IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

NONA TOBIN, AS TRUSTEE OF THE GORDON B. HANSEN TRUST, DATED 8/22/08,

Appellant,

VS.

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JOEL A. STOKES AND SANDRA F. STOKES, AS TRUSTEE OF THE JIMIJACK IRREVOCABLE TRUST; YUEN K. LEE, AN INDIVIDUAL, D/B/A MANAGER F. BONDURANT, LLC; SUN CITY ANTHEM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.; AND NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE, LLC,

Supreme Court Case No.: 79295

District Court Case No A-15-720032-C Consolidated with A-16-730078-C

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Dec 19 2019 04:46 p.m.

Clerk of Supreme Court

Respondents.

An Appeal from The Eighth Judicial District Court The Honorable Joanna Kishner, Presiding

APPELLANTS' OPENING BRIEF

22

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NRAP 26.1 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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

Michael R. Mushkin & Associates d/b/a Mushkin & Coppedge states that it has no parent corporation and that no publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of its stock.

Michael R. Mushkin and L. Joe Coppedge are the attorneys who have appeared for Appellant in this case.

Appellant, Nona Tobin, as Trustee of the Gordon B. Hansen Trust dated 8/22/08 states that the Gordon B. Hansen Trust dated 8/22/08 has no parent corporation and that no publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of its stock.

DATED this day of December, 2019.

MUSHKIN & COPPEDGE

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Nevada State Bar No. 2421

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I. Jurisdictional Statement

The order granting Sun City Anthem Community Association's motion for summary judgment was entered on April 18, 2019. It became a final judgment under NRAP 3A(b)(1) upon the entry of the Order on Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law filed on June 24, 2019 (the "June 24 Order and Findings"). Nona Tobin ("Tobin"), as Trustee of the Gordon B. Hansen Trust dated 8/22/08 appeals from the district court's order granting Sun City Anthem Community Association's motion for summary judgment entered on April 18, 2019 (the "April 18 Order and Findings"); the Order Denying Motion for Reconsideration filed on May 31, 2019 and the June 24 Order and Findings quieting title in favor of Joel A. Stokes and Sandra F. Stokes, as Trustees of the JimiJack Irrevocable Trust ("JimiJack"), Notice of Entry of which was also filed on June 24, 2019.

II. Routing Statement

This matter is presumptively assigned to the Court of Appeals pursuant to NRAP 17(b)(15).

III. Statement of Issues Presented for Review

- 1. Whether the district court erred by granting summary judgment in favor Sun City Anthem Community Association ("SCA") against Tobin, as Trustee of the Gordon B. Hansen Trust dated 8/22/08 on her claims for relief for quiet title and equitable relief in seeking to void SCA's foreclosure sale.
 - 2. Whether the district court erred by finding that SCA properly

followed the process and procedures in foreclosing upon the Property.

- 3. Whether the district court erred by failing to quiet title in favor of Tobin, as Trustee of the Gordon B. Hansen Trust dated 8/22/08.
- 4. Whether the district court erred by quieting title in favor of Joel A. Stokes and Sandra F. Stokes, as Trustees of the JimiJack Irrevocable Trust ("JimiJack").
- 5. Whether the district court erred by entering judgment in favor of Joel A. Stokes and Sandra F. Stokes, as Trustees of the JimiJack Irrevocable Trust and Yuen Lee and F. Bondurant, LLC as to all claims for relief asserted by Tobin, as Trustee of the Gordon B. Hansen Trust dated 08/22/08.

IV. Statement of the Case

This is an action for Quiet Title and Wrongful Foreclosure, among other claims, resulting from the purchase and sale of real property at a homeowner's association foreclosure sale. Cross-Defendant, Sun City Anthem Community Association ("SCA") filed Cross-Defendant Sun City Anthem Community Associations' Motion for Summary Judgment on February 5, 2019, which was joined by Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, but not JimiJack. Following a hearing on March 5, 2019, the district court granted SCA's motion for summary judgment. Notice of Entry of Findings of Fact, Conclusion of Law and Order on Cross-Defendant Sun City Anthem Community Association's Motion for Summary Judgment was filed on April 18, 2019. Tobin, as Trustee of the Gordon B. Hansen Trust dated 8/22/08, filed Cross-Claimant Nona Tobin's Motion for

Reconsideration on April 29, 2019. The motion for reconsideration was denied following a hearing on May 29, 2019. Notice of Entry of the Order Denying Motion for Reconsideration was filed on May 31, 2019.

Tobin's remaining Counterclaim against Plaintiffs, Joel A. Stokes and Sandra F. Stokes, as Trustees of the JimiJack Irrevocable Trust, Yuen K. Lee and F. Bondurant, LLC proceeded to trial commencing June 5, 2019. The Order on Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law quieting title in favor of Joel A. Stokes and Sandra F. Stokes, as Trustees of the JimiJack Irrevocable Trust was filed on June 24, 2019. Notice of Entry of the Order on Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law was also filed on June 24, 2019.

V. Statement of Facts

- 1. Tobin has lived in Sun City Anthem at 2664 Olivia Heights Avenue since February 20, 2004 and has been an owner in good standing the entire time.¹
- 2. On or about July 31, 2003, Gordon B. Hansen, together with his then wife Marilyn, purchased the property located at 2763 White Sage Drive, Henderson, Nevada 89052, APN 191-13-811-052 (the "Property").²
- 3. Gordon and Marilyn divorced, and on or about June 10, 2004, Marilyn Hansen quit claimed the Property to Gordon Hansen as a part of the divorce settlement.³

AA Vol. VI 001122 Declaration of Nona Tobin ("Tobin Decl.") at [1]

² AA Vol. VI 001122, 001133 – 001137 Deed, Ex. 1 to Tobin Decl.

³ AA Vol. VI 001122, 001138 – 001142 Quitclaim Deed, Ex, 2 to Tobin Decl.

- 4. On or August 22, 2008, the Gordon B. Hansen Trust (the "Trust") was formed pursuant to NRS chapter 163, and Nona Tobin was identified as a successor trustee in the event of Gordon Hansen's death.⁴
- 5. On August 27, 2008, title to the Property was transferred to the Gordon B. Hansen Trust.⁵
- 6. Gordon B. Hansen died on January 14, 2012, and Tobin became a trustee of the Trust.⁶
- 7. Pursuant to the amendment to the Trust dated August 10, 2011, there were two equal co-beneficiaries of the Trust's assets, Tobin, the deceased's fiancé, and his son, Steve Hansen.
- 8. In July 2016, on behalf of the beneficiaries of the Trust, Tobin attempted to intervene into *Nationstar Mortgage vs. Opportunity Homes, LLC*, A-16-730078 which was consolidated into A-15-720032-C in mid-August, 2016 but was denied for procedural defects.⁷
- 9. On March 27, 2017, Steve Hansen executed a declaration made under penalty of perjury disclaiming all interest in the Property and the Gordon B. Hansen Trust leaving Tobin as the sole beneficiary of the Trust.⁸
- 10. Tobin paid the HOA dues and late fees for three quarters after Gordon Hansen's death that covered the period from January 1, 2012 through

⁴ AA Vol. VI 001122, 001143 – 001173 Trust, Ex, 3 to Tobin Decl.

⁵ AA Vol. VI 001122, 001174 – 001178 Deed, Ex. 4 to Tobin Decl.

⁶ AA Vol VI 001111, 001179 – 001180 Certificate of Death, Ex. 5 Tobin Decl.

⁷ AA Vol. VI 001122, 001181 – 001194 Exhibit 6 to Tobin Decl.

⁸ AA Vol. VI 001122 Tobin Decl., P 9

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from the Sparkmans and authorized them to move into the Property pending the close of escrow.¹⁰ 12.

Tobin accepted a purchase offer on the Property on August 8, 2012

- Tobin prepared two (2) checks 142 and 143, each in the amount of \$300 for HOA dues, and both were dated August 17, 2012. However, only check 142 has a date received stamped on the check. 11
- 13. Check 142 paid the assessments for Tobin's own house on August 17, 2012.
- Tobin did not accurately recall the timing and method of 14. submitting the last dues payment (check 143 dated August 17, 2012 in the amount of \$300 - \$275 for assessments for the quarter ending September 30, 2012 plus a \$25 late fee). 12
- It was not until December 26, 2018, when Tobin received copies of documents SCA0001-SCA000643 that she discovered SCA000631 was a letter signed by Tobin to SCA dated October 3, 2012.
- 16. After seeing SCA000631, Tobin's memory was refreshed that check 143 was sent to SCA with other specific notices and instructions.
 - 17. The Death Certificate was enclosed, providing notice that the

⁹ AA Vol. VI Tobin Decl., P 11

¹⁰ AA Vol. VI 001123 Tobin Decl., **№** 12

¹¹ AA Vol. VI 001123, 001195 – 001197 Cancelled checks, Ex. 7 to Tobin Decl. ¹² AA Vol. VI 001123 Tobin Decl., № 13

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- Notice was also provided that Tobin had accepted an offer for a short sale on the Property and that the new owners were expected to move in within the month.¹⁴
- Tobin requested that SCA collect future assessments out of escrow 19. and to direct questions to Real Estate Broker Doug Proudfit, a well-known and long-time SCA owner in good standing, or from the new owners, or by whatever normal procedures the SCA used when an owner dies.¹⁵
- 20. The subject of the October 3, 2012 letter was "Delinquent HOA" dues for 2763 White Sage" and the enclosed check was identified as "Check for \$300 HOA dues" which covered the \$275 assessment that was late for the quarter ending September 30, 2012 and the \$25 late fee which was authorized for the installment being sent after July 30, 2012.¹⁶
- Nothing in this letter indicates in any way that Tobin refused to 21. pay assessments as alleged by SCA.¹⁷
- 22. Given that the Property was in escrow as of August 8, 2012, Tobin reasonably expected that the assessments due on October 1, 2012 would be paid out of escrow in the same way a pending tax payment is paid out of escrow according to the terms of the escrow instructions.¹⁸

¹³ AA Vol. VI 001123Tobin Decl., **№** 19

¹⁴ AA Vol. VI 001123 Tobin Decl., **№** 20

¹⁵ AA Vol. VI 001123 Tobin Decl., 21

¹⁶ AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., **P** 21

AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., № 23
 AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., № 24

- 23. Exhibit 8 to the Tobin Declaration is the SCA Resident Transaction Report for 2763 White Sage, pages 1334 through 1337, covering the period from January 1, 2006 through that Tobin received from SCA on May 9, 2016.¹⁹
- 24. SCA agents, RMI community manager, and its affiliate, "RRFS" ignored the October 3, 2012 notice that the property had been sold and did not follow, or even acknowledge, the explicit instructions that the \$300 check was for "HOA dues".²⁰
- 25. SCA's records conflict with SCA000176-SCA000643, Red Rock Financial Services ("RRFS") foreclosure file, which was SCA's sole source of alleged facts in support of its motion for summary judgment.²¹
- 26. The Resident Transaction report shows that the \$300 Tobin paid for the quarter ending September 30, 2012 was credited in the SCA's records on November 9, 2012 as "Collection Payment Part(ial)", and it was not properly credited refuting Fact 13 of the April 18 Order and Findings.²²
- 27. Tobin's payment for "HOA dues" was applied on October 18, 2012 in the RRFS ledger (SCA000623-625) to unauthorized and unnecessary collection fees despite the NRS 116A.640(8) explicit prohibition against "Intentionally apply(ing) a payment of an assessment from a unit's owner

¹⁹ AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., **№** 25

²⁰ AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., **P** 26

²¹ AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., **P** 27

²² AA Vol. VI 001125 Tobin Decl., **№** 32

28. Tobin made no attempt to evaluate or reduce the RRFS demands for fees as she had contracted with Proudfit Realty to complete a short sale and expected the bank and the new owner to arrange to pay SCA the full amount due.²⁴

- 29. SCA's claim that Tobin enclosed a notice of sanction dated September 20, 2012 to the October 3, 2012 letter is false.²⁵
- 30. The October 3, 2012 letter plainly states there are two enclosures the check for HOA dues and a death certificate.
- 31. There was no third enclosure listed of a September 20, 2012 notice of hearing as falsely claimed by SCA and refuting Findings of Fact number 9.²⁶
- 32. The September 20, 2012 notice of hearing that RRFS claims was enclosed with the October 3, 2012 letter could not have come from Tobin as she would only have had the original.²⁷
- 33. SCA proceeded with unnecessary collections, adding unauthorized fees despite two payoff demands from Ticor Title on or about December 20, 2012 and January 16, 2013.²⁸
- 34. SCA's managing and collection agents ignored the fact that both the real estate agent Doug Proudfit and Tobin, both long-term SCA

AA Vol. VI 001125 Tobin Decl., P 33
 AA Vol. VI 001125 Tobin Decl., P 34

²⁵ AA Vol. VI 001125 Tobin Decl., **P** 35

²⁶ AA Vol. VI 001125 Tobin Decl., **P** 37

²⁷ AA Vol. VI 001125 Tobin Decl., **§** 38

²⁸ AA Vol. VI 001125 Tobin Decl., 🖡 39

homeowners in good standing, had no interest in SCA not receiving all assessments that were due and were working diligently to sell the property after the market had crashed.²⁹

- Check no. 143 was for payment for the SCA quarterly dues for the 35. Property for the period commencing July 1, 2012 in the principal amount of \$275.00, together with late fees in the amount of \$25.00. Check no. 143 did not clear the bank until October 23, 2012.³⁰
- 36. Check No. 143 in the amount of \$300.00 was incorrectly credited by SCA's debt collector, RRFS to the account for the Property on or about October 18, 2012 as shown by the RRFS ledger sent on November 5, 2012 to the Property (but not the owner's address of record).³¹
- 37. The Resident Transaction Report shows that the \$300 from check no. 143 was credited as "Collection Payment Part(ial)" rather than as \$275 plus \$25 late fee for the July 2012 quarter, which would have brought the account current with a zero balance instead of the \$495.15 RRFS claimed was still owing in the ledger.³²
- NRS 116A.640(8) prohibits an HOA agent from applying 38. assessment payments to "any fine, fee or other charge that is due". 33
 - 39. The legal framework established by SCA, as delineated in SCA

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²⁹ AA Vol. VI 001125 – 001126 Tobin Decl., **№** 40

³⁰ AA Vol. VI 001126Tobin Decl., **№** 41

³¹ AA Vol. VI 001126 Ledger, Ex. 8 to Tobin Decl., **P** 42

Board Resolution, dated November 17, 2011 "Establishing The Governing Documents Enforcement Policy and Process" requires that prior to sanctioning an owner for an alleged violation of the governing documents, such as delinquent assessments, the Board must provide a specific notice of violation, a notice of violation hearing, notice of sanction (hearing determination), notice of appeal, and an appeal determination letter.³⁴

40. Specifically, the Third Amended and Restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Sun City Anthem expressly provides in part that:

7.4 Compliance and Enforcement

- (a) Every Owner and Occupant of a Lot shall comply with the Governing Documents. The Board may impose sanctions for violation of the Governing Documents after notice and a hearing in accordance with the procedures set forth in the By-Law. The Board shall establish a range of penalties for such violations, with violations of the Declaration, unsafe conduct, harassment, or intentionally malicious conduct treated more severely than other violations. Such sanctions may include, without limitation:
- (i) imposing a graduated range of reasonable monetary fines which shall, pursuant to the Act, constitute a lien upon the violator's lot... The amount of each such fine must be commensurate with the severity of the violation and shall in no event exceed the maximum permitted by the Act. The Rules may be enforced by the assessment of a fine only if: (A) Not less than thirty (30) days before the violation, the person against whom the monetary penalty will be imposed has been provided with written notice of the applicable provisions of the Governing Documents that form the basis of the violation; (B) Within a reasonable time after discovery of the violation, the person against whom the

³⁴ AA Vol. VI 001126 Tobin Decl., **P** 45

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monetary fine will be imposed has been provided with written notice specifying the details of the violation, the amount of the monetary penalty, and the date, time and location for a hearing on the violation and a reasonable opportunity to contest the violation at the hearing; (C) The Board must schedule the date, time, and location for the hearing on the violation so that the person against whom the monetary fine will be imposed is provided with a reasonable opportunity to prepare for the hearing to be present at the hearing; and (D) The Board must hold a hearing before it may impose a monetary fine, ...

(emphasis added).35

- SCA did not provide Tobin any of the required notices, nor did it 41. hold a hearing prior to the imposition of fines misnamed as collection costs.³⁶
- SCA imposed progressively more serious and disproportionate 42. sanctions for the alleged violation of delinquent assessments, up to and including foreclosure, without providing any meaningful and compliant due process.37
- 43. SCA claims to have sent a September 17, 2012 notice of intent to lien, that Tobin does not have any record or recollection of having received and for which there is no proof of service for this notice in the 54 pages of proofs in SCA000176-SCA000643.38
 - 44. Even if sent, that notice was defective and non-compliant:
 - There was no preceding notice of violation, a.

²⁰ ³⁵ AA Vol. VI 001126 - 001127 Third Amended and Restated Declaration of Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions for Sun City Anthem ("CC&Rs"), 21 Exhibit 10 at pp. 35-36 to Tobin Declaration, ₱ 46

³⁶ AA Vol. VI 001127 Tobin Decl., № 47 37 AA Vol. VI 001127 Tobin Decl., № 48 38 AA Vol. VI 001127 Tobin Decl., № 49

- RRFS's claiming \$617.94 on September 17, 2012 is b. excessive and unauthorized when \$275 only came due on July 1, 2012.
- Only \$25 late fee was authorized on July 31, 2012 when the c. payment is 30 days late.
- \$317.94 claimed by RRFS for collection costs for the next d. 35 days the payment was late was not authorized.
- An excessive, non-negotiable fee of \$317.94, which SCA e. collection agent claimed must be disputed within 30 days of a notice that Tobin did not receive, is not a "collection cost", it is an impermissible fine and a sanction.³⁹
- On or about December 14, 2012, SCA caused a Notice of 45. Delinquent Assessments (the "Lien") to be recorded against the Property which claimed the amount of \$925.76 was delinquent and owed as of December 5, 2012 when at that time, only \$275.00 was due and owing for the period commencing October 1, 2012. The Lien included erroneous charges and did not credit assessments paid when the amount was below the minimum past due amount when collection can begin.⁴⁰
- As of December 14, 2012, the maximum amount of the 46. delinquency for the Property's HOA account was \$300.00, consisting of thencurrent quarterly dues in the amount of \$275.00, together with late fees in the

³⁹ AA Vol. VI 001127 – 001128 Tobin Decl., **P** 50 ⁴⁰ AA Vol. VI 001128 Tobin Decl., **P** 51

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- On or about April 30, 2013, RRFS responded to a payoff demand from "Miles Bauer", agent for Bank of America ("BANA") and claimed that \$2,876.95 was due and payable as of April 30, 2013.⁴²
- On or about May 9, 2013, Miles Bauer tendered \$825 for the nine 48. months of assessments which were at that point in time delinquent. However, RRFS refused BANA's tender without notifying the SCA Board.⁴³
- Tobin never received any notice from RRFS or from SCA that 49. BANA's tender had been rejected.⁴⁴
- Tobin was never given an opportunity to pay the \$75 late fees 50. authorized as of April 30, 2013, so that the delinquency would have been cured in total including all authorized late fees.⁴⁵
- 51. This unjustified refusal of BANA's payment should have stopped all unnecessary collection efforts as all delinquencies on the account had been cured and the account was then current.⁴⁶
- On or about February 12, 2014, a Notice of Foreclosure Sale 52. ("Notice of Sale") was issued and served by RRFS, which claimed \$5,081.45 was due and owing, and scheduled the sale for March 7, 2014. See Notice of

⁴¹ AA Vol. VI 001128 Tobin Decl., **№** 52

⁴² AA Vol. VI 001128 Ex. 12 to Tobin Decl.

⁴³ AA Vol. VI 001128 Tobin Decl., **№** 54

⁴⁴ AA Vol. VI 001128 Tobin Decl., **P** 55

⁴⁵ AA Vol. VI 001128 Tobin Decl., **P** 56 ⁴⁶ AA Vol. VI 001128 − 001129 Tobin Decl., **P** 57

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standing.48 54. On March 28, 2014, RRFS sent an Accounting ledger to Chicago

agreement with Craig Leidy ("Leidy"), also a long time SCA owner in good

On or about February 20, 2014, Tobin signed a new listing

- Title in response to a payoff demand related to a contingent sale to Red Rock Region Investments LLC in which the amount before fees claimed as due and owing on February 11, 2014 was \$4,240.10, and that the amount due on March 28, 2014 was \$4,687.64.49
- 55. Tobin gave Leidy verbal authority to handle all notices and contact with the SCA's agents, RRFS, and written authority to arrange a short sale with Nationstar Mortgage, the new loan servicer as of December 1, 2013.⁵⁰
- 56. NRS 116.3116 was violated when RRFS refused two tenders of the super-priority amount, one on May 9, 2013 from BANA and the second from Nationstar on June 5, 2014.⁵¹
- 57. The Notice of Sale was sent to the Ombudsman on February 13, 2014 as required by NRS 116.311635(2)(b)(3). However, on or about May 15, 2014, RRFS notified the Ombudsman that the Notice of Sale was cancelled, the

⁴⁷ AA Vol. VI 001128, 001133 – 001134 Exhibit 13 to the Tobin Decl.

⁴⁸ AA Vol. VI 001129 Tobin Decl., № 59 ⁴⁹ AA Vol. VI 001129 Tobin Decl., № 60

AA Vol. VI 001129 Tobin Decl., P 61
 AA Vol. VI 001129 Tobin Decl., P 62

Trustee sale was cancelled, and the Owner was retained.⁵²

- 58. The compliance screen is the Ombudsman's contemporaneous log of letters, notices and deed submitted to the State of Nevada Real Estate Division for HOA foreclosures and provides the only record available to the public documenting the notice of sale process and foreclosure of the Property.⁵³
- 59. The compliance screen was obtained pursuant to a public records request and was produced pursuant to NRCP 16. No party has challenged the authenticity of the Compliance Screen.⁵⁴
- 60. The Property was sold on August 15, 2014 although no valid notice of sale was in effect as the Notice of Sale was cancelled on or about May 15, 2014 and not replaced.⁵⁵
- 61. The August 22, 2014 Foreclosure Deed, the recording of which was requested by Opportunity Homes, LLC, claims the Property was sold for \$63,100 based upon the First Notice of Default, dated March 12, 2013, which was rescinded on April 3, 2013.⁵⁶
- 62. There is no entry in the Resident Transaction Report that the Property was sold or that RRFS, as SCA's agent, collected \$63,100 (disputes

⁵² AA Vol. VI 001129, Vol. VII 001336 Compliance View Screen, authenticated on April 15, 2019 by Terralyn Lewis, Administration Section Manager, Nevada Real Estate Division, Ex. 14 to Tobin Decl.

⁵³ AA Vol. VI 001130 Tobin Decl., **№** 66

⁵⁴ AA Vol. VI 001130, Vol. VII 001337 – 001338, 001343 – 001347 Tobin's public record request, Ex. 15 and Tobin's Initial List of Witnesses and Production of Documents, Ex. 16 to Tobin Decl.

⁵⁵ AA Vol. VI 001138 Tobin Decl., **№** 66

⁵⁶ AA Vol. VI 00130, AA Vol. VII 001350 Recorded Rescission of Notice of Default, Ex. 17 to Tobin Decl.

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payment in full of the Gordon Hansen account.⁵⁸ 64. The Resident Transaction Report (page 1337) listed the second owner (RESID 0480 02) of 2763 White Sage as Jimijack Irrevocable Trust,

the August 27, 2014 entry that a "Collection Payment PIF \$2,701.04" was

The only entry in the Resident Transaction Report (page 1336) is

effective September 25, 2014 with the credit of \$225 "Account Setup Fee Resal(e)".59

65. There is no SCA record that Thomas Lucas or Opportunity Homes, alleged purchaser at the August 15, 2014 sale, was ever an owner of 2763

White Sage Drive (disputes SCA Fact #32).⁶⁰

66. The August 22, 2014 Foreclosure Deed contains the false recitals that 1) default had occurred as described in the rescinded Notice of Default and Election to Sell; 2) there had been no payments made after July 1, 2012; 3) that as of February 11, 2014, \$5,081.45 was due and owing and that 4) RRFS "complied with all the requirements of law".61

- 67. SCA did not provide the notices required by NRS 116.31162(4), including:
 - A schedule of the fees that may be charged if the unit owner (a)

⁵⁷ AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., **№** 28

⁵⁸ AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., **29**

⁵⁹ AA Vol. VI 001124 Tobin Decl., **P** 30

⁶⁰ AA Vol. VI 001124 – 00125 Tobin Decl., **№** 31

⁶¹ AA Vol. VI 001130, AA Vol. VII 0011352 – 001353 Ex. 18 to Tobin Decl.

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fails to pay the past due obligation;

- A proposed repayment plan; and (b)
- A notice of the right to contest the past due obligation at a (c) hearing before the executive board and the procedures for requesting such a hearing.⁶²
- NRS 116.31164(3)(b) (2013) requires that "the person conducting 68. the sale...deliver a copy of the deed to the Ombudsman within 30 days after the deed is delivered to the purchaser...", but no foreclosure deed has ever been delivered to the Ombudsman.⁶³
- NRS 116.31164 (3)(c) 1-5 requires the order in which the proceeds 69. of the sale are to be paid out. No distribution was made to any claimant out of the reported \$63,100 collected for the sale except for the \$2,701.04 that paid SCA in full.64
- Tobin attempted to make a claim for the proceeds in September 70. 2014 but was rebuffed by RRFS, which falsely claimed that the proceeds had been deposited with the court for interpleader.⁶⁵
- SCA agents did not conduct the collection process leading up to 71. the foreclosure in compliance with the legal framework empowering and limiting the SCA Board's authority to sanction or fine an owner for ANY

⁶² AA Vol. VI 001130 Tobin Decl., № 69 ⁶³ AA Vol. VI 001130 Tobin Decl., №71

 ⁶⁴ AA Vol. VI 001130 Tobin Decl., P 71
 ⁶⁵ AA Vol. VI 001130 Tobin Decl., P 74

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- On September 16, 2016, SCA refused Tobin's request for SCA 72. records of its compliance actions against the owner of the Property without a court order.⁶⁷
- Tobin signed to approve purchase offers for four sales which did 73. not come out of escrow due to the actions of BANA and Nationstar.⁶⁸
- Initially, Tobin accepted an offer for \$310,000 on or about August 74. 8, 2012, but BANA refused to close, and the prospective buyers who had moved in, on or about October 23, 2012 withdrew and moved out in April, 2013.69
- A second offer to purchase the Property was made on May 10, 75. 2013 for \$395,000.00.⁷⁰
- 76. A third escrow opened on March 4, 2014 for a \$340,000 cash offer which Nationstar, as the new servicing bank, held in abeyance while Nationstar required that it be placed up for public auction on www.auction.com.⁷¹
- The auction.com sale period was from May 4, 2014 to May 8, 77. 2014 when it was sold to the high bidder for \$367,500, pending approval by the beneficiary.⁷²

⁶⁶ AA Vol. VI 001130 − 001131 Tobin Decl., **P** 73

⁶⁷ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., **№** 74 ⁶⁸ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., **P** 75

⁶⁹ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., **№** 76

⁷⁰ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., **?** 77

⁷¹ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., 79 72 AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., 80

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- 78. Nationstar's negotiator would not accept either the \$340,000 offer held in abeyance nor would it accept the \$367,000 from the auction.com sale.⁷³
- 79. Listing agent Leidy put a notice on the MLS on July 25, 2014 that the Property was back on the market.⁷⁴
- 80. A buyer who had bid several times on it in March, 2014, reexpressed interest by making a new offer on July 26, 2014.⁷⁵
 - 81. Tobin signed a counter-offer on August 1, 2014 for \$375,000.76
- 82. At the same time, Nationstar required that the asking price on the listing be raised to \$390,000.⁷⁷
- 83. The buyer countered on August 4, 2014 with an offer of \$358,800 which was on the table when SCA foreclosed on the Property without notice to Tobin, the listing agent, the servicing bank, or any of these bona fide purchasers who were interested in purchasing the property in arms-length transactions.⁷⁸
- 84. At the time of the foreclosure sale, based upon the various offers to purchase the Property, Tobin formed the opinion that the value of the Property was not less than \$358,800.00.⁷⁹
- 85. SCA disclosures claim that Thomas Lucas purchased the property for \$63,100 and took title in the name of Opportunity Homes LLC.⁸⁰

⁷³ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., № 81

⁷⁴ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., **P** 82

⁷⁵ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., **§** 83

⁷⁶ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., P 84
⁷⁷ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., P 85

⁷⁸ AA Vol. VI 001131 Tobin Decl., 86

⁷⁹ AA Vol. VI 001132 Tobin Decl., **P** 88

⁸⁰ AA Vol. VI 001132 Tobin Decl., **P** 89

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86. SCA official ownership records, however, do not have any entry that shows SCA foreclosed on this property nor that either Thomas Lucas nor Opportunity Homes LLC ever owned the property.⁸¹

Nationstar's limited joinder to declare the sale valid must be 87. denied as it offered no sworn affidavits nor any evidence whatsoever to support its claims.82

Summary of Argument VI.

This is an action to quiet title following an HOA foreclosure sale. The district court erred by granting summary judgment in favor of SCA and quieting title in favor of JimiJack, especially when JimiJack presented no evidence at the time of trial, and instead relied exclusively on the erroneous April 18 Order and Findings. The errors below, include but are not limited to the following:

- Check 143 paid the \$275 delinquent assessment plus \$25 authorized late fee for the period July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, which cured the deficiency through September 30, 2012.
- The December 14, 2012 lien in the amount \$925.76 was premature and contained unauthorized charges as at that time, only \$275 plus a \$25 late fee was all that was delinquent for period October 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.
- Miles Bauer tendered \$825 on or about May 9, 2013, which RRFS rejected without authority and without notice to the owner or SCA, which would

⁸¹ AA Vol. VI 001132 Tobin Decl., № 90 ⁸² AA Vol. VI 001132 Tobin Decl., № 91

have paid the assessments then delinquent.

- RRFS rejected a second super-priority offer of \$1100 made on or about May 28, 2014, again without notice to the owner or to SCA.
- The sale was unfair in that the owner received no notice RRFS was going to proceed with the sale after the March 7, 2014 sale on the recorded February 14, 2012 Notice of Sale was cancelled.
- SCA did not ensure that its agent, RRFS complied with the applicable statutes and CC&Rs.
- There is no record that the foreclosure sale was authorized by a valid vote of the SCA board.
- Specific notices were not provided as required by NRS 116.31162(4.
- NRS 116.311635 requires that the notice of sale be sent to the Ombudsman, and the Ombudsman maintain a database of the notices received.
- The record shows that the February 12, 2014, the Notice of Sale was cancelled on or about May 5, 2014, and thus, there was no Notice of Sale in effect prior to the August 15, 2014 foreclosure sale.
- The foreclosure sale involved fraud, unfairness and oppression in that that the sale price was disproportionately low in comparison to the undisputed value of the Property.

Based on the numerous issues of material fact, it is clear the district court erred by granting summary judgment in favor of SCA. Therefore, the district

court's June 24 Order and Findings, based solely on her previous order and findings, is equally erroneous. As a result, the orders granting summary judgment in favor of SCA and quieting title in favor of JimiJack must be reversed.

VII. Argument

A. Standard of Review.

This Court applies a de novo standard of review for summary judgment order. *Wood v. Safeway, Inc.*, 121 Nev. 724, 729, 121 P. 3d 1026, 1029 (Nev. 2005). Because JimiJack presented no evidence at trial and relied exclusively on the district court's Order and Findings, the de novo standard of review should be applied to all aspects of this matter.

Pursuant to NRCP 56(c), summary judgment may only be entered when "there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." "The purpose of summary judgment is to avoid unnecessary trials when there is no dispute as to the facts before the court." Northwest. Motorcycle Ass'n v. U.S. Dep't of Agric., 18 F.3d 1468, 1471 (9th Cir. 1994). Summary judgment is only appropriate when the pleadings, the discovery and disclosure materials on file, and any affidavits "show that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322, 106 S. Ct. 2548, 91 L. Ed. 2d 265 (1986). An issue is "genuine" if there is a sufficient evidentiary basis on which a reasonable fact-finder could find for the

nonmoving party and a dispute is "material" if it could affect the outcome of the suit under the governing law. *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 248, 106 S. Ct. 2505, 91 L. Ed. 2d 202 (1986).

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Further, the moving party bears the burden of showing that there are no genuine issues of material fact. Zoslaw v. MCA Distrib. Corp., 693 F.2d 870, 883 (9th Cir. 1982). Once the moving party satisfies Rule 56's requirements, the burden shifts to the party resisting the motion to "set forth specific facts showing that there is a genuine issue for trial." Anderson, 477 U.S. at 256. The nonmoving party "may not rely on denials in the pleadings but must produce specific evidence, through affidavits or admissible discovery material, to show that the dispute exists," Bhan v. NME Hosps., Inc., 929 F.2d 1404, 1409 (9th Cir. 1991), and "must do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt as to the material facts." Orr v. Bank of Am., NT & SA, 285 F.3d 764, 783 (9th Cir. 2002) (quoting Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475) U.S. 574, 586, 106 S. Ct. 1348, 89 L. Ed. 2d 538 (1986)). "The mere existence of a scintilla of evidence in support of the plaintiff's position will be insufficient." Anderson, 477 U.S. at 252. Moreover, a court views all facts and draws all inferences in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party. Kaiser Cement Corp. v. Fischbach & Moore, Inc., 793 F.2d 1100, 1103 (9th Cir. 1986).

B. Jimijack Failed to Prove Superior Title.

Each party in a quiet title action has the burden of demonstrating superior title in himself or herself. Resources Group, LLC v. Nevada Association

Services, Inc., 135 Nev. Adv. Rep. 8, 437 P.35 154 (2019). While the burden of proof rests with the plaintiff to prove good title in himself, Breliant v. Preferred Equities Corp., 112 Nev. 663, 669, 918 P.2d 314, 318 (1996), abrogated on other grounds by Delgado v. Am. Family Ins. Grp., 125 Nev. 564, 570, 217 P.3d 563, 567 (2009), "a plaintiff's right to relief [ultimately] . . . depends on superiority of title," W. Sunset 2050 Tr. v. Nationstar Mortg., LLC, 134 Nev., Adv. Op. 47, 420 P.3d 1032, 1034 (2018). And because "[a] plea to quiet title does not require any particular elements, . . each party must plead and prove his or her own claim to the property in question." Chapman v. Deutsche Bank Nat'l Tr. Co., 129 Nev. 314, 318, 302 P.3d 1103, 1106 (2013).

In the instant matter, Jimijack did not meet the burden of proving superiority of title. Jimijack introduced no evidence at the trial.⁸³ Instead, it apparently relied exclusively on the district court's flawed April 18 Order and Findings granting summary judgment in favor of SCA. Such a failure to demonstrate superior title in its name is fatal to its quiet title claim.

To the contrary, Tobin met this burden as it is undisputed that the Gordon B. Hansen Trust, dated 8/22/08, held a valid deed, recorded on August 27, 2008, which remained effect until the invalid foreclosure sale was held on August 15, 2014.

⁸³ AA Vol. XIV 0002956 – 002957

C. SCA's Motion Should Have Been Denied as Genuine Issues of Material Fact Remain.

There are numerous issues of material fact which should have precluded the entry of summary judgment by the district court. There is a legitimate dispute whether the October 3, 2012 letter that Tobin sent to Sun City Anthem included a copy of the Notice of Hearing as claimed by SCA. (See April 18 Order and Findings, PP 6-8, and compare to Tobin Declaration, PP 18-23 and 36-38).84 Further, there are genuine issues whether HOA complied with its own CC&Rs regarding required notices. See Tobin Declaration, PP 45-47).85 Notably, although SCA's failure to comply with its CC&Rs regarding required notices and a right to hearing was raised by Tobin below, but largely ignored as this issue was not addressed by the Court, nor was it included in the Court's order.

As set above, SCA, by and through its agent, RRFS, did not follow its own CC&R requirements regarding notice and a right to a hearing, nor did it conduct a valid foreclosure sale in compliance with the statutory requirements. SCA and RRFS made numerous mistakes in attempting to foreclose upon the Property, including: (i) failing to provide Tobin with a notice and right to a hearing as required by the CC&Rs; (ii) failing to properly credit payments; (iii) failing to accurately calculate the amount due; (iv) failing to provide proper notice of the foreclosure sale; and (v) conducing a foreclosure sale on a

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⁸⁴ AA Vol. VI 001122 – 001125 ⁸⁵ AA Vol. VI 001126 – 001127

cancelled Notice of Sale. Any of these errors, standing alone, should be sufficient to set aside the foreclosure. Taken together, the combined errors, together with the meager purchase price at the foreclosure sale mandates that the district court's decision be set aside, and title quieted in the name of the Trust.

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SCA relied upon the often-cited *Shadow Wood HOA v. N.Y. Cmty. Bancorp.*, 132 Nev. Adv. Op. 5, 366, P.3d 1105 (2016) in support of its motion for summary judgment. *Shadow Wood* was recently interpreted by the Nevada Supreme Court in *Nationstar Mort., LLC v. Saticoy Bay LLC Series 2227 Shadow Canyon*, 133 Nev Adv. Rep. 91, 405 P.3d 641 (2017). In *Nationstar,* this Court succinctly summarized *Shadow Wood* as follows: the bank foreclosed on its deed of trust and obtained the property via credit bid at the foreclosure sale for roughly \$46,000. Because the bank never paid off the unextinguished 9-month super priority lien and failed to pay the continuing assessments after it obtained title, the HOA foreclosed on its lien. At that sale, the purchaser bought the property for roughly \$11,000. The bank sued to set aside the sale, and the district court granted the bank's request.

On appeal, this Court considered whether the bank had established equitable grounds to set aside the sale. This court started with the premise that "demonstrating that an association sold a property at its foreclosure sale for an inadequate price is not enough to set aside that sale; there must also be a showing of fraud, unfairness, or oppression." *Nationstar*, 133 Nev. Adv. Rep.

91, 405 P. 3d at 647, quoting *Shadow Wood*, 132 Nev. Adv. Op. 5, 366 P. 3d at 1112 (citing *Long v. Towne*, 98 Nev. 11, 13, 639 P.2d 528, 530 (1982)). The Court in *Nationstar* then stated that the bank in *Shadow Wood* "failed to establish that the foreclosure sale price was grossly inadequate as a matter of law," and observed that the \$11,000 purchase price was 23 percent of the property's fair market value and therefore the sales price was "not obviously inadequate." *Id*.

In support, the *Nationstar* Court acknowledged the decision in *Golden v. Tomiyasu*, 79 Nev. 503, 514, 387 P.2d 989, 995 (1963), wherein the Supreme Court upheld a sale with a purchase price that was 29 percent of fair market value. The Court relied upon the Restatement's suggestion that a sale for less than 20 percent of the property's fair market value may "[g]enerally" be invalidated by a court. *Nationstar*, 133 Nev. Adv. Rep. 91, 405 P. 3d at 647, quoting *Shadow Wood*, 132 Nev. Adv. Op. 5, 366 P. 3d at 1112-13 (quoting *Restatement (Third) of Prop.: Mortgages § 8.3* (1997)). The analysis then turned to whether the sale was affected by fraud, unfairness, or oppression. *Id*.

Although the Court in *Nationstar* declined to adopt the Restatement's 20percent standard or any other hard-and-fast dividing line based solely on price,
this Court did not find that price is wholly irrelevant. In fact, *Golden* recognized
that the price/fair-market-value disparity is a relevant consideration because a
wide disparity may require less evidence of fraud, unfairness, or oppression to
justify setting aside the sale:

[I]t is universally recognized that inadequacy of price is a circumstance of greater or less weight to be considered in connection with other circumstances impeaching the fairness of the transaction as a cause of vacating it, and that, where the inadequacy is palpable and great, very slight additional evidence of unfairness or irregularity is sufficient to authorize the granting of the relief sought.

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Nationstar, 133 Nev. Adv. Rep. 91, 405 P. 3d at 648, quoting Golden, 79 Nev. at 515-16, 387 P.2d at 995 (quoting Odell v. Cox, 151 Cal. 70, 90 P. 194, 196 (Cal. 1907) (emphasis added)). "While mere inadequacy of price has rarely been held sufficient in itself to justify setting aside a judicial sale of property, courts are not slow to seize upon other circumstances impeaching the fairness of the transaction as a cause for vacating it, especially if the inadequacy be so gross as to shock the conscience." Id. (quoting Schroeder v. Young, 161 U.S. 334, 337-38, 16 S. Ct. 512, 40 L. Ed. 721 (1896)).

Thus, while the *Nationstar* Court continued to endorse *Golden's* approach to evaluating the validity of foreclosure sales: mere inadequacy of price is not in itself sufficient to set aside the foreclosure sale, in adequacy of price must be considered together with any alleged irregularities in the sales process to determine whether the sale was affected by fraud, unfairness, or oppression. *See Id.* Although the *Nationstar* Court declined to adopt the Restatements suggestion that a foreclosure sale for less than 20 percent of fair market value necessarily invalidates the sale, it is a factor that must be considered. Here, SCA has not disputed that the foreclosure sale price was less

than 20 percent of the fair market value.⁸⁶ The evidence presented below was undisputed that the sale price was less than twenty (20) percent of the fair market value.

Thus, we must now look to the irregularities in the foreclosure sale. Irregularities that may rise to the level of fraud, unfairness, or oppression include an HOA's failure to mail a deed of trust beneficiary the statutorily required notices, see SFR Invs. Pool 1, LLC v. U.S. Bank, N.A., 130 Nev., Adv. Op. 75, 334 P.3d 408, 418 (2014). Also see Nationstar Mortg., LLC v. Sahara Sunrise Homeowners Ass'n, Lexis 42231 (D. Nev. Mar. 14, 2019). "HOA Sale is void for failure to mail the statutory required notice of default to the then existing deed of trust beneficiary."

The irregularities in the foreclosure process were set forth in great detail in Tobin's Declaration and demonstrate material issues of disputed fact. Generally, SCA did not comply with its own CC&R's by failing to provide the requisite notices and a right to hearing required by the CC&Rs (Tobin Declaration, PP 45-47);⁸⁷ SCA did not properly credit payments (Tobin Declaration, PP 41-43 and 50-52),⁸⁸ the HOA failed to accurately calculate the amount due (Tobin Declaration, PP 41-43 and 50-52),⁸⁹ SCA failed to give proper notice of the foreclosure sale (Tobin Declaration, PP 49 and 58),⁹⁰ and

⁸⁶ AA Vol. VI 001131 – 001132 Tobin Decl., № 75-89

⁸⁷ AA Vol. VI 001126 – 001127

⁸⁸ AA Vol. VI 001126 – 001127

⁸⁹ AA Vol. VI 001126 – 001128

⁹⁰ AA Vol. VI 001127, 001129

the Notice of Sale was cancelled and not replaced (Tobin Declaration, pp 63-66).91

Having presented evidence of the HOA's failure to provide proper notices, SCA cannot rely on deed recitals to validate an otherwise invalid foreclosure sale. NRS 116.31166(3) requires that a foreclosure sale be conducted pursuant to NRS 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164 to vest a purchaser at the HOA foreclosure sale with title to the Property. By using the phrase "pursuant to" in NRS 116.31166(3) with reference to NRS 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164, the Nevada legislature mandated compliance with those statutes. Consequently, a HOA foreclosure sale that does not vest title unless the HOA actually complies with NRS 116.31162, 116.31163 and 116.31164. Here, there are genuine issues of material fact whether there was such compliance. Certainly, SCA's failure to comply with the statutory notice requirements, along with those mandated by the CC&Rs, violates Tobin's due process rights to notice and a hearing At the very least, there is at least slight evidence of unfairness or irregularity sufficient to raise a genuine issue of material fact that merits reversal of the district court's Order, and upon such reversal, remand with instructions to quiet title in favor of Tobin.

V. Conclusion

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Summary judgment is only appropriate when, after a review of the record viewed in a light most favorable to the non-moving party, there remain no

⁹¹ AA Vol. VI 001128 – 001129

issues of material fact, and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Here, there are numerous material issues of fact in dispute. Accordingly, Tobin respectfully submits it was error to grant SCA's motion for summary judgment and quiet title in favor of JimiJack. For the foregoing reasons Cross-Claimant Nona Tobin respectfully requests that this Court reverse the decisions of the district court and quiet title to the Property in her favor. DATED this ____ day of December, 2020. MUSHKIN & COPPEDGE MICHAEL R. MUSHKIN, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 2421 L. JOE COPPEDGE, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 4954 6070 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 270 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

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- 2 1. I hereby certify that this brief complies with the formatting requirements of NRAP 32(a)(4), the typeface requirements of NRAP 32(a)(5) 3 4 and the type style requirements of NRAP 32(a)(6) because: 5 2. This brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced [X]6 typeface using Microsoft Word 2016 in Times New Roman 14-point font; or 7 3. This brief has been prepared in a monospaced typeface 8 using [state name and version of word-processing program] with [state number 9 of characters per inch and name of type style]. 10 4. I further certify that this brief complies with the page- or typevolume limitations of NRAP 32(a)(7) because, excluding the parts of the brief 11 12 exempted by NRAP 32(a)(7)(C), it is either: 13 [X]Proportionately spaced, has a typeface of 14 points or more, 14 and contains 7591 words; or 15 Monospaced, has 10.5 or fewer characters per inch, and 16 contains words or lines of text; or Does not exceed pages. 17 18 5. Finally, I hereby certify that I have read this appellate brief, and to 19
 - 5. Finally, I hereby certify that I have read this appellate brief, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, it is not frivolous or interposed for any improper purpose. I further certify that this brief complies with all applicable Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure, in particular NRAP 28(e)(1), which requires every assertion in the brief regarding matters in the

record to be supported by a reference to the page and volume number, if any, of the transcript or appendix where the matter relied on is to be found. I understand that I may be subject to sanctions in the event that the accompanying brief is not in conformity with the requirements of the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure.

DATED this day of December, 2019.

MUSHKIN & COPPEDGE

MICHAEL R. MUSHKIN, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 2421 L. JOE COPPEDGE, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 4954 6070 S. Eastern Ave., Suite 270 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE				
2	Pursuant to NRAP 25(d), I certify that on thisday of December,				
3	2019, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Appellant's Opening				
4	Brief as follows:				
5		by placing same to be deposited for mailing in the United States			
6		Mail, in a sealed envelope upon which first class postage was			
7		prepaid in Las Vegas, Nevada;			
8		via electronic means by operation of the Court's electronic filing			
9		system, upon each party in this case who is registered as an			
10		electronic case filing user with the Clerk;			
11		via hand-delivery to the addressee listed below;			
12		via facsimile;			
13		by transmitting via email to the email address set forth below			
14		HT/A/A			
15		An Employee of			
16		Mushkin & Coppedge			
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