### 1 IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA 2 3 **Electronically Filed** 4 Dec 31 2020 02:28 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown 5 Clerk of Supreme Court AARON ROMANO, 6 Sp. Ct. Docket No. 81259/81439 7 Appellant, 8 Appeal from Order of Eighth Judicial VS. District Court, Clark County 9 District Court Case No. **D-16-543114-D** TRACY ROMANO, 10 11 Respondent. 12 13 JOINT APPENDIX 14 AN APPEAL FOLLOWING A DISTRICT COURT ORDER DENYING MOTION TO 15 CONFIRM DE FACTO PHYSICAL CUSTODY AND ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY'S FEES; EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA; 16 HONORABLE REBECCA BURTON, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE 17 18 **VOLUME 2** 19 20 21 Michelle A. Hauser, Esq. Andrew Kynaston, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 007738 Nevada Bar No. 008147 22. 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Ste 100 Rachel Mastel, Esq. 23 Henderson, Nevada 89012 Nevada Bar No. 11646 (702) 800-3580 24 Kainen Law Group Attorney for Appellant 3303 Novat Street, Ste. 200 25 Las Vegas, NV 89129 26 (702) 823-4900 Attorney for Respondent 27

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		<b>,</b>	·
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Exhibit Appendix to Plaintiff's Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs	02/28/20	1	JA0157- JA0175
Exhibit Appendix to Plaintiff's Reply to Opposition and Opposition to Countermotion	04/10/20	1	JA0235- JA0243
General Financial Disclosure Form	02/28/20	1	JA0176- JA0186

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General Financial Disclosure Form	03/20/20	1	JA02 JA02
Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs	05/06/20	2	JA02 JA030
Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs	02/28/20	1	JA014 JA015
MSA- Confidential Exhibit to Decree of Divorce	06/12/19	1	JA003 JA013
Notice of Entry of Decree of Divorce	06/12/19	1	JA01 JA01
Notice of Entry of Order	06/19/20	2	JA03: JA03:
Notice of Entry of Order from April 21, 2020 Hearing	05/21/20	2	JA032 JA032
Notice of Entry of Order Resolving Parent/Child Issues	03/08/19	1	JA00 JA007
Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54(d)	05/20/20	2	JA030 JA032
Order Awarding Attorney's Fees and Costs	06/19/20	2	JA032 JA034
Order From Hearing on April 21st, 2020	05/17/20	2	JA030 JA030

### **ALPHABETIC INDEX OF APPENDIX**

Plaintiff's Reply to Defendant's Opposition to Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Defendant's Countermotion to Modify Alimony; Enforce Provisions of the Parties' Marital Settlement Agreement; and for Attorney's Fees and Costs	04/10/20	1	JA0220- JA0234
Rough Draft Transcript of April 21, 2020 Hearing	04/21/20	2	JA0283- JA0286
Stipulation and Order re: Stay of Order entered on June 19, 2020 Regarding Order Awarding Attorney's Fees and Costs Pending Appeal	7/25/20	2	JA0372- JA0377
Stipulated Decree of Divorce	06/12/19	1	JA0072- JA0079

Electronically Filed 4/15/2020 4:32 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

SUPP
EDWARD L. KAINEN, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 5029
ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 8147
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3303 Novat Street, Suite 200
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service@kainenlawgroup.com
Attorneys for Defendant

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

AARON ROMANO.

Plaintiff,

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VS.

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TRACY ROMANO,

Defendant.

CASE NO: D-16-543114-D DEPT. NO: C

Date of Hearing: 4/21/2020 Time of Hearing: 10:00 p.m.

DEFENDANT'S SUPPLEMENTAL APPENDIX IN SUPPORT OF DEFENDANT'S OPPOSITION AND COUNTERMOTION

COMES NOW, Defendant, TRACY ROMANO, through her attorney, ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ., of the law firm of KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC., and hereby supplements with the following document:

### LIST OF APPENDIX DOCUMENTS

-	Title of Document(Description)	Exhibit No.	Bates Stamp
	Transcription of conversation between Tracy and minor child, Etienne (the audio recording can be provided upon request);	Α	ROMANO-0001 - ROMANO-0003
	Calendar print out regarding custody prepared by Aaron, from February 2020, through April 2020;	В	ROMANO-0004 - ROMANO-0007
	•••		

KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC 3303 Novat Street. Suite 200 Las Vegas. Nevada 89129 702.823.4900 • Fax 702.823.4488 www.KainenLawGroup.com

	1			
1 2	Email exchange from Tracy to Aaron, regarding items not received pursuant to the Marital Settlement Agreement.		C	ROMANO-0008
3	Declaration of Brian K. Steadman, Escincluding exhibits contained therein		D	ROMANO-0009 ROMANO-0032
4	(Exhibit A - Exhibit H)			
5	DATED this <u>15th</u> day o	of April, 2020	).	
6		KAINENLA	AW GROUP	, PLLC
7	D.	///	11/	
8	Ву	ANDREWT	KYNASTO	ON, ESQ.
9		Nevada Bar 1 3303 Novat S	No.(81 <i>47</i> 7 Street <del>, S</del> uite :	200
10		Las Vegas, N Attorneys for	levada 8912 r Defendant	9
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Page 2 of 3

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

	2	I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the /Stday of April, 2020, I caused to be served
	3	
	4	
	5	BY MAIL: Pursuant to N.R.C.P. 5(b), I caused a true copy thereof to be
	6	placed in the U.S. Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope, postage fully prepaid thereon,
	7	addressed as follows:
	8	BY CERTIFIED MAIL: I caused a true copy thereof to be placed in the U.S.
	9	Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope, certified mail, return receipt requested, postage fully
	10	paid thereon, addressed as follows:
	11	BY FACSIMILE: Pursuant to EDCR 7.26, I caused a true copy thereof to
, PLLC 200 29 .4488	12	be transmitted, via facsimile, to the following number(s):
<b>COUP, PL</b> Suite 200 da 89129 702.823.4488	13	X BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: Pursuant to EDCR 7.26 and N.E.F.C.R. Rule
GRO eet. Su eet. Su eet. Su eet. Su eet. Su eet. Su	5 14	9, I caused a true copy thereof to be served via electronic mail, via Odyssey eFileNV, to
AW (vat Str gas, Ng 00 • Fa	15	the following e-mail address(es), and by electronic mail, via Microsoft Outlook to:
NEN LAW GROUP, P 3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129 .823.4900 • Fax 702.823.448	16	Receptionist@thronehauser.com
<b>KAINE</b> N 3303 1.as 702.823	18	Paralegal@thronehauser.com OfficeAssigt@thronehauser.com
	19	OfficeAssist@thronehauser.com
	20	La
	21	Employee at KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC
	22	MINITER LAW GROUP, FLLC
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		Page 3 of 3
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**EXHIBIT "A"** 

### **Andrew Kynaston**

From:

Tracy Romano <tracyjromano@icloud.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 12:35 PM

To:

Andrew Kynaston

Subject:

Etienne voice recording transcription

February 5th, 2020

Tracy's conversation with Etienne after school

Mother: But what I don't understand is why is dad blocking me on your phone?

Etienne: I don't know, he just tells me not to unblock

Mother: Dad tells you what?

Etienne: Not to unblock

Mother: Not to unblock me? When did he say that?

Etienne: Yesterday

Mother: So, what did you say to him?

Etienne: I just said "ok"

Mother: No no but what did you say as far as our conversation and all that?

Etienne: I just said "Mom wonders why she's blocked" that's what I said

Mother: And what did he say?

Etienne: He said just don't unblock

Mother: He said what?

Etienne: He said just don't unblock

Lisette: Woooooooo! Wooooooo!

Mother: Hey-Lisette! I don't appreciate that.

Mother: I, I didn't hear- he said what?

Etienne: He said just don't unblock her

Mother: But why is he saying don't unblock me?

į

Etienne: I don't know

Mother: So what did you say?

Etienne: I just said ok. I just went along with it

Mother: So how did he know that you were unblocking me?

Etienne: I mean, it's pretty obvious who... it's unblocked and there's really no other possible way. It's pretty obvious

Mother: But how did he know that you were unblocking me?

Etienne: I don't know, but it's pretty obvious, cuz- who else would be unblocking?

Mother: Right, right. But, Do you want to block me on your phone?

Etienne: No. I, I mean, this is technically dads phone.

Mother: No, thats not my question. My question is do YOU want to block me on your phone?

Etienne: No, but this is dads phone. His rules

Mother: So that's his rule?

Etienne: I dunno. That's what I think

Mother: So... I wonder why he's having you, he's blocking me on your phone. Any ideas?

Etienne: uh uh (no)

Mother: How do you feel about that?

Etienne: I mean, it's life

Mother: But how do you feel when he's making you block your mom on your phone

Etienne: It's his decision. It's his fault

Mother: It's his fault?

Etienne: I mean, he's kind of forcing it, so yeah

Mother: How is he forcing it?

Etienne: Like, how do i explain it? Like whenever we unblock it, he always blocks it right back

Mother: Does he say why?

Etienne: Nope

Mother: So he has me blocked on Mirabella's too?

Etienne: I dunno, probably

**EXHIBIT** "B"

### Kid Schedule April 2020

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Piciny		
March 30 UPDATED GIRLS at other nouse	March 31 GIRLS at other house.	1 GIRLS at other nouse.	GIRLS	3 GiRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	S SIRLS at other house.
6 Girls picked up a† 4:30 pm back af 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	10 GRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	12 GIRLS at other house.
13 Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	14 GIRLS at other house.	15 GIRLS at other house.	16 GIRLS at other house.	17 GIRLS at other house.	18 GIRLS at other house.	19 GIRLS at other house.
IF SCHOOL is open then Etienne at other house after school then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30 Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	IF SCHOOL is open then Etienne at other house after school unfil boxing pick up at park at 3:15 GIRLS at other house.	If SCHOOL is open then Etienne at other house after school then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30 Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	F SCHOOL is open then Etlenne at other house after school until boxing pick up at park at 3:15 GIRLS at other house.	IF SCHOOL is open then Elienne picked up at school by Aaron. GIRLS at other house.	GRLS at other house.	26 GIRLS at other house.
27 IF SCHOOL is open then Etienne at other house after school then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	F SCHOOL is open then Etienne at other house after school unfit boxing pick up at park at 3:15	IF SCHOOL is open then Elienne at other house after school then picked up at park by 4:30.	IF SCHOOL is open then Etienne at other house after school until boxing pick up at park at 3:15			
Gids picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house			

# Kid Schedule March 2020

~			(apsini)	Friday	Saturday	Sunday GRLS at other	<u> </u>
0						nouse.	
Eilenne at other house then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	Effenne at other house until boxing pick up at park at 3:15	Efienne picked up at school by Aaron.	Etienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at	6 Effenne picked up at GIRLS at other school by Aaron. house.	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	w
Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.			
NO SCHOOL GiRLS at other	Etienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at	Etienne at other house until 4:30 then picked up at park.	Etienne at other house unfil boxing pick up at park at	13 Etienne picked up at school by Aaron.	CLE – with Acron until Saturday night	GIRLS at other house.	n n
	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	3:15 GRLS at other house.	CLE picked up by Aaron at school.			
16 Elienne at other			19 Etienne af other	20 Effenne picked up at	2).		22
up with GIRLS at 4:30	nouse until boxing pick up at park at	house then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	house until boxing pick up at park at	school by Aaron,	house.	GIRLS at other house.	
Girts picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	3:15 GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.			
23	24	25	. 32				
Elienne at other house then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	Etienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at	Effenne at other house until 4:30 then picked up at park.	Etienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at	Etienne picked up at school by Aaron.	28 GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	\$
Gids picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.		GIRLS at other house.			

## Kid Schedule March 2020

Etienne at other bouse then picked house until boxing up with GIRLS at 4:30 pick up at park at 3:15
Girls picked up at GIRLS at other 4:30 pm back at house.

Kid Schedule February 2020

		Appresiman	ihursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
· ·					CLE – with Aaron until Saturday nigat at 6 pm	GIRLS at other house.	CA
Etienne at other house then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	Elienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at 3:15	Effenne at other house then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	Etienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at	7 Etienne picked up at school by Aaron.	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	٥
Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	Girk picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.			
10 Etienne picked up at school by Aaron.	Elienne at other house until baxing pick up at park at	Etienne at other house until 4:30 then picked up at park		I4 Etienne pícked up af school by Aaron,	15 GIRLS at other house,	GIRLS at other house,	20
GIRLS at other house.	3:15 GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	Sits of other house.	GIRLS at other house.			
17 Precident's Dm.			20	21	22		; ; ;
GIRLS at other	crietine at other house until boxing pick up at park at 2.15	Etienne at other house then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	Etienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at	Etienne picked up at school by Aaron.	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	3
house.	GIRLS at other house.	Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	3:15 GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.			
24	25	26		ć			
Effenne at other house then picked up with GIRLS at 4:30	Etienne at other house until boxing pick up at park at 3:15	Etienne at other house until 4:30 then picked up at park.	ne at other e until boxing up at park at	ZB Etienne picked up at school by Aaron.	29 GIRLS at other house.		
Girls picked up at 4:30 pm back at 7:00pm	GIRLS at other house.	GIRLS at other house.	3:15 GIRLS at offner house.	GIRLS at other house.			

EXHIBIT "C"

### **Andrew Kynaston**

From:

Tracy Romano <tracyjromano@icloud.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:48 AM

To: Subject: Andrew Kynaston Fwd: Document request

Begin forwarded message:

From: Tracy Romano < tracyjromano@icloud.com>

Subject: Document request

**Date:** November 4, 2019 at 11:54:48 AM PST **To:** Aaron Romano <a href="mailto:aaron@romanohome.com">aaron@romanohome.com</a>

Aaron,

In reviewing our MSA there are still a few items I've not yet received. I've asked you for them a couple times but wanted to send a formal request.

Promissory Note (Due within 15 days of executed MSA)

TitleRight operating agreement (Due within 5 days of executed MSA)

Copies of policy declaration pages for life insurance policies (Due within 30 days of executed MSA)

Life Insurance Trust

Thank you,

Tracy

**EXHIBIT "D"** 

### DECLARATION OF BRIAN K. STEADMAN, ESQ.

- 1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada. I was retained by Ms. Tracy Romano ("Tracy") to assist her regarding personal matters, including a promissory note and stock pledge agreement set forth in the Marital Settlement Agreement dated June 5, 2019 (the "Marital Settlement Agreement").
- 2. It should be noted that I have not been retained to draft or assist in drafting a life insurance trust, nor have I discussed this issue with either Mr. Randon Hansen or Mr. Lars Evensen.

### History relating to TitleRight LLC

- 3. On September 16, 2019, I was contacted by Mr. Randon Hansen regarding issues relating to TitleRight LLC.  $\Lambda$  copy of the correspondence from Mr. Hansen is attached hereto as Exhibit A.
- 4. In essence, the September 16, 2019, correspondence dictated that Mr. Hansen has been chosen, without Tracy's prior knowledge or consent, as the corporate counsel for TitleRight LLC and that Tracy was responsible for capital contributions to fund undisclosed legal and business operations.
- 5. On October 9, 2019, I received a second correspondence from Mr. Hansen regarding TitleRight LLC. A copy of the correspondence from Mr. Hansen is attached hereto as Exhibit B.
- The October 9, 2019, correspondence essentially threatened unilateral dissolution claiming that TitleRight LLC "does not have capital to address funding requirements."
- 7. In response to the October 9, 2019, correspondence, I set a time certain to speak with Mr. Hansen for October 23, 2019, at 3:00. Mr. Hansen did not answer when I called at the pre-set time.
- 8. I immediately sent an e-mail to Mr. Hansen requesting certain basic information relating to TitleRight LLC on October 23, 2019. A copy of my e-mail is attached hereto as Exhibit C.
- 9. On October 24, 2019, Mr. Hansen replied to my October 23, 2019, e-mail. A copy of Mr. Hansen's reply is attached hereto as Exhibit D. It should be noted that Mr. Hansen has not provide me with the information requested in my October 23, 2019, email. In fact, at no time have I been provided with the information requested in my October 23, 2019, correspondence.
- 10. As Mr. Hansen's October 24, 2019, email ignored nearly all of the critical information necessary for me to evaluate the concerns raised in Mr. Hansen's prior communications, I responded to Mr. Hansen's October 24, 2019, e-mail on October 27, 2019, revising and reiterating my requests for information. A copy of my October 27, 2019,

correspondence is attached hereto as Exhibit E. Again, it should be noted that, to date, I have not been provided with any information listed in my October 23, 2019, or October 27, 2019, emails.

- 11. On October 29, 2019, I received an email from Mr. Lars Evensen stating that there has been some misunderstandings and issues regarding TitleRight LLC coupled with a request for an informal conversation regarding TitleRight LLC with our respective clients. Mr. Evensen requested that I review a 2005 bankruptcy regarding North American Deed Company prior to such meeting. A copy of Mr. Evensen's October 29, 2019, e-mail is attached hereto as Exhibit F.
- 12. I responded to Lars on October 29, 2019, with substantially identical questions already posed to Mr. Hansen, but included a question regarding consultation with a Certified Public Accountant regarding the implications of the dissolution. A copy of my October 29, 2019, email is attached hereto as Exhibit G.
- 13. I thereafter pulled the docket regarding the 2005 bankruptcy case regarding North American Deed Company and noticed there were 519 entries. Finding the request to review a 15-year-old bankruptcy case that addressed topics completely unrelated to my simple information requests very unusual, I requested more guidance from Mr. Evensen on October 29, 2019, as to what, in particular, I should be reviewing. A copy of my response dated October 29, 2019, is attached hereto as Exhibit H.
- 14. Since my October 29, 2019, email to Mr. Evensen, I have received no further information regarding TitleRight LLC.

### History Relating to Promissory Note and Pledge Agreement

- 15. My firm drafted a proposed Promissory Note and Pledge and Security Agreement which was presented to and reviewed by Tracy in early August, 2019. It was thereafter provided to Mr. Aaron Romano ("Aaron") by Tracy in mid to late August, 2019. At that time, I was unaware whether Aaron was being represented by counsel on these issues.
- 16. On September 16, 2019, I received an email from Mr. Evensen requesting copies of what was provided to Mr. Romano. I provided the same to Mr. Evensen on September 17, 2019.
- 17. I followed-up with Mr. Evensen on October 23, 2019, regarding the status, and Mr. Evensen replied shortly thereafter.
- 18. I followed-up again via email with Mr. Evensen on November 12, 2019, regarding the status.
- 19. I spoke with Mr. Evensen on or about November 18, 2019, wherein he requested a copy of the Divorce Decree and Marital Settlement Agreement, which I provided to him.
- 20. On November 18, 2019, Mr. Evensen provided me redlined versions of the Promissory Note, Pledge and Security Agreement, and Revocation of Trust Agreement, originally provided to his client in August, 2019.

- 21. Upon review of Mr. Evensen's revisions, I do not believe they meet the required standards set forth in the Marital Settlement Agreement.
- 22. In particular, Section 9.2 of the Marital Settlement Agreement requires that Tracy "shall be fully secured for all obligations existing from [Mr. Romano] to [Tracy], and that [Tracy] be under no unreasonable risk with regards to [Mr. Romano's] handling of his business affairs."
- 23. The revised drafts provided by Mr. Evensen have eliminated nearly all of the protections in the original drafts.
- 24. That said, at this time, I believe that Mr. Evensen and I can reach mutually agreed upon terms, and I am willing to renew negotiations.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing statements are true and correct or where statements are made upon information or opinion, I believe them to be correct.

Dated April 15, 2020.

Brian K. Steadman, Esq

### **EXHIBIT A**



Randon Hansen, ESQ 861 Barrhead Ave. Henderson, NV 89012 Phn: 702-696-8489 Email: randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com

Solomon Dwiggins & Freer, Ltd. Attention: Mr. Brian Steadman 9060 West Cheyenne Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89129

September 16, 2019

Re: TitleRight LLC ("TitleRight" or "Company") Organizational Matters

Dear Mr. Steadman,

This firm represents TitleRight. Correspondence was forwarded from your client, Tracy Romano, who is inquiring about business related items that this firm is handling for the Company.

In order to move forward with any corporate activities and to bring Title Right's corporate registrations into compliance, a retainer in the amount of \$5,000 is being collected from the shareholders. Your client's portion is \$2,500.

In addition, because the entity has not engaged in substantial business activities for a significant period of time, please be aware that TitleRight is in need of capital to pay for, among other things: business licenses, Secretary of State of Nevada fees, rent, business equipment, IT services for networking, employee salaries, attorney's fees and other business needs. If TitleRight does not receive the funds from the shareholders to further the business, it is recommended that it be dissolved in order to avoid continuing accrual of expenses and liabilities.

Mr. Romano has requested that your client be listed as a manager of the Company. As TitleRight is currently required to update its status with the Secretary of State of Nevada, your client can be easily added provided the shareholders mutually agree to continue funding the entity.

The firm's billing rate is \$475 per hour and fees are billed monthly. Out-of-pocket expenses are to be paid directly by the client. The retainer amount is evergreen with monthly fees to be paid in full upon receipt of the billing statements. The retainer will be applied to overdue balances, the final bill, or returned at the end of the engagement if there are no amounts due and owing.

Please forward a check in the amount of \$2,500 payable to R Hansen Law, PC at the following address:

Randon Hansen, Esq. R Hansen Law, PC 861 Barrhead Ave. Henderson, NV 89012

Once the retainer is received, the company will proceed with ordinary course corporate meetings and resolutions to bring TitleRight current and determine its future according to the goals of the shareholders.

Sincerely,

Randon Hansen, Esq.

randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com

### **EXHIBIT B**



Randon Hansen, ESQ 861 Barrhead Ave. Henderson, NV 89012 Plm: 702-696-8489 Email: randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com

HANSEN LAW OFFICES

Solomon Dwiggins & Freer, Ltd. Attention: Mr. Brian Steadman 9060 West Cheyenne Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89129

October 9, 2019

Re: TitleRight LLC ("TitleRight" or "Company") Organizational Matters

Dear Mr. Steadman,

Correspondence was sent to you on September16, 2019 regarding corporate actions necessary to address the current status of TitleRight. No response has been received regarding contributions to move the company forward as an operating business. As such, and due to the fact that TitleRight does not have capital to address funding requirements, Mr. Romano has requested that it be dissolved in order to avoid continuing expenses and liabilities accruing to the shareholders.

There has also been no response to the request that your client be added as a manager. Based on the existing Company structure and at the request Mr. Romano in his capacity as manager and shareholder has caused to be prepared and executed, the attached documents related dissolution of TitleRight. Final articles of dissolution are anticipated to be filed with the Nevada Secretary of State on or before October 15, 2019.

If your client prefers to conduct a member meeting to accomplish the foregoing, kindly provide dates and times that your client will be available. Otherwise, have your client execute the attached and we will proceed as outlined above.

Sincerely,

Randon Hansen, Esq. randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com

encl.

### ACTION BY WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE MEMBERS

TITLERIGHT LLC.

a Nevada limited liability company

The undersigned members (the "Members") of TITLERIGHT LLC, a Nevada limited liability company (the "Company"), acting in accordance with Nevada law do hereby waive all notice of time, place or purpose of a meeting and consent to, approve and adopt the following recitals and resolutions by written consent:

WHEREAS, by action of the members of record, acting without a meeting, pursuant to Nevada General Corporate Law and Article 7.2 of the Operating Agreement (the "Operating Agreement") of the Company, the members have determined to dissolve the Company due to the fact that it is no longer conducting business and the members have determined not to invest further in maintaining Company operations;

AND WHEREAS, the Members have determined that it is in the best interest of the Company to approve, ratify and/or authorize all actions necessary to dissolve the Company and wind down its business by addressing the final obligations of the Company;

AND, WHEREAS, pursuant to Article 12 of the Operating Agreement, members may determine to dissolve the Company and take other steps to wind down its business;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Manager Aaron Romano is expressly authorized to take all steps necessary to dissolve the Company and wind down its operations; including without limitation, to make such filings and applications to execute and deliver such documents and instruments and to do such acts and things as he deems necessary in order to obtain such authorizations and approvals as are necessary or desirable for the dissolution of the Company's business and to implement the above-described authorizations and transactions.

This Consent may be executed in counterparts and electronic signatures shall be deemed effective as originals, each of which shall constitute an original but which, together, shall constitute a single instrument.

This Action by Written Consent of the members shall be effective for all purposes as of October 8, 2019. This Consent shall be filed with the minutes of the Company.

ALL OF THE	MEMBERS
Ellen	(te Ma-
Aaron Romano	
Tracy Romano	

### EXHIBIT C

### Brian K. Steadman

From:

Brian K. Steadman

Sent:

Wednesday, October 23, 2019 3:06 PM

To: Cc:

'Randon Hansen' Crystal M. Myers

Subject:

RE: TitleRight LLC Corporate Matters (Romano)

Randon,

I left you a voicemail regarding these issues. Can you call me when you have a minute.

Also, can you send me for Titleright:

- 1. The Operating Agreement for Titleright LLC
- 2. 2018 and 2019 balance sheets and p&ls
- 3. the 2017 and 2018 tax returns for Titleright LLC
- 4. Any minutes since 2018 regarding Titleright

I note that you state you are representing Titleright itself as opposed to Aaron. Accordingly, we assume your recommendations are for the benefit of all members, including Tracy.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Steadman, Esq.

Solomon Dwiggins & Freer, Ltd.

Cheyenne West Professional Center | 9060 W. Cheyenne Avenue | Las Vegas, NV 89129

Direct: 702.589.3510 | Office: 702.853.5483 | Facsimile: 702.853.5485

Email: bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com | web: www.sdfnvlaw.com

www.linkedin.com/company/solomon-dwiggins-&-freer-ltd-| www.facebook.com/sdfnvlaw

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----Original Message----

From: Randon Hansen <randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com>

Sent: Wednesday, October 9, 2019 4:04 PM

To: Brian K. Steadman <a href="mailto:Steadman@sdfnvlaw.com">bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com</a>

Subject: RE: TitleRight LLC Corporate Matters (Romano)

Please see the attached correspondence and documentation. Feel free to call with any questions.

Regards,

í

Randon Hansen, Esq. Office: 702-827-1818 Cell: 702-696-8489 www.hlonv.com

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From: Brian K. Steadman [bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com]

Sent: Monday, September 16, 2019 2:45 PM

To: Randon Hansen

Subject: Automatic reply: TitleRight LLC Corporate Matters (Romano)

I will be out of the office returning Tuesday, September 17, 2019. I will have limited access to e-mails while I am away. Should you need any assistance, please contact Crystal at 702-589-3501.

### EXHIBIT D

### Brian K. Steadman

From:

Randon Hansen <randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com>

Sent:

Thursday, October 24, 2019 1:31 PM

To:

Brian K. Steadman

Subject:

TitleRight

Brian:

Thank you for the response. Let me know if you are available for a call tomorrow morning to discuss the matter. As a precursor to the conversation, the proposed engagement was for the limited purpose of either renewing the corporate entity or shutting the business down. I have been informed, and believe your client has been as well, that TitleRight has not conducted business and has had no income and, therefore, no tax returns have been filed.

Additionally, I will note that the retainer requested has not been paid. As I understand it, TitleRight has no funds with which to make payment. In order to move forward, the members will need to fund the retainer. Please advise as to Ms. Romano's intent regarding payment of her portion of the retainer and her position on funding the business going forward or closing it down. I will follow up with Mr. Romano on the retainer issue. As is evident from the prior correspondence, he has communicated his desire to officially dissolve the business.

As previously noted, if a meeting of the members needs to be held to resolve this, please consult with your elient regarding dates and times for such a meeting prior to our call. Resolution of any controversy between the parties and payment of the retainer is a condition to continued efforts.

### Regards

Randon Hansen, Esq. Office: 702-827-1818 Cell: 702-696-8489 www.hlonv.com

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### **EXHIBIT E**

#### Brian K. Steadman

From:

Brian K. Steadman

Sent:

Sunday, October 27, 2019 8:44 AM

To: Cc: Randon Hansen

Cc: Subject: Crystal M. Myers RE: TitleRight

#### Randon:

In order for me to properly advise my client, and before any capital contributions can be made, I need the paperwork I requested. While you responded to the question regarding the tax returns, I need any and all information regarding Titleright LLC's assets, including Intellectual Property or other rights. Therefore, I am updating and reiterating my requests. Please send me:

- 1. The Operating Agreement for Titleright LLC
- 2. 2013-2019 balance sheets and p&ls
- 3. the 2013-2018 tax returns for Titleright LLC
- Any minutes since 2018 regarding Titleright
- 5. Any agreements, former and current, whether verbal or written, between Titleright LLC and any other individual or entity
- Copies of all books and records of Titleright LLC since 2013

Once I have the foregoing documents, I can advise my client the appropiate direction.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Brian K. Steadman, Esq.

Solomon Dwiggins & Freer, Ltd.

Cheyenne West Professional Center | 9060 W. Cheyenne Avenue | Las Vegas, NV 89129

Direct: 702.589.3510 | Office: 702.853.5483 | Facsimile: 702.853.5485

Email: bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com | web: www.sdfnvlaw.com

www.linkedin.com/company/solomon-dwiggins-&-freer-ltd- | www.facebook.com/sdfnvlaw

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#### ----Original Message----

From: Randon Hansen <randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com>

Sent: Thursday, October 24, 2019 1:31 PM

To: Brian K. Steadman < bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com>

Subject: TitleRight

Brian:

1

Thank you for the response. Let me know if you are available for a call tomorrow morning to discuss the matter. As a precursor to the conversation, the proposed engagement was for the limited purpose of either renewing the corporate entity or shutting the business down. I have been informed, and believe your client has been as well, that TitleRight has not conducted business and has had no income and, therefore, no tax returns have been filed.

Additionally, I will note that the retainer requested has not been paid. As I understand it, TitleRight has no funds with which to make payment. In order to move forward, the members will need to fund the retainer. Please advise as to Ms. Romano's intent regarding payment of her portion of the retainer and her position on funding the business going forward or closing it down. I will follow up with Mr. Romano on the retainer issue. As is evident from the prior correspondence, he has communicated his desire to officially dissolve the business.

As previously noted, if a meeting of the members needs to be held to resolve this, please consult with your client regarding dates and times for such a meeting prior to our call. Resolution of any controversy between the parties and payment of the retainer is a condition to continued efforts.

#### Regards

Randon Hansen, Esq. Office: 702-827-1818 Cell: 702-696-8489 www.hlonv.com

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# EXHIBIT F

ROMANO-0025

#### Brian K. Steadman

From:

Lars Evensen < LKEvensen@hollandhart.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 1:44 PM

To:

Brian K. Steadman

Cc:

Crystal M. Myers; Charlene A. Bowman; Aaron Romano; Randon Hansen

Subject:

Romano v. Romano

#### Brian -

I received a call today from my client Mr. Romano, regarding interest held in a dormant entity, TitleRight. I understand corporate counsel Mr. Hansen has sent you (your client) a letter regarding the same.

I think there are some misunderstandings and issues regarding this entity, its status, what, if anything ,it holds, and its operation or lack thereof.

My client, Mr. Romano, as a share/interest holder -- given his historical knowledge -- is offering to participate in an informal question and answer session with you regarding the entity. Obviously, as Mr. Romano's counsel, I will want to participate in that discussion.

However, before scheduling such a meeting, I would strongly recommend you review the events associated with North American Deed Company's bankruptcy (confirmed Chapter 11), case No. 05-10775-LBR. The review will give you context

If you have questions, let me know.

(Unrelated - I have blocked out my calendar to look at the other stuff tomorrow).

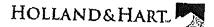
Sincerely -

Lars Evensen

Partner

9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor, Las Vegas, NV 89134

T 702,669,4631



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## EXHIBIT G

ROMANO-0027

#### Brian K. Steadman

From:

Brian K. Steadman

Sent:

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 2:16 PM

To:

'Lars Evensen'

Cc:

Crystal M. Myers; Charlene A. Bowman; Randon Hansen; Crystal M. Myers

Subject:

RE: Romano v. Romano

Hi Lars,

I will review the 2005 bankruptcy case outlined below, but, as I said to Randon, I am in the dark on this entity and need information before I feel comfortable participating in any exchange. Certainly, something had to have happened since 2005, as Titleright was established in 2012.

I requested copies of the following:

- 1. The Operating Agreement for Titleright LLC
- 2. 2013-2019 balance sheets and p&ls
- 3. the 2013-2018 tax returns for Titleright LLC
- 4. Any minutes since 2018 regarding Titleright
- 5. Any agreements, former and current, whether verbal or written, between Titleright LLC and any other individual or entity
- Copies of all books and records of Titleright LLC since 2013

Are there issues with providing this information ahead of time, and, if so, can you outline those issues?

Also, has anyone obtained tax advice from a CPA as to the implications of the dissolution?

Sincerely,

Brian K. Steadman, Esq.

Solomon Dwiggins & Freer, Ltd.

Cheyenne West Professional Center | 9060 W. Cheyenne Avenue | Las Vegas, NV 89129

Direct: 702.589.3510 | Office: 702.853.5483 | Facsimile: 702.853.5485

Email: bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com | web: www.sdfnvlaw.com

www.linkedin.com/company/solomon-dwiggins-&-freer-ltd- | 161 www.facebook.com/sdfnvlaw

# SOLOMON DWIGGINS FREER LTD

TRUST AND ESTATE ATTORNEYS



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From: Lars Evensen < LKEvensen@hollandhart.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 1:44 PM

To: Brian K. Steadman <bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com>

Cc: Crystal M. Myers <CMyers@sdfnvlaw.com>; Charlene A. Bowman <CABowman@hollandhart.com>; Aaron Romano <aaron@romanohome.com>; Randon Hansen <randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com>

Subject: Romano v. Romano

Brian -

I received a call today from my client Mr. Romano, regarding interest held in a dormant entity, TitleRight. I understand corporate counsel Mr. Hansen has sent you (your client) a letter regarding the same.

I think there are some misunderstandings and issues regarding this entity, its status, what, if anything ,it holds, and its operation or lack thereof.

My client, Mr. Romano, as a share/interest holder – given his historical knowledge – is offering to participate in an informal question and answer session with you regarding the entity. Obviously, as Mr. Romano's counsel, I will want to participate in that discussion.

However, before scheduling such a meeting, I would strongly recommend you review the events associated with North American Deed Company's bankruptcy (confirmed Chapter 11), case No. 05-10775-LBR. The review will give you context for the discussion.

If you have questions, let me know.

(Unrelated - I have blocked out my calendar to look at the other stuff tomorrow).

Sincerely -

Lars Evensen Partner 9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor, Las Vegas, NV 89134 T 702.669.4631





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# **EXHIBIT H**

ROMANO-0030

#### Brian K. Steadman

From:

Brian K. Steadman

Sent:

Tuesday, October 29, 2019 3:51 PM

To:

'Lars Evensen'

Cc:

Crystal M. Myers; Charlene A. Bowman; Randon Hansen

Subject:

RE: Romano v. Romano

Hi Lars,

I pulled the docket on the Bankruptcy case and there are 519 entries. Can you point me to a specific document or filing that can assist us in moving forward?

Sincerely,

Brian K. Steadman, Esq.

Solomon Dwiggins & Freer, Ltd.

Cheyenne West Professional Center | 9060 W. Cheyenne Avenue | Las Vegas, NV 89129

Direct: 702.589.3510 | Office: 702.853.5483 | Facsimile: 702.853.5485

Email: bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com | web: www.sdfnvlaw.com

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From: Lars Evensen < LKEvensen@hollandhart.com>

Sent: Tuesday, October 29, 2019 1:44 PM

To: Brian K. Steadman <bsteadman@sdfnvlaw.com>

Cc: Crystal M. Myers <CMyers@sdfnvlaw.com>; Charlene A. Bowman <CABowman@hollandhart.com>; Aaron Romano <aaron@romanohome.com>; Randon Hansen <randon@hansenlawofficesltd.com>

Subject: Romano v. Romano

Brian -

I received a call today from my client Mr. Romano, regarding interest held in a dormant entity, TitleRight. I understand corporate counsel Mr. Hansen has sent you (your client) a letter regarding the same.

1

ROMANO-0031

I think there are some misunderstandings and issues regarding this entity, its status, what, if anything ,it holds, and its operation or lack thereof.

My client, Mr. Romano, as a share/interest holder – given his historical knowledge – is offering to participate in an informal question and answer session with you regarding the entity. Obviously, as Mr. Romano's counsel, I will want to participate in that discussion.

However, before scheduling such a meeting, I would strongly recommend you review the events associated with North American Deed Company's bankruptcy (confirmed Chapter 11), case No. 05-10775-LBR. The review will give you context for the discussion.

If you have questions, let me know.

(Unrelated - I have blocked out my calendar to look at the other stuff tomorrow).

Sincerely -

Lars Evensen Partner 9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor, Las Vegas, NV 89134 T 702.669.4631



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TRANS

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AARON ROMANO,

TRACY ROMANO,

Plaintiff,

Defendant.

10 vs.

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COPY

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

FAMILY DIVISION

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CASE NO. D-16-543114-D DEPT. C

DEPT. C

APPEAL NO. 81259 81439

SEALED

# ROUGH DRAFT

BEFORE THE HONORABLE REBECCA L. BURTON, DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

TRANSCRIPT RE: ALL PENDING MOTIONS

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

<u>APPEARANCES</u>:

The Plaintiff: For the Plaintiff:

AARON ROMANO

DAWN R. THRONE, ESQ. 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy.

Suite 100

Henderson, Nevada 89012

The Defendant: TRAC

For the Defendant:

TRACY ROMANO
EDWARD KAINEN, ESQ.
3303 Novat Street
Suite 200

Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

D-16-543114-D ROMANO 04/21/2020 ROUGH-DRAFT TRANSCRIPT
EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION - TRANSCRIPT VIDEO SERVICES
601 N. Pecos Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 455-4977

1

TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2023 PROCEEDINGS (THE PROJECTING BECAN AT 10:49:30.) THE CLERK: Judge, we are on the record. THE COURT: All righty. Darry, so sorry for the delay this norming. Ne've had some coally contentious arguments Osay. Are we on the record now) THE COURT: Okay. This is Case D-15-543115-D. Aaron Romano versup Tracy Romano. 11 12 let's have counsels appearances, please, first for 13 Aaron Romano. MR. THRONE: Good morning, Your Honor. Dawn Throne, Bar Number 6145, on behalf of Mr. Bonano, who is appearing also by 17 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Romano, can you near us? Can you near us? ME. THRONE: Is your -- are you on mate? 20 THE COURT: Sounds like he's having technical 21 difficulties. Can -- can you hear us? THE CLERE: Mr.... 34 THE COURT: Yes? 25 THE CLERK: ...Romano, if you can... Elinate initiating profess to decorate revenue and despite a comparable at the contract of the

MP. WOMANO: Yest, sorry. THE COURT: All right. Ready to proceed. We're here on Aaron's -- Aason's motion and Tracy's opposition and cauntermotion. This case is very fresh an my mind. It was quite extensive. It west on for a long time. There was a decree of divorce that was entered on June 12th, 2019. And less than a year later, Aaron has faled a 8 motion. He's now asking to put labels on commercing that the parties during their -- when they entered into their parenting agreement didn't do. Toey chose to call their arrengement, their kind of smifring arrangement, point logal and joint 12 physical custody. And it was pretty clear that they wesen't shairing joint legal and point physical mustody of all of their 13 children equally. But that's what it is for the parties chose to call it. There was seenage discretion with sequed to the -- the oldest. Some of it was spelled out. It was a pretty extensive parenting agreement. Dad's now asking to modify that and to apply the new 19 child support quideline (audio faded) for twenty rive. He's 20 filled some exhibits that consist of a castodial schedule from 21 danuary 2020, Tracy's 1999 Incerest form for 2019, the 22 pastics" joint tax beturns for "1" and "18. And the new enils 23 support calculator deloutation. Assoc's filed a financial disclesure form. Tracy's 25 filed an opposition and countermotion, her own innancial

THE PROJECT FORM IS THE PROJECT PROJECT TRANSCRIPT

FROM DESCRIPTION TO THE AMERICAN DESCRIPTION OF A SECURITY OF

THE COURT: Waive your... THE COURT: ...hand ... THE CLERK: ...waive. THE COURT: ...if you can hear us. THE CLERK: Okay. Somebody... MS. THRONE: Yeah, he can't hear a thing. So I think 8 he's reloading or may have to go to a phone. THE COURT: Okay. While he's doing that, Tracy Romano's counsel, 11 please state your appearance. 12 MR. KYNASTON: Okay. Good morning, Your Honor. Andrew 13 Kynaston. My Bar Number is 8147. Also present in the room is 14 my partner, Ed Kainen. And Tracy Romano is present. We're --15 we're six feet apart in our conference room, so. THE COURT: I see you're social distancing over there. All right. We have Mr. Romano back. 19 Can you hear us, sir? 20 THE CLERK: Can you hear? 21 THE COURT: Still can't, huh? Dear. 22 Does he want to just call in them? 23 MR. ROMANO: i can hear now. 24 MS. THRONE: Oh there you are. THE COURT: Oh okay. Excellent. Okay. Infantition States of States South Open Therefore States of States

disclesure form. Ascon's files a reply and seet additional 2 exhibits. The Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this 4 case, personal jurisdiction over the parties and child custody, subject satter jurisdiction over the minor children. I've read everything. I den't need to near from anywhe. Jad's motion to modify controly in denied. This case is very fresh in my mind. The parties depetally considered thir extremely unusual case. And they found that their unique arrangement was in the bear interest of the children. There has been no change of outcomptance that's peen 12 corticulated here other than cultan's pending emandipation. Dad's faled a motion to modify child support. What 15 -- I muess what struck to the oddest as I was reading it is 16 dan's asking for child custody modification in rom's favor 17 while at the same time acking to significantly pechase his 18 child support obligation. It moesn's even make common sense. And so it does starte me as thus is a attempt to 20 create a nonexistent chance of discumstance to se able to Apply the new child support guidelines, which do -- which it we apply them today we would have maybe a different secult. We still haven't gone through though all of the 24 adjustment factors. There's stall adjustment factors to -- to 25 canutider. There's been no change of discussiones with regard Country (1865) TORNY (12.52) REMAINDRAT NAMESIA Planty of Sofia Extra Calenty (1865) Tornical Sofia Planty of Sofia Extra Calenty (1865) Tornical Sofia Planty (1865) Tornical Calenty (1865)

t to income. In fact, bod's income to readly exactly the same 2 today as it was when child support was created, the 047,000 a

I -- you know, I'm so Samillar with this case, I didn't even need to read the apposition before most of the 6 points that were made in the opposition I already had tunning through my head as I was seading dad's notion just simply because I know that this is just such an unusual case in the way that it was resolved. It -- there con't anything that's charged since them,

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Dad's motion to split insurance is denied for no 12 change of direumstance. Bad's median to divide 30/30 la 13 denied, no change of discumptance. Dad's messon of -- to 14 modify alimony is denied. There's no change of circumstances. 15 Mom's alimony amount in the note that was gonn's be paid, 16 certainly was known at the time. Cally support and elimony 17 was both created. Dad's motion for attorney feet is deried.

Rom's countermotion to increase alimony is denied 19 because there's not going to be a charge of discussionce. 20 There's no basis to increase alimony either. Mom's 21 countermotion to enforce a half a dozen different provisions 22 is deferred.

23 I'm gomna set a statue check to 60 days so you can 24 have some motivation. I guess, further retryacion to get this 25 accomplished. I understand that dad's got attorneys working

C-la-ballato produc di Artonio Rodo-Camit Talacchit Co accidente diction e sami in disponim e Diagoniosi Afrai pari 621 No Beood Foats Law Pereng (4745) 85212 27620 0764457

THE COURT: (Indiscernible) because that was -- that was 2 known at the time. They knew that she was gonna get the note. 3 They knew that she was getting alimony. There was no change 4 of circumstance as to as far as her income.

I know that the new -- under the new child support 6 regulations we may be estimating that differently and using 7 that, her alimony, as p art of her income for child support B purposes. But I don't have a change of circumstance to use the new child support quidelines right now. I mean, because everything's still just going on the same as it was when they created this schedule.

I -- I went through that schedule. I read it 13 several times, you know? And because it was so unusual and so 14 different and I know that the parties' circumstances in this 15 case was so unusual. So that's why it's still remains pretty 16 fresh in my mind. And everything that was described, nothing 17 was different from what it was when they all put that schedule 18 together.

MR. KYNASTON: Your Honor, may I ask  $\alpha_{\rm col}$ 

20 THE COURT: Okay.

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MR. KYNASTON: ...question?

THE COURT: Pardon me?

MR. KYNASTON: Yes,

THE COURT: Your -- your indication seems to be that you 25 want us to file another motion for attorney's fees. The

on (It now he says. So maybe this 60 days will get everyoody kind of -- let's get this going so we can finish up the loose ends from the decree. Sc. Ms. Clerk, if you can give us a date that's eg Mem's counter- mom's countermotion for attorney to accounty fees, file a motion under 54(d). And I think that's it. So, rounsel, please prepare 10 the order. It's due May 4th. I'm goods have the -- Tracy's Il attorney prepare the order. It's due May 4th. The sign off 12 is due May 18th. 1.3 THE CLERK: The return -- the status check in June 14 [15th at ten -- at 11:80. Did everybody get that? 15 MS. THRONE: Your Honor... 16 Yes. 17 THE COURT: Yeah? 38 MR. KYNASTON: Your Honor, I have -- I think ... THE COURT: Thank you. MR. HYMASTON: ... (indiscernible) substict. MS. THRONE: Your Honor, I do have a question. Are you you making a finding... THE COURT: Do ahead. MS. THRONE: ...that there have not been a change in 25 mam's income Hacadoe (indiscernible)... 

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courtermotics already includes a motion for attorney fees.
     THE COURT: Year, I -- I know it has. But, look. I --
3 1'm trying to find a way to do attorney's fees where it
   dueten't get lost in the shuffle and procle get the information
  they need. And I've had a lot of problems with people filling
6 motions. And the memorandum dets files immediately. But the
7 order doesn't get filed till months later. And people don't
8 tespond. And the thing gets callied out.
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And it's just seally awkward. It's just easier to 10 do the motion for fees because you have to file a mesograndum on feet and tests anyway just to file a very quick motion. 12 and give me she authority under which you want the -- or that 13 you believe that you're entitled to attorney's fees.

MR. RYNASTON: All right, So I -- I -- I hate to be 15 presumptuous. : -- : assume based on your finding that there wasn't a lactual basis. That would fall under the dategory of a frivolous rotion. But I -- what I don't want to do is naving already had my culent expend a great deal of money cope able to defend a notion that was denied across the board. 20 Then have her incur...

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MR. EYNAICON: ...greater fees on a motion for fees, you know) And so I -- I'm -- I'm looking for something

THE COURT: So thus we don't have a big argument about

Principal Property of Country Section 1998 Property Transcript Principal Country Count

I that because both sides think they're gonna wir. So nobody 2 really argues about that. You know, when one side doesn't I prevail, that -- that deesn't automatically mean there's 4 attorney fees. Obviously you need to have a finding that it was frivolous of nourse. And the other side bosn's had an 6 apportunity to rempore to that assument yet. So that's why it 7 just have sense to simply put it is writing. MR. KYNASTON: All sight. Thank you. (Indiscernible). MS. THRONE: And, Your Henor, I had the same -- I have 10 the same question with regard to Mr. Bonano's request for fees II on that countermotion. Her countersetion regarking enforcement is diestly frigologs, violates wate it because she 13 didn't even talk to her own authorney, who admirs in his 14 affidavit that he just sidn't respons to Mr. Romang's business 15 attorneys from their January correspondence, didn'r respond until after we filled that opposition to the relatermonian. So 17 Mr. Banana should be entitled to fees on that. We -- she 18 should have never filed that countermotion, 19 THE COURT: All sight. Well... 20 MR. HYNASTON: Your Bonce, (indiscernible)... 21 THE COURT: ... the countermotion was timeinceinible) -so -- well, it's -- it's un for statue oneck. Look, if he thinks he's entitled to feed, too, he can file a -- he can 24 file a motion. Okay? 35 MR. KYMASTON: Okay.

THE COURT: And then you can have it in writing what everyoody thinks the -- the basis is for their award of attorney's feed or detended. MR. KINAGTON: Your Honer. THE COURT: Ghav? MB. KYNASTON: Your Bonoz, we'll get the order... MS. KYNASTON: ...prepared, We'll prepare. We'll send 9 to Ma. Throne for signature. 10 THE CLERK: We're done. 11 (THE PROCEEDING ENDED AT 11:01:29.) 12 13 ATTEST: Pursuant to Rule MC(d) of the Nevada Rules of 14 Appellate Procedures, I acknowledge that this is a rough-draft 15 transcription, expeditionally prepared, not promised, 16 corrected or cortified to be an accurate transcript. 17 18 22 23 Envisors (124-0) Frances CC 01/2000 MOCK-DAARD TAARCHIP Filenie Limitation programm (marije komitis ingoledus e inequation) group byth (189 611 to service policy (and service) New York (marije group) and (marije group)

#### ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 5/6/2020 2:13 PM

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Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT **MOT** Edward L. Kainen, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 5029 Andrew L. Kynaston, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 8147 KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC 3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129 Telephone: (702) 823-4900 Facsimile: (702) 823-4488 service@kainenlawgroup.com Attorneys for Defendant 7 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 AARON ROMANO, 11 CASE NO: D-16-543114-D DEPT. NO: C 12 Plaintiff, 3303 Novat Street. Suite 200 Las Vegas. Nevada 89129 702.823.4900 • Fax 702.823.4488 www.KainenLawGroup.com Date of Hearing: 13 Time of Hearing: vs. 14 ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED: YES  $\_\_$  NO  $\_X$ TRACY ROMANO. 15 16 Defendant. 17 MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND MEMORANDUM OF FEES AND 18 COSTS COMES NOW, Defendant, TRACY ROMANO, by and through her 19 attorney, ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ., of the law firm of KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC, and moves this Honorable Court for orders regarding the following: 21 For an Order awarding Defendant attorney's fees for being required to 22 23 oppose Plaintiff's Motion 2. 24 For such further relief as deemed appropriate in the premises. 25 26 27 28

KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC

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This Motion is made and based upon the pleadings on file herein, the Points and Authorities, the Exhibits attached hereto, Plaintiff's Affidavit contained in this Motion, and oral argument to be adduced at the time of hearing.

DATED this 6th day of May, 2020.

KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC

EDWARD KAMEN, ESO

Nevada Bar No. 5029 ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 8147

3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129 Attorneys for Defendant

I.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The parties were divorced by way of Decree of Divorce, entered on June 12, 2019. Less than a year after entry of their Decree of Divorce, Plaintiff filed his *Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, To Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs*, which was set and heard by the Court via video conference on April 21, 2020. Upon reviewing the pleadings the Court found that there has been no change in circumstances, and no cause to modify the custodial arrangement or child support provisions that the parties had negotiated less than a year ago.

The total attorney's fees and costs incurred in this matter from January 23, 2020, when Plaintiff's lawyer first sent a letter pursuant to EDCR 5.501, through the hearing regarding said Motion on April 21, 2020, as well as the preparation of the Order from said hearing and this attorney's fees memorandum, are \$15,587.50 in attorney's fees. A total of 33.2 hours were worked between Mr. Kynaston, Mr. Kainen, and other support staff. A copy of Defendant's redacted attorney's fees invoices are attached hereto. Defendant's attorneys made every effort to persuade Plaintiff that his Motion was unwarranted even before he filed, through a detailed responsive letter sent on January 30,

Page 2 of 7

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2020. When he insisted on proceeding with his Motion, Defendant tried to be as efficient as possible in completing the necessary work to oppose the unwarranted Motion. The amount of fees and costs accurately reflects the actual work done in this matter. Every reasonable effort was made to minimize the over all fees and costs incurred in this matter, while assuring complete and competent legal work and representation of the Defendant

#### II.

#### **ARGUMENT**

#### Frivolous Motion Α.

As previously stated the parties finalized their divorce in June of 2019, after almost three (3) years of litigation and negotiations. The parties specifically entered into a Marital Settlement Agreement on June 5, 2019, which explicitly provides a very detailed custodial schedule which laid out the parties' custody of the minor children. The final agreement in this matter took significant time to negotiate due to the complexity of the facts and circumstances in this matter. There are no changes in circumstance regarding Plaintiff or Defendant in this matter. Plaintiff's Motion was clearly an attempt to take advantage of the newly implemented child support guidelines believing it would provide him with a financial windfall. The Court summarily denied each of Plaintiff's requests set forth in his Motion and found his claims baseless.

#### B. Attorney's Fees

As instructed by this Court, Defendant respectfully submits this Motion for the Court to consider making an award of attorney's fees to her. This matter should not have been brought back before the Court. There had been no change of circumstances in this matter and no reason for Plaintiff to bring his Motion to Modify. Plaintiff's Motion was a poor attempt to create a non-existent change of circumstances to be able to apply the new child support guidelines and receive a financial windfall. An award of attorney's fees is appropriate in this matter as Defendant should have never been required to expend additional funds to oppose Plaintiff's Motion, as evidenced by the Court's denial of each of Plaintiff's claims for relief.

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The Nevada Supreme Court addressed the issue of attorney's fees in the case of Miller v. Wilfong, 121 Nev. 619, 119 P.3d 727 (2005). The Court stated:

The Brunzell factors adopted by the Nevada Supreme Court were derived from an Arizona case, Schartz v. Schwerin, 336 P.2d 144, 146 (Ariz. 1959). Schartz classified the factors into four general areas:

"(1) the qualities of the advocate: his ability, his training, education, experience, professional standing and skill; (2) the character of the work to be done: its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, time and skill required, the responsibility imposed and the prominence and character of the parties where they affect the importance of the litigation; (3) the work actually performed by the lawyer: the skill, time and attention given to the work; (4) the result: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits were derived. Furthermore, good judgment would dictate that each of these factors be given consideration by the trier of fact and that no one element should predominate or be given undue weight. (citations omitted) should predominate or be given undue weight. (citations omitted).

In the case at bar, the Court should consider the following in applying the factors set forth above in making a determination regarding Defendant's request for attorney's fees:

#### 1. Qualities of Plaintiff's Advocate

Andrew L. Kynaston, Esq. has excellent credentials. He is an AV rated attorney, a Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and a Nevada Board Certified Family Law Specialist. He is also board certified in Family Trial Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. He has been engaged in the exclusive practice of family law for nearly eighteen years. For the past ten years he has been named a Mountain States "Super Lawyer" (2014 -2019) or a "Rising Star" (2010-2013) by Super Lawyers magazine. He served on the publications development board of the ABA Section of Family Law from 2002 -2010. He has been a presenter at various CLE conferences.

Additionally, Ed Kainen is an AV rated attorney by Martindale Hubbell with over 30 years of experience. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers and is the past Nevada Chapter President. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Law. He is also a Nevada Board Certified Family Law Specialist

Page 4 of 7

and has been the Chair of the Nevada Board of Family Law Specialists. Mr. Kainen is also nationally Board Certified in Family Trial Law by the National Board of Trial Advocacy. Mr. Kainen has extensive trial experience in both criminal and civil cases. He is a past chair of the Family Law Section of the State Bar of Nevada. He lectures extensively on family law subjects at Continuing Legal Education seminars throughout the United States. He has been named in Best Lawyers in America and has thrice been appointed by the Nevada Supreme Court to serve on Supreme Court Bench/Bar Committee.

Clearly, Defendant's attorneys are well trained and qualified in relation to the fees charged for his services in this matter. Mr. Kynaston's billable rate is \$475 per hour, and Mr. Kainen's billable rate is \$600 per hour.

#### 2. The Character of the Work Done

Undersigned counsel was required to conduct legal research, prepare a detailed response to the EDCR 5.501 letter, conduct additional legal research and then file an Opposition and Supplemental Filing to support Defendant's position that Plaintiff's Motion was completely frivolous. Additionally, undersigned counsel was required to prepare and file a Financial Disclosure Form for Defendant. Additionally, counsel had multiple telephone conferences, exchanged emails, and an in person meeting had to occur as well.

## 3. The Work Actually Performed

Defendant's attorney was tasked with opposing Plaintiff's baseless motion by filing an Opposition thereto, as well as Defendant's Financial Disclosure Form. Defendant's counsel then was required to attend the hearing on the Motion, as well as prepare the Order from the same. The amount of fees and costs as referenced on the time logs and billing summary are attached hereto as **Exhibit "A."** It should be noted, an additional \$900 is being added to the total amount expended on this issue for the preparation of this instant motion and the preparation of the proposed Order to submit to the Court.

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# 4. The Results

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The final factor adopted in <u>Brunzell</u>, is whether the attorney was successful and what benefits were derived. Defendant's attorney was very successful in opposing Plaintiff's Motion. It should be noted, Defendant's attorney did not have to argue the facts of this case, as the Court was familiar with this case, and had primarily determined its ruling prior to the hearing.

#### III.

#### CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Defendant respectfully requests that Plaintiff be ordered to pay attorney's fees in the amount of \$15,587.50, as set forth herein-above. A proposed Order and Judgment are provided herewith for the Court's convenience, with blanks for the Court to fill in the award of attorney's fees and costs.

Respectfully submitted this day of May, 2020.

KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC

Dy:

EDWARD KAPNEN ESQ

Nevada Bar No. 5029

ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 8147

3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

Attorneys for Defendant

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COUNTY OF CLARK

# AFFIDAVIT OF ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ., IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES STATE OF NEVADA ) ss:

ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ., being first duly sworn, deposes and states that I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada, and in that capacity, I represent the Defendant, Tracy Romano, in the above-entitled action.

That I have read through the foregoing Motion for Attorney's Fees and the facts contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge except as to those matters stated upon information and belief and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

That it was necessary to file the foregoing Motion and was done so at the Court's direction.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT

ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESC

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me this day of May, 2020, by ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ.

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said County and State K. L. NIDAY
Notary Public State of Nevada
No. 12-7715-1
My Appt. Exp. June 17, 2020

Page 7 of 7

**EXHIBIT "A"** 

# Kainen Law Group

3303 Novat Street Las Vegas, NV 89129

Ph:(702) 823-4900

Fax:(702) 823-4488

Tracy Romano 293 Saddle Run St. Henderson, NV 89012

May 6, 2020

Attention:	

File #: Inv #:

750-001

Settle

RE:

Romano, Tracy v. Aaron Romano

DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	AMOUNT	LAWYER
Jan-24-20	Telephone conference with client	0.50	237.50	ALK
	Read and study email from client	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Prepare email to adverse attorney requesting adverse party's 2019 income information and a more reasonable timeframe for seeking to resolve the issues before initiating litigation. Read and study responsive email from adverse attorney.	0.20	95.00	ALK
Jan-27-20	Prepare letter to client with	0.20	95.00	ΛLK
Jan-29-20	Review client's Decree, Marital Settlement Agreement and Parenting Agreement for applicable provisions for responding to adverse attorney's letter. Review new child support regulations. Prepare draft of lengthy responsive letter to adverse attorney	2.60	1,235.00	ALK

	provide list of outstanding items form the decree that adverse party has yet to complete. Email draft of letter to client for review and approval.			
Jan-30-20	Telephone call with client	0.30	142.50	ALK
	elient's email comments and telephone conference with client.	1.00	475.00	ALK
Jan-31-20	Finalize letter with client's approval and send to Adverse Attorney;	0.20	95.00	ΛLK
Mar-02-20	Read and study Motion regarding child support and custody filed by adverse party. Read and study Appendix of Exhibits. Read and study adverse party's Financial Disclosure Form. Read and study Notice of hearing issued by the court. Prepare email to client	0.50	237.50	ALK
	Prepare letter to			
	Email exchange with client	0.20	95.00	ALK
Mar-03-20	Prepare email to adverse attorney (NO CHARGE)	0.00	0.00	ΛLK
Mar-05-20	Email exchange with client regarding	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Read and study email from adverse attorney regarding  Email exchange with client	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Begin preparation of	3.80	1,805.00	ΛLΚ

	Conduct legal research and prepare Points and Authorities. Begin statement of facts. Conduct additional legal research and begin preparation of legal arguments.			
Mar-06-20	Telephone conference with client	0.80	380.00	ALK
	Read and study cmail from client	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Continue prepartion of client's Opposition and Countermotion. Email working draft to client for her review and input.	3.20	1,520.00	ALK
Mar-09-20	Review client email and revise Financial Disclosure Form.	0.40	50.00	НА
Mar-11-20	Prepare revisions to Opposition and Countermotion based upon	0.70	332.50	ALK
Mar-17-20	Continue revisions to Oppositon and Countermotion. Email revised draft to client for review.	1.70	807.50	ALK
Mar-18-20	Read and study email from client	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Prepare further revisions to Opposition and Countermotion based upon Final review of client's Financial Disclosure Form. Discussion with	0.30	142.50	ΛLK
	Revise Opposition; prepare email to client	0.40	50.00	НΛ
Mar-20-20	Final review and execution of client's Opposition and Countermotion. Review and approve final draft of client's Financial Disclosure Form.	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Telephone conference with client; revise Opposition and Financial Disclosure Form; file and serve.	0.60	75.00	НА

Mar-23-20	(NO CHARGE)	0.00	0.00	ALK
Mar-24-20	Email exchange with adverse attorney regarding adverse attorney requesting extension to file responsive pleading.	0.20	95.00	ΛLK
Apr-10-20	Read and study adverse party's Reply to Opposition and Opposition to countermotion. Read and study appendix including declarations from adverse party's other attorneys about compliance with Marital Settlement Agreement requirements. Prepare letter to client  Prepare follow-up email to client	0.40	190.00	ALK
Apr-13-20	Email exchange with client	0.20	95.00	ΛLK
Apr-14-20	Telephone conference with client	0.90	427.50	ALK
	Read and study email from	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Read and study several emails from client	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Read and study client's	0.20	95.00	ALK
Apr-15-20	Read and study draft	0.20	95.00	ALK

	Telephone conference with	0.30	142.50	ΛLK
	Review, revise, and execute Appendix of Supplemental Exhibits to Client's Opposition and Countermotion.	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Read and study email from	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Read and study several emails from  Review language of Marital Settlement Agreement and send comments to	0.30	142.50	ALK
	Prepare Supplemental Filing to Opposition and Countermotion;	1.00	175.00	KLN
Apr-16-20	Read and study Notice of Audio/Visual Appearance issued by the court regarding the upcoming hearing. Prepare letter to client	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Read and study email from	0.20	95.00	ALK
Apr-20-20	Begin Preparation for upcoming hearing; Review and revise hearing outline;	1.00	600.00	ELK
	Review pleadings and prepare outline for oral argument at upcoming motion hearing.	1.60	760.00	ALK
	Email exchange with client (NO CHARGE)	0.00	0.00	ALK
Apr-21-20	Conference with Client	1.40	840.00	ELK

	Final preparations for hearing. Conference with	0.30	142.50	ALK
	Conference with client  Appear at hearing and obtain ruling from court. Post hearing discussions with client	2.00	950.00	ALK
	Exchange emails with client	0.20	25.00	НΛ
Apr-22-20	Review and provide suggested revisions to proposed Order from hearing;	0.30	180.00	ELK
	Prepare email to	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Read and study email exchange between	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Download video from hearing and upload same to Dropbox for client; review hearing video and take notes; prepare Order from hearing.	1.20	150.00	НА
Apr-23-20	Review revisions to draft order from hearing and discuss finalizing with legal assistant.	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Prepare letter to adverse attorney with proposed order from last hearing and request she review and get back to counsel.	0.20	95.00	ALK
	Revise Order	0.40	50.00	IIA
	Totals	32.90 \$1	4,545.00	
DISBURSEM	ENTS			
Apr-30-20	E-Filing Filing fee		7.00 25.00	
	Totals	für den 1984 und 4 deutstalle	\$32.00	

Electronically Filed 5/17/2020 12:44 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

ORDR
ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 8147
KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC
3303 Novat Street, Suite 200
Las Vegas, Nevada 89129-8714
PH: (702) 823-4900
FX: (702) 823-4488
Service@KainenLawGroup.com
Attorney for Defendant

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DIS

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION COUNTY OF CLARK, STATE OF NEVADA

8 AARON ROMANO.

Plaintiff,

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KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC

3303 Novat Street. Suite 200 Las Vegas. Nevada 89129-8714 702.823.4900 • Fax 702.823.4488 TRACY ROMANO.

Defendant.

CASE NO. D-16-543114-D DEPT. C

Date of Hearing: 04/21/2020 Time of Hearing: 10:00 a.m.

# ORDER FROM HEARING ON APRIL 21st, 2020

THIS MATTER having come on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2020, before the Honorable Rebecca Burton, on Plaintiff's Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support, and For Attorney's Fees and Costs, and Defendant's Opposition and Countermotion thereto, Plaintiff, AARON ROMANO ("Plaintiff"), appearing by video conference and represented by and through his attorney, DAWN R. THRONE, ESQ., of THRONE & HAUSER, and Defendant, TRACY ROMANO ("Defendant"), appearing by video conference and represented by and through her attorneys, EDWARD L. KAINEN, ESQ. and ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ. of the KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC; the Court being fully advised in the premises and good cause appearing therefore, makes the following Findings and Orders:

DA

8 9 10 11 12 3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129-8714 702.823.4900 • Fax 702.823.4488 www.Kainenl.aw.Group.com 114 115 117 16 19 20 21 22 23 241 25

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THE COURT HEREBY FINDS that there has been no change of circumstances in this matter. Plaintiff's Motion seems to be an attempt to create a nonexistent change of circumstances to be able to apply the new child support guidelines.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that there has been no change in Defendant's income since the entry of the Decree of Divorce.

Therefore,

THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS that Plaintiff's Motion to modify child custody is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to split insurance costs is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to split unreimbursed medical expenses 30/30 is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to modify child support is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion for attorney's fees is denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant's Countermotion to increase alimony if child support was reduced is denied, because it is not warranted based on the Court's denial of Plaintiff's Motion to modify child support.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant's Countermotion to enforce provisions of the Marital Settlement Agreement is deferred for 60 days to allow time for compliance with the same.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a 54(d) Motion for attorney's fees may be filed.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant's counsel shall prepare the Order and provide the same to Plaintiff's counsel on or before May 4, 2020. Plaintiff's counsel shall review and countersign on or before May 18, 2020.

Page 2 of 3



IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a status check shall be set for July 2020 at 11:00 a.m. regarding the issues contained in Plaintiff's Countermot enforcement.  DATED this 15th day of May, 2020.  DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  Submitted by:  Approved as to Form and Content:  KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC  THRONE & HAUSER	una 19
a enforcement.  DATED this 15th day ofMay, 2020.  Beleece	ion for
Submitted by:  KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC  Approved as to Form and Content:  THRONE & HAUSER	011 101
Submitted by:  KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC  Approved as to Form and Content:  THRONE & HAUSER	
7 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE  8 Submitted by: Approved as to Form and Content: 9 KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC THRONE & HAUSER	
Submitted by: Approved as to Form and Content:  KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC THRONE & HAUSER	
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11 By what I by By: By: S/B/8	03.o
O 12 Nevada Bar No. 8147 Nevada Bar No. 6145	
ANDREW L K YNASTON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 8147 3303 Novat Street, Stc. 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129 Attorney for Defendant  Attorney for Defendant  ANDREW L K YNASTON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 6145 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Ste Henderson, Nevada 89012 Attorney for Plaintiff	. 100
Tas Vegas, Nevada 89129  Attorney for Defendant  Las Vegas, Nevada 89129  Attorney for Plaintiff  Attorney for Plaintiff	
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Page 3 of 3	1

5/20/2020 3:36 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COUP 1 OPPC Dawn R. Throne, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 006145 Michelle A. Hauser, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 007738 THRONE & HAUSER 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100 5 Henderson, Nevada 89012 (702) 800-3580 702) 800-3581 facsimile Email: dawn@thronehauser.com Attorney for Plaintiff DISTRICT COURT 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 11 AARON ROMANO, Case No. D-16-543114-D 12 Dept. No. C Plaintiff, 13 vs. 14 Date of Hearing: June 10, 2020 TRACY ROMANO, Time of Hearing: 2:15 p.m. 15 No Oral Argument Requested 16 Defendant. 17 18 OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND MEMORANDUM OF FEES AND COSTS AND COUNTERMOTION 19 FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES PURSUANT TO NRCP 54(d) 20 COMES NOW Plaintiff, Aaron Romano, by and through his attorney, Dawn 21 R. Throne, Esq., of THRONE & HAUSER, and opposes Defendant's Motion for 22 Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermoves for an award 23 24 of attorney's fees from Defendant pursuant to NRCP 54(d). 25 26 27 28

**Electronically Filed** 

1	This Opposition and Countermotion is made and based on the papers and
2	pleadings herein, the attached exhibits, the attached Memorandum of Points and
3	Authorities and such oral argument as may be adduced at the hearing.
4	<b>DATED</b> this <u>20<sup>th</sup></u> day of May, 2020.
5 6	Throne & Hauser
7	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
8	/s/ Dawn R Throne
9	<b>Dawn R. Throne, Esq.</b> Nevada Bar No. 006145
10	<b>Michelle A. Hauser, Esq.</b> Nevada Bar No. 007738
11	1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100 Henderson, Nevada 89012
12	(702) 800-3580 Attorney for Plaintiff
13	
14	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES
15	I.
16	THERE IS NO BASIS TO AWARD DEFENDANT ATTORNEY'S FEES
17 18	A. Defendant Cites to No Statute, Rule or Other Authority That Allows Her to Receive an Award of Fees
	to Receive an Award of Fees
	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:
19 20	
20 21	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must
20 21 22	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a postjudgment motion for
20 21	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must
20 21 22 23	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a pending appeal from the underlying final judgment.  (B) Timing and Contents of the Motion. Unless a statute or
20 21 22 23 24	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a pending appeal from the underlying final judgment.  (B) Timing and Contents of the Motion. Unless a statute or a court order provides otherwise, the motion must:
20 21 22 23 24 25	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a pending appeal from the underlying final judgment.  (B) Timing and Contents of the Motion. Unless a statute or
220 221 222 223 224 225 226	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a pending appeal from the underlying final judgment.  (B) Timing and Contents of the Motion. Unless a statute or a court order provides otherwise, the motion must:  (i) be filed no later than 21 days after written notice of
220 221 222 223 224 225 226	NRCP 54(d) states in pertinent part as follows:  (2) Attorney Fees.  (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a pending appeal from the underlying final judgment.  (B) Timing and Contents of the Motion. Unless a statute or a court order provides otherwise, the motion must:  (i) be filed no later than 21 days after written notice of

First, we address the district court's finding that the parties had a joint physical custody arrangement. In reaching our conclusions, we clarify that parties may enter into custody agreements and create their own custody terms and definitions. The courts may enforce such agreements as contacts. However, once the parties' move the court to modify the custody agreement, the court must use the terms and definitions under Nevada law. *Id. at 219*.

There is nothing in *Rivero* that requires Plaintiff to prove that there has been a change in circumstances. The district court is required to apply Nevada law regarding what constitutes joint physical custody versus primary physical custody. Moreover, since the Decree of Divorce states that the parties' have joint physical custody of their seven minor children, there is no requirement to show a change of circumstances in order to change custody. *See, Truax v. Truax*, 110 Nev. 4379, 874 P.2d 10 (1994).

Additionally, with regard to Plaintiff's request for a review of the child support obligation, he was also not obligated to prove a change in circumstances in order for him to have a review of his child support obligation to Defendant pursuant to NAC 425. While NAC 425.170 states that the adoption of the new regulations is not, in and of itself, a change in circumstances, that regulation is not consistent with the rulings of the Nevada Supreme Court. Specifically, in *Burton v. Burton*, 99 Nev. 698, 669 P.2d 703 (1983), the Nevada Supreme Court held that a change in the law is a change in circumstances that allows a district court to modify an original judgment.

Therefore, Plaintiff' Motion was well grounded in existing law and this Court never made a finding that his Motion was frivolous. For the same reason, Defendant cannot rely upon NRS 18.010 as authority for granting her attorney's fees in this case.

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Opposition/Countermotion

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Opposition/Countermotion

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In addition to having a basis to grant an award of attorney's fees, Defendant is also required to provide the Court with evidence that meets the factors set forth in Brunzel lv. Golden Gate Nat'l Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 349, 455 P.2d 31, 33 (1969).

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The Brunzell factors are:

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a. The qualities of the advocate;

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b. The character and difficulty of the work performed;

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The work actually performed by the attorney; and c.

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d. The results obtained.

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While this Court might find that the hourly rates charged to Defendant by her 12

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counsel are within the range of reasonable based upon their experience and other

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qualifications, as well as the going hourly rates in this market, it is the reasonableness

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of the time spent on the tasks and the total fees charged to Defendant in this matter

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that must be questioned. One of the reasons why more experienced attorneys charge

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more per hour is because their experience allows them to be more efficient in

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performing the services.

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As the Court will recall, Defendant has been represented by Mr. Kynaston throughout the negotiation of the Parenting Agreement, the MSA and the Decree of Divorce in this case. As such, Mr. Kynaston should not have needed to spend as much time as he did studying the terms of the Parenting Agreement and MSA. Defendant was billed 4.1 hours, for a total cost of \$1,947.50, for Mr. Kynaston to review the controlling Orders, conduct legal research and prepare a detailed letter in response to Plaintiff's letter, which letter set forth all of the arguments needed for her opposition

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to Plaintiff's Motion. Then, after providing all of the legal arguments in the letter dated January 31, 2020, Mr. Kynaston spent a total of **12.6** hours himself preparing an Opposition and Countermotion, plus his assistant spent 1.4 hours assisting with the Opposition and Countermotion as well as the Financial Disclosure Form ("FDF") for the Defendant. Defendant was charged a total of **\$6,160** for an Opposition and Countermotion that basically copied the arguments in the January 31, 2020 letter.

Next, Mr. Kynaston billed Defendant 4.3 hours for a cost of \$2,042.50, to prepare fugitive documents filed with this Court that are not authorized by any rule. Specifically, he prepared a "Supplement" to Defendant's Opposition and Countermotion and an Exhibit Appendix of Supplemental Exhibits to Defendant's Opposition and Countermotion, after Plaintiff filed and served his Reply and Opposition to Countermotion. What Defendant was actually trying to file was a Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to her Countermotion, which is a document specifically not permitted under EDCR 5.502(e), without prior leave of the Court. Defendant's 'supplement" to her Opposition and Countermotion also does not comply with the rules. Specifically, EDCR 5.509(b) requires that a supplement only provide information that could not reasonably have been supplied in the earlier filings. Nothing contained in Defendant's supplement and exhibits to her supplement is information that was not already available to Defendant at the time she filed her Opposition and Countermotion. In fact, pursuant to NRCP 11, Defendant should not have waited until she received Plaintiff's Opposition to her Countermotion to conduct reasonable inquiry into the allegations contained in her Countermotion relating to compliance with terms set forth in the parties Marital Settlement Agreement

Page 7 of 14

After Defendant was billed so much time for the preparation of a letter, an Opposition and Countermotion and a fugitive Supplement with exhibits, she was billed another 1.9 hours, at a cost of \$902.50, for Mr. Kynaston to prepare for a hearing when he prepared all of the underlying documents for the client. This was not reasonable and necessary either. Lastly, Mr. Kainen billed Defendant for 2.7 hours, for a total of \$1,620, to prepare for the same hearing and review the same simple order Mr. Kynaston also reviewed. While Defendant has every right to pay for the senior partner in the firm to look over the work of the other partner in the firm, it is not reasonable to ask Plaintiff to pay for these unnecessary services.

During the same period the Defendant claims she was charged \$15,587.50, Plaintiff was only charged \$10,450 and his counsel was new to his case and had to review the Parenting Agreement and MSA from scratch. By way of comparison, Plaintiff was billed 4.4 hours by his counsel and 4.2 hours by the paralegal, for a total of \$2,280, for the motion and FDF and then he was billed 7.25 hours by his attorney and 3 hours by paralegal, for a total of \$3,168.75, for the Reply to Defendants' Opposition and Opposition to Defendant's Countermotion, along with the exhibits in the Exhibit Appendix.

In summary, the attorney's fees Defendant was charged by her counsel were not reasonable or necessary for the work performed in this case. That is also a basis to deny Defendant's request for an award of attorney's fees from Plaintiff, at least to the extent these fees were not reasonable and necessary for the work performed.

## PLAINTIFF SHOULD BE AWARDED ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS FROM DEFENDANT

As stated in more detail in Plaintiff's Reply to Defendant's Opposition and Opposition to Defendant's Countermotion, Defendant's Countermotion was frivolous, unnecessary and unwarranted as Defendant failed to conduct proper inquiry with her own attorney that she hired to address the matters in the MSA that still need to be completed. Had she completed the proper inquiry that she was required to complete before filing the Countermotion pursuant to NRCP 11, she would have known that the "bottleneck" regarding completion of items in the MSA was with her counsel, who did not respond to Plaintiff's business counsel for several months, and not until Defendant was served with Plaintiff's Opposition to her Countermotion and the exhibits thereto. Once Defendant was served with the Opposition to her Countermotion and the Declarations of Plaintiff's two business counsel, then her business counsel finally responded to Plaintiff's. Once again, Plaintiff's business attorneys responded promptly to Defendant's business attorney. They are again waiting for a response from Plaintiff's business attorney.

Plaintiff incurred approximately four hours of time spent by his attorney and two hours spent by the paralegal, for a total of \$1,800, to oppose Defendant's frivolous Countermotion regarding the terms of the MSA, which are still being resolved by their respective business attorneys. Like Defendant, Plaintiff has the obligation to set forth the authority for the Court to award him attorney's fees from Defendant and also provide the Court with evidence that allows the Court to evaluate the factors set forth in *Brunzell*. EDCR 7.60(b)(1) provides this Court with legal

Page 9 of 14

authority to grant Plaintiff attorney's fees from Defendant as it relates to him having to oppose Defendant's frivolous Countermotion. With regard to the *Brunzell* Factors, the Affidavit of Plaintiff's counsel is attached hereto. Lastly, in support of the reasonableness and the actual work performed, Plaintiff attaches as Exhibit "1" the relevant redacted billing statements.

#### III.

#### CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, based upon the foregoing, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this court enter orders granting him the following relief:

- 1. Denying Defendant's motion in its entirety;
- Awarding Plaintiff an award of attorney's fees in the amount of \$1,800 from Defendant for his having to oppose her frivolous Countermotion;
   and
- 3. Such other and further relief as the Court deems appropriate.

**DATED** this 20th day of May, 2020.

**THRONE & HAUSER** 

/s/ Dawn R. Throne

**Dawn R. Throne, Esq.** Nevada Bar No. 006145

Michelle A. Hauser, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 007738

1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100

Henderson, Nevada 89012

(702) 800-3580

Attorney for Plaintiff

Page 10 of 14

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STATE OF NEVADA

COUNTY OF CLARK

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DAWN R. THRONE, ESQ., being first duly sworn, deposes and states:

- 1. I am an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Nevada. This affidavit is submitted in support of Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54(b).
- 2. Pursuant to *Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat'l Bank*, 85 Nev 345 (1969), when courts determine the appropriate fee to award in civil cases, they must consider various factors including:
  - a.) The qualities of the advocate;

: ss.

- b.) The character and difficulty of the work performed;
- c.) The work actually performed by the attorney; and
- d.) The result obtained.
- 3. I have been licensed as an attorney in the State of Nevada since October 18, 1996. My partner, Michelle A. Hauser, Esq., has been licensed as an attorney in the State of Nevada since October 5, 2001. Ms. Hauser has primarily practiced in the area of family law during the last 18 years and I have primarily practiced in the area of family law during the last 23 years. Ms. Hauser spent the first four years of her career working at a small litigation law firm where she also handled cases involving criminal defense, personal injury, and some civil litigation. I spent the first 9 years

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of my career working at two large full service law firms where I also practiced in the areas of business/civil litigation, personal injury and even some bankruptcy work. I opened my own practice in February 2008, Ms. Hauser joined me to form our partnership on April 1, 2009.

- 4. I attended the American Bar Association Section of the Family Law Trial Advocacy Institution in May 2001 and Ms. Hauser attended in May 2008. I am a Nevada Board Certified Family Law Specialist.
- 5. Ms. Hauser is admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada. I am admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Nevada and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- 6. Ms. Hauser and I are both contributing authors for the Nevada Family Law Practice Manual, 2008 Edition. I have served as an Arbitrator with the State Bar of Nevada's Fee Dispute Arbitration Program for more than 15 years. I have served as a Domestic Violence Hearing Master, Pro Tem for the Eighth Judicial District Court and have been appointed to serve as a Child Support Hearing Master for the Eighth Judicial District Court. In 2017, I was appointed to serve on the Southern Nevada Disciplinary Board and to serve on the Child Support Guideline Committee for the State of Nevada. I am the Vice Chair of the Child Support Guideline Committee.
- 7. Ms. Hauser currently serves as the Secretary of the Family Law Bench Bar Committee for the Eighth Judicial District Court and as the Chair of the Nevada Family Law Section Executive Committee. Ms. Hauser has received awards for her Pro Bono Hours. Ms. Hauser worked with the Truancy Diversion Program in 2008

under the direction of the Honorable Judge Jennifer Elliott.

- 8. Dawn R. Throne, Esq., and Michelle H. Hauser, Esq., both currently bill at the hourly rate of \$375.00 per hour in this matter. Affiant is informed and believes that the hourly rate of \$375.00 for family law attorneys with 23 and 18 years of experience respectively is below the going rate in this legal market.
- 9. Plaintiff has incurred attorney's fees of \$1,800 to date in this matter for reviewing the Countermotion and the relevant terms of the MSA, communicating with Plaintiff's two business attorneys, preparing drafts of the declarations of the two business attorneys and preparing an Opposition to the Countermotion.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

Dawn R. Throne, Esq.

SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me this 20th day of May, 2020.

NOTADY

9 NOTARY PUBLI

NOTARY PUBLIC
SUSAN PINJUV
STATE OF NEVADA - CDUNTY OF CLARK
MY APPOINTMENT EXP. JUNE 10. 2020
NO: 08-7208-1

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** A COPY OF the foregoing "OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND MEMORANDUM OF FEES AND COSTS AND COUNTERMOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES PURSUANT TO NRCP 54(d)" in the above-captioned matter was served this via electronic service, pursuant to NEFCR 9: KAINEN LAW GROUP Andrew Kynaston, Esq. Service@kainenlawgroup.com andrew@kainenlawgroup.com carol@kainenlawgroup.com Attorney for Defendant **DATED** this <u>B</u> day of May, 2020. An employee of THRONE & HAUSER

## EXHIBIT 1

#### Throne & Hauser

#### 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, #100 Henderson, NV 89012 USA

Ph:702-800-3580

Previous Balance

Fax:702-800-3581

Aaron Romano NV USA			M	farch 27, 2020
Attention:			File #: Inv #:	973-001 19531
RE: v Tra	cy Romano			
DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	AMOUNT	LAWYER
Mar-24-20	Review Opposition and Countermotion; T/C with client regarding options for Reply and Opposition Countermotion; Prepare correspondence to opposing counsel regarding extension	1.40 to	525.00	DRT
Mar-26-20	Review correspondence from client	0.10	37.50	DRT
	Totals	1.90	\$647.50	
DISBURSEME	NTS			
Mar-27-20	general costs		19.43	
	Totals	-	\$19.43	
	Total Fee & Disbursements		-	\$666.93

600.00

#### Throne & Hauser

1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, #100 Henderson, NV 89012 USA

Ph:702-800-3580

**Total Fee & Disbursements** 

Fax:702-800-3581

Aaron Romano NV USA				April 10, 2020
Attention:			File #: Inv #:	973-001 19586
RE: v Tra	cy Romano			
DATE	DESCRIPTION	HOURS	AMOUNT	LAWYER
Apr-08-20	Dictate Declarations for business attorney's regarding Countermotion; Prepare corresponder to client regarding life insurance policies; Begin work on Reply and Opposition to Countermotion	1	412.50	DRT
Apr-09-20	Review correspondence from client regarding lift insurance policies; Review and revise drafts of Declarations for business attorneys; Prepare correspondence to both attorneys regarding their declarations; Continue to Dictate Reply and Opposition to Countermotion; Legal research (Spent 3.5 hours, billed for only 2.75 hours)		1,031.25	DRT
	SP- Transcribe Declarations of Randon Hansen, Esq., and Lars Evensen	1.00	150.00	DRT
	Totals	4.85	\$1,593.75	
DISBURSEME	NTS			
Apr-10-20	general costs		47.81	
	Totals		\$47.81	

\$1,641.56

#### Throne & Hauser

1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, #100 Henderson, NV 89012 USA

Ph702-800-3580

re: same (Actual Time 3.2 Billed 2.0)

Fax702-800-3581

 Aaron Romano
 April 23,2020

 NV
 USA

 File#: 973-001

 Attention:
 Inv #: 19643

 RE: v Tracy Romano
 HOURS AMOUNT LAWYER

Apr-10-20 Review and respond to correspondence from Mr. 1.80 675.00 DRT Hansen; Review correspondence from client; Review and revise draft #1 of Reply and Opposition to Countermotion: Prepare correspondence to client regarding same; Review and respond to correspondence from Mr. Evenson; Review and finalize Exhibit Appendix SP- Transcribe Reply to Opposition and Opposition to 2.00 300.00 DRT Countermotion, and prepare Exhibit Appendix to Plaintiff's Reply to Opposition and Opposition to Countermotion, telephone conference with Mr. Evensen re: status of reviewing and signing Affidavit (left message) and prepare correspondence to Mr. Evensen

MOFI

#### DISTRICT COURT FAMILY DIVISION CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

HAron Komano	a is In-11 Extractor
Plaintiff/Petitioner	Case No. <u>D-16543/14D</u>
. V. 🔑 o	Dept.
Tracy Romano	· MOTION/OPPOSITION
Defendant/Respondent	FEE INFORMATION SHEET
Notice: Motions and Oppositions filed after entry of a f subject to the reopen filing fee of \$25, unless specifically Oppositions filed in cases initiated by joint petition may accordance with Senate Bill 388 of the 2015 Legislative	y excluded by NRS 19.0312. Additionally, Motions and be subject to an additional filing fee of \$129 or \$57 in
Step 1. Select either the \$25 or \$0 filing fee in	the box below.
25 The Motion/Opposition being filed wit -or-	h this form is subject to the \$25 reopen fee.
☐ \$0 The Motion/Opposition being filed with fee because:	h this form is not subject to the \$25 reopen
	d before a Divorce/Custody Decree has been
	l solely to adjust the amount of child support
☐ The Motion/Opposition is for recons	ideration or for a new trial, and is being filed t or decree was entered. The final order was
Other Excluded Motion (must specif	y)
Step 2. Select the \$0, \$129 or \$57 filing fee in	the box below.
	this form is not subject to the \$129 or the
<ul><li>✓ The Motion/Opposition is being file</li><li>☐ The party filing the Motion/Opposit</li></ul>	ed in a case that was not initiated by joint petition. ion previously paid a fee of \$129 or \$57.
-OR-	is subject to the \$129 fee because it is a motion
☐ \$57 The Motion/Opposition being filing wi	th this form is subject to the \$57 fee because it is djust or enforce a final order, or it is a motion d a fee of \$129.
Step 3. Add the filing fees from Step 1 and Step	o 2.
The total filing fee for the motion/opposition I a □\$0 □\$25 □\$57 □\$82 □\$129 □\$154	
Party filing Motion/Opposition: Plainti	F Date 5/90/2030
Signature of Party or Preparer Sugar	Gy.

5/21/2020 10:52 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **NEOJ** Dawn R. Throne, Esq. 2 Nevada Bar No. 006145 3 Michelle A. Hauser, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 007738 THRONE & HAUSER 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100 5 Henderson, Nevada 89012 6 (702) 800-3580 (702) 800-3581 Facsimile email: dawn@thronehauser.com 8 Attorney for Plaintiff 9 DISTRICT COURT 10 FAMILY DIVISION 11 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 12 AARON ROMANO, Case No. D-16-543114-D 13 Dept. No. C 14 Plaintiff, VS. 15 Date of Hearing: April 21, 2020 16 Time of Hearing: 10:00 a.m. 17 TRACY ROMANO, 18 Defendant. 19 20 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER FROM APRIL 21, 2020 HEARING 21 YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an "Order from April 21, 2020 22 23 Hearing" was entered in the above-captioned case on the 17th day of May, 2020, by 24 filing a copy with the Clerk. 25 26 27 28

**Electronically Filed** 

1 A true and correct copy of said Order is attached hereto and made a part 2 thereof. 3 DATED this 21st day of May, 2020. 4 THRONE & HAUSER 5 6 /s/ Dawn R Throne Dawn R. Throne, Esq. 7 Nevada Bar No. 006145 8 Michelle A. Hauser, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 007738 9 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100 Henderson, Nevada 89012 10 (702) 800-3580 11 Attorney for Plaintiff 12 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE 13 14 A COPY OF "Notice of Entry of Order from April 21, 2020 Hearing" in 15 the above-captioned matter was served this date via electronic service, pursuant to 16 NEFCR 9 as follows: 17 KAINEN LAW GROUP 18 Andrew Kynaston, Esq. Service@kainenlawgroup.com 19 andrew@kainenlawgroup.com 20 carol@kainenlawgroup.com Attorney for Defendant 21 **DATED** this 21st day of May, 2020. 22 23 /s/ Igor Makarov 24 an employee of THRONE & HAUSER 25 26 27 28 2

**Electronically Filed** 5/17/2020 12:44 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

**ORDR** ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 8147
KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC
3303 Novat Street, Suite 200
Las Vegas, Nevada 89129-8714
PH: (702) 823-4900
FX: (702) 823-4488
Service@KainenLawGroup.com
Attorney for Defendant Attorney for Defendant EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT - FAMILY DIVISION COUNTY OF CLARK, STATE OF NEVADA 8 AARON ROMANO, 9

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. D-16-543114-D DEPT. C

TRACY ROMANO,

Date of Hearing: Time of Hearing: 04/21/2020 10:00 a.m.

Defendant.

#### ORDER FROM HEARING ON APRIL 21st, 2020

THIS MATTER having come on this 21st day of April, 2020, before the Honorable Rebecca Burton, on Plaintiff's Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support, and For Attorney's Fees and Costs, and Defendant's Opposition and Countermotion thereto, Plaintiff, AARON ROMANO ("Plaintiff"), appearing by video conference and represented by and through his attorney, DAWN R. THRONE, ESQ., of THRONE & HAUSER, and Defendant, TRACY ROMANO ("Defendant"), appearing by video conference and represented by and through her attorneys, EDWARD L. KAINEN, ESQ. and ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ. of the KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC; the Court being fully advised in the premises and good cause appearing therefore, makes the following Findings and Orders:

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KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC
3303 Novat Street. Suite 200
Las Vegas. Nevada 89129-8714
702.823.4900 · Fax 702.823.4488
www.KainenLawGroup.com

VS.

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1 THE COURT HEREBY FINDS that there has been no change of circumstances in this matter. Plaintiff's Motion seems to be an attempt to create a non-2 existent change of circumstances to be able to apply the new child support guidelines. 3 THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that there has been no change in 4 Defendant's income since the entry of the Decree of Divorce. 5 6 Therefore. 7 THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS that Plaintiff's Motion to modify child custody is denied. 9 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to split insurance costs 10 is denied. 11 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to split unreimbursed 12 medical expenses 30/30 is denied. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion to modify child support 13 is denied. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion for attorney's fees is 16 denied. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant's Countermotion to increase 17 alimony if child support was reduced is denied, because it is not warranted based on the 18 Court's denial of Plaintiff's Motion to modify child support. 19 20 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant's Countermotion to enforce provisions of the Marital Settlement Agreement is deferred for 60 days to allow time for 21 compliance with the same. 22 23 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a 54(d) Motion for attorney's fees may be filed. 24 25 IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant's counsel shall prepare the Order and provide the same to Plaintiff's counsel on or before May 4, 2020. Plaintiff's 26 27 counsel shall review and countersign on or before May 18, 2020. 28 Page 2 of 3



	<b>;</b>	
1	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a status check shall be set for June 18	,
2	2020 at 11:00 a.m. regarding the issues contained in Plaintiff's Countermotion for	,
3	enforcement.	ı
4	DATED this 15th day of May, 2020.	
5	P	
6	Rebecca P. Renton	
7	DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	
8	Submitted by: Approved as to Form and Content:	
9	KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC THRONE & HAUSER	
10		
	ANDREW LIKYNASTON, ESO. By: DAWN R THRONE (SO)	
12 TEC 12	Nevada Bar No 8147 3303 Novat Street, Stc. 200 Nevada Bar No. 6145 Nevada Bar No. 6145	
KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC 3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129.8714 702.823.4900 - Fax 702.823.4488 www.KainenlawGroup.com	ANDREW L/K VNASTON, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 8147 3303 Novat Street, Stc. 200 Las Vegas, Novada 89129 Attorney for Defendant  DAWN R. THRONE, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 6145 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Ste. 100 Henderson, Nevada 89012 Attorney for Plaintiff	
NEN LAW GROUP, F 3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 18 Vegas, Nevach 89129-87, 823,4900 - Fax 702,823,44 Nova, Kainen Law Group, com	The second of th	
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1 **NOAS** Dawn R. Throne, Esq.

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

AARON ROMANO,

Nevada Bar No. 006145 THRONE & HAUSER

Henderson, Nevada 89012

(702) 800-3581 facsimile

Attorney for Plaintiff

email: dawn@thronehauser.com

(702) 800-3580

Plaintiff,

1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100

TRACY ROMANO,

Defendant.

Case No D-16-543114-D Dept. No.  $\mathbf{C}$ 

#### **AARON ROMANO'S NOTICE OFAPPEAL**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plaintiff, Aaron Romano, hereby appeals to the Supreme Court of Nevada from the ORDER FROM THE HEARING ON APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020 entered in this action on May 17, 2020. See Exhibit "A," attached hereto.

DATED this Alay of May, 2020.

THRONE & HAUSER

Dawn R. Throne, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 006145

1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100

Henderson, Nevada 89012

(702) 800-3580 Attorney for Plaintiff

Case Number: D-16-543114-D

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

A COPY OF the "Aaron Romano's Notice of Appeal" in the abovecaptioned matter was served this date via electronic service, pursuant to NEFCR 9 as follows:

KAINEN LAW GROUP Andrew Kynaston, Esq. Service@kainenlawgroup.com andrew@kainenlawgroup.com carol@kainenlawgroup.com Attorney for Defendant

DATED this A day of May, 2020.

an employee of THRONE & HAUSER

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Steven D. Grierson
CLERK OF THE COURT

1 RPLY
Edward L. Kainen, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 5029
Andrew L. Kynaston, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 8147
KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC
3303 Novat Street, Suite 200
Las Vegas, Nevada 89129
Telephone: (702) 823-4900
Facsimile: (702) 823-4488
service@kainenlawgroup.com
Attorneys for Defendant

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

AARON ROMANO,

Plaintiff,

VS.

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KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC

3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129 702.823.4900 - Fax 702.823.4488

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TRACY ROMANO,

Defendant.

CASE NO: D-16-543114-D DEPT. NO: C

Date of Hearing: 06/10/2020 Time of Hearing: 2:15 P.m.

# DEFENDANT'S REPLY TO PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND MEMORANDUM OF FEES AND COSTS

# OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFF'S COUNTERMOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES PURSUANT TO N.R.C.P. 54(d)

COMES NOW, Defendant, TRACY ROMANO, by and through her attorney, ANDREW L. KYNASTON, ESQ., of the law firm of KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC, and submits her Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Opposition to Plaintiff's Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to N.R.C.P. 54(d).

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Case Number: D-16-543114-D

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This Reply and Opposition are made based upon the papers and pleadings on file here, the Points and Authorities, and such oral argument as will be presented at the time of the hearing in this matter.

DATED this 274 day of May, 2020.

KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC

ANDREW L. KYNASTON, Nevada Bar No. 8147 3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129 Attorneys for Defendant

#### POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

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

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

When the prevailing party has not recovered more than \$20,000; or Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the (b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party complaint or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. The court shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations. It is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions pursuant to Rule 11 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure in all appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in

business and providing professional services to the public.

3. In awarding attorney's fees, the court may pronounce its decision on the fees at the conclusion of the trial or operation and with an without proceeding without written

motion and with or without presentation of additional evidence.

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

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II.

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The parties were divorced by way of Decree of Divorce, entered on June 12, 2019. Defendant filed her Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs pursuant to the Court's instruction. Plaintiff then filed his Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54(d). Defendant hereby submits her Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition, and her Opposition to his Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs.

#### III.

#### **ARGUMENT**

Upon reviewing the pleadings the Court found that there was no change in circumstances, and no cause to modify the custodial arrangement or child support provisions that the parties had negotiated less than a year ago. At the hearing held April 21, 2020, the Court instructed Plaintiff to submit a motion for fees pursuant to NRCP Rule 54 in order to account for the attorney's fees and costs that were incurred to oppose Defendant's baseless Motion.

#### There is a Basis to Award Defendant Attorney's Fees

At the hearing held on April 21, 2020, the Court summarily denied each of Plaintiff's requests set forth in his Motion and found all of his claims to be without merit. Therefore, the Court directed Defendant to submit an accounting of fees incurred as a result of Plaintiff's Motion. Plaintiff in his Opposition alleges that Defendant did not provide any authority for filing her Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs, however, Defendant had previously cited such authority in her initial Opposition and Countermotion prepared in response to Plaintiff's Motion. Defendant's

Defendant's initial Opposition and Countermotion prepared in response to Plaintiff's motion, included an express countermotion for attorney's fees and costs and citing the authority for the same. The Court requested that an additional motion be filed pursuant to NRCP Rule 54 to include memorandum of fees and costs.

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Motion for Fees complied with the requirements of NRCP Rule 54(d) and the citations to the necessary authority to do so are already set forth in the record.

#### B. Fees awarded pursuant to the Parties' Marital Settlement Agreement

In addition the authority already in the record and cited herein, the parties Marital Settlement Agreement (MSA) itself also provides that Defendant should be awarded her attorney's fees for having to respond to Plaintiff's Motion. Subsection 26.1 of the parties' Martial Settlement Agreement, executed June 5, 2020, states in relevant part as follows:

26.1 Should litigation arise concerning the terms and conditions of this Agreement, or the breach of same by any party hereto, the prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees and costs in an amount awarded by the Court. (See page 17 of the parties' MSA)

As the prevailing party, Defendant is entitled to attorney's fees and costs under the MSA, in addition to any other basis for the same.

#### C. <u>Defendant's Fees are Reasonable</u>

Plaintiff's Opposition goes to great lengths to criticize and challenge the reasonableness of the fees incurred by Defendant in this post-divorce matter. Defendant and her counsel maintain that the time and efforts required to address and resolve this matter are wholly reasonable under the facts and circumstances of this case. Even before Plaintiff filed his unwarranted motion, Defendant's counsel attempted to resolve the issues that Plaintiff brought before the Court. Defendant's counsel's letter of January 30, 2020, was a good faith attempted to resolve the issues by way of correspondence and avoid litigation. This was not a simple letter, but included numerous specific citations to the parties' MSA, citations to some applicable case law and statutory authority. It required legal research and a recounting of important facts in the case resulting in a 7-page responsive letter. This time and effort was invested into this responsive letter in order to try to convince the Plaintiff and his counsel that filing a motion would be a futile exercise — a fact that turned out to be completely true — and hopefully dissuade Plaintiff from expending further attorney's fees pursuing this untenable course of action.

Page 4 of 7

Unfortunately, Plaintiff and his counsel completely disregarded the correspondence, and elected to file a Motion anyway. Preparing the Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion was not simply a cut-and-paste job from the previously prepared letter as Plaintiff suggests. Rather, the response required a much more in-depth analysis of the MSA, and additional legal research resulting in a 23-page Opposition and Countermotion. These efforts were warranted as they contributed to the successful outcome Defendant received upon the Court's rulings in this matter. All other matters set forth and identified in the redacted billing invoices provided to the Court with the fees motion are warranted and reasonable under the facts and circumstances of this case, and Defendant and her counsel stand by the same.

#### IV.

#### OPPOSITION TO COUNTERMOTION

Plaintiff's request for his own attorney's fees is unwarranted and completely frivolous. While Plaintiff's own Motion was essentially found to be baseless and was summarily denied by the Court, the matters set forth in Defendant's Countermotion (upon which Plaintiff is now seeking fees), were found to be meritorious and the Court set them over for further proceedings on a Status Check. As such, any request for fees by Plaintiff in this regard is not even ripe for the Court to address at this time. If the Court had found the Countermotion to be frivolous, it would have similarly denied it outright as it did with Plaintiff's motion. It did not. Rather, the court allocated additional time to try to resolve and complete the still unfinished items from the MSA that had been highlighted by the Defendant.

Plaintiff's primary argument in support of his claim for fees, is to assert that Defendant was the party who had somehow dropped the ball in completing these tasks because it was his business attorneys who were waiting to her back from Defendant's attorney Brian Steadman. The reality is that Defendant and her counsel have been seeking compliance for many months of these outstanding items from the MSA. Several of them were supposed to have been completed by Plaintiff within days of the finalizing

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of the Divorce and nothing was done. Follow-up correspondence was sent directly by Defendant and by her counsel several times since the time of the parties divorce seeking compliance. Plaintiff primarily ignored these efforts. Even the letter Defendant's counsel prepared and sent on January 30, 2020, before Plaintiff even filed his motion, sought to address these issues. There was no response to this letter and about a month later Plaintiff filed his unwarranted motion to change custody and child support, without any mention of the MSA items that Defendant had to address by way of countermotion.<sup>2</sup>

Again, the issues that Defendant raises in her Countermotion are still pending before the Court and have not been decided. The Court did not deny Defendant's Countermotion, but rather deferred the issue and set a Status Check hearing, in hopes that the parties would be able to figure out how to resolve these issues. Plaintiff cannot be awarded attorney's fees as a prevailing party on issues that are still unresolved with the Court.

#### III.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, respectfully requests that Mother's Motion for Attorney's Fees be granted and that Plaintiff's Countermotion be denied.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of May, 2020.

KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC

REW L. KYWASTON

Nevada Bar No. 8147 3303 Novat Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89129

Attorneys for Defendant

Plaintiff and his counsel also take issue with claims that the supplemental appendix documents that were filed after Plaintiff's Reply brief are fugitive documents. This claim is unfounded. It was necessary to set the record straight so the court would have a clearer view of the issues. Frankly, the notion that a Reply to Opposition to Countermotion is no longer permitted under the revised EDCR rules, is an affront to due process.

# KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC 3303 Noval Street, Suite 200 Las Vegas. Nevada 89129

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

	1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
	2	I HEREBY CERTIFY that on the 27th day of May, 2020, I caused to be served
	3	the foregoing Defendant's Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for
	4	Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Opposition to Plaintiff's
	5	Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to N.R.C.P. 54(d), to all interested parties
	6	as follows:
	7	BY MAIL: Pursuant to N.R.C.P. 5(b), I caused a true copy thereof to be
	8	placed in the U.S. Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope, postage fully prepaid thereon,
	9	addressed as follows:
	10	BY CERTIFIED MAIL: I caused a true copy thereof to be placed in the U.S.
	11	Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope, certified mail, return receipt requested, postage fully
	- 1	paid thereon, addressed as follows:
3.4488 com	13	BY FACSIMILE: Pursuant to EDCR 7.26, I caused a true copy thereof to
702.82 Group	14	be transmitted, via facsimile, to the following number(s):
702.823.4900 • Fax 702.823.4488 www.KainenLawGroup.com	15	X BY ELECTRONIC MAIL: Pursuant to EDCR 7.26 and N.E.F.C.R. Rule
3.4900 v.Kain	16	9, I caused a true copy thereof to be served via electronic mail, via Odyssey eFileNV, to
'02.82 wwv	17	the following e-mail address(es), and by electronic mail, via Microsoft Outlook to:
1	18	Receptionist@thronehauser.com
	19	Michelle@thronehauser.com
	20	Paralegal@thronehauser.com
	21	OfficeAssist@thronehauser.com _
	22	
	23	1 Hedan
	24	Employee at KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC
	25	KAINEN LAW GROOF, FEEC
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**Electronically Filed** 6/19/2020 3:25 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT **ORDR** 1 DISTRICT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION 2 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 3 AARON ROMANO, 4 Plaintiff, 5 6 VS. CASE NO. D-16-543114-D DEPT NO. C TRACY ROMANO, 7 Date of Hearing: 06/10/2020 8 Defendant. IN-CHAMBERS 9 ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS 10 THIS MATTER having come before the Court on Defendant, Tracy 11 Romano ("Tracy")'s Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees 12 and Costs served electronically on May 6, 2020; and on Plaintiff, Aaron 13 Romano ("Aaron")'s Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees 14 and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney's 15 Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54(d) served electronically on May 20, 2020; and 16 on Tracy's Defendant's Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's 17 Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and 18 Opposition to Plaintiff's Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to 19

 $N.R.C.P.\ 54(d)$  served electronically on May 27, 2020. Aaron is represented

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PARTIES TO ANY CONTRACT OF THE CONTRACT OF T

1	by Attorney Dawn Throne, and Tracy is represented by Attorney Andrew
2	Kynaston. The Court having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file in
3	this case and good cause appearing therefor
4	NRCP 54(d) states:
5	(d) Attorney Fees. (1) Reserved.
6	(2) Attorney Fees.
7	(A) <b>Claim to Be by Motion.</b> A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a
8	postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a pending appeal from the underlying final judgment.
9	COURT FINDS that Tracy's request for attorney fees was originally
10	brought before the Court by her Opposition and Countermotion to Aaron's
11	Motion. To allow both parties to fully brief the issue, the Court directed
12	Tracy to file a separate Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of
13	Fees and Costs pursuant to NRCP 54(d). Aaron's request for attorney fees
14	was brought by his Opposition and Countermotion to Tracy's Motion for
15	Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs to which Tracy filed a
16	Reply.
17	(B) Timing and Contents of the Motion.
18	Unless a statute or a court order provides otherwise, the motion must:
19	(i) be filed no later than 21 days after written notice of entry of judgment is served;
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COURT FINDS that the *Order From Hearing On April 21*, 2020 was entered on May 17, 2020, and the written *Notice of Entry of Order* was served on May 21, 2020. Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs was timely filed and served on May 6, 2020, and Aaron's request for attorney fees and costs was filed and served on May 20, 2020. Accordingly, both requests filed prior to *Notice of Entry* of the underlying *Order* to which they pertain were timely.

(ii) specify the judgment and the statute, rule, or other grounds entitling the movant to the award;

## Tracy's Request for Fees

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs

pertains to the *Order From Hearing On April 21, 2020* entered on May 17,

2020. Tracy seeks attorney fees and costs pursuant to NRS 18.010 and the *Marriage Settlement Agreement* ("MSA").

#### NRS 18.010(2)(b) states:

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

(b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party complaint or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. The court shall liberally construe the

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DISTRICT GUICE:
FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. C
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provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations. It is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions pursuant to Rule 11 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure in all appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in business and providing professional services to the public.

COURT FINDS that the parties' Marital Settlement Agreement 26.1

states:

Should litigation arise concerning the terms and condition of this Agreement, or breach of same by any party hereto, the prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees and costs in an amount awarded by the Court.

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COURT FINDS that this action commenced when Aaron filed a Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs through which Aaron asked for the following relief: (1) to modify the parties' timeshare to their de facto custodial arrangement; (2) to modify Aaron's child support obligation; (3) to equally split insurance costs; (4) to equally divide unreimbursed medical expenses pursuant to the 30/30 rule; and (5) to award Aaron attorney fees and costs.

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COURT FINDS that after determining that there was no change in circumstance as to either child custody or child support in this complex family matter that had been resolved less than a year ago, all of the relief requested by Aaron was denied. The Court recognized that the purpose of Aaron's *Motion* was to take advantage of the new child support regulations without an actual change in the custodial arrangement of the children or his income, but the new child support regulations expressly requires a change in circumstance. The Court was not persuaded that Aaron's argument which ignores the express provisions of the new child support regulations upon which Aaron wanted to take advantage is well grounded or reasonable. Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs is supported under both NRS 18.010(2)(b) was brought without reasonable ground and under the specific terms of the Marital Settlement Agreement 26.1. Aaron's Request for Fees

COURT FINDS that Aaron's request for attorney fees and costs was made pursuant to EDCR 7.60(b)(1) in response to Tracy's Countermotions.

#### Rule 7.60. Sanctions.

- (b) The court may, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, impose upon an attorney or a party any and all sanctions which may, under the facts of the case, be reasonable, including the imposition of fines, costs or attorney's fees when an attorney or a party without just cause:
- (1) Presents to the court a motion or an opposition to a motion which is obviously frivolous, unnecessary or unwarranted.

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COURT FINDS that through Tracy's Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Defendant's Countermotion to Modify Alimony; Enforce Provisions of the Parties' Marital Settlement Agreement; and for Attorney's Fees and Costs she asked for the following relief: (1) to modify alimony if child support was modified; (2) to enforce the MSA with respect to six incomplete items; and (3) to award Tracy attorney fees and costs.

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request to increase alimony was an alternative request for relief dependent upon Aaron's success in modifying his child support obligation which the Court does not find unreasonable or frivolous in light of the financial circumstances of this family.

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request to enforce the *Marital Settlement*Agreement was deferred 60 days to allow time for compliance of the same and those issues remain pending which makes Aaron's request for attorney fees premature.

(iii) state the amount sought or provide a fair estimate of it specify the judgment and the statute, rule, or other grounds entitling the movant to the award;

COURT FINDS that Tracy is requesting attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$15,587.50 to defend against Aaron's *Motion*; and that Aaron is

Page 6 of 10

REFOLD L. HERCH DISTRICT JUDGE FRAILY DIVISION, DENT. C LAS VEGG. NV 09101-2208

requesting attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$1,800 to defend against Tracy's *Countermotion*.

(iv) disclose, if the court so orders, the nonprivileged financial terms of any agreement about fees for the services for which the claim is made; and

COURT FINDS that the Court did not require either party to provide their attorney fee contracts.

### (v) be supported by:

(a) counsel's affidavit swearing that the fees were actually and necessarily incurred and were reasonable;

COURT FINDS that although Attorney Kynaston supplied an Affidavit, it does not explicitly state fees were actually and necessarily incurred and were reasonable; however, the Court gleans from the Motion and billing statement that the fees were actually and necessarily incurred.

COURT FINDS that Aaron argues that the fees were not reasonable because: (1) Attorney Kynaston would not need to spend the amount of time that he did in preparing the opposition and engaging in negotiations because he was counsel to Tracy and already familiar with the *Parenting Agreement*, the *Marital Settlement Agreement*, and the *Decree of Divorce* he negotiated; (2) the *Opposition* was similar to the letter Tracy sent; (3) Tracy filed fugitive documents that were not approved by the Court; and

Page 7 of 10

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(4) Attorney Kainen billed 2.7 (\$1,620) hours for preparing for a hearing 1 and reviewing the Order from the hearing duplicating the efforts of 2 Attorney Kynaston. In support of his argument, Aaron represents that his 3 total of attorney fees were less at \$10,450 and his counsel was new to the 4 case. The Court agrees that Tracy had the advantage of counsel already 5 familiar with the case (the Court itself specifically recalled the resolution 6 which was only a few months old), there were some duplicative efforts by 7 Tracy's counsel, and the Court was unable to separate those fees incurred 8 for Aaron's Motion from those fees incurred for Tracy's Countermotion 9 which is pending and for which an award of attorney fees to either party is 10 premature, all of which was considered by the Court. 11 12 (b) documentation concerning the amount of fees claimed; and 13 COURT FINDS that Tracy's Motion for Attorney's Fees and 14 Memorandum of Fees and Costs includes a breakdown of the services in 15 support of the fees and costs claimed. 16 17 (c) points and authorities addressing the appropriate factors to be considered by the court in deciding 18 the motion. COURT FINDS that Tracy supported her request with the factors 19 required by Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 455 P.2d 20

Page 8 of 10

DISTRICT JUNES FRAILY DIVISION, DEST.

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31 (1969) to include the qualities of the advocate, the character and difficulty of the work performed, the work actually performed by the attorney, and the result obtained, together with billing breakdown, and those factors and billing breakdown were reviewed and considered by this Court. In this regard, the Court finds that the hourly rate charged by Attorney Kynaston is justified by his education, experience, and expertise. The work included engaging in negotiations, drafting an *Opposition*, as well as a *Supplement*, attending the hearing, and preparing the resulting *Order* and this attorney fees request. The Court notes that staff was utilized to keep costs down. The result was favorable to Tracy.

(C) Extensions of Time. The court may not extend the time for filing the motion after the time has expired.

COURT FINDS that neither party asked for an extension of time.

(D) **Exceptions.** Rules 54(d)(2)(A) and (B) do not apply to claims for attorney fees as sanctions or when the applicable substantive law requires attorney fees to be proved at trial as an element of damages.

COURT FINDS that as required by *Miller v. Wilfong*, 121 Nev. 619 (2005) and *Wright v. Osburn*, (1998), the Court must consider the parties' respective financial means when making an award of fees in a family law matter. The court found Aaron's gross monthly income to not have

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PATRICT JUDGE
FAMILY DIVISION PROFILE
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changed since the *Decree of Divorce* was entered which set Aaron's gross monthly income at \$47,122.78. After deducting \$16,134.10 for funds provided monthly to Tracy for child support, alimony, and property equalization, Aaron has \$30,988.68 income which is still twice as much as Tracy's income. Aaron's financial position is obviously superior to Tracy's financial condition and he is much better able to absorb the attorney fees he caused Tracy to incur by the filing of his *Motion*.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Tracy is hereby awarded the sum of \$7,378.50 as and for attorney's fees and costs against Aaron, which sum is hereby reduced to judgment, which may be collected by any and all legal means.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorney fees regarding Tracy's Countermotion are denied without prejudice.

DATED June 19, 2020.

REBECCA L. BURTON
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
DEPARTMENT C

Page 10 of 10

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Case No: D-16-543114-D Department C

### NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

Please take notice that an ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS was entered in the foregoing action and the following is a true and correct copy thereof.

Dated: June 19, 2020

Aaron Romano, Plaintiff

Tracy Romano, Defendant.

/s/ Lourdes Child Lourdes Child Judicial Executive Assistant Department C

Case Number: D-16-543114-D

1	NEO			
2	L horoby cortify that an the above file stores date:			
2	I hereby certify that on the above file stamp date:			
3	I provided the foregoing <u>NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER</u> to:			
4	Dawn R. Throne, Esq. dawn@thronehauser.com			
5	Edward Kainen, Esq.			
6	service@kainenlawgroup.com			
,				
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.8,	/s/ Lourdes Child			
9	Lourdes Child Judicial Executive Assistant Department C			
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REFERENCE L. EMERICAN DISTRICT JUDGE TAMBLE DEVISION, DEPT. C

DISTRICT	COURT,	<b>FAMILY</b>	DIVISION
,	,		,

### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

AARON ROMANO,		
Plaintiff,		
vs.	) CASE NO. D-16-543114-D	
TRACY ROMANO,	) DEPT NO. C	
Defendant.	<ul><li>Date of Hearing: 06/10/2020</li><li>IN-CHAMBERS</li></ul>	
	<b>)</b>	

### ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS

THIS MATTER having come before the Court on Defendant, Tracy Romano ("Tracy")'s Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs served electronically on May 6, 2020; and on Plaintiff, Aaron Romano ("Aaron")'s Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54(d) served electronically on May 20, 2020; and on Tracy's Defendant's Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Opposition to Plaintiff's Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to  $N.R.C.P.\ 54(d)$  served electronically on May 27, 2020. Aaron is represented

Page 1 of 10

1	by Attorney Dawn Throne, and Tracy is represented by Attorney Andrew	
2	Kynaston. The Court having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file in	
3	this case and good cause appearing therefor	
4	NRCP 54(d) states:	
5	(d) Attorney Fees. (1) Reserved.	
6	(2) Attorney Fees.	
77	(A) <b>Claim to Be by Motion.</b> A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a	
7	postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a	
8	pending appeal from the underlying final judgment.	
9	COURT FINDS that Tracy's request for attorney fees was originally	
10	brought before the Court by her Opposition and Countermotion to Aaron's	
11	Motion. To allow both parties to fully brief the issue, the Court directed	
12	Tracy to file a separate Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of	
13	Fees and Costs pursuant to NRCP 54(d). Aaron's request for attorney fees	
14	was brought by his <i>Opposition and Countermotion</i> to Tracy's <i>Motion for</i>	
15	Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs to which Tracy filed a	
16	Reply.	
17	(B) Timing and Contents of the Motion.	
18	Unless a statute or a court order provides otherwise, the motion must:	
19	(i) be filed no later than 21 days after written notice of entry of judgment is served;	
20	////	
21	Page 2 of 10	

RESERVA L. BERTON BISTRICT JUDGE FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. C LAS VEGAS, NV 69101-2408

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ESESCIA L. EURION DISTRICT JUNE: FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. LAS VEGAS, NV 89101-240 COURT FINDS that the *Order From Hearing On April 21, 2020* was entered on May 17, 2020, and the written *Notice of Entry of Order* was served on May 21, 2020. Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs was timely filed and served on May 6, 2020, and Aaron's request for attorney fees and costs was filed and served on May 20, 2020. Accordingly, both requests filed prior to *Notice of Entry* of the underlying *Order* to which they pertain were timely.

(ii) specify the judgment and the statute, rule, or other grounds entitling the movant to the award;

### Tracy's Request for Fees

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs pertains to the *Order From Hearing On April 21, 2020* entered on May 17, 2020. Tracy seeks attorney fees and costs pursuant to NRS 18.010 and the *Marriage Settlement Agreement* ("MSA").

NRS 18.010(2)(b) states:

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

(b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party complaint or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. The court shall liberally construe the

Page 3 of 10

REDECTA L. BURTON
DISTRICT JUNGE
FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT,
LAU VEGAL NV 69101-240

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

COURT FINDS that the parties' Marital Settlement Agreement 26.1

states:

Should litigation arise concerning the terms and condition of this Agreement, or breach of same by any party hereto, the prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees and costs in an amount awarded by the Court.

COURT FINDS that this action commenced when Aaron filed a Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs through which Aaron asked for the following relief: (1) to modify the parties' timeshare to their de facto custodial arrangement; (2) to modify Aaron's child support obligation; (3) to equally split insurance costs; (4) to equally divide unreimbursed medical expenses pursuant to the 30/30 rule; and (5) to award Aaron attorney fees and costs.

Page 4 of 10

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COURT FINDS that after determining that there was no change in circumstance as to either child custody or child support in this complex family matter that had been resolved less than a year ago, all of the relief requested by Aaron was denied. The Court recognized that the purpose of Aaron's *Motion* was to take advantage of the new child support regulations without an actual change in the custodial arrangement of the children or his income, but the new child support regulations expressly requires a change in circumstance. The Court was not persuaded that Aaron's argument which ignores the express provisions of the new child support regulations upon which Aaron wanted to take advantage is well grounded or reasonable. Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs is supported under both NRS 18.010(2)(b) was brought without reasonable ground and under the specific terms of the Marital Settlement Agreement 26.1. Aaron's Request for Fees

COURT FINDS that Aaron's request for attorney fees and costs was made pursuant to EDCR 7.60(b)(1) in response to Tracy's Countermotions.

### Rule 7.60. Sanctions.

(b) The court may, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, impose upon an attorney or a party any and all sanctions which may, under the facts of the case, be reasonable, including the imposition of fines, costs or attorney's fees when an attorney or a party without just cause:

(1) Presents to the court a motion or an opposition to a motion which is obviously frivolous, unnecessary or unwarranted.

Page 5 of 10

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COURT FINDS that through Tracy's Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Defendant's Countermotion to Modify Alimony; Enforce Provisions of the Parties' Marital Settlement Agreement; and for Attorney's Fees and Costs she asked for the following relief: (1) to modify alimony if child support was modified; (2) to enforce the MSA with respect to six incomplete items; and (3) to award Tracy attorney fees and costs.

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request to increase alimony was an alternative request for relief dependent upon Aaron's success in modifying his child support obligation which the Court does not find unreasonable or frivolous in light of the financial circumstances of this family.

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request to enforce the *Marital Settlement*Agreement was deferred 60 days to allow time for compliance of the same and those issues remain pending which makes Aaron's request for attorney fees premature.

(iii) state the amount sought or provide a fair estimate of it specify the judgment and the statute, rule, or other grounds entitling the movant to the award;

COURT FINDS that Tracy is requesting attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$15,587.50 to defend against Aaron's *Motion*; and that Aaron is

Page 6 of 10

RESECUA L. BURTON
DISTRICT JUDGE
FRANKY DIVISION, DEPT. C.
LAE VECAS. NV 88101-2208

requesting attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$1,800 to defend against Tracy's *Countermotion*.

(iv) disclose, if the court so orders, the nonprivileged financial terms of any agreement about fees for the services for which the claim is made; and

COURT FINDS that the Court did not require either party to provide their attorney fee contracts.

### (v) be supported by:

(a) counsel's affidavit swearing that the fees were actually and necessarily incurred and were reasonable;

COURT FINDS that although Attorney Kynaston supplied an Affidavit, it does not explicitly state fees were actually and necessarily incurred and were reasonable; however, the Court gleans from the Motion and billing statement that the fees were actually and necessarily incurred.

COURT FINDS that Aaron argues that the fees were not reasonable because: (1) Attorney Kynaston would not need to spend the amount of time that he did in preparing the opposition and engaging in negotiations because he was counsel to Tracy and already familiar with the *Parenting Agreement*, the *Marital Settlement Agreement*, and the *Decree of Divorce* he negotiated; (2) the *Opposition* was similar to the letter Tracy sent; (3) Tracy filed fugitive documents that were not approved by the Court; and

Page 7 of 10

DISTRICT JUNES: EMMLY DIVISION, DEPT. C

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(4) Attorney Kainen billed 2.7 (\$1,620) hours for preparing for a hearing and reviewing the *Order* from the hearing duplicating the efforts of Attorney Kynaston. In support of his argument, Aaron represents that his total of attorney fees were less at \$10,450 and his counsel was new to the case. The Court agrees that Tracy had the advantage of counsel already familiar with the case (the Court itself specifically recalled the resolution which was only a few months old), there were some duplicative efforts by Tracy's counsel, and the Court was unable to separate those fees incurred for Aaron's *Motion* from those fees incurred for Tracy's *Countermotion* which is pending and for which an award of attorney fees to either party is premature, all of which was considered by the Court.

(b) documentation concerning the amount of fees claimed; and

COURT FINDS that Tracy's *Motion for Attorney's Fees and*Memorandum of Fees and Costs includes a breakdown of the services in support of the fees and costs claimed.

(c) points and authorities addressing the appropriate factors to be considered by the court in deciding the motion.

COURT FINDS that Tracy supported her request with the factors required by *Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 455 P.2d

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DISTRICT JUDGE
FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. C
LAS VEGAS. NV 89101-2408

31 (1969) to include the qualities of the advocate, the character and difficulty of the work performed, the work actually performed by the attorney, and the result obtained, together with billing breakdown, and those factors and billing breakdown were reviewed and considered by this Court. In this regard, the Court finds that the hourly rate charged by Attorney Kynaston is justified by his education, experience, and expertise. The work included engaging in negotiations, drafting an *Opposition*, as well as a *Supplement*, attending the hearing, and preparing the resulting *Order* and this attorney fees request. The Court notes that staff was utilized to keep costs down. The result was favorable to Tracy.

(C) Extensions of Time. The court may not extend the time for filing the motion after the time has expired.

COURT FINDS that neither party asked for an extension of time.

(D) **Exceptions.** Rules 54(d)(2)(A) and (B) do not apply to claims for attorney fees as sanctions or when the applicable substantive law requires attorney fees to be proved at trial as an element of damages.

COURT FINDS that as required by *Miller v. Wilfong*, 121 Nev. 619 (2005) and *Wright v. Osburn*, (1998), the Court must consider the parties' respective financial means when making an award of fees in a family law matter. The court found Aaron's gross monthly income to not have

Page 9 of 10

DISTRICT JUNCE FAMILY DIVISION, DEPT. IAS VEGAS, NV 89101-240

changed since the *Decree of Divorce* was entered which set Aaron's gross monthly income at \$47,122.78. After deducting \$16,134.10 for funds provided monthly to Tracy for child support, alimony, and property equalization, Aaron has \$30,988.68 income which is still twice as much as Tracy's income. Aaron's financial position is obviously superior to Tracy's financial condition and he is much better able to absorb the attorney fees he caused Tracy to incur by the filing of his *Motion*.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Tracy is hereby awarded the sum of \$7,378.50 as and for attorney's fees and costs against Aaron, which sum is hereby reduced to judgment, which may be collected by any and all legal means.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorney fees regarding Tracy's Countermotion are denied without prejudice.

DATED June 19, 2020.

REBECCA L. BURTON
DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
DEPARTMENT C

Page 10 of 10

6/25/2020 12:19 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **NOAS** Dawn R. Throne, Esq. 2 Nevada Bar No. 006145 THRONE & HAUSER 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100 Henderson, Nevada 89012 (702) 800-3580 (702) 800-3581 facsimile email: dawn@thronehauser.com Attorney for Plaintiff 7 **DISTRICT COURT** 8 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 9 AARON ROMANO, 10 Case No D-16-543114-D 11 Dept. No. Plaintiff, 12 vs. 13 TRACY ROMANO, 14 15 Defendant. 16 **AARON ROMANO'S NOTICE OF APPEAL** 17 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Plaintiff, Aaron Romano, hereby appeals 18 19 to the Supreme Court of Nevada from the ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY FEES 20 AND COSTS entered in this action on June 19, 2020. See Exhibit "A," attached 21 hereto. 22 **DATED** this day of June, 2020. 23 24 THRONE & HAUSER 25 Dawn R. Throne, Esq. 26 Nevada Bar No. 006145 27 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy., Suite 100 Henderson, Nevada 89012 28 (702) 800-3580 Attorney for Plaintiff

**Electronically Filed** 

# EXHIBIT A

Electronically Filed 6/19/2020 3:25 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT ORDR 1 2 DISTRICT COURT, FAMILY DIVISION 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA AARON ROMANO, 4 Plaintiff, 5 6 CASE NO. D-16-543114-D DEPT NO. C TRACY ROMANO. 7 Date of Hearing: 06/10/2020 8 Defendant. IN-CHAMBERS 9 10 ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS THIS MATTER having come before the Court on Defendant, Tracy 11 Romano ("Tracy")'s Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees 12 and Costs served electronically on May 6, 2020; and on Plaintiff, Aaron 13 Romano ("Aaron")'s Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees 14 and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorney's 15 Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54(d) served electronically on May 20, 2020; and 16 on Tracy's Defendant's Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's 17 Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and 18 Opposition to Plaintiff's Countermotion for Attorney's Fees Pursuant to 19 N.R.C.P. 54(d) served electronically on May 27, 2020. Aaron is represented 20 21 Page 1 of 10

by Attorney Dawn Throne, and Tracy is represented by Attorney Andrew 1 Kynaston. The Court having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file in 2 this case and good cause appearing therefor 3 NRCP 54(d) states: 4 (d) Attorney Fees. 5 (1) Reserved. б (2) Attorney Fees. (A) Claim to Be by Motion. A claim for attorney fees must be made by motion. The court may decide a 7 postjudgment motion for attorney fees despite the existence of a pending appeal from the underlying final judgment. 8 COURT FINDS that Tracy's request for attorney fees was originally 9 brought before the Court by her Opposition and Countermotion to Aaron's 10 Motion. To allow both parties to fully brief the issue, the Court directed 11 Tracy to file a separate Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of 12 Fees and Costs pursuant to NRCP 54(d). Aaron's request for attorney fees 13 was brought by his Opposition and Countermotion to Tracy's Motion for 14 Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs to which Tracy filed a 15 Reply. 16 17 (B) Timing and Contents of the Motion. Unless a statute or a court order provides otherwise, the 18 motion must: (i) be filed no later than 21 days after written 19 notice of entry of judgment is served; //// 20 21 Page 2 of 10

COURT FINDS that the Order From Hearing On April 21, 2020 was entered on May 17, 2020, and the written Notice of Entry of Order was served on May 21, 2020. Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs was timely filed and served on May 6, 2020, and Aaron's request for attorney fees and costs was filed and served on May 20, 2020. Accordingly, both requests filed prior to Notice of Entry of the underlying Order to which they pertain were timely.

(ii) specify the judgment and the statute, rule, or other grounds entitling the movant to the award;

## Tracy's Request for Fees

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs

pertains to the *Order From Hearing On April 21, 2020* entered on May 17,

2020. Tracy seeks attorney fees and costs pursuant to NRS 18.010 and the *Marriage Settlement Agreement* ("MSA").

### NRS 18.010(2)(b) states:

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

(b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim, counterclaim, cross-claim or third-party complaint or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. The court shall liberally construe the

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PERSONA L. BERRON DISTRICT GENCY: FAGILY DIVISION, DEPT. LAS VEGAS, NV 89181-240

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

COURT FINDS that the parties' Marital Settlement Agreement 26.1

states:

Should litigation arise concerning the terms and condition of this Agreement, or breach of same by any party hereto, the prevailing party shall be entitled to attorney's fees and costs in an amount awarded by the Court.

COURT FINDS that this action commenced when Aaron filed a Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs through which Aaron asked for the following relief: (1) to modify the parties' timeshare to their de facto custodial arrangement; (2) to modify Aaron's child support obligation; (3) to equally split insurance costs; (4) to equally divide unreimbursed medical expenses pursuant to the 30/30 rule; and (5) to award Aaron attorney fees and costs.

Page 4 of 10

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COURT FINDS that after determining that there was no change in circumstance as to either child custody or child support in this complex family matter that had been resolved less than a year ago, all of the relief requested by Aaron was denied. The Court recognized that the purpose of Aaron's *Motion* was to take advantage of the new child support regulations without an actual change in the custodial arrangement of the children or his income, but the new child support regulations expressly requires a change in circumstance. The Court was not persuaded that Aaron's argument which ignores the express provisions of the new child support regulations upon which Aaron wanted to take advantage is well grounded or reasonable. Tracy's request for attorney fees and costs is supported under both NRS 18.010(2)(b) was brought without reasonable ground and under the specific terms of the *Marital Settlement Agreement* 26.1.

Aaron's Request for Fees

COURT FINDS that Aaron's request for attorney fees and costs was made pursuant to EDCR 7.60(b)(1) in response to Tracy's *Countermotions*.

Rule 7.60. Sanctions.

(b) The court may, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, impose upon an attorney or a party any and all sanctions which may, under the facts of the case, be reasonable, including the imposition of fines, costs or attorney's fees when an attorney or a party without just cause:

(1) Presents to the court a motion or an opposition to a motion which is obviously frivolous, unnecessary or unwarranted.

Page 5 of 10

COURT FINDS that through Tracy's Defendant's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Confirm De Facto Physical Custody Arrangement of Children, to Modify Child Support and for Attorney's Fees and Costs and Defendant's Countermotion to Modify Alimony; Enforce Provisions of the Parties' Marital Settlement Agreement; and for Attorney's Fees and Costs she asked for the following relief: (1) to modify alimony if child support was modified; (2) to enforce the MSA with respect to six incomplete items; and (3) to award Tracy attorney fees and costs.

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request to increase alimony was an alternative request for relief dependent upon Aaron's success in modifying his child support obligation which the Court does not find unreasonable or frivolous in light of the financial circumstances of this family.

COURT FINDS that Tracy's request to enforce the *Marital Settlement*Agreement was deferred 60 days to allow time for compliance of the same and those issues remain pending which makes Aaron's request for attorney fees premature.

(iii) state the amount sought or provide a fair estimate of it specify the judgment and the statute, rule, or other grounds entitling the movant to the award;

COURT FINDS that Tracy is requesting attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$15,587.50 to defend against Aaron's *Motion*; and that Aaron is

Page 6 of 10

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requesting attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$1,800 to defend against Tracy's Countermotion.

(iv) disclose, if the court so orders, the nonprivileged financial terms of any agreement about fees for the services for which the claim is made; and

COURT FINDS that the Court did not require either party to provide their attorney fee contracts.

### (v) be supported by:

(a) counsel's affidavit swearing that the fees were actually and necessarily incurred and were reasonable;

COURT FINDS that although Attorney Kynaston supplied an Affidavit, it does not explicitly state fees were actually and necessarily incurred and were reasonable; however, the Court gleans from the Motion and billing statement that the fees were actually and necessarily incurred.

COURT FINDS that Aaron argues that the fees were not reasonable because: (1) Attorney Kynaston would not need to spend the amount of time that he did in preparing the opposition and engaging in negotiations because he was counsel to Tracy and already familiar with the *Parenting Agreement*, the *Marital Settlement Agreement*, and the *Decree of Divorce* he negotiated; (2) the *Opposition* was similar to the letter Tracy sent; (3) Tracy filed fugitive documents that were not approved by the Court; and

Page 7 of 10

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FREELY DIVISION, DEPT. (

(4) Attorney Kainen billed 2.7 (\$1,620) hours for preparing for a hearing and reviewing the *Order* from the hearing duplicating the efforts of Attorney Kynaston. In support of his argument, Aaron represents that his total of attorney fees were less at \$10,450 and his counsel was new to the case. The Court agrees that Tracy had the advantage of counsel already familiar with the case (the Court itself specifically recalled the resolution which was only a few months old), there were some duplicative efforts by Tracy's counsel, and the Court was unable to separate those fees incurred for Aaron's *Motion* from those fees incurred for Tracy's *Countermotion* which is pending and for which an award of attorney fees to either party is premature, all of which was considered by the Court.

(b) documentation concerning the amount of fees claimed; and

COURT FINDS that Tracy's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs includes a breakdown of the services in support of the fees and costs claimed.

(c) points and authorities addressing the appropriate factors to be considered by the court in deciding the motion.

COURT FINDS that Tracy supported her request with the factors required by *Brunzell v. Golden Gate National Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 455 P.2d

Page 8 of 10

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31 (1969) to include the qualities of the advocate, the character and difficulty of the work performed, the work actually performed by the attorney, and the result obtained, together with billing breakdown, and those factors and billing breakdown were reviewed and considered by this Court. In this regard, the Court finds that the hourly rate charged by Attorney Kynaston is justified by his education, experience, and expertise. The work included engaging in negotiations, drafting an *Opposition*, as well as a *Supplement*, attending the hearing, and preparing the resulting *Order* and this attorney fees request. The Court notes that staff was utilized to keep costs down. The result was favorable to Tracy.

(C) Extensions of Time. The court may not extend the time for filing the motion after the time has expired.

COURT FINDS that neither party asked for an extension of time.

(D) Exceptions. Rules 54(d)(2)(A) and (B) do not apply to claims for attorney fees as sanctions or when the applicable substantive law requires attorney fees to be proved at trial as an element of damages.

COURT FINDS that as required by *Miller v. Wilfong*, 121 Nev. 619 (2005) and *Wright v. Osburn*, (1998), the Court must consider the parties' respective financial means when making an award of fees in a family law matter. The court found Aaron's gross monthly income to not have

Page 9 of 10

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changed since the *Decree of Divorce* was entered which set Aaron's gross monthly income at \$47,122.78. After deducting \$16,134.10 for funds provided monthly to Tracy for child support, alimony, and property equalization, Aaron has \$30,988.68 income which is still twice as much as Tracy's income. Aaron's financial position is obviously superior to Tracy's financial condition and he is much better able to absorb the attorney fees he caused Tracy to incur by the filing of his *Motion*.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Tracy is hereby awarded the sum of \$7,378.50 as and for attorney's fees and costs against Aaron, which sum is hereby reduced to judgment, which may be collected by any and all legal means.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that attorney fees regarding Tracy's Countermotion are denied without prejudice.

DATED June 19, 2020.

REBECCA L. BURTON DISTRICT COURT JUDGE DEPARTMENT C

Page 10 of 10

DISTRICT GENCE DISTRICT GENCE EMILY DIVISION, DEAT, O TAC VERES, BY ADJUSTMENT

### ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 7/25/2020 9:09 AM

	7725/2020 9.09 AW	Electronically Filed 07/25/2020 9:09 AM			
1	SAO	CLERK OF THE COURT			
2	Dawn R. Throne, Esq.				
3	Nevada Bar No. 006145  Michelle A. Hauser, Esq.				
	Nevada Bar No. 007738				
4	THRONE&HAUSER				
5	1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Ste. 100 Henderson, Nevada 89017				
6	(702) 800-3580 (703) 800-3581 foogimile				
7	email: dawn@thronehauser.com				
8	Attorney for Plaintiff				
9					
10	DISTRICT COURT				
11					
12	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA				
13					
14	AARON ROMANO,  Case No. D-16-54	3114-D			
15	Dept. No. C				
16	vs.				
17					
18	TRACY ROMANO,				
19	Training,				
20	Defendant.				
21					
22	STIPULATION AND ORDER RE: STAY OF ORDE	R ENTERED			
23	ON JUNE 19, 2020 REGARDING ORDER AW ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COST PENDING A	ARDING PPFAL			
24					
25	WHEREAS, Defendant filed a "Motion for Attorney's Fee	s and Memorandum			
	of Fees and Costs, which was served on May 6, 2020;				
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27					
28	•••				
	***************************************	S&O t to Stay Collections			
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WHEREAS, on May 20, 2020, Plaintiff filed his "Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorneys Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54;"

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2020, Defendant filed her "Reply to Plaintiff's Opposition to Defendant's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Memorandum of Fees and Costs and Countermotion for Attorneys Fees Pursuant to NRCP 54;"

WHEREAS, the District Court issued its decision on June 19, 2020, wherein the District Court awarded the Defendant, Tracy Romano, the amount of \$7,378.50 for attorney's fees and cost against Plaintiff, Aaron Romano; and

WHEREAS, Plaintiff, Aaron Romano, filed a timely Notice of Appeal regarding the "Order Awarding Attorney Fees and Costs."

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED, by and between the parties hereto, by and through their respective counsel, that the "Order Awarding Attorney Fees and Costs" entered on June 19, 2020, is hereby stayed pending appeal. Meaning that Defendant, Tracy Romano, and any of her agents, including her attorney of record, may take no action to collect on these fees while the appeal is pending.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED that, in lieu of posting a bond, Plaintiff, Aaron Romano, shall deposit into Defendant's counsel's IOLTA Trust account the sum of \$7,378.50 within five days of Notice of Entry of "STIPULATION AND ORDER RE: STAY OF ORDER ENTERED ON JUNE 19, 2020 REGARDING ORDER AWARDING ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COST."

| . .

1 IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED, that Defendant, Tracy Romano, and her 2 attorneys of record Edward Kainen, Esq., Andrew L. Kynaston, Esq. and any and all 3 employees of Kainen Law Group shall not withdraw any of these funds held in the 4 IOLTA Trust Account consistent with this Stipulation and Order absent a written 5 stipulation of the parties or an order of the Court. 6 STIPULATED AND AGREED STIPULATED AND AGREED this are day of July, 2020. this 24th day of July, 2020. 8 THRONE & HAUSER KAINEN LAW GROUP, PLLC 10 12 Dawn R. Throne, Esq. Andrew L. Kynaston, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 006145 13 Nevada Bar No. (08147 Michelle A. Hauser, Esq. 3303 Novat Street, Ste. 200 Nevada Bar No. 007738 Las Vegas, NV 89129 1070 W. Horizon Ridge Pkwy, Ste. 100 (702) 823-4900 Henderson, Nevada 89012 Attorney for Defendant 16 (702) 800-3580 Attorney for Plaintiff 17 ORDER 18 19 Based upon the above Stipulation of the parties and good cause appearing 20 therefore, 21 IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the "Order Awarding Attorney Fees and 22 Costs" entered on June 19, 2020, is hereby stayed pending Plaintiff's appeal. 23 24 Meaning that Defendant, Tracy Romano, and any of her agents including her 25 attorney of record, may take no action to collect on these fees. 26 27 28

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S&O t to Stay Collections

**CSERV** 

#### DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Aaron Romano, Plaintiff

CASE NO: D-16-543114-D

vs.

DEPT. NO. Department C

Tracy Romano, Defendant.

### **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

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