Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7491 The Law Offices of Kristina 3 Wildeveld & Associates Electronically Filed 550 E Charleston Blvd. Suite A 4 Jan 14 2021 09:30 a.m. Las Vegas, NV 89104 Elizabeth A. Brown Tel. (702) 222-0007 5 Clerk of Supreme Court Fax. (702) 222-0001 6 Email: Lisa@LRasmussenLaw.com 7 8 Attorneys for Plaintiffs 9 DISTRICT COURT 10 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 11 12 13 FORE STARS, LTD., a Nevada limited Case No.: A-18-771224-C liability company; 180 LAND CO., LLC; A 14 NEVADA LIMITED LIABILIITY 15 COMPANY; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC, a Dept: II Nevada limited liability company, 16 Plaintiffs, 17 NOTICE OF APPEAL 18 VS. 19 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, 20 STEVE CARIA, and DOES 1 THROUGH 21 100, 22 Defendants. 23 24 The Plaintiffs, Fore Stars, Ltd., 180 Land Co., LLC and Seventy Acres, LLC, by 25 and through their counsel, hereby file this Notice of Appeal to the District Court's 26 Order granting the Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.635, et 27 seq., entered on December 10, 2020, the Notice of Entry of Order having been entered 28 NOTICE OF APPEAL - 1

Docket 82338 Document 2021-01209

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1	the same date. A true and correct copy of the Notice of Entry of Order, which includes
2	the order itself, is attached hereto as <u>Exhibit 1</u> .
3	DATED: January 8, 2021. Respectfully submitted,
4	THE LAW OFFICES OF KRISTINA WILDEVELD & ASSOCIATES,
5	
6	/s/ Lisa A. Rasmussen
7	LISA A. RASMUSSEN, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7491
8	ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS
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11	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>
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13	I hereby certify that I served a copy of the foregoing via this court's Efile and
14	Serve program on all parties receiving service in this case on this 8 <sup>th</sup> day of January,
15	betwee program on an parties receiving service in this case on this or day or juntatry,
16	2021, including, but not limited to:
17	Mr. Mitchell Langberg, Esq.
18	Counsel for the Defendants
19	/s/ Lisa A. Rasmussen
20	Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq.
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40	NOTICE OF APPEAL - 2

# Exhibit 1

Exhibit 1

12/10/2020 9:26 AM Steven D. Grierson **CLERK OF THE COURT** 1 **NEOJ** MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ., Bar No. 10118 2 mlangberg@bhfs.com BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 3 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101 4 Facsimile: 702.382.8135 5 Counsel for Defendants, 6 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, and STEVE CARIA 7 8 **DISTRICT COURT** 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 FORE STARS, LTD., a Nevada limited CASE NO.: A-18-771224-C liability company; 180 LAND CO., LLC; a DEPT NO.: II 11 Nevada limited liability company; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC, a Nevada 12 limited liability company, NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND 13 Plaintiffs, **ORDER** 14 v. **ELECTRONIC FILING CASE** 15 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, STEVE CARIA, and DOES 1 THROUGH 16 100. 17 Defendants, 18 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order was 19 entered on December 10, 2020. 20 21 . . . 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1

**Electronically Filed** 

A true and correct copy of said Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order is attached hereto. DATED this 10th day of December, 2020. BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP BY: /s/ Mitchell J. Langberg MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ., Bar No. 10118 mlangberg@bhfs.com 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101 Facsimile: 702.382.8135 Counsel for Defendants DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, and STEVE CARIA 

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE		
I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP,		
and pursuant to NRCP 5(b), EDCR 8.05, Administrative Order 14-2, and NEFCR 9, I caused a true		
and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACTS,		
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER be submitted electronically for filing and/or service		
with the Eighth Judicial District Court via the Court's Electronic Filing System on the 10th day of		
December, 2020, to the following:		
Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq. The Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & Associates 550 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite A Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Email: lisa@lrasmussenlaw.com		
Elizabeth Ham, Esq. EHB Companies, LLC 9755 West Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Email: eham@ehbcompanies.com		
Attorneys for Plaintiffs FORE STARS, LTD., 180 LAND CO., LLC;		

and SEVENTY ACRES, LLC

/s/ DeEtra Crudup an employee of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

## ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 12/10/2020 8:20 AM

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12/10/2020 8:20 AM CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **FFCL** MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ., Bar No. 10118 2 mlangberg@bhfs.com BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 3 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 4 Telephone: 702.382.2101 Facsimile: 702.382.8135 5 Counsel for Defendants 6 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, and STEVE CARIA 7 8 **DISTRICT COURT** 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 FORE STARS, LTD., a Nevada limited CASE NO.: A-18-771224-C liability company; 180 LAND CO., LLC; a DEPT NO.: II 11 Nevada limited liability company; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC, a Nevada 12 limited liability company, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER 13 Plaintiffs, 14 Date of Hearing: November 9, 2020 v. Time of Hearing: 9:30 am 15 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, STEVE CARIA, and DOES 1 THROUGH 16 100. 17 Defendants, 18 WHEREAS this matter came on for hearing on the 9th of November, 2020 on *Defendants*' 19 Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiff's Complaint Pursuant to NRS §41.635 20 21 et seq. Lisa Rasmussen, Esq. of the Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & Associates, appearing via telephone on behalf of the Plaintiffs, Fore Star Ltd, 180 Land Co., LLC, and Seventy Acres, 22 LLC and Mitchell J. Langberg, Esq. of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, appearing via 23 telephone on behalf of Defendants Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresee, and Steve Caria. 24 The Court having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file, having considered the oral 25 26 argument of counsel, and good cause appearing, hereby FINDS, CONCLUDES and ORDERS: FINDINGS OF FACT 27 1. 28 Plaintiffs Fore Starts, Ltd., 180 Land Co., LLC, and Seventy Acres, LLC

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 702.382.2101

Case Number: A-18-771224-C

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("Plaintiffs") filed a complaint against Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresse, and Steve Caria on March 15, 2018 (the "Complaint").

- 2. The Complaint alleged causes of action for Equitable and Injunctive Relief, Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage, Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage, Conspiracy, Intentional Misrepresentation, and Negligent Misrepresentation ("Claims").
- 3. Generally, the Complaint alleged that the Defendants participated in the circulation, collection, and/or execution of allegedly false statements (the "Statements") to be delivered to the City of Las Vegas in an effort to oppose Plaintiffs' development of what is commonly referred to as the former Badlands golf course ("Badlands").
- 4. On April 13, 2018, among other things, Defendants filed their Special Motion to Dismiss (anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS §41.635 et. seq. (the "anti-SLAPP Motion"), which is the subject of these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
- 5. After extensive briefing and oral argument, the Court denied the anti-SLAPP Motion for various reasons as set forth in the record, including that Defendants did not demonstrate that they met their initial burden of establishing "by a preponderance of the evidence, that the claim is based upon a good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern," pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(a) ("Prong 1").
- 6. Because the Court found that Defendants did not meet their Prong 1 burden, it did not consider Plaintiffs request for discovery pursuant to NRS 41.660(4) with respect to whether Plaintiffs had "demonstrated with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim" pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(b) ("Prong 2").
  - 7. Defendants filed a timely notice of appeal.
- 8. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court decided the matter without oral argument.
  - 9. The Nevada Supreme Court held that Defendants met their burden under Prong 1.
  - 10. The Nevada Supreme Court also held that Plaintiffs did not meet their burden

under Prong 2.

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- 11. However, the Nevada Supreme Court noted that the Court had not considered Plaintiffs' request for discovery pursuant to NRS 41.660(4).
- 12. Therefore, the Nevada Supreme Court remanded the matter back to this Court with express direction: "Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, we vacate the portion of the district court's order denying appellants anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss and remand to the district court for it to determine whether respondents are entitled to discovery under NRS 41.660(4)."
- 13. On remand, the parties did not agree on whether discovery was appropriate under NRS 41.660(4) or even what the scope of the remand was.
- 14. Defendants contended that the order of remand required this Court to consider whether it would grant Plaintiffs discovery under the anti-SLAPP statute. It was Defendants' contention that no discovery should be permitted. But, if discovery would be permitted, it would have to be limited to Prong 2 issues for which Plaintiffs made a showing of necessity. Defendants further contended that if the Court determined discovery was not appropriate, the anti-SLAPP motion should be granted because the Nevada Supreme Court had already concluded that Defendants had met their Prong 1 burden and Defendants had not met their Prong 2 burden.
- 15. Moreover, Defendants contend that if the Court allowed discovery, the only issue that would be left to determine was whether, in light of that discovery, Plaintiffs could now meet their burden under Prong 2.
- 16. On the other hand, Plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to conduct discovery on both Prong 1 and Prong 2. Plaintiffs further contended that the Nevada Supreme Court's decision and remand order required this Court to reconsider both Prong 1 and Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis.
- 17. At a post remand hearing, the parties offered argument about the appropriateness of discovery. Plaintiffs' counsel requested to brief the issue, promising to identify the discovery requested and the grounds supporting that request: "Let me do some additional briefing just on what discovery is requested, why it's relevant, and how it comports with the Nevada Supreme

Court's ruling."

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- 18. The Court allowed the parties to brief their positions on discovery.
- 19. After briefing, the Court granted some limited discovery that was intended to be circumscribed by the scope allowed by the anti-SLAPP statute and what Plaintiffs had requested in their briefing.
- 20. After issuing its order allowing limited discovery, the parties had additional disputes about the scope of discovery ordered by the Court.
- 21. The dispute was litigated by way of further motion practice and the Court issued orders clarifying that discovery would only to that related to Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis and only on the topics of "what documents Defendants relied on, what information Defendants relied on, or whether that information was provided to Defendants by third persons" all with respect to the Statements. In its order, the Court explained that NRS 41.660(4) requires Plaintiffs to make a showing of necessity for limited discovery and these topics were the only topics on which Plaintiffs even attempted to make such a showing.
- 22. After completion of the limited discovery, the Court also allowed supplemental briefing.
- 23. In their briefing, Plaintiffs contended that the Court was required to reconsider whether Defendants met their Prong 1 burden. Further, Plaintiffs argued that even if Defendants met their Prong 1 burden, Plaintiffs had satisfied their burden on Prong 2. Finally, Plaintiffs argued that the discovery they were granted was too narrow.
- 24. With respect to Prong 2, the only one of the Claims that Plaintiffs addressed in their supplemental briefing was the claim for Conspiracy.
- 25. Moreover, with respect to the claim for Conspiracy, Plaintiffs did not offer any admissible evidence or make any argument regarding alleged damages resulting from the purported conspiracy.
  - 26. The Court heard oral argument on the anti-SLAPP Motion on November 9, 2020.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

27. NRS 41.635, et. seq. comprises Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute.

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- 28. The following rulings by the Nevada Supreme Court constitute law of the case with respect to the anti-SLAPP Motion:
- (a) "In sum, we conclude that the district court erred by finding that appellants had not met their burden under NRS 41.660(3)(a) to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that respondents' claims are grounded on appellants' good faith communications in furtherance of their petitioning rights on an issue of public concern." Omerza v. Fore Stars, Ltd, 455 P.3d 841, \*3 (Nev. 2020).
- (b) "We therefore conclude that the district court erred in determining that respondents met their step-two burden of demonstrating with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on their claims." *Id.* at \*4 (Nev. 2020).
- 29. Thus, the Nevada Supreme Court clearly found that Defendants had met their Prong 1 burden and Plaintiffs had not met their Prong 2 burden.
- 30. The Nevada Supreme Court's order of remand was equally clear: "Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, we vacate the portion of the district court's order denying appellants' anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss and remand to the district court for it to determine whether respondents are entitled to discovery under NRS 41.660(4)." *Id.* at \*4 (Nev. 2020).
- 31. Pursuant to the "mandate rule," a court must effectuate a higher court's ruling on remand. Estate of Adams By & Through Adams v. Fallini, 132 Nev. 814, 819, 386 P.3d 621, 624 (2016). The law-of-the-case doctrine directs a court not to "re-open questions decided (i.e., established as law of the case) by that court or a higher one in earlier phases." Id.
- 32. Therefore, as a matter of law, this Court's task on remand was to determine whether Plaintiffs were entitled to discovery under NRS 41.600(4).
- 33. Pursuant to NRS 41.600(4), "[u]pon a showing by a party that information necessary to meet or oppose the burden pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3 is in the possession of another party or a third party and is not reasonably available without discovery, the court shall allow limited discovery for the purpose of ascertaining such information."
  - 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of the anti-SLAPP statute is the Prong 2 portion of

the anti-SLAPP analysis that requires a plaintiff to demonstrate with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on its claim.

- 35. Therefore, as a matter of law, discovery is only allowed with respect to Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis. No discovery is allowed with respect to Prong 1 of the anti-SLAPP analysis.
- 36. Even with respect to Prong 2, NRS 41.600(4) only allows a party discovery if the party has: 1) made a showing, 2) that information to meet or oppose the Prong 2 burden, 3) is in the possession of another, and 4) is not available without discovery. Then, a court may allow limited discovery, but only for the purpose of ascertaining such information.
- 37. Therefore, as a matter of law, this Court could only grant discovery to the extent Plaintiffs made a showing of necessity as set forth in NRS 41.600(4). As noted in the factual findings, the Court granted Plaintiffs the discovery they expressly requested as that is the only discovery for which Plaintiffs even attempted to make a showing.
- 38. Though Plaintiffs argue in their supplemental opposition to the anti-SLAPP Motion that they were not allowed adequate discovery, the discovery permitted was appropriate and, in light of Plaintiffs' request, all that was allowed under NRS 41.600(4).
- 39. The Court notes that in their supplemental opposition, Plaintiffs complain that Defendants did not adequately respond to the discovery permitted. Defendants dispute that contention. Because Plaintiffs never filed a motion to compel, there is no basis to conclude that Defendants failed to comply with their discovery obligations pursuant to the Court's order and any argument to the contrary has been waived.
- 40. Having considered the appropriateness of discovery pursuant to the Nevada Supreme Court's remand order and having allowed limited discovery pursuant to the anti-SLAPP statute, the only matter left for this Court is to determine whether Plaintiffs have now met their Prong 2 burden in light of any new evidence they offer post-discovery.
- 41. First, Defendants argue that no matter what evidence Plaintiffs could have offered, Plaintiffs Claims cannot be supported because the litigation privilege is a complete defense and is dispositive of the Prong 2 issues.

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- 42. The Court agrees that the alleged facts that underlie Plaintiffs claims are subject to the absolute litigation privilege and provide an complete defense to the Claims.
- 43. Nevada recognizes "the long-standing common law rule that communications uttered or published in the course of judicial proceedings are absolutely privileged so long as they are in some way pertinent to the subject of controversy." Circus Circus Hotels, Inc. v. Witherspoon, 99 Nev. 56, 60 (1983) (citation omitted). This rule includes "statements made in the course of quasi-judicial proceedings." Knox v. Dick, 99 Nev. 514, 518 (1983) (citation omitted); see also Circus Circus, 99 Nev. at 61 ("the absolute privilege attached to judicial proceedings has been extended to quasi-judicial proceedings before executive officers, boards, and commissions") (citations omitted).
- 44. Critically, the statement at issue does not have to be made during any actual proceedings. See Fink v. Oshins, 118 Nev. 428, 433 (2002) ("the privilege applies not only to communications made during actual judicial proceedings, but also to communications preliminary to a proposed judicial proceeding") (footnote omitted). "[B]ecause the scope of the absolute privilege is broad, a court determining whether the privilege applies should resolve any doubt in favor of a broad application." Clark County Sch. Dist. v. Virtual Educ. Software, Inc., 125 Nev. 374, 382 (2009) (citation omitted) (citing Fink, supra).
- 45. The Nevada Supreme Court already determined that the statements underlying each of Plaintiffs' claims were made in good faith in connection with issues under consideration by a legislative body. That was the City Council's consideration of "amendment to the Master Plan/General Plan affecting Peccole Ranch." Omerza, 455 P.3d 841, \*1 (Nev. 2020).
- 46. Those City Council proceedings were quasi-judicial. Unified Development Code (UDC) section 19.16.030, et. seq. addresses amendments to the General Plan. It provides an extensive set of standards establishing how the City Council must exercise judgment and discretion, hear and determine facts, and render a reasoned written decision. In the course of those proceedings, the Council has the power to order the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents. Las Vegas City Charter §2.080(1)(d),(2)(a). This entire process meets the judicial function test for "determining whether an administrative proceeding is quasi-judicial."

State ex rel. Bd. of Parole Comm'rs v. Morrow, 127 Nev. 265, 273 (2011).

- 47. Moreover, Plaintiffs admitted it was a quasi-judicial proceeding at a May 9, 2018 hearing before the City Council. *See*, Defendants' Request for Judicial Notice filed on May 9, 2018, Exh. 1, p. 16, lines 415-420 (Mr. Hutchison (as counsel for these Developers) explaining that the proceeding are quasi-judicial).
- 48. The absolute litigation privilege applies without regard to how Plaintiffs styled their claims. "An absolute privilege bars any civil litigation based on the underlying communication." *Hampe v. Foote*, 118 Nev. 405, 409, 47 P.3d 438, 440 (2002), overruled in part on other grounds by *Buzz Stew, LLC v. City of N. Las Vegas*, 124 Nev. 224, 228 n. 6, 181 P.3d 670, 672 n.6 (2008).
- 49. Because the Supreme Court already determined that the Defendants' activities were made in connection with the City Council proceedings, and because those activities were quite obviously an attempt to solicit witnesses testimony to submit in the form of written statements, Defendants' statements were all made in connection with, and preliminary to, a quasi-judicial proceeding and, therefore, were protected by the absolute litigation privilege.
- 50. For the first time at the hearing on the anti-SLAPP Motion, Plaintiffs' counsel cited to a case decided by the Nevada Supreme Court on July 9, 2020, four months before the hearing and more than three months before Plaintiffs filed their supplemental opposition to the anti-SLAPP motion.
- P.3d 1241 (Nev. 2020), for the proposition that the privilege does not apply to quasi-judicial proceedings where due process protections similar to those provided in a court of law are not present. This Court believes that *Spencer* is distinguishable from the current matter. *Spencer* involved a defamation suit arising out of defamatory comments made to a public body during a public comment session. The speaker was not under oath. No opportunity to respond was provided. No cross-examination was allowed. Importantly, the holding in the decision was expressly limited to defamation suits: "We therefore take this opportunity to clarify that a quasi-judicial proceeding in the context of defamation suits is one that provides basic due-process

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protections similar to those provided in a court of law." Id. at 1247. Therefore, the Oshins case controls.

- 52. Because it applies, the litigation privilege is an absolute bar to all of Plaintiffs' claims. Therefore, for that reason alone, Plaintiffs' claims fail on Prong 2 and the anti-SLAPP Motion should be granted.
- 53. As a separate and additional basis for dismissing Plaintiffs' claims pursuant to the anti-SLAPP statute, even if the litigation privilege did not apply, Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden under Prong 2.
- 54. Mindful that the Nevada Supreme Court already determined that Plaintiffs' failed to meet their burden under Prong 2 based on the evidence and argument offered prior to the appeal, the Court now considers whether Plaintiffs have offered any new evidence or legal argument in an attempt to meet their burden on remand.
- 55. The civil conspiracy claim is the only claim for which Plaintiffs have made any new argument.
- 56. The Nevada Supreme Court explained that the Developer was required to "demonstrate that the claim is supported by a prima facie showing of facts" that is supported by "competent, admissible evidence." *Omerza*, 455 P.3d 841 at \*4. This is the same standard as a court applies in a summary judgment motion. *Id*.
- An actionable civil conspiracy "consists of a combination of two or more persons 57. who, by some concerted action, intend to accomplish an unlawful objective for the purpose of harming another, and damage results from the act or acts." Consol. Generator-Nevada, Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co., 114 Nev. 1304, 1311 (1998) (affirming summary judgment for defendant on the plaintiff's conspiracy claim because there was no evidence that the two defendants had agreed and intended to harm the plaintiff).
- The evidence must be "of an explicit or tacit agreement between the alleged 58. conspirators." Guilfoyle v. Olde Monmouth Stock Transfer Co., 130 Nev. 801, 813, 335 P.3d 190, 198 (2014) (upholding district court's grant of summary judgment where plaintiff "has presented no circumstantial evidence from which to infer an agreement between [defendants] to harm"

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plaintiff). Here, Plaintiffs did not offer any admissible evidence of an agreement to do something unlawful.

- 59. A conspiracy claim also fails where the plaintiff cannot show that he suffered any actual harm. Sutherland v. Gross, 105 Nev. 192, 197 (1989); see also Aldabe v. Adams, 81 Nev. 280, 286 (1965), overruled on other grounds by Siragusa v. Brown, 114 Nev. 1384 (1998) ("The damage for which recovery may be had in a civil action is not the conspiracy itself but the injury to the plaintiff produced by specific overt acts.").
- 60. "The gist of a civil conspiracy is not the unlawful agreement but the damage resulting from that agreement or its execution. The cause of action is not created by the conspiracy but by the wrongful acts done by the defendants to the injury of the plaintiff." Eikelberger v. Tolotti, 96 Nev. 525, 528 (1980).
- 61. Plaintiffs' Claims were all based on Defendants circulating the Statements to community members to oppose the Developer's efforts to change the land use restrictions on the Badlands. But, because the City Council proceedings did not advance and Plaintiffs appealed (successfully) Judge Crockett's decision, the City Council's prior decisions to allow development without a modification to the Peccole Ranch Master Plan were affirmed.
- 62. Therefore, Plaintiffs offered no admissible evidence of damages suffered even if it had proven a conspiracy existed.
- 63. Also, Plaintiffs offered no evidence to support any of their other claims, even though the Supreme Court already said their prior showing was insufficient. Where a plaintiff cannot demonstrate an unlawful act because it cannot prevail on the other claims it has alleged to form the basis for the underlying wrong, dismissal of the civil conspiracy claim is appropriate. Goldman v. Clark Cty. Sch. Dist., 471 P.3d 753 (Nev. 2020) (unpublished) (citing Consol. Generator-Nevada, Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co., 114 Nev. 1304, 1311 (1998)).
- 64. Plaintiffs have failed to show an agreement to achieve an unlawful objective and failed to show any damage. Therefore, Plaintiffs have failed to meet their Prong 2 anti-SLAPP burden.
  - 65. Because Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden under Prong 2 of the anti-

SLAPP analysis, Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion is well taken and will be granted.			
66. Pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(a), whe	n a court grants an anti-SLAPP motion, it		
"shall award reasonable costs and attorney's fees."	Pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(b), the court also		
"may award" "an amount of up to \$10,000 to the p	person against whom the action was brought."		
Defendants may request those fees, costs, and additional additional actions are also as a second additional actions and additional actions are also as a second action and additional actions are also actions as a second action action.	tional amounts by separate motion.		
ORD	<u>ER</u>		
WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERE	D that:		
1. Defendants' Special Motion to Disn	niss is hereby GRANTED, and		
2. Defendants may seek attorneys' fee	Dated this 10th day of December, 2020 s, costs, additional amounts by way of separate		
motion.	Lichan S With		
DATED:	25B E0E 21B7 81BF  Richard F. Scotti  District Court Judge  DISTRICT COURT JUDGE		
Respectfully Submitted:	Approved as to form and content:		
DATED this 2nd day of December, 2020.	DATED thisday of December, 2020.		
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER	LAW OFFICES OF KRISTINA		
SCHRECK, LLP	WILDEVELD & ASSOCIATES Counsel have disagreements regarding the contents of this order.		
BY: MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ. NV Bar No. 10118 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101 Facsimile: 702.382.8135  Counsel for Defendants Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresee and Steve Caria	BY:		
	Seventy Acres, LLC		

1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s) CASE NO: A-18-771224-C 6 DEPT. NO. Department 2 VS. 7 Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s) 8 9 10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment was served via the 12 court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled 13 case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 12/10/2020 15 Elizabeth Ham EHam@ehbcompanies.com 16 **Todd Davis** tdavis@ehbcompanies.com 17 iknighton@ehbcompanies.com Jennifer Knighton 18 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bhfs.com 19 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 20 21 Kristina Wildeveld Kristina@Veldlaw.com 22 Jessica Malone Jessica@Veldlaw.com 23 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bhfs.com 24 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 25 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 26 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bfhs.com 27

Patricia Berg

Patty@Veldlaw.com

**Electronically Filed** 1/8/2021 5:13 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7491 The Law Offices of Kristina 3 Wildeveld & Associates

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550 E Charleston Blvd. Suite A Las Vegas, NV 89104 Tel. (702) 222-0007 Fax. (702) 222-0001

Email: Lisa@LRasmussenLaw.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

#### DISTRICT COURT

#### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

FORE STARS, LTD., a Nevada limited liability company; 180 LAND CO., LLC; A NEVADA LIMITED LIABILIITY COMPANY; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, STEVE CARIA, and DOES 1 THROUGH 100,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-18-771224-C

Dept: XIX

#### CASE APPEAL STATEMENT

The Plaintiffs, Fore Stars, Ltd., 180 Land Co., LLC and Seventy Acres, LLC, by and through their counsel, hereby submit this Case Appeal Statement in accordance with NRAP 3(f) as follows:

CASE APPEAL STATEMENT - 1

Case Number: A-18-771224-C

1	1.	Name of appellants filing this case appeal statement:
2		Plaintiffs Fore Stars, LTD; 180 Land Co. LLC; Seventy Acres, LLC
3	2.	The Judge issuing the decision, judgment or order appealed from:
4		The Honorable Richard F. Scotti
5	3.	Identify each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each
6		appellant:
7		a. Fore Stars, LTD, a Nevada limited liability company;
8		b. 180 Land Co, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company; and
9 10		c. Seventy Acres, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company.
11		Lisa Rasmussen, Esq. (NV Bar 7491)
12		The Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & Associates
13		550 E. Charleston Blvd., Suite A
14		Las Vegas, NV 89104 (702) 222-0007
15		<u>Lisa@Veldlaw.com</u>
16	4.	Identify each respondent and the name and address of appellate counsel
17		if known, for each respondent:
18		a. Daniel Omerza;
19		b. Darren Bresee; and
20		c. Steve Caria
21		
22		Mitchell J. Langberg, Esq. (NV Bar No. 10118) Brownstein, Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
23		100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600
24		Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 (702) 382-2101
25		Email: mlangberg@bhfs.com
26		
27		
28		

- 5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4 is not licensed to practice law in Nevada and, if so, whether the district court granted that attorney permission to appear under SCR 42.

  None/NA
- 6. Indicate whether appellants were represented by appointed or retained counsel in the district court:

Appellants were represented by retained counsel in the district court.

7. Indicate whether appellants are represented by appointed or retained counsel on appeal:

Appellants are represented by retained counsel on appeal.

8. Indicate whether appellants were granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and the date of entry of the district court order granting such leave:

No/NA

9. Indicate the date the proceedings commenced in the district court (e.g., date of complaint, indictment, information or petition):

Plaintiffs' Complaint was filed on March 15, 2018 in the Eighth Judicial District Court.

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

Plaintiffs are limited liability companies whose assets are parcels of land that previously comprised the Badlands Golf Course and the parcels are adjacent to the Queensridge residential community. Plaintiffs alleged generally that defendants made false statements and encouraged, aided, abetted and caused others to make false statements to the City of Las Vegas in order to prevent development on the Plaintiff parcels, and that their conduct resulted CASE APPEAL STATEMENT - 3

in damages to Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs sought injunctive relief and monetary recompense in their complaint. Defendants filed a Special Motion to Dismiss pursuant to Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute (NRS 41.635, et seq). The district court denied the motion, defendants appeal that order in 2018, the Nevada Supreme Court reversed in 2020 and ultimately granted the Special Motion to Dismiss. Plaintiffs appeal the latter determination herein.

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 the Supreme Court docket number of the prior proceeding:

Yes, as noted, there is a prior appeal on the same matter as follows:

Daniel Omerza, et al v. Fore Stars, Ltd, et al NSC Docket No. 76273

- 12. Indicate whether this appeal involves child custody or vistation: No/NA
- 13. If this is a civil case, indicate whether this appeal involves the possibility of settlement:

There is always the possibility of settlement and Plaintiffs would not foreclose that possibility. Defendants' position is unknown.

DATED: January 8, 2021. Respectfully submitted,

THE LAW OFFICES OF KRISTINA WILDEVELD & ASSOCIATES,

/s/ Lisa A. Rasmussen
LISA A. RASMUSSEN, Esq.
NEVADA BAR NO. 7491
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

1	
2	

STATEMENT via this court's Efile and Serve program on all parties receiving service in this case on this 8th day of January, 2021, including, but not limited to:

Mr. Mitchell Langberg, Esq.
Counsel for the Defendants

/s/ Lisa A. Rasmussen

Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq.

I hereby certify that I served a copy of the foregoing CASE APPEAL

CASE APPEAL STATEMENT - 5

### **CASE SUMMARY** CASE No. A-18-771224-C

Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s) Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

Location: Department 19 Judicial Officer: Eller, Crystal 888888 Filed on: 03/15/2018

Case Number History:

Cross-Reference Case A771224

Number:

Supreme Court No.: 76273

**CASE INFORMATION** 

Case Type: Other Civil Matters

03/15/2018 Open Status:

DATE **CASE ASSIGNMENT** 

**Current Case Assignment** 

Case Number A-18-771224-C Court Department 19 Date Assigned 01/04/2021 Judicial Officer Eller, Crystal

PARTY INFORMATION

Lead Attorneys **Plaintiff** 180 Land Co., LLC

Rasmussen, Lisa A. Retained 702-222-0007(W)

Fore Stars, Ltd. Rasmussen, Lisa A.

> Retained 702-222-0007(W)

Seventy Acres, LLC Rasmussen, Lisa A.

> Retained 702-222-0007(W)

**Defendant** Bresee, Darren Langberg, Mitchell J.

> Retained 702-382-2101(W)

Caria, Steve Langberg, Mitchell J.

Retained 702-382-2101(W)

Langberg, Mitchell J. Omerza, Daniel

Retained 702-382-2101(W)

DATE **EVENTS & ORDERS OF THE COURT INDEX** 

**EVENTS** 

🔁 Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure 03/15/2018

Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co.,

LLC

Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure

03/15/2018

Complaint

Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co.,

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

	CASE NO. A-10-//1224-C
	LLC Complaint
03/16/2018	Summons Electronically Issued - Service Pending Party: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Summons
03/16/2018	Summons Electronically Issued - Service Pending Party: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Summons
03/16/2018	Summons Electronically Issued - Service Pending Party: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Summons
03/26/2018	Affidavit of Service Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Affidavit of Service
03/26/2018	Summons  Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Summons
03/26/2018	Summons  Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Summons
03/26/2018	Summons  Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Summons
03/27/2018	Affidavit of Service  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Affidavit of Service
03/27/2018	Affidavit of Service  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Affidavit of Service
04/06/2018	Notice of Appearance Party: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Notice of Appearance
04/06/2018	Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure Filed By: Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Initial Appearance Fee Disclosure
04/13/2018	Request for Judicial Notice  Defendants' Request for Judicial Notice In Support of (1) Defendants' Special Motion to

### CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 et. seq. and (2) Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5)

04/13/2018

Motion to Dismiss

Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5)

04/13/2018

🔁 Motion

Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 et. seq.

04/17/2018

Notice of Department Reassignment

Notice of Department Reassignment

04/19/2018

Peremptory Challenge

Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. *Peremptory Challenge of Judge* 

04/20/2018

Notice of Department Reassignment
Notice of Department Reassignment

05/01/2018

Stipulation and Order

Filed by: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Stipulation and Order Continuing Hearing Dates for Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) and Related Briefing Deadlines

05/02/2018

Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order

Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order Continuing Hearing Dates for Defendants' Motion to Dismiss and Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) and Related Briefing Deadlines

05/04/2018

Opposition

Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.

Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion)

Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 Et Seq.

05/07/2018

Opposition

Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.

Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5)

05/09/2018

Reply in Support

Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Reply In Support of Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 Et. Seq.

05/09/2018

Reply in Support

Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Reply Brief In Support of Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(B)(5)

05/09/2018

Request for Judicial Notice

Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Request for Judicial Notice In Support of (1) Defendants' Reply In Support of Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 Et. Seq. and (2) Defendants' Reply In Support of Motion To Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

	CASE 110. A-10-7/1224-C
	12(B)(5)
05/11/2018	Supplement Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Plaintiffs' First Supplement to their Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss
05/11/2018	Supplement  Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.  Plaintiffs' Second Supplement to their Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss
05/11/2018	Notice of Association of Counsel Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Notice of Association of Counsel
05/14/2018	Notice Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Plaintiffs' Notice of Submitting A Physical Thumb Drive Containing the Video File (.MOV) Labelled "Omerza Video" Attached to "Plaintiffs' First Supplement to Their Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-Slapp Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 ET SEQ." to the Court's Exhibit Vault
05/17/2018	Recorders Transcript of Hearing  All Pending Motions 5-14-18
05/23/2018	Supplemental Brief Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Supplemental Brief In Support of Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 Et. Seq.
05/23/2018	Supplement Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Plaintiffs' Supplement in Support of Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP)
05/25/2018	Motion to Strike  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Defendants' Motion to Strike Portions of Plaintiffs' Supplement in Support of Opposition to  Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss or in the Alternative, for Further Suplemental Briefing
05/30/2018	Notice of Early Case Conference Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Notice of Early Case Conference
06/11/2018	Errata Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Errata to Complaint
06/12/2018	Notice Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Notice of Vacating Early Case Conference
06/12/2018	Amended Notice

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

	CASE NO. A-10-//1224-C
	Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.  Amended Notice of Early Case Conference
06/14/2018	Opposition  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Plaintiffs' Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Strike Portions of Plaintiff's Supplement in Support of Opposition to Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss or in the Alternative for Further Supplemental Briefing
06/20/2018	Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order
06/21/2018	Notice of Entry of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Notice of Entry of Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order
06/27/2018	Case Appeal Statement  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Case Appeal Statement
06/27/2018	Notice of Appeal Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Notice of Appeal
06/28/2018	Posting of Appeal Bond Filed by: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Notice of Posting Bond on Appeal
09/14/2018	Motion Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of Discovery
10/01/2018	Opposition to Motion  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Defendants' Opposition to Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of Discovery  and Defendants' Request for Sanctions Pursuant to EDCR 7.60(b)
10/12/2018	Reply in Support Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.
10/17/2018	Supplement Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd. Plaintiffs' Supplemental Exhibit in Further Support of Their Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of Discovery
10/18/2018	Supplemental Filed by: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Supplemental Exhibits In Further Support of Their Opposition To Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of Discovery And Defendants Request for Sanctions Pursuant to EDCR 7.60(b)
10/31/2018	Recorders Transcript of Hearing  Recorders Transcript of Hearing - Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

	CASE NO. A-10-//1224-C
	Discovery - heard on Oct. 19, 2018
01/03/2019	Objection to Discovery Commissioners Report and Recommend Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Objections to Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommentation
01/30/2019	Response Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  PLAINTIFFS RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS OBJECTIONS TO DISCOVERY  COMMISSIONER S REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS
02/04/2019	Discovery Commissioners Report and Recommendations Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.  Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendations
03/22/2019	Notice of Withdrawal  The Jimmerson Law Firm, P.C.'s Notice of Withdrawal as Co-Counsel of Record
04/11/2019	Order Denying Motion  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Order Denying Plaintiff's Motion to Commence Discovery
04/11/2019	Notice of Entry of Order  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Notice of Entry of Order Denying Plaintiffs' Motion To Commence Discovery
09/11/2019	Order Scheduling Status Check  Order Scheduling Status Check Re: Joint Case Conference Report
09/12/2019	Order Scheduling Status Check  Order Scheduling Status Check RE: Joint Case Conference Report/Special Motion Appeal
03/02/2020	Change of Status  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Status Update Regarding Supreme Court Appeal
03/02/2020	Clerk's Notice of Hearing  Notice of Hearing
04/01/2020	NV Supreme Court Clerks Certificate/Judgment -Remanded  Nevada Supreme Court Clerk's Certificate/Remittitur Judgment - Vacated and Remand
04/28/2020	Notice of Appearance Party: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Notice of Appearance of Counsel for Plaintiffs
05/06/2020	Brief Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Plaintiffs' Brief in Support of Limited Discovery
05/11/2020	Brief Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

	CASE NO. A-16-7/1224-C
	Defenants' Brienf in Opposition to Request for Liminted Discovery
05/29/2020	Request Filed by: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendant's Request for Clarification Re May 29, 2020 Order
06/15/2020	Recorders Transcript of Hearing Party: Defendant Omerza, Daniel Recorders Transcript of Video Conference Hearing: Status Check: Supreme Court Appeal 4.29.20
07/02/2020	Motion for Protective Order  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Defendants' Motion For Protective Order Limiting Discovery on Order Shortening Time
07/07/2020	Response  Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Plaintiff's Response to Motion for Protective Order
07/09/2020	Reply in Support  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Defendant's Reply In Support of Motion For Protective Order Limiting Discovery
07/17/2020	Memorandum 07/29/20 Blue Jeans Hearing Information for Department 2
08/03/2020	Order Granting Motion Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Order Granting Defendants' Motion For Protective Order Limited Discovery
08/04/2020	Certificate of Service
08/05/2020	Notice of Entry of Order  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren  Notice of Entry of Order Granting Defendants' Motion for Protective Order Limiting  Discovery
09/30/2020	Notice of Hearing  Notice of Hearing on Motion to Dismiss
10/06/2020	Stipulation Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Stipulation Regarding Briefing Deadlines
10/07/2020	Stipulation and Order Filed by: Attorney Rasmussen, Lisa A.; Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Stipulation and Order Regarding Briefing Deadlines
10/07/2020	Memorandum 10/26/20 Blue Jeans Hearing Information for Department 2

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

	CASE NO. A-10-7/1227-C
10/14/2020	Supplement to Opposition  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Supplement to Opposition to Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP)
10/14/2020	Exhibits  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Exhibits 1 through 3
10/14/2020	Exhibits  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Exhibits 4 through 6
10/14/2020	Exhibits  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Exhibits 7 through 13
10/14/2020	Exhibits Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Exhibits 14 through 19
10/14/2020	Errata Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Errata to Supplemental Opposition to Special Motion to Dismiss
10/15/2020	Motion to Strike Filed By: Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Motion to Strike and for Imposition of Sanction and Request for Order Shortening Time
10/15/2020	Stipulation and Order Filed by: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Stipulation Regarding Briefing deadlines (Second Stipulation)
10/20/2020	Opposition and Countermotion  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Opposition to Motion to Strike & for Sanctions / Countermotion for Sanctions
10/21/2020	Reply Filed by: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Reply In Support of Motion To Strike and for Sanctions; Opposition to Countermotion
10/30/2020	Supplemental Brief Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Supplemental Brief In Support of Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 Et. Seq.
10/30/2020	Declaration Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren

## CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

	Declaration of Mitchell J. Langberg In Support of Defendants' Supplemental Brief In Support of Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 Et. Seq.
11/04/2020	Stipulation and Order Filed by: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Stipulation and Order Re Defendant Supplemental Re in Support of Anti- Slap
11/04/2020	Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order Re Defendants' Supplemental Reply In Support of Anti-SLAPP
11/05/2020	Memorandum 11/09/20 Blue Jeans Hearing Information for Department 2
11/30/2020	Stipulation and Order Filed by: Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC STIPULATION REGARDING DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PROPOSED ORDER; ORDER THEREON
12/03/2020	Objection Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC Objection to Defendants' Proposed Order and Submission of Plaintiffs' Proposed Order
12/10/2020	Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment Filed by: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Findings of Fact Conclusions of Law and Order
12/10/2020	Notice of Entry of Order Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Notice of Entry of Findings of Facts, Conclusions of Law, and Order
12/24/2020	Motion to Reconsider  Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co., LLC  Motion to Reconsider Court's Order Dated December 10, 2020 Order
12/29/2020	Clerk's Notice of Hearing  Notice of Hearing
12/31/2020	Motion for Attorney Fees Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren Defendants' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Additional Monetary Relief Pursuant to NRS 41.670 and NRS 18.010(2)
01/04/2021	Case Reassigned to Department 19  Judicial Reassignment to Judge Crystal Eller
01/05/2021	Clerk's Notice of Hearing  Clerk's Notice of Hearing
01/07/2021	Opposition to Motion  Filed By: Defendant Omerza, Daniel; Defendant Caria, Steve; Defendant Bresee, Darren

## CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

Defendants' Opposition To Plaintiffs' Motion for Reconsideration of Court's Order Dated December 10, 2020

01/08/2021

Notice of Appeal

Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co.,

LLC

Notice of Appeal

01/08/2021

Case Appeal Statement

Filed By: Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.; Plaintiff Seventy Acres, LLC; Plaintiff 180 Land Co.,

LLC

Case Appeal Statement

#### **DISPOSITIONS**

04/01/2020

Clerk's Certificate (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Debtors: Daniel Omerza (Defendant), Steve Caria (Defendant), Darren Bresee (Defendant) Creditors: Seventy Acres, LLC (Plaintiff), 180 Land Co., LLC (Plaintiff), Daniel Omerza

(Defendant), Steve Caria (Defendant), Darren Bresee (Defendant)

Judgment: 04/01/2020, Docketed: 04/02/2020 Comment: Supreme Court No. 76273; Denied

12/10/2020

Order of Dismissal (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Debtors: Fore Stars, Ltd. (Plaintiff), Seventy Acres, LLC (Plaintiff), 180 Land Co., LLC

(Plaintiff)

Creditors: Daniel Omerza (Defendant), Steve Caria (Defendant), Darren Bresee (Defendant)

Judgment: 12/10/2020, Docketed: 12/11/2020

Comment: Certain Claims

#### **HEARINGS**

04/16/2018

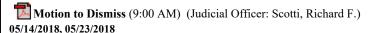


Minute Order - No Hearing Held;

Journal Entry Details:

Although the Court could and would rule fairly and without bias, recusal is appropriate in the present case in accordance with Canon 2.11(A)(3) of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct in order to avoid the appearance of impartiality or implied bias as the Court could be viewed to have information relating to the facts and/or circumstances regarding the underlying issues. Thus, the Court recuses itself from the matter and requests that it be randomly reassigned in accordance with appropriate procedures.;

05/14/2018



Defendants' Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5)

Matter Continued;

Matter Continued;

DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE - Defendants Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs Complaint

Journal Entry Details:

These matters are continued to the May 30, 2018 Chambers Calendar. CLERK'S NOTE: This minute order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Natalie Ortega, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. ndo/5/23/18;

Matter Continued;

Matter Continued;

DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE - Defendants Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP

Motion) Plaintiffs Complaint

05/14/2018 **Motion** (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

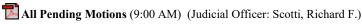
05/14/2018, 05/23/2018

Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-Slapp Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS 41.635 Et. Seq

## CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

Matter Continued;

05/14/2018



Matter Heard;

Journal Entry Details:

Arguments by Mr. Langberg and Mr. Jimmerson. Court DIRECTED, counsel to submit a 2 page Supplemental Briefing by close of business day Wednesday 05/23/18, if counsel believes there is additional information. COURT ORDERED, matter CONTINUED to 05/23/18 Chamber Calendar. CONTINUED TO: 05/23/18 (CHAMBER CALENDAR);

05/29/2018

Minute Order (10:41 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Defendants Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs Complaint Minute Order - No Hearing Held; Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs Complaint

Journal Entry Details:

The Court DENIES without prejudice Defendants Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs Complaint pursuant to NRS 41.635 et. Seq. Nevada s anti-SLAPP statute does not apply to fraudulent conduct, which Plaintiffs have alleged. Even if it did so apply, at this early stage in the litigation and given the numerous allegations of fraud, the Court is not convinced by a preponderance of the evidence that Defendants conduct constituted good faith communications in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern, as described in NRS 41.637. The Court also DENIES Defendants Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5). Plaintiffs have stated valid claims for relief. Plaintiffs shall prepare the proposed Order, adding appropriate context and authorities. The 5/30/2018 Chambers Hearing on this matter hereby VACATED. CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Jennifer Lott, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. jl;

06/27/2018

CANCELED Motion to Strike (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Vacated - per Clerk

Defendant's Motion to Strike Portions of Plaintiff's Supplement in Support of Opposition to Defendant's Special Motion to Dismiss or in the Alternative for Further Supplemental Briefing

10/19/2018

Motion for Order (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Truman, Erin)

Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of Discovery Granted in Part; Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of Discovery Journal Entry Details:

Mr. Jimmerson addressed Judge Scotti's ruling and the Court found that Defts' anti-slapp Motion did not apply to intentional torts pled by Plaintiffs in the case, and the Motion to Dismiss on the basis of anti-slapp was Denied. There is an immediate right to Appeal which Defts availed themselves to. Mr. Jimmerson attempted to file an Early Case Conference, however, counsel have returned before the Commissioner to begin discovery. Defts have failed to filed an Answer, but Mr. Jimmerson doesn't intent to default Defts. The case needs to go forward and begin discovery. Argument by Mr. Jimmerson. Mr. Langberg discussed whether of not the anti-slapp Statute applies to the tort causes of action that Plaintiffs asserted. Defts filed a Writ of Mandamus, however, it was not brought on the same grounds as the anti-slapp. Mr. Langberg stated the Statute says if an anti-slapp Motion is filed, discovery is stayed pending a ruling on the Motion. Argument by Mr. Langberg. Commissioner stated based on the Supreme Court Denial of the Petition for Writ, the case is ready to be Answered, and 16.1 should be complied with. Mr. Langberg stated the Appeal is still pending. There was a Writ as to the Denial of the 12(b)(5) Motion because there is no Appeal from that. Mr. Langberg stated there is an automatic Appeal on Denial of an anti-slapp Motion, the Appeal is still pending, and the Opening Brief is due 10-22-18. Upon Commissioner's inquiry, Mr. Jimmerson stated there are no exigent circumstances that would warrant discovery before 16.1 is complied with. Given the fact that the Appeal is still pending, and an Answer is not yet required, COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, there is no reasonable basis for discovery to go forward at this point, and counsel will wait until the Supreme Court hears the issue. Following that the Answer will be due, and 16.1 will be complied with. Mr. Jimmerson stated there will be a 18 month to 2 year delay. Arguments by counsel. Mr. Langberg read the Statute into the record. Commissioner doesn't believe the case is stayed under the authority cited by Mr. Langberg. The Court determined that it doesn't apply to the causes of action, therefore, COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, motion is GRANTED IN PART; discovery needs to go forward and within 30 days of Judge Scotti's ruling on the forthcoming Objection counsel should comply with 16.1

## CASE SUMMARY CASE No. A-18-771224-C

and file the JCCR. Mr. Langberg requested an extension to object to the Report and Recommendation. Colloquy. Mr. Jimmerson to prepare the Report and Recommendations, and Mr. Langberg to approve as to form and content. A proper report must be timely submitted within 10 days of the hearing. Otherwise, counsel will pay a contribution.;

12/20/2018

CANCELED Status Check: Compliance (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Bulla, Bonnie)

Vacated - per Commissioner

Status Check: Compliance (10-19-18 Report and Recommendation)

02/20/2019

Hearing (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

re DCRR (set by telephone conference 02/04/19)

Matter Heard;

Journal Entry Details:

Arguments by counsel whether anti-slap statue applies and whether motion was filed in good faith. COURT ORDERED, matter UNDER ADVISEMENT. Court needs to review the Patton v. Lee case and whether it has jurisdiction, as well as the case law just presented.;

03/15/2019

Minute Order (10:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Minute Order - No Hearing Held;

Journal Entry Details:

The Court DENIES Plaintiff's Motion to Commence Discovery, pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(e). The Court had denied Defendants Special Motion to Dismiss, in part, on the grounds that Defendants did not meet their threshold burden of establishing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Land owners claims against them are based on their good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern. See Plaintiff's Motion at p. 6 (quoting NRS 41.660(3)(a). Under these circumstances the statute mandates that the Court stay discovery pending an appeal of an Order denying the Special Motion to Dismiss. Defendants to prepare the Order. CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of this Minute Order has been distributed to the following: James Jimmerson, Esq. (JJJ@jimmersonlawfirm.com) and Mitchell Langberg, Esq. (mlangberg@bhfs.com). //ev 3/15/19;

08/21/2019

Status Check (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

ISC - Supreme Court Appeal

Matter Heard;

Journal Entry Details:

Matter heard.;

10/02/2019

Status Check (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Stayed;

Journal Entry Details:

Mr. Langberg conveyed Elizabeth Ghanem emailed him that morning and advised this matter was pending in Supreme Court and she had a conflict, and the matter was still before the Supreme Court regarding the denial of the Motion to Dismiss. COURT ORDERED, Stay CONTINUED. Mr. Langberg advised discovery never commenced. COURT ORDERED, parties to SUBMIT a one-page status update 30 days after the Supreme Court rules on the Appeal from the denial of the Motion to Dismiss.;

03/25/2020

Status Check (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Remittitur

Matter Heard;

Journal Entry Details:

Matter heard.;

03/26/2020

CANCELED Status Check (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Vacated

ISC - Supreme Court Appeal

04/06/2020

Motion (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Status Update Regarding Supreme Court Appeal

# CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

Granted;

Journal Entry Details:

The Court GRANTS the Motion for a Status Update and hereby SETS a Status Check for Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 9AM. Further, in light of the continued ban on in-person hearings, the Court directs the parties to make the appropriate arrangements necessary to appear remotely through the available audio (CourtCall) or audiovisual (Blue Jeans) platforms in preparation for this hearing. CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Elizabeth Vargas, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve and mailed to the following: Seventy Acres LLC 1215 S. Fort Apache Rd. Ste 120 Las Vegas, NV 89117 180 Land Co 1215 S. Fort Apache Rd. Ste 120 Las Vegas, NV 89117 Daniel Omerza 800 Petit Chalet Court Las Vegas, NV 89145 //ev 4/20/20;

04/29/2020

Status Check (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Status Check: Supreme Court Appeal

Matter Heard;

Journal Entry Details:

Lisa Rasmussen, Esq. also present on behalf of Plaintiffs. Court provided a brief overview of the history of the case. Arguments by counsel regarding additional supplemental briefing and additional discovery. Court stated counsel would be given an opportunity to provide additional briefing limited to 5 pages regarding why additional discovery was needed. COURT ORDERED, Plaintiff to provide supplemental briefing by May 6, Defendants' Opposition to the Motion due May 11, and Reply, if needed, due May 13. Court inquired if there were any issues left to decide other than limited discovery. Ms. Rasmussen stated the Supreme Court focused on one prong and not the other, and additional briefing may be needed regarding the second prong. Court stated in the event limited discovery was denied, ruling on the Motion to Dismiss would proceed. Court stated any emergency requests would be considered, and a decision would be provided by May 18, 2020 regarding the Motion for Limited Discovery. 5/13/20 STATUS CHECK: OPTIONAL REPLY (CHAMBERS) 5/18/20 MOTION FOR LIMITED DISCOVERY (CHAMBERS) 5/25/20 DECISION: MOTION TO DISMISS (CHAMBERS);

05/13/2020

Status Check (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Status Check: Optional Reply

Matter Heard:

Journal Entry Details:

Matter heard.;

05/18/2020

Motion (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Motion for Limited Discovery

Granted in Part;

05/27/2020

CANCELED Decision (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Vacated

Decision: Motion to Dismiss

05/29/2020

Minute Order (10:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Minute Order - No Hearing Held;

Journal Entry Details:

The Court GRANTS in part, and DENIES in part, Plaintiff's request for limited discovery. Plaintiff may serve one set of requests for production of documents, with no more than a total of fifteen (15) requests for documents to be allocated among the defendants, as Plaintiff sees fit; Defendants shall have two weeks to respond to such requests. Further, Plaintiff may take the depositions of the three defendants, each limited to four (4) hours. This limited discovery period commences immediately, and concludes on Friday, July 17, 2020, absent stipulation of the parties. The defendants have the option of appearing for deposition in person, or appearing by audio/visual means (at their own arrangements). The depositions may be set on two weeks notice, at the time and place noticed by Plaintiff after good faith attempt to meet and confer on the same. Any discovery dispute shall be brought before this Court upon request for an Order Shortening Time. Plaintiff may file a supplemental brief in opposition to the Motion to Dismiss by Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Plaintiff may file a supplemental reply by Monday, July, 27, 2020. The Court will conduct a Hearing on the Defendants Motion to Dismiss on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. The parties may modify this schedule by written stipulation approved by the Court. 7/29/20 9:30 AM DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Elizabeth

# CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

Vargas, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. //ev 5/29/20;

06/05/2020

Minute Order (12:00 PM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Minute Order - No Hearing Held;

Journal Entry Details:

With regard to this Court's May 29, 2020 Minute Order, granting in part and denying in Part Plaintiff's request for limited discovery, the Court issues this clarification: The discovery permitted by the prior order must relate to the second prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis, and is limited to the matters identified in Plaintiff's papers, or the matters identified by the Plaintiff at the April 29th hearing. CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of this Minute Order was electronically served to all registered parties by the Courtroom Clerk, Elizabeth Vargas via Odyssey Efile and Serve. //ev 6/5/20;

07/13/2020

Motion for Protective Order (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Defendants' Motion For Protective Order Limiting Discovery on Order Shortening Time Motion Granted;

Journal Entry Details:

Court stated procedural aspect of Plaintiff's response to the motion, noting they expressed concerns that this Court issued a minute order providing clarification of its prior discovery order before having had a chance to receive and review Plaintiff's Response to Defendant's written request for clarification. This matter came back after a remand from the Nevada Supreme Court where it appeared to the Court that the Supreme Court had resolved prong 1 and was remanding back to this Court for appropriate proceedings regarding prong 2, whether limited discovery should go forward and resolve the issue of the litigation privilege. Following arguments by counsel regarding their respective positions, Court advised it was not one hundred percent convinced that prong 1 was completely disposed of by the Nevada Supreme Court, after hearing Ms. Rasmussen paraphrasing the order. Court advised it needs to go back and review the Supreme Court order. COURT ORDERED, matter TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT; discovery STAYED pending ruling on motion for protective order and if Court needs additional briefing regarding the litigation privilege issue, it will inform the parties by minute order.;

07/21/2020

Minute Order (3:00 PM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Minute Order - No Hearing Held;

Journal Entry Details:

The Court GRANTS Defendants Motion for Protective Order Limiting Discovery. Discovery is limited to the second prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis. Discovery is limited to what is identified by Plaintiffs on p.5, lines 15-21 of Plaintiffs Brief in Support of Request for Limited Discovery (5-6-20). The Defendants shall prepare the proposed Order, consistent with the relief sought in their motion. CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Carolyn Jackson, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. /cj 07/21/20;

07/29/2020

Motion to Dismiss (9:30 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Defendants' Motion to Dismiss

Matter Continued; Date to be determined

Journal Entry Details:

Court noted this matter was set for a continued hearing on the Motion to Dismiss. Mr. Langberg stated he believes on the 21st the Court issued a minute order on their Motion for Protective Order defining the scope of discovery. The parties should conduct the discovery the Court ordered, noting they have been working on a formal order. Mr. Langberg stated he does not believe they have any dispute about what the Court ordered to occur however, there is a disagreement as to the findings that led to that decision. Court advised it would be its preference if the parties could work out and decrease the number of findings and get to the heart of the matter on the scope of discovery. Ms. Rasmussen stated by minimizing the findings in the proposed order that will probably resolve all their issues and they should be able to get the proposed order over to the Court today. Ms. Rasmussen stated they did their own proposed briefing schedule which takes them out into October; it allows the Court to set a date for the continued hearing. COURT ORDERED, hearing for Motion to Dismiss CONTINUED, to a date to be determined. COURT FURTHER ORDERED, matter SET for status check. 9/28/20 STATUS CHECK: STATUS OF CASE (CHAMBERS);

# CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

09/28/2020

Status Check (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Status Check: Status of Case

Matter Heard;

Journal Entry Details:

Matter heard.;

10/22/2020 **Motion to Strike** (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Defendants' Motion to Stirke and for Imposition of Sanctions (on OST)

Matter Heard:

10/22/2020 Opposition and Countermotion (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Opposition to Motion to Strike & for Sanctions / Countermotion for Sanctions

Matter Heard;

10/22/2020 All Pending Motions (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Matter Heard;

Journal Entry Details:

DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STIRKE AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS (ON OST)...OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO STRIKE & FOR SANCTIONS / COUNTERMOTION

FOR SANCTIONS The Court will issue a Minute Order resolving this matter.;

10/26/2020 Minute Order (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Minute Order - No Hearing Held;

Journal Entry Details:

The Court DENIES Defendants Motion to Strike and for Imposition of Sanctions. The Court places no restriction on the content Plaintiff may include in its Brief. Plaintiff did not violate EDCR 7.60(b). The Court, further, DENIES Plaintiff s Countermotion because Defendants motion was meritless, but not frivolous. Plaintiff to prepare and submit the Order, pursuant to the electronic submission requirements of AO 20-17. CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was e-mailed by Courtroom Clerk, Grecia Snow to: Lisa Rasmussen Esq., at Lisa@Veldlaw.com, Mitchell J. Langberg Esq., at mlangber@bhfs.com, and Elizabeth M. Ghanem Esq., at eghanem@gs-lawyers.com. 10/26/20 gs;

11/09/2020

Motion to Dismiss (9:30 AM) (Judicial Officer: Scotti, Richard F.)

Anti-Slapp

Granted;

Journal Entry Details:

Court noted it read the motion, support briefs, and orders. Arguments by counsel. COURT took matter UNDER ADVISEMENT, stated it would issue a minute order. Ms. Rasmussen stated it filed a support brief and Mr. Langberg moved to strike, requested Court review the Motion to strike and respond.;

11/09/2020

Minute Order (12:16 PM) (Judicial Officer: Thompson, Charles)

Minute Order - No Hearing Held;

Journal Entry Details:

On June 20, 2018, Judge Scotti entered Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and an Order denying this motion. Defendants appealed and on January 23, 2020, the Nevada Supreme Court entered an Order vacating Judge Scotti s order and remanding with an opportunity for Plaintiffs to conduct limited discovery. Plaintiffs first argue that they may revisit step one of the anti-SLAPP analysis. On July 13, 2020, Judge Scotti entered a minute order including the following: This matter came back after a remand from the Nevada Supreme Court where it appeared to the Court that the Supreme Court had resolved prong 1 and was remanding back to this Court for appropriate proceedings regarding prong 2, whether limited discovery should go forward and resolve the issue of the litigation privilege. Following arguments by counsel regarding their respective positions, Court advised it was not one hundred percent convinced that prong 1 was completely disposed of by the Nevada Supreme Court, after hearing Ms. Rasmussen paraphrasing the order. Court advised it needs to go back and review the Supreme Court order. On July 21, 2020, after reviewing the Supreme Court Order, Judge Scotti entered a minute order which contained the following: Discovery is limited to the second prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis. It is clear from this minute order that Judge Scotti believed that prong 1 was resolved and that the limited discovery was only allowed with regard to prong 2. This

# CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

Court agrees with Judge Scotti. It is clear from the Supreme Court s order filed January 23, 2020, that the Defendants met their burden at step one of the anti-SLAPP analysis. In other words, the Court found that the Defendant's communications were in furtherance of their right to petition the government in connection with an issue of public concern and that the communications were in good faith. The Court then held that the Plaintiffs had not met their step-two burden of demonstrating with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on their claims. However, they believed that the Plaintiffs should be permitted limited discovery to see if they could meet that step-two burden. Thereafter, Judge Scotti entered an order prescribing the limited discovery that would be permitted. Plaintiffs complain that the order was too limited. I believe that the judge appropriately exercised his discretion in this regard. Also, I do not sit as an appellate court over Judge Scotti. Thus, I decline to find that his Order was in any way in error. Defendants first argue that the litigation privilege is dispositive of the prong 2 issue. I find that the argument has merit. First, the City Council proceedings were quasi-judicial and the privilege does apply to quasi-judicial proceedings. Also, the privilege applies even though the communications are not directed at the Council itself. Fink v. Oshins, 118 Nev. 428 (2002). In accordance with the holding in Oshins, communications between the residents would be included. Today, Ms. Rasmussin cited Spencer v. Klementi, 466 P.3d 1241 (Nev. 2020), for the proposition that the privilege does not apply to quasi-judicial proceedings where due process protections similar to those provided in a court of law are not present. This Court believes that Spencer is distinguishable from the current matter. Spencer involved a defamation suit arising out of defamatory comments made to a public body during a public comment session. The speaker was not under oath. No opportunity to respond was provided. No cross-examination was allowed and the holding in the decision appears to be expressly limited to defamation suits. I believe that the Oshins case is more on point. The civil conspiracy claim is the only claim that Plaintiff has argued meets the prong two test. However, a civil conspiracy must be to accomplish some unlawful objective where damage results. There was no unlawful objective here. Further, no damage to Plaintiffs may be claimed because the proceeding never occurred. Even if the litigation privilege is not dispositive of the prong two issue, I find that Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on any of their claims. For the reasons set forth in Defendants Supplemental Brief filed October 30, 2020, the Motion to Dismiss is GRANTED. Mr. Langberg is directed to prepare a proposed appropriate order with findings. Further, he is directed to submit the Order, pursuant to the electronic submission requirements of AO 20-17. CLERK'S NOTE: The above minute order has been distributed to: Lisa Rasmussen: Lisa@VeldLaw.Com. Mitchell Langberg: mlangber@bhfs.com. 11/10 km;

01/25/2021

Motion For Reconsideration (3:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Eller, Crystal) Motion to Reconsider Court's Order Dated December 10, 2020 Order

02/08/2021

Motion for Attorney Fees (9:00 AM) (Judicial Officer: Eller, Crystal)

Defendants' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Additional Monetary Relief Pursuant to NRS 41.670 & NRS 18.010(2)

DATE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

<b>Defendant</b> Caria, Steve Total Charges	24.00
Total Payments and Credits	24.00
Balance Due as of 1/11/2021	0.00
<b>Defendant</b> Omerza, Daniel	
Total Charges	283.00
Total Payments and Credits	283.00
Balance Due as of 1/11/2021	0.00
Plaintiff Fore Stars, Ltd.	
Total Charges	804.00
Total Payments and Credits	804.00
Balance Due as of 1/11/2021	0.00
Defendant Omerza, Daniel	
Appeal Bond Balance as of 1/11/2021	500.00

# EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CASE SUMMARY CASE NO. A-18-771224-C

## DISTRICT COURT CIVIL COVER SHEET

	County, Nevada
Case No.	
	(A == == = 1 l== Cl == l'= Off == )

A-18-771224-C

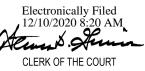
Department 31

(Assigned by Clerk'	's Office)
ome and mailing addresses if different)	
	Defendant(s) (name/address/phone):
mited Liability Company	Daniel Omerza and Steve Caria
Rd., Suite 120	800 Petit Chalet Court
V 89117	
6930	Las Vegas, NV 89145
	Attorney (name/address/phone):
sq. (702) 388-7171	
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elect the one most applicable filing type	e below)
	Torts
Negligence	Other Torts
l — -	Product Liability
	Intentional Misconduct
l <b>=</b>	Employment Tort
	Insurance Tort
-	Other Tort
	Cilici Tort
<u> </u>	
	ract Judicial Review/Appeal  Judicial Review
<u> </u>	Foreclosure Mediation Case
	Petition to Seal Records
	Mental Competency
	Nevada State Agency Appeal
	Department of Motor Vehicle
	Worker's Compensation
	Other Nevada State Agency
	Appeal Other
	Appeal from Lower Court
Other Contract	Other Judicial Review/Appeal
l Writ	Other Civil Filing
<u></u>	Other Civil Filing
Writ of Prohibition	Compromise of Minor's Claim
Other Civil Writ	Foreign Judgment
	Other Civil Matters
ourt filings should be filed using th	e Business Court civil coversheet.
	/s/James J. Jimmerson
<del>_</del>	Signature of initiating party or representative
	mited Liability Company Rd., Suite 120  V 89117  6930  sq. (702) 388-7171  Firm, P.C.  Suite 100  V 89101  Premises Liability  Other Negligence  Medical/Dental  Legal  Accounting  Other Malpractice  Construction Defect & Cont  Construction Defect  Contract Case  Uniform Commercial Code  Building and Construction  Insurance Carrier  Commercial Instrument  Collection of Accounts  Employment Contract  Other Contract  I Writ

 $See\ other\ side\ for\ family-related\ case\ filings.$ 

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		Alund Amer	
1	FFCL	CLERK OF THE COURT	
	MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ., Bar No. 10118		
2	mlangberg@bhfs.com BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP		
3	100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600		
4	Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101		
5	Facsimile: 702.382.8135		
6	Counsel for Defendants DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE,		
	and STEVE CARIA		
7			
8	DISTRICT COURT		
9	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA		
10	FORE STARS, LTD., a Nevada limited	CASE NO.: A-18-771224-C	
11	liability company; 180 LAND CO., LLC; a Nevada limited liability company;	DEPT NO.: II	
12	SEVENTY ACRES, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,	FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS	
		OF LAW, AND ORDER	
13	Plaintiffs,		
14	v.	Date of Hearing: November 9, 2020 Time of Hearing: 9:30 am	
15	DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE,	Time of flearing. 7.30 am	
16	STEVE CARIA, and DOES 1 THROUGH 100,		
17	Defendants,		
18			
	WHIEDEAC (bis mostless as a few b		
19		nearing on the 9th of November, 2020 on <i>Defendants</i> '	
20	Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiff's Complaint Pursuant to NRS §41.635		
21	et seq. Lisa Rasmussen, Esq. of the Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & Associates, appearing		
22	via telephone on behalf of the Plaintiffs, Fore Star Ltd, 180 Land Co., LLC, and Seventy Acres,		
23	LLC and Mitchell J. Langberg, Esq. of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, appearing via		
24	telephone on behalf of Defendants Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresee, and Steve Caria.		
25	The Court having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file, having considered the oral		

# **FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. Plaintiffs Fore Starts, Ltd., 180 Land Co., LLC, and Seventy Acres, LLC

argument of counsel, and good cause appearing, hereby FINDS, CONCLUDES and ORDERS:

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("Plaintiffs") filed a complaint against Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresse, and Steve Caria on March 15, 2018 (the "Complaint").

- 2. The Complaint alleged causes of action for Equitable and Injunctive Relief, Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage, Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage, Conspiracy, Intentional Misrepresentation, and Negligent Misrepresentation ("Claims").
- 3. Generally, the Complaint alleged that the Defendants participated in the circulation, collection, and/or execution of allegedly false statements (the "Statements") to be delivered to the City of Las Vegas in an effort to oppose Plaintiffs' development of what is commonly referred to as the former Badlands golf course ("Badlands").
- 4. On April 13, 2018, among other things, Defendants filed their Special Motion to Dismiss (anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS §41.635 et. seq. (the "anti-SLAPP Motion"), which is the subject of these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
- 5. After extensive briefing and oral argument, the Court denied the anti-SLAPP Motion for various reasons as set forth in the record, including that Defendants did not demonstrate that they met their initial burden of establishing "by a preponderance of the evidence, that the claim is based upon a good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern," pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(a) ("Prong 1").
- 6. Because the Court found that Defendants did not meet their Prong 1 burden, it did not consider Plaintiffs request for discovery pursuant to NRS 41.660(4) with respect to whether Plaintiffs had "demonstrated with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim" pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(b) ("Prong 2").
  - 7. Defendants filed a timely notice of appeal.
- 8. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court decided the matter without oral argument.
  - 9. The Nevada Supreme Court held that Defendants met their burden under Prong 1.
  - 10. The Nevada Supreme Court also held that Plaintiffs did not meet their burden

under Prong 2.

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- 11. However, the Nevada Supreme Court noted that the Court had not considered Plaintiffs' request for discovery pursuant to NRS 41.660(4).
- 12. Therefore, the Nevada Supreme Court remanded the matter back to this Court with express direction: "Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, we vacate the portion of the district court's order denying appellants anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss and remand to the district court for it to determine whether respondents are entitled to discovery under NRS 41.660(4)."
- 13. On remand, the parties did not agree on whether discovery was appropriate under NRS 41.660(4) or even what the scope of the remand was.
- 14. Defendants contended that the order of remand required this Court to consider whether it would grant Plaintiffs discovery under the anti-SLAPP statute. It was Defendants' contention that no discovery should be permitted. But, if discovery would be permitted, it would have to be limited to Prong 2 issues for which Plaintiffs made a showing of necessity. Defendants further contended that if the Court determined discovery was not appropriate, the anti-SLAPP motion should be granted because the Nevada Supreme Court had already concluded that Defendants had met their Prong 1 burden and Defendants had not met their Prong 2 burden.
- 15. Moreover, Defendants contend that if the Court allowed discovery, the only issue that would be left to determine was whether, in light of that discovery, Plaintiffs could now meet their burden under Prong 2.
- 16. On the other hand, Plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to conduct discovery on both Prong 1 and Prong 2. Plaintiffs further contended that the Nevada Supreme Court's decision and remand order required this Court to reconsider both Prong 1 and Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis.
- 17. At a post remand hearing, the parties offered argument about the appropriateness of discovery. Plaintiffs' counsel requested to brief the issue, promising to identify the discovery requested and the grounds supporting that request: "Let me do some additional briefing just on what discovery is requested, why it's relevant, and how it comports with the Nevada Supreme

Court's ruling."

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- 18. The Court allowed the parties to brief their positions on discovery.
- 19. After briefing, the Court granted some limited discovery that was intended to be circumscribed by the scope allowed by the anti-SLAPP statute and what Plaintiffs had requested in their briefing.
- 20. After issuing its order allowing limited discovery, the parties had additional disputes about the scope of discovery ordered by the Court.
- 21. The dispute was litigated by way of further motion practice and the Court issued orders clarifying that discovery would only to that related to Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis and only on the topics of "what documents Defendants relied on, what information Defendants relied on, or whether that information was provided to Defendants by third persons" all with respect to the Statements. In its order, the Court explained that NRS 41.660(4) requires Plaintiffs to make a showing of necessity for limited discovery and these topics were the only topics on which Plaintiffs even attempted to make such a showing.
- 22. After completion of the limited discovery, the Court also allowed supplemental briefing.
- 23. In their briefing, Plaintiffs contended that the Court was required to reconsider whether Defendants met their Prong 1 burden. Further, Plaintiffs argued that even if Defendants met their Prong 1 burden, Plaintiffs had satisfied their burden on Prong 2. Finally, Plaintiffs argued that the discovery they were granted was too narrow.
- 24. With respect to Prong 2, the only one of the Claims that Plaintiffs addressed in their supplemental briefing was the claim for Conspiracy.
- 25. Moreover, with respect to the claim for Conspiracy, Plaintiffs did not offer any admissible evidence or make any argument regarding alleged damages resulting from the purported conspiracy.
  - 26. The Court heard oral argument on the anti-SLAPP Motion on November 9, 2020.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

27. NRS 41.635, et. seq. comprises Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute.

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- 28. The following rulings by the Nevada Supreme Court constitute law of the case with respect to the anti-SLAPP Motion:
- (a) "In sum, we conclude that the district court erred by finding that appellants had not met their burden under NRS 41.660(3)(a) to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that respondents' claims are grounded on appellants' good faith communications in furtherance of their petitioning rights on an issue of public concern." Omerza v. Fore Stars, Ltd, 455 P.3d 841, \*3 (Nev. 2020).
- (b) "We therefore conclude that the district court erred in determining that respondents met their step-two burden of demonstrating with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on their claims." *Id.* at \*4 (Nev. 2020).
- 29. Thus, the Nevada Supreme Court clearly found that Defendants had met their Prong 1 burden and Plaintiffs had not met their Prong 2 burden.
- 30. The Nevada Supreme Court's order of remand was equally clear: "Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, we vacate the portion of the district court's order denying appellants' anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss and remand to the district court for it to determine whether respondents are entitled to discovery under NRS 41.660(4)." *Id.* at \*4 (Nev. 2020).
- 31. Pursuant to the "mandate rule," a court must effectuate a higher court's ruling on remand. Estate of Adams By & Through Adams v. Fallini, 132 Nev. 814, 819, 386 P.3d 621, 624 (2016). The law-of-the-case doctrine directs a court not to "re-open questions decided (i.e., established as law of the case) by that court or a higher one in earlier phases." Id.
- 32. Therefore, as a matter of law, this Court's task on remand was to determine whether Plaintiffs were entitled to discovery under NRS 41.600(4).
- 33. Pursuant to NRS 41.600(4), "[u]pon a showing by a party that information necessary to meet or oppose the burden pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3 is in the possession of another party or a third party and is not reasonably available without discovery, the court shall allow limited discovery for the purpose of ascertaining such information."
  - 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of the anti-SLAPP statute is the Prong 2 portion of

the anti-SLAPP analysis that requires a plaintiff to demonstrate with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on its claim.

- 35. Therefore, as a matter of law, discovery is only allowed with respect to Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis. No discovery is allowed with respect to Prong 1 of the anti-SLAPP analysis.
- 36. Even with respect to Prong 2, NRS 41.600(4) only allows a party discovery if the party has: 1) made a showing, 2) that information to meet or oppose the Prong 2 burden, 3) is in the possession of another, and 4) is not available without discovery. Then, a court may allow limited discovery, but only for the purpose of ascertaining such information.
- 37. Therefore, as a matter of law, this Court could only grant discovery to the extent Plaintiffs made a showing of necessity as set forth in NRS 41.600(4). As noted in the factual findings, the Court granted Plaintiffs the discovery they expressly requested as that is the only discovery for which Plaintiffs even attempted to make a showing.
- 38. Though Plaintiffs argue in their supplemental opposition to the anti-SLAPP Motion that they were not allowed adequate discovery, the discovery permitted was appropriate and, in light of Plaintiffs' request, all that was allowed under NRS 41.600(4).
- 39. The Court notes that in their supplemental opposition, Plaintiffs complain that Defendants did not adequately respond to the discovery permitted. Defendants dispute that contention. Because Plaintiffs never filed a motion to compel, there is no basis to conclude that Defendants failed to comply with their discovery obligations pursuant to the Court's order and any argument to the contrary has been waived.
- 40. Having considered the appropriateness of discovery pursuant to the Nevada Supreme Court's remand order and having allowed limited discovery pursuant to the anti-SLAPP statute, the only matter left for this Court is to determine whether Plaintiffs have now met their Prong 2 burden in light of any new evidence they offer post-discovery.
- 41. First, Defendants argue that no matter what evidence Plaintiffs could have offered, Plaintiffs Claims cannot be supported because the litigation privilege is a complete defense and is dispositive of the Prong 2 issues.

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- 42. The Court agrees that the alleged facts that underlie Plaintiffs claims are subject to the absolute litigation privilege and provide an complete defense to the Claims.
- 43. Nevada recognizes "the long-standing common law rule that communications uttered or published in the course of judicial proceedings are absolutely privileged so long as they are in some way pertinent to the subject of controversy." Circus Circus Hotels, Inc. v. Witherspoon, 99 Nev. 56, 60 (1983) (citation omitted). This rule includes "statements made in the course of quasi-judicial proceedings." Knox v. Dick, 99 Nev. 514, 518 (1983) (citation omitted); see also Circus Circus, 99 Nev. at 61 ("the absolute privilege attached to judicial proceedings has been extended to quasi-judicial proceedings before executive officers, boards, and commissions") (citations omitted).
- 44. Critically, the statement at issue does not have to be made during any actual proceedings. See Fink v. Oshins, 118 Nev. 428, 433 (2002) ("the privilege applies not only to communications made during actual judicial proceedings, but also to communications preliminary to a proposed judicial proceeding") (footnote omitted). "[B]ecause the scope of the absolute privilege is broad, a court determining whether the privilege applies should resolve any doubt in favor of a broad application." Clark County Sch. Dist. v. Virtual Educ. Software, Inc., 125 Nev. 374, 382 (2009) (citation omitted) (citing Fink, supra).
- 45. The Nevada Supreme Court already determined that the statements underlying each of Plaintiffs' claims were made in good faith in connection with issues under consideration by a legislative body. That was the City Council's consideration of "amendment to the Master Plan/General Plan affecting Peccole Ranch." Omerza, 455 P.3d 841, \*1 (Nev. 2020).
- 46. Those City Council proceedings were quasi-judicial. Unified Development Code (UDC) section 19.16.030, et. seq. addresses amendments to the General Plan. It provides an extensive set of standards establishing how the City Council must exercise judgment and discretion, hear and determine facts, and render a reasoned written decision. In the course of those proceedings, the Council has the power to order the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents. Las Vegas City Charter §2.080(1)(d),(2)(a). This entire process meets the judicial function test for "determining whether an administrative proceeding is quasi-judicial."

State ex rel. Bd. of Parole Comm'rs v. Morrow, 127 Nev. 265, 273 (2011).

- 47. Moreover, Plaintiffs admitted it was a quasi-judicial proceeding at a May 9, 2018 hearing before the City Council. *See*, Defendants' Request for Judicial Notice filed on May 9, 2018, Exh. 1, p. 16, lines 415-420 (Mr. Hutchison (as counsel for these Developers) explaining that the proceeding are quasi-judicial).
- 48. The absolute litigation privilege applies without regard to how Plaintiffs styled their claims. "An absolute privilege bars any civil litigation based on the underlying communication." *Hampe v. Foote*, 118 Nev. 405, 409, 47 P.3d 438, 440 (2002), overruled in part on other grounds by *Buzz Stew, LLC v. City of N. Las Vegas*, 124 Nev. 224, 228 n. 6, 181 P.3d 670, 672 n.6 (2008).
- 49. Because the Supreme Court already determined that the Defendants' activities were made in connection with the City Council proceedings, and because those activities were quite obviously an attempt to solicit witnesses testimony to submit in the form of written statements, Defendants' statements were all made in connection with, and preliminary to, a quasi-judicial proceeding and, therefore, were protected by the absolute litigation privilege.
- 50. For the first time at the hearing on the anti-SLAPP Motion, Plaintiffs' counsel cited to a case decided by the Nevada Supreme Court on July 9, 2020, four months before the hearing and more than three months before Plaintiffs filed their supplemental opposition to the anti-SLAPP motion.
- P.3d 1241 (Nev. 2020), for the proposition that the privilege does not apply to quasi-judicial proceedings where due process protections similar to those provided in a court of law are not present. This Court believes that *Spencer* is distinguishable from the current matter. *Spencer* involved a defamation suit arising out of defamatory comments made to a public body during a public comment session. The speaker was not under oath. No opportunity to respond was provided. No cross-examination was allowed. Importantly, the holding in the decision was expressly limited to defamation suits: "We therefore take this opportunity to clarify that a quasi-judicial proceeding in the context of defamation suits is one that provides basic due-process

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protections similar to those provided in a court of law." Id. at 1247. Therefore, the Oshins case controls.

- 52. Because it applies, the litigation privilege is an absolute bar to all of Plaintiffs' claims. Therefore, for that reason alone, Plaintiffs' claims fail on Prong 2 and the anti-SLAPP Motion should be granted.
- 53. As a separate and additional basis for dismissing Plaintiffs' claims pursuant to the anti-SLAPP statute, even if the litigation privilege did not apply, Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden under Prong 2.
- 54. Mindful that the Nevada Supreme Court already determined that Plaintiffs' failed to meet their burden under Prong 2 based on the evidence and argument offered prior to the appeal, the Court now considers whether Plaintiffs have offered any new evidence or legal argument in an attempt to meet their burden on remand.
- 55. The civil conspiracy claim is the only claim for which Plaintiffs have made any new argument.
- 56. The Nevada Supreme Court explained that the Developer was required to "demonstrate that the claim is supported by a prima facie showing of facts" that is supported by "competent, admissible evidence." *Omerza*, 455 P.3d 841 at \*4. This is the same standard as a court applies in a summary judgment motion. *Id*.
- An actionable civil conspiracy "consists of a combination of two or more persons 57. who, by some concerted action, intend to accomplish an unlawful objective for the purpose of harming another, and damage results from the act or acts." Consol. Generator-Nevada, Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co., 114 Nev. 1304, 1311 (1998) (affirming summary judgment for defendant on the plaintiff's conspiracy claim because there was no evidence that the two defendants had agreed and intended to harm the plaintiff).
- The evidence must be "of an explicit or tacit agreement between the alleged 58. conspirators." Guilfoyle v. Olde Monmouth Stock Transfer Co., 130 Nev. 801, 813, 335 P.3d 190, 198 (2014) (upholding district court's grant of summary judgment where plaintiff "has presented no circumstantial evidence from which to infer an agreement between [defendants] to harm"

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plaintiff). Here, Plaintiffs did not offer any admissible evidence of an agreement to do something unlawful.

- 59. A conspiracy claim also fails where the plaintiff cannot show that he suffered any actual harm. Sutherland v. Gross, 105 Nev. 192, 197 (1989); see also Aldabe v. Adams, 81 Nev. 280, 286 (1965), overruled on other grounds by Siragusa v. Brown, 114 Nev. 1384 (1998) ("The damage for which recovery may be had in a civil action is not the conspiracy itself but the injury to the plaintiff produced by specific overt acts.").
- 60. "The gist of a civil conspiracy is not the unlawful agreement but the damage resulting from that agreement or its execution. The cause of action is not created by the conspiracy but by the wrongful acts done by the defendants to the injury of the plaintiff." Eikelberger v. Tolotti, 96 Nev. 525, 528 (1980).
- 61. Plaintiffs' Claims were all based on Defendants circulating the Statements to community members to oppose the Developer's efforts to change the land use restrictions on the Badlands. But, because the City Council proceedings did not advance and Plaintiffs appealed (successfully) Judge Crockett's decision, the City Council's prior decisions to allow development without a modification to the Peccole Ranch Master Plan were affirmed.
- 62. Therefore, Plaintiffs offered no admissible evidence of damages suffered even if it had proven a conspiracy existed.
- 63. Also, Plaintiffs offered no evidence to support any of their other claims, even though the Supreme Court already said their prior showing was insufficient. Where a plaintiff cannot demonstrate an unlawful act because it cannot prevail on the other claims it has alleged to form the basis for the underlying wrong, dismissal of the civil conspiracy claim is appropriate. Goldman v. Clark Cty. Sch. Dist., 471 P.3d 753 (Nev. 2020) (unpublished) (citing Consol. Generator-Nevada, Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co., 114 Nev. 1304, 1311 (1998)).
- 64. Plaintiffs have failed to show an agreement to achieve an unlawful objective and failed to show any damage. Therefore, Plaintiffs have failed to meet their Prong 2 anti-SLAPP burden.
  - 65. Because Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden under Prong 2 of the anti-

SLAPP analysis, Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion is well taken and will be granted.		
66. Pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(a), whe	n a court grants an anti-SLAPP motion, it	
"shall award reasonable costs and attorney's fees."	Pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(b), the court also	
"may award" "an amount of up to \$10,000 to the p	person against whom the action was brought."	
Defendants may request those fees, costs, and addi	tional amounts by separate motion.	
ORD	<u>ER</u>	
WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERE	D that:	
1. Defendants' Special Motion to Disn	niss is hereby GRANTED, and	
2. Defendants may seek attorneys' fee	Dated this 10th day of December, 2020 s, costs, additional amounts by way of separate	
motion.	Lichan State	
DATED:	25B E0E 21B7 81BF  Richard F. Scotti  District Court Judge  DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	
Respectfully Submitted:	Approved as to form and content:	
DATED this 2nd day of December, 2020.	DATED thisday of December, 2020.	
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER	LAW OFFICES OF KRISTINA	
SCHRECK, LLP	WILDEVELD & ASSOCIATES Counsel have disagreements regarding the contents of this order.	
BY: MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ. NV Bar No. 10118 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101 Facsimile: 702.382.8135  Counsel for Defendants Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresee and Steve Caria	BY:	
Darren Dresee and Sieve Carla	Seventy Acres, LLC	

1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s) CASE NO: A-18-771224-C 6 DEPT. NO. Department 2 VS. 7 Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s) 8 9 10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment was served via the 12 court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled 13 case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 12/10/2020 15 Elizabeth Ham EHam@ehbcompanies.com 16 **Todd Davis** tdavis@ehbcompanies.com 17 iknighton@ehbcompanies.com Jennifer Knighton 18 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bhfs.com 19 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 20 21 Kristina Wildeveld Kristina@Veldlaw.com 22 Jessica Malone Jessica@Veldlaw.com 23 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bhfs.com 24 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 25 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 26 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bfhs.com 27

Patricia Berg

Patty@Veldlaw.com

12/10/2020 9:26 AM Steven D. Grierson **CLERK OF THE COURT** 1 **NEOJ** MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ., Bar No. 10118 2 mlangberg@bhfs.com BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 3 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101 4 Facsimile: 702.382.8135 5 Counsel for Defendants, 6 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, and STEVE CARIA 7 8 **DISTRICT COURT** 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 FORE STARS, LTD., a Nevada limited CASE NO.: A-18-771224-C liability company; 180 LAND CO., LLC; a DEPT NO.: II 11 Nevada limited liability company; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC, a Nevada 12 limited liability company, NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND 13 Plaintiffs, **ORDER** 14 v. **ELECTRONIC FILING CASE** 15 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, STEVE CARIA, and DOES 1 THROUGH 16 100. 17 Defendants, 18 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order was 19 entered on December 10, 2020. 20 21 . . . 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 1

**Electronically Filed** 

A true and correct copy of said Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order is attached hereto. DATED this 10th day of December, 2020. BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP BY: /s/ Mitchell J. Langberg MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ., Bar No. 10118 mlangberg@bhfs.com 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101 Facsimile: 702.382.8135 Counsel for Defendants DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, and STEVE CARIA 

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am an employee of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP,
and pursuant to NRCP 5(b), EDCR 8.05, Administrative Order 14-2, and NEFCR 9, I caused a true
and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACTS,
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER be submitted electronically for filing and/or service
with the Eighth Judicial District Court via the Court's Electronic Filing System on the 10th day of
December, 2020, to the following:
Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq.

Lisa A. Rasmussen, Esq.
The Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & Associates
550 E. Charleston Boulevard, Suite A
Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
Email: lisa@lrasmussenlaw.com

Elizabeth Ham, Esq. EHB Companies, LLC 9755 West Charleston Boulevard Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Email: eham@ehbcompanies.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs FORE STARS, LTD., 180 LAND CO., LLC; and SEVENTY ACRES, LLC

> /s/ DeEtra Crudup an employee of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP

# ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 12/10/2020 8:20 AM

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12/10/2020 8:20 AM CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **FFCL** MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ., Bar No. 10118 2 mlangberg@bhfs.com BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 3 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 4 Telephone: 702.382.2101 Facsimile: 702.382.8135 5 Counsel for Defendants 6 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, and STEVE CARIA 7 8 **DISTRICT COURT** 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 FORE STARS, LTD., a Nevada limited CASE NO.: A-18-771224-C liability company; 180 LAND CO., LLC; a DEPT NO.: II 11 Nevada limited liability company; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC, a Nevada 12 limited liability company, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER 13 Plaintiffs, 14 Date of Hearing: November 9, 2020 v. Time of Hearing: 9:30 am 15 DANIEL OMERZA, DARREN BRESEE, STEVE CARIA, and DOES 1 THROUGH 16 100. 17 Defendants, 18 WHEREAS this matter came on for hearing on the 9th of November, 2020 on *Defendants*' 19 Special Motion To Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiff's Complaint Pursuant to NRS §41.635 20 21 et seq. Lisa Rasmussen, Esq. of the Law Offices of Kristina Wildeveld & Associates, appearing via telephone on behalf of the Plaintiffs, Fore Star Ltd, 180 Land Co., LLC, and Seventy Acres, 22 LLC and Mitchell J. Langberg, Esq. of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, appearing via 23 telephone on behalf of Defendants Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresee, and Steve Caria. 24 The Court having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file, having considered the oral 25 26 argument of counsel, and good cause appearing, hereby FINDS, CONCLUDES and ORDERS: FINDINGS OF FACT 27 1. 28 Plaintiffs Fore Starts, Ltd., 180 Land Co., LLC, and Seventy Acres, LLC

BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 702.382.2101

Case Number: A-18-771224-C

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("Plaintiffs") filed a complaint against Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresse, and Steve Caria on March 15, 2018 (the "Complaint").

- 2. The Complaint alleged causes of action for Equitable and Injunctive Relief, Intentional Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage, Negligent Interference with Prospective Economic Advantage, Conspiracy, Intentional Misrepresentation, and Negligent Misrepresentation ("Claims").
- 3. Generally, the Complaint alleged that the Defendants participated in the circulation, collection, and/or execution of allegedly false statements (the "Statements") to be delivered to the City of Las Vegas in an effort to oppose Plaintiffs' development of what is commonly referred to as the former Badlands golf course ("Badlands").
- 4. On April 13, 2018, among other things, Defendants filed their Special Motion to Dismiss (anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs' Complaint Pursuant to NRS §41.635 et. seq. (the "anti-SLAPP Motion"), which is the subject of these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.
- 5. After extensive briefing and oral argument, the Court denied the anti-SLAPP Motion for various reasons as set forth in the record, including that Defendants did not demonstrate that they met their initial burden of establishing "by a preponderance of the evidence, that the claim is based upon a good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern," pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(a) ("Prong 1").
- 6. Because the Court found that Defendants did not meet their Prong 1 burden, it did not consider Plaintiffs request for discovery pursuant to NRS 41.660(4) with respect to whether Plaintiffs had "demonstrated with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on the claim" pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(b) ("Prong 2").
  - 7. Defendants filed a timely notice of appeal.
- 8. After briefing, the Nevada Supreme Court decided the matter without oral argument.
  - 9. The Nevada Supreme Court held that Defendants met their burden under Prong 1.
  - 10. The Nevada Supreme Court also held that Plaintiffs did not meet their burden

under Prong 2.

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- 11. However, the Nevada Supreme Court noted that the Court had not considered Plaintiffs' request for discovery pursuant to NRS 41.660(4).
- 12. Therefore, the Nevada Supreme Court remanded the matter back to this Court with express direction: "Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, we vacate the portion of the district court's order denying appellants anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss and remand to the district court for it to determine whether respondents are entitled to discovery under NRS 41.660(4)."
- 13. On remand, the parties did not agree on whether discovery was appropriate under NRS 41.660(4) or even what the scope of the remand was.
- 14. Defendants contended that the order of remand required this Court to consider whether it would grant Plaintiffs discovery under the anti-SLAPP statute. It was Defendants' contention that no discovery should be permitted. But, if discovery would be permitted, it would have to be limited to Prong 2 issues for which Plaintiffs made a showing of necessity. Defendants further contended that if the Court determined discovery was not appropriate, the anti-SLAPP motion should be granted because the Nevada Supreme Court had already concluded that Defendants had met their Prong 1 burden and Defendants had not met their Prong 2 burden.
- 15. Moreover, Defendants contend that if the Court allowed discovery, the only issue that would be left to determine was whether, in light of that discovery, Plaintiffs could now meet their burden under Prong 2.
- 16. On the other hand, Plaintiffs contended that they were entitled to conduct discovery on both Prong 1 and Prong 2. Plaintiffs further contended that the Nevada Supreme Court's decision and remand order required this Court to reconsider both Prong 1 and Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis.
- 17. At a post remand hearing, the parties offered argument about the appropriateness of discovery. Plaintiffs' counsel requested to brief the issue, promising to identify the discovery requested and the grounds supporting that request: "Let me do some additional briefing just on what discovery is requested, why it's relevant, and how it comports with the Nevada Supreme

Court's ruling."

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- 18. The Court allowed the parties to brief their positions on discovery.
- 19. After briefing, the Court granted some limited discovery that was intended to be circumscribed by the scope allowed by the anti-SLAPP statute and what Plaintiffs had requested in their briefing.
- 20. After issuing its order allowing limited discovery, the parties had additional disputes about the scope of discovery ordered by the Court.
- 21. The dispute was litigated by way of further motion practice and the Court issued orders clarifying that discovery would only to that related to Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis and only on the topics of "what documents Defendants relied on, what information Defendants relied on, or whether that information was provided to Defendants by third persons" all with respect to the Statements. In its order, the Court explained that NRS 41.660(4) requires Plaintiffs to make a showing of necessity for limited discovery and these topics were the only topics on which Plaintiffs even attempted to make such a showing.
- 22. After completion of the limited discovery, the Court also allowed supplemental briefing.
- 23. In their briefing, Plaintiffs contended that the Court was required to reconsider whether Defendants met their Prong 1 burden. Further, Plaintiffs argued that even if Defendants met their Prong 1 burden, Plaintiffs had satisfied their burden on Prong 2. Finally, Plaintiffs argued that the discovery they were granted was too narrow.
- 24. With respect to Prong 2, the only one of the Claims that Plaintiffs addressed in their supplemental briefing was the claim for Conspiracy.
- 25. Moreover, with respect to the claim for Conspiracy, Plaintiffs did not offer any admissible evidence or make any argument regarding alleged damages resulting from the purported conspiracy.
  - 26. The Court heard oral argument on the anti-SLAPP Motion on November 9, 2020.

## **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

27. NRS 41.635, et. seq. comprises Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute.

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- 28. The following rulings by the Nevada Supreme Court constitute law of the case with respect to the anti-SLAPP Motion:
- (a) "In sum, we conclude that the district court erred by finding that appellants had not met their burden under NRS 41.660(3)(a) to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that respondents' claims are grounded on appellants' good faith communications in furtherance of their petitioning rights on an issue of public concern." Omerza v. Fore Stars, Ltd, 455 P.3d 841, \*3 (Nev. 2020).
- (b) "We therefore conclude that the district court erred in determining that respondents met their step-two burden of demonstrating with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on their claims." *Id.* at \*4 (Nev. 2020).
- 29. Thus, the Nevada Supreme Court clearly found that Defendants had met their Prong 1 burden and Plaintiffs had not met their Prong 2 burden.
- 30. The Nevada Supreme Court's order of remand was equally clear: "Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, we vacate the portion of the district court's order denying appellants' anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss and remand to the district court for it to determine whether respondents are entitled to discovery under NRS 41.660(4)." *Id.* at \*4 (Nev. 2020).
- 31. Pursuant to the "mandate rule," a court must effectuate a higher court's ruling on remand. Estate of Adams By & Through Adams v. Fallini, 132 Nev. 814, 819, 386 P.3d 621, 624 (2016). The law-of-the-case doctrine directs a court not to "re-open questions decided (i.e., established as law of the case) by that court or a higher one in earlier phases." Id.
- 32. Therefore, as a matter of law, this Court's task on remand was to determine whether Plaintiffs were entitled to discovery under NRS 41.600(4).
- 33. Pursuant to NRS 41.600(4), "[u]pon a showing by a party that information necessary to meet or oppose the burden pursuant to paragraph (b) of subsection 3 is in the possession of another party or a third party and is not reasonably available without discovery, the court shall allow limited discovery for the purpose of ascertaining such information."
  - 34. Paragraph (b) of subsection 3 of the anti-SLAPP statute is the Prong 2 portion of

the anti-SLAPP analysis that requires a plaintiff to demonstrate with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on its claim.

- 35. Therefore, as a matter of law, discovery is only allowed with respect to Prong 2 of the anti-SLAPP analysis. No discovery is allowed with respect to Prong 1 of the anti-SLAPP analysis.
- 36. Even with respect to Prong 2, NRS 41.600(4) only allows a party discovery if the party has: 1) made a showing, 2) that information to meet or oppose the Prong 2 burden, 3) is in the possession of another, and 4) is not available without discovery. Then, a court may allow limited discovery, but only for the purpose of ascertaining such information.
- 37. Therefore, as a matter of law, this Court could only grant discovery to the extent Plaintiffs made a showing of necessity as set forth in NRS 41.600(4). As noted in the factual findings, the Court granted Plaintiffs the discovery they expressly requested as that is the only discovery for which Plaintiffs even attempted to make a showing.
- 38. Though Plaintiffs argue in their supplemental opposition to the anti-SLAPP Motion that they were not allowed adequate discovery, the discovery permitted was appropriate and, in light of Plaintiffs' request, all that was allowed under NRS 41.600(4).
- 39. The Court notes that in their supplemental opposition, Plaintiffs complain that Defendants did not adequately respond to the discovery permitted. Defendants dispute that contention. Because Plaintiffs never filed a motion to compel, there is no basis to conclude that Defendants failed to comply with their discovery obligations pursuant to the Court's order and any argument to the contrary has been waived.
- 40. Having considered the appropriateness of discovery pursuant to the Nevada Supreme Court's remand order and having allowed limited discovery pursuant to the anti-SLAPP statute, the only matter left for this Court is to determine whether Plaintiffs have now met their Prong 2 burden in light of any new evidence they offer post-discovery.
- 41. First, Defendants argue that no matter what evidence Plaintiffs could have offered, Plaintiffs Claims cannot be supported because the litigation privilege is a complete defense and is dispositive of the Prong 2 issues.

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- 42. The Court agrees that the alleged facts that underlie Plaintiffs claims are subject to the absolute litigation privilege and provide an complete defense to the Claims.
- 43. Nevada recognizes "the long-standing common law rule that communications uttered or published in the course of judicial proceedings are absolutely privileged so long as they are in some way pertinent to the subject of controversy." Circus Circus Hotels, Inc. v. Witherspoon, 99 Nev. 56, 60 (1983) (citation omitted). This rule includes "statements made in the course of quasi-judicial proceedings." Knox v. Dick, 99 Nev. 514, 518 (1983) (citation omitted); see also Circus Circus, 99 Nev. at 61 ("the absolute privilege attached to judicial proceedings has been extended to quasi-judicial proceedings before executive officers, boards, and commissions") (citations omitted).
- 44. Critically, the statement at issue does not have to be made during any actual proceedings. See Fink v. Oshins, 118 Nev. 428, 433 (2002) ("the privilege applies not only to communications made during actual judicial proceedings, but also to communications preliminary to a proposed judicial proceeding") (footnote omitted). "[B]ecause the scope of the absolute privilege is broad, a court determining whether the privilege applies should resolve any doubt in favor of a broad application." Clark County Sch. Dist. v. Virtual Educ. Software, Inc., 125 Nev. 374, 382 (2009) (citation omitted) (citing Fink, supra).
- 45. The Nevada Supreme Court already determined that the statements underlying each of Plaintiffs' claims were made in good faith in connection with issues under consideration by a legislative body. That was the City Council's consideration of "amendment to the Master Plan/General Plan affecting Peccole Ranch." Omerza, 455 P.3d 841, \*1 (Nev. 2020).
- 46. Those City Council proceedings were quasi-judicial. Unified Development Code (UDC) section 19.16.030, et. seq. addresses amendments to the General Plan. It provides an extensive set of standards establishing how the City Council must exercise judgment and discretion, hear and determine facts, and render a reasoned written decision. In the course of those proceedings, the Council has the power to order the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents. Las Vegas City Charter §2.080(1)(d),(2)(a). This entire process meets the judicial function test for "determining whether an administrative proceeding is quasi-judicial."

State ex rel. Bd. of Parole Comm'rs v. Morrow, 127 Nev. 265, 273 (2011).

- 47. Moreover, Plaintiffs admitted it was a quasi-judicial proceeding at a May 9, 2018 hearing before the City Council. *See*, Defendants' Request for Judicial Notice filed on May 9, 2018, Exh. 1, p. 16, lines 415-420 (Mr. Hutchison (as counsel for these Developers) explaining that the proceeding are quasi-judicial).
- 48. The absolute litigation privilege applies without regard to how Plaintiffs styled their claims. "An absolute privilege bars any civil litigation based on the underlying communication." *Hampe v. Foote*, 118 Nev. 405, 409, 47 P.3d 438, 440 (2002), overruled in part on other grounds by *Buzz Stew, LLC v. City of N. Las Vegas*, 124 Nev. 224, 228 n. 6, 181 P.3d 670, 672 n.6 (2008).
- 49. Because the Supreme Court already determined that the Defendants' activities were made in connection with the City Council proceedings, and because those activities were quite obviously an attempt to solicit witnesses testimony to submit in the form of written statements, Defendants' statements were all made in connection with, and preliminary to, a quasi-judicial proceeding and, therefore, were protected by the absolute litigation privilege.
- 50. For the first time at the hearing on the anti-SLAPP Motion, Plaintiffs' counsel cited to a case decided by the Nevada Supreme Court on July 9, 2020, four months before the hearing and more than three months before Plaintiffs filed their supplemental opposition to the anti-SLAPP motion.
- P.3d 1241 (Nev. 2020), for the proposition that the privilege does not apply to quasi-judicial proceedings where due process protections similar to those provided in a court of law are not present. This Court believes that *Spencer* is distinguishable from the current matter. *Spencer* involved a defamation suit arising out of defamatory comments made to a public body during a public comment session. The speaker was not under oath. No opportunity to respond was provided. No cross-examination was allowed. Importantly, the holding in the decision was expressly limited to defamation suits: "We therefore take this opportunity to clarify that a quasi-judicial proceeding in the context of defamation suits is one that provides basic due-process

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protections similar to those provided in a court of law." Id. at 1247. Therefore, the Oshins case controls.

- 52. Because it applies, the litigation privilege is an absolute bar to all of Plaintiffs' claims. Therefore, for that reason alone, Plaintiffs' claims fail on Prong 2 and the anti-SLAPP Motion should be granted.
- 53. As a separate and additional basis for dismissing Plaintiffs' claims pursuant to the anti-SLAPP statute, even if the litigation privilege did not apply, Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden under Prong 2.
- 54. Mindful that the Nevada Supreme Court already determined that Plaintiffs' failed to meet their burden under Prong 2 based on the evidence and argument offered prior to the appeal, the Court now considers whether Plaintiffs have offered any new evidence or legal argument in an attempt to meet their burden on remand.
- 55. The civil conspiracy claim is the only claim for which Plaintiffs have made any new argument.
- 56. The Nevada Supreme Court explained that the Developer was required to "demonstrate that the claim is supported by a prima facie showing of facts" that is supported by "competent, admissible evidence." *Omerza*, 455 P.3d 841 at \*4. This is the same standard as a court applies in a summary judgment motion. *Id*.
- An actionable civil conspiracy "consists of a combination of two or more persons 57. who, by some concerted action, intend to accomplish an unlawful objective for the purpose of harming another, and damage results from the act or acts." Consol. Generator-Nevada, Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co., 114 Nev. 1304, 1311 (1998) (affirming summary judgment for defendant on the plaintiff's conspiracy claim because there was no evidence that the two defendants had agreed and intended to harm the plaintiff).
- The evidence must be "of an explicit or tacit agreement between the alleged 58. conspirators." Guilfoyle v. Olde Monmouth Stock Transfer Co., 130 Nev. 801, 813, 335 P.3d 190, 198 (2014) (upholding district court's grant of summary judgment where plaintiff "has presented no circumstantial evidence from which to infer an agreement between [defendants] to harm"

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plaintiff). Here, Plaintiffs did not offer any admissible evidence of an agreement to do something unlawful.

- 59. A conspiracy claim also fails where the plaintiff cannot show that he suffered any actual harm. Sutherland v. Gross, 105 Nev. 192, 197 (1989); see also Aldabe v. Adams, 81 Nev. 280, 286 (1965), overruled on other grounds by Siragusa v. Brown, 114 Nev. 1384 (1998) ("The damage for which recovery may be had in a civil action is not the conspiracy itself but the injury to the plaintiff produced by specific overt acts.").
- 60. "The gist of a civil conspiracy is not the unlawful agreement but the damage resulting from that agreement or its execution. The cause of action is not created by the conspiracy but by the wrongful acts done by the defendants to the injury of the plaintiff." Eikelberger v. Tolotti, 96 Nev. 525, 528 (1980).
- 61. Plaintiffs' Claims were all based on Defendants circulating the Statements to community members to oppose the Developer's efforts to change the land use restrictions on the Badlands. But, because the City Council proceedings did not advance and Plaintiffs appealed (successfully) Judge Crockett's decision, the City Council's prior decisions to allow development without a modification to the Peccole Ranch Master Plan were affirmed.
- 62. Therefore, Plaintiffs offered no admissible evidence of damages suffered even if it had proven a conspiracy existed.
- 63. Also, Plaintiffs offered no evidence to support any of their other claims, even though the Supreme Court already said their prior showing was insufficient. Where a plaintiff cannot demonstrate an unlawful act because it cannot prevail on the other claims it has alleged to form the basis for the underlying wrong, dismissal of the civil conspiracy claim is appropriate. Goldman v. Clark Cty. Sch. Dist., 471 P.3d 753 (Nev. 2020) (unpublished) (citing Consol. Generator-Nevada, Inc. v. Cummins Engine Co., 114 Nev. 1304, 1311 (1998)).
- 64. Plaintiffs have failed to show an agreement to achieve an unlawful objective and failed to show any damage. Therefore, Plaintiffs have failed to meet their Prong 2 anti-SLAPP burden.
  - 65. Because Plaintiffs have failed to meet their burden under Prong 2 of the anti-

SLAPP analysis, Defendants' anti-SLAPP motion is well taken and will be granted.		
66. Pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(a), whe	n a court grants an anti-SLAPP motion, it	
"shall award reasonable costs and attorney's fees."	Pursuant to NRS 41.670(1)(b), the court also	
"may award" "an amount of up to \$10,000 to the p	person against whom the action was brought."	
Defendants may request those fees, costs, and addi	tional amounts by separate motion.	
ORD	<u>ER</u>	
WHEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERE	D that:	
1. Defendants' Special Motion to Disn	niss is hereby GRANTED, and	
2. Defendants may seek attorneys' fee	Dated this 10th day of December, 2020 s, costs, additional amounts by way of separate	
motion.	Lichan State	
DATED:	25B E0E 21B7 81BF  Richard F. Scotti  District Court Judge  DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	
Respectfully Submitted:	Approved as to form and content:	
DATED this 2nd day of December, 2020.	DATED thisday of December, 2020.	
BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER	LAW OFFICES OF KRISTINA	
SCHRECK, LLP	WILDEVELD & ASSOCIATES Counsel have disagreements regarding the contents of this order.	
BY: MITCHELL J. LANGBERG, ESQ. NV Bar No. 10118 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106-4614 Telephone: 702.382.2101 Facsimile: 702.382.8135  Counsel for Defendants Daniel Omerza, Darren Bresee and Steve Caria	BY:	
Darren Dresee and Sieve Carla	Seventy Acres, LLC	

1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s) CASE NO: A-18-771224-C 6 DEPT. NO. Department 2 VS. 7 Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s) 8 9 10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment was served via the 12 court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled 13 case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 12/10/2020 15 Elizabeth Ham EHam@ehbcompanies.com 16 **Todd Davis** tdavis@ehbcompanies.com 17 iknighton@ehbcompanies.com Jennifer Knighton 18 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bhfs.com 19 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 20 21 Kristina Wildeveld Kristina@Veldlaw.com 22 Jessica Malone Jessica@Veldlaw.com 23 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bhfs.com 24 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 25 Lisa Rasmussen Lisa@Veldlaw.com 26 Mitchell Langberg mlangberg@bfhs.com 27

Patricia Berg

Patty@Veldlaw.com

# DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

April 16, 2018 1:00 PM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Kishner, Joanna S. **COURTROOM:** Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Tena Jolley

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

## **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Although the Court could and would rule fairly and without bias, recusal is appropriate in the present case in accordance with Canon 2.11(A)(3) of the Nevada Code of Judicial Conduct in order to avoid the appearance of impartiality or implied bias as the Court could be viewed to have information relating to the facts and/or circumstances regarding the underlying issues. Thus, the Court recuses itself from the matter and requests that it be randomly reassigned in accordance with appropriate procedures.

**COURT MINUTES** 

A-18-771224-C

May 14, 2018

**Other Civil Matters** 

Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)

Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

May 14, 2018

9:00 AM

**All Pending Motions** 

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F.

**COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 11D

COURT CLERK: Vanessa Medina

**RECORDER:** Dalyne Easley

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES** 

PRESENT: Ghanem, Elizabeth M. Attorney

Jimmerson, James Joseph, ESQ

Attorney

Langberg, Mitchell J.

Attorney

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Arguments by Mr. Langberg and Mr. Jimmerson. Court DIRECTED, counsel to submit a 2 page Supplemental Briefing by close of business day Wednesday 05/23/18, if counsel believes there is additional information. COURT ORDERED, matter CONTINUED to 05/23/18 Chamber Calendar.

CONTINUED TO: 05/23/18 (CHAMBER CALENDAR)

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

May 23, 2018 3:00 AM Motion to Dismiss

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** No Location

**COURT CLERK:** Natalie Ortega

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- These matters are continued to the May 30, 2018 Chambers Calendar.

CLERK'S NOTE: This minute order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Natalie Ortega, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. ndo/5/23/18

Other Civil Matters		COURT MINUTES	May 29, 2018
A-18-771224-C	Fore Stars, Lto vs. Daniel Omerz	d., Plaintiff(s) za, Defendant(s)	
May 29, 2018	10:41 AM	Minute Order	Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs Complaint
<b>HEARD BY:</b> Scotti, Richard F.		COURTROOM:	No Location
COURT CLERK: J	ennifer Lott		
RECORDER:			
REPORTER:			
PARTIES PRESENT:			

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- The Court DENIES without prejudice Defendants Special Motion to Dismiss (Anti-SLAPP Motion) Plaintiffs Complaint pursuant to NRS 41.635 et. Seq. Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute does not apply to fraudulent conduct, which Plaintiffs have alleged. Even if it did so apply, at this early stage in the litigation and given the numerous allegations of fraud, the Court is not convinced by a preponderance of the evidence that Defendants conduct constituted good faith communications in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern, as described in NRS 41.637. The Court also DENIES Defendants Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5). Plaintiffs have stated valid claims for relief. Plaintiffs shall prepare the proposed Order, adding appropriate context and authorities.

The 5/30/2018 Chambers Hearing on this matter hereby VACATED.

CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Jennifer Lott, to

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 4 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. jl

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 5 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C

October 19, 2018

A-18-771224-C

Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

October 19, 2018

Plaintiffs' Motion for Order Allowing Commencement of Discovery

**COURTROOM:** RJC Level 5 Hearing Room

**COURT CLERK:** Jennifer Lott

**HEARD BY:** Truman, Erin

**RECORDER:** Francesca Haak

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES** 

PRESENT: Jimmerson, James Joseph, ESQ Attorney

Jimmerson, James M. Attorney Langberg, Mitchell J. Attorney

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Mr. Jimmerson addressed Judge Scotti's ruling and the Court found that Defts' anti-slapp Motion did not apply to intentional torts pled by Plaintiffs in the case, and the Motion to Dismiss on the basis of anti-slapp was Denied. There is an immediate right to Appeal which Defts availed themselves to. Mr. Jimmerson attempted to file an Early Case Conference, however, counsel have returned before the Commissioner to begin discovery. Defts have failed to filed an Answer, but Mr. Jimmerson doesn't intent to default Defts. The case needs to go forward and begin discovery. Argument by Mr. Jimmerson. Mr. Langberg discussed whether or not the anti-slapp Statute applies to the tort causes of action that Plaintiffs asserted. Defts filed a Writ of Mandamus, however, it was not brought on the same grounds as the anti-slapp. Mr. Langberg stated the Statute says if an anti-slapp Motion is filed, discovery is stayed pending a ruling on the Motion. Argument by Mr. Langberg.

Commissioner stated based on the Supreme Court Denial of the Petition for Writ, the case is ready to

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 6 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

be Answered, and 16.1 should be complied with. Mr. Langberg stated the Appeal is still pending. There was a Writ as to the Denial of the 12(b)(5) Motion because there is no Appeal from that. Mr. Langberg stated there is an automatic Appeal on Denial of an anti-slapp Motion, the Appeal is still pending, and the Opening Brief is due 10-22-18. Upon Commissioner's inquiry, Mr. Jimmerson stated there are no exigent circumstances that would warrant discovery before 16.1 is complied with.

Given the fact that the Appeal is still pending, and an Answer is not yet required, COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, there is no reasonable basis for discovery to go forward at this point, and counsel will wait until the Supreme Court hears the issue. Following that the Answer will be due, and 16.1 will be complied with. Mr. Jimmerson stated there will be a 18 month to 2 year delay. Arguments by counsel. Mr. Langberg read the Statute into the record.

Commissioner doesn't believe the case is stayed under the authority cited by Mr. Langberg. The Court determined that it doesn't apply to the causes of action, therefore, COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, motion is GRANTED IN PART; discovery needs to go forward and within 30 days of Judge Scotti's ruling on the forthcoming Objection counsel should comply with 16.1 and file the JCCR. Mr. Langberg requested an extension to object to the Report and Recommendation. Colloquy. Mr. Jimmerson to prepare the Report and Recommendations, and Mr. Langberg to approve as to form and content. A proper report must be timely submitted within 10 days of the hearing. Otherwise, counsel will pay a contribution.

**COURT MINUTES** 

February 20, 2019

A-18-771224-C

**Other Civil Matters** 

Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)

Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

February 20, 2019

9:00 AM

Hearing

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F.

**COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Louisa Garcia

**RECORDER:** 

Dalyne Easley

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES** 

PRESENT: Jimmerson, James Joseph, ESQ Attorney

Jimmerson, James M.

Attorney

Langberg, Mitchell J.

Attorney

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Arguments by counsel whether anti-slap statue applies and whether motion was filed in good faith. COURT ORDERED, matter UNDER ADVISEMENT. Court needs to review the Patton v. Lee case and whether it has jurisdiction, as well as the case law just presented.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 8 of 31 April 16, 2018 Minutes Date:

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

March 15, 2019 10:00 AM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. COURTROOM: Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- The Court DENIES Plaintiff's Motion to Commence Discovery, pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(e). The Court had denied Defendants Special Motion to Dismiss, in part, on the grounds that Defendants did not meet their threshold burden of establishing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the Land owners claims against them are based on their good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern. See Plaintiff's Motion at p. 6 (quoting NRS 41.660(3)(a). Under these circumstances the statute mandates that the Court stay discovery pending an appeal of an Order denying the Special Motion to Dismiss. Defendants to prepare the Order.

CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of this Minute Order has been distributed to the following: James Jimmerson, Esq. (JJJ@jimmersonlawfirm.com) and Mitchell Langberg, Esq. (mlangberg@bhfs.com). //ev 3/15/19

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 9 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

COURT MINUTES

August 21, 2019

August 21, 2019

August 21, 2019 3:00 AM Status Check

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

- Matter heard.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 10 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

Other Civil Matters COURT MINUTES October 02, 2019

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)

vs.

Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

October 02, 2019 9:00 AM Status Check

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** Dalyne Easley

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES** 

PRESENT: Langberg, Mitchell J. Attorney

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Mr. Langberg conveyed Elizabeth Ghanem emailed him that morning and advised this matter was pending in Supreme Court and she had a conflict, and the matter was still before the Supreme Court regarding the denial of the Motion to Dismiss. COURT ORDERED, Stay CONTINUED. Mr. Langberg advised discovery never commenced. COURT ORDERED, parties to SUBMIT a one-page status update 30 days after the Supreme Court rules on the Appeal from the denial of the Motion to Dismiss.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 11 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

Other Civil Matters	COURT MINUTES	March 25, 2020	
A-18-771224-C	Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)		
	vs. Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)		

March 25, 2020 3:00 AM Status Check

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

- Matter heard.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 12 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

April 06, 2020 3:00 AM Motion

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- The Court GRANTS the Motion for a Status Update and hereby SETS a Status Check for Wednesday, April 29, 2020 at 9AM. Further, in light of the continued ban on in-person hearings, the Court directs the parties to make the appropriate arrangements necessary to appear remotely through the available audio (CourtCall) or audiovisual (Blue Jeans) platforms in preparation for this hearing.

CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Elizabeth Vargas, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve and mailed to the following:

Seventy Acres LLC 1215 S. Fort Apache Rd. Ste 120 Las Vegas, NV 89117

180 Land Co 1215 S. Fort Apache Rd. Ste 120 Las Vegas, NV 89117

Daniel Omerza

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 13 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

800 Petit Chalet Court Las Vegas, NV 89145

//ev 4/20/20

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 14 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

**Other Civil Matters** 

#### **COURT MINUTES**

April 29, 2020

A-18-771224-C

Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)

vs.

Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

April 29, 2020

9:00 AM

**Status Check** 

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F.

**COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** Dalyne Easley

REPORTER:

**PARTIES** 

**PRESENT:** Ghanem, Elizabeth M.

Attorney

Langberg, Mitchell J.

Attorney

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Lisa Rasmussen, Esq. also present on behalf of Plaintiffs. Court provided a brief overview of the history of the case. Arguments by counsel regarding additional supplemental briefing and additional discovery. Court stated counsel would be given an opportunity to provide additional briefing limited to 5 pages regarding why additional discovery was needed. COURT ORDERED, Plaintiff to provide supplemental briefing by May 6, Defendants' Opposition to the Motion due May 11, and Reply, if needed, due May 13. Court inquired if there were any issues left to decide other than limited discovery. Ms. Rasmussen stated the Supreme Court focused on one prong and not the other, and additional briefing may be needed regarding the second prong. Court stated in the event limited discovery was denied, ruling on the Motion to Dismiss would proceed. Court stated any emergency requests would be considered, and a decision would be provided by May 18, 2020 regarding the Motion for Limited Discovery.

5/13/20 STATUS CHECK: OPTIONAL REPLY (CHAMBERS)

5/18/20 MOTION FOR LIMITED DISCOVERY (CHAMBERS)

5/25/20 DECISION: MOTION TO DISMISS (CHAMBERS)

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 15 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 16 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

May 13, 2020

Status Check

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

- Matter heard.

Other Civil Matters COURT MINUTES May 29, 2020

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)

VS.

Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

May 29, 2020 10:00 AM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. COURTROOM: Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- The Court GRANTS in part, and DENIES in part, Plaintiff s request for limited discovery. Plaintiff may serve one set of requests for production of documents, with no more than a total of fifteen (15) requests for documents to be allocated among the defendants, as Plaintiff sees fit; Defendants shall have two weeks to respond to such requests. Further, Plaintiff may take the depositions of the three defendants, each limited to four (4) hours. This limited discovery period commences immediately, and concludes on Friday, July 17, 2020, absent stipulation of the parties. The defendants have the option of appearing for deposition in person, or appearing by audio/visual means (at their own arrangements). The depositions may be set on two weeks notice, at the time and place noticed by Plaintiff after good faith attempt to meet and confer on the same. Any discovery dispute shall be brought before this Court upon request for an Order Shortening Time. Plaintiff may file a supplemental brief in opposition to the Motion to Dismiss by Wednesday, July 22, 2020. Plaintiff may file a supplemental reply by Monday, July, 27, 2020. The Court will conduct a Hearing on the Defendants Motion to Dismiss on Wednesday, July 29, 2020. The parties may modify this schedule by written stipulation approved by the Court.

7/29/20 9:30 AM DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS

CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Elizabeth Vargas,

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 18 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. //ev 5/29/20

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 19 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

June 05, 2020 12:00 AM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. COURTROOM: Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- With regard to this Court s May 29, 2020 Minute Order, granting in part and denying in Part Plaintiff s request for limited discovery, the Court issues this clarification: The discovery permitted by the prior order must relate to the second prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis, and is limited to the matters identified in Plaintiff s papers, or the matters identified by the Plaintiff at the April 29th hearing.

CLERK'S NOTE: A copy of this Minute Order was electronically served to all registered parties by the Courtroom Clerk, Elizabeth Vargas via Odyssey Efile and Serve. //ev 6/5/20

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 20 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

July 13, 2020

9:00 AM Motion for Protective

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

Order

**COURT CLERK:** Louisa Garcia

**RECORDER:** Brittany Amoroso

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES** 

**PRESENT:** Langberg, Mitchell J. Attorney Rasmussen, Lisa A. Attorney

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Court stated procedural aspect of Plaintiff's response to the motion, noting they expressed concerns that this Court issued a minute order providing clarification of its prior discovery order before having had a chance to receive and review Plaintiff's Response to Defendant's written request for clarification. This matter came back after a remand from the Nevada Supreme Court where it appeared to the Court that the Supreme Court had resolved prong 1 and was remanding back to this Court for appropriate proceedings regarding prong 2, whether limited discovery should go forward and resolve the issue of the litigation privilege. Following arguments by counsel regarding their respective positions, Court advised it was not one hundred percent convinced that prong 1 was completely disposed of by the Nevada Supreme Court, after hearing Ms. Rasmussen paraphrasing the order. Court advised it needs to go back and review the Supreme Court order. COURT ORDERED, matter TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT; discovery STAYED pending ruling on motion for protective order and if Court needs additional briefing regarding the litigation privilege issue, it will inform the parties by minute order.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 21 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

July 21, 2020 3:00 PM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. COURTROOM: Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Carolyn Jackson

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- The Court GRANTS Defendants Motion for Protective Order Limiting Discovery. Discovery is limited to the second prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis. Discovery is limited to what is identified by Plaintiffs on p.5, lines 15-21 of Plaintiffs Brief in Support of Request for Limited Discovery (5-6-20). The Defendants shall prepare the proposed Order, consistent with the relief sought in their motion.

CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was electronically served by Courtroom Clerk, Carolyn Jackson, to all registered parties for Odyssey File & Serve. /cj 07/21/20

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 22 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

Darier Officiza, Defendant(3)

July 29, 2020 9:30 AM Motion to Dismiss Date to be

determined

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Louisa Garcia

**RECORDER:** Brittany Amoroso

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES** 

**PRESENT:** Langberg, Mitchell J. Attorney Rasmussen, Lisa A. Attorney

smussen, Lisa A. Attorne

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Court noted this matter was set for a continued hearing on the Motion to Dismiss. Mr. Langberg stated he believes on the 21st the Court issued a minute order on their Motion for Protective Order defining the scope of discovery. The parties should conduct the discovery the Court ordered, noting they have been working on a formal order. Mr. Langberg stated he does not believe they have any dispute about what the Court ordered to occur however, there is a disagreement as to the findings that led to that decision. Court advised it would be its preference if the parties could work out and decrease the number of findings and get to the heart of the matter on the scope of discovery. Ms. Rasmussen stated by minimizing the findings in the proposed order that will probably resolve all their issues and they should be able to get the proposed order over to the Court today. Ms. Rasmussen stated they did their own proposed briefing schedule which takes them out into October; it allows the Court to set a date for the continued hearing. COURT ORDERED, hearing for Motion to Dismiss CONTINUED, to a date to be determined. COURT FURTHER ORDERED, matter SET for status check.

9/28/20 STATUS CHECK: STATUS OF CASE (CHAMBERS)

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 23 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 24 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

Other Civil Matters	COURT MINUTES	September 28, 2020
A-18-771224-C	Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)	
	VS.	
	Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)	

September 28, 2020 3:00 AM Status Check

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Elizabeth Vargas

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

- Matter heard.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 25 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

October 22, 2020 3:00 AM All Pending Motions

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

**COURT CLERK:** Grecia Snow

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO STIRKE AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS (ON OST)...OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO STRIKE & FOR SANCTIONS / COUNTERMOTION FOR SANCTIONS

The Court will issue a Minute Order resolving this matter.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 26 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)
vs.
Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

October 26, 2020 3:00 AM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F. COURTROOM: Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Grecia Snow

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- The Court DENIES Defendants Motion to Strike and for Imposition of Sanctions. The Court places no restriction on the content Plaintiff may include in its Brief. Plaintiff did not violate EDCR 7.60(b). The Court, further, DENIES Plaintiff's Countermotion because Defendants motion was meritless, but not frivolous. Plaintiff to prepare and submit the Order, pursuant to the electronic submission requirements of AO 20-17.

CLERK'S NOTE: This Minute Order was e-mailed by Courtroom Clerk, Grecia Snow to: Lisa Rasmussen Esq., at Lisa@Veldlaw.com, Mitchell J. Langberg Esq., at mlangber@bhfs.com, and Elizabeth M. Ghanem Esq., at eghanem@gs-lawyers.com. 10/26/20 gs

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 27 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

Other Civil Matters COURT MINUTES November 09, 2020

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s)

vs.

Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

November 09, 2020 9:30 AM Motion to Dismiss

**HEARD BY:** Scotti, Richard F.; Thompson, **COURTROOM:** RJC Courtroom 03B

Charles

**COURT CLERK:** Kathryn Hansen-McDowell

**RECORDER:** Brittany Amoroso

**REPORTER:** 

**PARTIES** 

**PRESENT:** Langberg, Mitchell J. Attorney

Rasmussen, Lisa A. Attorney

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- Court noted it read the motion, support briefs, and orders. Arguments by counsel. COURT took matter UNDER ADVISEMENT, stated it would issue a minute order. Ms. Rasmussen stated it filed a support brief and Mr. Langberg moved to strike, requested Court review the Motion to strike and respond.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 28 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

A-18-771224-C Fore Stars, Ltd., Plaintiff(s) vs. Daniel Omerza, Defendant(s)

November 09, 2020 12:16 AM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Thompson, Charles **COURTROOM:** No Location

**COURT CLERK:** Kathryn Hansen-McDowell

**RECORDER:** 

**REPORTER:** 

PARTIES PRESENT:

### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

- On June 20, 2018, Judge Scotti entered Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and an Order denying this motion. Defendants appealed and on January 23, 2020, the Nevada Supreme Court entered an Order vacating Judge Scotti s order and remanding with an opportunity for Plaintiffs to conduct limited discovery.

Plaintiffs first argue that they may revisit step one of the anti-SLAPP analysis. On July 13, 2020, Judge Scotti entered a minute order including the following: This matter came back after a remand from the Nevada Supreme Court where it appeared to the Court that the Supreme Court had resolved prong 1 and was remanding back to this Court for appropriate proceedings regarding prong 2, whether limited discovery should go forward and resolve the issue of the litigation privilege. Following arguments by counsel regarding their respective positions, Court advised it was not one hundred percent convinced that prong 1 was completely disposed of by the Nevada Supreme Court, after hearing Ms. Rasmussen paraphrasing the order. Court advised it needs to go back and review the Supreme Court order.

On July 21, 2020, after reviewing the Supreme Court Order, Judge Scotti entered a minute order which contained the following: Discovery is limited to the second prong of the anti-SLAPP analysis. It is clear from this minute order that Judge Scotti believed that prong 1 was resolved and that the

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 29 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

limited discovery was only allowed with regard to prong 2.

This Court agrees with Judge Scotti. It is clear from the Supreme Court s order filed January 23, 2020, that the Defendants met their burden at step one of the anti-SLAPP analysis. In other words, the Court found that the Defendant's communications were in furtherance of their right to petition the government in connection with an issue of public concern and that the communications were in good faith. The Court then held that the Plaintiffs had not met their step-two burden of demonstrating with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on their claims. However, they believed that the Plaintiffs should be permitted limited discovery to see if they could meet that step-two burden.

Thereafter, Judge Scotti entered an order prescribing the limited discovery that would be permitted. Plaintiffs complain that the order was too limited. I believe that the judge appropriately exercised his discretion in this regard. Also, I do not sit as an appellate court over Judge Scotti. Thus, I decline to find that his Order was in any way in error.

Defendants first argue that the litigation privilege is dispositive of the prong 2 issue. I find that the argument has merit. First, the City Council proceedings were quasi-judicial and the privilege does apply to quasi-judicial proceedings. Also, the privilege applies even though the communications are not directed at the Council itself. Fink v. Oshins, 118 Nev. 428 (2002). In accordance with the holding in Oshins, communications between the residents would be included.

Today, Ms. Rasmussin cited Spencer v. Klementi, 466 P.3d 1241 (Nev. 2020), for the proposition that the privilege does not apply to quasi-judicial proceedings where due process protections similar to those provided in a court of law are not present. This Court believes that Spencer is distinguishable from the current matter. Spencer involved a defamation suit arising out of defamatory comments made to a public body during a public comment session. The speaker was not under oath. No opportunity to respond was provided. No cross-examination was allowed and the holding in the decision appears to be expressly limited to defamation suits. I believe that the Oshins case is more on point.

The civil conspiracy claim is the only claim that Plaintiff has argued meets the prong two test. However, a civil conspiracy must be to accomplish some unlawful objective where damage results. There was no unlawful objective here. Further, no damage to Plaintiffs may be claimed because the proceeding never occurred.

Even if the litigation privilege is not dispositive of the prong two issue, I find that Plaintiff has failed to demonstrate with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on any of their claims.

For the reasons set forth in Defendants Supplemental Brief filed October 30, 2020, the Motion to Dismiss is GRANTED. Mr. Langberg is directed to prepare a proposed appropriate order with findings. Further, he is directed to submit the Order, pursuant to the electronic submission requirements of AO 20-17.

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 30 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018

CLERK'S NOTE: The above minute order has been distributed to: Lisa Rasmussen: Lisa@VeldLaw.Com, Mitchell Langberg: mlangber@bhfs.com. 11/10 km

PRINT DATE: 01/11/2021 Page 31 of 31 Minutes Date: April 16, 2018



# EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLERK'S OFFICE NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY ON APPEAL TO NEVADA SUPREME COURT

LISA A. RASMUSSEN, ESQ. 550 E. CHARLESTON BLVD., SUITE A LAS VEGAS, NV 89104

DATE: January 11, 2021 CASE: A-18-771224-C

**RE CASE**: FORE STARS, LTD.; 180 LAND CO., LLC; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC vs. DANIEL OMERZA;

DARREN BRESEE; STEVE CARIA

NOTICE OF APPEAL FILED: January 8, 2020

YOUR APPEAL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE SUPREME COURT.

#### PLEASE NOTE: DOCUMENTS **NOT** TRANSMITTED HAVE BEEN MARKED:

- \$250 Supreme Court Filing Fee (Make Check Payable to the Supreme Court)\*\*
   If the \$250 Supreme Court Filing Fee was not submitted along with the original Notice of Appeal, it must be mailed directly to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court Filing Fee will not be forwarded by this office if submitted after the Notice of Appeal has been filed.
  - \$24 District Court Filing Fee (Make Check Payable to the District Court)\*\*
- - NRAP 7: Bond For Costs On Appeal in Civil Cases
  - Previously paid Bonds are not transferable between appeals without an order of the District Court.
- ☐ Case Appeal Statement
  - NRAP 3 (a)(1), Form 2
- □ Order

☐ Notice of Entry of Order

### NEVADA RULES OF APPELLATE PROCEDURE 3 (a) (3) states:

"The district court clerk must file appellant's notice of appeal despite perceived deficiencies in the notice, including the failure to pay the district court or Supreme Court filing fee. The district court clerk shall apprise appellant of the deficiencies in writing, and shall transmit the notice of appeal to the Supreme Court in accordance with subdivision (g) of this Rule with a notation to the clerk of the Supreme Court setting forth the deficiencies. Despite any deficiencies in the notice of appeal, the clerk of the Supreme Court shall docket the appeal in accordance with Rule 12."

#### Please refer to Rule 3 for an explanation of any possible deficiencies.

\*\*Per District Court Administrative Order 2012-01, in regards to civil litigants, "...all Orders to Appear in Forma Pauperis expire one year from the date of issuance." You must reapply for in Forma Pauperis status.

### **Certification of Copy**

State of Nevada	٦	SS:
<b>County of Clark</b>	}	<b>33</b> :

I, Steven D. Grierson, the Clerk of the Court of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, State of Nevada, does hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and correct copy of the hereinafter stated original document(s):

NOTICE OF APPEAL; CASE APPEAL STATEMENT; DISTRICT COURT DOCKET ENTRIES; CIVIL COVER SHEET; FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER; NOTICE OF ENTRY OF FINDINGS OF FACTS, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, AND ORDER; DISTRICT COURT MINUTES; NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY

FORE STARS, LTD.; 180 LAND CO., LLC; SEVENTY ACRES, LLC,

Plaintiff(s),

VS.

DANIEL OMERZA; DARREN BRESEE; STEVE CARIA,

Defendant(s),

now on file and of record in this office.

Case No: A-18-771224-C

Dept No: XIX

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto Set my hand and Affixed the seal of the Court at my office, Las Vegas, Nevada This 11 day of January 2021.

Steven D. Grierson, Clerk of the Court

Heather Ungermann, Deputy Clerk