

**DESERT RIDGE LEGAL GROUP**

Thomas A. Larmore, Esq.  
Nevada Bar No. 7415  
3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
Telephone: (702) 765-0976  
Facsimile: (702) 765-0981  
Email: [tlarmore@keyinsco.com](mailto:tlarmore@keyinsco.com)  
*Attorneys for Appellant*

Electronically Filed  
Aug 26 2021 04:12 p.m.  
Elizabeth A. Brown  
Clerk of Supreme Court

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, AN  
INDIVIDUAL,

Appellant,

vs.

ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, AN INDIVIDUAL,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case No. 82267

District Court Case No. A-19-789525-C

**MOTION TO: (1) FORGIVE LATE FILING OF REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT OF  
PROCEEDINGS AND OPENING BRIEF AND APPENDIX; or, alternatively (2)  
MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO SUBMIT REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT  
OF PROCEEDINGS AND OPENING BRIEF AND APPENDIX**

COMES NOW Appellant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO (hereinafter “Appellant”), by and through counsel of record, THOMAS A. LARMORE, ESQ. of DESERT RIDGE LEGAL GROUP, and hereby requests the Court: (1) forgive and allow the late filing of Appellant’s Request for Transcript of Proceedings and Opening Brief and Appendix; or, alternatively (2) Motion for Extension of Time to submit said Request. Appellant hereby moves as follows:

1. Plaintiff/Respondent ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ (hereinafter “Respondent”) filed the initial Complaint on February 15, 2019.

2. Appellant filed an Answer on August 20, 2019.

3. Appellant filed a Notice of Appeal and Case Appeal Statement on December 23, 2020. (see attached Exhibit “A” and Exhibit “B”)

4. On or about January 5, 2021, a Notice of Referral to Settlement Program and Suspension of Rules was filed by the Clerk of Court. (see attached Exhibit “C”)

5. On January 26, 2021, Appellant filed a Docketing Statement of Civil Appeals. (see attached Exhibit “D”).

6. Appellant has throughout the appellate process displayed the utmost of good faith. A Notice of Appeal was timely filed. A Docketing Statement was timely filed. Appellant is clearly attempting to make all efforts to appeal the case in good faith and meet all deadlines. He requests the Supreme Court forgive his failure to timely file the Request for Transcripts of Proceedings and Opening Brief and Appendix and allow an Extension of Time to submit the Request for Transcripts of Proceedings and Opening Brief and Appendix.

DATED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August 2021.

**DESERT RIDGE LEGAL GROUP**

By: /s/ Thomas A. Larmore

THOMAS A. LARMORE, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 7415

3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300

Las Vegas, Nevada 89120

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021, I served a true and complete copy of the foregoing **MOTION TO: (1) FORGIVE LATE FILING OF REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS AND OPENING BRIEF AND APPENDIX; or, alternatively (2) MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO SUBMIT REQUEST FOR TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS AND OPENING BRIEF AND APPENDIX** addressed to the parties below as follows:

☒ by placing a true and correct copy of the same to be deposited for mailing in the U.S. Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope upon which first class postage was fully prepaid; and /or

☐ via facsimile; and or

☐ by hand delivery to parties listed below; and or

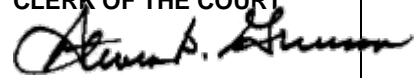
☒ by electronic service via EFlex through the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada.

ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 6910  
VERNON EVANS, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 14705  
ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS  
7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
Tel: (702) 222-2115  
Fax: (702) 227-0615  
Email: [service@ericblanklaw.com](mailto:service@ericblanklaw.com)  
*Attorneys for Respondent*

/s/ Jeri L. Roth

**DESERT RIDGE LEGAL GROUP**

# EXHIBIT A



**NOAS**  
**STORM LEGAL GROUP**  
RYAN M. VENCI, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 7547  
3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
Telephone: (702) 765-0976  
Facsimile: (702) 765-0981  
Email: [rvenci@keyinsco.com](mailto:rvenci@keyinsco.com)  
*Attorneys for Defendant*

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

ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ an individual;

Plaintiff,

vs.

VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an  
Individual; and DOES I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: A-19-789525-C

DEPT NO.: IV

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

Notice is hereby given that VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO , defendant above-named,  
hereby appeals to the Supreme Court of Nevada from:

1. The Judgment on Arbitration Award entered in this action on November 24, 2020  
and the Court's decision granting Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de  
Novo entered on November 5, 2020.

DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2020.

**STORM LEGAL GROUP**

By: /s/ Ryan Venci

RYAN M. VENCI, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 7547

3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300

Las Vegas, Nevada 89120

*Attorneys for Defendant*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2020, I served a true and complete copy of the foregoing **NOTICE OF APPEAL** addressed to the parties below as follows:

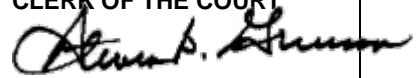
- [ ] by placing a true and correct copy of the same to be deposited for mailing in the U.S. Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope upon which first class postage was fully prepaid; and /or
- [ ] via facsimile; and or
- [ ] by hand delivery to parties listed below; and or
- [X] by electronic service via Odyssey through the District Court.

ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 6910  
VERNON EVANS, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar. No. 14705  
**ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**  
7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
Telephone: (702) 222-2115  
Facsimile: (702) 227-0615  
E-mail: [service@ericblanklaw.com](mailto:service@ericblanklaw.com)  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

/s/ Star Farrow

Employee, STORM LEGAL GROUP

# EXHIBIT B



**ASTA**  
**STORM LEGAL GROUP**  
RYAN M. VENCI, ESQ.  
Nevada Bar No. 7547  
3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
Telephone: (702) 765-0976  
Facsimile: (702) 765-0981  
Email: [rvenci@keyinsco.com](mailto:rvenci@keyinsco.com)  
*Attorneys for Defendant*

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

ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ an individual;

Plaintiff,

vs.

VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an  
Individual; and DOES I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

CASE NO.: A-19-789525-C

DEPT NO.:IV

**CASE APPEAL STATEMENT**

Defendant/appellant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, through her undersigned counsel,  
hereby submits the following Case Appeal Statement:

**1. Name of appellant filing this case appeal statement:**

Veronica Jazmin Castillo

**2. Identify the judge issuing the decision, judgment, or order appealed from:**

The Honorable Kerry Earley

**3. Identify each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each appellant:**

Appellant: Veronica Jazmin Castillo.

Counsel for Appellant: Ryan M. Venci, Esq., 3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite  
300, Las Vegas, Nevada 89120.

...

...



1  
2 **4. Identify each respondent and the name and address of appellate counsel, if**  
3 **known, for each respondent (if the name of a respondent's appellate counsel is**  
4 **unknown, indicate as much and provide the name and address of that respondent's**  
5 **trial counsel):**

6 Respondent: Armando Pons-Diaz.

7 Counsel for Respondent: Eric R. Blank, Esq., and Brian P. Nestor, Esq., 7860  
8 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 110, Las Vegas, Nevada 89117.

9 **5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4 is**  
10 **not licensed to practice law in Nevada and, if so, whether the district court granted**  
11 **that attorney permission to appear under SCR 42 (attach a copy of any district court**  
12 **order granting such permission):**

13 No attorney is not license to practice law in Nevada.

14 **6. Indicate whether appellant was represented by appointed or retained counsel in**  
15 **the district court:**

16 Appellant was represented by retained counsel in the district court

17 **7. Indicate whether appellant is represented by appointed or retained counsel on**  
18 **appeal:**

19 Appellant is represented by retained counsel on appeal.

20 **8. Indicate whether appellant was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and**  
21 **the date of entry of the district court order granting such leave:**

22 Appellant has not been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

23 **9. Indicate the date the proceedings commenced in the district court (e.g., date**  
24 **complaint, indictment, information, or petition was filed):**

25 February 15, 2019.

26 **10. Provide a brief description of the nature of the action and result in the district**  
27 **court, including the type of judgment or order being appealed and the relief granted**  
28 **by the district court:**

This is a personal injury action between Plaintiff/Respondent and

Defendant/Appellant. Defendant/Appellant was insured under an automobile liability policy and his insurer provided a defense. The parties submitted the matter to the court-annexed arbitration program in Clark County, Nevada, and an award was rendered in favor of Plaintiff/Respondent. Defendant/Appellant timely filed a Request for Trial de Novo. Subsequently, Plaintiff/Respondent filed a Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo. The Court granted that said motion. A judgment was then entered against Defendant/Appellant on November 24, 2020. Defendant/Appellant is appealing the Judgment and the Court's order on the Motion to Strike.

**11. Indicate whether the case has previously been the subject of an appeal to or original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court and, if so, the caption and Supreme Court docket number of the prior proceeding:**

The case has not previously been the subject of an appeal or original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court.

**12. Indicate whether this appeal involves child custody or visitation:**

The appeal does not involve child custody or visitation.

**13. If this is a civil case, indicate whether this appeal involves the possibility of settlement:**

This appeal involves the possibility of settlement.

DATED this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2020.

**STORM LEGAL GROUP**

By: /s/ Ryan Venci

RYAN M. VENCI, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 7547

3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300

Las Vegas, Nevada 89120

*Attorneys for Defendant*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of December, 2020, I served a true and complete copy of the foregoing **CASE APPEAL STATMENT** addressed to the parties below as follows:

- [ ] by placing a true and correct copy of the same to be deposited for mailing in the U.S. Mail, enclosed in a sealed envelope upon which first class postage was fully prepaid; and /or
- [ ] via facsimile; and or
- [ ] by hand delivery to parties listed below; and or
- [X] by electronic service via Odyssey through the District Court.

ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 6910

VERNON EVANS, ESQ.

Nevada Bar. No. 14705

**ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**

7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

Telephone: (702) 222-2115

Facsimile: (702) 227-0615

E-mail: [service@ericblanklaw.com](mailto:service@ericblanklaw.com)

*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

/s/ Star Farrow

Employee, STORM LEGAL GROUP

# EXHIBIT C

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA  
OFFICE OF THE CLERK**

VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, AN  
INDIVIDUAL,  
Appellant,  
vs.  
ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, AN INDIVIDUAL,  
Respondent.

**Supreme Court No. 82267**  
District Court Case No. A789525

**NOTICE OF REFERRAL TO SETTLEMENT PROGRAM AND SUSPENSION  
OF RULES**

TO: Storm Legal Group \ Ryan M. Venci  
Eric Blank Injury Attorneys \ Eric R. Blank, Vernon Evans, Brian P. Nestor

This notice is to inform you that this appeal may be assigned to the court's Settlement Program. See NRAP 16(a). The issuance of this notice automatically stays the time for filing a request for transcripts under NRAP 9, and for filing briefs under NRAP 31. See NRAP 16(a)(1).

The docketing statement must be filed and served within 21 days of the date of this notice. This timeline is not stayed by this notice.

DATE: January 05, 2021

Elizabeth A. Brown, Clerk of Court

By: Joan Hendricks  
Settlement Program Officer

**Notification List**

Electronic  
Storm Legal Group \ Ryan M. Venci  
Eric Blank Injury Attorneys \ Eric R. Blank

Paper  
Eric Blank Injury Attorneys \ Brian P. Nestor  
Eric Blank Injury Attorneys \ Vernon Evans

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

INDICATE FULL CAPTION:

No. \_\_\_\_\_

### DOCKETING STATEMENT CIVIL APPEALS

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

Appellants must complete this docketing statement in compliance with NRAP 14(a). The purpose of the docketing statement is to assist the Supreme Court in screening jurisdiction, identifying issues on appeal, assessing presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, scheduling cases for oral argument and settlement conferences, classifying cases for expedited treatment and assignment to the Court of Appeals, and compiling statistical information.

#### WARNING

This statement must be completed fully, accurately and on time. NRAP 14(c). The Supreme Court may impose sanctions on counsel or appellant if it appears that the information provided is incomplete or inaccurate. *Id.* Failure to fill out the statement completely or to file it in a timely manner constitutes grounds for the imposition of sanctions, including a fine and/or dismissal of the appeal.

A complete list of the documents that must be attached appears as Question 27 on this docketing statement. Failure to attach all required documents will result in the delay of your appeal and may result in the imposition of sanctions.

This court has noted that when attorneys do not take seriously their obligations under NRAP 14 to complete the docketing statement properly and conscientiously, they waste the valuable judicial resources of this court, making the imposition of sanctions appropriate. See KDI Sylvan Pools v. Workman, 107 Nev. 340, 344, 810 P.2d 1217, 1220 (1991). Please use tab dividers to separate any attached documents.

1. Judicial District \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_

District Ct. Case No. \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Attorney filing this docketing statement:**

Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Client(s) \_\_\_\_\_

If this is a joint statement by multiple appellants, add the names and addresses of other counsel and the names of their clients on an additional sheet accompanied by a certification that they concur in the filing of this statement.

**3. Attorney(s) representing respondents(s):**

Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Client(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Client(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(List additional counsel on separate sheet if necessary)

**4. Nature of disposition below (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after bench trial         | <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal:                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after jury verdict        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of jurisdiction                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summary judgment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to state a claim                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Default judgment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to prosecute                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of injunction         | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce Decree:                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of declaratory relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Modification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review of agency determination     | <input type="checkbox"/> Other disposition (specify): _____             |

**5. Does this appeal raise issues concerning any of the following?**

- ☐ Child Custody
- ☐ Venue
- ☐ Termination of parental rights

**6. Pending and prior proceedings in this court.** List the case name and docket number of all appeals or original proceedings presently or previously pending before this court which are related to this appeal:

**7. Pending and prior proceedings in other courts.** List the case name, number and court of all pending and prior proceedings in other courts which are related to this appeal (e.g., bankruptcy, consolidated or bifurcated proceedings) and their dates of disposition:



**8. Nature of the action.** Briefly describe the nature of the action and the result below:

**9. Issues on appeal.** State concisely the principal issue(s) in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):

**10. Pending proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues.** If you are aware of any proceedings presently pending before this court which raises the same or similar issues raised in this appeal, list the case name and docket numbers and identify the same or similar issue raised:

**11. Constitutional issues.** If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?

☐ N/A

☐ Yes

☐ No

If not, explain:

**12. Other issues.** Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?

☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))

☐ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions

☐ A substantial issue of first impression

☐ An issue of public policy

☐ An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's decisions

☐ A ballot question

If so, explain:

**13. Assignment to the Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court.** Briefly set forth whether the matter is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court or assigned to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, and cite the subparagraph(s) of the Rule under which the matter falls. If appellant believes that the Supreme Court should retain the case despite its presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals, identify the specific issue(s) or circumstance(s) that warrant retaining the case, and include an explanation of their importance or significance:

**14. Trial.** If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last? \_\_\_\_\_

Was it a bench or jury trial? \_\_\_\_\_

**15. Judicial Disqualification.** Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice recuse him/herself from participation in this appeal? If so, which Justice?

## TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

**16. Date of entry of written judgment or order appealed from** \_\_\_\_\_

If no written judgment or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for seeking appellate review:

**17. Date written notice of entry of judgment or order was served** \_\_\_\_\_

Was service by:

☐ Delivery

☐ Mail/electronic/fax

**18. If the time for filing the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion (NRCP 50(b), 52(b), or 59)**

(a) Specify the type of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and the date of filing.

☐ NRCP 50(b)      Date of filing \_\_\_\_\_

☐ NRCP 52(b)      Date of filing \_\_\_\_\_

☐ NRCP 59      Date of filing \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Motions made pursuant to NRCP 60 or motions for rehearing or reconsideration may toll the time for filing a notice of appeal. See AA Primo Builders v. Washington, 126 Nev. \_\_\_\_, 245 P.3d 1190 (2010).**

(b) Date of entry of written order resolving tolling motion \_\_\_\_\_

(c) Date written notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served \_\_\_\_\_

Was service by:

☐ Delivery

☐ Mail

**19. Date notice of appeal filed** \_\_\_\_\_

If more than one party has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each notice of appeal was filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:

**20. Specify statute or rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other**

\_\_\_\_\_

**SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY**

**21. Specify the statute or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review the judgment or order appealed from:**

(a)

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(1)

☐ NRS 38.205

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(2)

☐ NRS 233B.150

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(3)

☐ NRS 703.376

☐ Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Explain how each authority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order:

**22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court:**

(a) Parties:

(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, *e.g.*, formally dismissed, not served, or other:

**23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, or third-party claims and the date of formal disposition of each claim.**

**24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?**

☐ Yes

☐ No

**25. If you answered "No" to question 24, complete the following:**

(a) Specify the claims remaining pending below:

(b) Specify the parties remaining below:

(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

(d) Did the district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), that there is no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of judgment?

☐ Yes

☐ No

**26. If you answered "No" to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):**

**27. Attach file-stamped copies of the following documents:**

- The latest-filed complaint, counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party claims
- Any tolling motion(s) and order(s) resolving tolling motion(s)
- Orders of NRCP 41(a) dismissals formally resolving each claim, counterclaims, cross-claims and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidated action below, even if not at issue on appeal
- Any other order challenged on appeal
- Notices of entry for each attached order

## VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this docketing statement, that the information provided in this docketing statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I have attached all required documents to this docketing statement.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of appellant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of counsel of record

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of counsel of record

\_\_\_\_\_  
State and county where signed

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, I served a copy of this completed docketing statement upon all counsel of record:

☐ By personally serving it upon him/her; or

☐ By mailing it by first class mail with sufficient postage prepaid to the following address(es): (NOTE: If all names and addresses cannot fit below, please list names below and attach a separate sheet with the addresses.)

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature



# EXHIBIT D

**STORM LEGAL GROUP**  
**RYAN M. VENCI, ESQ.**  
Nevada Bar No. 7547  
3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
Telephone: (702) 765-0976  
Facsimile: (702) 765-0981  
Email: [rvenci@keyinsco.com](mailto:rvenci@keyinsco.com)  
Attorneys for Defendant

Electronically Filed  
Jan 26 2021 12:49 p.m.  
Elizabeth A. Brown  
Clerk of Supreme Court

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA**

VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, AN  
INDIVIDUAL;

Appellant,

vs.

ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, AN INDIVIDUAL

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case No. 82267

**DOCKETING STATEMENT**  
**CIVIL APPEALS**

1. Judicial District: Eighth Department IV  
County: Clark Judge: Hon, Kerry Earley
2. **Attorney filing this docketing statement:**  
Ryan M. Venci, Esq. (702) 765-0976  
3037 East Warm Springs Road, Suite 300, Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
Client(s): Veronica Jazmin Castillo
3. **Attorney(s) representing respondent(s):**  
Eric R. Blank, Esq., and Brian P. Nestor, Esq. (702) 222-2115  
7860 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 110, Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
Client(s): Armando Pons-Diaz

...

...

...

**4. Nature of disposition below (check all that apply):**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgement after bench trial        | <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal:   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after jury verdict        | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of jurisdiction   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summary judgment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to state a claim   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Default judgment                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to prosecute   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grand/Denial of injection          | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce decree   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of declaratory relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Modification   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review of agency determination     | x Other disposition (specify): Court granted Respondent's Motion to Strike Request for Trial De Novo and entered a Judgment on the Arbitration Award. |

**5. Does this appeal raise issues concerning any of the following?**

- ☐ Child custody
- ☐ Venue
- ☐ Termination of parental rights
- No.

**6. Pending and prior proceedings in this court.** List the case name and docket number of all appeals or original proceedings presently or previously before this court which are related to this appeal.

None.

**7. Pending and prior proceedings in other courts.** List the case name, number and court of all pending and prior proceedings in other courts which are related to this appeal (e.g. bankruptcy, consolidation or bifurcated proceedings) and their dates of disposition.

None.

**8. Nature of the action.** Briefly describe the nature of the action and the result below:

This is a personal injury action between Plaintiff/Respondent and Defendant/Appellant. Defendant/Appellant was insured under an automobile liability policy and his insurer provided a defense. The parties submitted the matter to the court-annexed arbitration program in Clark County, Nevada, and an award was rendered in favor of Plaintiff/Respondent.

Defendant/Appellant timely filed a Request for Trial de Novo. Subsequently, Plaintiff/Respondent

1 filed a Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo. The Court granted that said  
2 motion. A judgment was then entered against Defendant/Appellant on November 24, 2020.

3 **9. Issues on appeal.** State concisely the principal issue(s) in this appeal (attach separate  
4 sheets as necessary):

5 Whether the District Court properly struck Defendant/Appellant's Request for Trial de  
6 Novo and entered judgment in favor of Plaintiff/Respondent on the Arbitration Award.

7 **10. Pending proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues.** If you are aware  
8 of any proceedings presently pending before this court which raised the same or similar issues  
9 raised in this appeal, list the case name and docket numbers and identify the same or similar issue  
10 raised:

11 None.

12 **11. Constitutional issues.** If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the  
13 state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, have you  
14 notified the clerk of court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS30.130

15 x N/A

16 ☐ Yes

17 ☐ No

18 If not, explain: Not applicable

19 **12. Other issues.** Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?

20 ☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))

21 ☐ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions

22 ☐ A substantial issue of first impression

23 ☐ An issue of public policy

24 ☐ An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's  
25 decisions

26 ☐ A ballot question.

27 If so, explain: Not applicable.

28 ...

...

13. **Assignment to the Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court.** Briefly set forth whether the matter is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court or assigned to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, and cite the subparagraphs of the Rule under which the matter falls. If appellant believes that the Supreme Court should retain the case despite its presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals, identify the specific issue(s) or circumstance(s) that warrant retaining the case, and include an explanation of their importance or significance:

Appellant submits that this appeal is presumptively assigned to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17(b)(5).

14. **Trial.** If this action proceed to trial, how many days did the trial last? Not applicable.

Was it a bench or jury trial? No applicable.

15. **Judicial Disqualification.** Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice recuse him/herself from participation in this appeal? If so, which Justice?

No.

#### TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

16. **Date of entry of written judgment or order appealed from**

If no written judgment or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for seeking appellate review: The Notice of Entry of Order on the Court's ruling on Plaintiff's Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial De Novo was filed on November 5, 2020 and the Judgment on Arbitration Award was filed on November 24, 2020. Plaintiff never filed a Notice of Entry of Judgment. Nevertheless, the issue remains as to whether the Court properly granted the Motion.

17. **Date of written notice of entry of judgment or order was served**

Was service by:

☐ Delivery

☐ Mail/electronic service

...

...

...

...

**18. If the time for filing the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion (NRCP 50(b), 52(b) or 59)**

(a) Specify the type of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and the date of filing

Not applicable

**19. Date notice of appeal filed December 23, 2020**

**20. Specify the statute or rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, e.g. NRAP 4(a) or other**

NRAP4(A)(1).

**SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY**

**21. Specify the statute or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review the judgment or order appealed from:**

(a)

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NRAP 3(A)(b)(1) | <input type="checkbox"/> NRS 38.205   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRAP 3(A)(b)(2)            | <input type="checkbox"/> NRS 233B.150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NRAP (3)(A)(b)(3)          | <input type="checkbox"/> NRS 703.376  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)            |                                       |

(b) Explain how each authority provides a basis for appeal from judgement or order  
The order granting the Motion to Strike and Judgment on Arbitration Award: NRAP 3(A)(b)(1).

**22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court.**

(a) Parties:

Plaintiff: Armando Pons-Diaz

Defendant: Veronica Jazmin Castillo

(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, e.g., formally dismissed, not served, or other:

Not applicable.

...

...

**23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims or third-party claims and the date of formal disposition of each claim.**

Negligence, November 5, 2020 and November 24, 2020.

**24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?**

☒ Yes

☐ No

**25. If you answered "No" to question 24, complete the following:**

Not applicable.

**26. If you answered "No" to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3(A)(b):**

Not applicable.

**27. Attach filed stamped copies of the following documents:**

- The latest-filed complaint, counterclaims, cross-claims an third-party claims
- Any tolling motion(s) and order(s) resolving tolling motion(s)
- Orders of NRCP 41(a) dismissals formally resolving each claim, counterclaims, cross claims and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidated actions below
- Any other challenged on appeal
- Notices of entry for each attached order

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

...

**VERIFICATION**

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this docketing statement, that the information provided in this docketing statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I have attached all required documents to this

docketing statement

Veronica Jazmin Castillo

Name of Appellant

Ryan M. Venci, Esq.

Name of counsel of record

January 26, 2021

Date

/s/ Ryan M. Venci

Signature of counsel of record

State of Nevada, County of Clark

State and country where signed

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that on the 26<sup>th</sup> say of January, 2021, I served a copy of this completed docketing statement upon all counsel of record:

☐ By personally serving it upon him/her, or

☒ By mailing it by first class with sufficient postage paid to the following address(es):

ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 6910

VERNON EVANS, ESQ.

Nevada Bar. No. 14705

**ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**

7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

Telephone: (702) 222-2115

Facsimile: (702) 227-0615

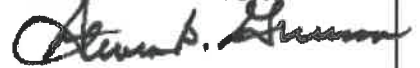
E-mail: [service@ericblanklaw.com](mailto:service@ericblanklaw.com)

***Attorneys for Plaintiff***

/s/ Star Farrow

Employee, STORM LEGAL GROUP





1 **COMP**

2 **ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.**

3 Nevada Bar No. 006910

4 **S. DENISE McCURRY, ESQ.**

5 Nevada Bar No. 007085

6 **ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**

7 7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110

8 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

9 Telephone: (702) 222-2115

10 Facsimile: (702) 227-0615

11 E-mail: [service@ericblanklaw.com](mailto:service@ericblanklaw.com)

12 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

13 **DISTRICT COURT**

14 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

15 **A-19-789525-C**

16 **ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, an individual,**

17 **Plaintiff,**

18 **vs.**

19 **VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an individual;**  
20 **and DOES I through X, inclusive,**

21 **Defendants.**

Case No.:

Dept. No.:

Department 4

22 **COMPLAINT**

23 COMES NOW, Plaintiff ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, (hereinafter "Plaintiff") by and through his  
24 counsel, ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ., of ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS hereby alleges and avers  
25 as follows:

26 **PARTIES**

27 1. All the events alleged in this Complaint took place in Clark County, Nevada.

28 2. Plaintiff, is, and at all times mentioned in this complaint was, a resident of Clark  
County, Nevada.

3. Upon information and belief, that Defendant, VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO was a  
resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada at the time of the incident.

4. That Plaintiff is unaware of the true names and capacities of Defendants sued in this  
Complaint as DOES I through X, inclusive, and will amend this Complaint to insert their true names

1 and capacities when known. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and on that basis alleges, that each of  
2 the Defendants sued in this Complaint as a Doe defendant is in some manner responsible for the acts  
3 and conduct alleged in this Complaint.

4 5. Upon information and belief, that, at all times relevant, each of the Defendants were  
5 acting as an agent and/or employee of each of the other Defendants and, in performing the acts and  
6 conduct alleged in this Complaint, was acting within the course and scope of such agency and/or  
7 employment.

### 8 **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION**

#### 9 **(Negligence)**

10 6. Plaintiff repeats and re-alleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1 through 5 of the  
11 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

12 7. That on or about December 15, 2017, Plaintiff was traveling southbound on Arville  
13 Street, attempting to make a right turn on Spring Mountain Road, when Defendant failed to yield when  
14 making a left turn on to Spring Mountain Road, impacting the left side of Plaintiff's vehicle.

15 8. As a result of the accident, Plaintiff suffered serious physical, emotional, and financial  
16 injury, as more fully set forth herein.

17 9. That it was the duty of Defendant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO to operate her  
18 motor vehicle so as not to carelessly or negligently cause injury or damage to others lawfully operating  
19 vehicles on the roadways, but Defendant was negligent in the following particulars:

20 (a) Defendant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO failed to keep her vehicle under proper  
21 control at all times;

22 (b) Defendant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO was inattentive and failed to keep a  
23 proper lookout for Plaintiff who was lawfully driving on Spring Mountain Road and Arville Street in  
24 Clark County, Las Vegas, Nevada;

25 (c) Defendant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO failed to afford Plaintiff proper and  
26 sufficient notice and warning of approach of Defendant's vehicle sufficient for Plaintiff to properly  
27 protect himself.  
28

1           10.     That as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligence, carelessness and  
2 recklessness of Defendant, Plaintiff sustained injuries to his body, including neck and upper back, and  
3 shock and injury to his nervous system and person, all of which caused and will continue to cause  
4 Plaintiff physical, mental, and nervous pain and suffering.

5           11.     That as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligence, carelessness  
6 and recklessness of Defendant, Plaintiff was required to incur medical bills and will be required in the  
7 future to incur expenses for and to employ physicians, nurses, physical therapists, and to procure  
8 hospitalization, medicine, and general medical care and attention.

9           12.     That as a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligence of Defendants, and each  
10 of them, Plaintiff's vehicle sustained significant property damage, with a resultant loss of use in an  
11 unknown amount.

12           13.     That as a further direct and proximate result of the Defendant and Doe Defendants'  
13 negligence, Plaintiff has sustained loss of earnings and earning capacity in an amount to be determined  
14 at trial.

15           14.     That Plaintiff has secured the services of an attorney in order to prosecute this action  
16 and Plaintiff is entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred.

17           15.     That as a direct and proximate result of the aforesaid negligence of the Defendant,  
18 Plaintiff has incurred all of the injuries and damages in excess of FIFTENN THOUSAND DOLLARS  
19 (\$15,000.00) as alleged herein.

20 ///

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows for each of his claims for relief:

- 2 1. General and special damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00;
- 3 2. For reasonable attorney's fees;
- 4 3. Lost earnings and earning capacity;
- 5 4. For Plaintiff's costs;
- 6 5. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest; and
- 7 6. For such other and further relief as the court may deem just and proper.

8 DATED this 15<sup>th</sup> day of February 2019.

9 By: /s/ Eric R. Blank  
10 **ERIC R. BLANK**  
11 **S. DENISE McCURRY**  
12 **ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**  
13 7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
14 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
15 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28

A-19-789525-C

**DISTRICT COURT  
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

Negligence - Auto

COURT MINUTES

October 07, 2020

A-19-789525-C      Armando Pons-Diaz, Plaintiff(s)  
vs.  
Veronica Castillo, Defendant(s)

October 07, 2020	3:00 AM	Minute Order	Plaintiff Armando Pons-Diaz Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo
------------------	---------	--------------	--

HEARD BY: Earley, Kerry

COURTROOM: Chambers

COURT CLERK: Louisa Garcia

**JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- THIS MATTER came before the Court on Plaintiff Armando Pons-Diaz' Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo, filed on July 23, 2020; the Opposition to Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo, filed August 6, 2020; and Plaintiff's Reply filed on September 10, 2020.

THE COURT having reviewed the matter, including all points and authorities, and exhibits, and good cause appearing hereby GRANTS Plaintiff Armando Pons-Diaz Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo, based on the following:

This matter arises out of a car accident that occurred on December 15, 2017. Plaintiff alleged that he was travelling southbound on Arville Street, attempting to make a right turn onto Spring Mountain Road when his vehicle was struck by Defendant's vehicle who failed to yield right of way to Plaintiff.

Plaintiff argues that Defendant failed to participate in the Arbitration proceedings in good faith because Defendant failed to participate in discovery during the Arbitration phase, failed to produce documents in discovery, failed to respond to Plaintiff's Interrogatories and Requests for Production, and failed to appear at her deposition which was re-scheduled twice due to defense counsel's inability to locate defendant.

Plaintiff further argues Defendant failed to timely serve her Arbitration brief. The Arbitration Hearing in this matter was originally scheduled for March 19, 2020, and Plaintiff served his

PRINT DATE: 10/07/2020

Page 1 of 5

Minutes Date: October 07, 2020

Arbitration Brief on March 13, 2020, in accordance with the Arbitration Discovery Order. The Arbitration Hearing was rescheduled due to COVID-19 and defense counsel's firm having technology issues preventing a telephonic Arbitration Hearing. Plaintiff argues that Defendant failed to serve an Arbitration Brief in March, and although she benefitted from the hearing being rescheduled to May, Defendant failed to serve a timely brief because it was not served until May 11, 2020, the eve before the May 12, 2020 Arbitration Hearing. The Notice of Change of Arbitration Hearing Date/Time stated that the Arbitration Brief was due by May 7, 2020.

Moreover, Plaintiff argues that Defendant did not attend the Arbitration Hearing, and did not oppose Plaintiff's Motion for Costs, Interest, and Attorney's fees. Last, Plaintiff argues that the decision to request a Trial de Novo rests solely with the client and defense counsel has not communicated with Defendant throughout the litigation thereby indicating that Defendant did not authorize the filing of the Request for Trial de Novo.

In Defendant's opposition, defense counsel concedes that he was unsuccessful in communicating with Defendant and as a result could not respond to Plaintiff's interrogatories. Defendant argues that Defendant's participation at the Arbitration Hearing was not necessary because duty and breach were conceded and the only issues that remained were causation and damages, and the Defendant has a right to a civil jury trial under the Nevada Constitution.

NAR 18 allows a party to file a request for trial de novo within 30 days after the arbitration award is served upon the parties. The party requesting trial de novo must certify that all arbitrator fees and costs for such party have been paid or shall be paid within 30 days, or that an objection is pending and any balance of fees or costs shall be paid in accordance with subsection (C) Rule 18.

Here, the Arbitration Award was entered on June 1, 2020. Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo was filed on June 30, 2020 and contained the certification statement. Therefore, THE COURT FINDS that Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo was timely.

NAR 22(A) states that the failure of a party or an attorney to defend a case in good faith during the arbitration proceedings shall constitute a waiver of the right to a trial de novo.

The Nevada Supreme Court has held that all sanctioning orders under NAR 22(A) must be accompanied by specific written findings of fact and conclusions of law describing what type of conduct was at issue and how that conduct rose to the level of failed good faith participation. *Chamberland v. Labarbera*, 110 Nev. 701, 705, 877 P.2d 523, 525 (1994).

The Nevada Supreme Court has stated that although the Nevada Constitution provides a litigant with the right to a jury trial in civil proceedings. Nev. Const. art. 1, § 3, this right can be waived by various means prescribed by law. One of those means is NAR 22, which states that the district court may sanction an arbitration participant by striking a request for a trial de novo if the participant has

not acted in good faith. *Gittings v. Hartz*, 116 Nev. 386, 390, 996 P.2d 898, 900 01 (2000).

The Nevada Supreme Court has equated good faith with meaningful participation in the arbitration proceedings. *Gittings*, 116 Nev. at 390, citing *Casino Properties, Inc. v. Andrews*, 112 Nev. 132, 135, 911 P.2d 1181, 1182 83 (1996). However, the mere failure of a party to attend or call witnesses in an arbitration hearing does not amount to bad faith or a lack of meaningful participation. *Id.* at 392. It is the substance of the arbitration that is important in determining the good faith of the participants. *Gittings v. Hartz*, 116 Nev. 386, 393, 996 P.2d 898, 902 (2000).

A party's failure to respond to interrogatories and requests for production, or otherwise fail to participate in discovery may be grounds for striking a trial de novo request if the failure to provide the requested discovery had an impact on the arbitration proceedings or Plaintiff's ability to present their case. *Bakke v. Am. Family Mut. Ins. Co.*, No. 75342-COA, 2019 WL 6003341, at \*2 3 (Nev. App. Nov. 13, 2019)

Plaintiff argued that he was prohibited from properly preparing for the Arbitration and from preparing for the numerous personal attacks contained in Defendant's Arbitration Brief, which was filed the day before the re-scheduled Arbitration Hearing. Plaintiff further stated that he was not able to fully prosecute his case due to Defendant's absence.

THE COURT FINDS that Defendant failed to respond to interrogatories, requests for production, or appear at her deposition, which was noticed twice.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that Defendant failed to produce any of the documents requested by Plaintiff during discovery.

Therefore, THE COURT FINDS the Defendant's failure to participate in discovery and failure to provide the requested discovery had a negative impact on Plaintiff's ability to adequately prepare for the arbitration proceedings and on Plaintiff's ability to present his case.

The original Arbitration Hearing was scheduled for March 19, 2020. Defendant's deposition had been re-set to March 4, 2020, the last day of discovery, due to Defendant's failure to appear at the first scheduled deposition based on counsel's inability to communicate with Defendant. On March 3, 2020, the day before Defendant's second deposition and nearly two weeks before the Arbitration Hearing, defense counsel's office emailed plaintiff's counsel stating we have been unsuccessful at reaching our client. Therefore we want to cancel the depo and will concede liability. Please cancel the deposition. Thank you.

Moreover, Defendant's Arbitration Brief stated that it was anticipated that the named Parties will testify at the arbitration hearing. (*Id.* at p. 7). However, Defendant did not appear at the Arbitration Hearing.

THE COURT FINDS that defense counsel's last minute concession of liability on the last day of discovery as a means to vacate the deposition of Defendant, who had already failed to respond to Plaintiff's discovery requests caused unnecessary burden and expense to Plaintiff. Plaintiff was unable to adequately conduct discovery due to Defendant's failure to respond to interrogatories and requests for production. This was exacerbated by Defendant's failure to appear for her deposition, which also caused Plaintiff to incur additional costs, and caused Plaintiff's counsel to spend unnecessary time preparing for Defendant's deposition, twice. The lack of any type of testimony under oath from Defendant prevented Plaintiff from addressing statements made in Defendant's recorded statement or obtaining information from Defendant about the subject accident and relevant to Plaintiff's claims.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that Defendant's Arbitration Brief consisted mainly of attacks on Plaintiff's credibility citing contradictions in Plaintiff's discovery responses and deposition testimony. However, Defendant prevented Plaintiff from being able to conduct this type of analysis as Defendant did not respond to interrogatories, did not appear for her deposition, and did not attend the Arbitration hearing. Plaintiff had no opportunity to elicit any testimony from Defendant whatsoever.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that Defendant's Arbitration Brief explicitly called Plaintiff a liar stating [b]ecause he has lied and been evasive, and because his case is reliant on the credibility of the oral representations made to his treatment providers. Therefore, testimony about the accident was a necessary part of Plaintiff's case. However, Plaintiff did not have the ability to elicit testimony from Defendant about the nature and extent of the impact, the speed at which she was traveling, whether she applied the brakes, or whether Defendant herself sustained any injuries from the subject collision so as to address the attacks on Plaintiff's testimony. Plaintiff was provided with Defendant's recorded statement, but had no opportunity to obtain any testimony from Defendant under oath and did not have the ability to cross-examine Defendant about the basis for her statements concerning Plaintiff's veracity as contained in her brief.

Therefore, THE COURT FINDS that Plaintiff's inability to conduct any discovery or elicit any testimony from Defendant negatively impacted Plaintiff's case such that Defendant did not meaningfully participate in the Arbitration proceedings resulting in bad faith participation.

There may be many valid reasons why a party would not wish to expend money at the arbitration stage of a case on medical experts. Effective cross-examination may be sufficient to point out discrepancies in a person's claim of injury without such testimony, or without presentation of countervailing medical evidence. *Gittings v. Hartz*, 116 Nev. 386, 392, 996 P.2d 898, 902 (2000)

Defendant did not provide any expert testimony in support of her challenge to Plaintiff's injuries and treatment. Defendant's Arbitration Brief called for the Arbitrator to make a "Common Sense



Evaluation" stating that "the arbitrator is not bound by case law to award Plaintiff his entire claimed medical specials, merely because Defendant has not retained a medical expert at this juncture of the case." (Defendant's Arbitration Brief, p. 6).

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that although standing alone a lack of medical experts is not a sufficient basis to strike a Request for Trial de Novo, in this matter Plaintiff received no discovery from Defendant leaving counsel's arguments in the late-filed Arbitration Brief as the only evidence regarding Plaintiff's medical treatment contained in the proceedings record. Therefore, although defense counsel argued that causation and damages were the only issues to be decided after counsel conceded liability on the last day of discovery in order to avoid Defendant's re-noticed deposition, Defendant produced no evidence during the Arbitration proceedings that provided a basis for Plaintiff to ascertain what causation and damages defenses were being presented.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that Defendant's failure to oppose Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Interest provided further evidence to lack of meaningful participation in the Arbitration proceedings.

As a result, Defendant's failure to respond to Plaintiff's interrogatories and requests for production, failure to appear for her deposition (twice), failure to present any expert testimony to support the arguments about Plaintiff's medical treatment and damages, failure to appear for the Arbitration Hearing, and failure to oppose Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs demonstrate a pattern lacking meaningful participation in the Arbitration proceeding resulting in a lack of a good faith defense of this case such that sanctions pursuant to NAR 22(A) are warranted.

Based on the foregoing, THE COURT FINDS that Defendant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO failed to meaningfully participate in the Arbitration proceedings and failed to defend this case in good faith; pursuant to NAR 22(A) such failure shall constitute a waiver of the right to trial de novo.

Therefore, Plaintiff Armando Pons-Diaz' Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo is hereby GRANTED.

Plaintiff's counsel is to prepare the Order in accordance with this Minute Order pursuant to EDCR 7.21 and in compliance with Administrative Order 20-17.

**\*\*CLERK'S NOTE:** This Minute Order has been electronically served to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve.



**ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.**  
Nevada Bar No. 006910  
**ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**  
7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
Telephone: (702) 222-2115  
Facsimile: (702) 227-0615  
E-mail: [service@ericblanklaw.com](mailto:service@ericblanklaw.com)  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

**DISTRICT COURT**

**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, an individual,  
  
Plaintiff,

vs.

VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an individual;  
and DOES I through X, inclusive,  
  
Defendants.

CASE NO.: A-19-789525-C  
DEPT. NO.: 4

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER**

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND COUNSEL OF RECORD

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the ORDER attached hereto as Exhibit 1 was entered in the  
above-captioned matter on November 5, 2020.

**DATED** this 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

By: /s/: Eric R. Blank

**ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.**  
**ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**  
7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NEFCR 9, NRCF 5(b) and EDCR 7.26, I certify that on this date, I filed and served the foregoing ORDER on the following parties and all parties on the Odyssey e-service list, by the selected means:

Travis Akin, Esq.  
Nevada Bar No. 13059  
STORM LEGAL GROUP  
3057 E. Warm Springs Rd., Suite 400  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89120  
Takin@keyinsco.com  
*Attorney for Defendant*

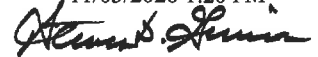
☒ **Odyssey eFileNV**  
☐ **FACSIMILE**  
☐ **U.S. MAIL**

**DATED** this 5<sup>th</sup> Day of November, 2020

/s/: Kristina M. Marzec  
An Employee of Eric Blank Injury Attorneys

# EXHIBIT 1

# EXHIBIT 1



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.** Nevada Bar No. 06910  
 2 **VERNON EVANS, ESQ.** Nevada Bar No. 14705  
 3 **ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**  
 4 7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
 5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
 6 Telephone: (702) 222-2115  
 7 E-mail: service@ericblanklaw.com  
 8 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

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

9 ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, an individual,  
 10  
 11 Plaintiff,

12 vs.

13 VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an individual;  
 14 and DOES I through X, inclusive,  
 15 Defendants.

CASE NO.: A-19-789525-C  
 DEPT. NO.: 4

**ORDER**

**Date of Hearing:**  
**Time of Hearing:**

16 THIS MATTER having come before the Court on Plaintiff Armando Pons-Diaz' *Motion to*  
 17 *Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo*, filed on July 23, 2020; the *Opposition to Motion to Strike*  
 18 *Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo*, filed August 6, 2020; and Plaintiff's *Reply to Defendant's*  
 19 *Opposition to Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial De Novo* filed on September 10, 2020;

20 With ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ. and VERNON EVANS, ESQ. of ERIC BLANK INJURY  
 21 ATTORNEYS, appearing as counsel for Plaintiff, and, TRAVIS AKIN, ESQ. of STORM LEGAL  
 22 GROUP, appearing as counsel for Defendant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO (hereinafter referred  
 23 to as "Defendant");

24 The Court having reviewed the matter, including exhibits, all points and authorities, and for  
 25 good cause appearing, hereby GRANTS *Plaintiff Armando Pons-Diaz Motion to Strike Defendant's*  
 26 *Request for Trial de Novo*, based on the following:

27 This matter arises out of a car accident that occurred on December 15, 2017. Plaintiff alleged  
 28 that he was travelling southbound on Arville Street, attempting to make a right turn onto Spring

1 Mountain Road when his vehicle was struck by Defendant s vehicle who failed to yield right of way to  
2 Plaintiff.

3 Plaintiff argues that Defendant failed participate in the Arbitration proceedings in good faith  
4 because Defendant failed to participate in discovery during the Arbitration phase, failed to produce  
5 documents in discovery, failed to respond to Plaintiff's Interrogatories and Requests for Production,  
6 and failed to appear at her deposition which was re-scheduled twice due to defense counsel's  
7 inability to locate defendant.

8 Plaintiff further argues Defendant failed to timely serve her Arbitration brief. The Arbitration  
9 Hearing in this matter was originally scheduled for March 19, 2020, and Plaintiff served his Arbitration  
10 Brief on March 13, 2020, in accordance with the Arbitration Discovery Order. The  
11 Arbitration Hearing was rescheduled due to COVID-19 and defense counsel's firm having  
12 technology issues preventing a telephonic Arbitration Hearing. Plaintiff argues that Defendant failed to  
13 serve an Arbitration Brief in March, and although she benefitted from the hearing being rescheduled to  
14 May, Defendant failed to serve a timely brief because it was not served until May 11, 2020, the eve  
15 before the May 12, 2020 Arbitration Hearing. The Notice of Change of Arbitration Hearing Date/Time  
16 stated that the Arbitration Brief was due by May 7, 2020.

17  
18 Moreover, Plaintiff argues that Defendant did not attend the Arbitration Hearing, and did not  
19 oppose Plaintiff s Motion for Costs, Interest, and Attorney's fees. Last, Plaintiff argues that the decision  
20 to request a Trial de Novo rests solely with the client and defense counsel has not communicated with  
21 Defendant throughout the litigation thereby indicating that Defendant did not authorize the filing of the  
22 Request for Trial de Novo.

23 In Defendant's opposition, defense counsel concedes that he was unsuccessful in  
24 communicating with Defendant and as a result could not respond to Plaintiff's interrogatories.  
25 Defendant argues that Defendant's participation at the Arbitration Hearing was not necessary because  
26 duty and breach were conceded and the only issues that remained were causation and damages, and the  
27 Defendant has a right to a civil jury trial under the Nevada Constitution.

28 NAR 18 allows a party to file a request for trial de novo within 30 days after the arbitration  
award is served upon the parties. The party requesting trial de novo must certify that all arbitrator fees

1 and costs for such party have been paid or shall be paid within 30 days, or that an objection is pending  
2 and any balance of fees or costs shall be paid in accordance with subsection (C) Rule 18. Here, the  
3 Arbitration Award was entered on June 1, 2020. Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo was filed on  
4 June 30, 2020 and contained the certification statement. Therefore, the Court finds that Defendant's  
5 Request for Trial de Novo was timely.

6 NAR 22(A) states that the failure of a party or an attorney to defend a case in good faith during  
7 the arbitration proceedings shall constitute a waiver of the right to a trial de novo.

8 The Nevada Supreme Court has held that all sanctioning orders under NAR 22(A) must be  
9 accompanied by specific written findings of fact and conclusions of law describing what type of  
10 conduct was at issue and how that conduct rose to the level of failed good faith participation.  
11 Chamberland v. Labarbera, 110 Nev. 701, 705, 877 P.2d 523, 525 (1994).

12 The Nevada Supreme Court has stated that although the Nevada Constitution provides a litigant  
13 with the right to a jury trial in civil proceedings. Nev. Const. art. 1, 3, this right can be waived by  
14 various means prescribed by law. One of those means is NAR 22, which states that the district court  
15 may sanction an arbitration participant by striking a request for a trial de novo if the participant has not  
16 acted in good faith. Gittings v. Hartz, 116 Nev. 386, 390, 996 P.2d 898, 900 01 (2000).

17 The Nevada Supreme Court has equated good faith with meaningful participation in the  
18 arbitration proceedings. Gittings, 116 Nev. at 390, citing Casino Properties, Inc. v. Andrews, 112 Nev.  
19 132, 135, 911 P.2d 1181, 1182 83 (1996). However, the mere failure of a party to attend or call  
20 witnesses in an arbitration hearing does not amount to bad faith or a lack of meaningful participation.  
21 Id. at 392. It is the substance of the arbitration that is important in determining the good faith of the  
22 participants. Gittings v. Hartz, 116 Nev. 386, 393, 996 P.2d 898, 902 (2000).

23 A party's failure to respond to interrogatories and requests for production, or otherwise fail to  
24 participate in discovery may be grounds for striking a trial de novo request if the failure to provide the  
25 requested discovery had an impact on the arbitration proceedings or Plaintiff's ability to present their  
26 case. Bakke v. Am. Family Mut. Ins. Co., No. 75342-COA, 2019 WL 6003341, at \*2 3 (Nev. App.  
27 Nov. 13, 2019).

1 Plaintiff argued that he was prohibited from properly preparing for the Arbitration and from  
2 preparing for the numerous personal attacks contained in Defendant's Arbitration Brief, which was  
3 filed the day before the re-scheduled Arbitration Hearing. Plaintiff further stated that he was not able to  
4 fully prosecute his case due to Defendant's absence.

5 **THE COURT FINDS** that Defendant failed to respond to interrogatories, requests for  
6 production, or appear at her deposition, which was noticed twice.

7 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that Defendant failed to produce any of the documents  
8 requested by Plaintiff during discovery.

9 **THE COURT THEREFORE FURTHER FINDS** the Defendant's failure to participate in  
10 discovery and failure to provide the requested discovery had a negative impact on Plaintiff's ability to  
11 adequately prepare for the arbitration proceedings and on Plaintiff's ability to present his case.

12 The original Arbitration Hearing was scheduled for March 19, 2020. Defendant's deposition  
13 had been re-set to March 4, 2020, the last day of discovery, due to Defendant's failure to appear at the  
14 first scheduled deposition based on counsel's inability to communicate with Defendant. On March 3,  
15 2020, the day before Defendant's second deposition and nearly two weeks before the Arbitration  
16 Hearing, Defense counsel's office emailed Plaintiff's counsel stating they had been unsuccessful at  
17 reaching their client (the Defendant), and therefore conceded liability and asked to cancel the  
18 deposition that day. Moreover, Defendant's Arbitration Brief stated that it was anticipated that the  
19 named Parties will testify at the arbitration hearing. (Id. at p. 7). However, Defendant did not appear at  
20 the Arbitration Hearing.  
21

22 **THE COURT FINDS** that Defense counsel's last minute concession of liability on the last  
23 day of discovery as a means to vacate the deposition of Defendant, who had already failed to respond  
24 to Plaintiff's discovery requests caused unnecessary burden and expense to Plaintiff. Plaintiff was  
25 unable to adequately conduct discovery due to Defendant's failure to respond to interrogatories and  
26 requests for production. This was exacerbated by Defendant's failure to appear for her deposition,  
27 which also caused Plaintiff to incur additional costs, and caused Plaintiff's counsel to spend  
28 unnecessary time preparing for Defendant's deposition, twice. The lack of any type of testimony under  
oath from Defendant prevented Plaintiff from addressing statements made in Defendant's recorded



1 statement or obtaining information from Defendant about the subject accident and relevant to  
2 Plaintiff's claims.

3 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that Defendant's Arbitration Brief consisted mainly of  
4 attacks on Plaintiff's credibility, citing contradictions in Plaintiff's discovery responses and deposition  
5 testimony. However, Defendant prevented Plaintiff from being able to conduct this type of analysis as  
6 Defendant did not respond to interrogatories, did not appear for her deposition, and did not attend the  
7 Arbitration hearing. Plaintiff had no opportunity to elicit any testimony from Defendant whatsoever.

8 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that Defendant's Arbitration Brief explicitly called Plaintiff  
9 a liar, stating [b]ecause he has lied and been evasive, and because his case is reliant on the credibility of  
10 the oral representations made to his treatment providers. Therefore, testimony about the accident was a  
11 necessary part of Plaintiff's case. However, Plaintiff did not have the ability to elicit testimony from  
12 Defendant about the nature and extent of the impact, the speed at which she was traveling, whether she  
13 applied the brakes, or whether Defendant herself sustained any injuries from the subject collision  
14 so as to address the attacks on Plaintiff's testimony. Plaintiff was provided with Defendant's recorded  
15 statement, but had no opportunity to obtain any testimony from Defendant under oath and did not have  
16 the ability to cross-examine Defendant about the basis for her statements concerning Plaintiff's veracity  
17 as contained in her brief.

18  
19 **THE COURT THEREFORE FINDS** that Plaintiff's inability to conduct any discovery or  
20 elicit any testimony from Defendant negatively impacted Plaintiff's case such that Defendant did not  
21 meaningfully participate in the Arbitration proceedings resulting in bad faith participation.

22 There may be many valid reasons why a party would not wish to expend money at the  
23 arbitration stage of a case on medical experts. Effective cross-examination may be sufficient to point  
24 out discrepancies in a person's claim of injury without such testimony, or without presentation of  
25 countervailing medical evidence. Gittings v. Hartz, 116 Nev. 386, 392, 996 P.2d 898, 902 (2000).

26 Defendant did not provide any expert testimony in support of her challenge to Plaintiff's  
27 injuries and treatment. Defendant's Arbitration Brief called for the Arbitrator to make a "Common  
28 Sense Evaluation" stating that "the arbitrator is not bound by case law to award Plaintiff his entire

1 claimed medical specials, merely because Defendant has not retained a medical expert at this juncture  
2 of the case." (Defendant s Arbitration Brief, p. 6)

3 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that standing alone, a lack of medical experts is not a  
4 sufficient basis to strike a Request for Trial de Novo, however in this matter Plaintiff received no  
5 discovery from Defendant. This left counsel's arguments in the late-filed Arbitration Brief as the only  
6 evidence regarding Plaintiff's medical treatment contained in the proceedings record. Therefore,  
7 although defense counsel argued that causation and damages were the only issues to be decided after  
8 counsel conceded liability on the last day of discovery in order to avoid Defendant's re-noticed  
9 deposition, Defendant produced no evidence during the Arbitration proceedings that provided a basis  
10 for Plaintiff to ascertain what causation and damages defenses were being presented.

11 **THE COURT FURTHER FINDS** that Defendant's failure to oppose Plaintiff's Motion for  
12 Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Interest provided further evidence to lack of meaningful participation in the  
13 Arbitration proceeding. As a result, Defendant's failure to respond to Plaintiff's interrogatories and  
14 requests for production, failure to appear for her deposition (twice), failure to present any expert  
15 testimony to support the arguments about Plaintiff s medical treatment and damages, failure to appear  
16 for the Arbitration Hearing, and failure to oppose Plaintiff's Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs  
17 demonstrate a pattern lacking meaningful participation in the Arbitration proceeding resulting in a lack  
18 of a good faith defense of this case such that sanctions pursuant to NAR 22(A) are warranted.

19 **THE COURT FINDS** that Defendant VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO failed  
20 to meaningfully participate in the Arbitration proceedings and failed to defend this case in good faith;  
21 pursuant to NAR 22(A) such failure shall constitute a waiver of the right to trial de novo.  
22

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

1           **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED** that Plaintiff Armando Pons-  
2 Diaz' Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial de Novo is hereby GRANTED.

3  
4           DATED this \_\_\_\_\_ day of October, 2020.

Dated this 5th day of November, 2020

5  
6           

7           **DISTRICT COURT JUDGE**

8           **DEA DAE CC53 BEFC**

9           **Kerry Earley**

10           **District Court Judge**

11           Respectfully submitted by:

Approved as to Form and Content by:

12           /s/: Vernon Evans

NOT SIGNED

13           ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.

TRAVIS AKIN, ESQ.

14           VERNON EVANS, ESQ.

**STORM LEGAL GROUP**

15           **ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**

3057 E. Warm Springs Rd., Suite 400

16           7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110

Las Vegas, Nevada 89120

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

*Attorney for Defendant*

*Attorney for Plaintiff*

1 **CSERV**

2  
3 DISTRICT COURT  
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

4  
5  
6 Armando Pons-Diaz, Plaintiff(s) CASE NO: A-19-789525-C  
7 vs. DEPT. NO. Department 4  
8 Veronica Castillo, Defendant(s)  
9

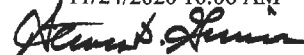
10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District  
12 Court. The foregoing Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all  
13 recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:

14 Service Date: 11/5/2020

15 F. Kelly Cawley	kelly@cawleylaw.com
16 Eric Blank	service@ericblanklaw.com
17 Kristina Marzec	kmarzec@ericblanklaw.com
18 Kristin Orque	korque@purdyandanderson.com
19 Leslie Salas	lsalas@keyinsco.com
20 Travis Akin	TAkin@keyinsco.com
21 Star Farrow	Sfarrow@keyinsco.com

22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.** Nevada Bar No. 06910  
2 **BRIAN P. NESTOR, ESQ.** Nevada Bar No. 13551  
3 **ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**  
4 7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
6 Telephone: (702) 222-2115  
7 E-mail: service@ericblanklaw.com  
8 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*

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

9 ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, an individual,  
10  
11 Plaintiff,

CASE NO.: A-19-789525-C  
DEPT. NO.: 4

12 vs.

13 VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an individual;  
14 and DOES I through X, inclusive,  
15 Defendants.

**JUDGMENT ON ARBITRATION AWARD**

16  
17  
18 **WHEREAS** this action came on for arbitration hearing on May 12, 2020, before Arbitrator F.  
19 Kelly Cawley, Esq., presiding; the issues having been duly heard; a decision and award having been  
20 rendered on June 1, 2020, and, the corresponding decision on Plaintiff's Request for Fees, Costs, and  
21 Interest having been rendered on July 14, 2020; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS** the Court Granted Plaintiff's *Motion to Strike Defendant's Request for Trial De*  
24 *Novo* after duly considering Plaintiff's Motion, Defendant's Opposition thereto, and Plaintiff's Reply  
25 to Defendant's Opposition, as reflected in the Court's October 7, 2020, minute order and the related  
26 Order filed and entered November 5, 2020; and

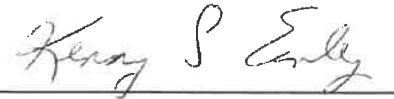
27 **WHEREAS** the Honorable ADR Commissioner filed the *Notice to Prevailing Party That Final*  
28 *Judgment May Now Be Entered on Arbitration Award* on October 8, 2020:

**FOR GOOD CAUSE APPEARING**, the Court hereby enters Judgment on the Arbitration Award as follows:

**IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED** that the Plaintiff, ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, recover from the Defendant, VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, the sum of \$15,000.00, in addition to awarded attorney fees in the amount of \$3,000.00, costs in the amount of \$1,741.95, and pre-judgment interest in the amount of \$949.11, for the total awarded sum of **\$20,691.06**, with post-judgment interest to accrue at the rate of \$3.18 per day until satisfied.

Dated this \_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2020.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2020




**49A 21A C781 F45F**  
**Kerry Earley**  
**District Court Judge**

Respectfully submitted by:

/s/: *Eric R. Blank*

**ERIC R. BLANK, ESQ.**  
**BRIAN P. NESTOR, ESQ.**  
**ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS**  
7860 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117  
*Attorneys for Plaintiff*



**ARBA**  
**F. KELLY CAWLEY, ESQ.**  
Nevada Bar No. 2377  
2620 Regatta Dr., Ste. 102  
Las Vegas, NV 89128  
Telephone: (702) 384-4407  
Facsimile: (702) 384-1516  
Email: Kelly@Cawleylaw.com  
Arbitrator

**DISTRICT COURT**

**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, an individual,

Plaintiff,

vs.

VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an  
individual; and DOES I through X, inclusive.

Defendant.

Case No. : A-19-789525-C  
Dept. No. : IV

**ARBITRATION AWARD**

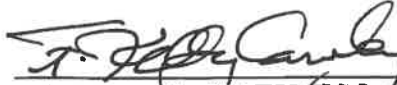
TO: Eric R. Blank, Esq., Vernon Evans, Esq., ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS, attorney for Plaintiff;

TO: Mark Anderson, Esq., Travis Akin, Esq., STORM LEGAL GROUP, attorney for Defendant.

The Arbitration Hearing in this matter was held via teleconference on May 12, 2020. Present at the Arbitration Hearing were the Plaintiff, ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, the Plaintiff's attorney, Vernon Evans, Esq., ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS, and the Defendant's attorney, Travis Akin, Esq., STORM LEGAL GROUP. Having considered the pre-hearing statements, the arbitration briefs, the testimony, the exhibits offered for consideration, the arguments by the parties, and based upon the evidence presented at the arbitration hearing, I hereby find in favor of the Plaintiff, ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, and against the Defendant, VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, and award the Plaintiff

1 damages in the amount of \$15,500.00.

2 DATED this 1st day of June, 2020.

3  
4   
5 F. KELLY CAWLEY, ESQ.  
6 Nevada Bar No. 002377  
7 2620 Regatta Dr., Suite 102  
8 Las Vegas, NV 89128  
9 Arbitrator

10 **NOTICE**

11 Pursuant to N.A.R. 18(A), you are hereby notified you have thirty (30) days from the date  
12 you are served with this document within which to file a written Request for Trial de Novo with  
13 the Clerk of the Court and serve the ADR Commissioner and all other parties.

14 Pursuant to N.A.R. 18(D), the Trial de Novo shall proceed in accordance with the Nevada  
15 Short Trial Rules, unless a party timely files a Demand for Removal from the Short Trial  
16 Program as provided in N.S.T.R. 5.

17 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

18 I hereby certify that on the 1st day of June, 2020, the foregoing ARBITRATION AWARD was  
19 served upon the following by electronic mail through the Eighth Judicial District Court's electronic  
20 filing and service system to the following:

21 Eric R. Blank, Esq., Vernon Evans, Esq.,  
22 ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS  
23 Attorneys for Plaintiff

24 Mark Anderson, Esq., Travis Akin, Esq.,  
25 STORM LEGAL GROUP  
26 Attorney for Defendant

/s/ F. Kelly Cawley  
F. Kelly Cawley, Esq.





1 ABFCI  
2 F. KELLY CAWLEY, ESQ.  
3 Nevada Bar No. 2377  
4 2620 Regatta Dr., Ste. 102  
5 Las Vegas, NV 89128  
6 Telephone: (702) 384-4407  
7 Facsimile: (702) 384-1516  
8 Email: Kelly@Cawleylaw.com  
9 Arbitrator

6 DISTRICT COURT

7 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

8 ARMANDO PONS-DIAZ, an individual, )

9 Plaintiff, )

10 vs. )

11 VERONICA JAZMIN CASTILLO, an )  
12 individual; and DOES I through X, inclusive. )

13 Defendant. )

Case No. : A-19-789525-C  
Dept. No. : IV

14 ARBITRATOR'S DECISION ON REQUEST FOR FEES/COSTS/INTEREST

15 TO: Eric R. Blank, Esq., Vernon Evans, Esq., ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS, attorney for  
16 Plaintiff;

17 TO: Mark Anderson, Esq., Travis Akin, Esq., STORM LEGAL GROUP, attorney for Defendant.

18 An Arbitration Award was served in this matter on June 1, 2020. The Plaintiff timely filed an  
19 application for attorney's fees, costs and/or interest. There was not an opposition to the application.


20 The undersigned finds that the analysis required under *Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat. Bank*, 85  
21 Nev. 345, 455 F.2d 31 (1969) and/or *Beattie v. Thomas*, 99 Nev. 579, 668 P.2d 268 (1983), was  
22 satisfied. The factors addressed by that/those case(s), prerequisite to an award of attorney's fees, was  
23 set forth in the moving points and authorities with specificity. Accordingly, an award of attorney's fees  
24 to the Plaintiff in the amount of \$3,000.00, is warranted.

25 The undersigned finds that the Plaintiffs complied with the requirements of *Cadle v. Woods v.*  
26 *Erickson*, 131 Nev. Adv. Op. 15, 345 P.3d 1049, 1054-1055 (2015). The Plaintiff is awarded costs in

1 the amount of \$1,741.95.

2 The undersigned further awards the Plaintiff pre-judgement interest in the amount of \$949.11.

3 DATED this 14th day of July, 2020.

4  
5   
6 F. KELLY CAWLEY, ESQ.  
7 Nevada Bar No. 002377  
8 2620 Regatta Dr., Suite 102  
9 Las Vegas, NV 89128  
10 Arbitrator

11 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

12 I hereby certify that on the 14th day of July, 2020, the foregoing ARBITRATOR'S DECISION  
13 ON REQUEST FOR FEES/COSTS/INTEREST was served upon the following by electronic mail  
14 through the Eighth Judicial District Court's electronic filing and service system to the following:

15 Eric R. Blank, Esq., Vernon Evans, Esq.,  
16 ERIC BLANK INJURY ATTORNEYS,  
17 Attorneys for Plaintiff

18 Mark Anderson, Esq., Travis Akin, Esq.,  
19 STORM LEGAL GROUP,  
20 Attorney for Defendant

21 /s/ F. Kelly Cawley  
22 F. Kelly Cawley, Esq.  
23  
24  
25  
26

1 CSERV

2 DISTRICT COURT  
3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

4  
5  
6 Armando Pons-Diaz, Plaintiff(s) CASE NO: A-19-789525-C  
7 vs. DEPT. NO. Department 4  
8 Veronica Castillo, Defendant(s)  
9

10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District  
12 Court. The foregoing Judgment on Arbitration Award was served via the court's electronic  
13 eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed  
below:

14 Service Date: 11/24/2020

15 F. Kelly Cawley	kelly@cawleylaw.com
16 Eric Blank	service@ericblanklaw.com
17 Kristina Marzec	kmarzec@ericblanklaw.com
18 Kristin Orque	korque@purdyandanderson.com
19 Leslie Salas	lsalas@keyinsco.com
20 Travis Akin	TAkin@keyinsco.com
21 Star Farrow	Sfarrow@keyinsco.com

22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28