

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Supreme Court No.  
District Court Case No. A-18-772761-C

Electronically Filed  
Sep 26 2019 02:49 p.m.  
Elizabeth A. Brown  
Clerk of Supreme Court

VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,  
LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,  
Petitioners,

v.

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, IN  
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK, AND THE HONORABLE KATHLEEN  
DELANEY in her capacity as District Judge,  
Respondent,  
JOYCE SEKERA, an individual,  
Real Party in Interest

EMERGENCY PETITION UNDER NRAP 27(e)

PETITIONERS' EMERGENCY PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS  
AND/OR WRIT OF PROHIBITION UNDER NRAP RULES 21(a)(6) AND 27(e)

ACTION IS NEEDED IMMEDIATELY BEFORE PETITIONER IS REQUIRED  
TO DISCLOSE THE CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

ALTERNATIVE EMERGENCY MOTION TO STAY UNDER NRAP RULES 8  
AND 27(e) IS BEING FILED CONCURRENTLY WITH THIS PETITION

Michael A. Royal, Esq. (SBN 4370)  
Gregory A. Miles, Esq. (SBN 4336)  
ROYAL & MILES LLP  
1522 W. Warm Springs Rd.  
Henderson, Nevada 89014  
Telephone: (702) 471-6777  
Facsimile: (702) 531-6777  
Email: mroyal@royalmilesllp.com  
gmiles@royalmilesllp.com

**NRAP 26.1 DISCLOSURE**

The undersigned counsel of record certifies that the following are persons and entities as described in NRAP 26.1(a) and must be disclose. These representations are made in order that the Justices of this Court may evaluate possible disqualification or recusal.

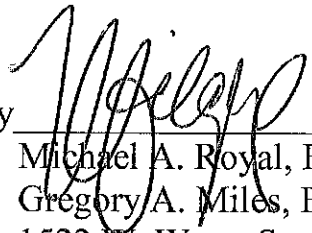
VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC, Nevada limited liability company licensed to do business in the State of Nevada, active since 1997, doing business as the Venetian Resort Hotel Casino.

LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC, Nevada limited liability company licensed to do business in the State of Nevada since 2005.

VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC and LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC is represented in the District Court and in this Court by Michael A. Royal, Esq., and Gregory A. Miles, Esq., of the law firm of Royal & Miles LLP.

DATED this 26 day of September, 2019.

ROYAL & MILES LLP

By   
Michael A. Royal, Esq. (SBN 4370)  
Gregory A. Miles, Esq. (SBN 4336)  
1522 W. Warm Springs Rd.  
Henderson, NV 89014  
(702) 471-6777  
Counsel for Petitioners

## **ROUTING STATEMENT**

This case is presumptively assigned to the Court of Appeals to hear and decide pursuant to NRAP Rule 17(b). NRAP Rule 17(b)(13) provides the Court of Appeals is presumptively assigned to hear and decide: “Pretrial writ proceedings challenging discovery orders ....” The instant writ petition challenges a discovery order denying Petitioners request to protect the information of non-litigant individuals from disclosure. This statement is made pursuant to NRAP 28(a)(5).

**AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL A. ROYAL, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF  
PETITIONERS' EMERGENCY PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS  
AND/OR WRIT OF PROHIBITION AND *NRAP 27(E)* CERTIFICATE**

STATE OF NEVADA     }  
COUNTY OF CLARK    } ss:

1.     I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Nevada and am an attorney at the law firm of Royal & Miles LLP, Attorneys for Petitioners VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC and LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC, in support of this PETITIONERS' EMERGENCY PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND/OR WRIT OF PROHIBITION UNDER NRAP RULES 21(a)(6) AND 27(e).

2.     The telephone numbers and office addresses of the attorneys for the Real Party in Interest are listed as follows:

Keith E. Galliher, Jr., Esq.  
THE GALLIHER LAW FIRM  
1850 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 107  
Las Vegas, NV 89014  
(702) 735-0049  
Attorneys for Real Party in Interest

3.     Counsel for Real Party in Interest was served with this Petition via electronic service as identified on the proof of service in this document. Prior to filing this Petition and Motion my office contacted, by telephone, the clerk of the Supreme Court, the Clerk of the Eight Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, and Real Party in Interest's attorney to notify them that Petitioners were

filing the instant Petitioners' Emergency Petition for Writ of Mandamus and/or Writ of Prohibition Under NRAP Rules 21(A)(6) And 27(E).

4. Petitioners will be required to divulge confidential information of non-party litigants immediately, if this Court does not take action. Concurrently with this Petition, Petitioner is filing an Emergency Motion for Stay pursuant to Rules 8 and 27(e). If this Court grants that motion, then this Petition may be considered on a non-emergency basis.

5. This case is set to begin trial on August 3, 2020. Plaintiff has alleged that she sustained injuries in a slip and fall due to the presence of a foreign substance on a marble floor within the Venetian on November 4, 2016.

6. On January 4, 2019, in response to a request for production from Plaintiff, Petitioners produced redacted documents regarding reports of other incidents occurring on property from November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016. Petitioners had redacted the identity and personal information of the individuals identified in these reports. Plaintiff's attorney objected to the redactions. Accordingly, on February 1, 2019, Petitioners filed a motion for protective order under NRCP 26(c) to protect the identities of Venetian patrons involved in the reports produced to Plaintiff. The motion was granted by the Discovery Commissioner in a Report and Recommendation filed April 4, 2019, providing that

reports produced by Petitioners should be in redacted form and be restricted to use only for purposes of the present litigation.

7. Plaintiff filed an objection with the District Court, which issued an order dated July 31, 2019 reversing the Discovery Commissioner and ordering the production of prior incident reports in unredacted form, without any protection related to the circulation of information obtained by Plaintiff in the instant litigation (such that the documents would divulge the names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, social security number, and driver's license/identification card numbers of individuals who are not parties or witnesses to the instant tort action and such information could be freely shared with third-parties who are not involved in the instant litigation). Petitioners learned that all the redacted documents produced by Petitioners to Plaintiff have been shared with attorneys and persons outside this litigation, and that Plaintiff's attorney plans to share the unredacted reports as well.

8. Petitioners filed a motion for reconsideration and stay of the District Court's order which was heard on September 17, 2019. The District Court denied the Petitioners' motion. On September 18, 2019, the Discovery Commissioner ruled that Petitioners now have to produce incident reports from November 4, 2011 to the present, representing three years of post-incident guest related reports of slip and fall events occurring on the Venetian marble floor from a foreign substance.

All such reports must be produced in unredacted form, per the Discovery Commissioner, based on the District Court's order of July 31, 2019 and its forthcoming ruling denying reconsideration. Production of this information will result in irreparable harm to the privacy of the individuals identified in the reports, the Venetian, and its guests.

9. The relief sought in this Writ Petition is not available by the District Court. Petitioners made a written Motion for Stay with the District Court on August 12, 2019 and again orally on September 17, 2019. The District Court denied the Motion for Stay and indicated that relief would need to be obtained from the appellate court pursuant to NRAP 8. It is imperative this matter be heard at the Court's earliest possible convenience.

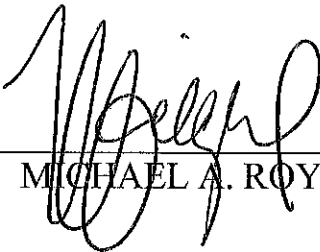
10. I certify that I have read this petition and, to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, this Petition complies with the form requirements of Rule 21(d) and is not frivolous or interposed for any improper purpose such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or needless increase in the cost of litigation.

11. I further certify that this brief complies with all Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure, including the requirements of Rule 28(e) every assertion in the brief regarding matters in the record be supported by a reference to the appendix where the matter relied upon is to be found. I understand I may be

subject to sanctions in the event the accompanying brief is not in conformity with the requirements of the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure.

12. I have discussed the PETITION FOR WRIT OF PROHIBITION AND/OR MANDAMUS with my Client, and have obtained authorization to file this Writ Petition.

Further affiant sayeth naught.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
MICHAEL A. ROYAL, ESQ.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before  
me by Michael A. Royal, Esq., on this  
26 day of September, 2019.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said  
County and State



## **PETITION**

COMES NOW, Petitioners, VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC, and LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC ("Petitioners"), by and through their counsel of record, ROYAL & MILES LLP, and hereby petition this Court for a Writ of Prohibition and/or Mandamus under NRAP 21(a) ordering the Eighth Judicial District Court to vacate the July 31, 2019 order compelling Petitioners to produce unredacted reports of other incidents occurring on the property of the Venetian Resort Hotel Casino ("Venetian"). Petitioners further request that this relief be granted on an emergency basis pursuant to NRAP 27(e) and NRAP 21(a)(6). This matter involves the compelled disclosure of non-litigants private personal information and if the emergency relief is not granted irreparable harm will result.

Alternatively, Petitioners are filing concurrently with this petition a motion for an emergency stay of the order pursuant to NRAP 8(a) and NRAP 27(e). This motion requests a stay of the July 31, 2019 order. If this Court grants that motion then this writ petition may be considered on a non-emergency basis.

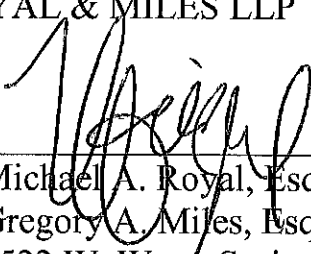
Pursuant to NRAP Rule 17(b)(13) this writ petition challenges a discovery order and should presumptively be assigned to the Court of Appeals.

This Petition and Motion are based on the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the Appendix of record and such oral arguments as presented to this Honorable Court.

DATED this 26 day of September, 2019.

ROYAL & MILES LLP

By

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael A. Royal, Esq. (SBN 4370)  
Gregory A. Miles, Esq. (SBN 4336)  
1522 W. Warm Springs Rd.  
Henderson, NV 89014  
(702) 471-6777  
Counsel for Petitioners

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

PETITION .....	i
TABLE OF AUTHORITIES.....	iv
MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES .....	1
I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE.....	1
II. RELIEF SOUGHT .....	3
III.ISSUES PRESENTED.....	4
IV. STANDARD OF REVIEW .....	5
A. Standards for Write Review and Relief. ....	5
B. This Petition Presents Extraordinary Circumstances Calling for Extraordinary Relief.....	8
V. RELEVANT FACTS .....	10
VI. RELEVANT PROCEDURAL HISTORY .....	12
VII. LEGAL ARGUMENT .....	20
A. ISSUE ONE: WHETHER THE DISTRICT COURT ERRED IN ORDERING PETITIONERS TO PRODUCE UNREDACTED OTHER INCIDENT REPORTS WITHOUT REQUESTED PROTECTIONS PURSUANT TO NRCP 26(C) .....	20
1. Sekera Did Not Meet Her Burden of Proof Under NRCP 26(b)(1) to Establish the Need for Unredacted Prior Incident Reports .....	20
2. Personal, Private Information of Guests Identified in Prior Incident Reports is Entitled to NRCP 26(c) Protection .....	22
3. Petitioners Should Not Be Required to Re-Produce Venetian Incident Reports Without the Existing Redactions of Confidential and Private Information Relating to Defendant's Guests as it Exposes Petitioners to Liability .....	27
B. ISSUE TWO: WHETHER THE DISTRICT COURT ERRED IN DENYING PETITIONERS' MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF THE JULY 31, 2019 ORDER RELATED TO THE PRODUCTION OF UNREDACTED OTHER INCIDENT REPORTS WITHOUT REQUESTED PROTECTION PURSUANT TO NRCP 26(C).....	30
VIII. CONCLUSION.....	32

## TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

### Cases

<i>A. Farber &amp; Partners, Inc. v. Garber</i> 234 F.R.D. 186 (C.D. Cal. 2006) .....	26
<i>Artis v. Deere &amp; Co.</i> 276 F.R.D. 348 (N.D. Cal. 2011) .....	26
<i>Bible v. Rio Props., Inc.</i> 246 F.R.D. 614, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 80017 .....	27
<i>D.R. Horton v. District Court</i> 123 Nev. 468 (2007) .....	6
<i>Eldorado Club, Inc. v. Graff</i> 78 Nev. 507, 377 P.2d 174 (1962) .....	9, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29
<i>Gonzales v. Google, Inc.</i> 234 FRD 674 (N.D. CA 2006) .....	28
<i>Ivey v. Dist. Ct.</i> 299 P.3d 354 (2013) .....	5
<i>Izzo v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.</i> 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12210; 2016 WL 409694 .....	24, 25
<i>Millen v. District Court</i> 122 Nev. 1245 (2006) .....	6
<i>Mineral County v. State, Dep't of Conserv.</i> 117 Nev. 235, 20 P.3d 800 (2001) .....	5
<i>Poulos v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct.</i> 98 Nev. 453, 652 P.2d 1177 (1982) .....	6
<i>Rowland v. Paris Las Vegas</i> 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 105513; 2015 WL 4742502 .....	25, 27
<i>Schlatter v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court In and For Clark County</i> 93 Nev. 189 561 P.2d 1342 (1977) .....	24
<i>Shaw v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.</i> 306 F.R.D. 293 (S.D. Cal. 2015) .....	28
<i>Smith v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct.</i> 113 Nev. 1343, 950 P.2d 280 (1997) .....	6
<i>St. James Village, Inc. v. Cunningham</i> 125 Nev. 211 (2009) .....	7
<i>Stallworth v. Brollini</i> 288 F.R.D. 439 (N.D. Cal. 2012) .....	26

<i>Wardleigh v. Second Judicial Dist. Court</i> 111 Nev. 345, 891 P.2d 1180 (1995).....	7
<i>Watson Rounds, P.C. v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court</i> 358 P.3d 228 (Nev. 2015).....	7
<i>Wiegele v. Fedex Ground Package Sys.</i> 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9444 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 8, 2007).....	26
<i>Zuniga v. Western Apartments</i> 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 83135 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 25, 2014).....	26
<b>Statutes</b>	
NRS § 34.160 .....	3, 5
NRS § 34.320 .....	3, 8
NRS § 603A.010 .....	29
NRS § 603A.220 .....	29
<b>Rules</b>	
NRAP 21.....	3, 8, 33
NRAP 27(e).....	8, 33
NRAP 3A(a) .....	7
NRAP 8(a).....	8, 33
NRCP 26(b)(1) .....	5, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 34, 35
NRCP 26(c) .....	1, 4, 5, 9, 24
<b>Constitutional Provisions</b>	
Nev. Const. Art. 6, § 4.....	3, 5

## **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

### **I. STATEMENT OF THE CASE**

This case arises from an alleged slip and fall at the Venetian that occurred on November 4, 2016, involving JOYCE SEKERA (“Sekera”). More specifically, Sekera alleges that as she was walking through the Grand Lux rotunda area of the Venetian property, she slipped on water and fell, resulting in bodily injuries.

In the course of discovery, Sekera requested that Petitioners produce incident reports related to slip and falls from November 4, 2013 to the present. Petitioners responded by producing sixty-four (64) redacted prior incident reports from November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016. When Sekera objected to the production of redacted reports, Petitioners filed a motion for protective order pursuant to NRCP 26(c) on February 1, 2019 with the Discovery Commissioner. While the motion was pending, Sekera’s counsel shared the redacted prior incident information with an attorney representing a plaintiff in unrelated litigation against Petitioners also in the Eighth Judicial District Court. One day prior to the March 13, 2019 hearing on Petitioners’ motion for protective order, the subject documents were filed with the district court in a different department on a different matter.

Following the hearing on March 13, 2019, the Discovery Commissioner issued a Report and Recommendation granting Petitioners’ motion for protective order noting the need to protect the privacy interests of the uninvolved third-parties and potential HIPAA related information. Sekera filed an objection to the

Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation on April 4, 2019, which was heard by the Honorable Kathleen Delaney in Department XXV of the Eighth Judicial District Court on May 14, 2019. Judge Delaney, having been advised of the circumstances surrounding Sekera's sharing of information, nevertheless reversed the Discovery Commissioner and ordered Petitioners to produce prior incident reports in unredacted form without any restrictions related to dissemination of private guest information.

The order reversing the Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation of April 4, 2019 was filed on July 31, 2019. Pursuant to the order, Sekera is to receive unredacted incident reports involving other Venetian guests, including those guests' names, addresses, telephone numbers, dates of birth, social security numbers, and driver's license/identification card numbers. Under the current order Sekera has no restrictions whatsoever on how the private information of Venetian guests will be used and shared. Petitioners filed a motion for reconsideration on an order shortening time with a request to stay the order allowing sufficient time to file a writ of mandamus and/or writ of prohibition with the Nevada Supreme Court, which was not heard until September 17, 2019. Judge Delaney denied Petitioners' motion for reconsideration and their request for a stay.

The motion for protective order filed by Petitioners was intended to protect the privacy of Venetian guests. Information related to prior incidents, such as the

date, time, place and circumstances, identifying Venetian employees involved, is already available to Sekera via the initial production. While Judge Delaney expressed some trepidation regarding the potential misuse of the subject private information, she did not provide any protection, concluding that she could not find a legal basis upon which to protect the private information at issue. Yet, when this issue was again before Judge Delaney on September 17, 2019, she expressed a belief that the unredacted incident reports were “for attorney eyes only.” The District Judge was mistaken; yet, she still would not revisit the order and provide the requested protection. Petitioners assert that once this information is produced in unredacted form, it will be immediately shared with others outside the litigation and the harm will be irreparable. Accordingly, circumstances necessitate the filing of this writ in order to clarify important issues of law and right the injustice to Petitioners as well as any other property owners or innkeepers concerned with the protection of patron privacy.

## **II. RELIEF SOUGHT**

Pursuant to Nev. Const. Art. 6, § 4, NRS § 34.320 or NRS § 34.160 and NRAP 21, Petitioners request that this Court issue a Writ of Mandamus and/or Writ of Prohibition instructing Respondent, the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada and the Honorable Judge Delaney to:



1. Vacate the July 31, 2019 Order directing Petitioners to produce unredacted other incident reports to Sekera without any protections requested under NRCP 26(c); and

2. Provide clarification on the issue of privacy rights of guests and non-employees identified in other incident reports obtain and retained by Petitioners and other like property owners and innkeepers.

Petitioner is requesting this relief on an emergency basis as irreparable harm will be caused to individuals who are not involved in this litigation if there private personal information is released before this Court rules on this writ petition.

Concurrently with this writ petition Petitioner is filing an emergency motion to stay the July 31, 2019 Order. If this Court grants that motion, then this writ may be considered on a non-emergency basis.

### **III. ISSUES PRESENTED**

ISSUE ONE: Whether the District Court erred, as a matter of law, in denying Petitioners' motion for a protective order under NRCP 26(c) related to the privacy of guest information within other incident reports having nothing to do with the subject incident.

ISSUE TWO: Whether the District Court erred, as a matter of law, in denying Petitioners' motion for reconsideration related to the July 31, 2019 order denying Petitioners' motion for protective order under NRCP 26(c), failing to

weigh the issues of relevance and proportionality required under NRCP 26(b)(1) in refusing to provide protection of personal information of guests involved in other incidents on Venetian property.

#### **IV. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

##### **A. Standards for Write Review and Relief.**

The Nevada Supreme Court has original jurisdiction to issue writs of prohibition and mandamus. Nev. Const. Art. 6, § 4. Mandamus is available to compel performance of an act which the law especially enjoins as a duty resulting from an office, trust or station, or to control an arbitrary or capricious exercise of discretion. *Ivey v. Dist. Ct.*, 299 P.3d 354 (2013). *See also* NRS 34.160. "[W]here an important issue of law needs clarification and public policy is served by this court's invocation of its original jurisdiction, our consideration of a petition for extraordinary relief may be justified." *Mineral County v. State, Dep't of Conserv.*, 117 Nev. 235, 243, 20 P.3d 800, 805 (2001) (internal citations omitted).

Writ relief is warranted where the Petitioners do not have a plain, speedy, and adequate remedy at law. *Millen v. District Court*, 122 Nev. 1245, 1250-1251 (2006). Special factors favoring writ relief include status of underlying pleadings, types of issues raised by the writ petition, and whether a future appeal will permit this court to meaningfully review the issues presented. *D.R. Horton v. District Court*, 123 Nev. 468, 474-75 (2007). An appellate court generally will address

only legal issues presented in a writ petition. *See, Poulos v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct.*, 98 Nev. 453, 455, 652 P.2d 1177, 1178 (1982). "[T]he standard" in the determination of whether to entertain a writ petition is "[t]he interests of judicial economy." *Smith v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct.*, 113 Nev. 1343, 1355, 950 P.2d 280, 281 (1997). When the parties raise only legal issues on appeal from a district court order, the Court reviews the matter de novo. *St. James Village, Inc. v. Cunningham*, 125 Nev. 211, 216 (2009).

Petitioners contend that if they are forced to reveal private information of guests involved in other Venetian incidents without requested protections, "the assertedly [private and confidential] information would irretrievably lose its [private and confidential] quality and petitioners would have no effective remedy, even later by appeal." *Wardleigh v. Second Judicial Dist. Court*, 111 Nev. 345, 350, 891 P.2d 1180, 1183-84 (1995). Guests involved in other incidents, who are adversely impacted by the present district court order, are not parties to the district court proceedings, and are themselves are not aggrieved parties within the meaning of NRAP 3A(a) rendering this the only forum for which relief can be granted. *Watson Rounds, P.C. v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court*, 358 P.3d 228, 231 (Nev. 2015). In addition, the Supreme Court of Nevada is the proper forum to assess whether Petitioners are entitled to the relief being sought. Therefore, Petitioners

seek to protect the privacy rights of Venetian guests wholly unaffiliated with the present litigation.

Petitioners moved for a stay of execution in district court, which was denied. Due to the exigent circumstances, and the potential violation of NRS § 34.320, where privacy rights for hundreds of individuals wholly unconnected to the subject litigation are at issue, this Emergency Petition being filed with this Court pursuant to NRAP Rules 21(a)(6) and 27(e) asking this Court to grant the relief requested in less than 14 days. Alternatively, Petitioners herein move for an immediate stay pursuant to NRAP 8(a) so that the ordered discovery can be withheld until this Court can review the legal issues at hand in a non-emergency writ proceeding. Petitioners have no other available avenue for relief. This is a matter of great importance to Petitioners not only as to this litigation, but as to all future litigation, as there are presently no restrictions placed on Sekera regarding what she is allowed to do with the personal information ordered produced. Accordingly, without immediate relief or a stay, once Petitioners comply with the order by providing unredacted incident reports of unrelated matters to Sekera without any restrictions, there is no reasonable means of repairing the damage associated with Sekera's stated intent to distribute the information.

**B. This Petition Presents Extraordinary Circumstances  
Calling for Extraordinary Relief**

The subject litigation arises from a slip and fall incident allegedly occurring due to a foreign substance on the Venetian marble floor on November 4, 2016. Petitioners argue that these prior incident reports have only marginal relevance to the case in light of prevailing Nevada law. *See, Eldorado Club, Inc. v. Graff*, 78 Nev. 507, 511, 377 P.2d 174, 176 (1962) ("where a slip and fall is caused by the temporary presence of debris or foreign substance on a surface, which is not shown to be continuing, it is error to receive "notice evidence" of the type here involved for the purpose of establishing the defendant's duty"). Given the questionable relevance of this discovery, Petitioners contend there is no need for the discovery to include personal information on non-litigants. On the other hand, the irreparable damages of providing this unredacted information to Sekera without any of the requested protection under NRCp 26(c), where Sekera has acknowledged an intent to share the information with persons outside the litigation, will cause irreparable harm to the identified individuals and Petitioner. Therefore Petitioners argue that it is clearly erroneous to require the production of this private guest information.

Absent intervention by this Court, Petitioners, and others similarly situated will suffer irreparable harm. In issuing its Order, the District Court created an avenue through which plaintiffs, in all premises liability negligence claims, can obtain reports of other unrelated incidents in unredacted form and not only use

them for purposes of the pending litigation, but to circulate them widely without restriction, thereby subjecting the private information of non-party former guests to abuse.

This case is set to commence trial on August 3, 2020. This Petition for Writ contains an important issue of law that will most certainly reoccur absent immediate direction from the Supreme Court. While Judge Delaney's rulings in this case are not controlling authority in other cases, it is common practice within the Eighth Judicial District Court for an attorney to attach rulings from other judges to motions as persuasive or suggestive of how a particular judge should handle a similar issue.

A substantial risk exists that Judge Delaney's ruling will be adopted by other judges in the Eighth Judicial District Court, and will result in an increase in cases in which plaintiffs seek unredacted other incident reports in similar cases without any privacy consideration or protection. Moreover, deciding this issue on Writ will promote judicial economy, as it will avert the expenditure of increased time associated with Sekera (and like plaintiffs) repeatedly contacting potentially hundreds of non-parties involved in matters wholly unaffiliated with the subject litigation to engage in a prolonged fishing expedition to obtain information not admissible at trial. The issue is compounded by the fact that Sekera has already shared information provided to her by Petitioners with numerous other litigants in

unrelated matters, which sharing began even while the initial motion for protective order was pending.

Moreover, on September 18, 2019, the Discovery Commissioner ordered that Petitioners must now produce incident reports for slip and falls occurring on Venetian premises following the November 4, 2016 incident. Because of the Court's prior July 31, 2019 order the referee felt compelled to also order that these records be produced in unredacted form, without any requested protections to address privacy. While this latter ruling is not the subject of this Writ, it highlights the scope of privacy issues now presented not only to Petitioners and their guests, but to all similarly positioned business owners and innkeepers.

Accordingly, Petitioners respectfully request that this Court grant the emergency petition vacating the District Court's July 31, 2019 order and issue an order directing the District Court to protect the private information of non litigant individuals.

#### **V. RELEVANT FACTS**

This litigation arises from a slip and fall allegedly occurring from a foreign substance on the floor on November 4, 2016. The underlying case was filed on April 12, 2018 by Sekera, who alleged that on November 4, 2016 at approximately 1:00 pm, "Petitioners negligently and carelessly permitted a pedestrian walkway to be unreasonably dangerous in that they allowed liquid on the floor causing the

Sekera to slip and fall.”<sup>1</sup> Sekera related to Venetian security personnel at the scene following the incident that “she was walking through the area when she slipped in what she believed was water on the floor.”<sup>2</sup>

Sekera worked at a kiosk located in the Grand Canal Shops within the Venetian premises for nearly a year prior to the subject incident and testified in deposition that she walked through the subject fall area (“Grand Lux rotunda”) hundreds of times prior to the subject fall without incident.<sup>3</sup> Sekera asserts that the condition which made the marble floors unsafe, causing her to slip and fall, was the presence of a liquid substance.<sup>4</sup> On June 28, 2019, Sekera filed a First Amended Complaint after receiving leave of court to include a claim for punitive damages.<sup>5</sup> In the First Amended Complaint, Plaintiff specifically alleged: “On or about November 4, 2016 at approximately 1:00 p.m. Defendants negligently and

---

<sup>1</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 1, VEN 001-04, *Complaint* (filed April 12, 2018) at VEN 002, ln 25-28.

<sup>2</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 2, VEN 005-06, *Venetian Security Narrative Report, No. 1611V-0680* (November 4, 2016); Appendix Vol 1, Tab 3, VEN 007, *Acknowledgment of First Aid Assistance & Advice to Seek Medical Care, No. 1611V-0680*; Appendix Vol 1, Tab 4, VEN 008-014, *Venetian Security Scene Photos*.

<sup>3</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 5, VEN 015-32, *Transcript of Joyce Sekera Deposition* (taken March 14, 2019) at VEN 021-025.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at VEN 018, ln 13-25; VEN 019, ln 1-4; VEN 026, ln 23; VEN 030, ln 10-25; VEN 031, ln 1-20.

<sup>5</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 6, VEN 033-037, *First Amended Complaint* (filed June 28, 2019).



carelessly permitted a pedestrian walkway to be unreasonably dangerous in that they allowed liquid on the floor causing the Plaintiff to slip and fall.”<sup>6</sup>

## **VI. RELEVANT PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

In the course of discovery, Sekera requested that Petitioners produce incident reports related to slip and falls on the Venetian marble floors from November 4, 2013 to the present.<sup>7</sup> Petitioners responded by producing sixty-four (64) incident reports related to events from November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016, redacting the names, addresses, phone numbers, dates of birth and other personal information of the individuals identified in the reports.<sup>8</sup> When Sekera objected to the redactions, Petitioners filed Defendants’ Motion for Protective Order with the Discovery Commissioner, seeking an order protecting the personal information of prior guests.<sup>9</sup> While the motion for protective order was pending, unbeknownst to Petitioners or the Discovery Commissioner, Sekera provided a copy of the redacted prior incident reports to another attorney involved in a

---

<sup>6</sup> *Id.* at VEN 035, ln 4-7.

<sup>7</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 7, , VEN 038-041, *Plaintiff’s Request for Production of Documents and Materials to Defendant* (served August 16, 2018) at VEN 040, Request No. 7

<sup>8</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 8, VEN 042-053, *Fifth Supplement to Defendants’ 16.1 List of Witnesses and Production of Documents For Early Case Conference* (served January 4, 2019) at VEN 045, ln 9. .

<sup>9</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 9, VEN 054-083, *Defendants’ Motion for Protective Order* (filed February 1, 2019).

different lawsuit.<sup>10</sup> Petitioners became aware of this sharing after the motion for protective order was filed and thereafter moved to keep the documents in redacted form for attorney eyes only.<sup>11</sup> One day prior to the March 13, 2019 hearing on the motion for protective order, also unbeknownst to Petitioners or the Discovery Commissioner, the redacted prior incident reports were filed in another department of the Eighth Judicial District Court in separate litigation against Venetian.<sup>12</sup>

At the March 13, 2019 hearing on Petitioners' motion for protective order, Sekera did not advise the court or Petitioners' counsel that the redacted prior incident reports had been shared with counsel outside the litigation and then filed

---

<sup>10</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 10, VEN 084-085, *Declaration of Peter Goldstein, Esq.* (date February 13, 2019) at VEN 084, ln 21-25, indicating that the subject prior incident reports were produced to Mr. Goldstein by Sekera counsel on February 7, 2019.

<sup>11</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 11, VEN 086-096, *Defendants' Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Motion for Protective Order* (filed March 5, 2019). (At this time, Petitioners were unaware that redacted copies of prior incident reports produced on January 4, 2019 in this matter had been provided to Peter Goldstein, Esq., on February 7, 2019, after the motion for protection had been filed with the Court and before it was heard on March 13, 2019, only that some kind of sharing between counsel in other involving Venetian was occurring.)

<sup>12</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 12, VEN 140-85, *Sekera's Reply to Defendant Venetian Casino Resort, LLC's Opposition to Sekera's Motion for Terminating Sanctions, in the matter of Smith v. Venetian, case no. A-17-753362-C* (filed March 12, 2019), at VEN 141, ln 15-26, VEN 147, ln 12-13, VEN 173.

with the district court in another department.<sup>13</sup> The Discovery Commissioner granted Petitioners' motion for protective order.<sup>14</sup>

Sekera filed an objection to the April 4, 2019 Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation, which was heard by the district judge on May 14, 2019. The district judge, being apprised of Sekera's past conduct and her intention to freely share unredacted information with others outside the litigation, wholly reversed the Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation.<sup>15</sup> Judge Delaney relayed that she could not identify a legal basis in which to protect the identity of Petitioners' guests in prior incident reports or to grant a protective order preventing Sekera's counsel from distributing them as he desires to persons wholly unaffiliated with the subject litigation.<sup>16</sup> However, Judge Delaney added the following:

I struggle with the decision in all candor because I do think because of the sheer volume of the amount of people involved here, that it could become something that's problematic. It could be viewed as something that would be something, like, a - - you know, a marketing list that's out there on the loose that somebody could get their hands on and tie into, but I can't just because of that qualm tie it up.

---

<sup>13</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 13, VEN 186-200, *Recorder's Transcript of Hearing [On] Defendant's Motion for Protective Order* (March 13, 2019).

<sup>14</sup> Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 14, VEN 201-06, *Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation* (filed April 4, 2019), VEN 201-206.

<sup>15</sup> Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 15, VEN 207-66, *Transcript of Hearing on Objection to Discovery Commissioner's Report* (May 14, 2019).

<sup>16</sup> See *id.* at VEN 251, ln 22-25; VEN 252, ln 1-25; VEN 253, ln 1-2.

\* \* \*

... I would caution Mr. Galliher that, you know, how you share this information who gets ahold (sic) of it and who has what information doesn't necessarily protect folks from being upset and coming after and wanting to attack this. . . . but it is potentially problematic to the extent that this information could be shared and could contain personal identifying information. There is -- there is statutory law out there that talks about those who come into possession of large quantities of information that contain personal identifying information and do not handle it carefully and disseminate it or do other things with it.<sup>17</sup>

Despite the caution given by the Court to Sekera counsel, the Order of July 31, 2019 does not preclude counsel from freely distributing information obtained in this litigation.<sup>18</sup> The July 31, 2019 Order addressing the prior incident reports merely provides: “the Court strongly cautions Plaintiff to be careful with how she shares and uses this information”; however, no actual protection of the subject guest information was provided.<sup>19</sup>

Upon receipt of the Court’s order on July 31, 2019, Petitioners filed a motion for leave to file a motion for reconsideration on the issue of the required production of unredacted incident reports on an order shortening time, with a motion to stay pending application of a writ on the issue in the alternative.<sup>20</sup> The

---

<sup>17</sup> See *id.* at VEN 254, ln 10-16, 24-25; VEN 255, ln 1-3, 14-22.

<sup>18</sup> Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 16, VEN 267-70, *Order* (filed July 31, 2019).

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* at VEN 269, ln 11-14.

<sup>20</sup> Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 17, VEN 271-448, *Motion for Leave to File Motion for Reconsideration on Order Reversing Discovery Commissioner’s Report and Recommendation and Motion to Stay Order Until Hearing On Reconsideration or,*

hearing was initially set for August 27, 2019, but was moved to September 17, 2019 at the request of Sekera counsel.<sup>21</sup>

At the September 17, 2019 hearing, Judge Delaney stated at the outset that she was under the mistaken impression that the order related to production of other Venetian incident reports was for attorney eyes only.<sup>22</sup> Consider the following exchange from the hearing:

[MR. ROYAL]: I think, Your Honor, that the thing that we want to point out is as it relates to the -- the privacy concerns that my client has, once -- once these documents are produced and in unredacted form, they're out there. There's nothing in the present order that prevents plaintiff's counsel from sharing them with anyone and everyone. Even though the Court has expressed, in the Order, some concerns or at least Your Honor

---

*Alternatively, Motion to Stay All Proceedings Pending Application for Writ of Mandamus On Order Shortening Time* (filed August 12, 2019).

<sup>21</sup> After the requested expedited hearing date was set, Sekera requested an extension of the hearing to accommodate counsel's trial schedule. On July 23, 2019, the district court entered an order granting Petitioners' motion for partial summary judgment on Sekera's claim that the mode of operation doctrine of liability applies under the given set of circumstances. (Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 18, VEN 449-52, *Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Granting Petitioners' Motion for Partial Summary Judgment on Mode of Operation Theory of Liability* (filed July 23, 2019). On August 28, 2019, the district court issued an order granting a continuance of discovery and the trial. (See Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 19, VEN 453-55, *Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Sekera's Motion to Extend Discovery Deadlines and Continue Trial (Second Request) on Order Shortening Time* (filed August 28, 2019).) The new discovery cut-off is now April 6, 2020. (*Id.* at VEN 455, ln 9-10.) Accordingly, the hearing on Petitioners' motion for reconsideration was held on September 17, 2019.

<sup>22</sup> Appendix, Vol. 3, Tab 20, VEN 456-83, *Transcript of Hearing on Motion for Leave to File Motion for Reconsideration* (September 17, 2019), at VEN 460, ln 4-25; VEN 461, ln 1-7.

kind of admonished them to be a little careful, I mean, there's no teeth in any –

THE COURT: Well, and it's funny, and I don't mean to interrupt you, but I want to share this point with you. It's funny as I was reading the briefings I'm like, we didn't do that? Because it felt to me like when we talked about it, that I made it clear that this was to be for attorneys to have for -- because I felt they were entitled to this evidence, but not necessarily -- and we know coming in that, yes, Mr. Galliher has some of the information he has because someone else in plaintiffs' bar has shared with him things, **but I thought we had a discussion about, you know, while we maybe numbers or circumstances or things, you know, would somehow be public record or known that anything that was private or personal to these individuals really is not -- that would be personal identifiers, but otherwise would need to be redacted out of litigation, maybe, you know, the attorneys would need to see to have some ability to contact or follow up, but it would not be something that could be circulated to others. We didn't clarify any of that?**

MR. ROYAL: We did not, and I appreciate the Court bringing that up. That was our primary concern in the first place when we filed our motion before the Discovery Commissioner. Our concern was that this was – all this information would be for Attorneys Eyes Only. And, of course, the Discovery Commissioner granted that, and she also granted that we would leave the prior Incident Reports in redacted form.<sup>23</sup>

Petitioners argued that Plaintiffs did not meet the requirements of NRCP 26(b)(1) to demonstrate relevance and proportionality in light of the privacy rights of guests involved in unrelated other incidents on Venetian property and *Eldorado*

---

<sup>23</sup> *Id.* at VEN 460, ln 4-25; VEN 461, ln 1-13 (emphasis added).

*Club, Inc., supra.*<sup>24</sup> Judge Delaney agreed that there is merit to looking at case holdings by the United States District Court where it has addressed this issue and ruled under near identical circumstances.<sup>25</sup> However, Judge Delaney determined that she would not reconsider the issue, finding the July 31, 2019 order to be in agreement with Nevada law, finding that “the Court’s prior decision was sound [and] ... supported by the case law.”<sup>26</sup> Judge Delaney expressly denied Petitioners’ request for a stay pending the filing of this writ.<sup>27</sup> In so doing, Judge Delaney added:

And we understand that this information is going to be not only received by the plaintiff, but it's going to potentially be shared with others, but we think that that unbalance (sic) is something that is a natural perhaps circumstance or consequence of what we have in these cases, but it is allowed in this case because it is relevant to the actual case that the plaintiffs have brought, and it is calculated to not only be relevant information, but lead to discovery of relevant information.<sup>28</sup>

However, Judge Delaney also stated: “Because there is something here that could cause them [the appellate court] to take a look at it and make a decision, I certainly believe that this [a writ] is a viable option for the Venetian to pursue if they so

---

<sup>24</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 17, VEN 271-448, Appendix, Vol. 3, Tab 20, VEN 456-83, *generally*.

<sup>25</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 3, Tab 20, at VEN 474, ln 6-16.

<sup>26</sup> *Id.* at VEN 475, ln 4-9.

<sup>27</sup> *Id.* at VEN 476, ln 24-25; VEN 477, ln 1-13.

<sup>28</sup> *Id.* at VEN 476, ln 7-15 (emphasis added).

choose.”<sup>29</sup> In so doing, the district court judge relayed that she welcomes some guidance on this issue.<sup>30</sup> That stated, the judge stated: “if you are going to get relief on this point, Mr. Royal, it is going to have to come from Mandamus relief, because I think we have fully flushed out, fully vetted and fully considered the matters at this level, and that the Court's ruling that was previously made is sound and is going to stand.”<sup>31</sup> Petitioners therefore have no other avenue for seeking relief and, accordingly, this emergency petition for stay is properly before this Honorable Court.

This writ is filed prior to the filing of the order on Petitioners' motion for reconsideration, which was the subject of the September 17, 2019 hearing, since reconsideration was denied and the July 31, 2019 order is the controlling order at issue.

On a related note, on September 18, 2019, the Discovery Commissioner, based on Judge Delaney's prior rulings, ordered that Petitioners to now produce unredacted incident reports from November 4, 2013 to the present (which includes nearly three years of post incident information).<sup>32</sup> While this latter ruling is not before the Court, as Petitioners have not yet had the opportunity to bring it before

---

<sup>29</sup> *Id.* at 475, ln 18-23.

<sup>30</sup> *Id.* at VEN 458, ln 12-18; VEN 475, ln 18-25; VEN 477, ln 21-23.

<sup>31</sup> *Id.* at VEN 477, ln 15-20.

<sup>32</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 3, Tab 21, VEN 484-85, *Court Minutes, Discovery Commissioner* (September 18, 2019) (indicating production of unredacted incident reports for the five years preceding and the three years after the subject incident)



Judge Delaney (*i.e.* specifically challenging the production of post incident reports for a slip and fall incident), it highlights the need for Petitioners to have the present issue reviewed by the Nevada Supreme Court and provide relief in an emergency fashion.

## VII. LEGAL ARGUMENT

### A. **ISSUE ONE: WHETHER THE DISTRICT COURT ERRED IN ORDERING PETITIONERS TO PRODUCE UNREDACTED OTHER INCIDENT REPORTS WITHOUT REQUESTED PROTECTIONS PURSUANT TO NRCP 26(C)**

1. Sekera Did Not Meet Her Burden of Proof Under NRCP 26(b)(1) to Establish the Need for Unredacted Prior Incident Reports

This litigation arises from a slip and fall occurring from a temporary transitory condition on November 4, 2016 in the Venetian Grand Lux rotunda.<sup>33</sup> Although Sekera walked through the Grand Lux rotunda area hundreds of times previously, on the day of the incident Sekera encountered a foreign substance for the first time, which caused her to slip and fall.<sup>34</sup>

In *Eldorado Club, Inc., supra*, 78 Nev. at 511, 377 P.2d at 176, the Nevada Supreme Court held that evidence of prior incident reports in cases involving the temporary presence of debris or foreign substances on a walking surface is not

---

<sup>33</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 1, Tabs 1-6, VEN 001-037, *generally*.

<sup>34</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 1, Tab 5, at VEN 021-025. See also Appendix, Vol. 1, Tabs 1-4, VEN 001-014, Tab 6, VEN 033-037, *generally*.

admissible for the purpose of establishing notice. Rule 26(b)(1), Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure, reads as follows:

Unless otherwise limited by order of the court in accordance with these rules, the scope of discovery is as follows: Parties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is **relevant** to any party's claims or defenses and **proportional** to the needs of the case, **considering the importance of the issues at stake** in the action, the **amount in controversy**, the **parties' relative access to relevant information**, the **parties' resources**, the **importance of the discovery** in resolving the issues, and whether **the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit**. Information within this scope of discovery need not be admissible in evidence to be discoverable. (Emphasis added.)

Accordingly, Sekera has the burden of establishing that the production of unredacted prior incident reports is both **relevant** to issues surrounding the November 4, 2016 incident and that the production of this discovery is **proportional** to the needs of the case in light of five factors: 1) importance of issues at stake; 2) amount in controversy; 3) parties' relative access to relevant information; 4) parties' resources; the importance of the discovery in resolving contested issues; and 5) the burden of proposed discovery vs. the likely benefit.

Sekera claims to have sustained injuries primarily to her neck and back. Her known treatment is approximately \$80,000, to date, thus far all conservative in nature nearly three (3) years post incident. Petitioners have produced evidence of other slip/fall incidents from a foreign substance occurring at Venetian occurring

prior to Sekera's incident of November 4, 2016. The information for each such report identifies the date of incident, area of the incident, and the facts surrounding the incident. Sekera argued this information was insufficient and she needed the personal information of the guests involved in each incident. Her only purported need for obtaining this private information was to contact these people in the event Petitioners will present arguments at trial related to comparative fault.<sup>35</sup> Sekera provided no other reason for needing the non litigant guests' private information. Sekera also argued she has an unqualified right to share the guests' private information with anyone she desires.

Sekera's argument claiming there is no law restricting her use of confidential information is an inaccurate analysis of Nevada laws. Rule 26(b)(1), Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure, places restrictions on her ability to obtain this information. Sekera is required to show this information is relevant and that her need for this information outweighs the guests' need to protect their private information. Sekera utterly failed to make this showing in the District Court.

2. Personal, Private Information of Guests Identified in Prior Incident Reports is Entitled to NRCP 26(c) Protection

Pursuant to the July 31, 2019 Order, the District Court has herein provided Sekera with unfettered access to personal and sensitive information from non

---

<sup>35</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 15, at VEN 214, ln 12-25; VEN 215, ln 1-14; VEN 222, ln 14-25; VEN 223, ln 1-11; VEN 234, ln 3-25; VEN 235, ln 1-18; Appendix, Vol. 3, Tab 20, at VEN 469, ln 16-25; VEN 470, ln 1-12.

parties to this action, which is not relevant to any claims or defenses in this matter. She has already been provided with redacted prior incident reports to establish issues associated with notice.

The Nevada Supreme Court has found that writ relief is appropriate when a District Court's ruling exceeds the scope of NRCP 26(b)(1) and requires the production of private information. *Schlatter v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court In and For Clark County*, 93 Nev. 189, 192, 561 P.2d 1342, 192-93 (1977). While Petitioners have not found Nevada case law applying the rule to protecting the privacy rights of persons involved in other incidents, the United States District Court for the District of Nevada has dealt with this issue and found in favor of protecting the privacy rights of third parties by redacting personal information.

In *Izzo v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 12210; 2016 WL 409694, the plaintiff, who slipped and fell on a clear liquid within a Las Vegas Wal Mart store on May 18, 2013, filed a motion to compel the defendant to produce evidence of prior claims and incidents for the three (3) years preceding the subject incident. The court evaluated the claim under the federal equivalent of NRCP 26(b)(1) and Nevada law as set forth in *Eldorado Club, Inc., supra* at 511, 377 P.2d at 176. In *Izzo*, the defense had previously produced a list of prior reported slip and falls. The plaintiff sought the incident reports including personal information of the other Wal Mart customers. The federal district court found that

the burden on defendant and the privacy interests of the non litigants outweighed the tangential relevance of the information to the issues in the lawsuit. (*Id.* at 4, 2016 U.S. Dist LEXIS at \*11.) Similarly, in the instant matter, Sekera has shown no compelling reason under NRCP 26(b)(1) for the production of non litigant individual's private information. Accordingly, the District Court should have granted Petitioner's motion for a protective order.

In *Rowland v. Paris Las Vegas*, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 105513; 2015 WL 4742502, the federal district court applying the federal equivalent of NRCP 26(b)(1) found that third parties have a protected privacy interest in their identities, phone numbers and addresses. In *Rowland*, Plaintiff sued the defendant for injuries after slipping and falling on a recently polished tile floor. The plaintiff sought to compel the defendant to identify by name (with phone numbers and addresses) any person who had previously complained about the subject flooring. The court not only found the request to be overly broad, but also determined that it violated the privacy rights of the persons involved. It explained as follows:

Further, the Court finds that requiring disclosure of the addresses and telephone numbers of prior hotel guests would violate the privacy rights of third parties. "Federal courts ordinarily recognize a constitutionally-based right of privacy that can be raised in response to discovery requests." *Zuniga v. Western Apartments*, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 83135, at \*8 (C.D. Cal. Mar. 25, 2014) (citing *A. Farber & Partners, Inc. v. Garber*, 234 F.R.D. 186, 191 (C.D. Cal. 2006)). However, this right is not absolute; rather, it is subject to a balancing test.

*Stallworth v. Brollini*, 288 F.R.D. 439, 444 (N.D. Cal. 2012). "When the constitutional right of privacy is involved, 'the party seeking discovery must demonstrate a compelling need for discovery, and that compelling need must be so strong as to outweigh the privacy right when these two competing interests are carefully balanced.'" *Artis v. Deere & Co.*, 276 F.R.D. 348, 352 (N.D. Cal. 2011) (quoting *Wiegele v. Fedex Ground Package Sys.*, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9444, at \*2 (S.D. Cal. Feb. 8, 2007)). "Compelled discovery within the realm of the right of privacy 'cannot be justified solely on the ground that it may lead to relevant information.'" *Id.* Here, Plaintiff has not addressed these privacy concerns, much less demonstrated that her need for the information outweighs the third party privacy interests. Therefore, the Court will not require Defendant to produce addresses or telephone numbers in response to Interrogatory No. 5.

(*Id.* at \*7. Emphasis added.)

Based upon the foregoing it is clear that the non litigant individuals have a protected privacy interest and Sekera has done nothing to demonstrate a "compelling need" to violate that protected interest. Given the Nevada Supreme Court's finding that prior incident information is irrelevant to establish notice in the facts at issue here before the Court (*i.e. Eldorado Club, Inc., supra*), Plaintiff necessarily cannot demonstrate a need outweighing the third party guests' privacy interest. Accordingly, the District Court's July 31, 2019 order denying Petitioner's request for a protective order is clearly in error. (*See also, Bible v. Rio Props., Inc.*, 246 F.R.D. 614, 620-21, 2007 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 80017 at \*16-17 ("the rights of third parties can be adequately protected by permitting defendant to redact the guest's complaints and staff incident reports to protect the guest's name and

personal information, such as address, date of birth, telephone number, and the like”); *Dowell v Griffin*, 275 F.R.D. 613, 620 (S.D. Cal. 2011) (ruling that the plaintiff was not entitled to identity, phone number, address, date of birth, social security number, or credit card number of unrelated third parties); *Shaw v. Experian Info. Sols., Inc.*, 306 F.R.D. 293, 299 (S.D. Cal. 2015) (redaction is appropriate to protect private information).)

The above cases support Petitioners' position in this case - that protection of sensitive personal information of anyone not a party to this suit should be redacted. Certainly, under *Eldorado Club, Inc., supra*, which provides the prior incident reports in circumstances such as those present here are not admissible, it is questionable whether Sekera has a right to them at all.

The incident reports at issue here contain the sensitive, and private information of individuals who are not parties to this lawsuit, and who are not believed to have any information, facts or circumstances surrounding Sekera's allegations. There is a recognized interest in protecting the disclosure of personal client information, as unauthorized disclosure would likely damage the Petitioners' guest relationships.<sup>36</sup> Guests who stay at the Venetian do so with an expectation that their personal information will not be disclosed or disseminated without their

---

<sup>36</sup> See *Gonzales v. Google, Inc.*, 234 FRD 674, 684 (N.D. CA 2006) (disclosing client information "may have an appreciable impact on the way which [the company] is perceived, and consequently the frequency with which customers use [the company]").

consent. There is simply no legitimate discovery interest which outweighs these third party privacy concerns in light of *Eldorado Club, Inc., supra*. Moreover, Sekera has not demonstrated a compelling need for this information. Furthermore, as discussed further below, it could subject Petitioners to liability for privacy violations.

3. Petitioners Should Not Be Required to Re-Produce Venetian Incident Reports Without the Existing Redactions of Confidential and Private Information Relating to Defendant's Guests as it Exposes Petitioners to Liability

The Nevada Legislature has demonstrated a desire to protect the personal data in the possession of business entities in NRS § 603A.010, *et seq.*, which relates to the Venetian's duty to securely maintain and protect the information collected from its guests and customers. By disclosing personal information of potentially hundreds of guests, Petitioners may be required under NRS § 603A.220 to contact each non-employee identified within every prior incident report to advise of the disclosure. The information contained within the incident reports at issue includes names, phone numbers, addresses, dates of birth, Social Security numbers, health information (*i.e.* handwritten notes from EMT evaluations, and typewritten summaries of alleged injuries, prior health related conditions, etc.) The mass dissemination of Venetian's guests' private information is the equivalent to a data breach, thereby exposing Venetian to additional third-party claims arising from the leaking of this information. There is simply no good reason to provide



this information to Sekera, much less to allow her to provide it to anyone else she desires outside the litigation.

As established below, good-cause exists to support an order providing that the personal, private information of Venetian's guests contained in the Incident Reports remain redacted.

Petitioners have a published policy to protect the privacy of their guests. The **Venetian's Data Privacy Policy** ("Privacy Policy") states in relevant part, as follows:

This is the Data Privacy Policy ("Privacy Policy") of Venetian Casino Resort, LLC and its parent, affiliate and subsidiary entities (collectively, the "Company") located in the United States. ... This Privacy Policy applies to activities the Company engages in on its websites **and activities that are offline or unrelated to our websites**, as applicable. We are providing this notice to explain our information practices and the choices you can make about the way your information is collected and used.

This Privacy Policy sets forth the principles that govern our treatment of personal data. We expect all employees and those with whom we share personal data to adhere to this Privacy Policy.

The Company is committed to protecting the information that our guests, prospective guests, patrons, employees, and suppliers have entrusted to us.

This Privacy Policy applies to all personal data in any format or medium, relating to all guests, prospective guests, patrons,

employees, suppliers and others who do business with the Company.<sup>37</sup>

Venetian's Privacy Policy describes to Venetian's guests (and prospective guests) that Venetian collects its guests' personal data or information, stating in relevant part as follows:

We only collect personal data that you provide to us, or that we are authorized to obtain by you or by law. For example, we obtain credit information to evaluate applications for credit, and we obtain background check information for employment applications. The type of personal data we collect from you will depend on how you are interacting with us using our website, products, or services. For example, we may collect different information from you when you make reservations, purchase gift certificates or merchandise, participate in a contest, or contact us with requests, feedback, or suggestions. The information we collect may include your name, title, email address, mailing information, phone number, fax number, credit card information, travel details (flight number and details, points of origin and destination), room preferences, and other information you voluntarily provide.<sup>38</sup>

Venetian's Privacy Policy includes offering Venetian's guests an opportunity to choose what personal information, if any, they wish to share and/or with whom Venetian may share information. Venetian provides guests with the ability to control what information Venetian maintains and to whom it is disseminated. For example, Venetian's Privacy Policy provides the following:

---

<sup>37</sup> Appendix, Vol. 3, Tab 22, VEN 486-95, *Privacy Policy, The Venetian Resort Las Vegas* (July 7, 2019), <https://www.venetian.com/policy.html> at VEN 486-87 (emphasis added).

<sup>38</sup> *Id.* at VEN 488.

**Access, Correct, Update, Restrict Processing, Erase:** You may have the right to access, correct, and update your information. You also may request that we restrict processing of your information or erase it. To ensure that all of your personal data is correct and up to date, or to ask that we restrict processing or erase your information, please contact us using the methods in the Contact Us section below.<sup>39</sup>

Petitioners' guests are promised and expect the Venetian to protect their confidential information. The District Court's order currently compels Petitioners to utterly disregard this promise to protect guest's confidential information. The wide dissemination of this information intended by Sekera may very well result in claims by those guests for the disclosure of this information without their consent or notice.

Petitioners contend that if the July 31, 2019 order is not vacated and the privacy rights of the innocent individuals protected, then Venetian may face further claims from aggrieved guests. Moreover, it will cause irreparable damage to Petitioners' relations with its guests and prospective guests. Therefore Petitioners respectfully request that this Court issue an order vacating the District Court's July 31, 2019 order and directing the District Court to issue an order protecting the private information on the third party individuals.

**B. ISSUE TWO: WHETHER THE DISTRICT COURT  
ERRED IN DENYING PETITIONERS' MOTION FOR  
RECONSIDERATION OF THE JULY 31, 2019 ORDER  
RELATED TO THE PRODUCTION OF UNREDACTED**

---

<sup>39</sup> *Id.* at VEN 492.

**OTHER INCIDENT REPORTS WITHOUT REQUESTED  
PROTECTION PURSUANT TO NRCP 26(C)**

Petitioners moved the District Court for reconsideration of its July 31, 2019 Order on August 12, 2019.<sup>40</sup> At the hearing on September 18, 2019, the District Court refused to reconsider its Order of July 31, 2019, finding fully in compliance and accordance with Nevada law.<sup>41</sup> Petitioners moved for relief from the July 31, 2019 order by requesting a stay until a writ could be filed, which was denied,<sup>42</sup> rendering Petitioners without any other means of relief beyond filing this writ and requesting a stay until this important legal issue can be reviewed and determined by this Honorable Court. Respectfully, Petitioners have met the requirements of NRAP Rules 21(a)(6), 27(e) and 8(a) and have set forth the need for an emergency stay under the circumstances, having no other speedy, and adequate remedy at law other than to seek relief from this Honorable Court.<sup>43</sup>

Finally, as noted earlier, the Discovery Commissioner recently ordered that Petitioners must now produce unredacted subsequent incident reports (*i.e.* from November 4, 2016 to the present) based on Judge Delaney's ruling of July 31, 2019, and Sekera's new claim for punitive damages. While the issue of having to

---

<sup>40</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 2, Tab 17, VEN 271-448, *generally*.

<sup>41</sup> Appendix, Vol. 3, Tab 20, at VEN 475, ln 4-6; VEN 476, ln 4-6; VEN 477, ln 15-20.

<sup>42</sup> *Id.* at VEN 476, ln 19-25; VEN 477, ln 1-20.

<sup>43</sup> Petitioners have met the requirements set forth under NRAP 8(a)(1) by requesting a stay in the District Court below, and herein requesting a stay in this emergency request under NRAP 8(a)(2).

produce subsequent incident reports is not presently at issue before this Court, this latest ruling demonstrates the position Petitioners and their guests have now been placed, which highlights the need for requested protections sought herein.<sup>44</sup>

### VIII. **CONCLUSION**

This petition seeks relief from this Court surrounding an important issue of law; *to wit*: whether property owners and innkeepers can be compelled to produce the private information of individuals who are not involved in a slip and fall tort lawsuit when the party seeking this confidential information has failed to make the showing required by NRCP 26(b)(1). This matter requires resolution on an emergency basis because once the confidential information is provided to plaintiff's attorney it will be freely distributed with impunity to third parties that are not involved in the instant litigation. This will effectively result in the Court sanctioning a widespread violation of individual's confidential information. If the requested relief is not granted on an emergency basis, or alternatively a stay ordered, then innocent third parties will have their privacy rights irreparably damaged. Petitioners herein respectfully move for the following:

1. That this Court issue an **immediate order vacating the District Court's July 31, 2019 order** directing Venetian to provide Sekera with unredacted

---

<sup>44</sup> See Appendix, Vol. 3, VEN 484-85.

copies of prior incident reports related to guests involved in other incidents occurring on the Venetian premises.

2. That this Court clarify the subject issue of law regarding the protection of private information produced in the course of discovery pursuant to NRCP 26(b)(1) and issue an order directing the District Court to protect the private information of guests contained in the incident reports at issue.

In the interests of judicial economy and the administration of justice, reversal is required in order to avoid severe prejudice to Petitioner, innocent individuals, and any future defendants in similar cases as this.

DATED this 26 day of September, 2019.

ROYAL & MILES LLP

By 

Michael A. Royal, Esq. (SBN 4370)  
Gregory A. Miles, Esq. (SBN 4336)  
1522 W. Warm Springs Rd.  
Henderson, NV 89014  
(702) 471-6777  
Counsel for Petitioners

## CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

STATE OF NEVADA    }  
COUNTY OF CLARK    } ss:

I, Michael A. Royal, hereby affirm, testify and declare under penalty of perjury as follows:

1. I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Nevada, and am a member of the law firm of Royal & Miles LLP, attorneys for Petitioners VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC, and LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC.

2. I hereby certify that this brief complies with the formatting requirements of NRAP 32(a)(4), the typeface requirements of NRAP 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of NRAP 32(a)(6) because:

[X] This brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Word Perfect in Times Roman 14 point font.

3. I further certify that this brief complies with the page- or type-volume limitations of NRAP 32(a)(7) because, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by NRAP 32(a)(7)(C), it is either:

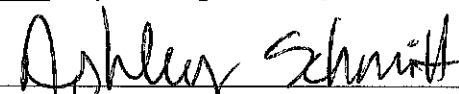
[X] Proportionately spaced, has a typeface of 14 points or more, and contains 7,403 words in compliance with NRAP 32(a)(1)(A)(ii) (having a word count of less than 14,000 words).

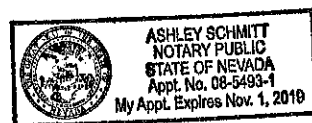
4. Finally, I hereby certify that I have read this Writ, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, it is not frivolous or interposed for any improper purpose. I further certify that this brief complies with all applicable Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure, in particular NRAP 28(e)(1), which requires every assertion in the brief regarding matters in the record to be supported by a reference to the page and volume number, if any, of the transcript or appendix where the matter relied on is to be found. I understand that I may be subject to sanctions in the event that the accompanying brief is not in conformity with the requirements of the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure.

Further affiant sayeth naught.

  
MICHAEL A. ROYAL, ESQ.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before  
me by Michael A. Royal, Esq., on this  
26 day of September, 2019.

  
NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said  
County and State



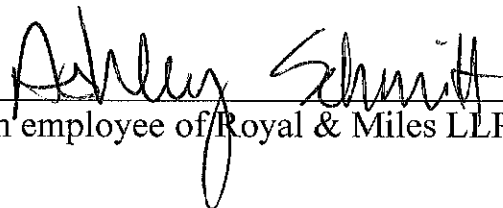


**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that I am an employee of the law firm of Royal & Miles LLP, attorney's for Petitioners, VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC and LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC, and that on the 26 day of September, 2019, I served true and correct copy of the foregoing PETITIONERS' EMERGENCY PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS AND/OR WRIT OF PROHIBITION UNDER NRAP RULES 21(a)(6) AND 27(e), by delivering the same via U.S. Mail addressed to the following:

Keith E. Galliher, Jr., Esq.  
THE GALLIHER LAW FIRM  
1850 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 107  
Las Vegas, NV 89014  
*Attorneys for Real Party in Interest*

Honorable Kathleen Delaney  
Eighth Jud. District Court, Dept. 25  
200 Lewis Avenue  
Las Vegas, NV 89155  
*Respondent*

  
An employee of Royal & Miles LLP