# **Marquis Aurbach Coffing**

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Attorneys for Respondent

Electronically Filed Jul 31 2020 03:33 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

### IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

CLEMENT MUNEY; AND CHEF EXEC SUPPLIERS, LLC,

Case No.: 81356

Appellants,

VS.

DOMINIQUE ARNOULD,

Respondent.

Appeal from the Eighth Judicial District Court, The Honorable Judge Nancy L. Allf Presiding.

# **MOTION TO DISMISS APPEAL**

Dominique Arnould, by and through his attorneys of record, Marquis Aurbach Coffing, hereby moves this Court to dismiss this appeal with prejudice pursuant to NRAP 27. This Motion is made and based upon the Memorandum of Points and Authorities and the pleadings and papers on file herein.

Page 1 of 8

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# **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

# I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

This appeal suffers from severe jurisdictional defects. Pursuant to NRCP 54(b), the Court should dismiss this appeal for its failure to appeal from a final and appealable order. The order at issue in this appeal awarded sanctions against Appellant's counsel, which is not a final appealable determination. Since the defects in this appeal are jurisdictional, Respondent respectfully requests that this Court dismiss this appeal pursuant to NRAP 27.

# II. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

On October 11, 2019, Plaintiff, Dominque Arnould ("Arnould"), filed a Complaint seeking the judicial dissolution of Defendant Chef Exec Suppliers, LLC (the "Company").<sup>1</sup> The Complaint also sought the appointment of a receiver, declaratory relief, accounting, and breach of fiduciary duty against Defendant Clement Muney ("Muney"). On November 7, 2019, Defendant Muney filed an Answer to Arnould's Complaint and filed Counterclaims against Arnould.<sup>2</sup>

On or about June 10, 2020, Muney locked Arnould out of the Company's Nevada warehouse, forcing Arnould to file his Emergency Request for Telephonic Hearing For Appointment of Receiver to Take Over the Warehouse of For the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Complaint, attached hereto as **Exhibit A.** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> See Answer and Counterclaims, attached hereto as **Exhibit B.** 

Order Allowing Access (the "Emergency Request").<sup>3</sup> The gist of Arnould's Emergency Request was for the appointed receiver to oversee access of the warehouse.<sup>4</sup>

On June 10, 2020, a hearing was held following the Emergency Request.<sup>5</sup> Counsel for Respondent appeared.<sup>6</sup> However, Robert Kern, Esq., counsel for Appellants, failed to appear.<sup>7</sup> It was later found that Mr. Kern had the time to file a responsive pleading stating that he's unable to attend the hearing as he was preparing for oral argument before the Nevada Supreme Court, but refused to make the time to attend the telephonic hearing.<sup>8</sup> It was found that Mr. Kern emailed the Court and counsel "protesting" any hearing being held without his presence.<sup>9</sup>

The District Court's staff attempted to contact Mr. Kern prior to the hearing, but was informed that Mr. Kern was unavailable. 10 Nevertheless, the hearing went

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See Plaintiff's Emergency Request for Telephonic Hearing for An Appointment of Receiver to Take Over the Warehouse, attached hereto as **Exhibit C.** 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See id.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> See Order Issuing Sanction, attached hereto as Exhibit D.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> *Id*.

forward on June 10, 2020, and, out of professional courtesy, the District Court, *sua sponte*, continued the matter to June 12, 2020.<sup>11</sup> At the June 12, 2020 hearing, Mr. Kern was provided an opportunity to explain his June 10, 2020 actions on the record.<sup>12</sup>

On June 12, 2020, the District Court entered its Order Issuing Sanctions (the "Order") which is the subject of this appeal. The Discrict Court found Mr. Kern's failure to appear at the June 10, 2020 hearing or respond to the District Court's staff was unexcused, inappropriate, and demeaned the District Court. Finally, the District Court noted its discretion to impose sanctions for professional misconduct.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> *Id*.

 $<sup>^{12}</sup>$  *Id*.

 $<sup>^{13}</sup>$  *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> *Id*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> *Id.* citing *Young v. Johnny Ribeiro Building*, 106 Nev. 88, 92, 787 P.2d 777, 779 (1990); *see also Lioce vs. Cohen*, 124 Nev. 1 (2008) (explaining that "sanctions for professional misconduct at trial in civil cases are best considered in the first instance by the district court. Therefore, the district court may, on a party's motion or *sua sponte*, impose sanctions for professional misconduct at trial ...").

Notably, the Order Issuing Sanctions, was not certified as a final order under NRCP 54(b). Regardless, on June 15, 2020, Muney filed his Notice of Appeal, and, on July 28, 2020, Muney filed his Case Appeal Statement.<sup>16</sup>

# III. <u>LEGAL ARGUMENT</u>

A final, appealable order is "one that disposes of all the issues presented in the case, and leaves nothing for the future consideration of the court, except for post-judgment issues such as attorney's fees and costs." *Lee v. GNLV Corp.*, 116 Nev. 424, 426, 996 P.2d 416, 417 (2000). In examining finality, this Court looks at "what the order or judgment actually does" with respect to each claim. *Valley Bank of Nevada v. Ginsburg*, 110 Nev. 440, 445, 874 P.2d 729, 733 (1994).

Under NRCP 54(b), when multiple parties are involved in an action, a judgment is not final unless the rights and liabilities of all parties are adjudicated. *Rae v. All Am. Life & Cas. Co.*, 95 Nev. 920, 605 P.2d 196 (1979). Only when a district court expressly determines that there is no just reason for delay and directs the entry of judgment as final, does the judgment become final. *Mallin v. Farmers Ins. Exch.*, 106 Nev. 606, 797 P.2d 978 (1990). The Supreme Court has

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> See Case Appeal Statement, attached hereto as Exhibit E.

jurisdiction to entertain an appeal only where an appeal is authorized by statute or court rule. *See e.g. Valley Bank of Nevada*, 110 Nev. at 444, 874 P.2d. at 732.

In the instant case, the Appellants have not appealed from an appealable order under NRCP 54(b), and, therefore, his appeal is jurisdictionally defective. The District Court's Order at issue was never certified as final under NRCP 54(b); nor did the Order adjudicate all of the claims, rights, and liabilities of all parties.<sup>17</sup> Because this appeal is from an order that was not final, this appeal is jurisdictionally defective and must be dismissed. The Appellants' Case Appeal Statement even admits that the order being appealed was an order which "Awarded Sanctions against counsel," which is also not an appealable determination under NRAP 3A(b).<sup>18</sup> In sum, the Order Issuing Sanctions is not final, and, therefore, this appeal must be dismissed as jurisdictionally defective.

<sup>17</sup> See Exhibit D.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> *See* **Exhibit E**, at p. 2, ¶10.

# IV. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

Pursuant NRCP 54(b), the Court must dismiss this appeal for its failure to appeal from a final and appealable Order. Since the defects in this appeal are jurisdictional, Respondent respectfully requests this Court dismiss this appeal pursuant to NRAP 27.

Dated this 31st day of July, 2020.

MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By /s/ Alexander K. Calaway

Phillip S. Aurbach, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 1501 Alexander K. Calaway, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 15188 10001 Park Run Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89145 Attorneys for Respondent

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing MOTION TO DISMISS APPEAL was filed electronically with the Nevada Supreme Court on the 31st day of July, 2020. Electronic Service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the Master Service List as follows:

### Robert Kern

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

Persi J. Mishel 10161 Park Run Dr., Suite 150 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145 Settlement Judge

/s/ Leah Dell

Leah Dell, an employee of Marquis Aurbach Coffing

# INDEX OF EXHIBITS TO MOTION TO DISMISS APPEAL

Exhibit No.	Description
A.	Complaint (10/11/19)
B.	Answer and Counterclaims (11/07/19)
C.	Plaintiff's Emergency Request for Telephonic Hearing for Appointment of Receiver to Take Over the Warehouse or for Order Allowing Access (06/10/20)
D.	Order Issuing Sanctions (06/12/20)
E.	Case Appeal Statement (07/28/20)



MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 1 Marquis Aurbach Coffing Phillip S. Aurbach, Esq. 2 Nevada Bar No. 1501 10001 Park Run Drive 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145 Telephone: (702) 382-0711 CASE NO: A-19-803488-B Facsimile: (702) 382-5816 4 paurbach@maclaw.com 5 Attorneys for Plaintiff 6 DISTRICT COURT 7 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 8 DOMINIQUE ARNOULD, 9 Case No.: Plaintiff, Dept. No.: 10 11 **Arbitration Exemption Requested:** VS. (Declaratory Relief) 12 13 CLEMENT MUNEY; CHEF EXEC **Business Court Requested:** SUPPLIERS, LLC; and DOES I through X, (NRS Chapters 78-92A) 14 inclusive; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive, 15 Defendants. 16 17 **COMPLAINT FOR APPOINTMENT OF A RECEIVER OR DISSOLUTION OF LLC;** DECLARATORY RELIEF; BREACH OF FIDUCIARY DUTY; AND DAMAGES 18 19 Plaintiff DOMINIQUE ARNOULD (hereinafter "Arnould") by and through his attorneys Marquis Aurbach Coffing, alleges and complains as follows: 20 21 **PARTIES** 

- 1. Clement Muney (hereinafter Muney) is a 50% owner/member and co-manager of CHEF EXEC SUPPLIERS, LLC, (hereinafter Chef Suppliers or the Company).
  - 2. Arnould is the other 50% owner/member and co-manager of Chef Suppliers.
- 3. Muney and Chef Suppliers at all relevant times mentioned herein, were doing business in Clark County, Nevada.
- 4. The names and capacities, whether individuals, corporate, associate or otherwise of Defendants named herein as DOE and ROE CORPORATION are unknown or not yet Page 1 of 5

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confirmed. Upon information and belief, said DOE and ROE CORPORATION Defendants are responsible for damages suffered by Plaintiff and, therefore, Plaintiff sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Plaintiff will ask leave to amend this Complaint to show the true names and capacities of each DOE and ROE CORPORATION Defendant at such time as the same has been ascertained.

### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This Court possesses:
- a. Subject matter jurisdiction because District Courts have subject matter jurisdiction over claims that are not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Justice Court pursuant to Article 6, Section 6.1 of the Nevada Constitution and this claim is not within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Justice Court.
- This Court has personal jurisdiction over the Defendants because the b. Defendants reside in and do business in Clark County, NV.

### **BACKGROUND FACTS**

- 6. Arnould and Muney are 50/50 owners of Chef Suppliers.
- 7. Arnould and Muney are both are managers of Chef Suppliers.
- 8. Chef Suppliers has no written operating agreement.
- 9. Disputes between Arnould and Muney have arisen and are so deep that it is not reasonably practicable to carry on the business of the Company.
- 10. One of the disputes is that Las Vegas rent for Chef Suppliers was approximately \$3,800/month. The lease expired and the landlord wanted approximately \$5,800/month. Without any joint agreement, Muney is paying almost \$11,000/month rent. This rent is paid from sales of Chef Suppliers inventory. This is a breach of his fiduciary duty owed to Arnould and thus, Muney should be personally responsible for the difference between \$5,800/month and \$11,000/ month.
- 11. It has been impossible to get Muney to discuss his breach of fiduciary duties including but not limited to forming a new entity and having payments for Chef Suppliers'

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inventory go to his new entity, which was formed without the knowledge or consent of Plaintiff Arnould.

- 12. A manager may ask a court to dissolve an LLC when, pursuant to NRS 86.495, it is not reasonably practicable to carry on the business of the company.
  - 13. Arnould is a manager.
- 14. It would be a futile effort to make a demand on Muney since Muney is not disinterested, Muney's judgment is materially affected in favor of his actions and against the best interests of Chef Suppliers and nothing can be accomplished when both disagree on the direction of the company.
- 15. Arnould or Chef Suppliers derivatively have been damaged by Defendants' actions in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Declaratory Relief, Receiver and Dissolution)

- 16. Arnould repeats and re-alleges the above paragraphs as though fully stated herein.
- 17. Because it is not reasonably practicable to carry on the business of the company an Order granting dissolution should be entered pursuant to NRS 86.495 and 86.505.
- 18. This Court should declare that the requirements for the appointment of a Receiver to run the Las Vegas operations of Chef Suppliers and potentially dissolve the company since the requirements for Dissolution have been met.
- 19. In order to pursue his claims as a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct outlined herein, Arnould has incurred attorneys' fees as special damages in the sum of \$5,000 as of the date of filing this pleading and increasing up to and through trial and appeal, if any.

# SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF (Breach of Fiduciary Duty & Accounting)

- 20. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the paragraphs above as though fully stated herein.
- 21. Arnould believes that Muney has taken money and diverted business opportunities and customers from Defendant Chef Suppliers and by virtue thereof has breached his fiduciary duties to Chef Suppliers and to Arnould.

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22.	Defendant	Muney	owes	such	funds	and	profits	derived	therefrom	to	Chef
Suppliers and	d/or Arnould.										

- 23. The Court should order a yearly accounting of all funds taken in and spent from Chef Suppliers for the last 3 years so Arnould can determine the amount of Muney's defalcation.
- 24. Arnould or Chef Suppliers derivatively is entitled to a judgment in an amount in excess of \$15,000 as a direct and proximate result of Defendant Muney's actions.
- 25. In order to pursue and defend its claims as a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' conduct outlined herein, Arnould has incurred attorneys' fees as special damages in the sum of \$5,000 as of the date of this pleading and increasing up to and through trial and appeal, if any.

### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Arnould prays for the following relief against Defendants:

- For an Order Appointing a Receiver and an Order requiring dissolution of Chef Suppliers in the ordinary course by the Receiver or by Arnould, its manager.
- 2. For a judgment in favor of Arnould or Chef Suppliers in a sum in excess of \$15,000; Against Muney for Defendant Muney's breach of fiduciary duty.
- 3. Attorneys fees as special damages in the sum of \$5,000 against Defendants as of the date of this pleading and increasing up to and through trial and appeal, if any, and
  - 4. For any further relief as the Court deems to be just and proper. Dated this 11th day of October, 2019.

### MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By /s/ Phillip S. Aurbach Phillip S. Aurbach, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 1501 10001 Park Run Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89145 Attorney(s) for Plaintiff

# MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING 10001 Park Run Drive Las Vegas, Nevada 89145 (702) 382-0711 FAX: (702) 382-5816

# **VERIFICATION**

Under penalties of perjury, the undersigned declares that he is the plaintiff named in the foregoing complaint and knows the contents thereof; that the pleading is true of his own knowledge, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and that as to such matters he believes it to be true.

Dated this 10 day of October, 2019

DOMINIQUE ARNOULD



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1 ANS Robert Kern, Esq. Nevada Bar Number 10104 KERN LAW, Ltd. 601 S. 6th Street Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 518-4529 phone 5 (702) 825-5872 fax Admin@KernLawOffices.com Attorney for Defendants 7 IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 8 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 9 10 DOMINIQUE ARNOULD, Case Number: A-19-803488-B 11 Plaintiff, Dept. Number: 27 VS. 12 CLEMENT MUNEY; CHEF EXEC 13 SUPPLIERS, LLC; and DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIMS 14 through X, inclusive, 15 Defendants. 16 17 CLEMENT MUNEY; and CHEF EXEC 18 SUPPLIERS, LLC,

19 Plaintiffs, VS. 20 DOMINIQUE ARNOULD, 21

Defendant.

COME NOW Defendants, CLEMENT MUNEY, (hereinafter "Muney"), and CHEF 26 | EXEC SUPPLIERS, LLC (hereinafter, "CHEFEXEC") by and through their undersigned counsel Robert Kern, ESQ., of KERN LAW, Ltd. and submit this Answer and Counterclaims to Plaintiff's Complaint on file herein and allege and aver as follows:

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9.	Plaintiff has made allegations with knowledge of their actual falsity and therefore
said claim	is violative of the rules of civil procedure and therefore the stated claims should
be dismiss	sed.

- Plaintiff's claims, and each of them, are barred due to fraud.
- By virtue of Plaintiff's actions, conduct, and omissions, this answering efendant has been released.
- The claims of Plaintiff have been waived as a result of the acts and the conduct the Plaintiff.
- Plaintiff suffered no damage and therefore is not entitled to any relief.
- Plaintiff, by his acts, conduct and/or omissions, has ratified the acts, conduct and nissions, if any, of these answering Defendants; therefore, Plaintiff is barred from seeking y relief from these answering Defendants.
- These answering Defendants have not had sufficient time to prepare and obtain fficient facts to determine all potential affirmative defenses. Therefore, these answering efendants reserve the right to amend these affirmative defenses as additional facts are tained and/or additional affirmative facts are discovered.

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### **COUNTER-CLAIM**

# Against PLAINTIFF DOMINIQUE ARNOULD

COME NOW Defendants, CLEMENT MUNEY, (hereinafter "Muney"), and CHEF EXEC SUPPLIERS, LLC (hereinafter, "CHEFEXEC") by and through their undersigned counsel Robert Kern, ESQ., of KERN LAW, Ltd. and submit the following COUNTERCLAIMS against counter-defendant DOMINIQUE ARBOULD and allege and aver as follows:

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### **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 1. Jurisdiction and venue have been established by the elements of Plaintiff's Complaint that Defendants have admitted to.
- 2. Parties Dominique Arnould (hereinafter, "Arnould") and Muney are equal coowners of Chef Exec, LLC, a Nevada LLC with no current operating agreement.
- 3. From the time Chefexec was founded, Arnould managed the Los Angeles side of the company, and Muney managed the Las Vegas side of the company.
- 4. The different branches of the company have been run largely independently of each other, with the only exception being that Arnould has been responsible for accounting for the entire company (including invoicing for both branches), and Muney has been responsible for marketing and supply for the whole company. At no time have the parties agreed that either would receive extra compensation for the work they perform for the company.
- 5. Both the Los Angeles and Las Vegas branches of Chefexec have been operating at a profit for the last several years.
- 6. Because Arnould managed the accounting through a local version of Quickbooks, and did not share the accounting files with Muney, Muney was unaware of some details of Arnould's practices until recently, sometime after the Quickbooks account was transferred to a cloud server, allowing Muney to access the information from Las Vegas.
- 7. Arnould is also an owner of two other companies, AAA Food Service, and Wines of the World. Upon review of accounting records and invoices, it appears that Arnould has been self dealing in favor of AAA Food Service and Wines of the World, to the detriment of Chefexec.
- 8. Both parties agreed to the lease of a warehouse in LA, upon the condition that AAA Food Service and Wines of the World would split the rent of the space equally, so they could share the space. However from review of the books it appears that Arnould did not charge those companies any rent the first few months, and since then has charged both of

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them a total of only around 10% of the rent, leaving Chefexec to pay the remaining amount, in contravention of the agreement in which the lease was made.

- 9. Records also show that Arnould has sold significant merchandise from Chefexec to AAA Food Service, at significant discounts, without authorization or knowledge from Muney.
- 10. Records also show that although both Muney and Arnould are owners, and neither have agreed to pay themselves for their work on the company, Arnould has made a practice of paying himself commissions for sales, including for sales to his own company, AAA Food Service, for sales to companies that the partners agreed would be "house" customers (no commission paid), and sales to customers brought in by sales reps who had left the company (and thus whose customers should have become "house" customers).
- 11. Records show invoices for products to customers, but assigned a zero cost without explanation. Such customers have verified that they never received said products. This suggests Arnould was likely either providing free product to his own companies, or selling the product under the table and keeping the proceeds.
- 12. Chefexec previously leased a 7,745 sq/ft warehouse in Las Vegas, on a long-term lease it had held for multiple years, giving it a the company a lower-than-market price for the space.
- 13. Chefexec's lease of the previous warehouse expired on September 30, 2019. To renew the lease, the landlord required a 3-year lease, with a personal guarantee signed by both owners of Chefexec. When Muney requested that Arnould sign the lease renewal, Arnould refused, and his counsel advised Muney to lease the space with another company and sub-lease to Chefexec from that company (in an email that Arnould was copied on).
- 14. Muney did as instructed, and leased through a separate company, who charged Chefexec market price for the space.
- 15. After filing the complaint initiating the present action, Arnould withdrew \$15,000 from Chefexec without authorization or notice, and later admitted that he had taken it, and

that he intended it as a distribution to himself. His only justification was that he disagreed with Muney's signing of the Las Vegas warehouse lease.

- 16. In early 2019, Arnould indicated that he wished to retire soon and wanted to be bought out from his portion of Chefexec. Arnould had made no significant complaints about his partnership with Muney prior to deciding that he wished to retire.
- 17. Muney believes that a forensic audit of Chefexec's books will show additional wrongdoing by Arnould.

# FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Fiduciary Duty)

- 18. Counter-Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of their Counterclaim as though fully set forth herein.
- 19. Arnould, as co-owner and co-manager of an LLC, owed a Fiduciary Duty to Counter-Plaintiffs Chefexec and Muney to manage the business, funds, and assets according to law and agreement.
- 20. Arnould breached that duty by acts including, but not limited to: using his position as book-keeper to pay himself funds that belonged to the company, allocating himself commissions that he was not entitled to, using Chefexec to provide benefits to his own companies, at Chefexec's detriment, without authorization, and seeking to dissolve the company when Muney did not offer him as much money as he wanted for a buyout.
- 21. As a direct result of said breach, Counter-Plaintiffs were damaged by loss of said funds, and business, in an amount in excess of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), the exact amount to be proven at time of trial.
- 22. It has been necessary for Counter-Plaintiffs to obtain the legal services of Kern Law and they are therefore entitled to reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action.
- 23. The damages were suffered as a direct and proximate result of the conduct described herein by Counter-Defendant, who acted knowingly with malice and oppression, all to

1	Counter-Plaintiffs' harm, and therefore should be punished for their wrongful conduct with				
2	punitive damages in an amount to be established at trial.				
3	pullitive damages in an amount to be established at trial.				
4	SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION				
5	(Conversion)				
6	24. Counter-Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in the preceding				
7	paragraphs of their Counterclaim as though fully set forth herein.				
8	25. Counter-Plaintiffs are the legal owners of funds that were taken by Counter-				
9	Defendant, without legal right or authorization.				
10	26. Counter-Defendant wrongfully and unlawfully took control of said funds, as detailed				
11	above, in denial of, and to the exclusion of, Counter-Plaintiffs' rights thereto.				
12	27. As a result of Counter-Defendant's actions, Counter-Plaintiffs have incurred				
13	damages in excess of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), the exact amount to be proven at				
14	time of trial.				
15	28. It has been necessary for Counter-Plaintiffs to obtain the legal services of Kern Law				
16	and they are therefore entitled to reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs incurred in this				
17	action.				
18	29. The damages were suffered as a direct and proximate result of the conduct described				
19	herein by Counter-Defendants, who acted knowingly with malice and oppression, all to				
20	Counter-Plaintiffs' harm, and therefore should be punished for their wrongful conduct with				
21	punitive damages in an amount to be established at trial.				
22	THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION				
23	THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION  (Money Had and Received)				
24					
25	30. Counter-Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in the preceding				
26	paragraphs of their Counterclaim as though fully set forth herein.				
27	31. Arnould received monies that belonged to Counter-Plaintiffs in the form of funds				
	taken from the business.				
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- 32. Arnould ought, in equity and good conscience, to pay over the funds wrongfully retained.
- 33. Arnould has so far refused to pay over the amounts owed.
- 34. As a direct result of these actions, Counter-Plaintiffs have incurred damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000, the exact amount to be proven at trial.
- It has been necessary for Counter-Plaintiffs to obtain the legal services of Kern Law 35. and they are therefore entitled to reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action.
- 36. The damages were suffered as a direct and proximate result of the conduct described herein by Counter-Defendant, who acted knowingly with malice and oppression, all to Counter-Plaintiffs' harm, and therefore should be punished for their wrongful conduct with punitive damages in an amount to be established at trial.

# **FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Unjust Enrichment)

- 37. Counter-Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of their Counterclaim as though fully set forth herein.
- 38. The benefit of receipt of funds and monies belonging to Chefexec, or other sales reps or owners of Chefexec, was conferred upon Arnould.
- 39. Arnould took and kept said funds, clearly appreciating the benefit.
- 40. Arnould did not return said funds, and thus retained the benefits received.
- As said funds were over an above any funds Arnould was entitled to take from the 41. company, Arnould's taking and retention of the benefit of said funds is inequitable and unjust.
- 42. As a direct result of these actions, Chefexec and Muney have incurred damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000, the exact amount to be proven at trial.
- It has been necessary for Counter-Plaintiffs to obtain the legal services of Kern Law and they are therefore entitled to reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action.

44. The damages were suffered as a direct and proximate result of the conduct described herein by Counter-Defendant, who acted knowingly with malice and oppression, all to Counter-Plaintiffs' harm, and therefore should be punished for their wrongful conduct with punitive damages in an amount to be established at trial.

### **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

(Constructive Fraud)

- 45. Counter-Plaintiffs repeat and re-allege the allegations contained in the preceding paragraphs of their Counterclaim as though fully set forth herein.
- 46. By virtue of the fiduciary relationship between Arnould, Muney, and Chefexec, Arnould had a duty to lawfully manage and disburse the funds and assets belonging to Chefexec. As described in the general allegations above, Arnould breached this duty by his wrongful and intentional failure to do so, and by hiding his breach of duty from his business partner.
- 47. Arnould committed the acts complained of in this cause of action with the intent to deceive and defraud Chefexec and Muney. Upon information and belief, Arnould caused Muney to enter a fiduciary relationship with him and offered to manage the accounting and billing of the company in order to take wrongful possession of company monies, with the intent to induce reliance upon Arnould in his promise to manage the finances of the Company and disburse profits. Arnould breached this fiduciary duty intentionally and with forethought.
- 48. As a result of Arnould's actions, Muney and Chefexec have incurred damages in excess of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000), the exact amount to be proven at time of trial.

49. It has been necessary for Counter-Plaintiffs to obtain the legal services of Kern Law and Counter-Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to reimbursement of attorney's fees and costs incurred in this action.

50. As a direct and proximate result of the representations and conduct described herein by Arnould, who acted knowingly with malice and oppression, all to Counter-Plaintiffs' harm, and therefore should be punished for his wrongful conduct with punitive damages in an amount to be established at trial.

# SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (FRAUDULENT CONCEALMENT)

- 51. Counter-Plaintiffs reallege and incorporate herein by reference each and every allegation contained in all preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 52. The facts (as described above) of Arnould's taking commissions that he was not entitled to, of taking unauthorized disbursements, of making false invoices to account for missing inventory, and upon information and belief, taking or selling that inventory for his own benefit, were material facts in deciding whether or not to continue doing business with Arnould, and continuing to allow Arnould to manage the accounting of Chefexec.
- 53. Arnould had a duty to disclose all dealing to his partner, but nonetheless intentionally concealed such acts.
- 54. Arnould's concealment of his acts, as described above, was concealed specifically to prevent Chefexec and Muney from taking action to stop him from taking further monies from the company.
- 55. Because Muney and Arnould had been longtime friends, and Arnould had experience managing companies, Muney's reliance upon him to lawfully and honestly manage the accounting of the company was objectively reasonable.

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** I hereby certify that on the 7th day of November 2019, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing **ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIMS**, pursuant to NRCP 5(b), by electronic service, addressed to the following: Phillip S. Aurbach, Esq. Marquis Aurbach Coffing Paurbach@Maclaw.com Counsel for Dominique Arnould /s/ Robert Kern Employee of Kern Law 



382-0711 FAX: (702) 382-5816

(702)

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Marquis Aurbach Coffing Phillip S. Aurbach, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 1501 Alexander K. Calaway. Esq. Nevada Bar No. 15188 10001 Park Run Dr. Las Vegas, NV 89145 Telephone: (702) 382-0711 Facsimile: (702) 382-5816 paurbach@maclaw.com acalaway@maclaw.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

### **DISTRICT COURT**

### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

DOMINIQUE ARNOULD,

Plaintiff,

VS.

CLEMENT MUNEY; CHEF EXEC SUPPLIERS, LLC; and DOES I through X, inclusive; and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Defendants,

And related counterclaims.

Case No.: A-19-803488-B

Dept. No.: 27

PLAINTIFF'S EMERGENCY REQUEST
FOR TELEPHONIC HEARING FOR
APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER TO
TAKE OVER THE WAREHOUSE OR
FOR ORDER ALLOWING ACCESS

Hearing requested on shortened time-by telephonic conference

Plaintiff, DOMINIQUE ARNOULD (hereinafter "Arnould" or "Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, Marquis Aurbach Coffing, requests a telephonic conference today to appoint a Receiver to take control of the warehouse storing Chef Exec inventory or in the interim, enter an Order that Arnould can drop off inventory from the Los Angeles warehouse and pick up inventory from the Las Vegas warehouse—Defendant Muney changed the locks and Arnould has no access.

This Opposition is made and based upon the pleadings on file herein, the following points and authorities, and any argument allowed by the Court at the time of hearing.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2020.

### MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By <u>/s/Phillip S. Aurbach</u>
Phillip S. Aurbach, Esq., #1501
Alexander K. Calaway, Esq., #15188
Attorneys for Plaintiff

Page 1 of 4

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### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

- I. ARNOULD NEEDS ACCESS <mark>TODAY</mark> TO THE LAS VEGAS WAREHOUSE TO PICK UP INVENTORY TO TAKE TO LOS ANGELES FOR CUSTOMERS IN LOS ANGELES AND MUNEY WILL NOT ALLOW ACCESS TO CHEF EXEC **INVENTORY**
- 1. Last Friday June 5, 2020, Plaintiff, Dominique Arnould, and Defendant, Clement Muney. had the following email exchange<sup>1</sup>:

### Clement

The warehouse we are currently using at Northstar lost their lease. They have asked us to move out. We have 29 pallets stored there which need to be moved before June 13. all other pallets have been stored at our location in Van Nuys. I could bring them back to our Las Vegas warehouse or rent another space I have already identified.

If we bring that inventory back to Las Vegas, i will need to Bring back some of the following products:

**Spheres** 

**Small Glass** 

Round slanted cups.

What would you like me to do?

# Dominique

Muney's response was "tell me why you need those items."

From: Clement Muney <clement@chefexecsuppliers.com> To: DOMINIQUE ARNOUD <domiarnould@aol.com> Cc: Clement Chef Exec <clement@chefexecsuppliers.com>

Sent: Fri, Jun 5, 2020 4:26 pm

Subject: Re: Inventory

### Dominique,

I have no problem to store the products back in Las Vegas that you don't need in LA. I have no problem, as usual, to give what is necessary for LA's needs, as long as it is

I just want the company to operate normally.

If there's anything in Vegas that you end up needing in LA at a later date, we can always ask Win distribution to bring you what you need. It just costs 105\$ per pallet and you would have that in 1 or 2 days.

Tell me what you need for the coming few months and how you want to proceed. Clement Muney

(702) 340 8697 Sent from my iPhone

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> If Defendant Muney denies this email exchange, we will provide a declaration regarding the same, but because of the time constraints, we copied the contents into this pleading.

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2. Plaintiff Dominique Arnould drove the 12 pallets to Las Vegas to access the warehouse, drop off the pallets and pick up the following inventory that he needs for Los Angeles clients:

Spheres cups: 4 pallets 96 cases

Small Glass TC: 72 cases Umbrella dish: 48 cases

Round slanted cups: 1 pallet 72 cases

Rhum Shot: 36 cases Espresso cups: 24 cases

Cubic wave green: 72 cases or 1 pallet

Cubic wave clear: 30 cases.

- 3. Muney had the locks changed and Arnould cannot access any inventory—drop off or pick up.
- 4. Arnould is in Las Vegas with the 12 pallets for Muney's Las Vegas Customers and he needs to pick up inventory.
  - 5. The receiver hearing is not set until July 9, 2020.
    - a. A telephone conference is needed today to appoint a receiver to take control of the warehouse, log all inventory, control inventory taken out and added so either owner has authority to access the inventory,
    - b. Alternatively, this Court should enter an Order that either party has access to the warehouse and both must document inventory in and inventory out.
  - 6. In sum, Arnould is in Las Vegas with pallets for the LV warehouse and Muney will not allow access for Arnould to pick up inventory for California clients.

Dated this 10th day of June, 2020.

### MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

By <u>/s/Phillip S. Aurbach</u>
Phillip S. Aurbach, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 1501
Alexander K. Calaway, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 15188
Attorneys for Plaintiff

# MARQUIS AURBACH COFFING

(702) 382-0711 FAX: (702) 382-5816

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that the foregoing **PLAINTIFF'S EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR TELEPHONIC HEARING FOR APPOINTMENT OF RECEIVER TO TAKE OVER THE WAREHOUSE OR FOR ORDER ALLOWING ACCESS** was submitted electronically for filing and/or service with the Eighth Judicial District Court on the 10the day of June, 2020. Electronic service of the foregoing document shall be made in accordance with the E-Service List as follows:<sup>2</sup>

Robert Kern Melissa Milroy Robert@Kernlawoffices.com Admin@KernLawOffices.com

/s/ Javie-Anne Bauer
An employee of Marquis Aurbach Coffing

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



### **ELECTRONICALLY SERVED** 6/12/2020 4:43 PM

Electronically Filed 06/12/2020 CLERK OF THE COURT

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DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

DEPT XXVII

### **DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

DOMINIQUE ARNOULD,

CASE NO.: A-19-803488-B

**Plaintiff** 

VS.

**DEPARTMENT 27** 

CLEMENT MUNEY; CHEF EXEC SUPPLIERS, LLC.,

**Defendants** 

### **ORDER ISSUING SANCTION**

**COURT FINDS** after review that on June 10, 2020, a hearing was held following Plaintiff's Emergency Request for Hearing. Phillip Aurbach, Esq. and Alexander Calaway, Esq. appeared for Plaintiff Dominique Arnould. Robert Kern, Esq. failed to appear for Defendants Rather, Mr. Kern had the time to file a responsive pleading stating that he's unable to attend the hearing as he was preparing for oral argument before the Nevada Supreme Court. Moreover, Mr. Kern emailed the Court and counsel "protesting" any hearing being held without his presence. The Court's staff attempted to contact Mr. Kern prior to the hearing, but was informed that Mr. Kern was unavailable. Nevertheless, the hearing went forward on June 10, 2020 and out of professional courtesy, the Court, sua sponte, continued the matter to June 12, 2020.

**COURT FURTHER FINDS** after review that at the June 12, 2020 hearing, Mr. Kern was provided an opportunity to explain his June 10, 2020 actions on the record.

**COURT FURTHER FINDS** after review that Mr. Kern's failure to appear at the June 10, 2020 hearing or respond to the Court's staff was unexcused, inappropriate, and demeaned the Court.

Case Number: A-19-803488-B

COURT FURTHER FINDS after review that district courts have inherent and broad discretion to impose sanctions for professional misconduct. *See generally Young v. Johnny Ribeiro Building*, 106 Nev. 88, 92, 787 P.2d 777, 779 (1990); *see also Lioce vs. Cohen*, 124 Nev. 1 (2008) (explaining that "sanctions for professional misconduct at trial in civil cases are best considered in the first instance by the district court. Therefore, the district court may, on a party's motion or *sua sponte*, impose sanctions for professional misconduct at trial ...").

**COURT FURTHER FINDS** after review that as such, broad discretion permits this Court to issue sanctions for any "litigation abuses not specifically proscribed by statute." *Young*, 106 Nev. at 92, 787 P.2d at 779.

THEREFORE, COURT ORDERS for good cause appearing and after review, pursuant to the Court's inherent authority outlined in *Young*, Robert Kern, Esq. SHALL make a mandatory charitable donation in the amount of \$100, made payable to the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, Nevada Legal Services, Clark County Law Library, Nevada Law Foundation, Clark County Law Foundation, Southern Nevada Senior Law Project, or a proper entity specified in Rule 6.1 of the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct.

**COURT FURTHER ORDERS** for good cause appearing and after review sufficient proof of the donation, such as a receipt, must be provided to the Court to indicate that the charitable donation has been received, within 30 days from the date of this Order.

**DATED** this 12<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020

Dated this 12th day of June, 2020

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE CD8 2A5 B7E3 1B02

Nancy Allf



1	Robert Kern, Esq.				
2	Nevada Bar Number 10104				
3	<b>KERN LAW, Ltd.</b> 601 S. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street				
	Las Vegas, NV 89101	Electronically Filed			
4	(702) 518-4529 phone (702) 825-5872 fax	Jul 28 2020 05:11 p.m.			
5	Admin@KernLawOffices.com	Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court			
6	Attorney for Defendants	Olerk of Supreme Sourt			
7	IN THE EIGHTH JUDIC	IAL DISTRICT COURT			
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA				
9	)				
10	DOMINIQUE ARNOULD, )	Case Number: 81356			
11	Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant, ) vs.	Dept. Number: 27			
12		CASE APPEAL STATEMENT			
13	SUPPLIERS, LLC; and DOES I through X, ) inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I				
14	through X, inclusive,				
	Defendants/Counter-Claimants.)				
15	)				
16	1. Name of appellant filing this case appeal statement: CLEMENT MUNEY, CHEF				
17	EXEC SUPPLIERS, LLC				
18	2. Identify the judge issuing the decision, judgment, or order appealed from: <b>The</b>				
19	Honorable Nancy Allf, Eighth Judicial District Court, Department 27.				
20	3. Identify each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each appellant:				
21					
22	Kern, Esq., 601 S. 6 <sup>th</sup> Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101				
23	4. Identify each respondent and the name and address of appellate counsel, if known, for				
24	each respondent: Respondent Dominique Arnould, represented by Alexander Calaway,				
25	Esq. and Finnip Aurvach, Esq., 19991 Park	Kun Dr., Las vegas, IV 09145			
26	5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4 is not				
27	licensed to practice law in Nevada and, if so, whether the district court granted that attorney permission to appear under <u>SCR 42</u> : <b>All identified counsel is licensed to practice law in</b>				
28	Nevada.				