## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

TON VINH LEE,

Appellant,

v.

INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC, a Nevada Professional LLC,

Respondent.

Supreme Court Case No.: 82516
District Court Case Flectronically Filed
Jul 27 2021 04:45 p.m.
Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of Supreme Court

## APPELLANT'S APPENDIX VOLUME 1 PART 2

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## **INDEX TO APPELLANT'S APPENDIX**

	<b>Document Description</b>	Location
Specia	l Verdict Form in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth	Volume 1
Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed 01/22/14)		Bates Nos. 1–5
Motion	n for Judgement as a Matter of Law Pursuant to	Volume 1
NRCP	50(b) or, in the Alternative, Motion for	Bates Nos. 5-29
Remitt	itur in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	
A6560	91 (filed 05/13/14)	
Exhibi	its to Motion for Judgment as a matter of Law	
A.	Excerpted Transcript of Trial Testimony of	Volume 1
	Andrew Pallos, M.D. in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth	Bates Nos. 30-181
	Judicial Case No. A656091 (dated 01/16/14)	
Notice	of Entry of Order for Motion for Judgement as a	Volume 1
Matter	of Law Pursuant to NRCP 50(b) or, in the	Bates Nos. 182-194
Alterna	ative, Motion for Remittitur in Singletary v. Lee,	
Eighth	Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed 07/16/14)	
Judgm	ent on Jury Verdict for Defendant Ton Vinh Lee,	Volume 1
DDS in	n Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 195-196
A656091 (filed 09/11/14)		
Compl	aint in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No.	Volume 1
A7231	34 (filed 08/17/15)	Bates Nos. 197-201
Affida	vit of Service for Defendant Patin Law Group,	Volume 1
PLLC	in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 202
A7231	34 (filed 08/31/15)	
Defend	lants' Motion to Dismiss in Lee v. Patin, Eighth	Volume 1
Judicia	d Case No. A723134 (filed 09/08/15)	Bates Nos. 203-214
<b>Exhibits for Defendants' Motion to Dismiss</b>		
A.	Complaint in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial	Volume 1
	Case No. A656091 (dated 02/07/12)	Bates Nos. 215-216
B.	Special Verdict Form in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 1
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 217-222
	01/22/14)	

C.	Order on Defendants' Motion to Retax in	Volume 1
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 223-227
	A656091 (filed 04/11/14)	
D.	Judgment on Jury Verdict in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 1
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 228-231
	04/29/14)	
E.	The Trial Reporter Newsletter (February 2014)	Volume 1
		Bates Nos. 232-235
F.	Nevada Legal Update Newsletter (Fall 2014)	Volume 1
		Bates Nos. 236-239
G.	Nevada Jury Verdict Google Search Results	Volume 1
	(04/14/15)	Bates Nos. 240-242
Affida	vit of Service for Defendant Ingrid Patin in Lee v.	Volume 1
Patin,	Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed	Bates Nos. 243
09/23/	15)	
Defend	lants' Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to	Volume 2
NRS 4	1.635-70, or in the Alternative, Motion to	Bates Nos. 244-260
Dismis	ss Pursuant to NRCP 12(B)(5) in Lee v. Patin,	
Eighth	Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed 10/16/15)	
Exhib	its for Defendant's Special Motion to Dismiss	
A.	Complaint in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial	Volume 2
	Case No. A656091 (dated 02/07/12)	Bates Nos. 261-262
B.	Special Verdict Form in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 2
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 263-268
	01/22/14)	
C.	Order on Defendants' Motion to Retax in	Volume 2
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 269-273
	A656091 (filed 04/11/14)	
D.	Judgment on Jury Verdict in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 2
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 274-277
	04/29/14)	
E.	The Trial Reporter Newsletter (February 2014)	Volume 2
		Bates Nos. 278-281
F.	Settlement/Verdict Website Screenshot and	Volume 2
	Defendant's Fee Disclosure	Bates Nos. 282-283
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-

	N 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 (F 11 2014)	X7.1. 2	
G.	Nevada Legal Update Newsletter (Fall 2014)	Volume 2	
		Bates Nos. 284-287	
H.	Nevada Jury Verdict Google Search Results	Volume 2	
	(04/14/15)	Bates Nos. 288-290	
I.	Plaintiffs Case Appeal Statement in Singletary	Volume 2	
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091	Bates Nos. 291-297	
	(dated 08/08/14)		
J.	Defendants Case Appeal Statement (Cross-	Volume 2	
	Appeal) in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 298-310	
	Case No. A656091 (dated 09/11/14)		
K.	Minutes of the Senate Committee on Judiciary	Volume 2	
	(dated 03/23/13)	Bates Nos. 311-313	
L.	Certificate of Business: Fictitious Firm Name	Volume 2	
	(dated 10/26/2010)	Bates Nos. 314-318	
M.	Reports Transcripts on Jury Trial in Singletary	Volume 2	
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091	Bates Nos. 315-323	
	(dated 01/17/14)		
Notice	of Entry of Order Denying Defendants' Motion	Volume 2	
to Dismiss in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No.		Bates Nos. 324-326	
A723134 (filed 10/23/15)			
		Volume 2	
12(b)(:	5) in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 327-335	
A7231	34 (filed 01/27/16)		
-	its for Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Pursuant		
to NR	CP 12(b)(5)		
1.	Affidavit of Ingrid Patin, Esq. in Lee v. Patin,	Volume 2	
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed	Bates Nos. 336-338	
	01/27/16)		
2.	Complaint in <i>Singletary v. Lee</i> , Eighth Judicial	Volume 2	
	Case No. A656091 (dated 02/07/12)	Bates Nos. 339-344	
	, in the second of the second		
Order Denying Defendants' Special Motion to Dismiss		Volume 2	
Pursuant to NRS 41.635-70, or in the Alternative,		Bates Nos. 345-348	
Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(B)(5) in <i>Lee v</i> .			
Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed			
02/04/16)			
	,	1	

Amen	ded Complaint in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial	Volume 2
Case N	No. A723134 (filed 02/23/16)	Bates Nos. 349-353
Notice of Entry of Order Denying Motion to Dismiss		Volume 2
Pursua	ant to NRCP 12(b)(5) in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth	Bates Nos. 354-357
Judicia	al Case No. A723134 (filed 04/11/16)	
Second	d Amended Complaint in Lee v. Patin, Eighth	Volume 2
Judicia	al Case No. A723134 (filed 04/11/16)	Bates Nos. 358-362
Defen	dants' Renewed Special Motion to Dismiss	Volume 2
Pursua	nt to NRS 41.635-40 in Lee v. Patin, Eighth	Bates Nos. 363-380
Judicia	al Case No. A723134 (filed 05/24/16)	
Exhib	its for Defendant's Renewed Special Motion to	
Dismi	ss Pursuant to NRS 41.635-40	
A.	Notice of Entry of Order Denying Motion to	Volume 2
	Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5) in <i>Lee v</i> .	Bates Nos. 381-385
	Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed	
	04/11/16)	
B.	Complaint in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case	Volume 2
	No. A723134 (filed 08/17/15)	Bates Nos. 386-387
C.	Special Verdict Form in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 2
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 388-393
	01/22/14)	
D.	Order on Defendants' Motion to Retax in	Volume 2
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 394-398
	A656091 (filed 04/11/14)	
E.	Judgment on Jury Verdict in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 2
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 399-402
	04/29/14)	
F.	The Trial Reporter Newsletter (February 2014)	Volume 2
		Bates Nos. 403-406
G.	Nevada Legal Update Newsletter (Fall 2014)	Volume 2
		Bates Nos. 407-410
H.	Nevada Jury Verdict Google Search Results	Volume 2
	(04/14/15)	Bates Nos. 411-413

I.	Plaintiffs Case Appeal Statement in Singletary	Volume 2		
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091	Bates Nos. 414-420		
	(dated 08/08/14)			
J.	Defendants Case Appeal Statement (Cross-	Volume 2		
	Appeal) in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 421-433		
	Case No. A656091 (dated 09/11/14)			
K.	Judgment on Jury Verdict for Defendant in	Volume 2		
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 434-436		
	A656091 (dated 09/11/14)			
L.	Senate Bill No. 444- Committee on Judiciary	Volume 2		
		Bates Nos. 437-441		
M.	Certificate of Business: Fictitious Firm Name	Volume 2		
	(dated 10/26/2010)	Bates Nos. 442-446		
N.	Reports Transcripts on Jury Trial in Singletary	Volume 2		
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091	Bates Nos. 447-451		
	(dated 01/17/14)			
Order Denying Defendants' Renewed Special Motion to		Volume 2		
Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.635-70, or in the		Bates Nos. 452-455		
Alternative, Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP				
12(B)(	12(B)(5) in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No.			
A7231	34 (filed 09/29/16)			
	ant Ingrid Patin's Answer to Plaintiff's Second	Volume 2		
Amended Complaint and Counterclaim Against Patin Bates Nos. 456-46		Bates Nos. 456-468		
law Group, PLLC in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case				
	223134 (filed 10/07/16)			
Order affirming in Part, Reversing in Part and Volume 2				
	Remanding in <i>Singletary v. Lee</i> , Eighth Judicial Case Bates Nos. 469-473			
No. A656091 (filed 10/17/16)				
		Volume 2		
Amended Complaint and Defendant's Counterclaim in Bates Nos. 474-491				
Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed				
10/18/16)				
	Defendant Ingrid Patin's Motion for Summary Volume 3			
	Judgment in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No. Bates Nos. 492-506			
A7231	A723134 (filed 02/10/17)			

Exhib	its for Defendant's Motion for Summary	
Judgn	nent	
A.	Order affirming in Part, Reversing in Part and	Volume 3
	Remanding in <i>Singletary v. Lee</i> , Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 507-512
	Case No. A656091 (filed 10/17/16)	
B.	Complaint in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial	Volume 3
	Case No. A656091 (dated 02/07/12)	Bates Nos. 513-514
C.	Special Verdict Form in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 3
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed 01/22/14)	Bates Nos. 515-520
D.	Order on Defendants' Motion to Retax in	Volume 3
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 521-525
	A656091 (filed 04/11/14)	
E.	Judgment on Jury Verdict in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 3
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 526-529
	04/29/14)	
F.	The Trial Reporter Newsletter (February 2014)	Volume 3
		Bates Nos. 530-533
G.	Nevada Legal Update Newsletter (Fall 2014)	Volume 3
	and Nevada Jury Verdict Google Search Results	Bates Nos. 534-539
	(04/14/15)	
I.	Plaintiffs Case Appeal Statement in Singletary	Volume 3
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091	Bates Nos. 540-546
	(dated 08/08/14)	
J.	Defendants Case Appeal Statement (Cross-	Volume 3
	Appeal) in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 547-559
	Case No. A656091 (dated 09/11/14)	
K.	Judgment on Jury Verdict for Defendant in	Volume 3
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 560-562
	A656091 (dated 09/11/14)	
L.	Senate Bill No. 444- Committee on Judiciary	Volume 3
		Bates Nos. 563-567
M.	Certificate of Business: Fictitious Firm Name	Volume 3
	(dated 10/26/2010)	Bates Nos. 568-572

N.	Reports Transcripts on Jury Trial in Singletary	Volume 3
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091	Bates Nos. 573-577
	(dated 01/17/14)	
K.	Judgment on Jury Verdict for Defendant in	Volume 3
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 578-580
	A656091 (dated 09/11/14)	
L.	Second Amended Complaint in Lee v. Patin,	Volume 3
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed	Bates Nos. 581-586
	04/11/16)	
Record	ler's Transcripts of Proceedings Hearing on May	Volume 3
9, 201	7, regarding all Pending Motions in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> ,	Bates Nos. 587-614
Eighth	Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed 06/09/17)	
	lant Ingrid Patin's Motion for Summary	Volume 3
Judgm	ent in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 615-636
A7231	34 (filed 05/30/17)	
Exhib	its for Defendant's Motion for Summary	
Judgn	nent	
A.	Complaint in <i>Singletary v. Lee</i> , Eighth Judicial	Volume 3
	Case No. A656091 (dated 02/07/12)	Bates Nos. 637-659
В.	Order affirming in Part, Reversing in Part and	Volume 3
	Remanding in <i>Singletary v. Lee</i> , Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 660-665
	Case No. A656091 (filed 10/17/16)	
C.	Special Verdict Form in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 3
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 666-671
	01/22/14)	
D.	Order on Defendants' Motion to Retax in	Volume 3
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 672-676
	A656091 (filed 04/11/14)	
E.	Judgment on Jury Verdict in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 3
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 677-680
	04/29/14)	
F.	The Trial Reporter Newsletter (February 2014)	Volume 3
		Bates Nos. 680-684
G.	Nevada Legal Update Newsletter (Fall 2014)	Volume 3
		Bates Nos. 685-688
	·	

H.	Nevada Jury Verdict Google Search Results	Volume 3	
	(04/14/15)	Bates Nos. 689-691	
I.	Plaintiffs Case Appeal Statement in Singletary	Volume 3	
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091	Bates Nos. 692-698	
	(dated 08/08/14)		
J.	Defendants Case Appeal Statement (Cross-	Volume 3	
	Appeal) in <i>Singletary v. Lee</i> , Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 699-711	
	Case No. A656091 (dated 09/11/14)		
K.	Judgment on Jury Verdict for Defendant in	Volume 3	
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 712-714	
	A656091 (dated 09/11/14)		
L.	Certificate of Business: Fictitious Firm Name	Volume 3	
	(dated 10/26/2010)	Bates Nos. 715-719	
M.	Reports Full Transcripts on Jury Trial in	Volume 4	
	Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 720-934	
	A656091 (dated 01/17/14)		
	Denying Defendant's Motion for Summary	Volume 4	
_	nent in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 935-938	
A723134 (filed 06/05/17)			
	of Entry of Order Denying Defendant's Motion	Volume 5	
	nmary Judgement in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 939-944	
Case No. A723134 (filed 08/17/17)			
	lants' Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP	Volume 5	
	(1) in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 945-951	
	34 (filed 07/15/19)		
	of Entry of Order Denying Defendants' Motion	Volume 5	
to Dismiss Pursuant to NRCP 16.1(e)(1) in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Bates Nos. 952-955		Bates Nos. 952-955	
Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed 09/10/19)			
Joint Case Conference Report in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth		Volume 5	
, ,		Bates Nos. 956-975	
Plaintiff Ton Vin Lee Deposition Transcripts in <i>Lee v</i> .		Volume 5	
Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (dated Bates Nos. 976-1025		Bates Nos. 976-1025	
07/14/20)			
Defendant Ingrid Patin's Motion for Judgment on the Volume 5			
Pleadin	Pleadings, in the Alternative, Motion for Summary Bates Nos. 1026-1048		

Judgm	ent in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No.		
A7231	A723134 (filed 08/07/20)		
Exhib	Exhibits to Defendant's Motion for Judgment on the		
Pleadi	Pleadings, in the Alternative, Motion for Summary		
Judgn	nent		
1.	Plaintiff Ton Vinh Lee Deposition Transcripts	Volume 5	
	in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 1049-1099	
	A723134 (dated 07/14/20)		
2.	Judgment on Jury Verdict in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 5	
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 1100-1103	
	04/29/14)		
3.	Defendant Ingrid Patin's Answer to Plaintiff's	Volume 5	
	Second Amended Complaint and Counterclaim	Bates Nos. 1104-1117	
	Against Patin law Group, PLLC in Lee v. Patin,		
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed		
	10/07/16)		
4.	Plaintiff Ton Vinh Lee's Third Supplemental	Volume 5	
	ECC Disclosure in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 1118-1123	
	Case No. A723134 (filed 06/18/20)		
5.	Ton Vinh Lee Deposition Transcripts in <i>Lee v</i> .	Volume 5	
	Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (dated 07/14/20)	Bates Nos. 1124-1141	
6.	134 Nev., Advance Opinion 87 (filed 11/15/18)	Volume 5	
0.	134 Nev., Advance Opinion 87 (med 11/13/18)	Bates Nos. 1142-1153	
7.	Second Amended Complaint in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> ,	Volume 5	
/.	Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed	Bates Nos. 1154-1159	
	04/11/16)	Dates 1103. 1134 1137	
8.	Complaint in <i>Singletary v. Lee</i> , Eighth Judicial	Volume 5	
	Case No. A656091 (dated 02/07/12)	Bates Nos. 1160-1182	
9.	Special Verdict Form in Singletary v. Lee,	Volume 5	
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed	Bates Nos. 1183-1188	
	01/22/14)		
10.	The Trial Reporter Newsletter (February 2014)	Volume 6	
		Bates Nos. 1189-1192	
11.	Nevada Legal Update Newsletter (Fall 2014)	Volume 6	
		Bates Nos. 1193-1196	

	Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed		
	09/29/16)		
B.	Transcript of Proceedings- Motion for	Volume 7	
	Preliminary Injunction in <i>Brown v. Elk Point</i>	Bates Nos. 1272-1517	
	Country Club Ninth Judicial Court Case No.		
	2020-CV-00124 (dated 10/23/20)		
C.	Judgment on Jury Verdict for Defendant Ton	Volume 8	
	Vinh Lee, DDS in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth	Bates Nos. 1518-1521	
	Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed 09/11/14)		
D.	Order for Motion for Judgement as a Matter of	Volume 8	
	Law Pursuant to NRCP 50(b) or, in the	Bates Nos. 1522-1534	
	Alternative, Motion for Remittitur in Singletary		
	v. Lee, Eighth Judicial Case No. A656091 (filed		
	07/16/14)		
E.	Order affirming in Part, Reversing in Part and	Volume 8	
	Remanding in Singletary v. Lee, Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 1535-1540	
	Case No. A656091 (filed 10/17/16)		
F.	Plaintiff Ton Vinh Lee Deposition Transcripts	Volume 8	
	in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No.	Bates Nos. 1541-1591	
	A723134 (dated 07/14/20)		
G.	Order Denying Defendant's Motion for	Volume 8	
	Summary Judgement in Lee v. Patin, Eighth	Bates Nos. 1592-1597	
	Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed 08/17/17)		
Ton Vi	in Lee's Motion to Alter or Amend Judgment	Volume 8	
Pursua	nt to NRCP 59(e) in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial	Bates Nos. 1598-1613	
Case N	To. A723134 (filed 11/24/20)		
Record	ler's Transcripts of Proceedings Hearing on	Volume 8	
Septen	nber 15, 2020, regarding all Pending Motions in	Bates Nos. 1614-1642	
Lee v.	Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed		
01/14/21)			
Notice of Entry of Order Denying Plaintiff's Motion to Volume 8		Volume 8	
Alter/Amend Judgment and Order Continuing Motion Bates Nos. 1643-1653			
for Red	for Reconsideration, Defendant Motion for Fees and		
Costs in Lee v. Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No.			
A7231	A723134 (filed 01/21/21)		

Notice of Appeal in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case		Volume 8
No. A7	723134 (filed 02/18/21)	Bates Nos. 1654-1656
Exhibi	ts to Notice of Appeal	
A.	Notice of Entry of Order Granting Defendant's	Volume 8
	Motion for Summary Judgement in Lee v. Patin,	Bates Nos. 1657-1673
	Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed	
	10/30/20)	
B.	Notice of Entry of Order Denying Plaintiff's	Volume 9
	Motion to Alter/Amend Judgment and Order	Bates Nos. 1674-1815
	Continuing Motion for Reconsideration,	
	Defendant Motion for Fees and Costs in <i>Lee v</i> .	
	Patin, Eighth Judicial Case No. A723134 (filed	
	01/21/21) and related miscellaneous documents	
	filed by the supreme court	
Notice	of Entry of Order Denying Plaintiff's Motion for	Volume 9
Reconsideration in <i>Lee v. Patin</i> , Eighth Judicial Case		Bates Nos. 1816-1823
No. A723134 (filed 02/25/21)		
Removal from Settlement Program and Reinstating		Volume 9
Briefing in Lee v. Patin, Supreme Court Case No. 82516		Bates Nos. 1824
(filed April 7, 2021)		

Dated this 21st day of July, 2021.

RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.

/s/ Prescott T. Jones

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- put into place by Dr. Traivai met the standard of care
  as well, correct?
  - A. I don't know what you mean by "post-op plan."
  - Q. The instructions that she gave to the patient in advising --
  - A. Oh, you're talking about the post-op instructions? Yes. Yes, yes. Yes, sir.
  - Q. Okay. And you're aware that there's an emergency pager number on those instructions?
  - A. Yes.

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- 11 Q. And you believe that met the standard of 12 care, correct?
- 13 A. That -- that they included a pager number for 14 emergencies, absolutely is excellent.
- Q. Now, today -- correct me if I'm wrong, you indicated today that the standard of care required that Mr. Singletary be given antibiotics at the time of his -- of his extraction? Is that what you testified to here today?
- A. No. I said that -- you're -- at what point are you asking me -- at what point? Preventively or after the extraction or after -- are you saying in general did I testify that it was required? Yes, I did, in general.
  - Q. On that day, on April 16th?

1 Which day? A. 2 April 16th, 2011, the date of the extraction. Q. 3 That was not a requirement, but it would have Α. been excellent if he did that. 4 5 All right. So then let me ask you this: it your opinion that the defendants fell below the standard of care by not giving him a prophylactic 7 prescription for antibiotics on April 16th, 2011? Okay. Hear me clearly: Not by itself. 9 That was my testimony. By itself, no, that is not below the 10 standard of care. 11 12 Okay. Doctor, let's go ahead and let's turn to page 53 of your deposition. 13 You on page 53? 14 15 I'm there. Α. 16 Okay. My question again is going to be: Did Q. 17 I read this accurately? Starting at line 6: "QUESTION: Let me ask you this: Is it 18 19 your opinion that the defendants fell below the 20 standard of care by not giving him a 21 prophylactic prescription for antibiotics? 22 "ANSWER: No." 23 Did I read that correctly? There's a --24 A.

There's another --

25

Q.

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-- continuing -- that is correct up to that
 1
        Α.
   point. Up to that point, it's correct.
 3
             Thank you.
        Q.
             MS. PATIN: Objection, Your Honor.
 4
 5
             THE WITNESS:
                            Incompletely.
 6
             MS. PATIN: There's not a complete reading of
   the line.
 7
 8
             MR. VOGEL: The rest of it is an editorial
   that has nothing to do with the standard of care.
10
             THE COURT: I'll let you address it on
11
   redirect.
   BY MR. VOGEL:
12
13
             Now, if you could for me, please turn to
        Q.
   page 56.
14
15
             Got it.
        A.
16
             Okay. Starting at line 4:
        Q.
17
             "QUESTION: So you're not saying that
        anyone in this case was below the standard of
18
        care for not giving a prescription for
19
        antibiotics before" --
20
21
             MS. PATIN: I don't mean to interrupt.
22
   didn't hear what page you said.
23
             MR. VOGEL: Page 56, line 4.
24
             MS. PATIN:
                        Okay.
25
   /////
```

```
1
   BY MR. VOGEL:
 2
              "QUESTION: So you're not saying that
        Q.
 3
        anyone in this case was below the standard of
        care for not giving a prescription for
 4
        antibiotics before or on the day of the
 5
        extraction, correct?
 6
 7
              "ANSWER:
                        Yes."
 8
             Did I read that correctly?
             Absolutely.
 9
        Α.
10
             Doctor, when you gave your deposition
        Q.
11
   testimony, you were under oath, correct?
12
        Α.
             Of course.
13
        Q.
             And you swore to tell the truth, correct?
             Just like today.
14
        Α.
15
              The whole truth?
        Q.
              Including the whole truth.
16
        A.
17
             And nothing but the truth, correct?
        Q.
18
              Yes.
        Α.
              Thank you, Doctor. That's all I have for
19
        Q.
20
   you.
21
              THE WITNESS: Thank you.
22
              THE COURT:
                          Mr. Lemons.
23
             MR. LEMONS: Thank you, Your Honor.
24
25
   /////
```

## 1 CROSS-EXAMINATION 2 BY MR. LEMONS: You good to go, Dr. Pallos? Just give you a chance to swallow your water. 4 5 Thank you. Α. 6 Sure. Q. 7 Dr. Pallos, you described some rotation in 8 oral surgery this morning. Did you do any training, any residency training or hospital training beyond the 10 dental school? 11 No, I did not. Α. 12 So the -- the rotation you did in oral 13 surgery was part of your dental school education --14 Absolutely correct. Α. 15 -- as a student, correct? Q. 16 Α. Yes. You testified in your deposition that we took 17 Q. just two weeks ago that nothing about the extraction by 18 Dr. Park was below the standard of care; isn't that 19 20 true? 21 That is true. 22 And you still believe that? Q. 23 I do. A. 24 That's all I have, Your Honor. MR. LEMONS: 25 Thank you.

1 THE COURT: Ms. Patin. 2 3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION BY MS. PATIN: 4 5 Dr. Pallos, counsel was going through several -- several excerpts from your deposition, but he was only reading portions of those excerpts. Can we 7 take a look at those and go back and let's make sure we 8 get a full reading of what you testified to. 10 A. Sure. Taking a look at --11 Q. MR. VOGEL: Your Honor, I enter an objection 12 13 at this point that the entries that were not read are not relevant to any issue in this case. 14 15 THE COURT: I don't know. I don't have it, but I'm -- I think the rule of completeness allows at 16 least the questions. So overruled. 17 18 BY MS. PATIN: Dr. Pallos, counsel was first pointing you to 19 20 page 29 with regard to lines 15 through 23. 21 A. Okay. 22 And what was your full response to his 23 question at the time of the deposition? His question 24 was: 25 "Absolutely. I'm just trying to clarify

1 for you.

What was your response to that question at the time of the deposition?

- A. Want me to read that?
- Q. Yes.
- A. Okay.

"'Mr. Singletary presented with very poor oral hygiene and periodontitis.'

"His oral hygiene does not look that poor, and I can show you the X rays to show you. And the generalized chronic periodontitis is not what I would diagnose at all for this case, although, he does not use the word 'generalized chronic' in this case" — meaning Dr. Ardary in the quote — "but because he bases it on the review of the medical records, he has no choice but to refer to that, though he does not use the words.

"In my opinion, it would be much better called localized mild to moderate periodontitis with localized areas of severe periodontitis."

Q. Can you explain to me what you meant by that, "In my opinion, it would be much better called localized generalized mild to moderate periodontitis with localized areas of severe periodontitis"?

- 1 A. Can I do what with that?
  - Q. Can you explain to me what you meant by that?
  - A. Okay. Thank you.

First of all, the first word "generalized," I canceled that in the errata sheet because I was speaking fast and that should not be there. It's not part of the diagnosis. I'm moving, you know, the generalized -- I'm sorry. I just said that wrong.

My opinion would be much better called generalized mild to moderate periodontitis with localized areas of severe periodontitis. So what I mean is the — not the whole mouth has a severe periodontitis. That's what I mean by that. Instead of just calling the whole thing generalized severe periodontitis, I said, because of the chart record that I can show you and the X rays, it would be much better called localized areas, limited areas of severe periodontitis with generalized areas of mild to moderate periodontitis. It's a small distinction, but very significant to me.

- Q. Why is it significant?
- A. Because it doesn't -- it means that he's not a trash mouth, you know, basically, incapable of cleaning his teeth and not taking reasonably good care of himself.

- Q. Counsel also pointed you to other deposition testimony on page 32.
  - A. Okay.

4

- Q. And during this line of questioning, he's still referring to Dr. Ardary's report, expert report in the case, correct, as he's questioning you?
- 7 | A. Yes.
- Q. And he questioned you with regards to
  lines -- your answer in line 10 through 20. And in
  response to his question, "I don't understand what you
  mean," what was your response?
- 12 A. What line is that?
- 13 Q. His question is on line 9, on page 32 --
- 14 A. Oh, okay.
- Q. -- your answer lines 10 through 20.
- 16 A. May I read that?
- Q. Yes. What was your response?
- 18 A. Okay.
- "Let me continue and it will be more clear.
- "'The occurrence of such infections does
  not imply there is a breach in the standard of
  care or that the care received was below the
  standard of care within the community.'"
- 25 So then I said:

"I think that is true. I believe that to be the case in this matter."

Then I quote, again, from the -- from Mr. Ardary's statement:

"'Mr. Singletary most likely developed infection from an unusually virulent organism which was not part of his normal flora.'"

Then I'm speaking:

"That is what I object to. To pull a virulent theoretical infection out of the air that's not even part of his flora and attacked him randomly without any causation by the clinicians in this case, I object to that. I think that's outrageous and is preposterous to use that word."

Q. Counsel was always -- also asking you about whether or not you were clarifying your opinion, and you mentioned that you were clarifying your opinion as you sit here today.

What did you review in preparation for your trial testimony that caused you to clarify your opinion during your trial testimony here regarding whether an acute infection existed on April 16th of 2011?

A. Okay. I was really bothered by the contradiction in the deposition testimony of

```
Dr. Traivai --
 1
 2
             MR. FRIEDMAN: Objection. Move to strike as
 3
   nonresponsive.
             MR. VOGEL: Can we approach on this, Judge?
 4
 5
             THE COURT:
                          Sure.
 6
                   (A discussion was held at the bench,
 7
                   not reported.)
             THE COURT: Overruled.
 8
             MS. PATIN: I apologize. I don't remember my
 9
10
   question exactly.
11
             THE COURT: "Counsel was ... also asking you
   about whether or not your were clarifying your opinion,
12
13
   and you mentioned that you were clarifying your opinion
   as you sit here today.
14
15
             "What did you review in preparation for your
16
   trial testimony that caused you to clarify your opinion
   during your trial testimony here regarding whether an
17
18
   acute infection existed on April 16th of 2011?"
19
             THE WITNESS: Can I proceed?
20
   BY MS. PATIN:
21
             Yes.
22
             Okay. And it was regarding an infection,
        Α.
   that a -- and that an infection existed.
23
24
   reviewed the deposition transcript, and it stood out to
25
   me on a couple of pages that Dr. Traivai testified very
```

1 clearly to the existence of an infection.

And if you don't mind, I'd like to quote it.

MR. VOGEL: I have to object, Your Honor.

4 | That's improper for him to do.

THE COURT: It is. Sustained.

BY MS. PATIN:

- Q. Without quoting the deposition testimony, what do you recall about the testimony that had you clarify opinions as you sat here today during your trial testimony?
- A. Okay. I already quoted it when I first talked to you today. I listed all the terms that she used, and I quoted from this deposition. When she said the tooth was necrotic, that it was dead, that it had a periodontal infection, and that she saw a radial lucency on the X ray. All those are direct quotes, her words, not mine, from this deposition.
- Q. And did you review that deposition again in preparation for your trial testimony here today?
  - A. Yes.
    - Q. Had you reviewed that deposition before --
- A. Yes, I had. I was very confused, as I said, and bothered by the incredible contradiction of the things that were in this testimony, and I testified to that at my deposition.

I want to refer you to another portion of 1 Q. your deposition that wasn't read completely during counsel's cross-examination of you on page 53. I'm on page 53. 4 Α. 5 He was referring to lines 6 through 10, and Q. his question to you was: 7 "Let me ask you this: Is it your opinion that the defendants fell below the standard of 8 9 care by not giving him a prophylactic 10 prescription for antibiotics?" 11 What was your response to counsel's question? That's one of the potential things 12 Α. 13 they could have done." And then he says: "But the standard of 14 15 care" --16 MR. VOGEL: Objection. 17 MR. FRIEDMAN: Objection, Your Honor. THE WITNESS: Oh, sorry. 18 19 THE COURT: Sustained. 20 BY MS. PATIN: 21 Dr. Pallos, are the defendant dentists in 22 this case -- Dr. Lee, Dr. Park, Dr. Traivai -- are they 23 also general dentists? 24 To my knowledge, they are.

Are any of them oral surgeons?

25

Q.

- 1 A. I absolutely don't believe so.
- Q. Is the extraction of a wisdom tooth or the a straction --
  - A. I know for sure for Dr. Traivai and Dr. Park.
  - Q. They're not oral surgeons?
    - A. Right. They're general.
  - Q. I apologize for interrupting you.

Is the extraction of a wisdom tooth or the extraction of wisdom teeth also a major part of general dentistry?

- A. Absolutely. In fact, more and more so to the point where the oral surgeons are complaining.
- Q. And you're familiar with extractions through your practice as a general dentist, correct?
- A. Yes.

- Q. When counsel was cross-examining you, he stated that you based your opinion concerning Reginald Singletary's complaints on the deposition testimony of Svetlana Singletary, correct? The complaints that Reginald Singletary had on the 18th the 19th and the 20th.
  - A. Were based on Svetlana's testimony.
- Q. Do you have any reason to believe that the deposition testimony of Svetlana Singletary isn't true?

  MR. LEMONS: Objection, Your Honor.

```
1
   That's --
 2
             MR. FRIEDMAN: Calls for speculation.
 3
                          -- that's not a function of an
             MR. LEMONS:
   expert witness.
 4
 5
             THE COURT: Sustained. It's vouching.
   BY MS. PATIN:
 7
             When you reviewed the deposition testimony of
   Svetlana Singletary, did you believe that testimony to
 8
 9
   be true?
10
             Yes, I did.
        Α.
11
             When you based your opinions on the
        Q.
   deposition testimony of Svetlana Singletary, did you
12
13
   believe that testimony to be true?
             Yes, I very sincerely believe it's true.
14
15
             After reviewing Svetlana Singletary's
16
   deposition testimony, do you have any reason to believe
   that she spoke to an answering machine or listened to a
17
   recording on April 18th of 2011?
18
             Do I have reason to believe that she found
19
   that? No. I -- I have a strong opinion about that.
20
21
        Q. What's your strong opinion?
             It's --
22
        Α.
23
             MR. FRIEDMAN: Objection, Your Honor.
24
   Assumes facts not in evidence.
                                    Incomplete
25
   hypothetical. Beyond the scope of -- of this
```

1 examination. Irrelevant.

2 THE COURT: I think it's -- overruled.

3 BY MS. PATIN:

4

6

- Q. Go ahead, Dr. Pallos.
- 5 A. Oh, that means -- okay. All right.

7 Mr. Singletary's behavior to have heard a -- what is it 8 called? -- a recording -- an answering machine 9 recording and for Svetlana to get such specific 10 conclusions and reassurance about what her husband was

I believe it's absolutely contrary to

11 going through, that in four, five days, the problem
12 would resolve, call me if it does not in four or five

13 days. She didn't -- did not hear that it would be call

14 me tomorrow, call me the next day; call me in four or

15 five days, he'll be better, it will be gone, it will be

16 resolved.

17

18

19

20

22

23

24

25

For that -- and then Mr. Singletary acted very much in harmony. His behavior, he went to work on Monday. He went to work on Tuesday. He went to work on Wednesday. On -- on Tuesday -- I believe it was Tuesday, he said to his wife, Go to Sacramento, I'll be fine. You know, take care of your friend who just broke a leg.

This is not consistent with a person believing he has an emergency and that he needs to

```
This is consistent with a person who's not aware
   call.
   of what's happening, which is very common. The most
   common thing is patients are clueless when these things
   are happening. They're disoriented, and more and more
 4
 5
   so as the infection progresses.
             So his behavior is consistent with a man who
 6
   says, I'll be better, just give me two more days 'cause
   then the four days will be up. So I want you to hear
   this really clearly. I really mean it. Thank you.
10
   BY MS. PATIN:
11
             The actions by Svetlana Singletary --
        Q.
             MR. VOGEL: Your Honor --
12
13
   BY MS. PATIN:
             -- and Reginald Singletary.
14
        Q.
15
             MR. VOGEL: Your Honor, I just want to object
   to his last statements there. It's all speculation as
16
17
   to what he would have done or what people do.
18
             MR. FRIEDMAN:
                            Join.
19
             MR. LEMONS:
                          Join.
20
                         Sustained. Move on.
             THE COURT:
21
             MR. VOGEL: Your Honor, I'm sorry, will it be
22
   stricken?
23
             THE COURT: No. Let's just move on.
24
   BY MS. PATIN:
25
             Does the fact that Reginald Singletary or
        Q.
```

- 1 | Svetlana Singletary -- the fact that they -- neither
- 2 one of them called the office -- and by office, I mean
- 3 | Summerlin Smiles -- on Tuesday or Wednesday, change
- 4 your standard of care opinions with regard to the
- 5 dentists in this case?
- 6 A. Absolutely not.
- 7 Q. Why not?
- 8 A. Well, they were basically told not to call
- 9 | for four, five days, and that's what they did. They
- 10 were waiting for the four days to -- to -- to kick in,
- 11 and then we'll call, because they told us four days.
- Now, I can tell you that often patients, they
- 13 really honor what a doctor says. And to say, you know,
- 14 | call me in four, five days if it doesn't get better,
- 15 and then blame him for not calling the next day or the
- 16 day after, I think that is unethical and ridiculous and
- 17 | hypocritical.
- 18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Your Honor, move to strike as
- 19 nonresponsive and editorialization.
- 20 THE COURT: Sustained. Jury will disregard
- 21 | the last answer.
- 22 BY MS. PATIN:
- Q. Did the dentist that you spoke to about this
- 24 case tell you why he didn't want the case?
- 25 A. I don't recall. It may have been too

- difficult for him, you know, as he was starting out in this field, you know, and I've had over -- at that time over 25 -- 20 years, 25 years' experience.
  - Q. Does the time that Reginald Singletary called 911 affect your testimony with regard to the violations of the standard of care in this case?
    - A. Not in the least.
  - Q. Why don't you hold Reginald Singletary responsible for what happened in this case?
  - A. Because he was following the instructions and doing his best, going to work, believing that he didn't have an emergency. He was told he did not have an emergency. Then they're wanting to blame him that he believed he didn't have an emergency. To me, that's ridiculous.
- MR. FRIEDMAN: Objection. Objection, Your
  Honor. Move to strike as nonresponsive.
- THE COURT: Only the last sentence where he says it was ridiculous is it nonresponsive. That sentence will be stricken.
- 21 BY MS. PATIN:

5

7

8

10

11

12

13

14

- Q. Dr. Pallos, do you review cases on behalf of defendants or doctors as well as the patients?
- A. I -- I review cases that attorneys bring me
  to review, and most of them are on behalf of patients.

```
And most of them, I tell the attorney, don't -- don't
   go with this case, drop it, the dentist is not liable.
   And that's the majority of the cases.
             Does payment of fees or expert fees affect
 4
 5
   your truthfulness?
                  I'm just motivated to be truthful.
 6
        Α.
             No.
 7
             MS. PATIN: No further questions at this
8
   time.
 9
             THE COURT: Mr. Friedman?
10
             MR. FRIEDMAN: Just a couple.
11
12
                      RECROSS-EXAMINATION
   BY MR. FRIEDMAN:
13
             Doctor, you're aware that Mr. Singletary
14
        Q.
15
   never personally spoke with anyone at Summerlin Smiles
16
   or at any healthcare provider relative to what he
17
   should do or about his own symptoms, correct?
18
             Are you including the 911 call? Or until
19
   then?
20
             Until then.
        Q.
21
             Yes, that's true.
22
             And I can tell from your testimony you feel
23
   very passionately about this. You consider yourself an
   advocate for Mr. Singletary, don't you?
24
25
             I consider myself an advocate for the truth.
        Α.
```

1	Q. Thank you, Doctor.
2	THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
3	THE COURT: Mr. Vogel?
4	MR. VOGEL: Nothing further.
5	THE COURT: Mr. Lemons?
6	MR. LEMONS: Nothing, Your Honor.
7	THE COURT: Anything else?
8	MS. PATIN: No, Your Honor.
9	THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, any
10	questions? We got a couple.
11	(A discussion was held at the bench,
12	not reported.)
13	THE COURT: All right. I've got one question
14	that I'm not going to ask. Mark that Court's next in
15	order.
16	Doctor, next question I have is as follows:
17	Is it likely that if there is or has been pain in the
18	tooth, that an infection is present?
19	THE WITNESS: Yes. I was saying a history of
20	pain, especially that he was complaining about this two
21	months prior, that that is an indication, more likely
22	than not, that he had a previous incident and some of
23	the infection remains. But his body you can tell
24	from his upper teeth that were totally fractured at the
25	gumline, his body was able to maintain, despite dead

```
teeth in his mouth. He had these dead teeth. And yes.
 1
 2
             So as long as a person is healthy and strong,
   they can often maintain these chronic infections under
   control. But when something happens to disrupt that,
 4
   as in this case, then it can become acute. And acute
 5
   means start to progress and overwhelm the patient, and
   they can no longer do it, get over it without the help
 7
   of antibiotics. That's why I've seen a miracle with
 8
   antibiotics. They're unbelievable. What a gift --
10
             MR. FRIEDMAN: Objection, Your Honor.
                                                    This
11
   is beyond the question.
12
             THE COURT: You've answered the question,
13
   Doctor.
             THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
14
             THE COURT: Sustained.
15
16
             Mark that the Court's next in order.
17
             Next one I actually have three questions on
   the page. I'm only going to ask one of them.
18
19
             Does a weekend procedure change a dentist's
20
   criteria in follow-up care?
21
             THE WITNESS: Weekend or weakened?
22
                         Weekend.
             THE COURT:
23
             THE WITNESS:
                           Like a Saturday, Sunday?
24
             THE COURT: That's how I read it.
             THE WITNESS: Read it again, please.
25
```

```
THE COURT: Does a weekend procedure change a
 1
 2
   dentist's criteria in follow-up care?
             THE WITNESS: Okay. I'm not sure precisely
   what it means, but in general, absolutely not.
 5
   doesn't matter what day of the week. You know, we have
   the obligation to take care of our patients.
7
             MR. VOGEL: Your Honor, he's answered the
8
   question. He keeps editorializing. Can you please
   counsel him to just answer the question.
10
             THE COURT: I think he's answered it.
   mark that the Court's next in order.
11
12
             Ms. Patin, any follow-ups based on those?
13
             MS. PATIN: No, Your Honor.
14
             THE COURT: Mr. Friedman?
15
             MR. FRIEDMAN: No, Your Honor.
16
             THE COURT: Mr. Vogel?
             MR. VOGEL: No, Your Honor.
17
             THE COURT: Mr. Lemons?
18
             MR. LEMONS: No, Your Honor.
19
20
             THE COURT: Thank you, Doctor.
21
             THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
22
   Appreciate it.
             THE COURT: Plaintiff have additional
23
24
   witnesses?
25
             MS. PATIN: No, we do not.
```

1 THE COURT: Is the plaintiff resting today? 2 MS. PATIN: We don't have any -- we don't have any other witnesses but reserve the right to call any of the defendants in this case if they're not 4 5 called by defense counsel. MR. VOGEL: You don't get to do that, Your 6 Honor. 7 THE COURT: Why don't you guys come up for a 8 9 second. 10 (A discussion was held at the bench, 11 not reported.) 12 THE COURT: Folks, we're going take a break 13 for a few minutes. During our break, you're instructed not to 14 15 talk with each other or with anyone else, about any 16 subject or issue connected with this trial. You are not to read, watch, or listen to any report of or 17 commentary on the trial by any person connected with 18 19 this case or by any medium of information, including, without limitation, newspapers, television, the 20 Internet, or radio. You are not to conduct any 22 research on your own, which means you cannot talk with 23 others, Tweet others, text others, Google issues, or 24 conduct any other kind of book or computer research 25 with regard to any issue, party, witness, or attorney,

involved in this case. You're not to form or express any opinion on any subject connected with this trial 3 until the case is finally submitted to you. Give us about 10 or 15 minutes. 4 5 (The following proceedings were held 6 outside the presence of the jury.) 7 THE COURT: All right. We're outside the presence of the jury. Before we argue this issue, we're going to take a quick break, use this as a bathroom break so Kristy can open a new file. We'll 10 11 come back in about like three minutes, five minutes. Just come back quick, and we'll argue this issue. 12 13 Off the record. 14 (Whereupon a short recess was taken.) 15 THE COURT: Go back on the record, Case 16 No. A656091. We're outside the presence of the jury. 17 My understanding is Ms. Patin is done with all of her witnesses, other than potentially calling 18 the defendants. You didn't give notice to anybody that 19 you were calling the defendants today with -- I guess 20 with the expectation you weren't going to have to rest 22 until after all of the defendants were called by their 23 own attorneys. 24 Correct. Out of courtesy. MS. PATIN: In 25 the past, what I've done is held the case open until

the defendants were called. If I needed their
testimony with regard to my case in chief, out of
courtesy, just to allow defense counsel to then call
their own witnesses and I can cross them. But, you
know, pursuant to the court order, I'm only required to

6 give one-day notice.

My understanding is Dr. Lee was going to have to testify this afternoon as long as we were done with Dr. Pallos. I can call Dr. Traivai and Dr. Park first thing in the morning, and I can go ahead and treat them as adverse witnesses. But I was going to allow defense counsel to call their own witnesses, and I will cross-examine them and then rest at the end of that. But I did want to reserve my right to be able to call the defendants as part of my case in chief.

THE COURT: Which kind of causes a problem based upon the representation you were going to be done and they were going to be calling their experts tomorrow.

MS. PATIN: Done as in as I wasn't going to call any other witnesses, not because I didn't need to call their witnesses or done because I didn't need the testimony from their witnesses.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. FRIEDMAN: I don't really understand what

any of that means. We did an issues conference where we talked about the witnesses that were going to be called.

MR. VOGEL: 267 conference.

MR. FRIEDMAN: She told us who they were. It was my expectation she was going to rest after her last witness, which I fully expected her to do. I told her I would call Dr. Lee this afternoon, which I planned to do after she rested. I'm -- I'm -- I'm at a loss.

MR. LEMONS: Your Honor, we specifically discussed this at the conference which was within a few days of trial.

MR. VOGEL: Last Thursday.

MR. LEMONS: And none of what was just said on the record to the Court was said to us. What the conversation was, was we asked, How many witnesses and who? She said, I have five. I have the roommate, the plaintiff, and three experts. Now, she didn't mention the other two she's called. And she said, Are you — are you going to call your clients in your case in chief? We all said yes. That was it. And I don't have to call them.

She never said, oh, all this stuff about in the past, I've kept my case open. I can guarantee you if that had been said, we would have presented that to the Court at the outset. I have never in 25 years ever heard of anyone asking that, let alone granting that courtesy. If -- if they -- if the plaintiffs are going to call the defendants, it can't be assumed this is going to take 20 minutes each. Because what happens after they're called and they're here, they're going to be -- then direct examination will occur. Because we're not going to have them come down and then go back up at some other time to -- to accommodate her.

So if she wants to call them tomorrow, it's

So if she wants to call them tomorrow, it's going to take — the day, as I understand, it's 9:00 to 3:30. I would expect it would take the whole day for all three of them to testify on cross and on direct.

MR. VOGEL: And based on what was represented to us, we've already scheduled all of our experts for tomorrow. And obviously, we haven't had a chance to talk to them. I don't know if we can reschedule this. Frankly, this just seems like an improper trial tactic to me, and it really puts us at a significant disadvantage if they're allowed now to try to keep their case open or even now try to move into their case or continue their case and depose and question our clients.

THE COURT: Have the defendants been deposed?

MR. VOGEL: Yes.

1 MS. PATIN: Two of the three defendants have 2 been deposed. 3 MR. VOGEL: That's accurate. MS. PATIN: Dr. Traivai and Dr. Park have 4 5 been deposed but not Dr. Lee. And I -- I mean, I realize -- or I'm obviously realizing this was a misunderstanding. I had no malicious intent whatsoever 7 with regard to this. It wasn't any type of trial tactic on my part whatsoever. 10 THE COURT: I understand. Here's what we're 11 going to do, though: I'm not going to let you keep your case open indefinitely while they call their 12 13 witnesses. You didn't identify the defendants as witnesses you were going to call today. So unless you 14 have other witnesses, I think you need to rest. I will 15 16 allow you, in response to their motions, to make a proffer what their clients will testify to based upon 17 their depositions. Let's move forward. 18 With regard to Dr. Lee, is he 19 MS. PATIN: still going to be allowed to testify this afternoon 20 prior to me resting? Because that was my understanding 22 as what was going to happen. 23 THE COURT: No. 24 MS. PATIN: Okay. 25 I mean, you call your THE COURT: No.

witnesses and then you rest. I know sometimes it doesn't work out conveniently, but I mean, that's -- I 3 can't change the rules. MS. PATIN: Okay. 4 5 THE COURT: So based upon that, I'm going to consider the plaintiff having rested. I'm going to let you guys go ahead and make your motions. 7 Are you each going to make a motion? 8 MR. VOGEL: On behalf of Dr. Traivai, I would 9 like to make a Rule 41(b) motion. Based on the 10 11 testimony of plaintiffs' expert, they have not established that there was a deviation of the standard 12 13 of care, an admissible -- admissible testimony of a deviation of the standard of care on behalf of 14 15 Dr. Traivai. 16 You've stricken the informed consent opinion. And then with respect to the antibiotics, on 17 18 cross-examination, he acknowledged that there was no deviation in the standard of care, didn't need to be 19 20 prescribed at that time. 21 With respect to the allegation that 22 Dr. Traivai is somehow responsible for the actions of 23 the employees of Summerlin Smiles, that's a legal 24 And I renew on that motion that she, under the

law, is not liable for someone who's not her employee.

25

It's a basic tenet of tort law. You're only
responsible for your actions absent some sort of legal
relationship. There's been nothing here in this case
that's been presented to establish that Dr. Traivai had
some sort of legal relationship or responsibility for

On that basis I move to dismiss.

the employees of Summerlin Smiles.

MR. FRIEDMAN: And, Your Honor, I make the —a a motion also on 41(b) relative to Dr. Lee as well as Summerlin Smiles. There's been no testimony whatsoever that the person who answered the phone, if anybody answered the phone, was an employee of Summerlin Smiles or Dr. Lee. That has not been established through any testimony. The only testimony has been that they don't know who it was.

MR. LEMONS: And I'm going to make a similar motion on behalf of Dr. Park, Your Honor, but for a little different grounds. Dr. Pallos testified that Dr. Park's involvement in the extraction process accorded with the standard of care, and he didn't specify any deviation from the standard of care to a reasonable degree of medical probability as to Dr. Park in his testimony. He — he did not ever say that.

So on that basis, there's no issue for the jury. They're required in a dental malpractice case to

- 1 have expert testimony to support the claim.
- 2 Dr. Marzouk didn't supply it, Dr. Pallos didn't supply
- 3 it as to Dr. Park.
- And as Mr. Vogel pointed out, if there are
- 5 other issues the plaintiff has identified to the jury
- 6 as having been deviations, Dr. Pallos agreed that -- in
- 7 | fact, he testified there were informed consent giving
- 8 antibiotics on the date of extraction, the discharge
- 9 instructions sheet, discharge instructions.
- 10 So that will be the basis for my motion.
- 11 | There's no issue for the jury.
- 12 MR. VOGEL: I have to join in the other two's
- 13 motions on behalf of Dr. Traivai.
- 14 THE COURT: Last word.
- 15 MS. PATIN: Your Honor, with regard to the
- 16 | standard --
- 17 THE COURT: I guess it's not the last word.
- 18 | It's your opposition to their motions. Sorry.
- 19 MS. PATIN: Your Honor, with regard to the
- 20 standard of care in this case, Dr. Pallos took the
- 21 stand and specifically testified with regard to
- 22 standard of care positions or opinions and those
- 23 opinions with regard to the follow-up care in this
- 24 case. He specifically stated that both Dr. Park and
- 25 Dr. Traivai were treating physicians based on the

treatment that they provided to Reginald Singletary on April 16th in 2011. And the fact that they were both treatings physicians in this case, that they were both held responsible under the standard of care for the follow-up care or the lack thereof of the follow-up care in this case.

What he stated specifically was, Under the standard of care, any dentist who treats the patient should follow up, and that Dr. Traivai and Dr. Park were treating physicians. Dr. Park is the one who extracted the tooth and, therefore, responsible. If you treat the patient, under the standard of care, then you're responsible for that patient.

He also stated with regard to standard of care that the regulations or office protocols of Summerlin Smiles with regard to their routine extraction — oh, I apologize, with regard to the office protocols and Dr. Lee's responses to interrogatories, that there was a breach of the standard of care and a breach of the office protocol when the office didn't refer the call to a doctor or the ER, but, instead, provided false assurances over the telephone.

And he testified that under the standard of care, the treating -- the treating dentists were also

responsible for these false assurances that were given to the patients, Svetlana -- well, Svetlana Singletary on behalf of the patient, Reginald Singletary, when the call was made.

Additionally, he testified that the lack of knowledge of the call makes it more difficult to follow the standard of care, but that the physicians are still responsible for the follow-up and ensuring that the staffs follow — that the staff follows the instructions under the standard of care.

And although counsel don't agree with his opinions as far as the standard of care is concerned, it's the same situation where our client — or our expert doesn't agree with their standard of care opinions. Just because they don't agree with the standard of care positions doesn't mean that they're not within the standard of care and that he didn't render his expert testimony with regard to that after he was qualified as a dental expert in the case.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. FRIEDMAN: Your Honor, just briefly. The only standard of care opinion Dr. Pallos espoused relative to the corporate entity and Dr. Lee is based on the fact that an employee answered the phone. He admitted during his -- my cross-examination of him that

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he's reviewed all the documents in evidence in this
   case, and in those materials, was there any evidence
   that whoever answered the phone was actually an
   employee. The plaintiff herself testified she didn't
 4
 5
   know what the person's position was. There's been no
   evidence that whoever answered the phone was an
   employee has not been established. It can't be
 7
8
   established.
             THE COURT: You don't get to go again.
 9
10
             MR. LEMONS: Just a short word in response,
11
   Your Honor.
12
             THE COURT: He gets to go next.
             MR. LEMONS: He kind of deferred to me.
13
             THE COURT: Okay.
14
             MR. LEMONS: He seemed to -- I don't know.
15
16
             MR. VOGEL: Go ahead.
17
             MR. LEMONS: I'm sorry, Your Honor.
18
             THE COURT: Go ahead.
             MR. VOGEL: Go ahead. You seem eager to go.
19
20
   Go.
21
                          You kind of looked at me that
22
   way.
23
             In, you know, referencing he -- this witness
   gave opinions on responsibility vaguely and
24
25
   truthfulness and a lot of other vague concepts, but he
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- didn't ever specify a deviation from the standard of care to a reasonable degree of medical probability by Dr. Park with regard to any aspect of follow-up or the phone call or -- I mean, the obligation is not as stated by plaintiffs' counsel to ensure something. 5 The obligation, of course, is to use reasonable care that -- in the circumstances as would be used by other 7 similarly situated practitioners in this community. He 8 never even applied that standard to any of his testimony with regard to Dr. Park, and his testimony 10 was very limited. He didn't say that to -- with regard 11 to any other defendant either. 12 13 And the statute as to dentists is very
- specific. It's not the same as it is for physicians.

  It's standard of care in this community, in Clark

  County, and he never mentioned any knowledge,

  foundation, any aspect of that in his testimony. And I

  think that's further grounds for the motion that's been

  made.
  - MR. VOGEL: I make the same arguments, less eloquently, on behalf of Dr. Traivai.
- 22 MR. FRIEDMAN: I will join it as well.
- THE COURT: All right.

20

Kristy, can I do a word search. Off the record for a minute.

(Discussion was held off the record.) 1 2 With regard to when I questioned MS. PATIN: him about reasonable or when he stated reasonable degree of medical probability. When he stated that, he 4 said those three points. My understanding, and if I 5 remember correctly on his testimony, he's referring to the three points that we outlined in the beginning as 7 to what his three opinions were. So I think we need to 8 go back and read through the -- or prior to that point 10 when he says the three points, and then he says he's stating that as a standard of care to a reasonable 11 degree of probability with regard to informed consent 12 13 in those three points. He's not referring to just informed consent. He's saying his three opinions. 14 15 THE COURT: Do you remember where that was? 16 (Discussion was held off the record.) 17 THE COURT: Let's go back on the record. The testimony at approximately 11:40 this morning talks 18 about all three points. He actually talks about four 19 20 points. But all three or four points deal with informed consent. And, in fact, at 11:41 he specifically said: 22 "So in my opinion, to a reasonable degree 23 of medical certainty, or probability is the way 24 25 it's -- we have to phrase it, they fell below

1 the standard of care in meeting this 2 requirement of giving an ... informed consent." 3 And then it says, "In all three of those points." Well, he's actually talking about four points 5 that, but it was all referring to the informed consent, and he specifically said that as it related to that. 7 So my next question is: Does the case law require a standard of care opinion to be to a 8 reasonable degree? If so, in what case? Is that the 10 Prabu case? MR. VOGEL: Prabu, Fernandez versus Admirand. 11 There are numerous cases that say that. 12 13 There's a lot of them that talk THE COURT: about causation, and I know Prabu and Morsicato and a 14 bunch of those cases talk about causation. 15 16 I'm 99 percent sure Fernandez MR. VOGEL: versus Admirand requires that expert testimony on the 17 standard of care be given to a reasonable degree of 18 19 medical probability in a malpractice case. THE COURT: Can you find it? 20 21 MR. VOGEL: You looking at it? 22 MR. LEMONS: You want Prabu? 23 I've got Prabu. I've got a copy THE COURT: 24 of that case here, and I'm looking through, and I'm not 25 seeing that. It does talk about causation. Talks

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about the standard.
 1
 2
             MS. PATIN: Your Honor, while we're looking
   for that, may I take a look at Dr. Pallos's trial
   testimony because I distinctively remember the three
 4
   points that he alluded to. Then he started talking
 5
   about it, and then I asked him specifically if it was
   to a reasonable degree of medical probability. So I
 7
   don't know if we just haven't gone back far where I had
   him list those points and then asked him about it.
10
                         Talked about three points --
             THE COURT:
11
             MS. PATIN: Yeah.
             THE COURT: -- but the only part where he
12
13
   talked about reasonable degree of probability was four
14
   points dealing with the informed consent.
15
                         I guess -- okay.
             MS. PATIN:
16
             MR. VOGEL: Yes, it's Fernandez versus
17
   Admirand.
18
             THE COURT: What's the cite?
19
             MR. VOGEL: 843 P.2d 354 1992, Nevada Supreme
20
   Court.
21
             MR. LEMONS: In Banks, Your Honor, v.
   Sunrise, it says -- the Court is quoting from other
22
   cases, but it says, Generally a medical expert is
23
   expected -- a medical expert is expected to testify
24
25
   only to matters that conform to a reasonable degree of
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medical probability standard.
 2
             MS. GOODEY: Can we have a cite to that,
3
   please.
             MR. LEMONS: To Banks?
 4
 5
             MS. GOODEY:
                          Please.
 6
             MR. LEMONS: Pardon?
             MS. GOODEY: Please. Sorry to make you go
7
8
   all the way back.
9
             MR. LEMONS: I got to go all the way to the
10
   top.
11
             MR. VOGEL: And I got 120 Nev. Advance
   Opinion 89.
12
             MR. LEMONS: 120 Nev. 822 -- 822 -- I don't
13
14
   have a Pacific.
15
             THE COURT: Okay. I've looked at the
16
   Fernandez versus Admirand, A-d-m-i-r-a-n-d, case,
   108 Nev. 963, '92 case. This case essentially says
17
18
   that -- you know, in this case, they found that the
19
   doctor had to be qualified in order to talk about the
   standard of care. His opinions had to be -- had to
20
   have some basis for them. The only discussion about
22
   the reasonable medical probability is in the causation
23
   discussion at headnotes 9 and 10.
             That's -- I don't know if there's a case in
24
   Nevada that specifically has said that standard of care
25
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has to be addressed to that standard. That's what I'm
   looking for.
 3
             MR. LEMONS: Well --
             MR. VOGEL: I think the Banks case says that
 4
   all the testimony of an expert has to be to a
 5
   reasonable degree of medical probability standard.
7
             MR. LEMONS: That quote I just read from
8
   Banks says --
9
             THE COURT: I'm going to look at it.
10
             Is there a headnote or something in this --
11
             MR. LEMONS: In Banks?
             THE COURT: -- or do I have to read the 30
12
13
   pages?
             MR. LEMONS: Now I have to go back to it
14
   here.
15
16
             THE COURT: Headnote 13. Never mind.
                                                    I
17
   found it.
18
             MR. LEMONS: Correct.
19
             THE COURT: It's interesting because, even in
20
   Banks, they talk about NRS 41A.100 but -- that expert
   testimony is required to establish the accepted
22
   standard of care breach and causation. Generally a
   medical expert is expected to testify only to matters
23
   that conform to a reasonable degree of medical
24
25
   probability standard. And they cite to United
```

- 1 Exposition Service Company versus SIIS. And the rest
- 2 of the paragraph talks about the fact that causation
- 3 opinions have to be stated to that degree of
- 4 probability.
- There's not a lot of clear law in Nevada, is
- 6 there?
- 7 MS. GOODEY: The need for an appellate court,
- 8 | Your Honor.
- 9 MR. LEMONS: 41A.100 requires the testimony
- 10 on those issues be provided in a medical malpractice
- 11 case on all of those issues.
- 12 THE COURT: I agree.
- Was the question asked during Dr. Pallos's
- 14 deposition or in his report, does it say reasonable
- 15 degree of probability?
- MS. PATIN: Yes.
- 17 THE COURT: Case law says that I have to look
- 18 at all -- every reasonable inference in favor of the
- 19 | nonmoving party in a 41(a) motion. So while that
- 20 question probably should have been asked of the witness
- 21 on the stand, show me -- show me where it is in the
- 22 deposition or in a report.
- 23 MR. VOGEL: I'm looking at the word index for
- 24 Dr. Pallos's deposition and the word "probability" is
- 25 | not in it.

MS. PATIN: The first paragraph of his expert 2 report has it.

THE COURT: Can I see it? There's handwriting in here I'm not looking at, just so you know.

All right. I may be wrong about this. The supreme court needs to come up and decide clearly if that standard is required in standard of care opinion. I don't think that the cases that I'm looking, either Banks or the Fernandez case, are real clear on that issue. That's how I always practiced was that that question had to be asked of both the standard of care and the causation opinion. But I don't know that there's a case directly on point that says the standard of care has to be stated to that degree of reasonable probability. Maybe this is the case that we get the supreme court to decide that once and for all.

At this time, I think -- if I have to do everything in the light most favorable to the nonmoving party, I -- I think that he's at least raised an issue of fact as it relates to the issues other than the informed consent. I think the informed consent issue, he -- Dr. Pallos admitted that his opinion was based upon speculation and there was no foundation for it, so ...

MR. FRIEDMAN: Your Honor, just to fine line brief it as well. In terms of the issue of the — whoever may or may not have answered the phone, there was also — there was no foundation. He admitted that he was assuming that a phone call occurred and was answered by an employee, and then he admitted this specific question, that he could not state to a reasonable probability that whoever answered the phone was an employee of Summerlin Smiles or Dr. Lee. He admitted that. So, essentially, the basis for his opinions that flow through this alleged phone call, there is none. There is no basis for it.

Plaintiff already testified she didn't know who it was or what their position was or if they had a position. And --

THE COURT: I understand the argument. The problem is this: I mean, I know there's a question whether the phone call was made. If the phone call was made, is it — is it your position that somebody answered the phone at Summerlin Smiles that was a patient or cleaning person?

MR. FRIEDMAN: It's my position that it's the plaintiffs' burden to establish that an employee answered the phone. There has been no testimony in that regard at all. There's been no evidence of that.

1 The only evidence is that -- that they don't know.

2 | Nobody knows.

3 THE COURT: Well --

MR. FRIEDMAN: They have to establish that for their prima facie case, I believe, to have that opinion come in or that -- that evidence.

think that based upon Mrs. Singletary's testimony that the call was made, that she spoke with somebody, I think there's circumstantial evidence that if — if the call was made and somebody answered it, it was somebody from there. I mean, doesn't have to be direct. It can be circumstantial. There's going to be an instruction on that.

MR. LEMONS: Let me ask a question, Your Honor. Speaking of instructions, then, would there not be in the jury instructions in this case and in all medical malpractice case an instruction that the burden of the plaintiff is to prove standard of care breach, causation and damages to — to a degree of preponderance? Which, if so, that's probability — preponderance is more likely than not, as the Court would instruct, unless — unless there's not going to be such jury instructions and the breach of the standard of care could be to a 5 percent, I suppose

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that could be a breach of the standard of care
   standard. And then causation, if we assume that,
   causation is linked to damages by probability.
 3
             THE COURT: That's got to be a preponderance.
 4
             MR. LEMONS: Well, isn't that -- excuse me,
 5
   but I'm looking forward to jury instructions.
   that's preponderance, that's probability, and there is
   no evidence from Dr. Pallos that -- as to Dr. Park that
   there was a probability that he committed any act below
   the standard of care. And that's what I -- I -- I'm
10
   trying to -- to struggle with that.
11
12
             THE COURT: He didn't state the words
13
   "reasonable degree of probability" in his testimony, I
   agree. I think he did include Dr. Park as a treating
14
   physician and testified what he thought the treating
15
   physicians should have done as far as follow-up care
16
   and as far as the antibiotics are concerned.
17
18
             MR. VOGEL: I have the answer.
                                             It's in
19
   Morsicato versus Sav-on, Headnote 6, "Medical expert
   testimony regarding the standard of care and causation
20
21
   in any medical malpractice case must be based upon
22
   testimony made to a reasonable degree of medical
23
   probability. 121 Nev. 153, Headnote 6.
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MS. GOODEY: I'm sorry, you said

24

25

121 Nev. 153?

MR. VOGEL: 121 Nev. 153, Medical expert testimony regarding the standard of care and causation in a medical malpractice case must be based on testimony made to a reasonable degree of medical probability. And it references the Banks case at that note.

THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to give you a chance to argue, but here's what it says in Morsicato, "The medical opinion testimony related to the operation of equipment and not to any medical standard of care. However, the holding in Banks was not intended to modify or change in any way the requirement that medical expert testimony, regarding the standard of care and causation in a medical malpractice case, must be based on testimony made to a reasonable degree of medical probability.

"Since 1989, this court has held that 'a medical expert is expected to testify only to matters that conform to their reasonable degree of medical probability standard.'"

MS. PATIN: I just want to refer you back to the trial testimony. In the beginning, on page 47 beginning on line 15, we go through what his three main opinions are. It's the only time he makes reference to three points.

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1
             THE COURT:
                         Do you have times on that or no?
 2
             MS. PATIN:
                         There's no times.
 3
             MS. GOODEY: We have the PDF, Your Honor.
                   (Discussion was held off the record.)
 4
 5
             THE COURT: Okay. Tell me what you're
 6
   referring to.
7
             MS. PATIN: On page 47 is when he goes
   through his three main points. So when I asked him
 8
   with regard to the standard of care to a reasonable
10
   degree of medical probability, he says, with regard to
11
   informed consent and those three points, those are the
12
   three points, my understanding, is what he was
   referring to.
13
             THE COURT: Where's your question?
14
15
                         It was an objection. Oh, the
             MS. PATIN:
16
   question to the reasonable degree of medical
   probability?
17
18
             THE COURT:
                         Yep.
                         Sorry. It got stuck. I have to
19
             MS. PATIN:
   pull it up again.
20
21
             THE COURT: It's fine. Actually, when he
22
   starts talking about his three primary opinions is on
23
   the bottom of page 49, and the question is:
24
             "And after your review of all of the
25
        documents related to this case, did you
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formulate any opinions with regard to the standard of -- "standard of care?

"Yes, I have.

"What are those opinions?"

And he goes through his three opinions, and then you follow up on the three opinions. And the first one is the informed consent, and he had four opinions as it relates to that. And he stated those opinions to a reasonable degree of medical probability, but I've already found that he had no foundation for those opinions.

MS. PATIN: My understanding when he was testifying is that when he said in those three points, he's referring to his three main opinions not anything — he says informed consent, but he's referring — and those three points, meaning those three main opinions he had on the case. That was my understanding of his testimony.

THE COURT: But he specifically said in his answer as it relates to the informed consent.

Just so you have that, I think the only time he talked about a reasonable degree of probability was in the middle of page 65.

You guys have a copy of this too? Do you need it? She can e-mail it to you too.

1 (Discussion was held off the record.) 2 So, Ms. Patin, I guess my -- I'm THE COURT: 3 waiting to see if you can find something that --MS. PATIN: I mean, again, my 4 5 understanding --THE COURT: -- tell me that. 6 7 MS. PATIN: -- my understanding when he testified to a reasonable degree of medical probability 8 and he said in all three points, he's referring to his 10 three main opinions in this case. We go through his three main opinions. Then we go through -- we begin 11 the first one where he gets off the stand. He explains 12 13 everything to the jury, where he's looking at the tooth. We go through everything. He does talk about 14 informed consent. We get down to the bottom. 15 He talks 16 about informed consent again on page 65, and then he 17 says "in all three of those points." And my understanding when he testified to that, he was 18 testifying to his three main opinions, not three points 19 20 with regard to informed consent. 21 THE COURT: How do you deal with the fact 22 that the answer says, "So in my opinion, to a 23 reasonable degree of medical certainty, or probability is the way it's -- we have to phrase it, they fell 24 25 below the standard of care in meeting this requirement

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of giving an effective informed consent. In all three
   of those points"? You think the informed consent talks
   about one thing, but all three of those points refers
   to his three separate things?
 4
                         That was my understanding of his
 5
             MS. PATIN:
   testimony. Because we were talking about his three
   main points when we began the entire line of
 8
   questioning as far as what his opinions are in the
 9
   case.
10
             MR. FRIEDMAN: Where are we exactly, Your
11
   Honor?
12
             THE COURT: Page 65.
13
             MR. VOGEL: What line?
14
             THE COURT: Fourteen through 18.
             MR. VOGEL: Got it. Given the context there,
15
16
   Your Honor, and the fact that he discusses three points
   with respect to informed consent, I think it's quite
17
   clear he was talking about informed consent only.
18
             MS. PATIN: He actually discusses four points
19
   with regard to informed consent not three, which is why
20
21
22
             THE COURT: He does, and you started on the
23
   fourth.
24
             MS. PATIN: Which is -- so he -- he discusses
   four points, which is why I understood those -- in all
25
```

three of those points to be his three main opinions. He doesn't discuss three points, he discusses four, 3 so ... THE COURT: I think it's weak, but I think 4 that it might be enough to get you past the 41(a). I 5 don't know that I have a choice. I mean, if I grant a 41(a), I know it's going to get appealed. The cases 7 say I have to give every reasonable inference in favor of the nonmoving party. I mean --10 MR. VOGEL: Your Honor, the testimony --11 THE COURT: -- the fact that there are four 12 points as it relates to the informed consent, he 13 says -- I mean, this is the only time, I think, in the deposition he talked about reasonable degree of 14 probability. He talks about three points. 15 16 And it's the exact same three MS. PATIN: 17 points that are identified in his expert report. THE COURT: Well, we don't know what three 18 points it's referring to. That's the confusion. 19 MR. FRIEDMAN: Your Honor, maybe we should 20 take some time and brief this issue because, obviously, 22 it's very important. And I'm trying to pull it up on 23 this screen right here. 24 MR. LEMONS: Your Honor, just if -- that last

paragraph of that answer has been isolated.

25

answer itself is all about informed consent. 1 2 THE COURT: It is. 3 MR. LEMONS: It's all about explaining to the patient enough so that the patient would be informed and know what -- that entire answer is that. It has 5 nothing to do with the other issues despite an interpretation being given to it, the -- the actual 7 8 literal words don't say that. 9 THE COURT: The problem is he talks about four points as it relates to informed consent, and he 10 11 has three points that are his primary criticisms. 12 And then the other issue, it MS. PATIN: 13 doesn't say and in all three of those points. 14 completely different sentence referring to in all of those three points. Or in all three of those points. 15 16 THE COURT: Yeah, I think I'm going to deny a 17 41(a) for now. 18 MR. VOGEL: On all issues, Your Honor? 19 mean, including the legal issue with respect to the 20 independent contractor? 21 THE COURT: The independent contractor issue, 22 I --23 MR. VOGEL: How can he testify that she is legally responsible for someone who's not her employee? 24 25 They didn't provide any testimony indicating that she's

- 1 legally responsible. In fact, they can't. It's a
  2 legal question.
- THE COURT: I think that question may depend on the defendant's testimony as far as reliance.
- MR. VOGEL: Their case in chief is over,

  Judge. They don't have that testimony.
- 7 THE COURT: I understand.

13

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22

- MS. PATIN: We have the testimony from

  9 Cherisse that's only going to be further supported by

  10 the defendants in this case. So it's a question of

  11 fact that needs to go to the jury with regard to the

  12 borrowed servant issue.
  - MS. BROOKHYSER: And I would point out, Your Honor, the testimony of Cherisse didn't say anything about Dr. Traivai training, supervising, controlling any employee. They have attached as an exhibit, we can look at the transcript, she doesn't say that.

MS. PATIN: It's a question of fact as to

- whether or not she's an independent contractor. Cherisse testified to the fact that the dentists instructed the staff and they relied upon the instructions that were given to the staff.
- MR. LEMONS: Your Honor, it has to be testimony from an expert witness as to standard of care deviations. That's what the case is about. That's

1 what was pled. 2 MS. PATIN: Which he did testify --3 THE COURT: He did testify to that. MS. PATIN: And you're saying that that's not 4 enough. And now you're saying that's what he has to 5 6 testify. 7 MR. VOGEL: The bottom line is, the only evidence they presented on any sort of reliance issue -- well, they didn't. Cherisse never said 10 anything to that effect. They attached her entire transcript to their opposition. She didn't say 11 anything of that kind. If she did, I ask them to point 12 out where she said that. 13 THE COURT: I think Dr. Pallos testified that 14 there was -- his opinion to -- was that the standard of 15 16 care required -- I don't remember how you -- how he 17 phrased it. 18 MR. VOGEL: He phrased it as a legal opinion. 19 He said they're responsible. He said they're 20 responsible for the employees. 21 MS. PATIN: Under the standard of care. 22 And I think it's important MS. BROOKHYSER: 23 that he uses the word "employee," Your Honor, because none of these people are Dr. Traivai's employees. 24 She can argue that Dr. Traivai gives them instructions 25

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about what kind of procedure she wants to do. There's
   no evidence that Dr. Traivai employs these individuals.
 3
   None.
             MS. PATIN: And the question of whether or
 4
5
   not Dr. Traivai or Dr. Park is an independent
   contractor is a question of fact for the jury.
 6
7
             MR. VOGEL: Based on what? The only evidence
8
   we have is that she's an independent contractor.
             MS. GOODEY: That's not true, Your Honor.
9
   have the fact she works exclusively for Summerlin
10
   Smiles. We have the fact that she was receiving a
11
   steady paycheck. We've produced enough facts in our
12
13
   case in chief to undermine their theory, which is their
   burden to prove that she's in fact an independent
14
15
   contractor. There's no evidence that she is in fact an
   independent contractor. The evidence is to the
16
   contrary that she worked exclusively --
17
             THE COURT: All right. All right.
18
             MR. VOGEL: It's not our burden to prove.
19
20
             THE COURT: No, the plaintiff has the burden
21
            But
   to prove.
22
             MS. PATIN: We have the burden to prove --
23
             MS. BROOKHYSER:
                              Even if she is an
24
   independent contractor, Your Honor --
25
                         I think I'm going to allow the
             THE COURT:
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remainder of the issues to go to the jury with the exception of the informed consent issue. I think the informed consent issue is clear, at least in my mind, that Dr. Pallos admitted he didn't have a foundation for that opinion.

Now, as far as the employee/independent contractor issue, I'm assuming that there's going to be testimony from the defendants in regard to that issue. I'm assuming that based upon that testimony, there will be a proposed instruction. It may resolve the issue for you there.

MR. LEMONS: Your Honor, the -- the complaint that was filed and served in this case has as a first cause of action a cause of action for malpractice against individual Dr. Traivai and Dr. Park and then against Summerlin Smiles. The other causes of action which have to do with entity negligence is pled only as to Defendant Summerlin Smiles. Negligent hiring, supervision, training, pled only to Defendant Summerlin Smiles. There's no reference to any such claim against Dr. Park or against Dr. Traivai, if I may. I mean, it's not even pled, let alone proven.

THE COURT: How do you address that?

MS. PATIN: With regard to the negligence in the first cause of action, the negligence as to all

defendants with regard to failure to offer an appointment to decedent, Reginald Singletary; failure to examine him when alerted to potential postoperative 3 complications; failure to diagnose the postoperative 4 5 conditions; failure to treat the postoperative complications; failure to provide decedent --7 Slow down. THE COURT: 8 MS. PATIN: Sorry. -- Reginald Singletary referral to a 9 specialist; failure to document a dental file. 10 The 11 allegation of negligence is to all of the defendants. 12 We're not alleging that Dr. Park or 13 Dr. Traivai had negligent hiring. It's with regard to whether or not the fact that this staff member failed 14 to properly instruct Svetlana Singletary when she 15 called on behalf of Reginald Singletary, whether it was 16 negligence on her part in her -- when she instructed or 17 improperly instructed Svetlana Singletary with regard 18 to those complaints. And it's stated specifically in 19 20 our first cause of action. And whether or not Dr. Traivai and Dr. Park are responsible for that.

MS. BROOKHYSER: Your Honor, the only way that that negligent act of that employee is imputed on to Dr. Park or Dr. Traivai is if they employ the employee who was negligent and there is no --

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1
             MR. LEMONS: Your Honor, excuse me. It's not
   correct that anything about the employee is mentioned
   in the first cause of action. It's not -- the
   training, supervision, and hiring is a later cause of
 5
   action against Summerlin Smiles only. So it is not
   correct that the employee issue is encompassed
   within -- plaintiffs' counsel just read the specific
   allegations. They're all treatment allegations.
 8
   And -- and 95 percent of them have no support from the
   testimony in this case. But they were pled at least.
10
11
   The rest of this hasn't been pled as to Dr. Park.
12
             MR. VOGEL: Or Dr. Traivai.
13
             THE COURT: Give me a minute to look at it,
14
   guys. Is there an amended complaint or just one?
15
             MR. VOGEL:
                         Just one.
16
             MR. LEMONS: Just one complaint, Your Honor.
17
             THE COURT: How do you guys address
   paragraph 25, subparagraph D, failure to offer an
18
19
   appointment in response to the telephone call?
20
             MR. LEMONS: Um, Your Honor, if I may, to
   read that paragraph, you have to read the general
22
   allegation No. 18 which gives the allegation against
23
   Summerlin Smiles and Summerlin Smiles' Employee Doe.
   Doesn't allege that the telephone call was known about,
24
25
   talked to, or notified to either Dr. Park or
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- 1 Dr. Traivai. It's just Summerlin Smiles.
- 2 MR. VOGEL: And, Your Honor -- in addition,
- 3 Your Honor, the evidence in this case was that an
- 4 appointment was given.
- 5 MS. PATIN: An appointment was not given in
- 6 response to the telephone call.
- 7 But with regard to the allegations that are
- 8 | specifically stated under the first cause of action,
- 9 it's all against all of the defendants in this case,
- 10 all four defendants in this case. Defendants and/or
- 11 their agents, and it should be broadly construed. It's
- 12 a notice pleading state.
- 13 THE COURT: I'm going to let it go to the
- 14 jury, guys. I don't think I can rule as a matter of
- 15 law and eliminate the case at this point based on what
- 16 we have. With the exception of the informed consent.
- 17 | That's not going to go to them.
- 18 MR. FRIEDMAN: Your Honor, just briefly for
- 19 the record, I just wanted to make sure I joined in the
- 20 | 41(b) motion relative to the lack of any testimony from
- 21 Dr. Pallos relative to reasonable -- reasonable dental
- 22 probability. Thank you.
- THE COURT: Okay. It's 4:35. Did you want
- 24 to put Dr. Lee on for a little while today?
- MR. FRIEDMAN: I would just as soon start in

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the morning, Your Honor.
 1
 2
             THE COURT: You're going to put experts on in
 3
   the morning.
             MR. FRIEDMAN: Well, I don't expect the
 4
   experts to take very long. Dr. Lee, for that matter,
 5
   is going to be half an hour for me.
7
             THE COURT: Okay. I'm going to bring the
8
   jurors back and let's admonish them. Actually, they've
   already been admonished. Anybody have a problem with
   just sending them home and telling them to come back at
10
   9:00 o'clock tomorrow?
11
12
             MS. PATIN: No, Your Honor.
13
             THE COURT: Yeah, that's fine. Let's bring
   them back. I'll just tell them that -- bring them back
14
   for a minute. I'll just excuse them, and we'll start
15
16
   up in the morning again.
17
             THE MARSHAL: All rise for the presence of
   the jury.
18
19
                   (The following proceedings were held in
20
                   the presence of the jury.)
21
             THE COURT: Go ahead and be seated.
22
   back, folks. We're back on the record, Case
23
   No. A656091.
             Parties stipulate to the presence of the
24
25
   jury?
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1 MS. PATIN: Yes, Your Honor.

MR. FRIEDMAN: Yes, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Ladies and gentlemen, I apologize for the delay. You've been out there for a while. We weren't playing around. We were actually working in here. I understand that that's frustrating to you sometimes if you have to wait in the hallway and you don't know what's going on. We're now at 4:48 in the afternoon. Instead of calling another witness that's not going to get done today, I'm just going to let you go home. We're going to start up tomorrow morning at 9:00 o'clock.

Tomorrow will be a shorter day. We're going to be done by 3:30 in the afternoon. So if that helps you to plan. Monday, I think we'll probably have another early start day. Not — not Monday. I'm sorry. Monday's a holiday. So Tuesday we have a calendar. I'll let you know tomorrow what time we can start on Tuesday because I don't know how long my calendar is in the morning.

For this evening, you're instructed when you leave not to talk with each other or with anyone else, about any subject or issue connected with this trial. You are not to read, watch, or listen to any report of or commentary on the trial by any person connected with

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this case or by any medium of information, including,
   without limitation, newspapers, television, the
   Internet, or radio. You are not to conduct any
   research on your own, which means you cannot talk with
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   others, Tweet others, text others, Google issues, or
 5
   conduct any other kind of book or computer research
   with regard to any issue, party, witness, or attorney,
   involved in this case. You're not to form or express
 8
   any opinion on any subject connected with this trial
   until the case is finally submitted to you.
10
             See you tomorrow morning at 9:00.
11
12
             THE COURT: I had to bring you all back
13
   because some of you had left your personal stuff in
   here. Have a good night, folks.
14
15
                   (The following proceedings were held
16
                   outside the presence of the jury.)
17
             THE COURT: All right. We're outside the
   presence of the jury. If we're going to do experts and
18
   defendants tomorrow, do we have, like, a proposed
19
20
   schedule?
21
             MR. FRIEDMAN: I'm sorry, Your Honor.
22
   call Dr. Lee first, and then -- I'm sorry. Oh.
23
             MR. VOGEL:
                         Okay.
24
             MR. FRIEDMAN:
                            And then Dr. Ardary will come
25
   on right after lunch.
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THE COURT: So we've got -- you guys were
 1
2
   kind of mumbling not talking.
 3
             MR. VOGEL: Sorry. It looks like --
             THE COURT: You're going to start with
 4
5
   Dr. Lee?
             MR. VOGEL: It looks like Dr. Lee is going to
 6
   testify tomorrow, Dr. Levitt, Dr. Sandrock, Dr. Ardary.
 7
   If there's time after all that, Dr. Traivai, Dr. Park.
 9
             THE COURT: Okay. Then on Tuesday, we're
10
   going to get a little bit later start. Is it the plan
11
   Tuesday to put on additional witnesses or to do jury
   instructions or what's our plan Tuesday? I'm just
12
13
   trying to schedule a little bit, so ...
             MR. VOGEL: Tuesday, I guess, would be if we
14
   haven't finished up the defendants, finish up the
15
16
   defendants and then Kirkendall. And that's it.
17
             THE COURT: Which should still leave us time
18
   to put the jury instructions on the record and be ready
19
   for Wednesday morning.
20
             MR. VOGEL: Closing.
21
             THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thanks, guys.
22
             Anything else today?
23
             MS. PATIN: No, Your Honor.
24
             MR. VOGEL: No, Your Honor.
25
             THE COURT: All right. Off the record.
                                                      Have
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a goodnight, guys.
 2
                    (Thereupon, the proceedings
                     adjourned at 4:40 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER
2	
3	STATE OF NEVADA )  ss:
4	COUNTY OF CLARK ) I, Kristy L. Clark, a duly commissioned
5	Notary Public, Clark County, State of Nevada, do hereby
6	certify: That I reported the proceedings commencing on
7	Thursday, January 16, 2014, at 10:05 o'clock a.m.
8	That I thereafter transcribed my said
9	shorthand notes into typewriting and that the
10	typewritten transcript is a complete, true and accurate
11	transcription of my said shorthand notes.
12	I further certify that I am not a relative or
13	employee of counsel of any of the parties, nor a
14	relative or employee of the parties involved in said
15	action, nor a person financially interested in the
16	action.
17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand in my
18	office in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, this
19	14th day of March, 2014.
20	
21	Kadylak
22	KRISTY I. CLARK, CCR #708
23	
24	
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JUDGE JI IENT XX3	
DISTRICT DEPARTM	28
DIST DEP.	

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA		CLERK OF THE COURT	
SVETLANA SINGLETARY, e	et al,		
Plaintiff,	)	Case No. A656091	
VS.	)	Dept. XXX	
TON LEE, DDS., et al	ý		
Defendar	nts. )		

#### NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an ORDER on Defendant Traivai's and Lee's Motions for Judgment as a Matter of Law Pursuant to NRCP 50(B), and Motion for Remittitur in the above-entitled case was entered on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014, a copy of which is attached hereto.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2014, I mailed the NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER by depositing a true copy thereof in the U.S. Mail in Las Vegas, Nevada, first-class postage fully prepared, addressed as follows:

Ingrid Patin, Esq.	Brent Vogel
7925 W. Russell Rd, #401714	6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Ste 600
Las Vegas, Nevada 89140	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Counsel for Plaintiff	Counsel for Defendants Florida Traivai, DMD

Jason Friedman, Esq.
200 W. Sahara, #1401
Las Vegas, NV 89102
Counsel for Defendants Ton Vinh Lee and Ton Lee, DDS, Frof. Corp.

Tatyana Ristic, JEA Department XXX

Electronically Filed 07/16/2014 12:59:08 PM

**ORDR** 

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DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CLERK OF THE COURT

\*\*\*

SVETLANA SINGLETARY, et al

Plaintiffs

V.

TON LEE, DDS., et al,

Defendants

CASE NO. A656091 DEPT. XXX

ORDER ON DEFENDANT
TRAIVAI'S AND LEE'S
MOTIONS FOR JUDGMENT
AS A MATTER OF LAW
PURSUANT TO NRCP 50(B),
AND MOTION FOR
REMITTITUR

#### INTRODUCTION

Defendants, Florida Traivai, DMD and Ton V. Lee, DDS d/b/a Summerlin Smiles, each filed a Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law Pursuant to NRCP 50(b). Such Motions came on for hearing on June 26, 2014. Having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file, having heard oral argument by the parties, and good cause appearing, the Court now issues its Order.

This is a case in which plaintiffs – the wife, child, and estate – sued for dental malpractice/wrongful death. Decedent Reginald Singletary went to Dr. Park at Summerlin Smiles for a wisdom tooth extraction on April 16, 2011. Following the tooth extraction, Reginald did not do well. His condition deteriorated from April 21, 2011, to April 24, 2011, and he passed away on April 25, 2011, due to necrotizing mediastinitis and septic shock due to Ludwig's Angina from dental abscess.

The case was tried by a Jury from January 13, 2014, through January 22, 2014, and resulted in a verdict in favor of the Plaintiffs.

#### **ARGUMENT**

Defendants both now argue, pursuant to NRCP 50(b), that a Judgment as a Matter of Law should be granted in favor of the Defendants, and against the Plaintiffs, due to the fact that Plaintiff failed to offer his opinions regarding standard of care and causation to a reasonable degree of medical probability. Defendants further argue that if the Court is now willing to grant Judgment as a Matter of Law in favor of the Defendants, the Court should reduce the Plaintiffs' noneconomic damages by Remittitur to \$350,000, pursuant to NRS 41A.035

Plaintiffs argue initially that the Defendants are precluded from bringing an NRCP 50(b) Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law now, because the Defendants brought an NRCP 41(b) Motion to Dismiss during trial, and not an NRCP 50(b) Motion, and consequently, the Defendants are now precluded from "renewing" an NRCP 50(b) motion. Additionally, Plaintiffs argue that Dr. Pallos did offer his opinions, to a "reasonable degree of medical probability," and that when he stated those words on pg. 67 of the transcript, he was referring to his three main opinions regarding standard of care, and not the requirements of informed consent.

#### LEGAL ANALYSIS. FINDINGS OF FACT, AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Both Defendants have brought a Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law pursuant to NRCP 50(b). NRCP 50(b) reads as follows:

- (b) Renewing motion for judgment after trial; alternative motion for new trial. If, for any reason, the court does not grant a motion for judgment as a matter of law made at the close of all the evidence, the court is considered to have submitted the action to the jury subject to the court's later deciding the legal questions raised by the motion. The movant may renew its request for judgment as a matter of law by filing a motion no later than 10 days after service of written notice of entry of judgment and may alternatively request a new trial or join a motion for new trial under Rule 59. In ruling on a renewed motion the court may:
  - (1) If a verdict was returned;
  - (A) Allow the judgment to stand,
  - (B) order a new trial, or

(C) direct entry of judgment as a matter of law; or

(NRCP 50[b]).

The Editor's Note with regard to rule 50(b) reads in part as follows:

Subdivision (b) is amended to conform to the 1991 amendment to the federal rule. The Nevada rule was amended in 1971 to delete the requirement under the then-existing federal rule that a motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict did not lie unless it was preceded by a motion for a directed verdict. The revised rule takes the same approach as the federal rule, as amended in 1963 and 1991, that a post-verdict motion for judgment as a matter of law is a renewal of an earlier motion made before or at the close of evidence. Thus, a "renewed" motion filed under subdivision (b) must have been preceded by a motion filed at the time permitted by subdivision (a)(2)....

(NRCP50 [Editor's Note]).

Plaintiff argues that Defendants' Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law is inappropriate, as Defendants never made a Rule 50(b) Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law during Trial, but instead brought a Rule 41(b) Motion to Dismiss.

NRCP 41(b) reads as follows:

(b) Involuntary dismissal: Effect thereof. For failure of the plaintiff to comply with these rules or any order of court, a defendant may move for dismissal of an action or of any claim against the defendant. Unless the court in its order for dismissal otherwise specifies, a dismissal under this subdivision and any dismissal not provided for in this rule, other than a dismissal for lack of jurisdiction, for improper venue, or for failure to join a party under Rule 19, operates as an adjudication upon the merits.

(NRCP 41[b]).

The Editor's Note to NRCP 41 states in pertinent part as follows:

Subdivision (b) is amended to conform to the 1963 and 1991 amendments to the federal rule by removing the second sentence, which authorized the defendant to file a motion for involuntary dismissal at the close of the plaintiff's evidence in jury and nonjury cases when the plaintiff had "failed to prove a sufficient case for the court or jury." For a nonjury case, the device is replaced by the new provisions of Rule 52(c), which authorize the court to enter judgment on partial findings against the plaintiff as well as the defendant. For a jury case, the correct motion is the motion for judgment as a matter of law under amended Rule 50.

(NRCP 41, Editor's Note).

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In the case of Lehtola v. Brown Nevada Corporation, 82 Nev. 132, 412 P.2d 972 (1966), the Nevada Supreme Court addressed facts similar to the facts in the present case. In that case the Plaintiffs received jury verdicts in their favor, which were set aside by the trial court and a judgment notwithstanding the verdicts (JNOV's) were entered for the Defendant. In reviewing the case on appeal, the Nevada Supreme Court noted that at the close of the plaintiffs' case in chief, the defendant moved for involuntary dismissal pursuant to NRCP 41(b). The judge reserved ruling and the defendant presented his case. Thereafter, the Court did not rule on the 41(b) motion and the Defendant did not make a motion for directed verdict at the close of the case. The Defendant proceeded to argue that the lower court could treat the mid-trial motion as a motion for a directed verdict at the close of the case, thereby providing the necessary foundation for the later motion for JNOV. The Nevada Supreme Court did not agree. The Court acknowledged that a 41(b) motion for involuntary dismissal made at the close of Plaintiff's case in chief and a 50(a) motion for a directed verdict made at the close of Plaintiff's case in chief were functionally indistinguishable. The Court stated, "However, it does not follow that a 41(b) motion at the close of the plaintiffs' case may serve as a motion for a directed verdict as contemplated by Rule 50 to establish a basis for a subsequent motion for a judgment n.o.v. A 50(a) motion must be made at the close of all the evidence if the movant wishes later to make a postverdict motion under that rule." (Id., at 136). The Court further stated that "A 41(b) mid-trial motion necessarily tests the evidence as it then exists. Here the court reserved ruling on that motion. Thereafter, the complexion of the case changed as the defendant offered evidence. The record does not show that at the close of the case the defendant requested a ruling on the mid-trial motion, and no motion was made for a directed verdict. Nothing occurred. The lower

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court therefore, was not authorized to entertain a postverdict motion under 50(b)."
(Id., at 136).1

The Court must address what motions were made by the Defense at the close of Plaintiff's case, and what motions were made at the close of the evidence, to determine if the Defendants preserved their right to bring a post-trial Rule 50 motion.

On January 16, 2014, at the close of the Plaintiffs' case in chief, the Defendants each made a NRCP "Rule 41(b) motion." Mr. Vogel stated, "On behalf of Dr. Traivai, I would like to make a Rule 41(b) motion. Based on the testimony of plaintiffs' expert, they have not established that there was a deviation of the standard of care, an admissible - admissible testimony of a deviation of the standard of care on behalf of Dr. Traivai. . . " (See Trial Transcript 1/16/14, at pg. 160). Mr. Friedman similarly stated, "And, Your Honor, I made the - a motion also on 41(b) relative to Dr. Lee as well as Summerlin Smiles. There's been no testimony whatsoever that the person who answered the phone, if anybody answered the phone, was an employee of Summerlin Smiles or Dr. Lee. . . . " (See Trial Transcript 1/16/14, at pg. 161). Mr. Lemons did not refer to Rule 41(b) or to Rule 50, but stated the following: "And I'm going to make a similar motion on behalf of Dr. Park, Your Honor, but for a little different grounds. Dr. Pallos testified that Dr. Park's involvement in the extraction process accorded with the standard of care, and he didn't specify any deviation from the standard of care to a reasonable degree of medical probability as to Dr. Park in his testimony. . . ." (See Trial Transcript 1/16/14, at pg. 161).

. . . . :

It should be noted that in 1966, NRCP 41(b) allowed a Defendant to make a motion, at the close of Plaintiff's evidence, for dismissal on the ground that the Plaintiff had failed to prove a sufficient case for the court or jury. Rule 50(a) allowed for a motion for a directed verdict to be made at the close of the evidence offered by an opponent or at the close of the case. Rule 50(b) provided that if a motion for directed verdict made at the close of all the evidence was denied or not granted, the court was deemed to have submitted the action to the jury subject to a later determination of the legal question raised by motion. Not later than 10 days after service of the written notice of entry of judgment, the party who moved for a directed verdict could move again to have the verdict and any judgment entered thereon set aside and to have a judgment entered in accordance with the motion for directed verdict. (Lehtola v. Brown, at FN 1).

In response to the Defendants' Motions, the Court and the attorneys participated in an exchange regarding whether, and to what extent, Dr. Pallos had offered any opinions to a "reasonable degree of medical probability." There was also a discussion regarding whether any case law required "standard of care" opinions to be stated to a "reasonable degree of medical probability." The Court noted that Dr. Pallos admitted with regard to the "informed consent issue," that his opinion was based on speculation, and that he had no foundation for it, and consequently, the Court struck that claim. (See Trial Transcript 1/16/14, at pg. 173).

Counsel for Dr. Lee and Summerlin Smiles argued that the Plaintiff could not establish who, if anyone, answered the phone, and consequently, the Plaintiff's claims against Dr. Lee and Summerlin Smiles failed. The Court concluded that based upon Ms. Singletary's testimony that a call was made, and that she spoke with somebody, there was at least "circumstantial evidence" that the Jury could rely on in that regard.

After reviewing the case of *Morsicato v. Sav-On Drug Stores*, 121 Nev. 153, 111 P.3d 1112 (2005), the Court concluded that expert testimony regarding both "standard of care" and "causation," needed to be stated to a "reasonable degree of medical probability." The *Morsicato* case specifically says that "medical expert testimony, regarding the standard of care and causation in a medical malpractice case, must be based on testimony made to a reasonable degree of medical probability." (*Id.*, at pg. 158). During the hearing on the Defendants' Motions for Judgment as a Matter of Law, it was argued that there was a difference between requiring an opinion to be "based on" a reasonable degree of medical probability, and requiring the witness to "state" that the opinion is "to a reasonable degree of medical probability." The Supreme Court in *Morsicato*, however, indicated that "medical expert testimony regarding standard of care and causation must be **stated** to a reasonable degree of medical probability." (Id., at pg. 158, emphasis added).

In the case at issue, Dr. Pallos only used the words, "to a reasonable degree of medical certainty, or probability," one time. (See Trial Transcript 1/16/14, at pg. 67).

The Defendants argue that Dr. Pallos' only opinion stated to a reasonable degree of medical probability related to "informed consent," an opinion the court later struck as having no foundation. The Plaintiffs, on the other hand, argue that Dr. Pallos' opinion given on 1/16/14, related not to the "informed consent" issue, but to the three general opinions that Dr. Pallos offered. After being qualified as an expert, the relevant questions and answers went substantially as follows:

O. ... did you formulate any opinions with regard to the standard of care?

A. Yes, I have. Q. Okay. What are those opinions (See Transcript 1/16/14, at pg. 51)

A. One of the things required by the standard of care is that we obtain what's

an informed consent. Very important. That means I - before I cut you, before I do surgery, before I have permission to do those procedures that could harm you, I have to inform you of what I'm going to do. What else could be done instead of what I am proposing to do that I consider to be in your best interest? What other methods are there? And what risks are associated with what I'm going to do? . . .

14

I believe in this case that was not followed, and there was a failure in following the standard of care relative to this item called the informed consent. ... (See Transcript 1/16/14, at pg. 52)

Number 2, antibiotics . . . We have to either give that antibiotic, make that antibiotic accessible to that patient, or follow that patient like a dog on bone to make sure that person does not need the antibiotic, if we choose not to prescribe that antibiotic. . . .

18

Number 3, the follow up is required, whether I choose to call the patient or I hire an employee who calls the patient on my behalf. Very important not to abandon, neglect, leave that patient ....

So that is my opinion in a nutshell regarding those three categories. (See Transcript, 1/16/14, at pg. 53).

Q. .... Let's start with No. 1 and get specific with regard to how the dentist in this case acted below the standard of care with regard to informed consent.

A. .... The first thing required is that I tell you what the procedure is that I'm about

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to do or want to do. . . . (See Transcript, 1/16/14, at pg. 54).

A. So this patient had a chronic infection in the opinion of the doctor who treated or

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at least got the consent. Okay? So she had to tell him this. You know, your tooth is dead. Your pulp is necrotic. You have a periodontal infection. You have a chronic infection. There exists that infection. Okay. So that's No. 1 she had to tell him this.

1	Number 2, are there alternatives to taking out the tooth (See
	Transcript, 1/16/14, at pg. 61).
2	Q. Dr. Pallos, now that you've kind of explained to us with regard to this
3	tooth, which is Tooth No. 32, and the condition of that tooth, can you continue explaining to us how the dentist in this case acted below the standard of care
4	with regard to informed consent.
5	A So the first thing regarding the requirement for an adequate minimum informed consent is that we tell the patient what we want to do
6	Now, the second component that's required is that we talk about an alternative method.
7	Requirement No. 3 is I have to communicate with you what may happen
8	if I do this so that we can get through it together and you'll end up better than you are now. Okay? And what's required there is that I tell about the risks if I
9	do this surgery
	So we have these three requirements.
11	After that, the fourth requirement is all these things have to be written down, and you get to sign that you still want to do this (See Transcript,
12	1/16/14, at pgs. 62-64).
13	Q. So let's start with the fourth part of this do you have any opinion with
14	regard to whether or not that informed consent form was not proper in any way?
15	A. Okay. There's a form that we all get some kind of version of that form. It's
16	supposed to contain at least these three ingredients: What I want to do, what's the procedure that I want to do, what are the alternatives to that procedure,
17 18	and what are the risks if I do this And yes, it meets the standard in that sense. And so I don't have any objection about the form.
	Q. Now, with regard to the other three parts of the informed consent
19	discussion, in what way did Dr. Traivai's informed consent discussion not meet
20	the standard of care? You've explained to us what's required. How did it not meet the standard of care?
21	A. Okay. By what happened in this case, by the behavior of this person, he
22	was not prepared to know whether his infection was getting worse to the point where he needed urgent attention and life-saving antibiotics. In my opinion,
23	they fell short of meeting the goal of explaining, listen, it's an infection So in my opinion, to a reasonable degree of medical
24	certainty, or probability is the way it's – we have to phrase it, they fell
25	below the standard of care in meeting this requirement of giving an effective informed consent. In all three of those points.
26	Q. Dr. Pallos, we were talking about the first opinion that you have with
27	regard to informed consent and how the dentist violated the standard of care
28	with regard to the informed consent discussion (See Transcript, 1/16/14, at pgs. 65-68, emphasis added).
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

In reviewing the transcript during Trial, the Court could not determine whether Dr. Pallos' opinion to a reasonable degree of medical probability was related solely to the "informed consent" opinion or if it related to the three general opinions, which Dr. Pallos set forth in pgs. 52 and 53 of the Transcript. However, in meticulously reviewing the transcript in its entirety, it is evident that the Court must agree with Defendants; Dr. Pallos' opinion, which he offered to a "reasonable degree of medical probability," only related to the 3 points that he referenced dealing with the "informed consent" opinion. He was not critical of the "form" used, which he referenced as the "fourth requirement," but he was critical of the other three (3) elements which he discussed relating to informed consent. ([1] What the procedure is/ What the problem is; [2] What are the alternatives; and [3] What are the risks.) Plaintiff's counsel's follow-up questioning makes it even more clear that the opinions Dr. Pallos was offering were limited to the "informed consent" issue.

The only opinion that Dr. Pallos stated to a "reasonable degree of medical probability" was stricken for lack of foundation. The question then becomes whether or not the other opinions that Dr. Pallos offered should have also been stricken, due to the fact that they were not offered to a reasonable degree of medical probability. The language referenced above, from the *Morsicato* case, indicates very clearly that "medical expert testimony regarding standard of care and causation must be stated to a reasonable degree of medical probability. . ." (*Morsicato*, at pg. 158). The Nevada Supreme Court recently issued a decision, however, that may be interpreted as relaxing that standard. In the case of *FCH1*, *LLC v. Rodriguez*, 130 Nev. Adv. Op. 46 (Nev. 2014), the District Court struck the testimony of the Palms' experts on security and crowd control, and economics because they failed to offer their opinions "to a reasonable degree of professional probability." (*FCH1*, at pg. 5) The District Court relied on *Hallmark* in making its decision. The Nevada Supreme Court indicated that "*Hallmark*'s refrain is functional, not talismanic, because the 'standard for admissibility varies depending upon the expert opinion's nature and purpose.""

(FCH1, at pg. 5, citing to Morsicato at pg. 157.) The Court stated, "Thus, rather than listening for specific words the district court should have considered the purpose of the expert testimony and its certainty in light of its context." (FCH1, at pg. 5, citing to Williams v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court, 262 P.3d 360, 368 [2011]).

It has been argued recently that the FCH1 case intended to relax the standard to which expert testimony should be held. The Court's language indicating that the "standard for admissibility varies depending upon the expert opinion's nature and purpose," is still quite ambiguous and we have no guidance as to what the court was referring to. The nature and purpose of Dr. Pallos, the Plailntiff's expert, was to provide expert opinion testimony regarding "standard of care" and "causation" in this claim for alleged medical malpractice. The Nevada Supreme Court has clearly held in the past that "medical expert testimony regarding standard of care and causation must be stated to a reasonable degree of medical probability." (Morsicato at pg. 158). Since the Supreme Court cited to Morsicato in its FCH1 case, but did not specifically overrule Morsicato, this Court must conclude that it was not the intention of the Nevada Supreme Court to change the standard which is required of a medical expert when testifying as to standard of care and causation, and that such testimony must still be offered "to a reasonable degree of medical probability."

Based upon the foregoing, this Court must conclude that Dr. Pallos' testimony regarding standard of care and causation, which formed the basis for the Jury's verdict in favor of the Plaintiff, should have been stricken because it was not stated to a "reasonable degree of medical probability."

With regard to the issue of whether the Defendant's Rule 41(b) Motions at the close of Plaintiffs' case, and at the close of the evidence, was sufficient to preserve the issue for a post-trial motion, this Court believes, similarly to the Court in *Lehtola*, that an NRCP 41(b) Motion and an NRCP 50(a) Motion are "functionally indistinguishable." The better and clearer practice would be to call it an NRCP 50(a) Motion, when moving for Judgment as a Matter of Law, but whether it was called a

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41(b) Motion or a rule 50 Motion, the Defendants effectively sought judgment as a matter of law. Such Motion was based on the contention that the Plaintiffs had failed to make a prima facie case, due to the lack of standard of care and causation testimony, to a reasonable degree of medical probability.

The Defendants did not make a motion at the close of the evidence, for judgment as a matter of law. There was some discussion with Mr. Lemons, who represented Dr. Park, on January 21, 2014, with regard to the standard to which an economic expert must testify. The Court allowed the economic expert's testimony, even though it was not offered to a reasonable degree of medical probability, because the Court found such testimony to be based upon the expert's expertise, and to satisfy the Hallmark requirements. (See FCH1, LLC at pg. 5). There was no additional request from any attorney or party for judgment as a matter of law, with regard to the argument that Dr. Pallos' testimony was not stated to the necessary standard. The Lehtola case seems to indicate that a motion must be made at the close of the evidence but this Court does not find that the state of the evidence, with regard to that issue, was any different at the close of the evidence than it was at the close of the Plaintiff's case in chief. Additionally, Rule 50 indicates that a motion for judgment as a matter of law "may be made at the close of the evidence offered by the nonmoving party or at the close of the case." (NRCP 50[A][2], emphasis added). An additional distinction between the present case and the Lehtola case, is that the Judge in that case reserved ruling on the motion for judgment as a matter of law, which was made at the close of Plaintiff's case, and then did not rule on it at the end of the Trial either. Consequently, it could not provide the pre-requisite for renewal of a motion for judgment as a matter of law. In the present case, the Court denied the Defendant's motion for judgment as a matter of law made at the close of the Plaintiffs' case. CONCLUSION.

Based upon the foregoing, and good cause appearing, this Court concludes that although Defendants called their motions "41(b)" motions, instead of "50(a)" motions,

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the Defendants' Motions to Dismiss, stated pursuant to NRCP 41(b), were effectively motions for judgment as a matter of law. Consequently, they were sufficient to form the basis for an NRCP 50(b) "renewal" of a Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law.

After considering the relevant trial transcripts, the Court concludes that Dr. Pallos, who was the Plaintiffs' only standard of care and causation expert, failed to state his opinions to a reasonable degree of medical probability. (With the exception of his opinion relating to informed consent, which the Court struck at the time of Trial as having no foundation). The Court further concludes that a medical expert's testimony "regarding standard of care and causation must be stated to a reasonable degree of medical probability," (Morsicato, at pg. 158), and that the case of FCH1, LLC v. Rodriguez, 130 Nev. Adv. Op. 46 (Nev. 2014), did not overrule the specific holding of Morsicato.

Although the Court is reluctant to do so, based upon the fact that the Plaintiffs failed to establish the standard of care, a breach of the standard of care, or causation, to a reasonable degree of medical probability, the Court has no choice but to grant the Defendant's Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law, vacate the Jury's Verdict, and enter Judgment as a Matter of Law in favor of the Defendants. The Defendants' alternative Motion for Remittitur is rendered Moot. Consequently, and good cause appearing therefor,

Defendant Lee d/b/a Summerlin Smiles' Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law is hereby **GRANTED**;

Defendant Florida Traivai's Motion for Judgment as a Matter of Law is hereby GRANTED.

DATED this day of July, 2014.

DESTRICT COURT JUDGE DEPARTMENT XXX

Case A656091

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**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

1 Lloyd W. Baker, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6893

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v.

Ingrid Patin, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 011239

**BAKER LAW OFFICES** 

500 S. Eighth Street

Las Vegas, NV 89101 Telephone: (702) 360-4949

Facsimile: (702) 360-3234

Attorneys for Plaintiff

#### DISTRICT COURT

# **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually, as the Representative of the Estate of REGINALD SINGLETARY, and as parent and legal guardian of GABRIEL L. SINGLETARY, a Minor,

Plaintiff,

TON VINH LEE, DDS, individually, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD, individually, JAI PARK, DDS, individually; TON V. LEE, DDS, PROF. CORP., a Nevada Professional Corporation d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, DOE SUMMERLIN SMILES EMPLOYEE, and DOES I through X and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-12-656091-C

Dept. No.: 30

JUDGMENT ON JURY VERDICT FOR DEFENDANT TON VINH LEE, DDS

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# JUDGMENT ON JURY VERDICT FOR DEFENDANT TON VINH LEE, DDS

This action came on for trial before the Eighth Judicial District Court and a jury on January 13, 2014, before Honorable Jerry A. Wiese, II, District Judge, presiding, and the issues having been duly tried and the jury having duly rendered its verdict,

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, that judgment be entered in favor of Defendant Ton Vinh Lee, DDS.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED, that Defendant Ton Vinh Lee, DDS is entitled to his costs in the amount of Six Thousand Thirty Two Dollars and Eighty Three Cents (\$6,032.83), as the prevailing party under Nevada Revised Statute 18.020.

DATED this 10 day of September, 2014.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Prepared by:

**BAKER LAW OFFICES** 

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By:

LLOYD W. BAKER, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 6893

INGRID PATIN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No.: 011239

500 South Eighth St.

Las Vegas, NV 89101

(702) 360-4949

Attorneys for Plaintiff

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# DISTRICT COURT CIVIL COVER SHEET A-15-723134-C

	Clark .	_County, Nevada IX
	Case No.	
I Darty Information /	(Assigned by Clerk	
I. Party Information (provide both harmonic plaintiff(s) (name/address/phone):	ome and mailing addresses if different)	Defendant(s) (name/address/phone):
.,,		Ingrid Patin, individual; Patin Law Group, PLLC
Ton V. Lee, DDS		
9525 W. Russell Rd.		6671 S. Las Vegas, Blvd., Suite 210
Las Vegas, NV 89148		Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 579-7645	·	(702) 461-5241
Attorney (name/address/phone):		Attorney (name/address/phone):
Prescott T. Jones, EsqBremer	Whyte Brown & O'Meara, LL	P Patin Law Group, PLLC
1160 North Town Center Dr., Su	ite 250	6671 S. Las Vegas Blvd., Suite 210
Las Vegas, NV 89144		Las Vegas, NV 89119
(702) 258-6665		(702) 461-5241
II. Nature of Controversy (please s	select the one most applicable filing type	e below)
Civil Case Filing Types		
Real Property		Torts
Landlord/Tenant	Negligence	Other Torts
Unlawful Detainer	Auto	Product Liability
Other Landlord/Tenant	Premises Liability	Intentional Misconduct
Title to Property	Other Negligence	Employment Tort
Judicial Foreclosure	Malpractice	Insurance Tort
Other Title to Property	Medical/Dental	Other Tort
Other Real Property	Legal	
Condemnation/Eminent Domain	Accounting	
Other Real Property	Other Malpractice	
Probate	Construction Defect & Cont	
Probate (select case type and estate value)	Construction Defect	Judicial Review
Summary Administration	Chapter 40	Foreclosure Mediation Case
General Administration	Other Construction Defect	Petition to Seal Records
Special Administration	Contract Case	Mental Competency
Set Aside	Uniform Commercial Code	Nevada State Agency Appeal
Trust/Conservatorship	Building and Construction	Department of Motor Vehicle
Other Probate	Insurance Carrier	Worker's Compensation
Estate Value	Commercial Instrument	Other Nevada State Agency
Over \$200,000	Collection of Accounts	Appeal Other
Between \$100,000 and \$200,000 Employment Contract Appeal from Lower Court		
Under \$100,000 or Unknown	Other Contract	Other Judicial Review/Appeal
Under \$2,500	il Writ	Other Civil Filian
	II WIII	Other Civil Filing
Civil Writ	Elmin en 1922	Other Civil Filing
Writ of Habeas Corpus Writ of Prohibition  Writ of Mandamus Other Civil Writ		Compromise of Minor's Claim
Writ of Mandamus	Foreign Judgment Other Civil Metters	
Writ of Quo Warrant	Table 1 111 Ct 7 * T	Other Civil Matters
Business C	Court filings should be filed using th	e Business Court civil coversheef.
August 17, 2015		
Date	MARKATA PARAMETER AND	Signature of initiating party or representative
ALC BLAN		During or warmen band or rebronorium.

See other side for family-related case filings.

1	PRESCOTT	T. JONES, ESQ.	Alun D. Column
2	Nevada State	Bar No. 11617 FRIEDMAN, ESQ.	CLERK OF THE COURT
3	Nevada State	Bar No. 13486 HYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LL	D
4		WN CENTER DRIVE	
5	LAS VEGAS	S, NV 89144 E: (702) 258-6665	
6	FACSIMILE	: (702) 258-6662 nerwhyte.com	
7			
8	Attorneys for TON VINH		
9		DICTOI	
10			CT COURT
11		CLARK COU	NTY; NEVADA
12	TONI VIDILI		) Case No.: A-15-723134-C
13	TON VINH	LEE, an individual	
14	vs.	Plaintiff,	) Dept. No.: IX
15		ΓΙΝ, an individual, and PATIN	) COMPLAINT )
16	LAW GROU LLC,	P, PLLC, a Nevada Professional	)
17		Defendants.	
18	•		)
19	COM	ES NOW, Plaintiff TON VINH I	LEE (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by and through his
20	attorneys of	record, Prescott T. Jones, Esq. a	and Jessica M. Friedman, Esq. of the law firm
21	BREMER, W	/HYTE, BROWN & O'MEARA, L	LP, and hereby complains and alleges as follows:
22			I.
23		PAI	RTIES
24	1.	Plaintiff is, and at all times releva	nt herein, was a resident of Clark County, Nevada.
25	2.	The actions complained of herein	occurred in Clark County, Nevada.
26	3.	Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE (here	inafter "Plaintiff") is a Doctor of Dental Surgery
27	(DDS), and	owner of Ton V. Lee, DDS, P.C	., d/b/a Summerlin Smiles located at 9525 West
28	Russell Rd. S	Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89148.	
WN & Orive			

BREMER WHYTE BROWN &
O'MEARA LLP
1160 N. Town Center Drive
Suite 250
Las Vegas, NV 89144
(702) 258-6665

- 4. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereupon alleges, Defendant INGRID PATIN, ESQ. is, and was at all relevant times, a practicing attorney in the State of Nevada.
- 5. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereupon alleges, Defendant PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC is a Nevada Professional Limited Liability Company licensed to do business in Clark County, Nevada.
- 6. Defendants, and each of them, were the handling attorney and/or handling law firm in *Svetlana Singletary v. Ton Lee, DDS*, Case Number A-12-656091-C.

#### II.

# **GENERAL ALLEGATIONS**

- 7. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference the preceding paragraphs, inclusive, as though fully set forth herein.
- 8. On or about February 7, 2012, Svetlana Singletary, Gabriel Singletary, Gabriel I Singletary, and the Estate of Reginald Singletary filed suit against, *inter alia*, TON VINH LEE for various causes of action arising out of the death of Reginald Singletary, in Case Number A-12-656091-C.
- 9. On September 10, 2014, a Judgement on Jury Verdict was entered in favor of Defendant TON VINH LEE, in which TON VINH LEE was also awarded his cost in the amount of Six Thousand Thirty-Two Dollars and Eighty-Three Cents (\$6,032.83), as the prevailing party under NRS 18.020.
- 10. Despite the Judgment entered, Defendants lists on their website, PatinLaw.com, under a section entitled "Recent Settlements and Verdicts," a Plaintiff's Verdict in the amount of \$3.4M for *Svetlana Singletary v. Ton Lee, DDS* wherein it explicitly refers to Plaintiff Ton Vinh Lee by name.
- 11. Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 7.2, requires any statement made by an attorney that includes a monetary sum, the amount involved must have been actually received by the client.
  - 12. Plaintiff added this statement to her website for her own personal gain.

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# FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

# **Defamation Per Se**

- 13. Plaintiff incorporates herein by reference the preceding paragraphs, inclusive, as though fully set forth herein.
- 14. Defendants posted a false and defamatory statement on the "Recent Settlements and Verdicts" portion of their business website, PatinLaw.com.
  - 15. The defamatory statement directly names both the Plaintiff and his Medical Practice.
- 16. The defamatory statement lists the case name, *Singletary v. Ton Vinh Lee, DDS, et al.*, as well as a detailed description of the case: "A dental malpractice-based wrongful death action that arose out of the death of Decedent Reginald Singletary following the extraction of the No. 32 wisdom tooth by Defendants on or about April 16, 2011. Plaintiff sued the dental office, Summerlin Smiles, the owner, Ton Vinh Lee, DDS, and the treating dentists, Florida Traivai, DMD and Jai Park, DDS, on behalf of the Estate, herself and minor son."
- 17. Defendants have posted this statement on their website, which constitutes an unprivileged publication to a third person.
  - 18. Defendants knew or should have known that the statement was false.
- 19. Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 7.2, prohibit attorneys from advertising verdicts or recoveries that were not actually received or won.
- 20. The defamatory statement imputes to TON VINH LEE a lack of fitness as a dentist in that it claims Plaintiffs were able to recover a \$3.4 million judgment for wrongful death.
- 21. The defamatory statement injures TON VINH LEE in his business as a simple internet search reveals the claimed verdict for wrongful death.
- WHEREFORE, Plaintiff expressly reserving the right to amend this complaint prior to or at the time of trial of this action, to insert those items of damage not yet fully ascertainable, prays judgement against all Defendants, and each of them, as follows:
  - 1. For general damages in excess of \$10,000.00.
  - 2. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs
  - 3. For pre- and post-judgement interest on any award rendered herein; and

BREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP 1160 N. Town Center Drive

Suite 250

4. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper

BREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP

By:

Prescott T. Jones, Esq. Nevada State Bar No. 11617 Jessica M. Friedman, Esq. Nevada State Bar No. 13486 Attorney for Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE

BREMER WHYTE BROWN &
O'MEARA LLP
1160 N. Town Center Drive
Suite 250
Las Vegas, NV 89144
(702) 258-6665

Attorney or Party without Attorney: PRESCOTT T. JONES, ESQ. NBN 11617 BREMER WHTYE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP			For Court Use Only
1160 N. TOWN CENTER DRIVE # 250 LAS VEGAS, NV 89144 Telephone No: (702) 258-6665 FAX No: (702) 258-6662	•		Electronically Filed 08/31/2015 09:00:50 A
Attorney for: Plaintiff	Ref. No. or File No.:		
Insert name of Court, and Judicial District and Branch Court:  EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, CLARK COUNT  Plaintiff: TON VINH LEE	ΓΥ, NEVADA		CLERK OF THE COURT
Defendant: INGRID PATIN			
AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE  Hearing Date:	Time:	Dept/Div:	Case Number: A723134

2. I served copies of the SUMMONS; COMPLAINT

3. a. Party served:

PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC

b. Person served:

RAPHAEL RAY, SENIOR ASSOCIATE/pursuant to NRS 14.020, as a person of suitable age and discretion at the above address, which address is of the resident agent as shown on the current certificate of designation filed with the Secretary of State

4. Address where the party was served:

c/o INGRID PATIN, ESQ., REGISTERED AGENT

6671 S. LAS VEGAS BLVD. #210

LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

5. I served the party:

a. by personal service. I personally delivered the documents listed in item 2 to the party or person authorized to receive process for the party (1) on: Wed., Aug. 19, 2015 (2) at: 11:13AM

7. Person Who Served Papers:

a. LEIDY P. SERNA (R-029907)

Fee for Service:

I Declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of

NEVADA that the foregoing is true and correct.

First Legal Investigations\* 704 S. Sixth Street Las Vegas, NV 89101 Telephone (702) 671-4002

(702) 974-2223

\*Attorney Support & investigations provided by First Legal Investigations NV PI-

DAWN E. REILLY **NOTARY PUBLIC** STATE OF NEVADA My Commission Expires: 05-01-16 Certificate No: 08-6402-1

8. STATE OF NEVADA, COUNTY OF

Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person who appeared before me.

(Notary Signature) 8/69994 .bremer.725808

Hun J. Colin

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

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V.

**COMP** 1 BRIAN D. NETTLES, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 7462 CHRISTIAN M. MORRIS, ESQ. 3 Nevada Bar No. 11218 **NETTLES LAW FIRM** 4 1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 5 Henderson, Nevada 89014 Telephone: (702) 434-8282 6 Facsimile: (702) 434-1488 briannettles@nettleslawfirm.com 7 christianmorris@nettleslawfirm.com 8 Attorneys for Plaintiff 9

# DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

TON VINH LEE, an individual,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO. A-15-723134 DEPARTMENT NO. IX

INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC, a Nevada Professional LLC,

Defendants.

**DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO DISMISS** 

Defendants, Ingrid Patin and Patin Law Group, PLLC (hereinafter, "Defendants"), by and through their counsel of record, Christian M. Morris, Esq. of the Nettles Law Firm, hereby move this honorable Court to dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint for Insufficiency of Service of Process and Failure to State a Claim Upon Which Relief Can Be Granted pursuant to Nev.R.Civ.P. 12(b)(5), or in the alternative, Motion for Summary Judgment.

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This Motion is made and based upon the papers and pleadings on file with the Court, the
exhibits attached hereto, the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and any oral
argument the Court may entertain at the hearing on the Motion.
Dated this day of September, 2015.
NETTLES LAW FIRM
Christian M. Morris, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 011218 1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200
Henderson, NV 89014
Attorneys for Defendants
NOTICE OF MOTION
TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND THEIR COUNSEL OF RECORD
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Defendants will bring the instant MOTION TO
DISMISS on for hearing before the above-entitled Court on the day of
OCTOBER, 2015, at the hour of $9:00A$ a.m. of that day, or as soon thereafter as
counsel may be heard.
Dated this 2 day of September, 2015.
NETTLES LAW FIRM

Christian M. Morris, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 011218 1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014 Attorneys for Defendants

# NETTLES LAW FIRM

702.434.8282 / 702.434.1488 (fax)

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# **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

I.

## **INTRODUCTION**

Plaintiff filed the instant action as a defamation per se claim against Defendants Ingrid Patin, individually, and Patin Law Group, PLLC alleging that "Defendants posted a false and defamatory statement on the 'Recent Settlements and Verdicts' portion of their business website, PatinLaw.com." Plaintiff further alleges that the statement posted by Defendants "imputes to TON VINH LEE a lack of fitness as a dentist," as well as "injures TON VINH LEE in his business as a simple internet search reveals the claimed verdict for wrongful death." However, the statement posted by Defendants is true and not defamatory in nature. Defendant Ingrid Patin served as counsel on the underlying matter, and conducted a seven day jury trial which resulted in a Plaintiff's verdict in the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,470,000.00). Defendant posted the favorable verdict on her website, including the case name and information regarding the nature of the case and damages in accordance with 7.2(i) of the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct.

Based upon the fact that Defendants' statement concerning the verdict received on January 25, 2014 on behalf of Ingrid Patin's client is true, Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed with prejudice.

II.

# **BRIEF PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

On or about August 17, 2015, Plaintiff commenced the instant action through the filing of a Complaint against Ingrid Patin, an individual, and Patin Law Group, PLLC, a Nevada Professional LLC in the Eighth Judicial District Court. Thereafter, Plaintiff improperly attempted service of the Summons and Complaint on Defendant Patin Law Group, PLLC on or about August 19, 2015 by leaving a copy of the Summons and Complaint with a receptionist at 702.434.8282 / 702.434.1488 (fax)

Regus, Las Vegas.

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As of the filing of this Motion to Dismiss, Plaintiff has not served Defendant Ingrid Patin, individually, or the registered agent of Patin Law Group, PLLC with a Summons and Complaint.

#### III.

# STATEMENT OF FACTS AND RELEVANT BACKGROUND

The underlying case, of which the instant matter is based, involved a Complaint for dental malpractice brought by Plaintiff Svetlana Singletary, individually, and as the Representative of the Estate of Reginald Singletary, and as parent and legal guardian of Gabriel L. Singletary, a minor, for the wrongful death of Reginald Singletary following dental surgery to extract a wisdom tooth. Plaintiff Svetlana Singletary commenced the action through the filing of an original Complaint in the Eighth Judicial District Court on or about February 7, 2012. The Complaint named Ton Vinh Lee, DDS, Florida Traivai, DMD, Jai Park, DDS and Ton V. Lee, DDS d/b/a Summerlin Smiles as Defendants. (See Caption, attached hereto as Exhibit A). The action came on for trial before the Eighth Judicial District Court and a jury on January 13, 2014. At the conclusion of the trial of the matter, the jury rendered a verdict in favor of Plaintiffs in the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,470,000.00) as follows: that Plaintiff, Svetlana Singletary, individually, be awarded the sum of Nine Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$985,000.00) and that Plaintiff, Gabriel Singletary, a minor, be awarded the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,485,000.00). Having found for the Plaintiffs and against Defendants, Florida Traivai, DMD and Summerlin Smiles, the jury further found that the percentage of negligence on the part of Decedent Reginald Singletary which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was twenty five percent (25%), the percentage of negligence on the part of Defendant, Florida Traivai, DMD, which was the

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proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was fifty percent (50%), and the percentage of negligence on the part of Defendant Summerlin Smiles, which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury, was twenty five percent (25%). (See Special Verdict Form, attached hereto as Exhibit B). Plaintiff Svetlana Singletary filed a Memorandum of Costs and Motion for Award of Costs on February 3, 2014. The Court granted in part Plaintiff's Motion for Award of Costs and Defendant Florida Traivai, DMD's Motion to Re-tax Costs, and awarded Plaintiff Svetlana Singletary her costs of Thirty Eight Thousand Forty Two Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$38,042.64), as the prevailing party under Nevada Revised Statute 18.020. (See Order, attached hereto as Exhibit C). Plaintiff Svetlana Singletary subsequently filed a Judgment on Jury Verdict. (See Judgment on Jury Verdict, attached hereto as Exhibit D).

In February, 2014, the Trial Reporter of Nevada published the jury verdict in its monthly publication. (See The Trial Reporter of Nevada, attached hereto as Exhibit E).

Following the favorable jury verdict, Ingrid Patin of Patin Law Group, PLLC posted the jury verdict on her website, including the case name [Singletary v. Ton Vinh Lee, DDS, et al.] and information regarding the nature of the case and damages in accordance with 7.2(i) of the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct. Specifically, the following post appears at www.patinlaw.com:

> - PLAINTIFF'S MALPRACTIC/WRONGFUL DEATH VERDICT, 2014

DESCRIPTION: SINGLETARY V. TON VINH LEE, DDS, ET AL.

A dental malpractice-based wrongful death action that arose out of the death of Decedent Reginald Singletary following the extraction of the No. 32 wisdom tooth by Defendants on or about April 16, 2011. Plaintiff sued the dental office, Summerlin Smiles, the owner, Ton Vinh Lee, DDS, and the treating dentists, Florida Traivai, DDS and Jai Park, DDS, on behalf of the Estate, herself and minor son.

This matter is on appeal.

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In the Fall 2014, the Nevada Legal Update also published the jury verdict and case summary in its quarterly publication. (See The Nevada Legal Update, attached hereto as Exhibit F).

When performing a google search of "Nevada jury verdicts singletary," the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada has the judgment upon jury verdict listed. (See Google Search, attached hereto as Exhibit G).

#### IV.

# STANDARD FOR REVIEW

Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(5) provides for the filing of a Motion to Dismiss when there is insufficiency of service of process and a Complaint fails to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. Specifically, the Rule states that "every defense, in law or fact, to a claim for relief in any pleading, whether a claim, counterclaim, cross-claim, or third-party claim, shall be asserted in the responsive pleading thereto if one is required, except that the following defenses may at the option of the pleader be made by motion: . . (4) insufficiency of service of process, (5) failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. . . . "

# A. Insufficiency of Service of Process

Service of process upon a Nevada corporation requires that the summons and complaint be served together to the *registered agent* of the corporation. NRCP 4(d)(1) (emphasis added). If service cannot be had upon the registered agent, then "service may be made upon such entity by delivering to the secretary of state, or the deputy secretary of state, a copy of said summons attached to a copy of the complaint, and by posting a copy of said process in the office of the clerk of the court in which such action is brought or pending." Id. Service of the summons and complaint upon an assistant of defendant's business is insufficient. Karns v. State Bank & Trust Co., 31 Nev. 170, 101 P. 564 (1909) (decision under former similar statute). evidence that the person served was not authorized by the defendant to receive service of

process is uncontradicted, such denial of authority must be taken by the court as true, for the purpose of applying subdivision (d)(6). In the absence of actual specific appointment or authorization, and in the absence of the statute conferring authority, an agency to accept service of process will not be implied. Foster v. Lewis, 78 Nev. 330, 372 P.2d 679 (1962).

# B. Failure to State a Claim Upon Which Relief Can Be Granted

A complaint will not be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted unless it appears beyond a doubt that the plaintiff could prove no set of facts which, if accepted by the trier of fact, would entitle him or her to relief. Simpson v. Mars, Inc., 113 Nev. 188, 929 P.2d 966 (1997). If the court, taking Plaintiff's allegations at face value, determines that the allegations fail to state a recognizable claim for relief, then dismissal is appropriate. Morris v. Bank of America, 110 Nev. 1274, 886 P.2d 454 (1994); see also Bratcher v. City of Las Vegas, 113 Nev. 502, 937 P.2d 485 (1997) (dismissal with prejudice is proper when it appears beyond a reasonable doubt that the Plaintiff can sustain no action which would entitle him or her to relief.). When the complaint shows on its face that the cause of action is barred, the burden falls upon the palintiff to satisfy the court that the bar does not exist. Bank of Nevada v. Friedman, 82 Nev. 417, 420 P.2d 1 (1996). A motion to dismiss for failure to state a calim, if sustained without leave to proceed further, results in a judgment on the merits. Zalk-Josephs Co. v. Wells Cargo, Inc., 81 Nev. 163, 400 P.2d 621 (1965).

V.

# **LEGAL ARGUMENT**

# A. Defendants' Statements Are True And Not Defamatory In Nature

In order to establish a prima facia case of defamation, a plantiff must prove: (1) a *false* and defamatory statement by defendant concerning the plaintiff; (2) an unprivileged publication to a third person; (3) fault, amounting to at least negliagnece; and (4) actual or presumed damages. Chowdhry v. NLVH, Inc., 109 Nev. 478, 483, 851 P.2d 459 (1993) (citing

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Restatement Second of Torts, § 558 (1977)) (emphasis added). If the defamation tends to inur the palintiff in his or her business or profession, it is deemed defamation per se, and damages will be presumed. Id. at 483-84. Whether a statement could be construed as defamatory is a question of law. Branda v. Sanford, 97 Nev. 643, 646, 637 P.2d 1223, 1225 (1981). A jury questions arises only when the statement is susceptible to different meanings, one of which is defamatory. Id.; Chowdhry v. NLVH, Inc., 109 Nev. 478, 483-84, 851 P.2d 459 (1993).

In order to bring a Complaint for defamation, Plaintiff must provide factual allegations of a false or defamatory statement by Defendants concerning the Plaintiff. In the Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that "Defendants posted a false and defamatory statement on the 'Recent Settlements and Verdicts' portion of their business website, PatinLaw.com." However, the statement posted by Defendants is true and not defamatory in nature. Instead, Plaintiff has merely makes an unsupported and conclusory statement that Defendants' statement was false and defamatory.

After a seven day trial in January, 2014, the Plaintiffs in the underlying case were collectively awarded Three Million Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,470,000.00) by a jury. (See Exhibit B). The Special Verdict Form memoralizing the jury award was filed in open court. (Id.).

Following the favorable jury verdict, multiple sources have published the award both in print and online. Specifically, the Trial Reporter of Nevada published the jury verdict in its monthly publication in February, 2014. (See Exhibit E). The Nevada Legal Update also published the jury verdict and case summary in its quarterly publication in the fall of 2014. (See Exhibit F). Lastly, the Supreme Court of Nevada has published the jury verdict amount and costs awarded to Plaintiff in the underlying case.

Ingrid Patin of Patin Law Group, PLLC also posted the jury verdict on her website, including the case name [Singletary v. Ton Vinh Lee, DDS, et al.] and information regarding

# NETTLES LAW FIRM 1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014 702.434.8282 / 702.434.1488 (fax)

the nature of the case and damages in accordance with 7.2(i) of the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct. Specifically, the following post appears at www.patinlaw.com:

DENTAL MALPRACTIC/WRONGFUL DEATH – PLAINTIFF'S VERDICT, 2014

DESCRIPTION: SINGLETARY V. TON VINH LEE, DDS, ET AL.

A dental malpractice-based wrongful death action that arose out of the death of Decedent Reginald Singletary following the extraction of the No. 32 wisdom tooth by Defendants on or about April 16, 2011. Plaintiff sued the dental office, Summerlin Smiles, the owner, Ton Vinh Lee, DDS, and the treating dentists, Florida Traivai, DDS and Jai Park, DDS, on behalf of the Estate, herself and minor son.

This matter is on appeal.

The statement above posted by Defendants is *true* and <u>not</u> defamatory in nature despite Plaintiff's unfounded assertions. Defendant Ingrid Patin served as the lead counsel on the underlying matter, and conducted a seven day jury trial which resulted in a Plaintiff's verdict in the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$3,470,000.00). Defendant posted the favorable verdict on her website, including the case name and information regarding the nature of the case and damages in accordance with 7.2(i) of the Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct.

Based on the fact that the information contained on Defendants' website is *true* and <u>not</u>

defamatory in nature, Defendants respectfully request that Plaintiff's Complaint be dismissed. Plaintiff should not be entitled to rely upon mere allegations and conclusory statements to survive dismissal, when such allegations and conclusory statements are without merit.

## B. Plaintiff has Failed to Properly Serve Defendants with a Summons and Complaint

On or about August 19, 2015, Plaintiff improperly attempted service of the Summons and Complaint on Defendant Patin Law Group, PLLC by leaving a copy of the Summons and Complaint with a receptionist at Regus Las Vegas. Defendants' office is located within the Regus Executive Office Suites, located at 66711 S. Las Vegas Boulevard, Suite 210, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. However, Defendants do <u>not</u> employee the receptionists for the Regus

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Executive Office Suites and/or Regus Las Vegas. Additionally, the receptionist for Regus Las Vegas is not the registered agent for Patin Law Group, PLLC. Defendants have not granted authority to any employees, receptionists or otherwise of Regus Las Vegas to receive service of process or documents on behalf of Defendants, and Regus Las Vegas, its employees, receptionists or otherwise are not agents of Defendants.

As of the filing of this Motion to Dismiss, Plaintiff has not served Defendant Ingrid Patin, individually, or the registered agent of Patin Law Group, PLLC with a Summons and Complaint. Thus, Plaintiff's Complaint should be dismissed.

VI.

## IN THE ALTERNATIVE, DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

In the alternative, Defendants move this Court to consider the instant Motion to Dismiss as a Motion for Summary Judgment. As this Court is aware, "[s]ummary judgment is appropriate and 'shall be rendered forthwith' when the pleadings and other evidence on file demonstrate that no 'genunine issue as to any material fact [remains] and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." Wood v. Safeway, Inc., 121 Nev. 724, 121 P.3d 1026 (2005) (internal citations omitted). "When a motion for summary judgment is made and supported as required by NRCP 56, the non-moving party may not rest upon general allegations and conclusions, but must, by affidavit or otherwise, set forth specific facts demonstrating the existence of a genuine factual issue. 'The non-moving party's documentation must be admissible evidence,' as 'he or she is not entitled to build a case on the gossamer threads of whimsy, speculation and conjecture." Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 57 P.3d 82 (2002) (internal citations omitted).

Where the motion for dismissal for failure to state a claim was supported by a number of documents which were outside the pleadings, the district court's dismissal of the case had to be reviewed as an order granting summary judgment. Lumbermen's Underwriting Alliance v.

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RCR Plumbing, Inc., 114 Nev. 1231, 969 P.2d 301 (1998); see Paso Bldrs., Inc. v. Hebard, 83 Nev. 165, 426 P.2d 731 (1967).

In accordance with NRCP 56, Defendants have submitted numerous admissible documents in support of the dismissal of Plaintiff's Complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted. These documents are considered outside of the pleadings, and therefore, require this honorable court to review the case under NRCP 56 if this Court relies upon said documents when issuing its Order.

#### VII.

## **CONCLUSION**

Here, Plaintiff can prove no set of facts sufficient to establish the elements of defamation against Defendants. Thus, dismissal of Plaintiff's Complaint for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted is proper. Based upon the foregoing, Defendants respectfully request this Honorable Court to issue an Order dismissing, with prejudice, Plaintiff's Complaint.

day of September, 2015.

**NETTLES LAW FIRM** 

Christian M. Morris, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 011218 1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014

Attorneys for Defendants

# NETTLES LAW FIRM 1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200

1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014 702.434.8282 / 702.434.1488 (fax) 

## **PROOF OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NEFCR 9, NRCP (b) and EDCR 7.26, I certify that on this date, I served the forgoing **MOTION TO DISMISS** on the following parties by electronic transmission through the Wiznet system on this \_\_\_\_\_ day of September, 2015.

Prescott T. Jones, Esq.
Jessica Friedman, Esq.
BREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP
1160 N. Town Center Drive
Suite 250
Las Vegas, NV 89144
Telephone: (702) 258-6665
Facsimile: (702) 258-6662
pjones@bremerwhyte.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff TON VINH LEE

An Employee of Nettles Law Firm

# EXHIBIT "A"

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		<b></b>	
1	COMP LLOYD W. BAKER, ESQ.	Jun D. Comm	
2	Nevada Bar No. 6893 INGRID PATIN, ESQ.	CLERK OF THE COURT	
3	Nevada Bar No.: 011239  BAKER LAW OFFICES		
4	500 South Eighth Street		
5	Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 360-4949 Attorneys for Plaintiff		
6	DISTRICT C	OURT	
7	COUNTY OF CLARK, ST	TATE OF NEVADA	
8	SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually,	<b>)</b>	
9	as the Representative of the Estate of REGINALD SINGLETARY, and as parent and	Case No.: A- 12-65609 Dept. No.:	1- (
10	legal guardian of GABRIEL L. SINGLETARY, a Minor,	} xvi	
11	Plaintiff,	ARBITRATION EXEMPTION:	
12	riamini,	) WRONGFUL DEATH	
13	vs.	}	
14		}	
15	individually, TON V. LEE, DDS, PROF. CORP., a Nevada Professional Corporation d/b/a	}	
16	SUMMERLIN SMILES, DOE SUMMERLIN SMILES EMPLOYEE, and DOES I through X	}	
17	and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,		
18	Defendants.	}	
19	COMPLAI	INT	
20	COMES NOW the Plaintiff, SVETLAN	NA SINGLETARY, individually, as the	
21	Representative of the Estate of REGINALD SINGL		
22	GABRIEL L. SINGLETARY, by and through her con	unsel of record, INGRID M. PATIN, ESQ. of	
23	BAKER LAW OFFICES, hereby alleges and compla	ins as follows:	
24	///		
25	///		
26	///		
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# EXHIBIT "B"

1 2	ORIGIN	NAL	FILED IN OPEN COURT STEVEN D. GRIERSON CLERK OF THE COURT
	DISTRIC	T COURT	JAN 22 2019
3	CLARK COU	NTY, NEVADA	
4		E	ALICE JACOBSON, DEPUTY
5	SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually, as	CASE NO.:	A-12-656091-C
6	the Representative of the Estate of REGINALD SINGLETARY, and as parent	DEPT. NO.:	XXX
7	and legal guardian of GABRIEL L. SINGLETARY, a Minor,		
8		SPECIAL VEF	RDICT FORM
9	Plaintiff,		
10	VS.		
11	TON VINH LEE, DDS, individually, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD, individually, JAI		
12	PARK, DDS, individually, TON V. LEE, DDS, PROF. CORP., a Nevada		
13	Professional Corporation d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, DOE		
14	SUMMERLIN SMILES EMPLOYEE, and DOES I through X and ROE		
15	CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,		
16	Defendants.		
17		i	
	We the jury in the above-entitled ac	tion find the fol	lowing special verdict on the
18	Questions submitted to us:		
19 20	Question No. 1: Was Ton Vinh Lee, D	DS, negligent i	n his care and treatment of
21	Reginald Singletary?		
22			
	ANSWER: Yes No_	V	
23	If your answer to Question 1 is "no"	please sign an	d return the General Verdict
24	finding in favor of Dr. Lee.		
25	Question No. 2: Was negligence on the	part of Ton Vinl	h Lee, DDS a cause of injury
26	to Reginald Singletary?	_	
27			
28	ANSWER: Yes No_		
	4836-8365-9543.1		

1	If your answer to Question 2 is "no" please sign and return the General Verdict
2	finding in favor of Dr. Lee.
3	Question No. 3: Was Florida Traivai, DMD, negligent in her care and treatment of
4	Reginald Singletary?
5	ANSWER: Yes No
6 7	If your answer to Question 3 is "no" please sign and return the General Verdict
8	finding in favor of Dr. Traivai.
9	Question No. 4: Was negligence on the part of Florida Traivai, DMD, a cause of injury
10	to Reginald Singletary?
11	ANSWER: Yes No
12	If your answer to Question 4 is "no" please sign and return the General Verdict
13	finding in favor of Dr. Traivai.
14	Question No. 5: Was Jai Park, DDS, negligent in his care and treatment of Reginald
15 16	Singletary?
17	ANSWER: Yes No
18	If your answer to Question 5 is "no" please sign and return the General Verdict
19	finding in favor of Dr. Park.
20	Question No. 6: Was negligence on the part of Jai Park, DDS, a cause of injury to
21	Reginald Singletary?
22	ANSWER: Yes No
23	If your answer to Question 6 is "no" please sign and return the General Verdict
<ul><li>24</li><li>25</li></ul>	finding in favor of Dr. Park.
26	Question No. 7: Was Summerlin Smiles negligent in its care and treatment of
27	Reginald Singletary?
28	ANSWER: Yes No
	4836-8365-9543.1

1	Question No. 13: What amount of damage, if any, do you find was sustained by Svetlana
2	Singletary for past loss of probable support?
3	ANSWER \$ 69000 -
4	Question No. 14: What amount of damage, if any, do you find will be sustained by
5	Svetlana Singletary for future loss of probable support?
6 7	ANSWER \$300,000
8	Question No. 15: What amount of damage, if any, do you find was sustained by Gabriel
9	Singletary for past loss of probable support?
10	ANSWER \$ 60,000 -
11	Question No. 16: What amount of damage, if any, do you find will be sustained by Gabriel
12	Singletary for future loss of probable support?
13	ANSWER \$ 300,000
14	Question No. 17: Was Reginald Singletary comparatively negligent?
15	ANSWER: Yes No
16	If you answered "yes", please proceed to Question No. 18. If you answered "no"
17 18	
	please proceed to Question No. 19.
19	Question No. 18: If you answered "yes" to Question No. 17, was the comparative
20	negligence of Reginald Singletary a cause of his injuries?
21 22	ANSWER: Yes No
23	
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	4836-8365-9543.1

Question No. 19: Assuming that 100% represents the total negligence which was the cause of the Plaintiffs' damages, what percentage of this 100% is due to the comparative negligence of Reginald Singletary and what percentage of this 100% is due to the negligence of each of the Defendants?

Reginal	d Singletary	<u>25</u> %
Ton Vinl	h Lee, DDS	%
Florida 7	Traivai, DMD	50 %
Jai Park	, DDS	%
Summer	rlin Smiles	<u>25</u> %
	TOTAL	100 %

DATED this <u>22</u> day of January, 2014

FOREPERSON

# EXHIBIT "C"

**CLERK OF THE COURT** 

Lloyd W. Baker, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6893 2 Ingrid Patin, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 011239 **BAKER LAW OFFICES** 

500 S. Eighth Street Las Vegas, NV 89101

Telephone: (702) 360-4949 Facsimile: (702) 360-3234

Attorneys for Plaintiff

#### DISTRICT COURT

#### CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually, as the Representative of the Estate of REGINALD SINGLETARY, and as parent and legal guardian of GABRIEL L. SINGLETARY, a Minor,

#### Plaintiff,

TON VINH LEE, DDS, individually, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD, individually, JAI PARK, DDS, individually; TON V. LEE, DDS, PROF. CORP., a Nevada Professional Corporation d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, DOE SUMMERLIN SMILES EMPLOYEE, and DOES I through X and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive,

## Defendants.

Defendant FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD'S MOTION TO RETAX, and Defendant TON VINH LEE, DDS', Joinder to Motion to Retax, having come before the Court for hearing on the 11th day of March, 2014; Jessica Goodey, Esq. of Baker Law Offices appearing for Plaintiff SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually, as the Representative of the Estate of REGINALD

ORDER

Case No.: A-12-656091-C Dept. No.: XIV XXX

Page 1 of 3

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SINGLETARY, and as parent and legal guardian of GABRIEL L. SINGLETARY, Amanda Brookhyser, Esq. of LEWIS, BRISBOIS, BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP appearing for Defendant FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD, and Jason Friedman, Esq. of STARK, FREIDMAN & CHAPMAN appearing before Defendant TON V. LEE, DDS, PROF. CORP., and the Court having examined the records and documents on file in the above-entitled matter and being fully advised in the premises:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Defendant FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD's Motion to Retax and Defendant TON VINH LEE, DDS' Joinder thereto is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART, as set forth below.

Plaintiff's requested witness fees are hereby reduced to \$18,495.64, and Plaintiffs' requested photocopy costs are hereby reduced to \$4,153.44. All other costs requested by Plaintiff are granted in the full amounts requested.

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Page 2 of 3

1	Therefore, IT IS HEREBY OR	RDERED ADJUGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff is
2	awarded \$38,042.64 in costs.	
3	Dated this day of March, 2	014.
4		
5		
6		Honorable Jerry Wiese, II, District Court Judge
	Respectfully Submitted By:	
7 8	BAKER LAW OFFICES	
9		
10	Lloyd W. Baker, Esq.	
11	Nevada Bar No. 6893	
12	Ingrid Patin, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 011239	
	500 S. Eighth Street	
13	Las Vegas, NV 89101	
14	Attorneys for Plaintiff	•
15	APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CO	ONTENT:
16	ASI	
17	AT I	
18	Amanda Brookheyser, Esq.	Jason Friedman, Esq.
19	LEWIS, BRISBOIS,	STARK, FRIEDMAN & CHAPMAN
	BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP. 6385 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 600	200 W. Sahara, #1401 Las Vegas NV 89102
20	Las Vegas, NV 89118	Attorney for Defedants,
21	Attorney for Defendant Florida Traivai, DMD	Ton Vinh Lee, DDS and Ton V. Lee, DDS, Prof. Corp., d/b/a Summerlin Smiles
22		
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Therefore, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED ADJUGED AND DECREED that Plaintiff is 1 awarded \$38,042.64 in costs. 2 Dated this \_\_\_\_ day of March, 2014. 3 5 Honorable Jerry Wiese, II, District Court Judge 6 Respectfully Submitted By: 7 **BAKER LAW OFFICES** 8 9 10 Lloyd W. Baker, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6893 11 Ingrid Patin, Esq. 12 Nevada Bar No. 011239 500 S. Eighth Street 13 Las Vegas, NV 89101 Attorneys for Plaintiff 14 APPROVED AS TO FORM AND CONTENT: 15 16 17 Amanda Brookheyser, Esq. Jason Friedman, Esq. 18 STARK, FRIEDMAN & CHAPMAN LEWIS, BRISBOIS, BISGAARD & SMITH, LLP. 200 W Sahara, #1401 6385 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 600 Las Vegas NV 89102 20 Las Vegas, NV 89118 Attorney for Defedants, Ton Vinh Lee, DDS and Ton V. Lee, DDS, Attorney for Defendant 21 Florida Traivai, DMD Prof. Corp., d/b/a Summerlin Smiles 22 23 24 25 26 27

Page 3 of 3

EXHIBIT "D"

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1 Lloyd W. Baker, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6893 **CLERK OF THE COURT** 2 Ingrid Patin, Esq. 3 Nevada Bar No. 011239 **BAKER LAW OFFICES** 500 S. Eighth Street Las Vegas, NV 89101 5 Telephone: (702) 360-4949 6 Facsimile: (702) 360-3234 7 Attorneys for Plaintiff 8 9 **DISTRICT COURT** 10 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 11 12 SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually, as Case No.: A-12-656091-C the Representative of the Estate of Dept. No.: 30 13 REGINALD SINGLETARY, and as parent and legal guardian of GABRIEL L. 14 SINGLETARY, a Minor, 15 JUDGMENT ON JURY VERDICT Plaintiff, 16 17 v. 18 TON VINH LEE, DDS, individually, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD, individually, JAI 19 PARK, DDS, individually; TON V. LEE, DDS, PROF. CORP., a Nevada Professional 20 Corporation d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, DOE SUMMERLIN SMILES EMPLOYEE, and DOES I through X and ROE 22 CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive, 23 Defendants. 24 ☐ Stip Dis Sum Jdgmt ☐ Voluntary Dis 25 . Non-Jury Trial Stip Jdgmt ☐ Involuntary (stat) Dis Liury Trial Default Jdgmt ☐ Jdgmt on Arb Award 26 □ Transferred ☐ Mtn to Dis (by deft) 27 28

### **JUDGMENT ON JURY VERDICT**

This action came on for trial before the Eighth Judicial District Court and a jury on January 13, 2014, before Honorable Jerry A. Wiese, II, District Judge, presiding, and the issues having been duly tried and the jury having duly rendered its verdict,

IT IS ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Plaintiff, SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually, be awarded the sum of Nine Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$985,000.00), pursuant to the Special Verdict Form, a copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit "1." Having found for the Plaintiff and against Defendants, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD and TON V. LEE, DDS, A PROF. CORP., d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, the jury further found that the percentage of negligence on the part of Decedent Reginald Singletary which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was twenty five percent (25%), the percentage of negligence on the part of Defendant, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD, which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was fifty percent (50%), and the percentage of negligence on the part of Defendant, TON V. LEE, DDS, A PROF. CORP., d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was twenty five percent (25%).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Plaintiff, GABRIEL SINGLETARY, a minor, be awarded the sum of Two Million Four Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars and Zero Cents (\$2,485,000.00), pursuant to the Special Verdict Form. (See Exhibit 1). Having found for the Plaintiff and against Defendants, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD and TON V. LEE, DDS, A PROF. CORP., d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, the jury further found that the percentage of negligence on the part of Decedent Reginald Singletary which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was twenty five percent (25%), the percentage of negligence on the part of Defendant, FLORIDA TRAIVAI, DMD, which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was fifty percent (50%), and the percentage of negligence on the part of Defendant, TON V. LEE, DDS, A PROF. CORP., d/b/a SUMMERLIN SMILES, which was the proximate cause of Decedent Reginald Singletary's injury was twenty five percent (25%).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that Plaintiff is entitled to her costs of Thirty Eight Thousand Forty Two Dollars and Sixty Four Cents (\$38,042.64), as the prevailing part under Nevada Revised Statute 18.020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED AND ADJUDGED that the amounts awarded to Plaintiffs, SVETLANA SINGLETARY, individually, and GABRIEL SINGLETARY, a minor, shall bear interest at the legal rate of 5.25% per year from the date thereon.

DATED this \_\_\_\_/5 day of April, 2014.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Prepared by:

**BAKER LAW OFFICES** 

By: \_

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Nevada Bar No. 6893

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EXHIBIT "E"

# The Trial Reporter

**NEVADA** 

Published Monthly

P.O. Box 8187, Phoenix, Arizona 85066-8187

LAS VEGAS: (702) 385-7773 RENO: (775) 853-7773 FAX: (602) 276-5133

www.thetrialreporter.com

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Established 1968

February, 2014

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#### IN MEMORIAM

Andy Anderson Editor & Publisher 1967 - 2003

Editor & Publisher Beverly Graham



# Table of Contents

Clark County District Court Civil Jury Trials	2
Addendum & Erratum	4
Churchill County District Court Civil Jury Trials	12
Case Catalogue	12



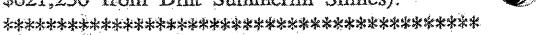
1/17/14 - pro tem Judge HARRY P. MARQUIS - CV A636746 - ACOSTA (Ralph A. Schwartz, practitioner) sole V LAS **VEGAS** METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT and CROSSMAN (Craig R. Anderson of Marquis Auerbach Coffing, P.C.) - PERSONAL INJURY - REAREND - POLICE VEHICLE. Case being tried as a Shortrial. Plntf, male, age 37, an unemployed Nevada resident, alleged that, while stopped southbound on Lamb Boulevard, he was rear-ended by Dfnt Crossman, male, a Nevada resident, who was in the course and scope of his occupational duties as a police officer for Dfnt Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department. Pintf alleged he sustained cervical and thoracic strains and sprains, with secondary headaches; plus a bulging cervical disk at C-4, C-5, which necessitated bilateral facet injections and occipital nerve blocks. Plntf also alleged he has ongoing Prayer: In excess of residual complaints. \$10,000 compensatory damages; plus \$42,507.44 medical expenses. (Dfnts self-insured.) day trial. By stipulation, four jurors deliberated. Jury out? hours. AWARDED PLNTF \$35,000 (REPRE-COMPENSATORY DAMAGES SENTING \$25,000 FOR MEDICAL EXPENSES AND \$10,000 FOR PAIN AND SUFFERING). \*

1/22/14 - Judge JERRY A. WIESE CV A656091 - SINGLETARY (Lloyd W. Baker, Ingrid M. Patin, and Jessica M. Goodey of Baker Law Offices) v LEE, D.D.S., dba SUMMERLIN SMILES (Jason B. Friedman of Stark, Friedman & Chapman, L.L.P., of Long Beach, California); PARK, D.D.S. (Edward J. Lemons of Lemons, Grundy & Eisenberg, P.C.); and TRAIVAI, D.M.D. (S. Brent Vogel of Lewis, Brisbois, Bisgaard & Smith, L.L.P.) -WRONGFUL DEATH - MEDICAL MALPRAC-TICE - DENTAL - FAILURE TO DIAGNOSE/ TREAT INFECTION LACK INFORMED CONSENT. Prologue: Decedent Summerlin presented to Dfnt Smiles, March 24, 2011, for routine dental work. New



Dfnts dentists patient examination was done. Traivai and Park were independent contractors of Dfnt Summerlin Smiles.On April 16th, Decedent returned to Dfnt Summerlin Smiles for an extraction of the number 32 wisdom tooth, performed by Dfnt Traivai. Following the extraction, Decedent experienced ongoing severe pain in the extraction area on the right side of his face; swelling of the face, jaw, and neck; plus difficulty swallowing. Dfnt Summerlin Smiles was allegedly contacted via telephone on April 18th, and Decedent was advised to call again if his symptoms did not subside within four to five days. Decedent continued to experience his prior symptoms, and had difficulty swallowing, as well as difficulty speaking and eating, on April 19th and April 20th. Decedent was vomiting, began having difficulty breathing, and was transported by ambulance to non-party hospital, where he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit, on April 21st. Antibiotics were administered and drainage of Decedent's neck was performed. Decedent died on April 25th. Case being tried comparative fault. on Decedent, male, age 42, was survived by his spouse and minor son, who brought suit for his wrongful death. Pintfs, both Nevada residents, alleged Dfnts fell below the standard of care by giving Decedent incorrect advice when he called Dfnt Summerlin Smiles, and followed their advice even though he became progressively sicker. Plntfs also alleged Dfnts failed to obtain Decedent's informed consent regarding use of (Court ruled antibiotics to prevent infection. issue was moot.) Plntfs called Joseph B. Marzouk, M.D., an infectious diseases specialist, of Oakland, California. Pintfs also called Andrew Pallos, D.D.S. of Laguna Niguel, California, who was of the opinion that Dfnts fell below the standard of care. Dfnts Lee and Park denied liability, advancing the defense that they did not provide any treatment to Decedent. Dfnt Traivai, female, a Nevada resident, denied falling below the standard of care. Dfnt Traivai argued that there were no complications during the procedure, and Decedent was given both

verbal and written postoperative instructions, which instructed Decedent to contact the office or go to the emergency department if he experienced any severe or unexpected complications. Dfnt Traivai also argued that, in the days following the extraction procedure, she was not contacted and was not aware of Decedent's condition and/or any potential complications. Additionally, Dfnt Traivai argued she did not instruct an employee of Dfnt Summerlin Smiles to give any medical advice and/or instructions to Dfnt Traivai called Christian E. Sandrock, M.D., an infectious diseases specialist, of Sacramento, California; and William C. Ardary, D.D.S., M.D., an oral and maxillofacial surgeon, of Arcadia, California. Plntfs alleged that, as a result of Dfnts' negligence, Decedent developed necrotizing mediastinitis and septic shock, then Ludwig's angina from the dental abscess, which resulted in his death. Prayer: In excess of \$10,000 compensatory damages; plus \$600,000 loss of support (D Vogel). (Carrier: Hartford Insurance.) Seven day trial. Jury out FOUND FOR DENTS LEE two-plus hours. AND PARK; AWARDED PLNTF SPOUSE \$985,000 COMPENSATORY DAMAGES (REP-RESENTING \$125,000 FOR PAST PAIN AND SUFFERING, \$500,000 FOR FUTURE PAIN AND SUFFERING, \$60,000 PAST LOSS OF SUPPORT, AND \$300,000 FUTURE LOSS OF AWARDED SUPPORT). PLNTF SON DAMAGES COMPENSATORY \$2,485,000 (REPRESENTING \$125,000 FOR PAST PAIN \$2 MILLION FOR SUFFERING, AND FUTURE PAIN AND SUFFERING, \$60,000 PAST LOSS OF SUPPORT, AND \$300,000 FUTURE LOSS OF SUPPORT). (Found Decedent to be twenty-five percent at fault, found Dfnt Traivai to be fifty percent at fault, and found Dfnt Summerlin Smiles to be twentyfive percent at fault; therefore, Pintf spouse to recover \$492,500 from Dfnt Traivai and \$246,250 from Dfnt Summerlin Smiles; and Plntf son to recover \$1,242,500 from Dfnt Traivai and \$621,250 from Dfnt Summerlin Smiles).







# EXHIBIT "F"



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# **HIGHLIGHTS**

Nevada Supreme Court Clarifies Standard for Testimony of a Treating Physician and Prohibits Ex Parte Communication with an Opposing Party's Experts

Whether the testimony of a treating physician must be stated to a "reasonable degree of medical probability" depends on the purpose of the testimony, and whether it supports an alternative causation theory. Further, counsel is prohibited from contacting an opposing party's expert, including a non-retained treating physician, without express consent.

## Entertainer Awarded More Than \$1.3 Million after Backstage Fall

A professional comedian, hired to perform at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino, allegedly tripped and fell over an unsecured speaker cord resulting in a complete rupture of his Achilles tendon. The jury awarded the plaintiff \$1,308,500.00 for personal injuries and alleged lost wages.

# IN THIS ISSUE

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# NEVADA SUPREME COURT DECISIONS

# MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

A Treating Provider Need Not Testify to a Reasonable Degree of Medical Certainty if Contradicting a Plaintiff's Causation Theory and Parties Must Obtain Express Consent Before Contacting an Opposing Party's Expert

Plaintiff filed a complaint alleging medical malpractice and negligence. Plaintiff specifically asserted that after receiving Lasik corrective surgery on both eyes she experienced ocular irritation and subsequently lost a majority of her sight. Defendant denied liability and asserted that Plaintiff's deteriorating eye condition may have resulted from abuse of numbing eye drops.

In support of Defendant's theory, Defendant called Plaintiff's treating physician to testify at trial. Plaintiff's treating provider testified that, in his opinion, plaintiff could have returned to her best corrective vision had she followed his instructions and recommendations, but conceded that this was speculation. He also testified that, while not the cause of the defect, it was possible that Plaintiff's use of numbing eye drops caused her vision to deteriorate and contributed to her lack of improvement. The jury returned a verdict for Defendant and Plaintiff appealed.

The Nevada Supreme Court determined the testimony offered by Plaintiff's treating physician was permissible pursuant to Williams v. Eighth Judicial District Court, 127 Nev. 262 P.3d 360 (2011). Williams provided that the testimony of a defense expert need not be stated to a reasonable degree of medical probability when being used to controvert an element of the plaintiff's claim, rather than

establish an independent theory of causation. Here, Defendant did not offer the expert's testimony to establish the alternative causation theory that eye damage resulted from abuse of numbing drops, rather than defendant's actions. Rather, the expert's testimony was offered to furnish reasonable alternative causes to those offered by Plaintiff.

On appeal, Plaintiff also asserted that defense counsel contacted the Plaintiff's treating physician without express consent, thereby warranting a new trial. Defendant argued the communication with the expert was necessary only to coordinate the physician's appearance at trial. The Nevada Supreme Court initially noted that a plaintiff's claim for personal injury or medical malpractice served as a limited waiver of the physicianpatient privilege with regard to directly relevant and essential information necessary to resolve the case. Further, the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure affirmatively allow formal depositions of individuals who have been identified as experts whose opinions may be presented at trial NRCP 26(b)(4). Rule 26 does not, however, contemplate ex parte communications with the opposing party's expert witnesses. The Court also noted that the professional ethics rules for the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals preclude counsel from speaking directly to an opposing party's expert. Erickson v. Newmar Corp., 87 F.3d 298, 301 (9th Cir. 1996).

The Nevada Supreme Court ultimately balanced the desire for confidentiality with the need for full disclosure of relevant medical information and concluded there was no need to allow ex parte communication with an opposing party's expert, absent express consent. While the Nevada Supreme Court agreed that improper ex parte communication had occurred, Plaintiff's motion for a new trial was properly denied. The Court noted that the physician's trial testimony remained unchanged from his prior deposition testimony, and therefore Plaintiff did not suffer prejudice as a result of the conduct of Defendant. Leavitt v. Siems, 130 Nev. Adv. Rep. 54 (2014).

1 the property.

As a result of the contact with the chemicals, laintiff allegedly developed reactive airway sfunction syndrome. When Plaintiff's worker's impensation coverage terminated six months iter the incident, she was unable to obtain er prescription medication, which allegedly sulted in a stroke. Defendant denied liability.

Plaintiff sought compensatory damages, acluding approximately \$180,000.00 in medical xpenses and \$100,000.00 in lost wages. After nine day trial the jury awarded Plaintiff 621,122.00 in compensatory damages. Wright Valley Health System, L.L.C, March 6, 2014.

#### Fruck Driver Found Liable for Another Vehicle's Rollover

Defendant was operating a tractor-trailer n the course of his occupational duries as a ruck driver for Defendant Pet Food Wholesale. Plaintiff, a 19 year-old female retail clerk, alleged that Defendant negligently executed a lane change into Plaintiff's lane of travel, which caused her to lose control and roll her vehicle. Plaintiff sustained a degloving injury to her dominant left hand.

Defendants denied liability and asserted that Plaintiff was either traveling in Defendant's "blind spot" or she attempted to "shoot the gap" to avoid travelling behind Defendant's tractor-trailer. Defendants called an accident reconstructionist to testify in support of their theory. Plaintiff called a psychiatrist, a hand surgeon, a vocational rehabilitation expert and economist to testify as to Plaintiff's alleged damages.

Plaintiff sought \$199,525.48 in past medical expenses, plus \$64,581.00 to \$87,381.00 for future medical treatment. Plaintiff served an \$825,000.00 pretrial Offer of Judgment and during closing arguments, Plaintiff's counsel asked the jury to award more \$5 million. After a 12 day trial, the jury awarded Plaintiff \$1,261,780.22, but found her to be 10 percent at fault. Kumar v. Pet Food Wholesale, Inc., February 5, 2014.

# MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

## Jury Returns Defense Verdict as to Claims Resulting from Plaintiff's Apparent Suicide

Decedent, a 23 year-old female, professional golfer, was survived by her parents who brought suit for her wrongful death. Defendant, a

medical physician, met decedent through mutual friends at a Country Club and treated decedent four times for minor health issues. Five months after their initial meeting, decedent and Defendant developed a tomantic relationship.

On May 8, 2010, Defendant arrived at decedent's residence and found her intoxicated. Decedent was instructed to take a shower and the pair then chipped golf balls in decedent's backyard until 9:00 p.m., when Defendant went home to his pregnant wife. On May 9, 2010, Defendant called decedent 17 times, but was unable to reach her. He then drove to her home and gained entry through an unlocked rear door. Defendant found decedent in her bedroom with a plastic bag secured with rubber bands around her head. Defendant removed decedent's suicide note and a blister pack of Xanax, which appeared to be from Mexico, and placed them in the trunk of his vehicle. Decedent's cause of death was determined to be suicide by asphyxiation.

Plaintiffs alleged Defendant fell below the standard of care when he prescribed medication without determining decedent's medical conditions, allergies to the medications, or whether decedent was at risk for taking medications other than those prescribed. Plaintiffs further alleged that Defendant did not properly document decedent's medical chart with the prescribed controlled substances, and failed to properly evaluate her on May 8 and left her in a medically compromised condition. Plaintiffs also claimed that a combined drug intoxication was a significant cause of decedent's death. Defendant denied falling below the standard of care.

Plaintiffs sought compensatory damages and punitive damages. After a seven day trial the jury returned a verdict for Defendant. Blasberg v. Hess, M.D., May 13, 2014.

# Jury Finds for Decedent's Family after Overdose on Methadone

Decedent was treated by Defendant physician for several years preceding his death. During the course of his treatment, Defendant discussed referring decedent to an opioid addiction specialist and prescribed a one month supply of Methadone, ten milligrams. Decedent began taking the prescribed Methadone and experienced insomnia, hallucinations and constipation. After four days, decedent experienced pinpoint eyes, profuse sweating, twitching in his sleep, sleep walking, blue-tinged lips and an ashen complexion. Decedent's spouse contacted Defendant's office and was advised by the staff that the decedent's

symptoms were normal and the information would be passed along to the Defendant. Twenty minutes later, decedent stopped breathing and died. Decedent's cause of death was determined to be Methadone intoxication.

Decedent was survived by his spouse and three minor children, who brought suit for his wrongful death. Plaintiffs alleged that Defendant fell below the standard of care when he negligently prescribed methadone for opioid addiction and failed to conduct a thorough medical assessment and physical evaluation. Plaintiffs also alleged that Defendant's medical staff fell below the standard of care when they advised decedent's spouse that the symptoms were normal and failed to recommend that decedent be taken to the emergency department. Additionally, Plaintiffs alleged that the Defendant failed to respond to decedent's wife and failed to supervise and/or train employees in appropriate counseling to patients. Defendant denied falling below the standard of care and maintained that decedent was comparatively at fault for not properly following the prescription's instructions and for taking more than was prescribed.

Plaintiffs sought between \$3 million and \$4 million in damages. After a 13 day trial, the jury found Defendant to be 53 percent at fault. Decedent's estate recovered \$1,592,650.00; decedent's spouse was awarded \$530,000.00; two of decedent's children received \$1,060,000.00 and the third child received \$795,000.00. Davis and Davis, Estate v. Gautham Gummadi Reddy, M.D., Ltd., June 18, 2014.

## Plaintiffs Awarded More Than \$2.6 Million Following Wisdom Tooth Extraction

Decedent presented to Defendant dentist for routine dental work and underwent a new patient examination. Decedent returned to Defendant one month later for an extraction of his wisdom teeth. Following the extraction, the decedent experienced ongoing severe pain in the extraction area on the right side of his face, jaw and neck, and experienced difficulty swallowing. Decedent allegedly contacted Defendant via telephone two days later and was advised to call again if his symptoms failed to subside in four to five days. Four days after the extraction, decedent continued to experience symptoms and developed difficulty eating, speaking, and breathing and was vomiting. Decedent was taken to the hospital by ambulance where he was admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. Decedent

as administered antibiotics and drainage of his ack was performed, but decedent passed nine any after the extraction.

Decedent's spouse and minor son asserted aims for wrongful death. Plaintiffs alleged at Defendant fell below the standard of the by providing decedent incorrect advice hen he called after the extraction. Plaintiffs so asserted that Defendant failed to obtain accedent's informed consent regarding the use antibiotics to prevent infection. Further, laintiffs claimed that as a result of Defendant's egligence, decedent developed necrotizing rediastinitis, septic shock and Ludwig's angina om the dental abscess, which resulted in his eath.

Plaintiffs relied on the testimony of an ifectious disease specialist and a dentist who pined that Defendant fell below the standard of are. Defendant denied liability and maintained nat there were no complications during the rocedure. Defendant argued that decedent was iven both verbal and written postoperative astructions, which instructed decedent to ontact the office or go to the emergency room The experienced any severe or unexpected omplications. Defendant also asserted that he was not contacted or aware of decedent's ondition and/or potential complications, or did Defendant instruct an employee of he dental office to give medical advice and/ ir instructions to the decedent. Defendant elied on the testimony of an infectious disease pecialist and an oral and maxillofacial surgeon it trial.

Plaintiffs sought compensatory damages olus \$600,000.00 in loss of support. After a even day trial, the jury found decedent to be 25 percent at fault. Decedent's spouse was awarded \$738,750.00 in compensatory damages and decedent's minor child was awarded \$1,863,750.00. Singletary v. Lee, D.D.S., anuary 22, 2014.

# PREMISES LIABILITY

# Defendant Not Liable For a Trip and Fall on its Premises

Plaintiff, a 57 year-old female accounts payable clerk, alleged that while on Defendant's premises she was injured when her shoe became stuck in a concrete expansion joint, which caused her to trip and fall. Plaintiff alleged Defendant was negligent in its maintenance of the premises, and failed to fill the concrete

expansion joint to a sufficient level required to prevent the hazardous condition.

Plaintiff relied on the testimony of an architect who opined that the expansion joint failed to meet the building code, and a safety engineer who opined the expansion joint could have been a tripping hazard. Defendant denied liability and maintained that it had no notice of the condition. Defendant further argued that there had never been a fall involving any of the 58,000 feet of expansion joints and that its maintenance of the premises was reasonable.

As a result of the fall, Plaintiff allegedly sustained a fractured left elbow. Her orthopedic physician opined that Plaintiff would develop arthritis and may possibly require future surgery. Defendant retained an orthopedic physician who opined that the fracture was causally related to the fall, but maintained that Plaintiff would not develop arthritis or require future surgery.

Plaintiff sought \$119,000.00 in medical expenses and more than \$10,000.00 in lost wages. Plaintiff made a pretrial demand of \$350,000.00 and Defendant offered \$135,000.00. After a five day trial, the jury returned a verdict for Defendant. Biondi v. Paris Las Vegas Propco, L.L.C., May 23, 2014.

## Jury Returned Verdict for Entertainer Who Suffered Injury Backstage

Plaintiff, a 61 year-old male professional comedian, was hired to perform at the Bellagio Hotel and Casino. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant's staff negligently set up the stage, causing Plaintiff to trip and fall over an unsecured speaker cord. Plaintiff sustained a complete rupture of his Achilles tendon, which resulted in a permanent limp. Defendant denied liability and argued Plaintiff was contributory negligent.

At trial, Plaintiff called an entertainment expert, an orthopedic physician and an economist who estimated Plaintiff's damages

Nevada Legal Update
is published quarterly by
Alverson, Taylor, Mortensen &
Sanders
7401 W. Charleston Blvd.
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117
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were \$7,500,000.00. Defendant relied on the testimony of an orthopedic physician and an economist. Plaintiff sought \$3,214,632.00 in past lost wages; \$4,121,970.00 in future lost wages; and medical expenses. Plaintiff made a pretrial demand of \$500,000.00 and Defendant countered with \$175,000.00. After a 15 day trial, the jury returned a verdict for the Plaintiff and awarded \$1,308,500.00. Wallace v. Bellagio, L.L.C., April 8, 2014.

## BREACH OF CONTRACT

## Plaintiff Awarded Damages and Ownership Interest in Business Established during Plaintiff's Divorce

Plaintiff and Defendant were engaged to be married in 1999 and allegedly established and operated Canyon Gate Cleaners as equal co-owners. Plaintiff also owned and operated a machinery sales corporation in Phoenix, Arizona, and utilized his resources and equipment to find a location and equip Canyon Gate Cleaners. Because Plaintiff was involved in divorce proceedings at the time, Defendant suggested that Plaintiff not be listed as an officer and shareholder of Canyon Gate in order to insure Plaintiff's wife would not assert a lien on the business. It was agreed that Defendant would constructively hold Plaintiff's interest in the business, which flourished over the next ten years. The parties shared the income from the business and purchased various personal properties that they jointly owned. Subsequently, however, Defendant removed Plaintiff from their home and business by filing a temporary restraining order. Plaintiff alleged that Defendant breached their agreement to sell the business and divide their personal assets.

Defendant denied liability and maintained that Plaintiff was neither an owner nor an interest holder in the business. Defendant further alleged that Plaintiff did not start or operate the business, did not contribute funds or other consideration to the operation, did not design the business and had no financial or "sweat equity." Defendant asserted she hired Plaintiff as a paid consultant through his businesses, LES Systems, Inc., and Lorenz Equipment Sales, and that she purchased the residence where they lived from 1998 through 2009.

After a nine day trial, the jury awarded Plaintiff \$944,000.00 in compensatory damages

# EXHIBIT "G"

## BOOGLE

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#### Nevada Jury Verdicts [ Nevada Settlements | Nevada Court ...

www.morelaw.com/nevada/cases/ >

Abdul Howard, 49, was convicted by a jury last June of one count of felon in possession of a firearm, 14 counts... More... \$0 (01-08-2015 - NV). United States of ...

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#### [PDF] HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE NEVADA SUPREME COU...

alversontaylor.com/wp-content/.../2014-Nevada-Legal-Update-Fall.pdf ▼
Nov 4, 2014 - NEVADA JURY VERDICTS. Personal Injury. ... jury returned a verdict for Defendant and Plaintiff appealed...... Singletary v. Lee, D.D.S.,.

#### WATTS v. SINGLETARY | Leagle.com

www.leagle.com/decision/...11151.../WATTS%20v.%20SINGLETARY Watts himself expressed concern that the jury's verdict had been influenced by his sleeping: WATTS: The jury made the decision because of my sleeping disorder. ... Nevada, 504 U.S. 127, 139-40, 112 S.Ct. 1810, 1817, 118 L.Ed.2d 479 ...

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

caseinfo.nvsupremecourt.us/document/view.do?csNameID:.. \*
Sep 23, 2014 - Client(s) Svetlana Singletary, individually and as the Rep. of the ...
Whether the Judgment on Jury Verdict filed April 29, 2014 imposed joint and ...

#### [PDF] 15-08872 - Case Search

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Mar 24, 2015 - IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA. SVETLANA ...
the representative of the Estate of Reginald Singletary, and as parent and legal
guardian of .... D. THE JURY'S VERDICT AND SUBSEQUENT AWARDS.

#### [PDF] 15-02468

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Jan 22, 2015 - IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA ... A judgment upon a jury verdict for a total of \$3,508,042.64 was entered against, inter ... Plaintiff/ appellant Svetlana Singletary, individually and in representative ...

#### WATTS v. SINGLETARY - FindLaw

caselaw.findlaw.com > Caselaw > United States > US 11th Cir. > Watts himself expressed concern that the jury's verdict had been influenced by his ... Nevada, 504 U.S. 127, 139-40, 112 S.Ct. 1810, 1817, 118 L.Ed.2d 479 ...

#### [PDF] View the Opinion(s) - Washington State Courts

https://www.courts.wa.gov/.../D2%2042357-... 
Washington Supreme Court v
Jun 19, 2013 - injury." We affirm the trial court's judgment and jury verdict, and we deny
.... Singletary, 166 Wn. App. at 783 (quoting Marley, .... Exch. & Ass'nv.

## Singletary v. Lee - Avvo.com

www.avvo.com/attorneys/89107-nv-jessica-goodey.../118369 ▼ △∀/○ ▼ Singletary v. Lee. Jessica M. Goodey Back to profile. Practice Area:Personal Injury. Outcome:Jury Verdict in excess of \$3 million. Description:Dental malpractice ...

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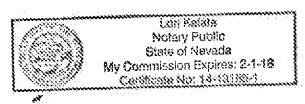
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** ** **	Attention or Party without Attorney: PRESCOTT T. JONES, ESQ. (NBN 11	617)			***************************************	For Co	urt Use Only
- 	BREMER WHIYE BROWN & O'MEA						
111111111111111111111111111111111111111	1160 N. TOWN CENTER DRIVE # 25			***************************************			
	LAS VEGAS, NV 89144	O					
	Telephone No: (702) 258-6665 FAX	No (702) 258-	Secretaries and a second secon	*************			
	duarney for: Plaintiff		Ref. No	, or File No.>			decimination
	Insert name of Court, and Judicial District and Br	anch Court.					
	DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY	NEVADA				Е	lectronically Filed
Ė	Plaintiff: TON VINH LEE	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,				€	3/2015 11:59:18 AM
	Defendant: INGRID PATIN					33,2	
	AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE	Hearing Date:		Times	Dept/Div:	Case Number:	- 1. Hum
	1. At the time of service I was at least 18		***************************************				Maria Min Chambarana
	2. I served copics of the SUMMONS; Co	OMPLAINT				GE.	ERK OF THE COURT
	3. a. Party served:	$\kappa_{\parallel}=1N$	GRID PATI	N, AN INDI	VIDUAL		
	b. Person served:	þa	rty in item 3.	a.			
	4. Address where the party was served: 7791 GALLOPING HILLS STREET LAS VEGAS, NV 89101				STREET		
	5. I served the party:						
	a. by personal service. I personally deprocess for the party (1) on: Wed., S				the party or p	erson authorized t	o receive
				v 0	r Service:		
	7. Person Who Served Papers:  2. DEANNE BELTRAN  5. FIRST LEGAL INVESTIGATION  2070 N. TUSTIN AVENUE, 2ND  SANTA ANA, CA 92705		<b>)</b>	Declare und	er penalty of p	erjury under the la is true and correct	
	<ul> <li>a. DEANNE BELTRAN</li> <li>b. FIRST LEGAL INVESTIGATION</li> <li>2070 N. TUSTIN AVENUE, 2ND</li> </ul>		<b>)</b>	Declare und EVADA this	er penalty of parties the foregoing	**• · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	



8. STATE OF NEVADA, COUNTY OF COCC
Subscribed and sworn to (or affirmed) before me on this 18 day of 9 by DEANNE BELTRAN

proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the person who appeared before me.

(FIDANTI OF SERVICE Main's Stamming), 7 hrems 711370