IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

NUVEDA, LLC,

Petitioner,

VS

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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK, THE HONORABLE ELIZABETH GONZALEZ, DISTRICT JUDGE,

Respondent,

SHANE TERRY, PHIL IVEY, AND DOTAN Y. MELECH, receiver for CWNEVADA, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company,

Real Parties in Interest.

Electronically Filed Apr 23 2021 04:05 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

Supreme Court No. 82469 District Court Case No. A-20-817363-B

Lead Case: A-17-755479-B

Other Consolidated Cases with Lead Case:

A-19-791405-C and A-19-796300-B

ANSWER TO PETITION FOR WRIT OF PROHIBITION OR, IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS

Michael R. Mushkin, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 2421 L. Joe Coppedge, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 4954

MUSHKIN & COPPEDGE

6070 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 270 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 (702) 454-3333 Telephone (702) 386-4979 Facsimile michael@mccnvlaw.com jcoppedge@mccnvlaw.com Attorneys for Real Parties in Interest

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NRAP 26.1 DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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

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

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

Real Parties in Interest, Shane Terry, Phil Ivey, and Dotan Y. Melech, receiver, state that they have no parent corporation and that no publicly held corporation owns 10% or more of its stock.

DATED this 23rd day of April, 2021.

MUSHKIN & COPPEDGE

/s/L. Joe Coppedge

MICHAEL R. MUSHKIN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 2421

L. JOE COPPEDGE, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 4954

6070 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 270

Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

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Shane Terry, Phil Ivey, and Dotan Y. Melech, receiver for CWNevada, LLC, a Nevada limited liability company (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), Real Parties in Interest on behalf of Respondent, by and through their undersigned attorneys, respectfully submit this Answer to Petition for Writ of Prohibition or, in the Alternative, Petition for Writ of Mandamus.

POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. Statement of Issue Presented for Review

A. The only issue presented to this Court for review is whether Petitioner waived its right to request another district judge preside over the evidentiary hearing on Petitioner's contempt.

II. Statement of Facts

A. Background

- 1. On June 13, 2019, Dotan Y. Melech was appointed receiver over CWNevada, LLC ("CWNevada") in case number A-18-773230-B, *Cima Group LLC v. CWNevada* (the "<u>Cima Case</u>") pursuant to the Order Appointing Temporary Receiver and Temporary Restraining Order entered in the Cima Case (the "<u>Temporary Receiver Order</u>") to preserve and if possible, maximize the value of CWNevada's assets (the "<u>Receivership Estate</u>") for the benefit of and distribution to CWNevada's creditors.¹
- 2. Mr. Melech was also appointed as receiver over CWNevada in this case number A-17-755479-B (the "Receivership Action") by stipulation in open

¹ RA Vol. I 001-016

court on June 14, 2019 and by subsequent orders of the district court presiding over the Receivership Action ("Receivership Court") entered on June 26, 2019 ("Interim Receivership Order") and July 10, 2019 ("Current Receivership Order").²

3. The Current Receivership Order provides in part:

Dotan Y. Melech ("Receiver") is hereby appointed Receiver over CWNevada LLC and all of its assets including, without limitation, all assets and rights related to any subsidiary and affiliated entities (collectively "CWNevada") in which CWNevada has an ownership interest, including but not limited to CWNV LLC, with the powers by this Order as follows:

The Receiver shall be the agent of the Court and shall be accountable directly to this Court. This Court hereby asserts exclusive jurisdiction and takes exclusive possession of all assets and property owned by, controlled by, or in the name of CWNevada...³

- 4. Mr. Melech, as Receiver and an agent of the district court, has the right to take exclusive possession of all assets and property owned by, controlled by or in the name of CWNevada. This includes CWNV and CWNV1, LLC ("CWNV1").
- 5. During a hearing on August 18, 2020 regarding Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction and for Appointment of Receiver for NuVeda, LLC; CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC, the district court stated in part, in denying the motion, that "[t]he entities, CWNV, LLC, and CWNV1 LLC are already under

 $^{22 \}left\| \frac{1}{2} \right\|$ RA Vol. I 017-045

³ RA Vol. I 018

the jurisdiction of the existing receiver." *See* Court Minutes⁴, Transcript of Proceedings, pp. 14-15.⁵

- 6. When the parties were unable to agree on the language of a proposed order, NuVeda, LLC ("NuVeda") filed a Motion for Clarification.
- 7. After reviewing the Motion for Clarification and related briefings, the district court determined in chambers without a hearing that the Receiver "has authority over the entities in which CWNevada was the majority interest holder." Despite this finding, the Court recognized that actions taken by NuVeda as the purported trustee under Chapter 86 of the NRS for CWNV and CWNV1 "may ultimately be determined to be valid." *See* Court Minutes⁶, Order Denying Request for Receivership and Injunction and Granting Motion for Clarification on Order Shortening Time filed herein on September 25, 2020.⁷
- 8. Plaintiffs then filed a Motion for Authorization to Reinstate CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC on an order shortening time on October 5, 2020.8
- 9. During the hearing on Plaintiffs' Motion for Authorization to Reinstate CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC held on October 19, 2020, counsel for NuVeda failed to disclose that Pejman Bady ("Dr. Bady") had previously, on October 16, 2020, filed new entities in the name of CWNV LLC and CWNV1

⁴ RA Vol. I 046

⁵ RA Vol. I 060-061

⁶ RA Vol. I 063

⁷ RA Vol. I 064-066 ⁸ RA Vol. I 070-162

- 10. The district court granted Plaintiffs' Motion for Authorization to Reinstate CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC, which was memorialized in an order filed on November 24, 2020. *See* November 24, 2020 Order. ¹¹
- 11. The Order Granting Motion for Authorization to Reinstate CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC and Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to File an Amended Complaint provides in part, "1. The Receiver may apply to the Nevada Secretary of State to revive CWNV and CWNV1 in accordance with NRS 86.580.¹²
- 12. On December 4, 2020, the Receiver filed its original Motion for Order to Show Cause on Order Shortening Time why NuVeda and Dr. Bady should not be held in contempt of court for violation of the district court's orders because the act of filing new entities in the same name was preventing the Receiver from reviving CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC.¹³
- 13. On December 23, 2020, the district court served its Court Minutes, which provide in part, "[a]s the Receiver has not yet submitted the revival application to the Secretary of State in hard copy, the Court declines to take any action at this time. If a denial is made by the Secretary of State's Office, the Court may take other actions related to the subject matter of the Order to Show

⁹ RA Vol. I 163-177

¹⁰ RA Vol. I 229-234

¹¹ RA Vol. I 178-181

¹² RA Vol. I 179

¹³ RA Vo. I 182-245

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CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC in hard copy on December 29, 2020. See Declaration of Kandy A. Halsey. 15 The Secretary of State's office responded on December 29, 2020 15.

that "the order could not be processed" because "[t]he entity name is already in

use." See Letters from the Office of the Secretary of State. 16

that CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC could be revived. 17

The Holly Driggs Law Firm submitted the revival applications for

- 16. On January 5, 2021, Plaintiffs' counsel wrote to NuVeda's counsel, Mr. Stipp requesting that Dr. Bady provide either a name consent release for CWNV LLC and CWNV1 LLC or file for a change of name for such entities so
- Mr. Stipp requested copies of the documents submitted to the 17. Secretary of State's office, which was provided to him on January 6, 2021. 18
- 18. Instead of providing a name consent release for CWNV LLC and CWNV1 LLC so that CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC could be revived by the Receiver, Mr. Stipp wrote on January 15, 2021, to advise that Dr. Bady revived the entities himself claiming that he "through NuVeda was the only person with actual authority to revive them."19
 - The Nevada Secretary of State records indicate that Dr. Bady 19.

¹⁴ RA Vol. I 246-247

¹⁵ RA Vol. II 273-275

RA Vol. II 278; RA Vol. II 284

¹⁸ RA Vol. II 293-295

¹⁹ RA Vol. II 321

revived the old CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC entities under a slightly different name and then merged them with the new entities he had formed to block revival by the Receiver. The entity status for CWNV, LLC and CWNV1, LLC is reflected in the Secretary of State records as "Merge Dissolved."²⁰

- 20. In addition, in a recent filing in the Nevada Supreme Court, Case No. 79110, NuVeda filed a Motion to Substitute Party (Appellant) seeking to substitute CWNV LLC, a new formed Nevada limited liability company ("New CWNV") as successor in interest to the Dissolved CWNV.²¹
- 21. NuVeda's Motion states in part, that "[a]s trustee for Dissolved CWNV, Dr. Bady through NuVeda has transferred all assets and liabilities of Dissolved CWNV to New CWNV, which is managed soled by Dr. Bady."²²

B. Relevant Facts related to Waiver.

- 22. Plaintiffs filed their Renewed Motion for Order to Show Cause on Order Shortening Time on January 21, 2021. The Renewed Motion was scheduled for a telephonic hearing on February 1, 2021.²³
- 23. The Court Minutes issued on February 1, 2021 indicate the following,

Following arguments by Mr. Coppedge and Mr. Stipp, COURT ORDERED, CAUSE HAS BEEN SHOWN that NuVeda has violated the Court's orders to the extent that NuVeda went beyond reviving the entities. The Court will SET a hearing for contempt related to actions that occurred after the revival specifically the merger into the new entities.

²⁰ RA Vol. II 324-347

²¹ RA Vol. I 239-242

²² RA Vol. I 241

²³ RA Vol. II 248-396

24. The district court authorized written discovery requests with a 15-day response time and allowed the depositions of the Receiver and Dr. Bady, limited to 2 hours. All discovery was to be completed within 21 days. The Contempt Hearing was SET on Monday, March 21, 2021 at 1 p.m. *See* Court Minutes.²⁵

25. Mr. Stipp wrote an e-mail the following day on February 2, 2021 with the Subject:

NOTICE TO RESCHEDULE EVIDENTIARY HEARING ON 3/1/21

Dr. Bady will be having surgery on 2/23/21 in CA. There is a follow up procedure also scheduled within 7-10 days. The earliest Dr. Bady will be in Las Vegas is March 2. However, he will not be able to participate in an evidentiary hearing for several weeks. This will also impact depositions and response time for written discovery.

Given the above, I think we should move the hearing to April/May. There is not an emergency that requires completion of the hearing by March 1."

See February 2, 2021 electronic mail from Mitchell Stipp to L. Joe Coppedge. 26

- 26. On February 4, 2021, NuVeda unilaterally noticed the deposition of the Receiver for February 9, 2021. *See* Notice of Deposition.²⁷
 - 27. On February 5, 2021, Mr. Stipp wrote,

²⁴ RA Vol. II 397

²⁵ RA Vol. II 397

²⁶ RA Vol. II 404

²⁷ RA Vol. II 402-403

You communicated that the receiver is only willing to continue the hearing on March 1 for 7 days to accommodate Dr. Bady's surgery if we agree that depositions and hearing are done using alternative means. This matter is not an emergency, and we do not understand the receiver's unwillingness to accommodate.

See electronic mail dated February 5, 2021.²⁸

28. Given the multiple health issues of several individuals involved in the deposition process, Mr. Coppedge clarified his response to NuVeda' request to continue the hearing.

The Receiver can appear by video on February 9 so you do not lose our deposit... I requested that Dr. Bady's deposition be scheduled for February 22. Although we did not discuss a time, I can take his deposition early that day if he needs to travel for his medical procedure. Although neither of us knows the medical procedure that Dr. Bady is undergoing, I offered to continue the hearing for one week to March 8 provided that date is available on the court's calendar. I don't care whether the hearing is in person or not, but as an additional compromise, I offered that we would agree that Dr. Bady can appear by video at the hearing. I believe the above is a good faith compromise given the current circumstances and multiple health concerns on both sides."

See electronic mail from Mr. Coppedge dated February 5, 2021.²⁹

29. Later that same day, Mr. Stipp again confirmed his request to have the evidentiary hearing continued by writing,

While I appreciate the offer to move the hearing 7 days, that does not address depositions or written discovery. Your offer is also conditional. When dealing with these issues, it is usually my experience that attorneys and parties cooperate (especially on a matter which are delicate like health/safety). There is no emergency in this case."

²⁸ RA Vol. II 410

²⁹ RA Vol. II 409

30. When the parties could not agree on the procedures for depositions and NuVeda's request to continue the hearing, Mr. Coppedge wrote to the district court as follows,

On February 4, counsel for Dr. Bady unilaterally noticed the deposition of the Receiver to take place on Tuesday, February 9 at 10:00 a.m. in person. Multiple parties, including the Receiver and the undersigned counsel have significant health concerns about appearing for a deposition in person and have requested that the 2 hour deposition take place via video. Dr. Bady has declined. Given the urgency of this matter, the undersigned respectfully requests a brief conference call with the court to resolve the manner and timing of the Receiver's deposition, as well as the date of the evidentiary hearing.

See electronic mail dated February 8, 2021.³¹

- 31. Mr. Stipp responded to Mr. Coppedge's electronic mail later that morning and attached the aforementioned electronic correspondence with Mr. Coppedge where he specifically requested that the evidentiary hearing on March 1, 2021 be rescheduled.³²
- 32. The Court scheduled a telephonic conference for 11:45 a.m. later that morning.³³
- 33. During the telephonic conference, the district court allowed the deposition of the Receiver to proceed via video conference and re-scheduled the evidentiary hearing to April 5, 2021, as requested by NuVeda, all of which is

³⁰ RA Vol. II 408

³¹ RA Vol. II 399

³² RA Vol. II 400-411

³³ RA Vol. II 413

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confirmed in the electronic mail correspondence Mr. Stipp provided to the district court.

- 34. NuVeda, through Mr. Stipp, then submitted a Status Report Regarding Contempt Hearing on February 26, 2021. As of this time, NuVeda still had not requested reassignment from Judge Gonzalez for the contempt hearing. See Status Report Regarding Contempt Hearing.³⁴
- 35. On March 1, 2021, the district court entered the following minute order which provides in part,
 - Court reviewed status reports from Mr. Coppedge and Mr. Stipp. Current April 5, 2021 for the Contempt proceedings STANDS. Parties to provide a joint status report on completion of Dr. Bady's deposition by March 18, 2021. Matter SET for Status Check regarding scheduled Contempt Proceeding April 5, 2021 on March 19, 2021 chambers.

See March 1, 2021 Court Minutes. 35

- 36. On March 10, 2021, NuVeda and Dr. Bady filed a new Status Check and Request for Related Relief³⁶, which was initially scheduled for a Chambers hearing on March 19, 2021, then scheduled on an order shortening time for March 17, 2021. This is the first time that NuVeda requested that a different judge preside over the evidentiary contempt hearing. *See* Status Check and Request for Related Relief, p. 8.³⁷
 - 37. During the telephonic hearing held on March 17, 2021, Mr. Stipp

³⁴ RA Vol. II 415-418

³⁵ RA Vol. II 419

³⁶ RA Vol. II 420-432

³⁷ RA Vol. II 427

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attempted to distance himself by NuVeda's previous request to re-schedule the evidentiary hearing, claiming he had not requested a continuance of the evidentiary hearing originally scheduled for March 1, 2021. However, the district court expressly recalled that NuVeda had in fact requested that the evidentiary hearing be re-scheduled.

38. Mr. Stipp stated,

But I think it's important to clarify the record in this case. We didn't ask for an extension of the evidentiary hearing, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Stipp, you actually asked me to extend it because of Mr. Bady's medical condition. That was the first time I've heard about it, or maybe it was the second time I heard about it, but you made the request.

March 17, 2021 Transcript, 12:16-22.38

39. In response to NuVeda's delayed request to have a different judge preside over the evidentiary contempt hearing, the district court stated,

THE COURT: Mr. Stipp, your motion is denied.

While I might have granted your request for another Judge (telephonic interference) may have been previously by requesting that I continue the hearing which we discussed in court on February 22, 2021, and my granting your request, that has been waived.

March 17, 2021 Transcript, 11:10-14³⁹

III. Argument

The law in Nevada is well established that the failure to bring an issue before this Court in a timely manner results in a waiver of the objection. *Sturrock*

³⁸ RA Vol. II 433-446

³⁹ RA Vol. II 433-446

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v. State of Nevada, 95 Nev. 938, 943, 604 P.2d 341, 345 (Nev. 1979) (citing, Nix v. State, 91 Nev. 613, 541 P.2d 1 (1975); George v. State, 89 Nev. 47, 505 P.2d 1217 (1973); Skinner v. State, 83 Nev. 380, 432 P. 2d 675 (1967); Oberle v. Fogliani, 82 Nev. 428, 420 P.2d 251 (1966); Ex parte Merton, 80 Nev. 435, 395 P.2d 766 (1964). Also see Davis v. State, 132 Nev. 960, ____, 2016 Nev. App. Unpub. LEXIS 192 (Nev. App. 2016) (When a defendant seeks to challenge the State's non-compliance with a statutory obligation, his failure to timely object can constitute a waiver of the issue.)

In the instant matter, NuVeda objects to Judge Gonzalez presiding over the evidentiary hearing on contempt under NRS 22.020(3). NuVeda argues that it did not waive the right to object by claiming it did not ask for a continuance. NuVeda is simply wrong in its analysis. The electronic mail that Mr. Stipp provided to the district court on February 8, 2021, confirms that NuVeda did in fact request a continuance of the evidentiary hearing initially scheduled for March 1, 2021.

NuVeda failed to object to Judge Gonzalez presiding over the evidentiary contempt hearing in its opposition to Plaintiffs' Renewed Motion for Order to Show Cause. NuVeda failed to object to Judge Gonzalez presiding over the evidentiary contempt hearing during the telephonic hearing on February 1, 2021. Beginning the following day on February 2, 2021 and continuing for several days thereafter, Mr. Stipp wrote to Plaintiffs' counsel, repeatedly requesting a continuance of the evidentiary hearing then scheduled for March 1, 2021 as it

was not an emergency. When the parties could not agree to the procedures for depositions and a continued date for the evidentiary hearing, Plaintiffs' counsel wrote to Department 11, requesting a telephonic conference to resolve the outstanding issues, including the date for the evidentiary hearing. Mr. Stipp responded to the electronic mail, copied Department 11, and attached the electronic mail correspondence in which he repeatedly requested a continuance of the date for the evidentiary hearing. Specifically, Mr. Stipp provided information to the district court that:

- Dr. Bady will be having surgery on February 23, 2021 in California.
- Dr. Bady will have a follow up procedure scheduled within 7-10 days.
 - The earliest Dr. Bady would return to Las Vegas was March 2.
- Dr. Bady will not be able to participate in an evidentiary hearing for several weeks.
- Given the above, Mr. Stipp requested to move the hearing to April/May.
- Mr. Stipp complained that Plaintiffs were only willing to continue the hearing scheduled for March 1, 2021 for 7 days to accommodate Dr. Bady's surgery if NuVeda agreed that depositions and hearing are done using alternative means.
- Mr. Stipp repeatedly asserted the evidentiary hearing is not an emergency, and he did not understand the receiver's unwillingness to

accommodate his request to continue the evidentiary hearing.

Based on the foregoing, the district court continued the evidentiary contempt hearing to April 5, 2021. Clearly, the hearing was continued to accommodate NuVeda's request and for no other reason. Following the continuance, NuVeda still failed to object until its filing on March 10, 2021, ten days after the original date for the evidentiary hearing. There is no evidence that the district court abused its discretion or acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner.

IV. Conclusion

The evidence is clear that NuVeda, through its counsel, requested a continuance of the initial hearing during the telephonic conference on February 8, 2021. This is undisputedly confirmed in the electronic mail correspondence NuVeda's counsel provided to the district court. NuVeda's attempt to deny this request should not go unnoticed by this Court.

Although it had multiple opportunities to request another judge preside over the evidentiary hearing on contempt, it failed to do so for at least 40 days after the initial hearing on the Renewed Motion for an Order to Show Cause. The district court expressly found Petitioner's behavior amounted to a waiver. This Court should not substitute its judgment for that of the district court who sat through the telephonic hearings.

Based on the foregoing, Plaintiffs respectfully request that Petitioner's Writ be denied. DATED this 23rd day of April, 2021. MUSHKIN & COPPEDGE /s/L. Joe Coppedge MICHAEL R. MUSHKIN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 2421 L. JOE COPPEDGE, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 4954 6070 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 270 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

- 1. I hereby certify that this brief complies with the formatting requirements of NRAP 32(a)(4), the typeface requirements of NRAP 32(a)(5) and the type style requirements of NRAP 32(a)(6) because:
- 2. [X] This brief has been prepared in a proportionally spaced typeface using Microsoft Word 2016 in Times New Roman 14-point font; or
- 3. [] This brief has been prepared in a monospaced typeface using [state name and version of word-processing program] with [state number of characters per inch and name of type style].
- 4. I further certify that this brief complies with the page- or type-volume limitations of NRAP 32(a)(7) because, excluding the parts of the brief exempted by NRAP 32(a)(7)(C), it is either:
 - [X] Proportionately spaced, has a typeface of 14 points or more, and contains 3491 words; or
 [] Monospaced, has 10.5 or fewer characters per inch, and contains _____ words or _____ lines of text; or
 [] Does not exceed pages.
- 5. Finally, I hereby certify that I have read this appellate brief, and to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief, it is not frivolous or interposed for any improper purpose. I further certify that this brief complies with all applicable Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure, in particular NRAP 28(e)(1), which requires every assertion in the brief regarding matters in the

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

DATED this 23rd day of April, 2021.

MUSHKIN & COPPEDGE

/s/L. Joe Coppedge
MICHAEL R. MUSHKIN, ESQ.
Nevada Bar No. 2421
L. JOE COPPEDGE, ESQ.
Nevada State Bar No. 4954
6070 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 270
Las Vegas, Nevada 89119

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRAP 25(d), I certify that on this 23rd day of April, 2020, I 2 served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Answer to Petition for Writ of 4 Prohibition or, in the Alternative, Petition for Writ of Mandamus as follows: 5 6 by placing same to be deposited for mailing in the United States Mail, in a sealed envelope upon which first class postage was 7 8 prepaid in Las Vegas, Nevada; 9 [X]via electronic means by operation of the Court's electronic filing system, upon each party in this case who is registered as an 10 electronic case filing user with the Clerk; via hand-delivery to the addressee listed below; [] via facsimile; [] by transmitting via email to the email address set forth below. [] /s/Karen L. Foley An Employee of Mushkin & Coppedge 19 20 21

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