C.C. §§ 28-01-15(1) (ten-year statute of limitations for an action upon a judgment), 28-01-29 ('When the commencement of an action is stayed by injunction or other order of a court, or by a statutory prohibition, the time of the continuance of the stay is not a part of the time limited for the commencement of the action.')." *Id*. at 862.

These tolling statutes present a catch-22 for the use of NRS 17.214 and the "strict compliance" interpretation given by the Nevada Supreme Court. One of the terms of the statute in Nevada is that the renewal needs to be brought within 90 days of the expiration of the statute of limitations. If that 90-day period is strictly construed, any renewal attempt pursuant to NRS 17.214 by Nalder at the present time, or earlier as argued by UAIC, would be premature and therefore ineffective because it would not be filed within the 90-day window prior to expiration of the statute of limitations.

NRS 17.214 was enacted to give an optional, not "mandatory," statutory procedure in addition to the rights created at common law for an action on the judgment. UAIC claims the plain, permissive language of NRS 17.214: "A judgment creditor ... may renew a judgment," (emphasis added), mandates use of NRS 17.214 as the only way to renew a judgment. This is contrary to the clear wording of the statute and the case law in Nevada. See *Mandlebaum v. Gregovich*, 24 Nev. 154, 161, 50 P. 849, 851 (1897) and general statutory interpretation.

UAIC cites no authority for this mandated use of NRS 17.214. The legislative history demonstrates that NRS 17.214 was adopted to give an easier way for creditors to renew judgments. This was to give an option for renewal of judgments that was easier and more certain, not make it a trap for the unwary and cut of rights of injured parties. Where as here, the timing of the expiration is in doubt, the best way to renew the judgment is the common law method, which is only supplemented by the statutory method, not replaced.

# B. The Statute of Limitations in California on a Judgment of a Sister State is Ten Years

Lewis now resides in California. In California, an action upon a judgment must be commenced within 10 years of entry of the judgment. *See* Cal. Code Civ. P. § 337.5. Alternatively, a judgment must be renewed within 10 years of entry of the judgment. *Kertesz v. Ostrovsky*, 115 Cal. App. 4th 369, 372, 8 Cal. Rptr. 3d 907, 911 (Cal. Ct. App. 2004); *see also*, Cal. Code Civ. P. §§ 683.020, 683.120, 683.130. Out of an abundance of caution, Nalder has incurred the expense to renew her judgment by filing actions in both Nevada and California. In spite of this action, Nalder contends that she timely instituted an action on the judgment or, alternatively, that the six-year limitations period has not yet expired.

-11-

# C. The Underlying Judgment Did Not Expire As To Lewis Because Nalder Was Not Required to Institute an Action on the Judgment and Renew the Judgment

An action on a judgment is distinguishable from the treatment of an application to renew the prior judgment. *Pratali v. Gates*, 4 Cal. App. 4th 632, 637, 5 Cal. Rptr. 2d 733, 736 (Cal. Ct. App. 1992). This distinction is inherently recognized in the Nevada Revised Statutes' treatment of both courses of action. "A judgment creditor may enforce his judgment by the process of the court in which he obtained it, *or he may elect to use the judgment as an original cause of action and bring suit thereon and prosecute such suit to final judgment.*" *Mandlebaum v. Gregovich*, 24 Nev. 154, 161, 50 P. 849, 851 (1897) (emphasis added). NRS 11.190(a)(1) provides the option that either an action upon the judgment or a renewal of the judgment be commenced. The limitation period for judgments runs from the time the judgment becomes final. Statutes of limitations are intended to ensure pursuit of the action with reasonable diligence, to preserve evidence and avoid surprise, and to avoid the injustice of long-dormant claims. *Petersen v. Bruen*, 106 Nev. 271, 273-74, 792 P.2d 18, 19-20 (1990).

NRS 17.214 provides the procedural steps necessary to renew a judgment before the expiration of the statute of limitations set forth in NRS 11.190(1)(a). NRS 17.214 provides that a judgment creditor may renew a judgment that has not been paid by filing an affidavit with the clerk of the court where the judgment is entered, "...within 90 days before the date the judgment expires by limitation." NRS 11.190(a)(1), NRS 11.200, NRS 11.250, NRS 11.300 must be read together with NRS 17.214 because they relate to the same subject matter and are not in conflict with one another. *Piroozi v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court*, 131 Nev. Adv. Op. 100, 363 P.3d 1168, 1172 (2015). When these five statutes are read together, they establish that a party must either file an action on the judgment or renew the judgment under NRS 17.214 before the statute of limitations runs.

The Nevada Supreme Court expressly adopted this result in *Levin v. Frey*, 123 Nev. 399, 403, 168 P.2d. 712, 715 (2007): "An action on a judgment *or* its renewal

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must be commenced within six years under NRS 11.190(1)(a); thus a judgment expires by limitation in six years."

The Nevada Supreme Court held that the time to file a renewal under NRS 17.214 is subject to statutory and equitable tolling provisions. See *O'Lane v. Spinney*, 110 Nev. 496, 874 P.2d 754 (1994). The statute of limitation tolling provisions in NRS 11.200, NRS 11.250, NRS 11.300 apply to the computation of the time for filing for renewal under NRS 17.214.

The Nevada Supreme Court also recognizes the well-established rule that it will not look beyond the plain language of the statute when the words "have a definite and ordinary meaning." *Harris Associates. v. Clark County School. District*, 119 Nev. 638, 642, 81 P.3d 532, 534 (2003). "Normal principles of statutory construction also preclude interpreting a statute to render part of it meaningless." *United States v. Bert*, 292 F.3d 649, 652 n.11 (9th Cir. 2002).

UAIC's apparent position is that even though Nalder filed an action upon the judgment, she was also required to file a renewal of the judgment. This interpretation ignores the clarity of the disjunctive "or". UAIC's proposed interpretation of the statute effectively renders the "or" used NRS 11.190(1)(a) meaningless. If the Nevada Legislature intended to require a judgment creditor to file an action on the judgment and renew the judgment, then the Nevada Legislature would have used the word "and". However, the Nevada Legislature uniquely understood that a party was only required to proceed with one course of action to ensure the validity of a judgment. This understanding is reflected in the permissive language of NRS 17.214(1), which states that a judgment creditor "may renew a judgment which has not been paid..."

Based on the unambiguous language of NRS 11.190(1)(a), NRS 11.200, NRS 11.250, NRS 11.300 and NRS 17.214, the underlying judgment did not expire in this matter. Indeed, any renewal pursuant to NRS 17.214 filed by Nalder would be premature and possibly held to be ineffective. Nalder timely commenced her action on the judgment before the statute of limitations expired. As a result, the judgment does not

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have to be renewed and any renewal under NRS 17.214 is not possible at this time. This is the reason for the declaratory relief allegation in Nalder's 2018 complaint.

### VII. CLAIM AND ISSUE PRECLUSION DO NOT APPLY TO THE CLAIMS OF THIS COMPLAINT

Under Five Star Capital Corp. v. Ruby, 124 Nev. 1048, 1054-1055, 194 P.3d 709, 713 (2008), the Nevada Supreme Court laid out the elements of claim preclusion as follows:

[T]he following factors must be met: (1) the same parties or their privies are involved in both cases, (2) a valid final judgment has been entered, and

(3) the subsequent action is based on the same claims or any part of them that were or could have been brought in the first case.

The Court cannot grant a motion to dismiss based on claim preclusion as to any of the three claims for relief pled by Nalder in this case.

Nalder's first claim is to renew the judgment, which is a statutorily allowed process. Assuming arguendo, the parties are the same and valid judgment has been entered, the action to renew the judgment could not have been brought as part of the original action becuase until a judgment was entered in the first case there was no judgment to renew.

To follow UAIC's logic would result in the statutorily authorized process to file suit to renew a judgment is subject to claimm preclusion would mean that a plaintiff could never file suit to renew a judgment. That makes no sense, at all.

The analysis is exactly the same as to the second claim for relief which asks the court to deteremine when a renewal under NRS 17.214 must be filed. The second claim is plead in the alternative. Assuming arguendo, the parties are the same and valid judgment has been entered, a suit for a determination of when a jdugmetn must be renewed could not have been brought as part of the original action becuase until a judgment was entered in the first case there was no judgment to renew.

The analysis as to the third cliam is different. The third claim, which is plead in

the altaernative, is for personal injuries suffered in the car accident when Nalder was a minor.

If the answer to the declaratory relief action is that the time for filing for renewal under NRS 17.214 has gone by and the judgment is no longer valid then Nalder brings her personal injury actions within two years of her majority. If the two actions above do not provide relief for Nalder then this action is not the subject of claim preclusion because the parties are different, the claims for relief are different and the prior judgment would have been found by the court to be invalid. Thus, there would be no valid judgment arising out of the prior matter while Nalder was in her minority.

### VIII. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, Nalder respectfully requests that this Court deny the Motion to Dismiss brought by Lewis, (without his consent).

Dated this \_\_\_8th\_\_ day of October, 2018.

STEPHENS & BYWATER, P.C.

S/David A Stephens
David A. Stephens, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 00902
3636 North Rancho Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
Attorneys for Plaintiff

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 8th day of October, 2018, I served the following PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO document: **DISMISS** VIA ELECTRONIC FILING; (N.E.F.R. 9(b)) Matthew Douglas, Esq. Randall Tindall, Esq. VIA ELECTRONIC SERVICE (N.E.F.R. 9) · BY MAIL: by placing the documents(s) listed above in a sealed envelope, postage prepaid in the U. S. Mail at Las Vegas, Nevada, addressed as set forth below: BY FAX: by transmitting the document(s) listed above via telefacsimile to the fax number(s) set forth below. A printed transmission record is attached to the file copy of this document(s). BY HAND DELIVER: by delivering the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below. S/David A Stephens An Employee of Stephens & Bywater -16-

# EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

# AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS

STATE OF NEVADA ) )ss COUNTY OF CLARK )

David A. Stephens, Esq., being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am the attorney for Plaintiff Cheyenne Nalder in this matter.
- 2. I am licensed to practice law before all Courts of the State of Nevada.
- 3. I make this affidavit based upon facts within my own knowledge, and I can so testify in a court of law, save and except as those facts alleged upon information and belief, and as to those facts I believe them to be true.
- 4. Cheyenne Nalder, ("Cheyenne"), who had reached the age of majority, asked me to file a motion to amend the judgment in this case where a judgment had previously been entered against Mr. Lewis in favor of her father, as her Guardian ad Litem.
- 5. On March 22, 2018. I filed an Ex Parte Motion to Amend the Judgment to change the name on the judgment to Cheyenne Nalder, individually.
- 6. That Motion was granted by this Court and the amended judgment was filed on March 28, 2018.
- 7. I filed a Notice of Entry of Judgment on this matter on May 18, 2018 and served that Notice of Entry of Judgment on Mr. Lewis at his address in California.
- 8. During this time I filed and served a separate lawsuit against Mr. Lewis to protect Cheyenne's claims from the possible running of the statute of limitations.
- 9. Since that time I have dealt with a myriad of attorneys claiming to be acting on behalf of Mr. Lewis.
- 10. Approximately 30 days after serving Mr. Lewis, on July 17, 2018, I filed a Three Day Notice of Intent to Take Default in the second matter. I served it on Mr. Lewis, and Tom Winner, Esq., who was representing Mr. Lewis in another matter.
- 11. On July 19, 2018, Matthew Douglas, Esq., who I understand to be an associate with Mr. Winner's law firm, called me regarding not filing a default against Mr. Lewis in the second case.

- 12. On July 24, 2018, Stephen Rogers, Esq., called me and indicated to me that he was representing Mr. Lewis, and that he needed a two-week extension of time in which to respond in the second suit I granted the two weeks request requested by Mr. Rogers.
- 13. Having heard nothing further, on August 8, 2018, I sent a letter to Mr. Rogers, by email, regarding whether he was representing Mr. Lewis.
- 14. In a letter dated August 10, 2018, Mr. Rogers indicated he had been retained to represent Mr. Lewis and sent a medical authorization for my client to sign.
- 15. In a letter dated August 23, 2018, Mr. Rogers indicated that he was not going to be able to represent Mr. Lewis. Based on his letter, it was my understanding that Mr. Rogers was having some discussions with respect to his representation of Mr. Lewis, with Thomas F. Christensen, Esq. who represented Mr. Lewis personally.
- 16. In the meantime on August 15, 2018, Matthew Douglas, Esq., representing United Automobile Insurance Company, ("UAIC"), which I understood to be Mr. Lewis' automobile insurance company at the time of the accident, filed a Motion to Intervene in this matter. At about the same time, Mr. Douglas also filed a motion to intervene on behalf of UAIC in the second suit.
- 17. The certificate of service on the Motion to Intervene filed in this case states that it was mailed to me the following day.
- 18. In September, 2018, while preparing to submit a default in the second suit, I first learned of the motions to intervene.
- 19. I never received the Motions to Intervene and only discovered that the Motions even existed after the date for filing a response to that motion had passed, assuming the Motion s had been served on me.
- 20. On September 11, 2018, I emailed Mr. Douglas indicating that I had not been served with either motion and requesting that he serve me and continue the hearing on both motions.
- 21. On September 11, 2018, Mr. Douglas emailed me and indicated that he had served both motions on me. He stated that he had served the motion in this case by mail and by eservice in the other case. He then asked for the basis for my opposition to both motions.
  - 22. I have never received a proof of eservice on me in the second case.

- 23. On September 12, 2018, I emailed Mr. Douglas indicating I could have an opposition filed within one week, and then he could have the time he needed to file a reply.
- 24. On September 13, 2018, Mr. Douglas responded, by email, and stated again that he needed to know the basis of my opposition to the motions before he could consider granting an extension of time to respond to them.
- 25. I emailed Mr. Douglas on September 14, 2018, indicating that I would have to research to see if there were grounds to oppose the motions to intervene and indicated that as to this case, that I thought the motion was too late.
- 26. I filed an Opposition to the Motion to Intervene filed by UAIC in this case on September 17, 2018. I received a filed stamped copy of the Opposition early on the morning of September 18, 2018.
- 27. I filed an Opposition to the Motion to Intervene filed by UAIC in the second case on September 17, 2018. I received a filed stamped copy of the Opposition early on the morning of September 18, 2018.
- 28. I personally dropped both of the Oppositions to the Motions to Intervene in this Court's box on September 18, 2018. I do not know the exact time, but I know it was before 10:00 a.m. because I had a 10:00 a.m. appearance before the Discovery Commissioner and I dropped the papers into the Court's box prior to that appearance.
- 29. I subsequently received a minute order from the Court indicating that the motion to intervene in this case had been granted because no opposition had been filed.
- 30. In the meantime I had been negotiating with another attorney, E. Breen Arntz, Esq. on behalf of Mr. Lewis in the second matter. Mr. Arntz and I arrived at what I thought was a stipulation which would resolve the matter. That stipulation was filed and a judgment and the stipulation were dropped in the Court's box for signature by the Court. As of today's date I have not received the signed judgment based on the stipulation from the Court.
- 31. Now, another attorney, claiming to represent Mr. Lewis, has filed this Motion to Set Aside the Judgment. Based on my negotiation with Mr. Arntz, I believe that these issues raised by this Motion to Set Aside the Judgment, along with the issues in the other law suit have been resolved.

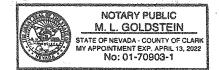
- 32. The Stipulation for Judgment essentially stipulated that the judgment in this case is valid and stipulated to the amount of the judgment. In return Cheyenne Nalder waived her claim to court costs, and attorney's fees incurred by her in her efforts to collect this judgment.
- 33. Thus it appears at this time that Mr. Lewis has yet another attorney and appears to be backing out of the settlement negotiations which were signed by his prior counsel.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2018.

David A. Stephens, Esq.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 7th day of October, 2018.

Notary Public in and for said County and State



# EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

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MATTHEW J. DOUGLAS
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mdouglas@awslawyers.com

Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor United Automobile Insurance Company

### EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CHEYANNE NALDER,

CASE NO.: A-18-772220-C

**DEPT. NO.: 29** 

Plaintiff,

UAIC'S MOTION TO INTERVENE

GARY LEWIS and DOES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

COMES NOW, UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY (hereinafter referred to as "UAIC"), by and through its attorney of record, ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD and hereby submits this Motion to Intervene in the present action, pursuant to the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, all exhibits attached hereto, all papers and pleadings on file with this Court and such argument this Court may entertain at the time of hearing.

DATED this Way of Albert , 2018.

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

Matthew J. Douglas / Nevada Bar No. 11371

1117 South Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Attorneys for Intervenor

Page 1 of 9 Case Number: A-18-772220-C

# ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

A NEVADA LAW FIRM

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

## PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL

David A. Stephens, Esq. STEPHENS, GOURLEY & BYWATER 3636 N. Rancho Dr. Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

An employee of ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

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vs.

Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor United Automobile Insurance Company

### EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CHEYANNE NALDER,

CASE NO.: 07A549111

DEPT. NO.: 29

Plaintiff,

**UAIC'S MOTION TO INTERVENE** 

GARY LEWIS and DOES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

COMES NOW, UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY (hereinafter referred to as "UAIC"), by and through its attorney of record, ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD and hereby submits this Motion to Intervene in the present action, pursuant to the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, all exhibits attached hereto, all papers and pleadings on file with this Court and such argument this Court may entertain at the time of hearing.

DATED this Hay of Avort, 2018.

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

Matthew J. Douglas
Nevada Bar No. 11374
1117 South Rancho Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Attorneys for Intervenor

Page 1 of 9

Case Number: 07A549111

# A TKIN WINNER & SHERROD

A NEVADA LAW FIRM

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this 170 day of August, 2018, the foregoing MOTION TO INTERVENE was served on the following by [] Electronic Service pursuant to NEFR 9 [] Electronic Filing and Service pursuant to NEFR 9 [] hand delivery [] overnight delivery [] fax [] fax and mail [] mailing by depositing with the U.S. mail in Las Vegas, Nevada, enclosed in a sealed envelope with first class postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

# PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL

David A. Stephens, Esq. STEPHENS, GOURLEY & BYWATER 3636 N. Rancho Dr. Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

An employee of ATKIN WINNER & SHERROL

Page 9 of 9

# EXHIBIT 3

EXHIBIT 3

# A-18-772220-C

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		Shayna Ortega-Rose		sortega-rose@rlattorneys.com	
		David A. Stephens		dstephens@sgblawfirm.com	
		Randall Tindall		rtindall@rlattorneys.com	
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# EXHIBIT 4

EXHIBIT 4

## No. 20100167. Supreme Court of North Dakota

# F/S Manufacturing v. Kensmoe

798 N.W.2d 853 (N.D. 2011)

Decided June 21st, 2011

### VANDE WALLE, Chief Justice.

[¶ 1] Lesa Kensmoe, now known as Lesa Bergson, appealed from a district court order granting F/S Manufacturing renewal by affidavit of its 1998 judgment against her. We reverse, holding the district court erred in ordering a cancelled judgment renewed by filing an affidavit under N.D.C.C. § 28–20–21.

I

[¶ 2] On March 9, 1998, F/S Manufacturing obtained a default judgment in the amount of \$450,894.78 against Kensmoe. When the action was commenced in 1995, Kensmoe was a resident of Moorhead, Minnesota. On April 4, 2008, F/S Manufacturing's judgment against Kensmoe was cancelled of record under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-35. On March 8, 2010, almost two years after the 1998 judgment was cancelled, \*855 F/S Manufacturing filed an affidavit attempting to renew the judgment under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21. After being informed the judgment could not be renewed because it had expired, F/S Manufacturing filed a motion on March 11, 2010, requesting the district court to order the clerk of court to renew the judgment by affidavit under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21.

[¶ 3] In its motion and supporting brief, F/S Manufacturing asserted that the "statute of limitations" for renewing a judgment by affidavit was tolled because Kensmoe had been absent from North Dakota for at least five years living in Georgia or, alternatively, because Kensmoe had filed for bankruptcy in Georgia on

May 5, 2003, and had purportedly been involved in bankruptcy proceedings until May 10, 2005. With its motion, F/S Manufacturing submitted evidence that the 1998 North Dakota judgment had been filed in Liberty County, Georgia, and that on March 8, 2010, a Georgia state court in Liberty County had denied Kensmoe's motion to set aside the judgment. The Georgia court order found that "the statute of limitations on the underlying North Dakota judgment . . . was tolled during the pendency of Defendant's two bankruptcy proceedings from May 5, 2003 through May 10, 2005" and held that the underlying North Dakota judgment was still valid and enforceable and F/S Manufacturing could "continue its collection efforts to enforce the judgment."

[¶ 4] On May 5, 2010, the North Dakota district court granted F/S Manufacturing's motion and ordered the clerk of court to renew the 1998 judgment. In its order, the district court stated: "This Court adopts the reasoning and rationale of the March 8, 2010, State Court of Liberty County, Georgia, order, and [F/S Manufacturing's] Brief in Support of Motion of Renewal of Judgment, as its own for the purposes of this Order."

### II

[¶ 5] Kensmoe argues that F/S Manufacturing may not renew a cancelled judgment, asserting the period to renew the judgment under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 was not tolled. F/S Manufacturing asserts, however, the time period for renewing a judgment under

N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 was tolled under N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32, based on Kensmoe's absence from North Dakota. F/S Manufacturing also contends that Kensmoe waived any issues regarding whether or not her prior bankruptcy proceedings tolled the "statute of limitations," because she did not raise those issues on appeal. The issues raised by the parties require interpretation of N.D.C.C. §§ 28-20-21 and 28-01-32.

Statutory interpretation is a question of law, fully reviewable on appeal. Kadlec [v. Greendale Twp. Bd. of Supervisors], 1998 ND 165, 1112, 583 N.W.2d 817. Words in a statute are given their plain, ordinary, and commonly understood meaning, unless defined by statute or unless a contrary intention plainly appears. N.D.C.C. § 1-02-02. Statutes are construed as a whole and are harmonized to give meaning to related provisions. N.D.C.C. § 1-02-07. If the language of a statute is clear and unambiguous, "the letter of [the statute] is not to be disregarded under the pretext of pursuing its spirit." N.D.C.C. § 1-02-05. The language of a statute must be interpreted in context and according to the rules of grammar, giving meaning and effect to every word, phrase, and sentence. N.D.C.C. §§ 1-02-03 and 1-02-38(2). The primary objective in interpreting a statute is to determine the intention of the legislation. Amerada Hess Corp. v. State ex rel. Tax Comm'r, 2005 ND 155, ¶ 12, 704 N.W.2d 8.

Skogen v. Hemen Twp. Bd. of Twp. Supervisors, 2010 ND 92, ¶ 20, 782 N.W.2d 638. \*856 We construe statutes to avoid absurd or illogical results. County of Stutsman v. State Historical Sody, 371 N.W.2d 321, 325 (N.D. 1985).

### A

[¶ 6] In North Dakota the duration of a judgment is governed by N.D.C.C. § 28-20-35, which provides for cancellation of a judgment after certain time periods:

After ten years after the entry of a judgment that has not been renewed, or after twenty

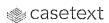
years after the entry of a judgment that has been renewed, the judgment must be canceled of record.

See Investors Title Ins. Co. v. Herzig, 2011 ND 7, ¶ 11, 793 N.W.2d 371. "After the time periods set forth in the statute governing cancellation of judgments have passed, a judgment is unenforceable against the judgment debtor." Id. (citing Jahner v. Jacob, 515 N.W.2d 183, 186 (N.D. 1994)). A judgment creditor may commence a separate action to renew a judgment. See, e.g., Union Nat'l Bank v. Ryan, 23 N.D. 482, 483, 137 N.W. 449 Syl. 2 (1912) ("judgment creditor may renew his judgment by either affidavit or by action if he pursues the remedies provided by said sections"). North Dakota law also provides for a concurrent, simplified procedure to renew a judgment by filing an affidavit. See N.D.C.C. §§ 28-20-21, 28-20-22, and 28-20-23.

[¶ 7] Section 28-20-21, N.D.C.C., provides the required contents of a renewal affidavit and states, in part:

Any judgment which in whole or in part directs the payment of money and which may be docketed in the office of the clerk of any district court in this state may be renewed by the affidavit of the judgment creditor or of the judgment creditor's personal representative, agent, attorney, or assignee at any time within ninety days preceding the expiration often years from the first docketing of such judgment.

(Emphasis added.) If the judgment to be renewed was rendered in this state, "the affidavit for renewal must be filed with the clerk of court where the judgment was first docketed. . . . The clerk of court shall immediately enter in the judgment docket the fact of renewal, the date of renewal, and the amount for which the judgment is renewed." N.D.C.C. § 28-20-22 (emphasis added). Section 28-20-23, N.D.C.C., provides that "[t]he entry and docketing of an affidavit of renewal of a judgment operates to continue the lien of the judgment to the



extent of the balance due" on the judgment for a period of ten years from the affidavit's docketing.

[¶ 8] This Court has said that renewal by affidavit is purely a statutory matter and the procedure must be substantially complied with, since "[t]he courts are not at liberty to say that any of the statutory requirements to perfect or continue a lien may be omitted." Groth v. Ness, 65 N.D. 580, 584, 260 N.W. 700, 701 (1935). "Where the Legislature has clearly prescribed what facts shall be set forth in the statement, the courts have no power to add to or subtract therefrom." Id. Thus, "[a]n original judgment is renewed for an additional ten years by filing an affidavit of renewal within 90 days of expiration of the original judgment." Jahner, 515 N.W.2d at 186 (citing N.D.C.C. §§ 28-20-21, 28-20-22, and 28-20-23). "If the judgment creditor does not file an affidavit of renewal within the original ten-year period, NDCC 28-20-35 declares that the judgment is canceled of record and is un-enforceable." Jahner, at 186.

[¶ 9] It is undisputed that F/S Manufacturing did not file a renewal affidavit "within ninety days preceding the expiration of ten years from the first docketing" of its 1998 judgment against Kensmoe, \*857 and it is undisputed that the 1998 judgment was cancelled of record on April 4, 2008. Relying on Ryan, 23 N.D. 482, 137 N.W. 449, and N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32, F/S Manufacturing argues the time period provided in N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 to renew the judgment by affidavit was tolled. Under N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32, the statute of limitations for "an action" against a person may be tolled based on that person's absence from the state:

If any person is out of this state at the time a claim for relief accrues against that person, an action on such claim for relief may be commenced in this state at anytime within the term limited in this chapter for the bringing of an action on such claim for relief after the return of such person into this state. If any person departs from and resides out of this state and remains continuously absent therefrom for the space of

one year or more after a claim for relief has accrued against that person, the time of that person's absence may not be taken as any part of the time limited for the commencement of an action on such claim for relief. The provisions of this section, however, do not apply to the foreclosure of real estate mortgages by action or otherwise and do not apply if this state's courts have jurisdiction over a person during the person's absence.

(Emphasis added.) Although F/S Manufacturing asserts that Kensmoe has been absent from the state for at least five years, that the two exceptions in N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32 do not apply, and that Kensmoe has waived any argument regarding jurisdiction, F/S Manufacturing's reliance on N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32 and Ryan is misplaced.

[¶ 10] Ryan involved an action for renewal of a domestic judgment against a judgment debtor, who had been absent from the state after judgment was entered. 23 N.D. at 484, 137 N.W. at 449. If the judgment debtor's absence was counted, the action would have been barred under the 10-year statute of limitations for an action upon a judgment in an earlier version of N.D.C.C. § 28-01-15(1); but if the debtor's absence tolled the statute of limitations, under an earlier version of N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32, the original expired judgment could serve as the basis for the action to renew. Ryan, at 484, 137 N.W. at 449. The Ryan Court held that the judgment debtor's absence from the state tolled the statute of limitation for bringing a separate action on the judgment, even though the original judgment may have expired without being renewed. Id. at 487, 137 N.W. at 450. More importantly, the Court specifically distinguished between a separate action to renew a judgment and the statutory renewal by affidavit, holding the legislature's adoption of statutes for renewal by affidavit neither repealed the statute tolling an action based on a person's absence, nor precluded the separate action on the judgment for renewal:

Of course, it may be easier to renew a judgment by affidavit; but it by no means follows that the old judgment may not be made the basis of a new suit, and many cases arise where it is an advantage to be able to bring suit, instead of renewing by affidavit—the case at bar being an example. It is our conclusion that the two remedies are not inconsistent, and that a judgment creditor may either sue upon his judgment, or renew it by affidavit, if he complies with the respective laws.

Id. at 487-88, 137 N.W. at 450 (emphasis added). See also Herzig, 2011 ND 7, ¶ 12, 793 N.W.2d 371 (holding no tolling under Ryan and N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32 when there was no claim judgment debtor was absent from the state); Jahner, 515 N.W.2d at 186 (holding Ryan case inapposite because there was no allegation the judgment debtor `was absent from the \*858 state to toll the statute of limitations, nor [was it] a separate action upon the original judgment" (emphasis added)).

[¶ 11] Here, F/S Manufacturing has not commenced a separate action for renewal on the 1998 judgment, but has instead sought to renew its judgment by filing an affidavit with the clerk of court under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21. That statute provides the specific time period for compliance with this simplified procedure, i.e., "within ninety days preceding the expiration of ten years from the first docketing of such judgment." However, N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32, by its terms applies only to toll the time for commencing "an action" on a claim for relief. Filing an affidavit with the clerk of court to renew a judgment under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 is not akin to commencing an action, nor is filing an affidavit an "action upon the judgment" under N.D.C.C. § 28-01-15(1). See N.D.R.Civ.P. 3 ("A civil action is commenced by the service of a summons,"); N.D.C.C. § 28-01-38 (an action is commenced when the summons is served on the defendant); N.D.C.C. § 32-01-01 (remedies in the courts are divided into actions and special proceedings); N.D.C.C. § 32-01-02 ("An action is an ordinary proceeding in a court of justice, by which a party prosecutes another party for the

enforcement or protection of a right, the redress or prevention of a wrong, or the punishment of a public offense."); cf. Blomdahl v. Blomdahl, 2011 ND 78, ¶¶ 6-8, 796 N.W.2d 649 (contempt proceedings under N.D.C.C. § 14-05-25.1 held not an "action upon the judgment" under N.D.C.C. § 28-01-15(1)).

[¶ 12] Because the statutory procedure for renewal by affidavit is not a separate action to renew the judgment, the specific time period in N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 cannot be tolled under N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32 based on a judgment debtor's absence from the state. We therefore conclude N.D.C.C. § 28-01-32 does not apply to toll the time period in which F/S Manufacturing had to renew its judgment by affidavit.

### B

[¶ 13] Although F/S Manufacturing asserts Kensmoe waived any issues "regarding [whether] her bankruptcy toll[ed] the statute of limitations," the district court's order, which Kensmoe has directly challenged, explicitly adopted the Georgia state court's conclusion that "the statute of limitations on the underlying North Dakota judgment . . . was tolled during the pendency of [Kensmoe's] two bankruptcy proceedings from May 5, 2003 through May 10, 2005." Kensmoe argues on appeal that the time period to renew the judgment by affidavit under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 was not tolled and the "Georgia rulings should not be used in the decision of a North Dakota judgment." In her reply brief, Kensmoe also distinguishes F/S Manufacturing's reliance on In re Lobherr, 282 B.R. 912 (Bankr.C.D.Cal. 2002). Kensmoe's argument necessarily includes whether the district court erred in deciding the time period in N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 was tolled by her prior bankruptcy proceedings, and we reject F/S Manufacturing's claim about waiver.

[¶ 14] We approach with caution the complexity of interpreting the Bankruptcy Code and its interplay with state law. See, e.g., Production Credit Ass'n v. Burk, 427 N.W.2d 108 (N.D. 1988) (holding 11 U.S.C. §

108(b)(2) applied to extend unexpired 60-day period to file notice of appeal to 60 days after order for relief, but that appeal was untimely), disagreed with by In re Hoffinger Indus., Inc., 329 F.3d 948, 952-54 (8th Cir. 2003) (holding § 108(c)(2) applied to extend the deadline to file a notice of appeal in state court until at least 30 days after notice of the stay's termination \*859 or expiration), and criticized by In re Ingeniero, No. WL 1453132, at \*1 06-42512J11, 2007 (Bankr.N.D.Cal. May 17, 2007) (stating Burk did not even consider § 108(c)). But see Autoskill Inc. v. National Educ. Support Sys., Inc., 994 F.2d 1476, 1483 n. 3 (10th Cir. 1993) (agreeing with Burk that § 108(b) applies to filing of a notice of appeal); Di Maggio v. Blache, 466 So.2d 489, 490-91 (La.Ct.App. 1985) (holding § 108(b)(2) extended unexpired period for filing appeal, but holding appeal was untimely).

[¶ 15] In support of its position that bankruptcy tolled the time to renew by affidavit, F/S Manufacturing cites In re Lobherr, 282 B.R. at 916-17, for the proposition that the "statute of limitations" for renewing a judgment against a debtor is tolled during the time that the debtor is in bankruptcy. The bankruptcy court in Lobherr, 282 B.R. at 914-16, held that renewal of the judgment during the pendency of the debtor's bankruptcy was a "continuation of a proceeding" against the debtor under 11 U.S.C. § 362(a)(1) and thus violated the automatic stay. The court reasoned that California's statutory scheme for renewing judgments "more closely resembles a judicial action or proceeding," included in acts prohibited by the automatic stay. Lobherr, at 915. The court continued, "The renewal of judgment was not an action that could have been taken ex parte, without notice. Rather, the renewal process required service of the application for renewal on the judgment debtor, thus affording the judgment debtor the opportunity to object to the renewal." Id. at 916. The court also explained that:

[11 U.S.C] § 108(c) was intended to give the state court creditor a way to keep her rights intact (including the renewal of judgments) for

30 days after notice of the termination of the automatic stay[, and therefore] [the respondent ... was not precluded from protecting its rights to the judgment. [The judgment creditor] instead improperly renewed the judgment in accordance with the state statutory scheme, when the Bankruptcy Code specifically contained a provision for the tolling of the statute of limitations for the renewal of that judgment, preempting state law.

### Lobherr, at 917.

[¶ 16] Although the statute is not cited in its brief, based on its reliance on Lobherr, F/S Manufacturing appears to assert 11 U.S.C. § 108(c) operated to toll the period of time for a judgment creditor to renew the North Dakota judgment by affidavit under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21. Specifically, § 108(c) applies to the commencement or continuation of actions that are stayed by 11 U.S.C. §§ 362, 922, 1201, or 1301. See 2 Collier on Bankruptcy ¶ 108.04 (16th ed. 2010).

### [¶ 17] 11 U.S.C. § 108(c) provides, in relevant part:

- (c) Except as provided in section 524 of this title, if applicable nonbankruptcy law, an order entered in a nonbankruptcy proceeding, or an agreement fixes a period for commencing or continuing a civil action in a court other than a bankruptcy court on a claim against the debtor, or against an individual with respect to which such individual is protected under section 1201 or 1301 of this title, and such period has not expired before the date of the filing of the petition, then such period does not expire until the later of —
- (1) the end of such period, including any suspension of such period occurring on or after the commencement of the case; or
- (2) 30 days after notice of the termination or expiration of the stay under section 362, 922, 1201, or 1301 of this title, as the case may be, with respect to such claim.

\*860 [¶ 18] One commentator has discussed the scope and extension of time provided by 11 U.S.C. § 108(c), stating in part:

[S]ection 108(c) is narrower in scope than section 108(b). It applies only to civil actions in courts on claims against the debtor, or against codebtors protected by the codebtor stay. Courts have generally held that it does apply to time periods within which a creditor must bring an action to enforce a lien before the lien expires. It also applies to the time period to renew a judgment to maintain its enforceability. But it does not appear to apply to other types of acts against the debtor or codebtor that do not involve litigation, such as the filing of documents other than in court proceedings.

. . . .

Section 108(c) permits the commencement or continuation of an action until the later of two periods. The first is the end of a time period fixed by applicable nonbankruptcy law, an order entered in a nonbankruptcy proceeding or an agreement. Such time period expressly includes "any suspension of such period occurring on or after the commencement of the case." Such a suspension may result from either state or federal law.

. . . .

In some jurisdictions state law may dictate suspension of a statute of limitations when a bankruptcy or another court proceeding has stayed the initiation of an action. Such suspensions would presumably be included within the terms of section 108(c), adding the entire duration of the automatic stay to the applicable time period.

However, absent such a provision in applicable nonbankruptcy law, a statute of limitations or other deadline for an action against a debtor which would have expired while an automatic stay was applicable is extended by only the second period set forth in section 108(c), 30 days after notice of the termination or expiration of the automatic stay barring the action. It is important to note that this extension continues not simply until 30 days after the termination of the stay, but until 30 days after notice of that termination. When a party has no such notice, the 30 days never begin to run.

2 Collier on Bankruptcy at ¶¶ 108.04[1]-108.04[2] (16th ed. 2010) (emphasis added).

[¶ 19] "`Technically speaking, the Bankruptcy Code does not provide that a statute of limitations is tolled during the period of bankruptcy," In re Bigelow, 393 B.R. 667, 670 n. 8 (B.A.P. 8th Cir. 2008) (quoting C.H. Robinson Co. v. Paris Sons, Inc., 180 F.Supp.2d 1002, 1019 (N.D.Iowa 2001)). Further, "[section 108(c)(1) does not independently toll or suspend statutes of limitations which have not expired as of a bankruptcy petition date." In re Bigelow, at 670 (citing In re Danzig, 233 B.R. 85, 94 (B.A.P. 8th Cir. 1999)). "'The reference in § 108(c) to "suspension" of time limits clearly does not operate in itself to stop the running of a statute of limitations; rather, this language merely incorporates suspensions of deadlines that are expressly provided in other federal or state statutes." Bigelow, at 670 (quoting Danzig, at 94).

[¶ 20] Some courts have held, however, that the automatic stay under 11 U.S.C. § 362 does not prevent the filing of a renewal affidavit. See, e.g., In re Smith, 209 Ariz. 343, 101 P.3d 637, 639 (2004) (holding ministerial action of filing renewal affidavit not prohibited by automatic bankruptcy stay); OLane v. Spinney, 110 Nev. 496, 874 P.2d 754, 755-56 (1994) (rejecting argument that automatic stay prevented filing a renewal affidavit); Barber v. Emporium Pship, 800 P.2d 795, 797 (Utah 1990) (stating action to renew a judgment \*861 does not violate automatic stay provisions because a renewal is not an attempt to enforce, collect, or expand the original judgment); In re Morton, 866 F.2d 561, 564 (2d Cir. 1989) (concluding automatic stay

does not eliminate state-law requirement of extending a judgment lien). *But see In re Lobherr*, <u>282 B.R. at 917</u> (filing of renewal application under California law violated automatic stay).

[¶ 21] For example, in In re Smith, 101 P.3d at 639, answering a certified question from the bankruptcy court, the Arizona Supreme Court held under Arizona law that the time for filing a renewal affidavit is not extended when the debtor has a bankruptcy proceeding pending and an automatic stay was in effect during the 90-day renewal period. The court held that "[a] judgment creditor's inability to enforce a judgment during the initial or a subsequent statutory five-year period, whether because of bankruptcy stay or other reasons, does not extend the dead-line imposed by [Arizona law] to file a renewal affidavit." Id. The court held as a matter of Arizona law that "the filing of an affidavit of renewal is simply a ministerial action intended in part to alert interested parties to the existence of the judgment." Id. "Such a ministerial filing serves a notice function and does not seek to enforce a judgment." Id. The court concluded that the filing of a renewal affidavit is not prohibited by an automatic bankruptcy stay or any stay of enforcement, such as filing a supersede as bond. Id. The court held "the time to file an affidavit of renewal of judgment is not changed or extended by the pendency of a bankruptcy case." Id. at 640.

[¶ 22] In subsequent proceedings before the Ninth Circuit bankruptcy appellate panel, the court in *In re Smith*, 352 B.R. 702, 706 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. 2006), held that based on the Arizona Supreme Court's decision in *In re Smith*, 101 P.3d at 640, Arizona state law did not suspend the time to file a renewal affidavit during the pendency of the bankruptcy case. In reaching this conclusion, the court stated that "[i]n matters of state law, [the court is] compelled to defer to the interpretation given such law by the state's highest court." *In re Smith*, 352 B.R. at 706. The court reiterated that the phrase "suspension of such period" referenced in 11 U.S.C. § 108(c)(1) refers to "either state or federal nonbank-

ruptcy Iaw." 352 B.R. at 706. As a result, 11 U.S.C. § 108(c)(1) did not operate without regard to existing non-bankruptcy law to stop the running of any periods of limitation. In re Smith, 352 B.R. at 706. The court held that, absent state law suspending the time for filing the renewal affidavit, the original limitation date applied and no additional time was afforded under 11 U.S.C. § 108(c)(1). In re Smith, 352 B.R. at 706.

[¶ 23] However, courts have held that 11 U.S.C. § 108(c) applies to the renewal of state court judgments. See In re Spirtos, 221 F.3d 1079, 1080-81 (9th Cir. 2000), In re Smith, 352 B.R. at 705; In re Greenberg, 288 B.R. 612, 614-15 (Bankr.S.D.Ga. 2002); see also 2 Collier on Bankruptcy at ¶ 108.04[1]. Nonetheless, "[t]he time for renewing a state court judgment does not expire until the later of the applicable state law, or 30 days after the termination of the automatic stay." In re Smith, 352 B.R. at 705 (citing 11 U.S.C. § 108(c)(1) (c)(2)) (emphasis in original); see also In re Lobherr, 282 B.R. at 916.

[¶ 24] Here, there is no assertion that Kensmoe was involved in bankruptcy proceedings or that an automatic stay was in place at the time F/S Manufacturing was required to file an affidavit for renewal under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21. Unlike California law, North Dakota renewal statutes provide that once a proper, timely affidavit is filed with the clerk of court, the \*862 clerk is required to "immediately enter in the judgment docket the fact of renewal, the date of renewal, and the amount for which the judgment is renewed." See N.D.C.C. § 28-20-22. The Lobherr case is not controlling and does not support tolling the time period for filing an affidavit in the present case. In fact, in Bergstrom v. Lobherr, No. G035801, 2006 WL 2536462, at \*5 (Cal.Ct.App. Sept. 5, 2006), an unpublished California court of appeals decision involving a subsequent action to enforce the prior judgment against Lobherr, the court said, "California law does not contain a tolling provision applicable to a judgment creditor's application to renew a judgment," and therefore, "when a judgment creditor seeks to renew a judgment,

the only applicable tolling provision is the 30-day extension authorized by section 108(c)(2)." However, in distinguishing the prior bankruptcy court proceedings, the court of appeals held the present case was an independent action to enforce the judgment, which was subject to being tolled under California law. *Id.* 

[¶ 25] Thus, even if the filing of a renewal affidavit under N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21 was more than a "ministerial act," implicating 11 U.S.C. §§ 362 and 108(c), F/ S Manufacturing filed the renewal affidavit well beyond 30 days after the time the parties have apparently agreed was the termination of bankruptcy proceedings, i.e., May 10, 2005. See, e.g., In re Silva, 215 B.R. 73, 77 (Bankr, D.Idaho 1997) (observing since 30-day extension of time provided under 11 U.S.C. § 108(c)(2) was prior in time to date judgment expired under California statute, § 108(c) had no tolling effect on the judgment, and judgment would thus expire unless validly renewed or revived under state law). F/S Manufacturing has not cited any nonbankruptcy federal or state law that either suspends or tolls the limitation period in N.D.C.C. § 28-20-21. We express no opinion, however, whether the statute of limitations for an action on a judgment was tolled during the pendency of the bankruptcy automatic stay. See N.D.C.C. §§ 28-01-15(1) (ten-year statute of limitations for an action upon a judgment), 28-01-29 ("When the commencement of an action is stayed by injunction or other order of a court, or by a statutory prohibition, the time of the continuance of the stay is not a part of the time limited for the commencement of the action.").

[¶ 26] We also note that F/S Manufacturing asserts for the first time on appeal that Kensmoe was actually involved in chapter 13 bankruptcy proceedings from May 9, 2003, until January 15, 2004, and involved in chapter 7 bankruptcy proceedings from June 20, 2004, until May 10, 2005, with over a five month gap between her two bankruptcy filings. However, none of Kensmoe's bankruptcy petitions or dispositive orders were submitted to the district court. Generally, "[a] party who claims the benefit of an exception to a

statute of limitations bears the burden of showing the exception." Kimball v. Landeis, 2002 ND 162, ¶ 29, 652 N.W.2d 330 (citing Motley v. United States, 295 F.3d 820, 824 (8th Cir. 2002)); see generally 54 C.J.S. Limitations of Actions § 429 (2010) ("The burden of proving absence or non-residence in avoidance of the statute of limitations rests on the party asserting such matters."). Nonetheless, the parties do not dispute that Kensmoe was not involved in bankruptcy proceedings nor was an automatic stay in place during the 90 days before the expiration of ten years from the first docketing of the 1998 North Dakota judgment. Under our construction, F/S Manufacturing was not prevented from filing a timely renewal affidavit.

[¶ 27] F/S Manufacturing also suggests this Court must give full faith and credit to the Georgia state court order regarding the underlying North Dakota \*863 judgment under 1st Summit Bank v. Samuelson, 1998 ND 113, ¶ 36, 580 N.W.2d 132 (full faith and credit given to the foreign judgment, even if a similar judgment could not be obtained in North Dakota). In Samuelson, this Court held a Pennsylvania judgment was enforceable in North Dakota under the Full Faith and Credit Clause, even though the foreign judgment did not comply with North Dakota's confession-of-judgment procedure. Id. at ¶ 37.

[¶ 28] Our decision here, however, only concerns application of our statutory procedure for renewing a judgment by affidavit under N.D.C.C. §§ 28-20-21, 28-20-22, and 28-20-23. The Georgia court order relied upon by F/S Manufacturing does not address application of these statutes. Further, we are not being asked to recognize the judgment of a foreign state; rather, we only address whether Kensmoe's bankruptcy proceedings tolled the time period provided within our state's renewal by affidavit statutes. Cf. 16B Am.Jur.2d Constitutional Law § 1031 (2009) ("Full faith and credit does not mean that states must adopt the practices of other states regarding the time, manner, and mechanisms for enforcing judgments[,]" citing Baker by Thomas v. General Motors Corp., 522 U.S.

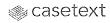
222, 118 S.Ct. 657, 139 L.Ed.2d 580 (1998); Finstuen v. Crutcher, 496 F.3d 1139 (10th Cir. 2007)). We reject F/S Manufacturing's suggestion that this Court is bound by the Georgia state court's order regarding the validity of the 1998 North Dakota judgment.

[¶ 29] We hold the time period to file an affidavit to renew the 1998 judgment was not tolled under North Dakota law. We therefore conclude the district court erred in ordering the clerk of court to renew F/S Manufacturing's 1998 judgment against Kensmoe.

### III

[¶ 30] We have considered the parties' remaining arguments and consider them unnecessary to our decision or without merit. The district court order is reversed.

[¶ 31] CAROL RONNING KAPSNER, MARY MUEHLEN MARING, DANIEL J. CROTHERS, and DALE V. SANDSTROM, JJ., concur.



**Electronically Filed** 12/13/2018 2:46 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT MSTA (CIV) David A. Stephens, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 00902 STEPHENS & BYWATER, P.C. 3636 North Rancho Drive
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Telephone: (702) 656-2355
Facsimile: (702) 656-2776
Email: dstephens@sgblawfirm.com 3 Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder 6 DISTRICT COURT 7 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 8 CHEYENNE NALDER, 9 Plaintiff. CASE No: 07A549111 DEPT. NO: XX 10 VS. 11 GARY LEWIS and DOES I through V, Consolidated with 12 inclusive, CASE No. 18-A-772220-C Defendants, 13 UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE 14 COMPANY, 15 Intervenor. 16 GARY LEWIS, 17 Third Party Plaintiff, 18 VS. 19 UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY, RANDALL TINDALL, ESQ., and RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C. And DOES I through V, 20 21 22 Third Party Defendants. 23 PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDER, PURSUANT TO NRCP 24 60(b), ALLOWING UAIC TO INTERVENE 25 Date: 26 Time: 27 28

Case Number: 07A549111

1 Plaintiff Cheyenne Nalder, by and through her attorney, David A. Stephens, Esq., 2 and moves this Court for an order setting aside the Court's order allowing United 3 Automobile Insurance Company to intervene in this matter. This Motion is made and 4 5 based upon the Points and Authorities and Exhibits attached to this Motion and such 6 argument as may be made at the time of the hearing on this matter. 7 8 Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018. 9 10 /s/ David A Stephens 11 DAVID A. STEPHENS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 00902 12 Stephens & Bywater, P.C. 13 3636 N. Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 14 Attorney for Plaintiff 15 16 17 18 19 20 NOTICE OF MOTION 21 TO: Gary Lewis, Defendant; and, 22 23 TO: E. Breen Arntz, Esq., attorney for Defendant; 24 TO: Randall Tindall, Esq., attorney for Defendant; 25 TO: Thomas F. Christensen, Esq., attorney for Third Party Plaintiff 26 TO: United Automobile Insurance Company, Intervenor; and, 28 -2-

1	TO: Matthew J. Douglas, Esq., attorney for Intervenor:
2	YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 23rd day of
4	
5	foregoing PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDER, PURSUANT TO
6 7	NRCP 60(b), ALLOWING UAIC TO INTERVENE on for hearing before the above-
8	entitled District Court.
9	entitled District Court.
10	DATED: December 13th, 2018.
11	_/s/David A Stephens
12	DAVID A. STEPHENS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 00902
13	Stephens & Bywater, P.C.
14	3636 N. Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
15	Attorney for Plaintiff
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L9	
20	POINTS AND AUTHORITIES
21	I. STATEMENT OF FACTS
22	1. Cheyenne Nalder, ("Cheyenne"), was injured in a car accident on July 8, 2007.
23	2. Cheyenne was a minor at the time of the accident.
25	3. Gary Lewis, ("Lewis"), negligently and careless drove his car such that it
26 27	struck Cheyenne.
28	4. The accident caused serious injuries to Cheyenne.
	-3-

- 5. Cheyenne's father, as her guardian in litem, filed suit, ("Original Suit"), against Lewis. (See Case No. 07A549111).
  - 6. Neither UAIC nor Lewis responded to the Original Suit.
- 7. On June 3, 2008, Cheyenne obtained a default judgment against Lewis in the Original Suit in the sum of \$3,500.000.00.
  - 8. Notice of entry of this judgment was filed and served on August 26, 2008.
- 9. None of that judgment has ever been paid, with the exception of \$15,000.00 which was paid by UAIC following a suit filed by Lewis and Cheyenne against UAIC for bad faith, and other relief.
- 10. UAIC paid the \$15,000.00 to Cheyenne in three separate payments. The last payment of which was made on March 5, 2015.
- 11. On March 22, 2018, Cheyenne, due to the fact that she had reached the age of majority, filed a motion to amend the judgment in the Original Suit to make herself the Plaintiff, in place of her father who had been her Guardian ad Litem.
- 12. The amended judgment was signed and filed in the Original Suit on March28, 2018.
  - 13. On May 18, 2018, a Notice of Entry of Judgment was served on Lewis.
- 14. In 2018, Cheyenne filed a new lawsuit, ("2018 Suit"), (See, Case No. A-18-772220.-C), in order to enforce the judgment and alternatively seek declaratory relief that the judgment in the Original Suit is still valid and enforceable.

- 15. The 2018 Suit was resolved by stipulation of Cheyenne and Lewis signed on September 12, 2018, and filed with this Court on September 13, 2018. (See Exhibit 1 attached to this Motion.)
- 16. UAIC, through its attorney, Matthew Douglas, Esq., filed motions to intervene in the Original Suit and the 2018 Suit on or about August 15, 2018.
- 17. Cheyenne's attorney did not receive a copy of either motion. When he learned of these motions on or about September 9, 2018, he contacted Matthew Douglas, Esq., about getting an extension of time to respond in that he had not received either motion. (See Declaration of David A. Stephens, Esq., attached as Exhibit 3 to this Motion.)
- 18. The certificates of service on both motions were incomplete. The certificate of service on the motion to intervene in the Original Case was not completed. The certificate of service in the 2018 Case stated it was served on Cheyenne/s counsel by eservice even though he was not then registered for e-service. (See Exhibit 2 attached to this Motion.)
- 19. In spite of these errors in UAIC's own documents, UAIC did not agree to extend additional time to respond. (See Declaration of David A. Stephens, Esq., attached as Exhibit 3 to this Motion.)

20. With little time to do so, Cheyenne's attorney filed an opposition to both motions and delivered them to the Court's box on September 18, 2018. (See Declaration of David A. Stephens, Esq., attached as Exhibit 3 to this Motion.)

- 21. Department 29 granted both motions to intervene.1
- 22. The orders were noticed to Cheyenne's attorney on October 19, 2018.

# III. MOTION TO SET ASIDE UNDER NRCP 60(b)

Cheyenne requests relief from the orders allowing UAIC to intervene in both cases which were signed on October 19, 2018. Cheyenne requests relief pursuant to NRCP 60(b). As is set forth below, UAIC's motions to intervene were improperly noticed, both on the face of the pleading (not even saying the defendant was served), and also the certificate of service is false (claiming to serve Cheyenne's attorney who was not on the service list).

UAIC, rather than correcting the problem with service and notice, pushed forward for the hearing to get an order. This failure to move the hearing or correct the service issue forced Cheyenne's attorney to file a quick opposition without a full opportunity to brief the issue.

NRCP 60(b) states:

"On motion and upon such terms as are just, the court may relieve

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The minute order on the motions did not even mention the oppositions filed by Cheyenne.

a party or his legal representative from a final judgment, order, or proceeding for the following reasons: (1) mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect; (2) . . . or other misconduct of an adverse party which would have theretofore justified a court in sustaining a collateral attack upon the judgment; (3) the judgment is void; . . . The motion shall be made within a reasonable time, and for reasons (1) and (2) not more than six months after the judgment, order, or proceeding was entered or taken. A motion under this subdivision (b) does not affect the finality of a judgment or suspend its operation. This rule does not limit the power of a court to entertain an independent action to relieve a party from a judgment, order, or proceeding, or to set aside a judgment for fraud upon the court. . . ."

The orders allowing UAIC to intervene in both cases were entered due to mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect.

Most of the Nevada case law interpreting NRCP 60(b) has arisen in efforts to set aside default judgments. That law states that a Court has broad discretion in vacating a default judgment under NRCP 60(b)(1). *Stoecklein v. Johnson Electric, Inc.*, 109 Nev. 268, 271 849 P.2d 305 (1993). Courts evaluate several factors to decide whether to vacate a default judgment. *Id.* 1- Whether the defendant promptly applied to remove the judgment. *Id.* 2- Whether the defendant is only attempting to delay the proceedings. *Id.* 3- Whether the defendant knew of the procedural requirements. *Id.* 4- Whether the defendant is acting in good faith. *Id.* 5- Whether the defendant has a meritorious defense. *Id.* 

While the case law analyzing the setting aside of default judgments does not fit exactly in setting aside other orders. It is still useful analysis.

# A. Prompt Application to Remove the Judgment

NRCP 60 requires the movant to file the motion no more than six months after the order was entered against him. This motion was filed about two months after the entry of the orders allowing UAIC to intervene. The application is prompt.

# B. Delaying the Proceedings

Cheyenne does not want to delay these proceedings. As to the 2007 case, she maintains that that case is over. A judgment has been entered.

# C. Knowledge of the Procedural Requirements

This particular factor does not really apply to this motion. Cheyenne has been represented by counsel. This motion does not involve an error that something did not get done on time or at all. Rather, it involves an error that the wrong decision was made under Nevada law.

# D. Good Faith

Cheyenne has acted in good faith. She moved to amend her judgment so she was the named plaintiff and then filed an action, in her name, to enforce the judgment.

### E. INTERVENTION IN 2007 CASE

The granting of UAIC's motion to intervene in the 2007 case is a clear abuse of discretion and contrary to the statutory and case law of Nevada.

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317 (1999).

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In Gralnick v. Eighth Judicial District Court, No. 72048 (Nev. App. Mar. 21,

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"[T]he plain language of NRS 12.130 does not permit intervention subsequent to the entry of a final judgment. Lopez v. Merit Ins. Co., 109 Nev. 553, 556, 853 P.2d 1266, 1267-68 (1993). Additionally, in Ryan v. Landis, 58 Nev. 253, 260, 75 P.2d 734, 735 (1938) (quoting Henry Lee Co. v. Elevator Co., 42 Iowa 33 (1918)), we reiterated that: 'intervention must be made before the trial commences. After the verdict all would admit it would be too late to intervene. But a voluntary agreement of the parties stands in the place of a verdict, and, as between the parties to the record as fully and finally determines the controversy as a verdict could do."

Dangberg Holdings Nevada v. Douglas County, 115 Nev. 129, 139, 978 P.2d 311,

2017), which is factually very similar to this case, the Nevada Court of Appeals held that allowing intervention by an insurance company and then setting aside of a judgment on the motion of the insurance company was improper. Thus the Nevada Court of Appeals granted writ relief which reversed the trial court because intervention was allowed after judgment contrary to NRS 12.130. The Court stated:

"Here, real party in interest Liberty Mutual Insurance Company moved to intervene in the underlying action after judgment was entered against real party in interest Tessea Munn. Because 'NRS 12.130 does not permit intervention subsequent to the entry of a final judgment,' Lopez v. Merit Ins. Co., 109 Nev. 553, 556, 853 P.2d 1266, 1268 (1993), the district court was required, as a matter of law, to deny the motion to intervene.

"As the district court did not deny the motion to intervene, but instead, granted intervention and then improperly set aside the judgment based on Liberty Mutual's motion, see id. at 557, 853 P.2d at 1269 (explaining that, where an insurance company was improperly allowed to intervene, it was not a party to the lawsuit and, thus, could not move to set

aside the judgment), writ relief is warranted. See Smith v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court, 107 Nev. 674, 677, 818 P.2d 849, 851 (1991)"

Gralnick at p. 2.

The Nevada Supreme Court noted in *A-Mark Coin v Estate of Redfield*, 94 Nev 495, 582 P.2d 359 (1978), that the probate court had authority under NRCP 60(b) to set aside an order, *sua sponte*, that was entered by mistake.

In the 2007 case the court allowed UAIC to intervene after a final judgment was entered. That is contrary to Nevada law and the Court should correct this mistake and set aside the order allowing UAIC to intervene in the 2007 case.

# E. INTERVENTION IN 2007 AND 2018 CASE

In addition UAIC's motion to intervene should have been denied in both cases because UAIC waived its right to direct the defense and its right to intervene when it refused to defend Lewis and failed to indemnify him.

UAIC claimed to have a direct and immediate interest in those cases sufficient to warrant intervention. However the California Court of Appeals in *Hinton v. Beck*, 176 Cal.App.4th 1378 (Cal. Ct. App. 2009) held just the opposite: "Grange, having denied coverage and having refused to defend the action on behalf of its insured, did not have a direct and immediate interest to warrant intervention in the litigation." *Id.* at 1380.

The *Hinton* court went on to note that an insurance company which denies coverage and refuses to defend, except on a reservation of rights, has only a

"consequential interest," which does not justify intervention into the suit between the plaintiff and it alleged insured. *Id.* at 1383.

In this case UAIC denied coverage and never even offered to defend on a reservation of rights. It has no right to intervene into these cases.

In addition, UAIC's proposed defense is not supported by Nevada statutes or case law. UAIC misstates Nevada's statute of limitations and tolling statutes. UAIC misstates Nevada case law regarding actions on a judgment to obtain a new judgment and its relationship to the optional and additional process to renew a judgment by affidavit.

Thus, UAIC should not have been allowed to intervene into the 2007 or 2018 cases. Allowing such intervention is an abuse of discretion and has delayed this matter and costs the Plaintiff time and attorney's fees in moving this matter forward.

For these reasons the Court should set aside the order allowing UAIC to intervene, and strike and disregard all pleadings filed by UAIC.

Dated this 13<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2018.

/s/ David A Stephens
David A. Stephens, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 00902
Stephens Gourley & Bywater
3636 N. Rancho Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130
Attorneys for Plaintiff

# EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

**Electronically Filed** 9/13/2018 12:26 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 STPJ (CIV) David A. Stephens, Esq. 2 Nevada Bar No. 00902 Stephens & Bywater 3 3636 North Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 Telephone: (702) 656-2355 Facsimile: (702) 656-2776 5 Email: dstephens@sgblawfirm.com Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder 6 DISTRICT COURT 7 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 8 CHEYENNE NALDER, 9 Plaintiff, Case No. A-18-772220-C 10 VS. Dept. No. XXIX 11 GARY LEWIS, 12 Defendant. 13 14 STIPULATION TO ENTER JUDGMENT 15 Date: n/a Time: n/a 16 Gary Lewis, through his attorney, E. Breen Arntz, Esq., and Cheyenne Nalder, through her 17 attorney, David A. Stephens, Esq., to hereby stipulate as follows: 18 1. Gary Lewis has been continuously absent from the State of Nevada since at least 2010. 19 2. Gary Lewis has not been subject to service of process in Nevada since at least 2010 to the 20 present. 21 3. Gary Lewis has been a resident and subject to service of process in California from 2010 22 to the present. 23 4. Plaintiff obtained a judgment against GARY LEWIS which was entered on August 26, 24 2008. Because the statute of limitations on the 2008 judgment had been tolled as a result of GARY 25 LEWIS' absence from the State of Nevada pursuant to NRS 11.300, Plaintiff obtained an amended 26 judgment that was entered on May 18, 2018. 27 5. Plaintiff filed an action on the judgment under Mandlebaum v. Gregovich, 50 P. 849, 851 28

Case Number: A-18-772220-C

(Nev. 1897), in the alternative, with a personal injury action should the judgment be invalid.

- 6. Gary Lewis does not believe there is a valid statute of limitations defense and Gary Lewis does not want to incur greater fees or damages.
- 7. Cheyenne Nalder is willing to allow judgment to enter in the amount of the judgment plus interest minus the payment of \$15,000.00 and without additional damages, attorney fees or costs. Plaintiff is also willing to accept the judgment so calculated as the resulting judgment of the alternatively pled injury claim. Plaintiff will not seek additional attorney fees from Defendant.
- 8. The parties stipulate to a judgment in favor of Cheyenne Nalder in the sum of \$3,500,000.00, plus interest through September 4, 2018 of \$2,211,820.41 minus \$15,000.00 paid for a total judgment of \$5,696,820.41, with interest thereon at the legal rate from September 4, 2018, until paid in full.

Breen Arntz, Esq

Nevada Bar No. 03853

Las Vegas, NV 89120

5545 Mountain Vista, #E

Attorney for Gary Lewis

9. The attached judgment may be signed and entered by the Court.

Dated this 12 day of September, 2018

David A. Stephens, Esq. Nevada Bar Ño. 00902 Stephens & Bywater 3636 North Rancho Drive

Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder

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1	IMT (CIV)					
2	JMT (CIV) David A. Stephens, Esq.					
3	Nevada Bar No. 00902 Stephens & Bywater, P.C.					
4	3636 North Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 Talanhara (703) 656 2355					
5	Telephone: (702) 656-2355 Facsimile: (702) 656-2776 Email: dstephens@sgblawfirm.com					
6	Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder					
7	DISTRICT COURT					
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA					
9	CHEYENNE NALDER,					
10	Plaintiff, Case No. A-18-772220-C					
11	vs. Dept. No. XXIX					
12	GARY LEWIS,					
13	Defendant.					
14	JUDGMENT					
15						
16	Date: n/a Time: n/a					
17	Pursuant to the stipulation of the parties, and good cause appearing therefore,					
18	IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, that Plaintiff Cheyenne Nalder					
19	have and recover judgment from Defendant Gary Lewis in the sum of three million five hundred					
20	thousand dollars, (\$3,500,000.00), plus prejudgment interest through September 4, 2018 in the sum					
21	of two million two hundred eleven thousand eight hundred twenty and 41/100 dollars,					
22	(\$2,211,820.41), minus fifteen thousand dollars ,(\$15,000.00), previously paid to Cheyenne Nalder,					
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1	for a total judgment of five million six hundred ninety six thousand eight hundred twenty and 41/100
2	dollars, (\$5,696,820.41), with interest thereon at the legal rate from September 4, 2018, until paid in
3	full.
4	DATED this day of September, 2018.
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8	DISTRICT JUDGE
9	Submitted by:
10	STEPHENS & BYWATER, P.C.
11	
12	DAVID A. STEPHENS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 00902 3636 North Rancho Drive
13	3636 North Rancho Drive
14	Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 Attorneys for Plaintiff
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# EXHIBIT 2

EXHIBIT 2

Electronically Filed 8/16/2018 5:19 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

MATTHEW J. DOUGLAS
Nevada Bar No. 11371
ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD
1117 South Rancho Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Phone (702) 243-7000
Facsimile (702) 243-7059
mdouglas@awslawyers.com

Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor United Automobile Insurance Company

### EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CHEYANNE NALDER,

CASE NO.: A-18-772220-C

**DEPT. NO.: 29** 

Plaintiff,

UAIC'S MOTION TO INTERVENE

GARY LEWIS and DOES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

COMES NOW, UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY (hereinafter referred to as "UAIC"), by and through its attorney of record, ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD and hereby submits this Motion to Intervene in the present action, pursuant to the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, all exhibits attached hereto, all papers and pleadings on file with this Court and such argument this Court may entertain at the time of hearing.

DATED this day of Allows , 2018.

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

Matthew J. Douglas Nevada Bar No. 1137

1117 South Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

Attorneys for Intervenor

Page 1 of 9 Case Number: A-18-772220-C

# ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this day of August, 2018, the foregoing MOTION TO INTERVENE was served on the following by [ Electronic Service pursuant to NEFR 9 ] Electronic Filing and Service pursuant to NEFR 9 [] hand delivery [] overnight delivery [] fax [] fax and mail [] mailing by depositing with the U.S. mail in Las Vegas, Nevada, enclosed in a sealed envelope with first class postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

# PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL David A. Stephens, Esq.

STEPHENS, GOURLEY & BYWATER 3636 N. Rancho Dr.

Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

An employee of ATKIN WINNER & SHERROI

Page 9 of 9

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

MATTHEW J. DOUGLAS
Nevada Bar No. 11371
ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD
1117 South Rancho Drive
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mdouglas@awslawyers.com

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vs.

8/17/2018 2:55 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

Electronically Filed

Attorneys for Proposed Intervenor United Automobile Insurance Company

### EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CHEYANNE NALDER,

CASE NO.: 07A549111

DEPT. NO.: 29

Plaintiff,

**UAIC'S MOTION TO INTERVENE** 

GARY LEWIS and DOES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

COMES NOW, UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY (hereinafter referred to as "UAIC"), by and through its attorney of record, ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD and hereby submits this Motion to Intervene in the present action, pursuant to the attached Memorandum of Points and Authorities, all exhibits attached hereto, all papers and pleadings on file with this Court and such argument this Court may entertain at the time of hearing.

DATED this day of Moust, 2018.

ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

Matthew J. Douglas
Nevada Bar No. 11374
1117 South Rancho Drive
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Attorneys for Intervenor

Page 1 of 9

Case Number: 07A549111

# ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on this <u>179</u>day of August, 2018, the foregoing <u>MOTION TO</u>

<u>INTERVENE</u> was served on the following by [] Electronic Service pursuant to NEFR 9 []

Electronic Filing and Service pursuant to NEFR 9 [] hand delivery [] overnight delivery [] fax [
] fax and mail [] mailing by depositing with the U.S. mail in Las Vegas, Nevada, enclosed in a sealed envelope with first class postage prepaid, addressed as follows:

PLAINTIFFS' COUNSEL
David A. Stephens, Esq.
STEPHENS, GOURLEY & BYWATER
3636 N. Rancho Dr.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

An employee of ATKIN WINNER & SHERROD

Page 9 of 9

# EXHIBIT 3

# AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDER

STATE OF NEVADA ) ss COUNTY OF CLARK )

David A. Stephens, Esq., being first duly sworn, deposes and says:

- 1. I am the attorney for Plaintiff Cheyenne Nalder, ("Cheyenne"), in this matter.
- 2. I am licensed to practice law before all Courts of the State of Nevada.
- 3. I make this affidavit based upon facts within my own knowledge, and I can so testify in a court of law, save and except as those facts alleged upon information and belief, and as to those facts I believe them to be true.
- 4. On August 15, 2018, Matthew Douglas, Esq., filed a Motion to Intervene in the Original Suit for UAIC. At about the same time, Mr. Douglas also filed a motion to intervene on behalf of UAIC in the 2018 Suit.
- 5. In September, 2018, while preparing to submit a default in the 2018 Lawsuit, I first learned of the UAIC motions to intervene in both suits.
- 6. I never received the Motions to Intervene and only discovered that the Motions even existed after the date for filing a response to that motion had passed, assuming the Motions had been served on me.
- 7. On September 11, 2018, I emailed Mr. Douglas indicating that I had not been served with either motion to intervene and requesting that he serve the motions on me and continue the hearing on both motions.
- 8. On September 11, 2018, Mr. Douglas emailed me and indicated that he had served both motions on me. He stated that he had served the motion in this case by mail and by eservice in the 2018 Lawsuit. He also stated he needed me to provide the basis for my opposition to both motions before he could consider my request for a continuance.
- 9. Mr. Douglas did not provide me a copy of either motion to intervene, so I obtained a copy of each motion from the court clerk.
- 10. The certificates of service on both motions to intervene do not indicate that they were served on me.

- 11. The certificate of service on the Motion to Intervene filed in this case states that the motion was mailed, but it does not indicate to whom it was mailed. Also, the check box for service by mailing is not checked.
- 12. The certificate of service on the motion to intervene in the 2018 Lawsuit, stated that the motion was served electronically. Again, it does not specifically indicate it was electronically served on me or my office.
- 13. When a pleading is served electronically through the District Court electronic filing system, a notice of service is generated and emailed to the parties served with the pleading attached for download. Mr. Douglas should have received such a notice for his eservice in the 2018 Lawsuit. That notice indicates which parties were served electronically.
- 14. I have checked my email during this time period and I did not receive a notice of service of the motion to intervene in the 2018 Lawsuit.
- 15. I believe that if Mr. Douglas checks his email for this notice of service he will find that I was not served UAIC's motion to intervene in the 2018 Lawsuit. I have not found a way to get this notice of service myself, or I would check it myself.
- 16. Additionally, I could not have been electronically served the motion to intervene in the 2018 Lawsuit because I did not register for electronic service in the 2018 lawsuit until September 4, 2018.
- 17. On September 12, 2018, I emailed Mr. Douglas indicating I could have an opposition filed within one week, and then he could have the time he needed to file a reply.
- 18. On September 13, 2018, Mr. Douglas responded, by email, and stated again that he needed to know the basis of my opposition to the motions before he could consider granting an extension of time to respond to them.
- 19. I emailed Mr. Douglas on September 14, 2018, indicating that I would have to research to see if there were grounds to oppose the motions to intervene and indicated that as to this case, that I thought the motion had been filed too late for intervention to be allowed under Nevada law.
- 20. I filed an Opposition to the Motion to Intervene filed by UAIC in this case on September 17, 2018. I received a filed stamped copy of the Opposition early in the morning of

September 18, 2018.

- 21. I filed an Opposition to the Motion to Intervene filed by UAIC in the 2018 Lawsuit on September 17, 2018. I received a filed stamped copy of the Opposition early in the morning of September 18, 2018.
- 22. I personally dropped both of the Oppositions to the Motions to Intervene in this Court's box on September 18, 2018. I do not know the exact time, but I know it was before 10:00 a.m. because I had a 10:00 a.m. appearance before the Discovery Commissioner and I dropped the papers into the Court's box prior to that appearance.
- I subsequently received a minute order from the Court indicating that the motion to 23. intervene in this case had been granted because no opposition had been filed.
- 24. Exhibit 2 attached to the Motion is true and correct copies of the certificates of service on the Motion to Intervene filed by UAIC.

Dated this \_\_/3 \_\_ day of December, 2018.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me this 13th day of October, 2018.

said County and State



Electronically Filed 9/13/2018 12:26 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COU STPJ (CIV) David A. Stephens, Esq. 2 Nevada Bar No. 00902 Stephens & Bywater 3 3636 North Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 Telephone: (702) 656-2355 Facsimile: (702) 656-2776 5 Email: dstephens@sgblawfirm.com Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder 6 DISTRICT COURT 7 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 8 CHEYENNE NALDER, 9 Case No. A-18-772220-C Plaintiff, 10 Dept. No. XXIX vs. 11 GARY LEWIS, 12 Defendant. 13 14 STIPULATION TO ENTER JUDGMENT 15 Date: n/a Time: n/a 16 Gary Lewis, through his attorney, E. Breen Arntz, Esq., and Cheyenne Nalder, through her 17 attorney, David A. Stephens, Esq., to hereby stipulate as follows: 18 1. Gary Lewis has been continuously absent from the State of Nevada since at least 2010. 19 2. Gary Lewis has not been subject to service of process in Nevada since at least 2010 to the 20 present. 21 3. Gary Lewis has been a resident and subject to service of process in California from 2010 22 to the present. 23 4. Plaintiff obtained a judgment against GARY LEWIS which was entered on August 26, 24 2008. Because the statute of limitations on the 2008 judgment had been tolled as a result of GARY 25 LEWIS' absence from the State of Nevada pursuant to NRS 11.300, Plaintiff obtained an amended 26 judgment that was entered on May 18, 2018. 27 5. Plaintiff filed an action on the judgment under Mandlebaum v. Gregovich, 50 P. 849, 851 28

(Nev. 1897), in the alternative, with a personal injury action should the judgment be invalid.

- 6. Gary Lewis does not believe there is a valid statute of limitations defense and Gary Lewis does not want to incur greater fees or damages.
- 7. Cheyenne Nalder is willing to allow judgment to enter in the amount of the judgment plus interest minus the payment of \$15,000.00 and without additional damages, attorney fees or costs. Plaintiff is also willing to accept the judgment so calculated as the resulting judgment of the alternatively pled injury claim. Plaintiff will not seek additional attorney fees from Defendant.
- 8. The parties stipulate to a judgment in favor of Cheyenne Nalder in the sum of \$3,500,000.00, plus interest through September 4, 2018 of \$2,211,820.41 minus \$15,000.00 paid for a total judgment of \$5,696,820.41, with interest thereon at the legal rate from September 4, 2018, until paid in full.
  - 9. The attached judgment may be signed and entered by the Court.

Dated this 12-day of September, 2018

David A. Stephens, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 00902

Stephens & Bywater

3636 North Rancho Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89130

Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder

E. Breen Arntz, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 03853 5545 Mountain Vista, #E Las Vegas, NV 89120 Attorney for Gary Lewis

Electronically Filed 3/28/2018 3:05 PM 1 Steven D. Grierson JMT CLERK OF THE COURT 2 DAVID A. STEPHENS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 00902 7 STEPHENS GOURLEY & BYWATER 3636 North Rancho Dr 4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 Attorneys for Plaintiff 5 T: (702) 656-2355 6 F: (702) 656-2776 E: dstephens@sbglawfirm.com 7 Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 11 07A549111 CHEYENNE NALDER, CASE NO: A549111 12 DEPT. NO: XXIX Plaintiff, 13 vs. 14 GARY LEWIS, 15 Defendant. 16 17 AMENDED JUDGMENT 18 In this action the Defendant, Gary Lewis, having been regularly served with the Summons 19 and having failed to appear and answer the Plaintiff's complaint filed herein, the legal time for 20 answering having expired, and no answer or demurrer having been filed, the Default of said 21 22 Defendant, GARY LEWIS, in the premises, having been duly entered according to law; upon 23 application of said Plaintiff, Judgment is hereby entered against said Defendant as follows: 24 . . . 25

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Massel IT IS ORDERED THAT PLAINTIFF HAVE JUDGMENT AGAINST DEFENDANT in the 12 5 3,434,444.63 sum of \$3,500,000.00, which consists of \$65,555.37 in medical expenses, and \$3,434,4444.63 in pain, suffering, and disfigurement, with interest thereon at the legal rate from October 9, 2007, until paid in full. DATED this day of March, 2018. District Judge Submitted by: STEPHENS GOURLEY & BYWATER 1-1 DAVID A. STEPHENS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 00902 STEPHENS GOURLEY & BYWATER 3636 North Rancho Dr Las Vegas, Nevada 89130 Attorneys for Plaintiff 

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	FILED	7
1	JUDG	
2	JUDG DAVID F. SAMPSON, ESQ., Nevada Bar #6811  Aug 26 // 00 Am '08	
3	THOMAS CHRISTENSEN ESO	
4	Nevada Bar #2326 1000 S. Valley View Blvd.	
4	1000 S. Valley View Blvd.  Las Vegas, Nevada 89107	
5	(702) 870-1000	
6	Attorney for Plaintiff, JAMES NALDER As Guardian Ad	
7	Litem for minor, CHEYENNE NALDER	
8	<u>DISTRICT COURT</u>	
9	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA     JAMES NALDER, individually )	
9	and as Guardian ad Litem for )	
10	CHEYENNE NALDER, a minor.	
11	Plaintiffs, )	
12	j j	
13	vs. ) CASE NO: A549111 ) DEPT. NO: VI	
14	GARY LEWIS, and DOES I )	
	through V, inclusive ROES I )	
15	through V )	
16	Defendants. )	
17		
18	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT	
19	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Judgment against Defendant, GARY LEWIS, was	;
20	entered in the above-entitled matter on June 2, 2008. A copy of said Judgment is attached	
<b>2</b> 21	hereto.	
₽ ≥22 ₹		
AUG 26 ZARS STATE COURT	DATED this day of June, 2008.	
HI.	CHRISTENSEN LAW OFFÍCES, LLC	
HE CO	By:	
25	DAVID F. SAMPSON, ESQ.	
<b>→</b> 26	Nevada Bar #6811 THOMAS CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.,	
27	Nevada Bar #2326	
28	1000 S. Valley View Blvd.	
	Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Attorneys for Plaintiff	
	Tatille, S tot I familia	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of CHRISTENSEN LAW OFFICES, LLC., and that on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of March, 2008, I served a copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF JUDGMENT as follows: U.S. Mail—By depositing a true copy thereof in the U.S. mail, first class postage prepaid and addressed as listed below; and/or Facsimile—By facsimile transmission pursuant to EDCR 7.26 to the facsimile number(s) shown below and in the confirmation sheet filed herewith. Consent to service under NRCP 5(b)(2)(D) shall be assumed unless an objection to service by facsimile transmission is made in writing and sent to the sender via facsimile within 24 hours of receipt of this Certificate of Service; and/or Hand Delivery—By hand-delivery to the addresses listed below. Gary Lewis 5049 Spencer St. #D Las Vegas, NV 89119 An employee of CHRISTENSEN LAW OFFICES, LLC 

**JMT** THOMAS CHRISTENSEN, ESQ., Nevada Bar #2326 DAVID F. SAMPSON, ESQ., 1 52 PM '08 Nevada Bar #6811 1000 S. Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 FILED (702) 870-1000 Attorney for Plaintiff, 6 7 **DISTRICT COURT** CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA JAMES NALDER, as Guardian ad Litem for 10 CHEYENNE NALDER, a minor. 11 Plaintiffs, 12 VS. CASE NO: A549111 13 DEPT. NO: VI GARY LEWIS, and DOES I 14 through V, inclusive 15 Defendants. 16 17 **JUDGMENT** 18 In this action the Defendant, GARY LEWIS, having been regularly served with the 19 Summons and having failed to appear and answer the Plaintiff's complaint filed herein, the 20 21 legal time for answering having expired, and no answer or demurrer having been filed, the 22 Default of said Defendant, GARY LEWIS, in the premises, having been duly entered according 23 to law; upon application of said Plaintiff, Judgment is hereby entered against said Defendant as 24 follows: 25 26 27 28

CERTIFIED COPY
DOCUMENT ATTACHED IS A
TRUE AND CORRECT COPY
OF THE ORIGINAL ON FILE

CLERK OF THE COURT 2. 25. 2010

# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

CHEYENNE NALDER, an individual, and GARY LEWIS Petitioners and Real Parties in Interest

VS.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK THE HONORABLE DAVID JONES AND ERIC JOHNSON, DISTRICT COURT JUDGES,

Respondents,

And UNITED AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE COMPANY,

Respondent.

Electronically Filed Feb 08 2019 08:32 a.m. Supreme Court No. 78 Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

District Court Case No. 07A549111 Consolidated with 18-A-772220 Dept. No. XX

# **PETITIONERS' APPENDIX**

DAVID A. STEPHENS, ESQ.
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Attorney for Cheyenne Nalder

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5545 Mountain Vista Ste. E.
Las Vegas, NV 89120
Telephone: (702) 384-8000
breen@breen.com
Attorney for defendant Gary Lewis

## **INDEX**

- Exhibit 1: Notice of Entry of Judgment in favor of James Nalder (August 26, 2008)

  Bates No. p0001-p0005
- Exhibit 2: Amended Judgment in favor of Cheyenne Nalder (March 28, 2018)

  Bates No. p0006-p0007
- Exhibit 3: UAIC's Motions to Intervene (August 16, 2018 & August 17, 2018)

  Bates No. p0008-p0141
- Exhibit 4: Stipulation settling the case of 18-A-772220 (September 13, 2018)

  Bates No. p0142-p0143
- Exhibit 5: Nalder's Opposition (October 8, 2019) and subsequent Motion to Set Aside (December 13, 2018)

  Bates No. p0144-p0208
- Exhibit 6: Order filed granting Intervention in Case 07A549111 (October 19, 2019)

  Bates No. p0209-p0210
- Exhibit 7: Order filed granting Intervention in Case A-18-772220-C (October 19, 2019)

  Bates No. p0211-p0212
- Exhibit 8: UAIC's motion to consolidate on Order Shortening Time (sans exhibits) (November 26, 2018)

  Bates No. p0213-p0218

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRAP 21(a)(1) and NRAP 25(c)(1), I hereby certify that I am an employee of
Stephens and Bywater and that on the 7th day of February. 2019, I caused the foregoing
PETITIONERS' APPENDIX to be served as follows:
[ ] personal, including deliver of the copy to a clerk or other responsible person at the
office of counsel; and/or
[ ] by mail; and/or
The Honorable David Jones Eighth Judicial District Court Department XXIX Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 3B 200 Lewis Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 Respondent Judge
The honorable Eric Johnson Eighth Judicial District Court Department XX Regional Justice Center, Courtroom 12A 200 Lewis Ave. Las Vegas, Nevada 89155 Respondent Judge
Thomas Christensen, Esq. Christensen Law Office 1000 S. Valley View Blvd. Las Vegas, Nevada 89107
Matthew Douglas, Esq. Atkin Winner & Sherrod 1117 S. Rancho Dr. Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

An Employee of Stephens & Bywater