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

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS

Petitioner,

v.

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK, THE HONORABLE ADRIANA ESCOBAR,

Respondents,

WLAB INVESTMENT, LLC, TKNR, INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual, and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKDRANDT, an individual and does 1 through 15 and roe corporation I-XXX,

Real Parties in Interest

Supreme Court No:

District Court North Ol 2021 12:12 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

**APPENDIX TO** 

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS' PETITION
FOR WRIT OF MANDAMUS
OR WRIT OF PROHIBITION

**VOLUME 1** 

Benjamin B. Childs, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 3946 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89101 Telephone: 702-251-0000

Petitioner

# CHRONOLOGICAL INDEX TO PETITIONER'S APPENDIX

# **VOLUME 1**

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Email chain commending April 2, 2021 between counsel and Ariana Reed, law clerk for Respondent Court, with Proposed Order to Show Cause Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c)(3) on Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Prior Counsel, Benjamin Childs, for Violation of Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(B)

186 - 192

Amended Order Granting Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the alternative, Partial Summary Judgment filed April 7, 2021 [with Notice of Entry of Order]

193 - 250

### ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 11/4/2020 1:34 PM

Electronically Filed 11/04/2020 1:34 PM CLERK OF THE COURT

NIKITA R. BURDICK ESQ. (NSB 13384) **BURDICK LAW PLLC** 

2 6625 S. Valley View Blvd. Suite 232

Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 3 Telephone: (702) 481-9207

Nburdick@Burdicklawnv.com 4

Attorney for Defendants

## IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

VS.

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TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN. individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN OIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE NICKRANDT, an individual, INVESTPRO **INVESTMENTS** LLC. Nevada Limited Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

Case No.: A-18-785917-C Dept. No.: 14

## ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO ENLARGE DISCOVERY (FIRST REQUEST) ONAN ORDER SHORTENING TIME

Date of Hearing: October 22, 20202

Time of Hearing: 9:30 a.m.

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This being set for hearing before Honorable matter the Court October 22, 2020 at 9:30 a.m., on Defendants' TKNR INC., CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, YAN QIU ZHANG, INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, MAN CHAU CHENG, JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, (collectively, the "Defendant"), Motion to Enlarge Discovery (First Request) ("Motion") on an Order Shortening Time, by and through their attorney of record, BURDICK LAW PLLC. Plaintiff W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC appeared on and

Page 1 of 3

Appendix Page 1 of 263

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

Defendants.

BURDICK LAW PLLC 6625 S. Valley View Blvd. Suite 232, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

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through its counsel of record, Benjamin B. Childs, Esq. New counsel for Defendants, MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C., also appeared, and made the argument for Defendants, specifying that he would file a substitution of counsel for Defendants today.

Upon review of the pleadings, argument of counsel and for good cause shown, this Honorable Court Grants the Motion as follows:

- There is an "inherent power of the judiciary to economically and fairly manage litigation." Borger v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Court, 120 Nev. 1021, 1029 (2004). NRCP 16(b)(4) provides that a scheduling order for trial may be modified by the court for good cause.
- 2. Further, EDCR 2.35(a) allows requests to extend discovery if in writing and supported by a showing of good cause for the extension and be filed no later than 21 days before the discovery cut-off date or any extension thereof. A request made beyond the period specified above shall not be granted unless the moving party, attorney or other person demonstrates that the failure to act was the result of excusable neglect.
- 3. Defendants bring the instant motion due to their failure to make initial expert disclosures by the October 15, 2020, deadline. Pursuant to the scheduling order entered on June 26, 2020, the discovery cut-off date is October 30, 2020. Defendants filed their Motion on October 15, 2020, which was not more than 21 days before the discovery cut-off date. Here, the Court finds that Defendants' failure to seek an extension of the discovery deadline in a timely manner was the result of excusable neglect. Moreover, Defendant demonstrated good cause warranting this Court to extend discovery, namely that due at least in part the current COVID-19 pandemic, the parties have not conducted any depositions. Additionally, Defendants failed to designate a rebuttal expert due to excusable neglect.
  - 4. Based on the foregoing, the Court GRANTS Defendant's Motion.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that the Motion is GRANTED. For good cause shown, the discovery deadlines in this matter shall be enlarged as follows:

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Nburdick@Burdicklawnv.com

1	Discovery Deadline	Date
1	Close of Discovery	March 2, 2021
2	Last Day to File Motion to Amend Pleadings of	
	Initial Expert Disclosures due	November 30, 2020
3	Rebuttal Expert Disclosures due	December 4, 2020
1	Deadline to file Dispositive Motions	January 25, 2021
4	Deadline to file Motions in Limine	45 Days before trial
5	Additionally, the Calendar Call will be reset to	April 1, 2021, and the trial stack will be moved to
6	the April 19, 2021.	
7	Dated thisday of	, 2020.
8	l l	Dated this 4th day of November, 2020
9	<u>(</u> म	ON. ADRIANA ESCOBAR
10		istrict Court Judge, Department
11		10A 8EB 17C7 9E00 Adriana Escobar
12	Date: October 26, 2020.	Adnana Escobar District: Courbeludge 020.
13	Respectfully Submitted By:	Approved of as to Form and Content By:
14	BURDICK LAW PLLC	MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.
15		
1.0	/s/ Nikita Burdick	/s/ Michael Lee
16 17	NIKITA R. BURDICK ESQ. (NSB 13384) 6625 S. Valley View Blvd. Suite 232	MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582)
1 /	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Telephone: (702) 481-9207	1820 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104
18	Nburdick@Burdicklawnv.com	Telephone: (702) 477.7030
19	Attorney for Defendants	Facsimile: (702) 477.0096 mike@mblnv.com
20		Attorneys for Defendants
21	Date: October 29, 2020.	
22	Approved of as to Form and Content By:	
23	_/s/ Benjamin Childs	_
24	BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. (NSB 3946) 318 S. Maryland Parkway	
25	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel - (702) 251.0000	
26	Fax – 702.385.1847 ben@benchilds.com	
27	Attorney for Plaintiff	
28		

### mike@mblnv.com

From: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 29, 2020 5:52 PM

To: mike@mblnv.com

Cc: 'Michael Matthis'; 'Nikita Burdick'; 'Abigail McGowan'
Subject: Re: WLAB v. Lin et al. - Order Enlarging Discovery

I frankly spaced it then got really busy when I saw this email.

2:17 - the motion was not filed more than 21 days before the discovery cutoff.

But with that change you can affix my electronic signature. Tomorrow is a holiday, but I'll be back on Monday if you want me to sign it.

### **Thanks**

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 251 0000 Fax 385 1847

ben@benchilds.com

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**From:** mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com> **Sent:** Thursday, October 29, 2020 4:21 PM **To:** Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>; 'Nikita Burdick' <nburdick@burdicklawnv.com>; 'Abigail McGowan'

<amcgowan@burdicklawnv.com>

Subject: RE: WLAB v. Lin et al. - Order Enlarging Discovery

Any response to the proposed order? I will just put "no response" if I do not hear from you by the end of today.

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From: mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com>
Sent: Monday, October 26, 2020 3:50 PM
To: 'Ben Childs' <ben@benchilds.com>

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>; 'Nikita Burdick' <nburdick@burdicklawnv.com>; 'Abigail McGowan' <amcgowan@burdicklawnv.com>

Subject: WLAB v. Lin et al. - Order Enlarging Discovery

Ben:

Please find the proposed Order granting the discovery deadlines. If acceptable, please provide a response if we can affix your e-signature or please print, sign, and return. If not, please track any changes you make to the document.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. As always, please contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ.

mike@mblnv.com



1820 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110, Las Vegas, NV 89104

Direct Line - 702.731.0244 Main Line: 702.477.7030 Fax: 702.477.0096

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1	CSERV		
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3	DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA		
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6	W L A B Investment LLC,	CASE NO: A-18-785917-C	
7	Plaintiff(s)	DEPT. NO. Department 14	
8	VS.		
9	TKNR Inc, Defendant(s)		
10		_	
11	AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE		
12	This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District		
13	Court. The foregoing Order Granting was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:		
14	Service Date: 11/4/2020		
15	Katherine MacElwain	kmacelwain@nevadafirm.com	
16	Michael Matthis	matthis@mblnv.com	
17	John Savage	jsavage@nevadafirm.com	
19	BENJAMIN CHILDS	ben@benchilds.com	
20	Nikita Burdick	nburdick@burdicklawnv.com	
21	Michael Lee	mike@mblnv.com	
22	Bradley Marx	brad@marxfirm.com	
23	Nikita Burdick	nburdick@burdicklawnv.com	
24	Abigail McGowan	amcgowan@burdicklawnv.com	
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MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582)

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4 Facsimile: (702) 477.0096 mike@mblnv.com

Attorney for Defendants

# IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

VS.

TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG aka ZHONG KENNY LIN LIN. individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE NICKRANDT, an individual, INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, Nevada Limited Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

CASE NO.: A-18-785917-C

DEPT. NO.: XIV

### <u>HEARING REQUESTED</u>

### **DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR** SUMMARY JUDGMENT, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL SUMMARY **JUDGMENT**

Date of Hearing: Time of Hearing:

Defendants.

Defendants TKNR INC. ("TKNR"), CHI ON WONG ("WONG"), KENNY ZHONG LIN ("LIN"), LIWE HELEN CHEN ("CHEN"), YAN QIU ZHANG ("ZHANG"), INVESTPRO LLC ("INVESTPRO"), MAN CHAU CHENG ("CHENG"), JOYCE A. NICKRANDT ("NICKRANDT"), INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS, LLC ("Investments"), and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Defendants"), by and through their counsel of record, MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C., hereby files this Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Partial Summary Judgment ("Motion"). This Motion is made on the following

Page 1 of 33

Appendix Page 7 of 263

Memorandum of Points and Authorities, any affidavits, declarations or exhibits attached hereto, and any oral arguments accepted at the time of the hearing of this matter. Plaintiff W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC is hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff" or "WLAB".

### **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

#### I. INTRODUCTION

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#### Α. **Overview**

Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law. The overwhelming case law in Nevada applies the doctrine of caveat emptor on buyers of real property. Notably, the Property was 63 years old at the time of purchase and being used as a rental property. Nevertheless, Plaintiff waived her inspections twice as it relates to the Property, defined below, as she cancelled her original purchase agreement and entered into a new one. Despite the clear statements that she needed to get an inspection done, and clear disclosures related to the conditions of the Property, Plaintiff still waived her inspection and forged ahead with the purchase. The entire crux of Plaintiff's action is premised that that there was alleged work done without permits, but TKNR disclosed that it the Seller's Disclosures. Additionally, permit work is publicly available on the City of Las Vegas' website, which illustrates that Plaintiff should have known about this issue at the time of purchase, absolving Defendants of any liability.

Moreover, alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's alleged expert were all open and obvious, and would have been uncovered by an inspection. Plaintiff's alleged expert never did any destructive testing, so an inspector would have had the same opportunity to observe everything that he did. Importantly, Plaintiff is a sophisticated commercial buyer who has purchased and renovated several similar properties, so it has a higher burden to demonstrate why it waived inspections. As Defendants disclosed all conditions known to them at the time of the sale, Nevada law does not permit this action to continue. This justifies Summary Judgment on all of Plaintiff's claims, including the frivolous claims for RICO, fraudulent conveyance, and abuse of process.

Finally, sanctions are also justified against Plaintiff. Astonishingly, Plaintiff is claiming \$16.25 Million in damages related to the purchase of the Property (original purchase price -

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\$200,000). Incredibly, the original demand by Plaintiff for settlement was \$10,000. Regardless of whether Plaintiff or Plaintiff's counsel, who have charged Plaintiff approximately \$64,000 for this matter so far, are responsible for the violation of Rule 11 in prosecuting this frivolous claim, Rule 11 permits sanctions against both, which should include an award of attorneys' fees and costs to Defendants.

#### B. **Statement of Facts**

1. First Residential Purchase Agreement and Waiver of Inspections, Contractual Broker Limitations

The Property (defining as 2132 Houston Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89104) was originally constructed in 1954. MLS Listing attached as **Exhibit A**. On or about August 11, 2017, Marie Zhu ("Zhu"), the original purchaser, executed a residential purchase agreement ("RPA") for the Property. Residential Purchase Agreement attached as Exhibit B (Plaintiff's Disclosure) 26 of 166. At all times relevant, Ms. Zhu and Frank Miao ("Miao"), the managing member of Plaintiff, were sophisticated buyers related to "property management, property acquisition, and property maintenance." ROG Response (excerpt) at 3:3-4 attached as Exhibit N. The purchase price for the property was \$200,000. Id. Through the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived her due diligence, although she had a right to conduct inspections:

> During such Period, Buyer shall have the right to conduct, noninvasive/non-destructive inspections of all structural, roofing, mechanical. electrical, plumbing, heating/air conditioning, water/well/septic, pool/spa, survey, square footage, and any other property or systems, through licensed and bonded contractors or other qualified professionals.

*Id.* at 28 of 166 at 7(A) lines 36-39.

Ms. Zhu did not cancel the contract related to any issues with the Property. Id. Under Paragraph 7(C) of the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived the Due Diligence condition. *Id.* Under Paragraph 7(D) of the RPA, it provided:

> It is strongly recommended that Buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections. If any inspection is not completed and requested repairs are not delivered to Seller within the Due Diligence Period, Buyer is deemed to have waived the right to that inspection and Seller's liability for the cost of all

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repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted, except as otherwise provided by law.

Id. Ms. Zhu waived any liability of Defendants for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted. *Id.* Ms. Zhu also waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection. *Id*.

Under Paragraph 7(F), it was Ms. Zhu's responsibility to inspect the Property sufficiently as to satisfy her use. Id. Additionally, Wong, Lin, Chen, Zhang, Cheng, and Nickrandt (collectively, "Brokers" or "Broker Defendants") had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or requested by one party." *Id*.

On August 2, 2017, TKNR submitted its Seller Disclosures timely indicating all known conditions of the Subject Property. Plaintiff's Disclosure Page 36 of 166 attached as **Exhibit C**. In fact, TKNR disclosed that "3 units has (sic) brand new AC installed within 3 months," and further that the "owner never resided in the property and never visited the property." *Id.* at Page 38. Plaintiff was also aware that the minor renovations, such as painting, was conducted by the Seller's "handyman" as disclosed in the Seller's Disclosures. *Id.* Seller also disclosed that it had done construction, modification, alterations, or repairs without permits. *Id.* at 37. Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff chose not to inspect the Subject Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires. *Id*.

### 2. Second Residential Purchase Agreement and Waiver of Inspections, Contractual Broker Limitations

On or before December 5, 2017, Ms. Zhu had issues related to the financing for the Property because of an appraisal. Chen-Ms. Zhu email attached as **Exhibit D**. As such, Ms. Chen confirmed that Ms. Zhu would do a new purchase agreement, and would agree to pay the difference in an appraisal with a lower value than the purchase price, and waive inspections:

> Please note that seller agree the rest of terms and request to add the below term on the contract:

> "Buyer agree to pay the difference in cash if appraisal come in

lower than purchase price, not to exceed purchase price of \$200k" I just send you the docs, please review and sign if you are agree.

Thank you!

# (Per buyer's request will waive licensed home inspector to do the home inspection)

*Id.* (emphasis added).

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On the same day, Ms. Zhu and TKNR agreed to Addendum No. 1 to cancel the RPA dated August 11, 2017, Addendum No. 1 attached as Exhibit E, and entered into a new Residential Purchase Agreement dated September 5, 2017 ("2nd RPA"). 2nd RPA attached as Exhibit F. As before, the overall purchase price for the Property was \$200,000, but Ms. Zhu changed the contingency for the loan to \$150,000 with earnest money deposit of \$500 and a balance of \$49,500 owed at the close of escrow ("COE" or "Closing"). Id. at DEF4000355. The COE was set for September 22, 2017. *Id.* at DEF4000357 at ¶ 5C.

Notably, although Ms. Zhu had not initialed the "Failure to Cancel or Resolve Objections" provision in the RPA, Ex. B. at Page 29 at ¶ 7(c), she initialed the corresponding provision in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Ex. F at DEF4000358 at ¶ 7(c). This was consistent with Ms. Zhu's instructions to Ms. Chen. Ex. D. This is the second time that Ms. Zhu waived inspections for the Property despite the language in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA that strongly advised to get an inspection done.

As noted, Ms. Zhu waived any inspections related to the purchase of the Property in the  $2^{\text{nd}}$  RPA. *Id.* at DEF4000357 at ¶ 7. Although Ms. Zhu had actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures, Ex. C, from August 11, 2017, and the Parties agreed to extend the COE to January 5, 2018, Ex. F at Addendum 1 at DEF4000365, Ms. Zhu still never did any inspections. Instead, she put down an additional \$60,000 as a non-refundable deposit to the TNKR. *Id.* Moreover, she also agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$650 per month for one of the units, and to also pay the property manager \$800 for the tenant placement fee. Id. Through Addendum 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, Ms. Zhu later changed the purchaser to Plaintiff. *Id.* at DEF4000366.

#### 3. No Reliance on Broker Agents

As to the Brokers, Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Broker's or Broker's agent. Id. at DEF4000361 ¶ 22. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties. Id. Ms. Zhu agreed to

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satisfy herself, as to the condition of the Property, prior to the close of escrow. Id. Ms. Zhu waived all claims against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. *Id.* Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. Id. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction. *Id.* 

### Inspection Would Have Revealed Alleged Conditions

On November 17, 2020, Defendants' expert, Neil D. Opfer, an Associate Professor of Construction Management at UNLV and overqualified expert, conducted an inspection of the Property. Opfer Report attached as **Exhibit G**. At that time, while he only had interior access to one of the three units due to the failure of Plaintiff to accommodate the request for the inspection, he did a visual inspection of all the areas specified in Plaintiff's expert's report. Id. Moreover, he also found pictures of the Property from 2017 that depicted the condition of the Property prior to August 11, 2017. *Id.* at DEF5000368. While Professor Opfer illustrated the dubious findings by Plaintiff's expert with citations showing the actual misstatements of the building code requirements as it relates to permits, he noted that TNKR did disclose that it did the work without permits through its disclosures. *Id.* at DEF5000371.

As to the alleged issues, Professor Opfer noted that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's alleged expert were open and obvious:

> [n]ote that the Plaintiff could have hired an inspector or contractor to evaluate this real-estate purchase beforehand but did not. Items complained about in the Sani Report were open and obvious at the roof area, attic area, and on the exterior and interior areas of the Property.

### Ex. G at DEF5000372.

Professor Opfer also noted that Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the same alleged conditions that the alleged expert noted, would have been made by an inspector at the time of the purchase. *Id.* at DEF5000372-373. Similarly, he later noted:

> it is the fault of the Plaintiffs for not conducting requisite inspections of the Property prior to its purchase. Since this issue is apparently open and obvious as per the Sani Report, it would have

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been open and obvious as well during a pre-purchase inspection.

Id. at DEF5000380. Moreover, he also noted that Plaintiff's alleged expert did "not recognize prior conditions in existence before any work took place by the Defendants." *Id.* at DEF5000376.

As to the open and obvious nature of the alleged issues, Professor Opfer noted the following:

- 1. the photographs from 2017 showed extensive cracking to the stucco and slab to the Property prior to any work by Defendants and/or the licensed contractor it hired to install the HVAC. Id.
- 2. the alleged attic issues could have been inspected at the time of the purchase. *Id.* at DEF5000378
- 3. "any deficient electrical work related to this 220-volt service situation could have been readily ascertained by an inspection at the time of purchase by the Plaintiff". Id. at DEF5000379
- 4. the alleged HVAC issues were open and obvious. *Id.* at DEF5000381
- 5. "the conditions complained about as to venting and ducting were present at the Property prior to Defendants owning the Property". Id. at DEF5000388,
- 6. Plaintiff could have conducted an online search related to the permits or lack of permits for the Property. Id. at DEF5000389.
- 7. The basis of the Sani Estimate is nonsensical in the first place and there is nothing seen from this Sani Report that was not present at the time of sale of the Triplex Property. There were cracks in the stucco system and concrete slab system existing in 2017. Roof venting/duct venting had not been changed by Defendants and was existing in 2017 and could have been inspected by Plaintiff. *Id.* at DEF5000391.
- 8. Any deficiencies with this electrical installation were open, obvious and could have been inspected prior to purchase as with all other items with this Triplex Property. Any cracks such as wall or floor cracks subsequent to the purchase would obviously be new but again this occurs even on new homes across the Las Vegas Valley and elsewhere. Id. at DEF5000392.

Professor Opfer also noted that it was well known at the time of the purchase that the Property was a 63 year old rental property that was subject to potential renter abuse:

Rental properties experience more-severe-service requirements due to many factors often including a lack of knowledge in order to care for a Property on the part of tenants along with often an uncaring attitude as well.

*Id.* at DEF5000379.

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#### C. **Statement of Procedure**

On November 23, 2020, Plaintiff filed its second amended complaint ("SAC"). In large part, the SAC completely failed to acknowledge the waivers by Ms. Zhu related to the inspection of the Property and/or the open and obvious nature of the alleged defects in the then-63 year old Property at the time of purchase. That said, the SAC alleges fifteen causes of action: (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113 [Defendants TKNR, Wong, and Investpro Manager LLC]; (2) Constructive Fraud [Defendants Investpro, Nickrandt, and Chen]; (3) Common Law Fraud [Defendants Investpro, Investpro Manager LLC, TKNR, Wong and Lin]; (4) Fraudulent Inducement [Defendants TKNR, Investpro Manager LLC, Wong, Investpro and Lin]; (5) Fraudulent Concealment [Defendants TKNR, Wong, Investpro, Investpro Manager LLC, and Lin]; (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty [Defendants Investpro and Nickrandt and Chen]; (7) RICO [Defendants Lin, Cheng, Investpro Manager LLC and Investpro Investments I LLC]; (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1) [Defendant Chen, Lin, Investpro and Nickrandt]; (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education [Defendant Investpro, Zhang, and Nickrandt]; (10) Fraudulent Conveyance [TKNR]; (11) Fraudulent Conveyance [Investpro Investments I LLC]; (12) Civil Conspiracy [As To Defendant Man Chau Cheng, Lin, Investpro, Wong, TKNR, Investpro Investments I LLC and Investpro Manager LLC]; (13) Breach Of Contract [As To Defendant Investpro]; (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing [As To Defendant Investpro]; and (15) Abuse of Process [As To All Defendants].

#### II. DISCUSSION

The following Discussion is organized into six Parts. Part A sets forth the legal standards for summary judgment and real estate disclosures. Part B provides the supporting facts and application of the law to illustrate that the waiver of inspections is fatal to Plaintiff's case as a matter of law. In four subparts, it provides an analysis of (1) the disclosures by TKNR, (2) the

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waiver of inspections, (3) the alleged deficiencies were open and obvious, and (4) Defendants did not know about any of those conditions. Part C asserts Nevada law does not permit any claims against the Broker Defendants. Part D, in four parts, specifies the lack of merit of the ancillary claims for (1) RICO, (2) Fraudulent Conveyance, (3) Civil Conspiracy, and (4) Abuse of Process. Part E, in the alternatively, requests partial summary judgment of the uncontested facts and law if Summary Judgment is not awarded. Finally, Part F requests Rule 11 sanctions.

#### Α. **Legal Standards**

#### 1. Summary Judgment

Summary judgment is appropriate when the pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, admissions, and affidavits, if any, that are properly before the Court demonstrate that no genuine issue of material fact exist, and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 713, 57 P.3d 82, 87 (2002). Substantive law controls whether factual disputes are material and will preclude summary judgment; other factual disputes are irrelevant. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 106 S. Ct. 2505, 91 L.Ed.2d 202 (1986). A genuine issue of material fact is one where the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the non-moving party. Valley Bank v. Marble, 105 Nev. 366, 367, 775 P.2d 1278, 1282 (1989).

The Nevada Supreme Court has held that the non-moving party may not defeat a motion for summary judgment by relying "on gossamer threads of whimsy, speculation and conjecture." Wood v. Safeway, 121 Nev. 724, 732, 121 P.3d 1026, 1031 (2005). The Nevada Supreme Court has also made it abundantly clear when a motion for summary judgment is made and supported as required by Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 56, the non-moving party must 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. *Id.* 

Under Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 56(a), a party may move for summary judgment, or partial summary judgment. "The court shall grant summary judgment if the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a The court may rely upon the admissible evidence cited in the moving papers matter of law."

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and may also consider other materials in the record as well. Id. at 56(c). "If the court does not grant all the relief requested by the motion, it may enter an order stating any material fact including an item of damages or other relief — that is not genuinely in dispute and treating the fact as established in the case." *Id.* at 56(g).

The pleadings and proof offered in a Motion for Summary Judgment are construed in the light most favorable to the non-moving party. Hoopes v. Hammargren, 102 Nev. 425, 429, 725 P.2d 238, 241 (1986). However, the non-moving party still "bears the burden to 'do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt' as to the operative facts in order to avoid summary judgment being entered." Wood, 121 Nev. at 732, 121 P.3d at 1031. "To successfully defend against a summary judgment motion, 'the nonmoving party must transcend the pleadings and, by affidavit or other admissible evidence, introduce specific facts that show a genuine issue of material fact." Torrealba v. Kesmetis, 178 P.3d 716, 720 (Nev. 2008) (quoting Cuzze v. *Univ. & Cmtv. Coll. Sys. of Nev.*, 172 P.3d 131, 134 (Nev. 2007).

The non-moving party bears the burden to set forth specific facts demonstrating the existence of a "genuine" issue for trial or have summary judgment entered against him. Collins v. Union Federal Savings & Loan, 99 Nev. 284, 294, 662 P.2d 610, 618-619 (1983). When there is no genuine issue of material fact and the non-moving party provides no admissible evidence to the contrary, summary judgment is "mandated." Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 US 317, 322 (1986). When a motion for summary judgment is made and supported, an adversary party who does not set forth specific facts showing a genuine issue to be resolved at trial may have a summary judgment entered against him. Collins v. Union Federal Sav. & Loan Ass'n, 99 Nev. 284, 294, 662 P.2d 610, 616 (1983) (citing Van Cleave v. Kietz-Mill Minit Mart, 97 Nev. 414, 633 P.2d 1220 (1981); Bird v. Casa Royale West, 97 Nev. 67, 624 P.2d 17 (1981)).

#### 2. Real Estate Disclosures

"Under NRS Chapter 113, residential property sellers are required to disclose any defects to buyers within a specified time before the property is conveyed." Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007) (citing NRS 113.140(1)). "NRS 113.140(1), however, provides that a seller is not required to 'disclose a defect in residential property of which [she] is not aware.' A

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'defect' is defined as "a condition that materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner." *Id.* (citing NRS 113.100(1)). The Nevada Supreme Court clarified that:

> [a]scribing to the term "aware" its plain meaning, we determine that the seller of residential real property does not have a duty to disclose a defect or condition that "materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner," if the seller does not realize, perceive, or have knowledge of that defect or condition. Any other interpretation of the statute would be unworkable, as it is impossible for a seller to disclose conditions in the property of which he or she has no realization, perception, or knowledge. The determination of whether a seller is aware of a defect, however, is a question of fact to be decided by the trier of fact.

Id. at 425 (citations omitted). Thus, in the context where the plaintiff cannot demonstrate an omitted disclosure that caused damage, the seller is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law. Id. at 426.

Generally, "[n]ondisclosure by the seller of adverse information concerning real property ... will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer to rescind or for damages when property is sold 'as is.' " Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552 (1993). Moreover, "[l]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). The general rule foreclosing liability for nondisclosure when property is purchased as-is does not apply when the seller knows of facts materially affecting the value or desirability of the property which are known or accessible only to [the seller] and also knows that such facts are not known to, or within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. *Mackintosh*, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552 (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted).

A buyer waives its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018). Accordingly, the Nevada Supreme Court concluded that an agreement to purchase property as-is

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foreclosed the buyer's common law claims, justifying the granting of summary judgment on common law claims. *Id.* (citation omitted).

> The terms and conditions of the purchase agreement do not create a duty to disclose. Rather, these disclosures are required by NRS Chapter 113, which sets forth specific statutory duties imposed by law independent of the purchase agreement's terms and conditions. Additionally, the terms of the purchase agreement do not require [the seller] to do anything other than provide the listed disclosures.

Anderson v. Ford Ranch, LLC, 78684-COA, 2020 WL 6955438, at \*5 (Nev. App. Nov. 25, 2020).

Nevada Revised Statute ("NRS") § 113.140 clearly provides that the Seller Disclosures does not constitute a warranty of the Subject Property and that the Buyer still has a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself. NRS § 113.140 also provides that the Seller does not have to disclose any defect that he is unaware of. Similarly, NRS § 113.130 does not require a seller to disclose a defect in residential property of which the seller is not aware. A completed disclosure form does not constitute an express or implied warranty regarding any condition of residential property. NRS § 113.140(2). Chapters 113 and "645 of Nevada Revised Statutes do not relieve a buyer or prospective buyer of the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself or herself." *Id.* at § 113.140(2).

### В. The Two Waivers of Inspection and the Open and Obvious Nature of the Alleged Deficiencies are Fatal to Plaintiff's Claims as a Matter of Law

Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law on all of Plaintiff's claims. It is undisputed that the alleged deficiencies were either disclosed by Defendants, could have been discovered by an inspection, were open and obvious whereby Plaintiff / Ms. Zhu had notice of them at the time she purchased the Property, or were unknown to Defendants at the time of the sale.

#### 1. Disclosures by Seller

On August 2, 2017, TKNR submitted its Seller Disclosures timely indicating all known conditions of the Subject Property. Ex. C. TKNR disclosed that "3 units has (sic) brand new AC installed within 3 months," and further that the "owner never resided in the property and never TNKR also disclosed that it was aware of issues with the heating and cooling systems, *Id.* at 36,

there was construction, modification, alterations, or repairs done without permits, *Id.* at 37, and

lead-based paints. *Id*.

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As such, Summary Judgment is appropriate under NRS § 113.140(1) (seller is not required to disclose a defect in residential property of which she is not aware). Under this statute, "[a]scribing to the term 'aware' its plain meaning, . . . the seller of residential real property does not have a duty to disclose a defect or condition that 'materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner,' if the seller does not realize, perceive, or have knowledge of that defect or condition." Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007). Thus, as Plaintiff cannot demonstrate an omitted disclosure that caused damage, Defendants are entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law. *Id.* at 426.

Moreover, information related to permits is publicly available. The City of Las Vegas has a website<sup>1</sup> that allows anyone in the public to search for permits. Permit Search for Property attached as Exhibit H. NRS § 645.259(2) precludes any liability for misrepresentation or under Chapter 113 if the information is a public record:

> [e]xcept as otherwise provided in this subsection, the failure of the seller to make the disclosures required by NRS 113.130 and 113.135 if the information that would have been disclosed pursuant to NRS 113.130 and 113.135 is a public record which is readily available to the client.

(Emphasis Added). As the SAC is largely premised on the allegation that TNKR allegedly did not disclose that it did not use licensed contractors who obtained permits, SAC at ¶ 29, NRS 645.259(2) precludes any of these claims as a matter of law. As such, Summary Judgment is appropriate as TNKR disclosed that it did not have permits and the information was publicly available.

In total, under NRS § 113.140(1) (seller is not required to disclose a defect in residential

https://www.lasvegasnevada.gov/Business/Permits-Licenses/Building-Permits/Permit-Application-Status?search=address&addrkey=237304

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property of which she is not aware), Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007), and NRS § 645.259(2), Defendants are entitled to Summary Judgment on Plaintiff's claims for (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113, (2) Constructive Fraud, (3) Common Law Fraud, (4) Fraudulent Inducement, (5) Fraudulent Concealment, (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty, (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1), (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education, (12) Civil Conspiracy, (13) Breach Of Contract, and (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing]. It also eliminates the causes of action for (7) RICO, (10) Fraudulent Conveyance, (11) Fraudulent Conveyance, and (15) Abuse of Process since they have no basis in fact or law.

#### 2. Waiver of Inspections

On August 11, 2020, through the original RPA, Ms. Zhu waived her due diligence, although she had a right to conduct inspections:

> During such Period, Buyer shall have the right to conduct, noninvasive/non-destructive inspections of all structural, roofing, mechanical. electrical, plumbing, heating/air conditioning. water/well/septic, pool/spa, survey, square footage, and any other property or systems, through licensed and bonded contractors or other qualified professionals.

Ex. B at 28 of 166 at 7(A) lines 36-39.

Section II(B)(1) lists the disclosures by TKNR. Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff chose not to inspect the Subject Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires. Id. In fact, Ms. Zhu only cancelled the original RPA, Ex. E, because of an issue related to her financing, not because of any concerns related to the Seller's Disclosures. Notably, she included the explicit waiver of the inspections, which included her initialing the provision that she had not done in the original RPA. Ex. F. Ms. Zhu even directly informed her agent to waive all inspections. Ex. D. Although Ms. Zhu had actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures, Ex. C, from August 11, 2017, and the Parties agreed to extend the COE to January 5, 2018, Ex. F at Addendum 1 at DEF4000365, Ms. Zhu still never did any inspections. Instead, she put down an additional \$60,000 as a non-refundable deposit to the TNKR. Id. Moreover, she also agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$650 per month for one of the units, and to also pay the property manager \$800 for the tenant placement fee. Id. Through Addendum 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, Ms. Zhu

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later changed the purchaser to Plaintiff. *Id.* at DEF4000366.

As to the Brokers, Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Broker's agent. Id. at DEF4000361 ¶ 22. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties. *Id.* Ms. Zhu agreed to satisfy herself, as to the condition of the Property, prior to the close of escrow. Id. Ms. Zhu waived all claims against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. *Id.* Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. Id. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction. *Id.* 

As to the waivers, Paragraph 7(D) of the both the RPA and 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA expressly provided:

It is strongly recommended that Buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections. If any inspection is not completed and requested repairs are not delivered to Seller within the Due Diligence Period, Buyer is deemed to have waived the right to that inspection and Seller's liability for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted, except as otherwise provided by law.

Id. Under Paragraph 7(F), it was Ms. Zhu's responsibility to inspect the Property sufficiently as to satisfy her use. *Id.* Nevertheless, Ms. Zhu waived her inspection related to the original RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, reinforced further by actually initialing next to the waiver in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Ex. F. Ms. Zhu also waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection. Id. Thereby, Ms. Zhu waived any liability of Defendants for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted. *Id.* The RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA clearly indicated that Ms. Zhu was purchasing the Property "AS-IS, WHERE-IS without any representations or warranties." *Id.* at DEF4000361 at ¶ 22.

Additionally, Ms. Zhu also agreed that the Brokers Defendants had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or requested by one party." *Id*.

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As a matter of law, Plaintiff is precluded from seeking damages from Defendants because of her failure to inspect. "Nondisclosure by the seller of adverse information concerning real property . . . will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer to rescind or for damages when property is sold 'as is.' " Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552 (1993). Moreover, "[l]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). Defendants also do not have liability as Ms. Zhu / Plaintiff purchased the Property "as-is" within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. Mackintosh, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552. NRS § 113.140 clearly provides that the disclosures do not constitute a warranty of the Property and that the purchaser still has a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself. A completed disclosure form does not constitute an express or implied warranty regarding any condition of residential property. NRS § 113.140(2). Chapters 113 and "645 of Nevada Revised Statutes do not relieve a buyer or prospective buyer of the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself or herself." *Id.* at § 113.140(2).

Thus, Plaintiff waived its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information regarding Property was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018).

In this context, Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law. *Id.* (citation omitted). Defendants are entitled to Summary Judgment as to Plaintiff's claims for (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113, (2) Constructive Fraud, (3) Common Law Fraud, (4) Fraudulent Inducement, (5) Fraudulent Concealment, (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty, (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1), (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education, (12) Civil Conspiracy, (13) Breach Of Contract, and (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing. It also eliminates the causes of action for (7) RICO, (10) Fraudulent Conveyance,

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(11) Fraudulent Conveyance, and (15) Abuse of Process since they have no basis in fact or law.

### 3. Alleged Deficiencies Open and Obvious

The alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's alleged expert in the Property were open and obvious:

> [n]ote that the Plaintiff could have hired an inspector or contractor to evaluate this real-estate purchase beforehand but did not. Items complained about in the Sani Report were open and obvious at the roof area, attic area, and on the exterior and interior areas of the Property.

Ex. G at DEF5000372.

Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the same alleged conditions that the alleged expert noted, would have been made by an inspector at the time of the purchase. *Id.* at DEF5000372-373. Similarly, Professor Opfer noted:

> it is the fault of the Plaintiffs for not conducting requisite inspections of the Property prior to its purchase. Since this issue is apparently open and obvious as per the Sani Report, it would have been open and obvious as well during a pre-purchase inspection.

*Id.* at DEF5000380. The open and obvious nature of the alleged issues include the following:

- 1. the photographs from 2017 showed extensive cracking to the stucco and slab to the Property prior to any work by Defendants and/or the licensed contractor it hired to install the HVAC. Id.
- 2. the alleged attic issues could have been inspected at the time of the purchase. *Id.* at DEF5000378
- 3. "any deficient electrical work related to this 220-volt service situation could have been readily ascertained by an inspection at the time of purchase by the Plaintiff'. Id. at DEF5000379
- 4. the alleged HVAC issues were open and obvious. *Id.* at DEF5000381
- 5. "the conditions complained about as to venting and ducting were present at the Property prior to Defendants owning the Property". *Id.* at DEF5000388,
- 6. Plaintiff could have conducted an online search related to the permits or lack of permits for the Property. Id. at DEF5000389.

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- 7. The basis of the Sani Estimate is nonsensical in the first place and there is nothing seen from this Sani Report that was not present at the time of sale of the Triplex Property. There were cracks in the stucco system and concrete slab system existing in 2017. Roof venting/duct venting had not been changed by Defendants and was existing in 2017 and could have been inspected by Plaintiff. *Id.* at DEF5000391.
- 8. Any deficiencies with this electrical installation were open, obvious and could have been inspected prior to purchase as with all other items with this Triplex Property. Any cracks such as wall or floor cracks subsequent to the purchase would obviously be new but again this occurs even on new homes across the Las Vegas Valley and elsewhere. Id. at DEF5000392.
- 9. Rental properties experience more-severe-service requirements due to many factors often including a lack of knowledge in order to care for a Property on the part of tenants along with often an uncaring attitude as well. *Id.* at DEF5000379.

Summary Judgment is appropriate as Plaintiff either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase. Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). Clearly, the open and obvious issues were within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. Mackintosh, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552 (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted). In this context, Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law. Id. (citation omitted). Defendants are entitled to Summary Judgment as to Plaintiff's claims for (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113, (2) Constructive Fraud, (3) Common Law Fraud, (4) Fraudulent Inducement, (5) Fraudulent Concealment, (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty, (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1), (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education, (12) Civil Conspiracy, (13) Breach Of Contract, and (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing.

#### 4. *Unknown to any Defendant*

At all times relevant, no Defendant was aware of any issues related to any of the alleged complaints raised by Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff's alleged expert. Declaration of Kenny Lin attached as Exhibit I. The only issues that Defendants were aware of were properly disclosed with an explanation. No Defendant was aware of any issues with any structural, electrical, plumbing, sewer, mechanical, roof, fungus/mold, flooring, and/or foundation issues with the

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Property before the time of the sale to Ms. Zhu. *Id.* Nor was any Defendant aware of any issues with any structural, electrical, plumbing, sewer, mechanical, roof, fungus/mold, flooring, and/or foundation issues with the Property at the time of the sale to Ms. Zhu. Id. As to the HVAC issue, Defendants were aware that tenants of the Property complained about the cooling of the Property, which is why TKNR paid to have the system upgraded by a licensed contractor. Air Team Invoice attached as **Exhibit J**.

At all times relevant, during the Due Diligence Period, Plaintiff had access to inspect: the mechanical systems, the structure of the Property, the windows, for mold / fungus, the electrical systems, the plumbing systems, the gas lines, the attic, the bathroom exhaust vent / washer /dryer exhaust vent, the ceiling insulation, the roof decking, the roof trusses, the roof support structures, the duct system, and the flooring and tiles. Ex. G. At all times relevant, Plaintiff knew that the Property was originally constructed in 1954. *Id.* at ¶ 70.

NRS § 113.140 provides that the Seller does not have to disclose any defect that he is unaware of. Similarly, NRS § 113.130 does not require a seller to disclose a defect in residential property of which the seller is not aware. The Nevada Supreme Court has also made it abundantly clear that a seller does not have any liability for unknown defects and/or where the diligent buyer should have done an inspection. *Nelson v. Heer*, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007) (citing NRS 113.140(1)); Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552 (1993) (nondisclosure by the seller of adverse information concerning real property will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer for damages when property is sold as is); Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015) ("[l]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase."); Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018) (buyer waives its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information was reasonably accessible to the buyer); Anderson v. Ford Ranch, LLC, 78684-COA, 2020 WL

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6955438, at \*5 (Nev. App. Nov. 25, 2020) (the terms of the purchase agreement do not require the seller to do anything other than provide the listed disclosures).

Therefore, the overwhelming authority demands Summary Judgment in favor of Defendants as a matter of law. As such, Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law. Id. (citation omitted). Defendants are entitled to Summary Judgment as to Plaintiff's claims for (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113, (2) Constructive Fraud, (3) Common Law Fraud, (4) Fraudulent Inducement, (5) Fraudulent Concealment, (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty, (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1), (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education, (12) Civil Conspiracy, (13) Breach Of Contract, and (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing. It also eliminates the causes of action for (7) RICO, (10) Fraudulent Conveyance, (11) Fraudulent Conveyance, and (15) Abuse of Process since they have no basis in fact or law. It also eliminates the causes of action for (7) RICO, (10) Fraudulent Conveyance, (11) Fraudulent Conveyance, and (15) Abuse of Process since they have no basis in fact or law.

#### C. **Summary Judgment is Warranted as to Broker Defendants**

As to the Brokers, Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Broker's agent. Id. at DEF4000361 ¶ 22. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties. *Id.* Ms. Zhu agreed to satisfy herself, as to the condition of the Property, prior to the close of escrow. Id. Ms. Zhu waived all claims against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. *Id.* Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. Id. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction. Id. Additionally, Ms. Zhu also agreed that the Brokers Defendants had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or requested by one party." Id.

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NRS 645.252 sets forth the duties of real estate agents. Based on the Seller's Disclosures, the RPA, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, Defendants clearly do not have any liability to Plaintiff under Nevada law. Plaintiff had a separate agent representing them for the purchase of the Property. As noted earlier, Plaintiff cancelled the first RPA and entered into the second with actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures and the roles of all Defendants. Exs. A-F. NRS 645.252(4) clearly specifies that agents do not owe a duty to "(a) [i]ndependently verify the accuracy of a statement made by an inspector certified pursuant to chapter 645D of NRS or another appropriate licensed or certified expert" or "(c) [c]onduct an investigation of the condition of the property which is the subject of the real estate transaction."

In addition to the authority cited above, Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law on Plaintiff's claims for (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113, (2) Constructive Fraud, (3) Common Law Fraud, (4) Fraudulent Inducement, (5) Fraudulent Concealment, (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty, (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1), (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education, (12) Civil Conspiracy, (13) Breach Of Contract, and (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing]. It also eliminates the causes of action for (7) RICO, (10) Fraudulent Conveyance, (11) Fraudulent Conveyance, and (15) Abuse of Process since they have no basis in fact or law.

#### D. **No Basis for Extraneous Claims**

The SAC contains claims that appear to be loosely associated with the alleged nondisclosure claims related to the sale of the Property: (7) RICO; (10) Fraudulent Conveyance; (11) Fraudulent Conveyance; (12) Civil Conspiracy; and (15) Abuse of Process. As noted in the prior sections, each of these claims fall as a matter of law based on the aforementioned authority and facts. Nevertheless, this Section will address the lack of merit of each of these claims.

#### 1. *RICO*

In 1970, the United States Congress passed the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, 18 U.S.C. §§ 1961-1968 ("RICO"), as a portion of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970. In passing RICO, "Congress created a wide array of novel civil and criminal weapons to use against crime and corruption." Chappell v. Robbins, 73 F.3d 918, 919

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(9th Cir. 1996). Similarly, "Congress created a private claim under RICO at least in part to compensate victims of racketeering." Id. at 1153 (citing Petro-Tech, Inc. v. Western Co. of North America, 824 F.2d 1349, 1358 (3d Cir.1987)). Nevertheless, "RICO was intended to combat organized crime, not to provide a federal cause of action and treble damages to every tort plaintiff." Oscar v. University Students Co-op. Ass'n, 965 F.2d 783, 786 (9th Cir. 1992). "[A]s a matter of law, personal injury, including emotional distress, is not compensable under section 1964(c) of RICO." Berg v. First State Ins. Co., 915 F.2d 460, 464 (9th Cir. 1990). RICO "provides compensation only for damages caused by racketeering activity." Oscar, 965 F.2d at 813.

"Nevada's anti-racketeering statutes . . . are patterned after the federal [RICO] statutes." Hale v. Burkhardt, 104 Nev. 632, 634, 764 P.2d 866, 867 (1988). Nevada codified its own version of RICO under NRS §§ 207.350-207.520. NRS 207.400(1)(a) specifies that it is unlawful for a person with criminal intent received any proceeds derived, directly or indirectly, from racketeering activity. (Emphasis added). For a federal RICO claim, a plaintiff must allege the following elements to prevail on a RICO claim under a pattern of racketeering activity: (1) the conduct; (2) of an enterprise; (3) through a pattern; (4) of racketeering activity. See Sun Sav. & Loan Ass'n v. Dierdorff, 825 F.2d 187, 191 (9th Cir.1987).

However, "Nevada's civil RICO statute differs in some respects from the federal civil RICO statute." Hale, at 635, 764 P.2d at 868. One critical distinction is found in comparing the language of 18 U.S.C. § 1961(5) with that of NRS 207.390. The federal statute provides that a claimant must plead a pattern of racketeering activity and that such a pattern requires at least two predicate acts; Nevada's RICO statute does not speak in terms of a "pattern of racketeering" and provides that racketeering activity means two predicate acts of the type described in NRS 207.390 and NRS 207.360. Thus, there is no pattern/continuity requirement as is required under federal law. Siragusa v. Brown, 971 P.2d 801, 811 (Nev. 1998).

### An Enterprise

Under RICO, an "enterprise" includes any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, and any union or group of individuals associated in fact

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although not a legal entity. 18 U.S.C. § 1961(4). It is "'a being different from, not the same as or part of, the person whose behavior the act was designed to prohibit." Rae v. Union Bank, 725 F.2d 478, 481 (9th Cir.1984) (quotation omitted). For the purposes of a single action, a corporate defendant cannot be both the RICO person and the RICO enterprise under section 1962(c). See Wilcox v. First Interstate Bank of Oregon, 815 F.2d 522, 529 (9th Cir.1987). In terms of a pleading, problems arise when the named defendant is both the "person" and the "enterprise." Sever v. Alaska Pulp Corp., 978 F.2d 1529, 1534 (9th Cir. 1992).

#### b. Racketeering Activity

"[R]acketeering activity" is any act indictable under several provisions of Title 18 of the United States Code, and includes the predicate acts of mail fraud, wire fraud and obstruction of justice. . . ." Turner v. Cook, 362 F.3d 1219, 1229 (9th Cir. 2004) (citing 18 U.S.C. § 1961(1)). It includes general crimes involving acts or threats of murder, kidnapping, gambling, arson, robbery, bribery, extortion, dealing in obscene matter, or dealing in a controlled substance. *Id.* at § 1961(1)(A). It also includes specific enumerated federal crimes related to various crimes involving theft, fraud, immigration violations, and obstruction of justice. Id. at § 1961(1)(B)-(G).

"Continuity" is both a closed and open-ended concept, referring either to a closed period of repeated conduct, or to past conduct that by its nature projects into the future with a threat of repetition. A party alleging a RICO violation may demonstrate continuity over a closed period by proving a series of related predicates extending over a substantial period of time. Predicate acts extending over a few weeks or months and threatening no future criminal conduct do not satisfy this requirement[.]

#### No Basis for RICO Claim c.

Incorporating the prior sections related to the lack of merit of any of the other claims, there is no "racketeering" or form of predicate misconduct that "by its nature projects into the future with a threat of repetition", Religious Tech. Ctr. v. Wollersheim, 971 F.2d 364, 366 (9th Cir.1992), related to the sale of the Property to Plaintiff. First, there is no "Racketeering Activity" as it is legal to sell real property to a third party. Also, since the sale to Plaintiff

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concluded after the sale, there was no continuity. If there was any potential action for the alleged non-disclosure of known defects, then the action would fall under recognized torts specified in this brief, not RICO. As such, Summary Judgment is appropriate as (1) the other claims fail as a matter of law, (2) there was no criminal intent, (3) or a "racketeering activity".

#### 2. No Action for Fraudulent Conveyance

Fraudulent Conveyance is governed by NRS §§ 112.180(1), 112.190(1). This requires a transfer made or obligation incurred by a debtor is fraudulent as to a creditor, whether the creditor's claim arose before or after the transfer was made or the obligation was incurred, if the debtor made the transfer or incurred the obligation (a) with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud any creditor of the debtor; or (b) without receiving a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the transfer or obligation, and the debtor. NEV. REV. STAT. § 112.180(1)(a-b). Alternatively, NRS § 112.190(1) specifies that a transfer made, or obligation incurred, by a debtor is fraudulent as to a creditor whose claim arose before the transfer was made or the obligation was incurred if the debtor made the transfer or incurred the obligation without receiving a reasonably equivalent value in exchange for the transfer or obligation and the debtor was insolvent at that time or the debtor became insolvent as a result of the transfer or obligation.

Here, Plaintiff failed to identify what the alleged transfer was and who the alleged creditor was that was defrauded. First, this claim lacks any merit as Summary Judgment is already appropriate as to the supporting claim for alleged liability by Defendants to Plaintiff. Second, this claim is premature since Plaintiff is not a creditor. Third, there has not been a showing that Defendants transferred anything. As Plaintiff will not be able to show any transfer was made "with actual intent to hinder, delay or defraud any creditor of the debtor", Id. at §112.180(1)(a), and Plaintiff does not have any basis for the claims in this matter, Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law.

#### 3. Civil Conspiracy

Under Nevada law, to establish a civil conspiracy claim, a plaintiff must show (1) the commission of an underlying tort; and (2) an agreement between the defendants to commit that tort. Jordan v. State ex rel. Dep't of Motor Vehicles & Pub. Safety, 121 Nev. 44, 110 P.3d 30, 51

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(2005) (per curiam) (stating that "an underlying cause of action for fraud is a necessary predicate to a cause of action for conspiracy to defraud"), abrogated on other grounds Buzz Stew, LLC v. City of N. Las Vegas, 124 Nev. 224, 228, 181 P.3d 670, 672 n. 6 (2008); GES, Inc. v. Corbitt, 117 Nev. 265, 21 P.3d 11, 15 (2001). "[I]t suffices under Nevada law to allege that Defendants. . . owed a duty to Plaintiffs not to conspire with those who do owe fiduciary duties to Plaintiffs to breach those duties." Boorman v. Nev. Mem'l Cremation Soc'y, Inc., 772 F. Supp. 2d 1309, 1315 (D. Nev. 2011).

Here, incorporating the preceding arguments illustrating that Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law, Plaintiff cannot demonstrate (1) the commission of an underlying tort or (2) an agreement amongst the defendants to commit that tort. This illustrates that Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law.

#### 4. Abuse of Process

The elements of an abuse of process claim are: "(1) an ulterior purpose by the defendants other than resolving a legal dispute, and (2) a willful act in the use of the legal process not proper in the regular conduct of the proceeding." *Posadas v. City of Reno*, 109 Nev. 448, 452, 851 P.2d 438, 441-42 (1993). Abuse of process can arise from both civil and criminal proceedings. LaMantia v. Redisi, 118 Nev. 27, 30, 38 P.3d 877, 879 (2002). Malice, want of probable cause, and termination in favor of the person initiating or instituting proceedings are not necessary elements for a prima facie abuse of process claim. Nevada Credit Rating Bur. v. Williams, 88 Nev. 601, 606, 503 P.2d 9, 12 (1972); Restatement (Second) of Torts § 682 cmt. a (1977). The mere filing of a complaint is insufficient to establish the tort of abuse of process. Laxalt v. McClatchy, 622 F. Supp. 737, 751 (1985).

Here, Plaintiff illustrated the overall lack of merit related to the abuse of process claim in its limited opposition to Defendants' motion to file amended answer, counterclaim, and thirdparty claim

> If Defendants are allowed to file the proposed Counterclaim, Plaintiff will likely file it's (sic) own motion to file a Second Amended Complaint and allege an additional cause of action for abuse of process based on the Defendants' cause of action for abuse of process.

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Opposition (brief only) at 6:10-13 attached as Exhibit K. Notably, this Honorable Court found the totality of the Opposition meritless. Order at 2:20-21 attached as **Exhibit L**.

Clearly, the totality of the legal and factual arguments in this Motion illustrate the bad faith nature of Plaintiff's claim. First, it is clear that Plaintiff's action is merely an attempt to extort Defendants with a meritless claim in abuse of the legal process. Second, the Property was a then-63 year old home that Plaintiff purchased in 2018. Third, the purchase price was \$200,000. Fourth, illustrating the abuse of process, Plaintiff are claiming \$16.25 Million in damages:

Damage No.	Amount
1	1,950,000
2	2,600,000
3	2,600,000
4	2,600,000
5	650,000
6	650,000
7	650,000
8	650,000
9	650,000
10	2,600,000
11	Omitted
12	Omitted
13	650,000
	16,250,000

Plaintiff's First Supplemental Disclosure (excerpt) attached as Exhibit M. Fourth, Plaintiff also made bad faith claims under RICO and other baseless claims as part of this action. Fifth, Plaintiff's counsel has charged Plaintiff approximately \$64,000 in attorneys' fees to prosecute these worthless claims. Ex. N. Sixth, the original settlement demand from Plaintiff was \$10,000. Ex. I.

As Plaintiff admitted the only purpose in filing the claim for abuse of process was retaliatory, and the overwhelming facts and law illustrate the abuse of process by Plaintiff in bringing this action, Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law.

#### Ε. **Partial Summary Judgment**

Under Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 56(a), a party may move for summary judgment or partial summary judgment. "If the court does not grant all the relief requested by the motion,

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it may enter an order stating any material fact — including an item of damages or other relief that is not genuinely in dispute and treating the fact as established in the case." *Id.* at 56(g). "[A]n admitting party is barred from denying that which it has already admitted. La-Tex Partn. v. Deters, 893 P.2d 361, 365 (Nev. 1995) (citing Wagner v. Carex Investigations & Sec. Inc., 93 Nev. 627, 632, 572 P.2d 921, 924 (1977) (commenting on the application of Nev. R. Civ. Pro. 36).

Here, if this Honorable Court does not grant Summary Judgment on all claims, then Defendants respectfully request that It grant partial Summary Judgment as to the following undisputed facts:

- 1. The Property was originally constructed in 1954.
- 2. On or about August 11, 2017, Ms. Zhu executed the RPA for the Property.
- 3. The purchase price for the property was \$200,000.
- 4. Through the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived her due diligence, although she had a right to conduct inspections.
- 5. Ms. Zhu did not cancel the contract related to any issues with the Property.
- 6. Under Paragraph 7(C) of the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived the Due Diligence condition.
- 7. Under Paragraph 7(D) of the RPA, it provided:

It is strongly recommended that Buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to inspections. If any inspection is not completed and requested repairs are not delivered to Seller within the Due Diligence Period, Buyer is deemed to have waived the right to that inspection and Seller's liability for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted, except as otherwise provided by law.

- 8. Ms. Zhu waived any liability of Defendants for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted.
- 9. Ms. Zhu also waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection.
- 10. Under Paragraph 7(F), it was Ms. Zhu's responsibility to inspect the Property sufficiently as to satisfy her use.
- 11. The Brokers had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or

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- On August 2, 2017, TKNR submitted its Seller Disclosures timely indicating all 12. known conditions of the Subject Property. In fact, TKNR disclosed that "3 units has (sic) brand new AC installed within 3 months," and further that the "owner never resided in the property and never visited the property." Plaintiff was also aware that the minor renovations, such as painting, was conducted by the Seller's "handyman" as disclosed in the Seller's Disclosures. Seller also disclosed that it had construction, modification, alterations, or repairs done without permits. Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff chose not to inspect the Subject Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires.
- 13. On or before December 5, 2017, Ms. Zhu had issues related to the financing for the Property because of an appraisal. As such, Ms. Chen confirmed that Ms. Zhu would do a new purchase agreement, and would agree to pay the difference in an appraisal with a lower value than the purchase price, and waive inspections.
- 14. On the same day, Ms. Zhu and TKNR agreed to Addendum No. 1 to cancel the RPA dated August 11, 2017, and entered into the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. As before, the overall purchase price for the Property was \$200,000, but Ms. Zhu changed the contingency for the loan to \$150,000 with earnest money deposit of \$500 and a balance of \$49,500 owed at the COE.
- 15. Although Ms. Zhu had not initialed the "Failure to Cancel or Resolve Objections" provision in the RPA, she initialed the corresponding provision in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. This was consistent with Ms. Zhu's instructions to Ms. Chen. This is the second time that Ms. Zhu waived inspections for the Property despite the language in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA that strongly advised to get an inspection done.
- 16. Ms. Zhu waived any inspections related to the purchase of the Property in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Although Ms. Zhu had actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures from August 11, 2017, and the Parties agreed to extend the COE to January 5, 2018, Ms. Zhu still never did any inspections. Instead, she put down an additional \$60,000 as a non-refundable deposit to the TNKR. Moreover, she also agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$650 per month for one the units, and to also pay the property manager \$800 for the tenant placement fee.
- Through Addendum 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, Ms. Zhu later changed the purchaser to 17. Plaintiff.
- 18. As to the Brokers, Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Brokers or Broker's agent.
- 19. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties.
- 20. Ms. Zhu agreed to satisfy herself, as to the condition of the Property, prior to the close of escrow.
- 21. Ms. Zhu waived all claims against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction.

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- 22. Information related to permits is publicly available. The City of Las Vegas has a website that permits anyone in the public to search for permits.
- 23. NRS § 645.259(2) precludes any liability for misrepresentation or under Chapter 113 if the information is a public record.
- 24. Plaintiff could have hired an inspector or contractor to evaluate this real-estate purchase beforehand but did not. Items complained about in the Sani Report were open and obvious at the roof area, attic area, and on the exterior and interior areas of the Property.
- 25. Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the same alleged conditions that the alleged expert noted, would have been made by an inspector at the time of the purchase.
- 26. It is the fault of the Plaintiffs for not conducting requisite inspections of the Property prior to its purchase. Since this issue is apparently open and obvious as per the Sani Report, it would have been open and obvious as well during a prepurchase inspection.
- 27. The photographs from 2017 showed extensive cracking to the stucco and slab to the Property prior to any work by Defendants and/or the licensed contractor it hired to install the HVAC.
- 28. The alleged attic issues could have been inspected at the time of the purchase.
- 29. Any deficient electrical work related to this 220-volt service situation could have been readily ascertained by an inspection at the time of purchase by the Plaintiff".
- 30. The alleged HVAC issues were open and obvious.
- 31. The conditions complained about as to venting and ducting were present at the Property prior to Defendants owning the Property.
- 32. Plaintiff could have conducted an online search related to the permits or lack of permits for the Property.
- 33. The basis of the Sani Estimate is nonsensical in the first place and there is nothing seen from this Sani Report that was not present at the time of sale of the Triplex Property. There were cracks in the stucco system and concrete slab system existing in 2017. Roof venting/duct venting had not been changed by Defendants and was existing in 2017 and could have been inspected by Plaintiff.
- 34. Any deficiencies with this electrical installation were open, obvious and could have been inspected prior to purchase as with all other items with this Triplex Property. Any cracks such as wall or floor cracks subsequent to the purchase would obviously be new but again this occurs even on new homes across the Las Vegas Valley and elsewhere.
- 35. It was well known at the time of the purchase that the Property was a 63 year old rental property that was subject to potential renter abuse.
- 36. At all times relevant, no Defendant was aware of any issues related to any of the alleged complaints raised by Plaintiff and/or Plaintiff's alleged expert. The only issues that Defendants were aware of were properly disclosed with an

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No Defendant was aware of any issues with any structural, explanation. electrical, plumbing, sewer, mechanical, roof, fungus/mold, flooring, and/or foundation issues with the Property before the time of the sale to Ms. Zhu. Nor was any Defendant aware of any issues with any structural, electrical, plumbing, sewer, mechanical, roof, fungus/mold, flooring, and/or foundation issues with the Property at the time of the sale to Ms. Zhu. As to the issue HVAC issue, Defendants were aware that tenants of the Property complained about the cooling of the Property, which is why TKNR paid to have the system upgraded by a licensed contractor.

- 37. At all times relevant, during the Due Diligence Period, Plaintiff had access to inspect: the mechanical systems, the structure of the Property, the windows, for mold / fungus, the electrical systems, the plumbing systems, the gas lines, the attic, the bathroom exhaust vent / washer /dryer exhaust vent, the ceiling insulation, the roof decking, the roof trusses, the roof support structures, the duct system, and the flooring and tiles.
- 38. NRS 645.252(4) clearly specifies that agents do not owe a duty to "(a) [i]ndependently verify the accuracy of a statement made by an inspector certified pursuant to chapter 645D of NRS or another appropriate licensed or certified expert" or "(c) [c]onduct an investigation of the condition of the property which is the subject of the real estate transaction."

#### F. **Attorneys' Fees and Costs**

Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c), the court may order a party to show cause why it has not violated the mandates of Rule 11. Rule 11 prevents a party from bringing a lawsuit for an improper purpose, which includes: (1) harassment, causing unnecessary delay, or needless increasing the cost of litigation; or (2) making frivolous claims. NEV. R. CIV. Pro. 11(b)(1)-(2). Rule 11 sanctions should be imposed for frivolous actions. Marshall v. District Court, 108 Nev. 459, 465, 836 P.2d 47, 52.

A frivolous claim is one that is "both baseless and made without a reasonable and competent inquiry." Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 676, 856 P.2d 560, 564 (1993) (quoting Townsend v. Holman Consulting Corp., 929 F.2d 1358, 1362 (9th Cir.1990); Golden Eagle Distrib. Corp. v. Burroughs Corp., 801 F.2d 1531, 1537 (9th Cir.1986)). A determination of whether a claim is frivolous involves a two-pronged analysis: (1) the court must determine whether the pleading is "well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law"; and (2) whether the attorney made a reasonable and competent inquiry. Bergmann, 109 Nev. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564. A sanction imposed for violation of Rule 11 shall be limited to what is sufficient to deter

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repetition of such conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. *Id.* at 11(c)(2).

Furthermore, a court may award attorneys' fees to a prevailing party when it finds that the claim was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. NEV. REV. STAT. § 18.010(2)(b). In other cases, a court may award attorneys' fees "when it finds that the opposing party brought or maintained a claim without reasonable grounds." Rodriguez v. Primadonna Co., LLC, 216 P.3d 793, 800 (Nev. 2009). "The court shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations." *Id.* The Nevada Legislature explained that:

> [i]t is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions pursuant to Rule 11 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure in all appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in business and providing professional services to the public.

Id. "A claim is groundless if 'the allegations in the complaint . . . are not supported by any credible evidence at trial." Barozzi v. Benna, 112 Nev. 635, 639, 918 P.2d 301, 303 (1996) (quoting Western United Realty, Inc. v. Isaacs, 679 P.2d 1063, 1069 (Colo.1984)).

As noted in Section II(D)(4), the overwhelming facts and law illustrate that Plaintiff's claim is frivolous. Not only did Plaintiff intentionally omit the waiver of inspections from the pleadings, they also egregiously claimed damages in excess of \$16.25 Million related to the Property. Plaintiff's claim is clearly frivolous: (1) where the pleading was not "well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law", and (2) Plaintiff's attorney continued to make frivolous claims. Bergmann, 109 Nev. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564. Sanctions are warranted against Plaintiff and its counsel, which should include an award attorneys' fees to Defendants. Plaintiff brought or maintained this action without reasonable ground and only to harass Defendants. NEV. REV. STAT. § 18.010(2)(b). The overwhelming facts and law also show that Plaintiff brought or maintained this claim without reasonable grounds, which justifies an award of attorneys' fees. Rodriguez v. Primadonna Co., LLC, 216 P.3d 793, 800 (Nev. 2009).

# $\text{Tel} - (702) \, 477.7030; \text{Fax} - (702) \, 477.0096$ MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. 1820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

#### **CONCLUSION** III.

For the aforementioned reasons, this Honorable Court should grant the Motion.

DATED this 15 day of December, 2020.

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

/s/ Michael Lee

MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB No.: 10122) 1820 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 110

Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone: (702) 477.7030 Facsimile: (702) 477.0096

mike@mblnv.com

Attorney for Defendants

# $\Gamma$ EL -(702) 477.7030; FAX-(702) 477.0096 820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

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# **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 15 day of December, 2020, I placed a copy of the DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT as required by Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 7.26 by delivering a copy or by mailing by United States mail it to the last known address of the parties listed below, facsimile transmission to the number listed, and/or electronic transmission through the Court's electronic filing system to the e-mail address listed below:

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 3946 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 251-0000 Email: ben@benchilds.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

> /s/Mindy Pallares An employee of MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

**Electronically Filed** 12/29/2020 3:55 PM Steven D. Grierson **CLERK OF THE COURT** BENJAMIN B. CHILDS 1 Nevada Bar # 3946 2 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 3 (702) 385-3865 Fax 384-1119 4 ben@benchilds.com Attorney for Plaintiff 5 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 6 W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC 7 Case # A-18-785917-C 8 **Plaintiff** Dept # 14 VS. 9 TKNR, INC, a California Corporation, and 10 CHI ON WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, an individual, and 11 INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and 12 Does 1 through 5 and Roe Corporations I - X Hearing: January 28, 2021 09:30 13 **Defendants** 14 \_\_\_\_\_\_ 15 OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT 16 17 COUNTERMOTION FOR CONTINUANCE BASED ON NRCP 56(f) and 18 COUNTERMOTION FOR IMPOSITION OF MONETARY SANCTIONS 19 20 PROCEDURAL ISSUES 21 22 Defendants' Motion must be denied as it is untimely. The filing of the 23 motion is obviously just for Defendants' attorney to bill up the file, and 24 consequently unnecessarily increase the costs of Plaintiff. Defendants' tactic is 25 to simply rely on the opinion of their hired expert, as if this created a stipulated 26 fact. 27 It's a waste of attorney and judicial time which should not be tolerated. 28 Without the Court's permission, the Motion exceeds the 30 page limit of 29 EDCR 2.20(a). 30 31

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

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Page 1 of 19

The Motion is confusingly circular and without a specific request for relief, other that granting summary judgment to all defendants on all causes of action.

NRCP 56( c) requires "a concise statement setting forth each fact material to the disposition of the motion which the party claims is or is not genuinely in issue, citing the particular portions of any pleading, affidavit, deposition, interrogatory, answer, admission, or other evidence upon which the party relies." This is absent in Defendants' motion. The only statement of fact in the Motion is essentially stating what Plaintiff's allegations are. Plaintiff is disputing those facts, so there are obviously disputes of material fact which preclude summary judgment.

The Motion containspurported a settlement demand in Kenny Lin's declaration. Interestingly, although it's specific as to amount, it completely lacks context of date, time, where, method of transmittal, who extended or received the offer, etc. Mr. Miao's declaration is emphatic that no communication with any defendant occurred after August, 2018, and no settlement discussions occurred ever.

EDCR 2.21 limites affidavits to "only factual, evidentiary matter."

# Rule 2.21. Affidavits on motions.

(a) Factual contentions involved in any pretrial or post-trial motion must be initially presented and heard upon affidavits, unsworn declarations under penalty of perjury, depositions, answers to interrogatories, and admissions on file. Oral testimony will not be received at the hearing, except upon the stipulation of parties and with the approval of the court, but the court may set the matter for a hearing at a time in the future and require or allow oral examination of the affiants/declarants to resolve factual issues shown by the affidavits/declarations to be in dispute. This provision does not apply to an application for a preliminary injunction pursuant to N.R.C.P. 65(a).

...

(c) AFFIDAVITS/DECLARATIONS MUST CONTAIN ONLY FACTUAL, EVIDENTIARY MATTER, conform with the requirements of N.R.C.P. 56(e), and avoid mere general conclusions or argument. Affidavits/declarations substantially defective in these respects may be stricken, wholly or in part.

Further, NRS 48.105 expressly makes settlement discussions inadmissible.

NRS 48.105 - Compromise; offers to compromise.

- 1. Evidence of:
  - (a) Furnishing or offering or promising to furnish; or
  - (b) Accepting or offering or promising to accept, a valuable consideration in compromising or attempting to compromise a claim which was disputed as to either validity or amount, is not admissible to prove liability for or invalidity of the claim or its amount. Evidence of conduct or statements made in compromise negotiations is likewise not admissible.
- 2. This section does not require exclusion when the evidence is offered for another purpose, such as proving bias or prejudice of a witness, negativing a contention of undue delay, or proving an effort to obstruct a criminal investigation or prosecution.

Plaintiffs has documented its damages as required by NRCP 16.1 [Exhibit 4]. Defendants adding up all the damages to get the \$16,000,000 figure is ridiculous, different causes of action against different defendants does not mean that Plaintiff will recover twice, or thrice; it just sets forth those damages. The damages are based on Mr. Sani's opinion. [Exhibit 4]

Plaintiff files this Opposition sets forth its Countermotions to avoid judgment being entered for failure to respond.

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# ARGUMENT OF COUNSEL IS NOT EVIDENCE

The Court has to make decisions based on evidence, not argument of counsel. The Motion is riddled with inaccurate statements by counsel, which are NOT supported by evidence. Such as stating that Plaintiff have demanded \$16,000,000, that Plaintiff did not inspect the Subject Property, and that there are no factual issues. These statements are made in violation of SCR 172(1)(a) ("[a] lawyer shall not knowingly . . . [m]ake a false statement of material fact or law to a tribunal").

TKNR bought property on September 25, 2015 at a foreclosure auction for

\$95,100. Investpro Realty is the entity that recorded the Trustee's Deed

and the address on the Trustee's Deed is Investpro's address at 3553 S.

Defendant INVESTPRO REALTY was TKNR Inc's (hereinafter" TKNR")

Lin(hereinafter"Lin") renovated Subject Property, put tenants in the Subject

Property, and put it on market for profit. [Exhibit 6, 7-8 (Response to

Plaintiff enters into Purchase Agreement to buy the Subject Property.

unpaid debt was \$291,608.90. [Exhibit 2, attachment Exhibit 2B]

property managment company and Zhong Lin aka Kenny

Valley View Blvd Las Vegas, NV 89018; this is not TKNR's address. The

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# HISTORICAL SUMMARY

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# October, 2015

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August 11, 2017

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29 December, 2017

Interrogatory #3]

[Exhibit B]

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Purchase of Subject Property completed. Plaintiff continued to use

1	Investpro as property manager. [Exhibit 2, Mr. Miao's declaration]
2	December, 2017
3	Lin approached Frank Miao at Christmas party and solicited him to invest in
4	Investpro's Flipping Fund. [Exhibit 2, Mr. Miao's declaration]
5	July, 2018
6 7	Tenant in Unit A complained about fuses burning, which shut down
8	electrical service to his apartment. Plaintiff found the electrical problems
9	which had been created by Investpro, Lin and/or TKNR and corrected the
10	problems and terminated Investpro as property manager[Exhibit 2, Mr.
11	Miao's declaration]
12	December 11, 2018
13	Complaint filed
14	January 7 2019
15	Defendants file Motion to Dismiss, Alternative Motion for Summary
16	Judgment or More Definite Statement
17	March 4, 2019
18	First Amended Complaint filed
19 20	December 16, 2019
20	Discovery Scheduling Order filed after Mandatory Rule I6.1 conference on
22	August 7, 2019
23	May 28, 2020
24	Stipulation and Order to Extend Discovery
25	August 14, 2020
26	Plaintiff timely discloses expert witness [Exhibit 4]
27	September 25, 2020
28	Deadline for rebuttal expert witnesses. Defendants do not disclose rebuttal
29	expert
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October 16, 2020

Defendants file motion to extend discovery deadlines

November 23, 2020

Stipulated Order for Plaintiff to file 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Complaint [Exhibit 5] December 28, 2020

Defendants file for summary judgment knowing that there are clear factual issues which preclude the Court from granting summary judgment

ARGUMENT IN DEFENDANTS' MOTION THAT DEFECTS WERE OPEN AND OBVIOUS IS SELF-DEFEATING

Given the argument in Defendants' Motion, if defects are open and obvious, why didn't Defendants correct the issues? Or, more importantly to the instant case, why didn't Defendants DISCLOSE the defects in the Seller Real Property Disclosure Form [SRPDF herein]? If the defects were open and obvious, the Defendants involved in the sale to Plaintiff should have disclosed them.

DEFENDANTS' MOTION IS UNTIMELY AS DISCOVERY HAS NOT BEEN COMPLETED

COUNTERMOTION FOR CONTINUANCE BASED ON NRCP 56(f) IF THE COURT CONSIDERS DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

# NRCP 56(f) states as follows:

(f) When Affidavits Are Unavailable. Should it appear from the affidavits of a party opposing the motion that the party cannot for reasons stated present by affidavit facts essential to justify the party's opposition, the court may refuse the application for judgment or may order a continuance to permit affidavits to be obtained or depositions to be taken or discovery to be had or may make such other order as is just.

Discovery is not completed. The declaration of Plaintiff's attorney is attached supporting its Countermotion pursuant to NRCP 56(f). After missing the expert witness deadline, Defendants file motion to extend discovery deadlines, which motion was granted. The current discovery deadline is March 2, 2021, which is the deadline Defendants themselves requested.

# NO WAIVER OF INSPECTION

The Purchase Agreement prepared by Helen Chen creates a fiduciary duty as Investpro was in a dual agency, representing the seller and the buyer. [Exhibit F] Section 7D of the Purchase Agreement expressly states that Plaintiff didn't waive the home inspection. Frank Miao did an inspection, as set forth in his declaration [Exhibit 2]. His affidavit is supported by email communications with Helen Chen of Investpro Realty. [Exhibit 2C] This, in and of itself, creates a factual issue.

Further, waiving inspection (which Plaintiff expressly denies happened since Mr. Miao inspected on August 10, 2017) does NOT relieve Defendant seller, and its agents, of an obligation to disclose accurate information on the SRPDF. This is required by Nevada statute, which disclosure cannot be waived. [Exhibit C, Page 1 is the SRPDF which expressly states that it cannot be waived, citing NRS 113.130(3)]

In normal transactions involving residential rental building, the buyer only inspects the common spaces because units occupied. The burden is on seller because of warranty of habitability and safety issues for tenants, which are ongoing. This is obviously for consumer protection of both the tenants and the general public. This is also why owners/managers of rental properties have to use licensed contractors ALL the time to do work and to pull permits to do the

extensive renovation such as was done to the Subject Property. [Exhibit 2E and Exhibit 3]

# AGAINST PUBLIC POLICY FOR FIDUCIARY TO PRESENT CONTRACT WHICH WAIVES DAMAGES

In this case the real estate broker is the flipper. Defendants Investpro, Nickrant and Chen represented Plaintiff in the purchase. [Exhibit F] They have a statutory duty to disclose all material facts. Since Investpro did the renovation [Exhibit 6], and is also the broker, it both had knowledge of the material facts complained about in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Complaint, and had an obligation to disclose those material facts. That duty cannot be waived.

NRS 645.254 - Additional duties of licensee entering into brokerage agreement to represent client in real estate transaction.

...

5. Shall disclose to the client material facts of which the licensee has knowledge concerning the transaction;

NRS 645.255 - Waiver of duties of licensee prohibited. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 4 of NRS 645.254, no duty of a licensee set forth in NRS 645.252 or 645.254 may be waived.

The detailed narrative declaration of Frank Miao, and the attached Exhibits 2A through 2F are incorporated herein by reference. Defendants Lin and INVESTPRO, LLC are property flippers who owned and/or controlled the Subject

Property for about 2 years, [Exhibit 6] during which time they performed multiple major alterations and renovations to the property, none of which were permitted, inspected, or done by licensed contractors as required by law. See Exhibit 3, Declaration of Amir Sani. TKNR, INC is the corporate entity that Lin and Investpro used for this particular investment, which is owned and managed by Defendant CHI ON WONG [Wong]. They altered the property to hide the many defects detailed in Miao's declaration, then sold the property without disclosing the defects.

# NO WAIVER OF REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

Plaintiff did not waive its right to receive required disclosures. Plaintiff cannot waive the Seller's obligation to complete the disclosures. As noted on the first page of Exhibit C, NRS 113.130(3) does not allow a purchaser to waive the disclosures.

Defendants desperately want the Court to ignore their collective and concerted fraudulent actions. There was no waiver of the required disclosures. Further, only the remedies for failure to disclose of known defects can be waived, and only if the waiver is "signed by the purchaser **and notarized**." See NRS 113.130(3) and 115.150(6). This did not happen.

Further, the "waiver" of the inspection upon which Defendants essentially rests their entire motion, Exhibit 3, means nothing because Plaintiff had already inspected the property on August 10, 2019. Plaintiff DID inspect the property, Defendants had just gone to extensive effort, apparently as part of their renovation, to hide the problems.

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## PLAIN MEANING OF STATUTE

"It is well established that when the language of a statute is plain and unambiguous, a court should give that language its ordinary meaning and not go beyond it." <u>Banegas v. State Indus. Ins. Sys.</u>, 117 Nev. 222, 225, 19 P.3d 245, 247 (2001). The plain meaning of a statute is generally "ascertained by examining the context and language of the statute as a whole." <u>Karcher Firestopping v. Meadow Valley Contractors, Inc.</u>, 125 Nev. 111, 113, 204 P.3d 1262, 1263 (2009).

NRS 113.130 and 113.150, set forth below, are clear and unambiguous.

# DISCLOSURES REQUIRED BY STATUTE

NRS 113.130 requires disclosure of know defects by seller of a residential real estate. The relevant portions of that statute are set forth below.

NRS 113.130 Completion and service of disclosure form before conveyance of property; discovery or worsening of defect after service of form; exceptions; waiver.

- 1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3:
  - (a) At least 10 days before residential property is conveyed to a purchaser:
    - (1) The seller shall complete a disclosure form regarding the residential property; and
    - (2) The seller or the seller's agent shall serve the purchaser or the purchaser's agent with the completed disclosure form.
  - (b) If, after service of the completed disclosure form but before conveyance of the property to the purchaser, a seller or the seller's agent discovers a new defect in the residential property that was not identified on the completed disclosure form or discovers that a defect identified on the completed disclosure form has become worse than was indicated on the form, the seller or the seller's agent shall inform the purchaser or the purchaser's agent of that fact, in writing, as soon as practicable

after the discovery of that fact but in no event later than the conveyance of the property to the purchaser. If the seller does not agree to repair or replace the defect, the purchaser may:

- (1) Rescind the agreement to purchase the property; or
- (2) Close escrow and accept the property with the defect as revealed by the seller or the seller's agent without further recourse.
- 2. Subsection 1 does not apply to a sale or intended sale of residential property:
  - (a) By foreclosure pursuant to chapter 107 of NRS.
  - (b) Between any co-owners of the property, spouses or persons related within the third degree of consanguinity.
  - (c) Which is the first sale of a residence that was constructed by a licensed contractor.
  - (d) By a person who takes temporary possession or control of or title to the property solely to facilitate the sale of the property on behalf of a person who relocates to another county, state or country before title to the property is transferred to a purchaser.
- 3. A purchaser of residential property may waive any of the requirements of subsection 1. Any such waiver is effective only if it is made in a written document that is signed by the purchaser and notarized.
- 4. If a sale or intended sale of residential property is exempted from the requirements of subsection 1 pursuant to paragraph (a) of subsection 2, the trustee and the beneficiary of the deed of trust shall, not later than at the time of the conveyance of the property to the purchaser of the residential property, provide written notice to the purchaser of any defects in the property of which the trustee or beneficiary, respectively, is aware.

NRS 113.150 - Remedies for seller's delayed disclosure or nondisclosure of defects in property; waiver.

4. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 5, if a seller conveys residential property to a purchaser without complying with the requirements of NRS 113.130 or otherwise providing the purchaser or the purchaser's agent with written notice of all defects in the property of which the seller is aware, and there is a defect in the property of which the seller was aware before the property was conveyed to the purchaser and of which the cost of repair or replacement was not limited by provisions in the agreement to purchase the property, the purchaser is entitled to recover from the seller treble the amount necessary to repair or replace the defective part of the property, together with court costs and reasonable attorney's fees. An action to enforce the provisions of this subsection must be commenced not later

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than 1 year after the purchaser discovers or reasonably should have discovered the defect or 2 years after the conveyance of the property to the purchaser, whichever occurs later.

6. A purchaser of residential property may waive any of his or her rights under this section. Any such waiver is effective only if it is made in a written document that is signed by the purchaser and notarized.

WEBB v. SHULL 128 Nnev. Ad Op 8, 270 P.3d 1266 (2012) holds that mental state is not required to impose treble damages pursuant to NRS 113.150 (4). There is no requirement of a "finding of willfulness or mental culpability".

## DEFENDANTS KNEW THE CONDITION OF THE PROPERTY

As outlined in Plaintiff's narrative affidavit [Exhibit 2] and the express statement in response to Interrogatory 3 [Exhibit 6]. Lin and Investpro were more than just real estate agents selling property. Lin and Investpro were the manager for the flipping fund which had recruited investor TKNR. They arranged the purchase of this property in September, 2015 at a foreclosure auction; purchasing at a foreclosure sale has no warranties or inspection; they then identified the scope of the alternation, renovation and rehabitation, managed the renovation project from soliciting bids, to awarding bids to paying contractors, and then sold the Subject Property. They were also managing the property involving obtaining tenants. Every condition described in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Complaint was **KNOWN** to Lin and Investpro. Contrary to their argument, the renovations undertaken during TKNR's ownership were major, including major electrical upgrades, remove three swamp coolers, remove natural gas furnace, installation of three separate HVAC systems, two window air conditioning unites, renovating all three kitchens and three bathrooms, altering the natural gas lines, plugging the water lines to swamp cooler when

they were removed from the roof, and plumbing issues.

All Defendants clearly knew about substantial work which they chose not to disclose to Plaintiff. TKNR and Wong had the work performed during their ownership, by their agents Lin, Investpro and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT.<sup>1</sup>

Further, Plaintiff did inspect the property on August 10, 2017, so that the representation in Defendants' motion that Plaintiff never inspected the property is simply false.

# INVESTPRO REPRESENTED BUYER IN THE PURCHASE

Exhibit F is the Offer and Acceptance for the purchase of the Subject Property. Pages 9 and 10 evidence that Investpro represented both the Plaintiff and TKNR in the purchase transaction. Thus, Investpro not only had a fiduciary duty to represent Plaintiff's interests, , NRS 645.259(1) expressly creates liability for misrepresentations that are made by a seller that the broker knows is false.

NRS 645.259 - Liability of licensee for misrepresentation made by client; failure of seller to make required disclosures is public record.

A licensee may not be held liable for:

- 1. A misrepresentation made by his or her client unless the licensee:
  - (a) Knew the client made the misrepresentation; and
  - (b) Failed to inform the person to whom the client made the misrepresentation that the statement was false.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the failure of the seller to make the disclosures required by NRS 113.130 and 113.135 if the information that would have been disclosed pursuant to NRS 113.130 and 113.135 is a public record which is readily available to the client. Notwithstanding the provisions of this

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> JOYCE A. NICKRANDT is the licensee of Investpro.

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subsection, a licensee is not relieved of the duties imposed by paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of NRS 645.252.

Miao's declaration [Exhibit 2] identifies in detail the construction work which was done by Investpro and Lin on behalf of TKNR, which construction was not disclosed.

ALTERNATIVE RELIEF REQUESTED IN MOTION IS NOT SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Starting on page 27 of the Motion, Defendants ask the Court to "grant Summary Judgment as to the following undisputed facts", and lists 38 separate factual statements and statements of law. Plaintiff disputes of these factual allegations. These are all trial issues, and the legal statements are subject to motion practice when settling jury instructions.

PLAINTIFF SHOULD BE AWARDED ATTORNEY FEES FOR HAVING TO OPPOSE DEFENDANTS FRIVOLOUS AND UNTIMELY MOTION

Citing to EDCR 7.60(b)(1), Defendants' Motion is "obviously frivolous, unnecessary or unwarranted." It is untimely, as set forth above. It is circuitous and confusing, simply arguing that Defendants' expert's opinion justifies granting summary judgment on the entire case, as if there are NO issues of material fact. Discovery hasn't even been completed, so there is no justification for Defendant to file the Motion. In addition to which, there are glaring factual issues SOLELY BASED ON DEFENDANT'S OWN DISCOVERY RESPONSES.

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### **EDCR 7.60**

- (b) The court may, after notice and an opportunity to be heard, impose upon an attorney or a party any and all sanctions which may, under the facts of the case, be reasonable, including the imposition of fines, costs or attorney's fees when an attorney or a party without just cause:
- (1) Presents to the court a motion or an opposition to a motion which is obviously frivolous, unnecessary or unwarranted.

Attorney Childs' attorney fee itemization is attached evidencing that, just associated with this Motion, Plaintiff has incurred \$5,500.00 of attorney fees based on 13.75 hours at \$400/hour, which is counsel's normal billing rate and the billing rate for representing Dattala in this lawsuit. Additionally, \$7.00 filing fees will have been incurred. The Declaration of attorney Childs is attached hereto.

# CONCLUSION

As set forth above, Defendants' motion serves no purpose other than to unreasonably and vexatiously harass Plaintiff, increase its costs, and waste the Court's time.

Plaintiff is the purchaser, and was entitled to honest and complete disclosures. In this case. Investpro and Lin were the agents of the owner of the residential investment property which Plaintiff purchased from TKNR. [Exhibit 6] During the time that TKNR owned the property, significant structural, mechanical, electrical and plumbing alterations were made to the property without permits, inspections or having work performed by licensed contractors as required by law...

Plaintiff has set forth the facts as accurately as possible based on the knowledge that it has at this time.

1	The Court cannot grant summary judgment without allowing discovery to be		
2	completed.		
3			
4	/s/ Benjamin B. Childs, Sr.		
5	DENTAMINED CHILDO Co		
6	Nevada Bar # 3946		
7	Attorney for Plaintiff		
8			
9 10	CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE		
11	This Opposition and Country DMOTION . 'The transfer of the country		
12	This OPPOSITION and COUNTERMOTION, with attachments, was served		
13	through the Odessey File and Serve system. Electronic service is in place of		
14	service by mailing.		
15	// Desired Decide O		
16	/s/ Benjamin B. Childs, Sr.		
17 18	BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, Sr. ESQ. NEVADA BAR # 3946		
19	Exhibits		
20	1 Order Granting Defendants' Motion to Enlarge Discovery		
21	2 Clt Afft with Exhibits A - D		
22	3 Sani affidavit		
23	4 16.1 Disclosure 8/14/20 [includes damages calculation as required by NRCP		
24	16.1 and the expert report of Amin Sani		
25	5 Stipulation and Order to file 2 <sup>nd</sup> Amended Complaint filed November 23,		
26	2020 [the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Amended Complaint was efiled and eserved the same day]		
27	6 TKNR's Answers to Interrogatories [Response to #3 affirmatively states that		
28 29	"INVESTPRO REALTY was TKNR Inc's (hereinafter" TKNR") property		
30	managment company and Zhong Lin ( (hereinafter"Lin") was his realto. Both		
31			
32	Page 16 of 19		
	Appendix Page 55 of 263		

INVESTPRO REALTY and LIN had the authority to act related to the Subject Property."]

# DECLARATION OF COUNSEL REGARDING LACK OF DISCOVERY AND ITEMIZATION OF ATTORNEY FEES

I am the attorney for Plaintiff W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC

Discovery has not been completed and the discovery cutoff, as requested by Defendants in their Motion to Extend Discovery Deadlines which was addressed at a hearing on October 22, 2020 and followed by a written order filed November 4, 2020. A complete response to the instant motion is not possible because testimony, affidavits and other admissible evidence such as responses to written discovery, documents, and inspection of physical items are not possible to be produced by Plaintiff until discovery has been completed. Defendants have much more significant additional documentation and knowledge than they disclosed in their Motion, which information and knowledge will only be obtained through discovery and related discovery motions to compel, since to date the responses to written by Defendants have been excessively evasive. This includes inquires about the alterations to the subject property, which are at issue in the case. Thus, this declaration is made pursuant to NRCP 56(f) in response to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment.

From my contemporaneously maintained attorney work record, I have had to spend the following time addressing this matter, and reasonably anticipate an additional hour a half preparing for and attneding the hearing, plus additional time for order drafting and submission, notice of entry of order, etc. My normal billing rate, and the rate I am charging Plaintiff WLAB for representation in this is \$400/hour. Total time itemized below is 13.75 hours times \$400 = \$5,500.

1	TASK TIME [hrs	TIME [hrs]	
2	December 15, 2020		
3	Receive and review Motion for Summary Judgment	.75	
4	December 23, 2020		
5	Office conference with client to draft Opposition	1.00	
6			
7	December 26, 2020		
8	Review and revise Opposition. Office conference with client.	3.50	
9	Telcom with Sani, email Sani.		
10	December 27, 2020		
11	Review and revise Opposition and Countermotion	1.50	
12	December 29, 2020		
13	Office conference with client to complete his narrative declaration.		
14	Revise, finalize, efile and eserve Opposition and Countermotion. \$3.50	4.00	
15	•		
16	Estimated future time :		
17	Receive and review Reply	1.00	
18	Draft, revise, finalize, efile and eserve reply to opposition to countermotions		
19	Prepare for and attend hearing	1.50	
20	Order submission [draft order submitted with motion]	.30	
21	Prepare, efile, eserve Notice of Entry of Order [\$3.50]	.20	
22	ANIAL VOIC OF BRUNIZELL FACTORS		
23	ANALYSIS OF BRUNZELL FACTORS		
24			
25	(1) The qualities of the advocate: his ability, his training, education, expe	rience,	
	professional standing and skill.		
26	I have been a Nevada attorney for 30 years, being a solo, self employed		
27 28	attorney the entire time. This is generally accepted as the most challenging		
29	practice for attorneys. The ability and skill has been required, and will be required,		
	in this case to address DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDG	GMENT	
30			

filed December 15, 2020, which is obviously frivolous, unnecessary or unwarranted.

(2) The character of the work to be done: its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, time and skill required, the responsibility imposed and the prominence and character of the parties where they affect the importance of the litigation.

This affidavit is solely for motion practice set forth above. It is very time consuming to deal with these issues and made more time consuming by the imprecise and vague nature of the Motion, and the multiple procedural violations noted in the Opposition..

(3) The work actually performed by the lawyer: the skill, time and attention given to the work.

The amount of work I've already done has been itemized above taken directly from my contemporaneous work record.

(4) The result: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits were derived.

The motion is to be decided, but it obviously had to be filed to protect Plaintiff's rights, both procedurally in the case and its property rights.

These statements are made based on my personal knowledge. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed onDecember 28, 2020 /s/ Benjamin B. Childs, Sr. (date) (signature)

MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582)

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

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Attorneys for Defendants

# IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

## **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

VS.

TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, individual. an and **INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS** LLC, Nevada Limited Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

CASE NO.: A-18-785917-C

DEPT. NO.: XIV

DEFENDANTS' REPLY TO PLAINTIFF'S

OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

AND OPPOSITION TO
COUNTERMOTION FOR
CONTINUANCE BASED ON NRCP 56(f)
AND COUNTERMOTION FOR
IMPOSITION OF MONETARY
SANCTIONS

Defendants.

Defendants TKNR INC. ("TKNR"), CHI ON WONG ("WONG"), KENNY ZHONG LIN ("LIN"), LIWE HELEN CHEN ("CHEN"), YAN QIU ZHANG ("ZHANG"), INVESTPRO LLC ("INVESTPRO"), MAN CHAU CHENG ("CHENG"), JOYCE A. NICKRANDT ("NICKRANDT"), INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS, LLC ("Investments"), and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC ("Manager") (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Defendants"), by and

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through their counsel of record, Michael B. Lee, P.C., hereby files this Reply ("Reply") to Plaintiff's Opposition ("Opposition") to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment ("Motion") and Opposition to Plaintiff's Countermotions for Continuance based on NRCP 56(f) and for Imposition of Sanctions ("Opposition to Countermotions"). This Reply is made on the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, any affidavits, declarations or exhibits attached hereto, and any oral arguments accepted at the time of the hearing of this matter. Plaintiff W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC is hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiff" or "WLAB".

# MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### I. INTRODUCTION

#### A. **Overview**

The Motion should be granted despite the Opposition considering the lack of any reliable or admissible evidence to challenge the arguments made in the Motion. On January 12, 2021, Frank Miao ("Miao"), the designated person most knowledgeable ("PMK") for Plaintiff, provided testimony that illustrates the undisputed facts supporting Summary Judgment. The transcript is not available yet, but once it is, Defendants will provide a supplement. In large part, he admitted that Plaintiff elected to proceed forward with the purchase after he conducted a visual inspection and identified issues that he wanted repaired, determining that Plaintiff would waive any additional inspections despite Miao not being a licensed, bonded professional inspector. He also admitted that: Defense expert's finding that the alleged conditions were open and obvious was true; he could have obtained the permit information about the Property prior to the purchase; the RPA clearly specified that there were issues with the permits, HVAC, and that work was done by a handyman, which Plaintiff was aware of prior to the purchase of the Property; he did not have any evidence that Defendants knew about the alleged issues and/or caused them; and that he had the ability to inspect all the areas inspected by Defense expert at the time of defense's inspection. Notably, he also admitted that he did make a demand to settle the case for \$10,000 despite the sworn statement in his declaration that this never happened. Under the authority cited in the Motion, Summary Judgment is clearly mandated as a matter of law.

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Furthermore, the Opposition flat out ignores the evidence attached to the Motion. Plaintiff failed to address the arguments made related to Plaintiff's claims against the Broker Defendants or Plaintiff's claims for: (7) RICO; (10) Fraudulent Conveyance; (11) Fraudulent Conveyance; (12) Civil Conspiracy; and (15) Abuse of Process, which the court should construe as consent to granting summary judgment as to those matters. EDCR 2.20(c). The half-hearted attempt for continuance related to Rule 56(f) should be denied as Plaintiff fails to articulate what anticipated discovery is pending that would warrant such relief. The Countermotion for Imposition of Monetary Sanctions is similarly deficient as it is just a bare bones recitation of EDCR 7.60 without any application to the current issue. For these reasons, the Motion should be granted in its entirety.

#### В. **Summary of Arguments**

#### 1. Motion

The Motion requests summary judgment based on the overwhelming case law in Nevada that applies the doctrine of caveat emptor on buyers of real property. Notably, the Property was 63 years old at the time of purchase and being used as a rental property. Nevertheless, Plaintiff waived her inspections twice after relying upon the inspection done by Miao as it relates to the Property, defined below, as she cancelled her original purchase agreement and entered into a new one. Despite the clear statements that she needed to get a professional inspection done, and clear disclosures related to the conditions of the Property, Plaintiff still waived her inspection and forged ahead with the purchase. The entire crux of Plaintiff's action is premised that that there was alleged work done without permits, but TKNR disclosed that it the Seller's Disclosures. Additionally, permit work is publicly available on the City of Las Vegas' website, which illustrates that Plaintiff should have known about this issue at the time of purchase, absolving Defendants of any liability.

Moreover, Miao admitted that alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's alleged expert were all open and obvious and would have been uncovered by an inspection. Plaintiff's alleged expert never did any destructive testing, so an inspector would have had the same opportunity to observe everything that he did. Importantly, Plaintiff is a sophisticated commercial buyer who

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has purchased and renovated several similar properties. As Miao did not know of the alleged issues, and he admitted that there was no proof that Defendants knew about them either, no genuine issue of material fact exists supporting Plaintiff's theory of liability. As Defendants disclosed all conditions known to them at the time of the sale, Nevada law does not permit this action to continue. This justifies Summary Judgment on all of Plaintiff's claims, including the frivolous claims for RICO, fraudulent conveyance, and abuse of process.

Finally, sanctions are also justified against Plaintiff. Astonishingly, Plaintiff is claiming \$16.25 Million in damages related to the purchase of the Property (original purchase price -\$200,000). Incredibly, the original demand by Plaintiff for settlement was \$10,000, despite the perjured declaration of Miao denying this in the support of the Opposition. Regardless of whether Plaintiff or Plaintiff's counsel, who have charged Plaintiff approximately \$64,000 for this matter so far, are responsible for the violation of Rule 11 in prosecuting this frivolous claim, Rule 11 permits sanctions against both, which should include an award of attorneys' fees and costs to Defendants.

#### 2. **Opposition and Countermotions**

The Opposition argues that the Motion should be denied as untimely because discovery is still open but does not reference any anticipated discovery needed to respond to the Motion. The Opposition argues that the Motion is over 30 pages and no leave was sought prior to filing. Also, Plaintiff asserts that the Motion fails to address the specific relief sought. The Opposition further provides that the Motion is without factual basis and is nothing more than argument of Defendants' counsel. The Opposition argues that inspection was not waived, and that Miao conducted an inspection when he conducted a walkthrough of the Property with Defendant Lin. Further, Plaintiff asserts that it never waived its right to required disclosures and argue that Defendants knew of the alleged defects but purposefully hide them. The Opposition contains a countermotion reiterating its request for continuance pursuant to Rule 56(f) but again fails to provide the discovery needed. Also, Plaintiff brought a countermotion for the imposition of sanctions, arguing the Motion is frivolous.

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#### II. **DISCUSSION**

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The following Discussion is organized into five Parts. Part A provides that the Motion was supported by substantial, undisputed evidence. Part B explains that the Opposition failed to address Nevada law that places the burden on a buyer to do an inspection. Part C sets forth that Plaintiff cannot use Rule 56(f) as a shield and must articulate the anticipated discovery necessary. Part D illustrates that different realtors from the same agency may represent buyer Part E indicates that all issues raised in the Motion but not addressed by the Opposition should be granted as unopposed. Lastly, Part F includes opposition to the countermotion for monetary sanctions as lacking good faith basis, and as further evidence of attorney-driven litigation by Plaintiff.

#### **Substantial Undisputed Evidence Supports the Motion** A.

The Opposition's argument that the Motion lacks factual support is belied by the exhibits attached to the Motion. The undisputed evidence attached to the Motion support the factual references made in the Motion and do not constitute "arguments" by counsel as stated in the Opposition. Unfortunately, Plaintiff would rather ignore the evidence provided and rely on the self-serving testimony of Frank Miao that lacks foundation and contradicts the alleged factual assertions in the Opposition.

Defendants attached the following exhibits in support of the Motion:

**Exhibit A** – Listing Agreement.

The Listing Agreement included facts relevant to the dispute that were known by Plaintiff prior to purchase of the Property. First, it included that the Property was originally constructed in 1954. The Listing Agreement also included the listing and broker agents' names and affiliations, putting Plaintiff on notice of seller's representatives. See Motion at Ex. A.

Exhibit B – First Residential Purchase Agreement ("RPA") (August 11, 2017)

The First RPA illustrates that: Ms. Zhu had a right to conduct inspections; was strongly recommended to retain licensed professionals to conduct the inspections; had the responsibility to inspect the Property; waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection; waived any

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liability of Defendants for costs of repairs the inspection would have identified; waived the Due Diligence; and, that Ms. Zhu did not cancel the RPA related to any issues with the Property. See *Id.* at Ex. B., in whole and at  $\P\P$  7(A), 7(C), 7(D), and 7(F).

# Exhibit C – Seller's Property Disclosures (Plaintiff's disclosure)

The Seller's Property Disclosures timely set forth all known conditions of the Property. Specifically, the disclosures indicated that:

- (1) "3 units has (sic) brand new AC installed within 3 months,"
- (2) the "owner never resided in the property and never visited the property."
- (3) minor renovations, such as painting, was conducted by the Seller's "handyman"
- (4) Seller had done construction, modification, alterations, or repairs without permits. Id. at Ex. C.

Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff chose not to inspect the Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires.

Exhibit D – Plaintiff's Realtor confirmation to waive inspections (September 5, 2017)

Exhibit D confirms that Ms. Zhu would enter into a new purchase agreement, would agree to pay the difference in an appraisal with a lower value than the purchase price, and waive inspections. Id. at Ex. D.

# Exhibit E – Cancellation Addendum for RPA #1

On the same day that Exhibit D was sent, Ms. Zhu singed the Cancellation Addendum (Ex. E) and then executed the Second RPA (Ex. F).

# Exhibit F – Second RPA (dated September 5, 2017)

Exhibit F sets forth that Ms. Zhu initialed next to paragraph 7(C) "Failure to Cancel or Resolve Objections" indicating that Ms. Zhu was aware of the waiver of Due Diligence Condition by failing to cancel the RPA or resolve any objections in writing. *Id.* at Ex. F, p. 4. Exhibit F also illustrates that this is the second time Ms. Zhu waived inspection for the Property, despite being specifically advised to have inspections conducted. Id. It is also consistent with Exhibit D that Ms. Zhu always intended on waiving inspections. Id. Exhibit F at Addendum 1 further shows that the close of escrow was extended to January 5, 2018, giving Ms. Zhu plenty of

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time to have inspection conducted following receipt of Seller's Disclosures [Ex. C] on August 11, 2017. Id. Also, Exhibit F at Addendum 2 substitutes Plaintiff for Ms. Zhu. Id.

# **Exhibit G** – Opfer Expert Report

Exhibit G provides expert testimony from Neil D. Opfer, an Associate Professor of Construction Management at UNLV and overqualified expert, who conducted a visual inspection of all areas of the Property specified in Plaintiff's Expert Report. Id. at Ex. G. Exhibit G also discusses pictures of the Property from 2017 that depicted the condition of the Property prior to August 11, 2017. Id. Professor Opfer illustrated Plaintiff's expert's actual misstatements of the building code requirements as it related to permits, while also noting that the Seller Disclosures advised Plaintiff of the work done without permits. Id. Professor Opfer noted that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's alleged expert were open and obvious. Id. Professor Opfer also noted that Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the same alleged conditions that the alleged expert noted, would have been made by an inspector at the time of the purchase. Id.

# **Exhibit H** – public record search for permits

Exhibit H illustrates that information related to permits is publicly available, precluding any liability for any alleged misrepresentation under NRS Chapter 113 of the information that is public record. See Nev. Rev. Stat. § 645.259(2); see also Ex. H. As such, Exhibit H provides further contradicts Plaintiff's central argument that TKNR is liable for not disclosing that wok was done without permits.

# Exhibit I – Lin Declaration

Exhibit I sets forth that no Defendant was aware of any issues with any structural, electrical, plumbing, sewer, mechanical, roof, fungus/mold, flooring, and/or foundation issues with the Property before the time of the sale to Ms. Zhu. Id. at Ex. I. Nor was any Defendant aware of any issues with any structural, electrical, plumbing, sewer, mechanical, roof, fungus/mold, flooring, and/or foundation issues with the Property at the time of the sale to Ms. Zhu. Id. Also, that any known defects were disclosed in seller's disclosures, including TKNR upgrading the cooling system through a licensed contractor. *Id.* 

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## Exhibit J – Air Team Invoice

Exhibit J provides that the cooling system was upgraded by a licensed contractor, and any issues stemming from that work would be Air Team's responsibility and not Defendants.

# Exhibit K – Plaintiff's Opposition to Motion for Leave to Amend

Exhibit K illustrates that Plaintiff's cause of action for abuse of process was retaliatory based on Defendants' counterclaim for the same and is without legal or factual basis.

# Exhibit L – Order Granting Defendants' Motion for Leave to Amend

Exhibit L confirms that Plaintiff's arguments made in the Opposition to Motion for Leave to Amend, including the alleged basis for its abuse of process claim is without merit.

# **Exhibit M** – Plaintiff's Calculation of Damages

The calculation of damages illustrates the overall bad faith nature of this case and potential for attorney driven litigation. The Property weas sold for only \$200,000, yet Plaintiff claim \$16.25 Million in cumulative damages, requests a specific award of over \$2 Million, and that Plaintiff's counsel has already charged exorbitant fees in this matter. Exhibit M supports Defendants' request for fees and costs.

# Exhibit N – Plaintiff's ROGs

Exhibit N illustrates that Ms. Zhu and Miao, the managing member of Plaintiff, were sophisticated buyers related to "property management, property acquisition, and property maintenance." Id. at Ex. N. This indicates that Plaintiff knew of its duty to inspect, the importance of inspection, the waiver of rights when inspection is not conducted.

The Opposition argues that the Motion contains "inaccurate statements of counsel, which are not supported by evidence." See *Opp.* at p. 4:1-10. However, as set forth above, that argument simply is not true. In reviewing the Opposition, Defendants believe Plaintiff is projecting its own inadequacies onto Defendants. Rather than address the arguments made and the evidence provided with competing evidence, the Opposition relies heavily on conjecture of counsel and self-supporting testimony that is contradictory to the undisputed evidence.

The Opposition alleges that Defendants altered the Property to hide defects and sold the Property without disclosing those defects. Id. at p. 9:7-9. However, Miao admitted in his

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deposition that Plaintiff did not have any evidence that Defendants knew of the alleged conditions and/or caused them. Thus, no evidence supports this argument, rendering it nothing more than the inadmissible conjecture of counsel. Moreover, Miao also admitted that all of the alleged defects complained of by Plaintiff were open and obvious and could have been discovered by a professional inspection. Instead of admissible evidence, the Opposition relies on Plaintiff's self-serving discovery responses and declaration, which still failed to show that there is a factual dispute.

First, the alleged arguments by Miao lack foundation and go outside the scope of his alleged knowledge to proffer opinions that were addressed by Defendants' expert. See Id. at Exhibit 2. Miao is a party to this action, not an expert. Appropriate rebuttal evidence should come from Plaintiff's designated expert; however, none has been disclosed by Plaintiff, and the deadline to provide such information has passed. See Id. at Ex. 1. Plaintiff's expert merely opined that the work had to be performed by a licensed contractor with permits, although Miao admitted in his deposition that this did not apply to installing cabinets and kitchen/bathroom fixtures. He also admitted that he was aware that TKNR had used a handyman, and only a licensed contractor for the HVAC. Additionally, he also admitted that he was aware of the issues related to permits and the HVAC prior to purchasing the Property.

Second, the alleged "factual" support related to Defendants' knowledge comes from inadmissible, speculative information (without citation) from Miao, without any other support other than his subjective believes. The following statements are examples of unsupported, selfserving testimony that is ultimately inadmissible:

> "These problems would not pass a city code enforcement inspection." *Id.* at Ex. 2, p. 3.

> "In normal transactions involving residential rental building, the buyer only inspects common spaces because units occupied." Id.

> "I told Defendant Lin that if tenant called code enforcement at this, the rental unit could be shut down by City code Enforcement until repaired and corrected." Id.

> "The burden is on seller because of warranty of habitability and safety issues which are ongoing." Id.

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"This is also why rental properties have to use licensed contractors for all work and pull permits and get inspections to do work like was done to the Subject Property." Id.

"As to the waiver of inspection dated September 5, 2017, inspection was waived at that time because I had just inspected it on August 10, 2017." Id.

"The complaints outlined in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Complaint were hidden behind drywall." Id.

Those statements are not exhaustive of the unsupported, self-serving statements made by Miao in his declaration. The declaration is littered with unsupported conjecture that Miao has no basis to make outside his own speculation and subjective beliefs. Incredibly, Miao specified that Plaintiff continues to lease the Property to prospective tenants although it had not repaired any of the alleged conditions. He also specified that he requested the change of outlets that would have required permits, so he was the actual cause of that alleged condition. His admissions illustrate the lack of any alleged genuine issue of fact. This is not valid evidence and cannot be used as a basis to deny the Motion.

Incredibly, Miao's Declaration illustrated that he could, prior to the purchase, have got and done diligence related to the alleged permit issue, which was disclosed by TKNR in its disclosures related to the Property. Id. Miao directly states that instead of using a licensed inspection company, he inspected the Property himself and allegedly noticed several code violations. Id., see also Opp. at Exhibit 2C. The Declaration also admits that Defendants repaired the issues identified. Id. Notably, Exhibit 2C was not previously disclosed in this litigation, despite discovery having closed prior to reopening at Defendants request, which illustrates Plaintiff intentionally withheld the document. So, despite knowing of the lack of permitted work and other issues noticed during Miao's walkthrough of the Property, Plaintiff still made the informed decision not to conduct an actual inspection of the Property. *Id.* 

#### The Opposition does not Address Nevada Law related to Buyer duty to В. Conduct an Inspection

Defendants are absolved of liability for any conditions that could have been discovered by the buyer had an inspection been done. Generally, "[n]ondisclosure by the seller of adverse

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information concerning real property. . . will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer to rescind or for damages when property is sold 'as is.' "Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552(1993). Moreover, "[l]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). A buyer waives its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018).

Plaintiff did not proffer any evidence that Defendants allegedly knew about any of the conditions, which would have been impossible given the disclosures made by TKNR at the time of the sale. Moreover, TKNR disclosed that it had never been to the property and was just an investor. Also, it is undisputed that Defendants, on numerous occasions, advised Plaintiff to get a professional inspection done. Simply put, Plaintiff tries to avoid its burden of proof by arguing that Defendants should have to prove a negative, i.e., that it did not know about the conditions. This is despite the substantial evidence provided in the Motion concluding that Defendants did not know of the issues, but those issues could have been discovered had Plaintiff inspected the Property as advised by Defendants.

Ultimately, Defendants have sufficiently established that they did not know of the defects alleged by Plaintiff. The Opposition fails to provide any evidence to the contrary and relies solely on self-serving testimony to try and shift Plaintiff's burden of proof onto Defendant. Plaintiff had a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect itself and failed to do so. See Nev. Rev. Stat. § 113.140(3). Plaintiff's failures do not create liability for Defendants in this matter and summary judgment should issue accordingly.

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## MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. 1820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104 IEL – (702) 546-7055; FAX – (702) 825-4734

#### C. Rule 56(f) is not a Shield

The Countermotion for continuance pursuant to Rule 56(f) should be denied on the basis that the request is not supported by specific reference to the outstanding discovery Plaintiff anticipates is necessary to respond.

"Rule 56(f) is not a shield that can be raised to block a motion for summary judgment without even the slightest showing by the opposing party that his opposition is meritorious. A party invoking its protections must do so in good faith by affirmatively demonstrating why he cannot respond to a movant's affidavits as otherwise required by Rule 56(e) and how postponement of a ruling on the motion will enable him, by discovery or other means, to rebut the movant's showing of the absence of a genuine issue of fact. Where, as here, a party fails to carry his burden under Rule 56(f), postponement of a ruling on a motion for summary judgment is unjustified."

<u>See</u> Bakerink v. Orthopaedic Associates, Ltd., 581 P.2d 9, 11 (Nev. 1978) (quoting Willmar Poultry Co. v. Morton-Norwich Products, 520 F.2d 289, 297 (8th Cir. 1975), Cert. denied, 424 U.S. 915, 96 S.Ct. 1116, 47 L.Ed.2d 320 (1975).

Here, Plaintiff failed to articulate the alleged discovery that it would likely have. Defendants have made five disclosures in this case, so the alleged documentation identified by Plaintiff's counsel will not be subject to production by Defendants. See Defendant's Fifth Disclosure attached as **Exhibit A** (disclosure only). Additionally, Plaintiff already opposed enlarging discovery by specifying that any extension of discovery would prejudice it, indicating that it had no need for additional discovery and that Plaintiff would largely rest upon the findings of its expert. See Plaintiff's Opposition to Motion to Enlarge Discovery attached as **Exhibit B**. Also, Plaintiff's counsel's declaration illustrated that he had additional discussions with Plaintiff's expert related to the MSJ, but Plaintiff's expert did not proffer any additional opinions to counter the Motion. See Opp. at p. 18:7-9.

## D. <u>It is not a Violation for Different Relators from the Same Agency to Represent Buyer and Seller</u>

The Opposition's argument related to buyer and seller being represented by agents from the same brokerage firm is a red herring and is not relevant to the Motion's request for summary judgment. See Nev. Rev. Stat. § 645.253:

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"If a real estate broker assigns different licensees affiliated with his or her brokerage to separate parties to a real estate transaction, the licensees are not required to obtain the written consent required pursuant to paragraph (d) of subsection 1 of NRS 645.252. Each licensee shall not disclose, except to the real estate broker, confidential information relating to a client in violation of NRS 645.254."

Considering different realtors represented buyer and seller in the transaction at issue, the Opposition's reliance on NRS 645.259 is misplaced and ultimately not relevant. Notably, Miao was aware that the agents were from the same agency at all times during the transaction as he always tries to hire the listing agent to represent him. At all times, Plaintiff knew that an agent affiliated with Investpro represented the seller. See Mot. at Exs. A, F. With that knowledge, Plaintiff still chose to engage an Investpro affiliate to represent it related to the purchase.

None of the foregoing changes the overarching facts that the RPA contained wavier of the inspection language, and the Second RPA contained the initials of Ms. Zhu related to waiver of inspection. See Id. Exs. B, F. The waiver occurred after Plaintiff had knowledge that the Property was 64 years old and subject to potential renter abuse, after Defendants had disclosed that the Property was previously subject to unlicensed/unpermitted work, and after Defendants expressly advised Plaintiff to conduct a professional inspection. As such, Plaintiff made its own informed, yet ill-advised, decision to forgo inspections, which is of no fault of Defendants.

#### E. Summary Judgment should be Granted on Issues Raised but Not Opposed

Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 2.20(e) provides that, "[f]ailure of the opposing party to serve and file written opposition may be construed as an admission that the motion and/or joinder is meritorious and a consent to granting the same." Id. Simply filing an opposition does not relieve a party of its duty to actually oppose the issues raised in the motion. See *Benjamin v*. Frias Transportation Mgt. Sys., Inc., 433 P.3d 1257 (Nev. 2019) (unpublished disposition). In Benjamin, the opposing party filed an Opposition but did not present any argument to actually address the issues raised. Id. Although the opposing party did raise such arguments in a subsequent opposition, that opposition was untimely filed, and the court properly decided not to consider those untimely arguments. Id.

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Here, the Opposition utterly fails to address the Motion's arguments related to summary judgment in favor of Defendants on Plaintiff's claims for: (7) RICO; (10) Fraudulent Conveyance; (11) Fraudulent Conveyance; (12) Civil Conspiracy; and (15) Abuse of Process. Additionally, Plaintiff fails to provide any meaningful or competent opposition to the Motion's argument for summary judgment as to Plaintiff's claims against the Broker Defendants. As there is no Opposition provided to those arguments made in the Motion, this court should find that those arguments are meritorious and grant the request as to those unopposed issues.

#### F. **Opposition to Countermotion for Monetary Sanctions**

Countermotion is just additional evidence related to the attorney-driven litigation that illustrates any lack of good faith in prosecuting this claim and should be denied with prejudice. Summary judgment is a tool afforded to all litigants in the course of litigation should they have ample evidence to support the Motion. Summary judgment can be used to fully resolve a dispute or simplify the claims and/or defenses at issue for the time of trial. Defendants have disclosed over 500 documents in this litigation [Ex. A] and are confident that the Motion will be successful, whether in whole or in part, which illustrates the good faith basis for bringing the Motion. This is supported by the fact that Plaintiff was unable to provide opposition to certain issues raised in the Motion, i.e., Plaintiff's claims for: (7) RICO; (10) Fraudulent Conveyance; (11) Fraudulent Conveyance; (12) Civil Conspiracy; and (15) Abuse of Process.

Additionally, the argument that Plaintiff is engaged in attorney-driven litigation is supported by the facts and circumstances of this litigation. The Property at issue was sold for \$200,000, yet it is undisputed that Plaintiff has proffered \$16.25 Million in cumulative damages and requests a judgment over \$2 Million. Incredibly, Plaintiff's counsel has apparently already racked up \$64,000 in attorneys' fees, and that is before trial. Defendants mention this, and referenced previous alleged settlement amounts, not to illustrate a lack of liability but to illustrate the attorney-driven litigation.

Ultimately, the Countermotion for Imposition of Monetary Sanctions is nothing more than a regurgitation of EDCR 7.60 without meaningful argument as to how it is applicable in this matter. Plaintiff vaguely asserts that the Motion is premature because discovery is still open but

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fails to provide any anticipated discovery outstanding or to be conducted. Therefore, the countermotion is completely meritless and must be denied.

#### III. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Defendants respectfully request that the Motion be granted in its entirety.

Dated this 21 day of January, 2021.

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

Attorney for Defendants

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b) and NEFCR 9, I hereby certify that I am an employee of
MICHAEL B. LEE, and that on the 21 day of January, 2021, the foregoing <b>DEFENDANTS</b> ?
REPLY TO PLAINTIFF'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR
SUMMARY JUDGMENT AND OPPOSITION TO COUNTERMOTION FOR
CONTINUANCE BASED ON NRCP 56(f) AND COUNTERMOTION FOR IMPOSITION
OF MONETARY SANCTIONS was served via the Court's electronic filing and/or service
system and/or via facsimile and/or U.S. Mail first class postage pre-paid to all parties addressed
as follows:

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 3946 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 251-0000 Email: ben@benchilds.com Attorneys for *Plaintiff* 

> /s/ Mindy Pallares An employee of Michael B. Lee PC

MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582)

2 MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

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Attorneys for Defendants

#### IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

#### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

VS.

TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, individual. and an **INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS** LLC, Nevada Limited Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

CASE NO.: A-18-785917-C

DEPT. NO.: XIV

SUPPLEMENT TO DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
AND OPPOSITION TO
COUNTERMOTION FOR
CONTINUANCE BASED ON NRCP 56(f)
AND COUNTERMOTION FOR
IMPOSITION OF MONETARY
SANCTIONS

Electronically Filed 1/29/2021 5:33 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

Defendants.

Defendants TKNR INC. ("TKNR"), CHI ON WONG ("WONG"), KENNY ZHONG LIN ("LIN"), LIWE HELEN CHEN ("CHEN"), YAN QIU ZHANG ("ZHANG"), INVESTPRO LLC ("INVESTPRO"), MAN CHAU CHENG ("CHENG"), JOYCE A. NICKRANDT ("NICKRANDT"), INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS, LLC ("Investments"), and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC ("Manager") (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Defendants"), by and

Page 1 of 22

Appendix Page 75 of 263

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through their counsel of record, Michael B. Lee, P.C., hereby files this Supplement ("Supplement") to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment ("Motion"). This Supplement is made on the deposition of Frank Miao ("Miao"), the designated 30(b)(6) witness for Plaintiff W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC ("Plaintiff" or "WLAB").

#### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### I. **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Overview** A.

This supplement includes the testimony of Mr. Miao following his deposition as the person most knowledgeable ("PMK") for Plaintiff. Mr. Miao's testimony confirmed numerous undisputed facts that are dispositive to Plaintiff's claims and support granting Summary Judgment as requested by Defendants' Motion.

#### В. **Undisputed Facts as Provided by Mr. Miao**

#### 1. Plaintiff is Sophisicated Buyer

Since 2008, Mr. Miao, Ms. Zhu, and/or Plaintiff have been involved in the purchase of approximately twenty residential properties. Miao Deposition at 129:12-18, 138:6-17 attached as Exhibit 1. In Clark County alone, Ms. Zhu and Mr. Miao were involved with the purchase of at least eight rental properties starting in 2014. *Id.* at 111:1-25, 114:19-22. Plaintiff understands the importance of reading contracts. *Id.* at 44:17-24. Additionally, Mr. Miao specified that he understands that he needs to check public records when conducting his due diligence. Id. at 56:21-24.

#### 2. Plaintiff's Purchase of Property was Part of 1031 Exchange

As to the Property, Plaintiff purchased it as part of a 1031 exchange with four other properties at that time. *Id.* at 114:23-25-115:1-8, 149:1-8, 149:21-25. Plaintiff had an issue with financing and the appraisal for the Property, which threatened the 1031 Exchange. *Id.* at 153:12-25. Interestingly, although the Property failed the appraisal for a value of \$200,000, Plaintiff still pressed forward with the sale although it has not provided the appraisal or the basis for why the Property did not apprise for \$200,000. Prior to purchasing it, Plaintiff was aware that TKNR had purchased it as a foreclosure. Id. at 216:22-25.

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3.

Plaintiff. Id. at 156:7-21 (due diligence period), 163:3-11. As to Paragraph 7(A), Mr. Miao specified that he believed that his inspection and conversations with the tenant constituted the actions necessary to deem the Property as satisfactory for Plaintiff's purchase.

In terms of the RPA (as defined by the Motion), the terms of the contract were clear to

Requirement to Inspect was Known

19· · · A. · · Yes. · Based on -- we bought this -- we go 20 to the inspection, then we also talk to the tenant, 21 so we thinking this is investment property; right? 22 So financial it's looking at the rent, it's 23 reasonable, it's not very high compared with the 24 surrounding area. Then also financially, it's good. 25····Then I take a look at the – everything Page 164 ·1 outside. · Good. · So I said, Fine. · That's satisfied. ·2 That's the reason I command my wife to sign the ·3 purchase agreement.

*Id.* at 164:9-25-165:1-3.

At all times relevant prior to the purchase of the Property, Plaintiff had access to inspect the entire property and conduct non-invasive, non-destructive inspections:

 $\cdot 2 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q$ . So at the time when you did your ·3 diligence, you had a right to conduct noninvasive, ·4 nondestructive inspection; correct?  $\cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes$ , I did.  $\cdot 6 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot$  And you had the opportunity to inspect all ·7 the structures?  $\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot I$  check the other one -- on the walk, I ·9 don't see the new cracking, so the -- some older 10 cracking. I check the neighbor who also have that 11 one. I think it's okay; right? Then the –

Id. at 166:2-11.

 $8 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot$  So you had the right to inspect the ·9 structure; correct?  $10 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes$ , yes, I did that. 11 · · · Q. · · You had the right to inspect the roof; is 12 that correct?  $13 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 14· · · Q. · · Okay. · Did you do that? 15· · · A. · · I forgot. · I maybe did that because 16 usually I go to the roof. 23 mechanical system; correct? 24· · · A. · · Right. · Yes, yes.

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1	25· · · Q.· · You had the right to inspect the
2	Page 167 ·1 electrical systems; correct? ·2··· A.··I check the electrical system, yes.
3	·3···Q.··You had a right to inspect the plumbing ·4 systems; correct?
4	·5···A.··Yes.
5	·6··· Q.··You had the right to inspect the ·7 heating/air conditioning system; correct? ·8··· A.··Yes.
6	* * *
7	·3···Q.··And then you could have inspected any ·4 other property or system within the property itself;
8	·5 correct? ·6··· A.··Yes, yes.
9	Id. at 167:8-16, 167:22-25-168:1-11, 168:25-169:1-6.
10	Prior to the purchase, Mr. Miao was always aware that the Seller "strongly recommended
11	that buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections":
12	13· · · Q.· ·"It is strongly recommended that buyer 14 retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct
13	15 inspections."  16 · · · A. · Yes.
14	17··· Q.· Yeah.· So you were aware of this 18 recommendation at the time
1.5	10 recommendation at the time

 $19 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \text{Yeah}$ , I know.

Id. at 176:13-19.

Plaintiff was also aware of the language in the RPA under Paragraph 7(D) that limited potential damages that could have been discovered by an inspection:

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18· · · Q. · · Okay. · So going back to paragraph 7D --
19· · · A.· · Yeah.
20· · · Q. · · - right, after the language that's in
21 italics, would you admit that because it's in the
22 italics, it's conspicuous, you can see this
23 language?
24···· A.·· Yeah. Yeah.
25··· Q.·· Okay. Then it goes on to say, "If any
Page 179
·1 inspection is not completed and requested repairs
·2 are not delivered to seller within the due diligence
·3 period, buyer is deemed to have waived the right to
·4 that inspection and seller's liability for the cost
·5 of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably
·6 identified had it been conducted."
·7· · · · · · Did I read that correctly?
\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes, yes.
·9· · · Q. · · Okay. · So we'll eventually get to the
10 issues that, you know, Ms. Chen identified that you
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11	wanted	corrected	in the	emails	or text	messages

 $12 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$  Is that fair to say that those are the

13 only issues that you deemed needed to be resolved to

14 go forward with the purchase?

15··· A.· Yeah. After that time, yes.

Id. at 179:18-25-180:1-15. Finally, as to the RPA, Mr. Miao agreed that all the terms in it were conspicuous and understandable, and it was a standard agreement similar to the other agreements he had used in purchasing the other properties in Clark County, Nevada. *Id.* at 198:19-25-199:1-2, 200:3-15.

#### 3. Mr. Miao Does Inspections for Plaintiff Although he is not a Licensed, Bonded Professional Inspector

As to all the properties purchased by Plaintiff, Mr. Miao always does the inspections and does not believe a professional inspection is necessary. Id. at 116:2-9, 119:3-25, 140:5-10. Based on his own belief, he does not believe that a professional inspection is necessary for multitenant residential properties. Id., 120:6-9 (his own understanding), 120:16-25 (secondhand information he received). Notably, he does not have any professional license related to being a general contractor, inspector, appraiser, or project manager. Id. at 123:5-16 (no professional licenses), 123:23-24 (no property management license), 169:7-14 (no licensed or bonded inspector), 171:23-25 (have not read the 1952 Uniformed Building Code), 172:17-19 (not an electrician), 172:23-25-1-16 (no general contractor license or qualified under the intentional building code), 174:13-23 (not familiar with the international residential code). Importantly, he has never hired a professional inspector in Clark County, *Id.* at 140:19-21, so does not actually know what a professional inspection would encompass here. Id. at 143:9-13, 144:8-19. The main reason Plaintiff does not use a professional inspector is because of the cost. *Id.* at 147:2-7. On or about August 10, 2017, Mr. Miao did an inspection of the Property. *Id.* at 158:1-25-159:1-12. During that time, he admitted that he noticed some issues with the Property that were not up to code, finishing issues, GFCI outlets<sup>1</sup>, and electrical issues:

The Second Amended Complaint references GFCI at Paragraph 31(a). This illustrates the overall bad faith and frivolous nature of the pleading since Mr. Miao is the one who requested TKNR to install these for Plaintiff.

$6 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot I$ looked at a lot of things. For example,
17 like, the I point out some drywall is not
18 finished; right? And the some of smoke alarm is
19 not is missing and which is law required to
20 put in for smoke alarm. Then no carbon monoxide
21 alarm, so I ask them to put in.
22····Then in the kitchen, lot of electrical,
23 the outlet is not a GFCI outlet, so I tell them, I
24 said, You need to change this GFCI. Right now this
25 outlet is not meet code. You probably have problem

Id. Similarly, he also specified that there was an issue with exposed electrical in Unit C. 175:10-24. He also noted that there could have been a potential asbestos issue as well. Id. at 160:7-12. Additionally, he noted that there were cracks in the ceramic floor tiles, Id. at 249:22-25, and he was aware of visible cracks in the concrete foundation, Id. at 269:13-22 (aware of slab cracks), which were open and obvious. Id. at 270:14-24. He also admitted that he could also have seen the dryer vent during his inspection. Id. at 269:23-25. As to those issues, Mr. Miao determined that the aforementioned issues were the only issues that TKNR needed to be fixed after his inspection. Id. at 171:2-9 (was only concerned about the appraisal), Id. at 219:13-25-221:1-2.

Moreover, Mr. Miao received the Seller's Real Property Disclosure Form ("SRPDF") prior to the purchase of the Property. *Id.* at 201:22-25. As to SRPDF, Plaintiff was aware that TKNR was an investor who had not resided in the Property, and there were issues with the heating systems, cooling systems, and that there was work done without permits. *Id.* at 201:1-25-202:1-12. Similarly, it was aware that the Property was 63 years old at that time, *Id.* at 204:4-7, and all the work was done by a handyman other than the HVAC installation. *Id.* at 205:14-25, *Id.* at 134:14-25 (understands the difference between a handyman and a licensed contractor), 243:2 ("Yes. They did by the handyman, yes.").

Despite these disclosures, Mr. Miao never followed up:

- 23 · · · Q. · · Okay. · So when they disclosed that there 24 was construction and modification, alterations, 25 and/or repairs made without State, City, County Page 205
- ·1 building permits, which was also work that was done ·2 by owner's handyman, did you ever do any follow-up
- ·3 inquiries to the seller about this issue?

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                          ·4· · · A.· · No, I didn't follow up.·
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       Id. at 204:23-25-205:1-4. However, Mr. Miao also admitted that he could have followed up on
 3
       the issues identified in the SRPDF that included the HVAC and the permits:
 4
                          10· · · Q. · · Under the disclosure form --
                          11 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yeah.
 5
                          12 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot - \cdot like, where it specified that there
                          13 were heating system/cooling system issues that
                          14 they're aware of, that you could have elected to
 6
                          15 have an inspection done at that time; correct?
 7
                          16 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
 8
        Id. at 206:10-16.
 9
                          15· · · Q. · · Okay. · So as your attorney said, you could
                          16 have obtained a copy of the permits at any time?
10
                          17 Yes?
                          18 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
                          19· · · Q. · · Okay. · And then it's fair to say that just
11
                          20 put you on notice of the potential permit issue;
12
                          21 correct?
                          22 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.
13
                          23 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Q. It also put you on notice of the issues of
                          24 everything that's basically specified on page 38;
14
                          25 correct?
                          Page 209
                          1 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
15
16
       Id. at 208:15-25-209:1, 245:22-25 (could have obtained permit information in 2018).
17
                 Similarly, Mr. Miao was aware that he should have contacted the local building
        department as part of his due diligence:
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19
                          22· · · Q. · · Okay. · So you understand that for more
                          23 information during the diligence process, you should
20
                          24 contact the local building department?
                          25· · · A. · · Yes. ·
21
                          Page 260
22
                          \cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot - it provides you with the address of the
                          ·6 building and safety department; is that correct?
23
                          \cdot 7 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.
                          \cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot And the office hours; is that correct?
                          \cdot 9 \cdot \cdot \cdot \hat{A} \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.
24
                          10· · · Q. · · And it also provides you with a phone
25
                          11 number; correct?
                          12··· A.··Yes.
13··· Q.·· And this is information or resources that
26
                          14 you could have used at any time related to finding
27
                          15 information about the permits of the property;
                          16 correct?
28
                          17 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.
```

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1	·5 here.
2	·6· · · A. · · Mm-hmm.
2	·7· · · Q.· · If you look at NRS 113.140 ·8· · · A.· · Mm-hmm.
3	9· · · Q.· · do you see that at the top of the page?
5	10 "Disclosure of unknown defects not required. Form
4	11 does not constitute warranty duty of buyer and
	12 prospective buyer to exercise reasonable care."
5	13····Do you see that?
_	14···A.··Yes.
6	15· · · Q. · · Okay. · So this disclosure form gave Marie
7	16 Zhu, your wife, a copy of the Nevada law that was
7	17 applicable to the sale of the property; correct? 18 · · · A · · · Yeah.
8	19· · · Q. · · Okay.· And under NRS 113.1403, it
O	20 specifies, "Either this chapter or Chapter 645 of
9	21 the NRS relieves a buyer or prospective buyer of the
	22 duty to exercise reasonable care to protect
10	23 himself."
	24····Did I read that correctly?
11	$25 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.$
12	Id. at 209:2-25. As such, no dispute exists that Plaintiff was aware that the Property had the
13	same issues complained of in the pleadings at the time it put an offer on it, and that Plaintiff
14	assumed the risk of failing to exercise reasonable care to protect itself.
15	4. <u>No Dispute a Professional Inspection Could Have Revealed the Alleged</u>
16	<u>Issues</u>
10	

The alleged defects identified by both parties' experts could have been discovered at the time of the original purchase. As to the ability to inspect, Mr. Miao admitted that he had access to the entire building. *Id.* at 250:22-25. He had access to the attic and looked at it. *Id.* at 251:4-14. Mr. Miao admitted that Plaintiff's expert examined the same areas that he did:

```
·6· · · Q. · · Okay. · So you walked through the property
·7 with him at the time he did his inspection; correct?
·8· · · A. · · Right.
·9· · · Q. · · Okay. · During that time, did he inspect
10 any areas that -- that you did not have access to in
12· · · A. · · Yes. · He didn't go to anything I didn't
13 inspect during 2017 too.
14 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q. So he inspected the same areas you
15 inspected?
16 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes, yes.
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Id. at 291:6-16. Notably, Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the expert's access was exactly the same as Mr. Miao's original inspection. Id. at 291:1-5. Mr. Miao

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admitted that Plaintiff's expert's inspection of the HVAC, Id. at 292:2-5, 293:18-23, and the plumbing system, Id. at 300:19-25-301:1-4, would have been the same as his in 2017. He also admitted that the pictures attached to Plaintiff's expert report were areas that he could have inspected in 2017. *Id.* at 302:6-13.

Additionally, Mr. Miao accompanied Defendants' expert during his inspection. Id. at 320:31-25. As before, Mr. Miao had the same access to the Property in 2017 for the areas inspected by Defendants' expert. Id. at 321:1-6. Mr. Miao agreed with Defendants' expert that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's expert were "open and obvious":

```
22· · · Q. · · And then the second line down, the first
23 sentence begins, "Items complained about in the Sani
24 report were open and obvious in the roof area, attic
25 area, and on the exterior/interior of the property."
Page 318
\cdot 3 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot Do you agree with this statement?
\cdot 4 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.
```

Id. at 318:22-25-319:3-4. He also agreed with Defendants' expert's finding that there was no noticeable sagging in the roof. *Id.* at 333:20-24.

Incredibly, Mr. Miao also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards:

```
17 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot - midway down the first complete sentence
18 says, "The Sani report does not recognize prior
19 conditions in existence before any work took place
20 by defendants."
21 · · · · · · Do you agree with this statement?
Page 321
\cdot 3 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes, yes.
·4 BY MR. LEE:
\cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot Y ou agree with that? Okay.
·6· · · A.· · Agree.
```

Id. at 321:17-21 – 322:3-6. This would have also included any issues with the dryer vent and ducts, *Id.* at 325:3-20, as he recognized that most rentals do not include washer / dryer units. *Id.* at 326:7-25-327:1-9.

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#### 1 No Permits Required for Cosmetic Work by TKNR 2 No dispute exists that TKNR did not need permits for the interior work it had done to the 3 Property. Mr. Miao admitted the following: 4 ·5· · · Q. · · Number 5 says, "Painting, papering, ·6 tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops, interior 5 ·7 wall, floor or ceiling covering, and similar finish ·8 work." $\cdot 9 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$ Do you see that? 6 $10 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 7 11· · · Q. · · So you agree that no permits are required 12 for any of these types of work; correct? 8 $13 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 9 Id. at 262:5-13. ·1 Window Replacements where no structural member -- no 10 ·2 structural member is altered or changed," that does 11 ·3 not need a permit either; right? $\cdot 4 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 12 13 Id. at 265:1-4. 17· · · Q. · · Okay. · If you turn the page to 82, 14 18 Plumbing Improvements, no permits required to repair 15 19 or replace the sink; correct? $20 \cdot \cdot \cdot \hat{A} \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 21 · · · Q. · · To repair or replace a toilet? 16 $22 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 23· · · Q.· · To repair or replace a faucet? 17 $24 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 18 25· · · Q. · Resurfacing or replacing countertops? Page 264 19 $\cdot 1 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.$ ·2· · · Q. · · Resurfacing shower walls? 20 $\cdot 3 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.$ ·4· · · Q. · · Repair or replace shower heads? $\cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 21 ·6· · · Q. · Repair or replace rain gutters and down 22 ·7 spouts? $\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 23 ·9· · · Q. · · Regrouting tile? $10 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ $11 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q$ . · And a hose bib, whatever that is. 24 12··· A.· Water freezer.· It's, like, for the 25 13 filtration of the water. 14· · · Q. · · Okay. · And then for the mechanical, no 26 15 permits required for portable heating appliances; 16 correct. 27 $17 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 18· · · Q. · · For portable ventilation appliances?

 $19 \cdot \cdot \cdot \hat{A} \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

5.

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1	20· · · Q.· · Or portable cooling units; correct?
2	21 · · · A. · · Yes. 22 · · · Q. · · And for portable evaporative coolers
3	23 installed in windows; correct? 24···A.··Yes.
4	<i>Id.</i> at 264:17-25-265:1-24.
5	6. Plaintiff Desperate to Close on Property to Complete 1031 Exchange
6	Plaintiff needed to close on the Property to complete the 1031 Exchange. <i>Id.</i> at 286:1-7.
7	Thus, when it could not close on the first RPA, it agreed to the second RPA and waived all
8	inspections. Id. at 281:12-16 (Miao did inspections already), 288:22-25-289:1-6. Plaintiff could
9	not meet the close of escrow because its financing fell through for the Property, so it amended
10	the first RPA and agreed to guaranty the purchase price of \$200,000 and put down \$60,000 as
11	earnest money to get TKNR to agree to the second RPA. <i>Id.</i> at 285:4-25-286:1-7.
12	7. <u>Plaintiff Does not Disclose the Alleged Issues to Potential Tenants</u>
13	Since the date it purchased the Property, Plaintiff has always been trying to lease it. Id. at
14	330:19-25-331:1-2. According to Mr. Miao, the landlord must provide safe housing for the
15	tenant:
16	19···· Then also in according to the law, and
17	20 they said it very clearly, because this is 21 residential income property, right, rental income
18	22 property, multi-family, we need landlord need 23 provide housing and well-being and for the
19	24 tenant. The tenant is not going to do all this 25 inspection. They can't. The burden is on the
20	Page 120 ·1 landlord to make sure all these building is safe and ·2 in good condition.
21	2 in good condition.
22	Id. at 120:16-25-121:1-2, 140:10-14. However, they have not done any of the repairs listed by
23	Plaintiff's expert. Id. at 331:3-12. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff that there are
24	underlying conditions with the Property.
25	Moreover, it does not provide any notice to the tenants about its expert's report or this
26	litigation:

·6· · · Q. · · All right. · In terms of tenants -- renting ·7 out the units to any tenants, do you ever provide ·8 them with a copy of the Sani report?

1 2 3	·9···A.··No. 10···Q.··Do you ever provide them with any of the 11 pleadings or the first amended complaint, second 12 amended complaint, the complaint itself? 13···A.··No.  * * *
4	22··· Q.··Okay.· So basically, you just tell them, 23 There's this.· You can inspect the unit if you want;
5	24 is that it? 25···A.·Yeah.· And also we need to tell is a lot
6	Page 337 1 of things report that we don't need to go to the
7 8	·2 inside the building.· It's wall cracking.· It's ·3 outside.· You can see. ·4··· Q.··Okay.· So it's open and obvious for them?
9	·5· · · A.· ·Yeah.· You can see always outside.
10	Id. at 337:6-13, 337:22-25-338:1-5. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff's claims, proven
11	that it has done nothing to correct the allegedly deficient conditions that are clearly not so
12	dangerous as it does not tell prospective tenants about them.
13	8. <u>Squatters or Tenants Could Have Damaged the Property</u>
14	Multiple third parties could have potentially damaged the Property. The Property has a
15	historic problem with squatters during the time that Plaintiff owned it:
16	12· · · Q.· ·Do you generally have a squatter problem 13 with the property?
17 18	14 · · · A. · · Yes. · As a matter of fact, today I just 15 saw the one text message that said one some 16 people go to my apartment.
19	Id. at 110:12-16. He also admitted that tenants could have damaged the Property while they
20	were occupying it:
21	·4· · · Q. · · Okay. · So the tenant in this context would
22	·5 have damaged the unit at the time that you owned it; ·6 is that fair?
23	·7· · · A. · · Maybe. · Yes. ·8· · · Q. · · Okay. · So some of the so the damage
24	·9 that was to the water heater system, could the 10 tenant have damaged that as well? 11··· A.··Yes.
25	12··· Q.··And then he could have damaged the cooler 13 pump and the valve as well; is that correct?
26	14··· A.··Yes. 15··· Q.··Okay.· Then on 122, these are all issues
27	16 that the tenant could have damaged; is that correct?  17 · · · A. · · Yes.
28	18· · · Q. · · And then the same through for 145; is that

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19 right? 20· · · A. · · Yes.

Id. at 306:4-20, 330:5-7. This could also account for the cracking on the walls. Id. at 310:8-12. Tenants could have also damaged the Property if they hit it with their cars. *Id.* at 332:14-16.

#### 9. No Evidence That Defendants Knew of Alleged Conditions

Plaintiff's case is based on speculation that Defendants knew about the alleged conditions in the Property; however, Mr. Miao admitted that there is no evidence that shows Defendants knew about them. *Id.* at 245:1-13 (speculating that InvestPro made changes). The entire case is based on Mr. Miao's personal belief and speculation. *Id.* at 253:17-19.

Mr. Miao admitted that he has no evidence Defendants knew about the alleged moisture conditions. Id. at 293:24-25-294:1-3. Additionally, he also admitted that there is no evidence that Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the plumbing system. *Id.* at 301:21-24. He also admitted that he did not know if Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the duct work when they owned the Property. Id. at 314:5-19. He also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards. Id. at 321:17-21-322:3-6. He also recognized that a 63 year old property could have issues that were not caused by Defendants. *Id.* at 324:6-15. This would have also included any issues with the dryer vent and ducts, Id. at 325:3-20, and when the duct became disconnected. *Id.* at 329:1-16.

Notably, during Mr. Miao's due diligence period, he spoke with the tenants of the Property. Id. at 163:12-25-164:1-6. This included a conversation with the long-term tenant of Unit A, who still resides in the Property to this day. Id. At that time, the tenant reported being very happy with the Property and had no complaints. *Id.* In fact, the tenant reported still being very happy with the Property. Id. at 170:7-9. This illustrates that there is no basis that Defendants should have been aware of any of the issues when Mr. Miao, a self-professed expert, did not even know about them following his inspection.

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2	The Flipping Fund had nothing to do with Plaintiff's decision to purchase the Property.
3	<i>Id.</i> at 223:15-25.
4	20· · · Q.· · Yeah.· So there's no way that you relied 21 upon any flipping fund since it would have been
5	22 closed at this time; right? 23 · · · A. · · Yeah.
6	
7	Id. at 274:20-23. He also admitted that he never received any pro forma, private placement
8	information, calculations of profit and loss, capital contribution requirements, member share or
9	units, or any such information about the Flipping Fund. <i>Id.</i> at 277:7-16. Mr. Miao solely made
10	his statements in the Declaration related to the Flipping Fund based on information he reviewed
11	on a website and alleged conversations at a holiday party. Id. at 227:22-25. He also specified
12	that he does not know the structure between the Investpro Defendants and the scope of each's
13	purpose. <i>Id.</i> at 230:20-25-231:1.
14	11. <u>Miao Declaration is Based on Speculation and Hearsay</u>
15	As to the representations in the Declaration to the Opposition to the Motion, Mr. Miao
16	makes them according to his experience and his speculation:
17	11· · · Q.· ·So you're when you say your experience, 12 it's based on you speculating based on your own
18	13 belief; correct? 14··· A.··Based on my experience.
19	15 · · · Q. · · Okay. · So you're still speculating; right? 16 · · · A. · · Okay. · Yes.
20	10° ° A. ° Okay. ° 1 es.
21	Id. at 233:11-16. His additional statements are based on hearsay statements from third parties.
22	Id. at 234:12-24. In terms of the allegations he made as to Defendants' knowledge, those are
23	only based on his personal belief:
24	17· · · Q.· · So no one ever told you that. · It's just
25	18 based on your own personal belief? 19· · · A.· ·Yes.

10.

No Basis for Claims for RICO and/or Related to Flipping Fund

20· · · Q. · · Okay. · And then, "Removal of natural gas

21 supply line was, which occurred with no permit or 22 inspection and was not performed by active licensed

23 contractor as required by law," this is also based

24 on your personal belief? 25· · · A. · · Yeah

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MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

Id. at 253:17-25, 254:2-7 (electrical system – personal belief), 254:17-25 (personal belief about

4	. •	••
•4	renovations	"

- ·5· · · · · · · So you're basically speculating; right? ·6· · · A. · · Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Id. at 260:1-6.

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#### 12. Plaintiff Admitted it Inflated its Cost of Repairs

Initially, Mr. Miao contacted contractors to bid the potential cost of repair for the Property, and determined that it would have been \$102,873.00. *Id.* at 307:6-22. However, Plaintiff's expert opined that the cost of repair would have been \$600,000, although he did not provide an itemized cost of repair. *Id.* at 334:17-21. This illustrates that the bad faith purposes of this lawsuit was to simply harass Defendants.

Mr. Miao perjured himself in his Declaration, Opp'n, Ex. 2. He denied, under the penalty of perjury, that he never made an offer to settle this matter for \$10,000. Id. at Page 5 of 5. However, during his deposition he admitted that he did make this offer. Ex. 1 at 259:5-15 ("so maybe I tell Lin, Just pay us \$10,000"). As noted in the Motion, this illustrates the overall bad faith of the litigation where Plaintiff admittedly amplified its alleged damages by more than 6x, and then trebled the damages, and have run up egregious attorneys' fees for this frivolous action. These are undisputed facts that prove abuse of process as a matter of law.

#### II. **DISCUSSION**

This Discussion is made in support of the Motion's request for summary judgment and broken down into two (2) subparts. Part A identifies the undisputed facts supported by Mr. Miao's deposition testimony establishing sufficient basis for the court to grant the Motion. Part B illustrates that Plaintiff has engaged in abuse of process by bringing this litigation, supporting summary judgment on Defendants' counterclaim for the same.

#### A. Mr. Miao's Admissions Support Summary Judgment in Favor of Defendants

#### 1. Undisputed That No Evidence Shows Defendants' Knowledge of Defects

Nevada Revised Statute ("NRS") § 113.140 also provides that the Seller does not have to disclose any defect that he is unaware of. "Under NRS Chapter 113, residential property sellers are required to disclose any defects to buyers within a specified time before the property is conveyed." Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007) (citing NRS 113.140(1)). "NRS

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113.140(1), however, provides that a seller is not required to 'disclose a defect in residential property of which [she] is not aware." Id. (citing NRS 113.100(1)). The Nevada Supreme Court clarified that:

> [a]scribing to the term "aware" its plain meaning, we determine that the seller of residential real property does not have a duty to disclose a defect or condition that "materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner," if the seller does not realize, perceive, or have knowledge of that defect or condition. Any other interpretation of the statute would be unworkable, as it is impossible for a seller to disclose conditions in the property of which he or she has no realization, perception, or knowledge. The determination of whether a seller is aware of a defect, however, is a question of fact to be decided by the trier of fact.

Id. at 425 (citations omitted).

Here, Mr. Miao admitted that there is no evidence that shows Defendants knew about them. Id. at 245:1-13 (speculating that InvestPro made changes). He admitted that he has no evidence Defendants knew about the alleged moisture conditions. *Id.* at 293:24-25-294:1-3. Additionally, he also admitted that there is no evidence that Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the plumbing system. Id. at 301:21-24. He also admitted that he did not know if Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the duct work when TKNR owned the Property. Id. at 314:5-19. He also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards. Id. at 321:17-21-322:3-6. He also established that a 63 year old property could have issues that were not caused by Defendants. Id. at 324:6-15. This would have also included any issues with the dryer vent and ducts, Id. at 325:3-20, and when the duct became disconnected. Id. at 329:1-16. Finally, as admitted by Mr. Miao, the long-term tenant of the Property was very happy with it and still resides there today, never specifying that Defendants knew or should have known about the alleged issues. *Id.* at 163:12-25-164:1-6.

#### 2. Undisputed That Plaintiff Knew About Issues From SRPDF

"Liability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). NRS § 113.140 clearly

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provides that the Seller Disclosures does not constitute a warranty of the Subject Property and that the Buyer still has a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself. A completed disclosure form does not constitute an express or implied warranty regarding any condition of residential property. NRS § 113.140(2). Chapters 113 and "645 of Nevada Revised Statutes do not relieve a buyer or prospective buyer of the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself or herself." *Id.* at § 113.140(2).

Here, Plaintiff received the SRPDF prior to the purchase of the Property. Id. at 201:22-25. As to SRPDF, Plaintiff was aware that TKNR was an investor who had not resided in the Property, and there were issues with the heating systems, cooling systems, and that there was work done without permits. *Id.* at 201:1-25-202:1-12. Similarly, it was aware that the Property was 63 years old at that time, *Id.* at 204:4-7, and all the work was done by a handyman other than the HVAC installation. Id. at 205:14-25, Id. at 134:14-25 (understands the difference between a handyman and a licensed contractor), 243:2 ("Yes. They did by the handyman, yes.").

Despite these disclosures, Mr. Miao never followed up although he acknowledged that he knew about the alleged permit issues. Id. at 204:23-25-205:1-4. Mr. Miao admitted that he could have followed up on the issues identified in the SRPDF that included the HVAC and the permits, Id. at 206:10-16, and he knew how to investigate the permit issue. *Id.* at 208:15-25-209:1, 245:22-25 (could have obtained permit information in 2018). Similarly, Mr. Miao was aware that he should have contacted the local building department as part of his due diligence. Id. at 260:22-25, 261:5-25. Further, he admitted Plaintiff was also on notice of the potential for mold and the requirement to get a mold inspection. Id. at 213:5-16. Finally, Plaintiff was also acutely aware of the requirement of Nevada law to protect itself by getting an inspection. Id. at 209:2-25. Despite actual knowledge of these issues, Plaintiff did not elect to have a professional inspection done. *Id.* at 160:17-20.

#### 3. Undisputed That an Inspection Could Have Revealed Alleged Defects

"Liability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). Liability for nondisclosure

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does not apply when such facts are within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. Mackintosh, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552 (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted). A buyer waives its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018).

Here, the alleged defects identified by both parties' experts could have been discovered at the time of the original purchase. Mr. Miao admitted that he had access to the entire building when he originally inspected the Property in 2017. *Id.* at 250:22-25. He had access to the attic and looked at it. Id. at 251:4-14. Mr. Miao admitted that Plaintiff's expert examined the same areas that he did. Id. at 291:6-16. As Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, the expert's access was exactly the same as Mr. Miao's original inspection. *Id.* at 291:1-5. In terms of the Plaintiff's expert's inspection, Mr. Miao admitted that Plaintiff's expert's inspection of the HVAC, Id. at 292:2-5, 293:18-23, and the plumbing system, Id. at 300:19-25-301:1-4, would have been the same as his in 2017, and the pictures attached to Plaintiff's expert report were areas that he could have inspected in 2017. *Id.* at 302:6-13.

Moreover, Mr. Miao had the same access to the Property in 2017 for the areas inspected by Defendants' expert. Id. at 321:1-6. Incredibly, Mr. Miao agreed with Defendants' expert that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's expert were "open and obvious" in the roof area, the attic area, and on the exterior/interior of the property. *Id.* at 318:22-25-319:3-4. He also agreed with Defendants' expert's finding that there was no noticeable sagging in the roof. Id. at 333:20-24.

#### B. **Deposition Illustrates Abuse of Process by Plaintiff**

Plaintiff inflated its alleged cost of repair for issues known to it at the time it purchased the Property from \$102,873.00 to \$600,000. *Id.* at 307:6-22. Moreover, Mr. Miao perjured himself in his Declaration, Opp'n, Ex. 2, when he denied, under the penalty of perjury, that he

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never made an offer to settle this matter for \$10,000. Ex. 1 at 259:5-15 ("so maybe I tell Lin, Just pay us \$10,000"). Section II(D)(4) of the Motion illustrates the overall bad faith of the litigation where Plaintiff admittedly amplified its alleged damages by more than 6x, and then trebled the damages demanding \$16.25 Million in damages. It also set forth the egregious attorneys' fees by Plaintiff, which still continue as evidenced by the Opposition. It is unclear what the driving force is related to this frivolous lawsuit, but the abuse of process is clear as a matter of law and summary judgment should be granted accordingly.

#### III. **CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing, Defendants respectfully request that the Motion be granted in its entirety.

Dated this 29 day of January, 2021.

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

/s/ Michael Lee MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582) 1820 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone: (702) 477.7030

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Facsimile:

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

	Pur	suant	to NR	CP 5(b)	and	NEFC	CR 9, I	hereby	y certi	fy tha	t I am a	ın emplo	oyee of
MICI	HAEL	B. LI	EE, and	that on	the 2	9 day o	f Janua	ry, 202	1, the	forego	ing <u>SUP</u> I	PLEME	NT TO
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BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 3946 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 251-0000 Email: ben@benchilds.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s/ Mindy Pallares
An employee of Michael B. Lee PC

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

#### W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC

**Plaintiff** 

VS. 9 TKNR, INC, a California Corporation, and 10 CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and } ZHONG KENNY LIN aka KENNY ZHONG LIN aka KEN 11 ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K.LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an 12 individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and 13 INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and 14 MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and 15 JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I LLC, a Nevada Limited 16 Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and 17 and Roe Corporations I - XXX Does 1 through 15 18

Defendants/Counterclaimants

Case # A-18-785917-C Dept # 14

Hearing: February 23, 2021

#### PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO COUNTERMOTIONS

Following the Opposition which Plaintiff filed on December 29, 2020, additional events have occurred which preclude the Court from granting Defendants' motion, while supporting Plaintiff's Countermotions.

Plaintiff has three motions to compel set before the Discovery Commissioner. These are set for hearing on three separate dates as follows:

On March 2, 2021 [PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS re: TKNR - Request for Production of Documents and CHI WONG - Request for Production of Documents and INVESTPRO LLC - Request for Production of Documents].

On March 4, 2021 [PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS re: INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC-

Page 1 of 3
Appendix Page 97 of 263

Second Request for Production of Documents and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I, LLC - Request for Production of Documents].

On March 11, 2021 [PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS re: MAN CHAU CHENG - Answers to Interrogatories and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I, LLC - Answers to Interrogatories].

Plaintiff references those filings evidencing the outstanding discovery which has required Plaintiff to seek a motion to compel compliance.

Plaintiff has also been thwarted in it's attempt to schedule the deposition of Defendant Wong, who claims that he's not available any time but weekends and he needs a Cantonese interpreter. As to availability, the exclusive weekend availability was sprung on Plaintiff after Plaintiff was forced to unilaterally notice Mr. Wong's deposition. No dates were provided for his availability for deposition. Mr. Wong's claim to need a Cantonese interpreter is highly suspect. [Exhibit 7] On April 7, 2020 he stated under oath that he had read 22 pages of responses to interrogatories on behalf of TKNR and that those 39 responses were "true and correct of my own knowledge" without reference to any interpreter being required. [Exhibit 6, 23:7] Mr. Wong now states that he requires and interpreter to understand or answer questions in English. Which raises the question of how he, as TKNR's CEO, entered into the sales contracts, completed the SRPD, completed and signed all the escrow documents, the dissolution documents in September, 2018 [Exhibit 8], or even signed the Grant, Bargain and Sale Deed and Declaration of Value Form in December, 2017. [Exhibit 9]

The deposition of Defendant Kenny Lin is scheduled for March 1, 2021. Mr. Lin is the key person on many levels in this case.

/s/ Benjamin B. Childs, Sr.

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, Sr.

Nevada Bar # 3946
Attorney for Plaintiff

28 | Exhibits 7 | Fe

- 7 February 16, 2021 email
- 29 | 8 TKNR corporate history, dissolution 09/21/2018
  - 9 Grant, Bargain and Sale Deed and Declaration of Value Form in December, 2017

1	CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE
2	
3	This PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO COUNTERMOTIONS,
5	with attachments, was served through the Odessey File and Serve system.
6	Electronic service is in place of service by mailing.
7	
8	/s/ Benjamin B. Childs, Sr.
9	BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, Sr. ESQ.
10	NEVADA BAR # 3946
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## EXHIBIT 7 EXHIBIT 7

EXHIBIT 7 EXHIBIT 7

#### RE: WLAB v. Lin et al. - Depositions

#### mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com>

Mon 2/15/2021 1:57 PM

To: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' < matthis@mblnv.com>

Mr. Wong said that he is only available on the weekends for his deposition. Please let me know what date you are looking at and I will coordinate with him.

Please be advised that he asked for a Cantonese speaking translator.

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**From:** mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com>

**Sent:** Friday, February 12, 2021 3:41 PM **To:** 'Ben Childs' <ben@benchilds.com>

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com> Subject: RE: WLAB v. Lin et al. - Depositions

Just heard from Wong. He is not available on March 1. Please let me know the other date ranges you are looking at.

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Appendix Page 101 of 263

## EXHIBIT 8 EXHIBIT 8

EXHIBIT 8 EXHIBIT 8

The data provided is not a complete or certified record of an entity. Not all images are available online.

### C3808594 TKNR, INC.

**Registration Date:** 07/17/2015

Jurisdiction: CALIFORNIA

Entity Type: DOMESTIC STOCK

Status: DISSOLVED

Agent for Service of CHI ON WONG

Process: 428 CARBONIA AVE

WALNUT CA 91789

Entity Address: 428 CARBONIA AVE

WALNUT CA 91789

Entity Mailing Address: 428 CARBONIA AVE

WALNUT CA 91789

Document Type	ĮŢ	File Date	Ŧ	PDF
DISSOLUTION		09/21/2018		PDF
SI-NO CHANGE		08/31/2017		POF
SI-COMPLETE		08/06/2015		PDF

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## EXHIBIT 9 EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9 EXHIBIT 9

Inst #: 20171215-0002824

Fees: \$40.00

RPTT: \$1020.00 Ex #: 12/15/2017 03:14:50 PM Receipt #: 3274868

Requestor:

NATIONAL TITLE COMPANY Recorded By: SAO Pgs: 5

DEBBIE CONWAY

**CLARK COUNTY RECORDER** 

Src: ERECORD
Ofc: ERECORD

APN: 162-01-110-017 Escrow No: 17006699-003-LM1

R.P.T.T: \$1,020.00

Recording Requested By: National Title Co.
Mail Tax Statements To: Same as below
When Recorded Mail To:

WLAB INVESTMENT LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED

LIABILITY COMPANY 2300 SEWANEE LN ARCADIA, CA 91007

#### GRANT, BARGAIN, SALE DEED

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH: That for valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, TKNR Inc. a California corporation

does hereby Grant, Bargain, Sell and Convey to WLAB INVESTMENT LLC, A CALIFORNIA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY

all that real property situated in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, described as follows:

For Legal Description, See Attached Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof.

#### SUBJECT TO:

- 1. Taxes for fiscal year;
- 2. Reservations, restrictions, conditions, rights, rights of way and easements, if any of record on said premises.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, and any reversions, remainders, rents, issues or profits thereof.

See page 2 for signature of Grantor(s) and Notary Acknowledgment

Escrow No. 17006699-003-LM1 Grant, Bargain, Sale Deed...Continued

I KN R III, a CACIFORNIACORPORATION
TKNR Inc, a California Corporation
By; Chi On Wong, CEO
Chi oh wong, Cto
State of }
} ss
County of }
This instrument was acknowledged before me on
by:
Signature: <u>see attached asknowledgement</u>
Notary Public

#### CALIFORNIA ALI -PURPOSE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The second secon	CIVIL CODE 9 1189
<del>(2) 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 19 </del>	######################################
A notary public or other officer completing this certificate veri to which this certificate is attached, and not the truthfulness	fies only the identity of the individual who signed the document , accuracy, or validity of that document.
State of California	
County of vos Angeles ]	
•	Here Insert Name and Title of the Officer
personally appearedONI_ON_Wona	
	Name(s) of Signer(s)
o the within instrument and acknowledged to me tha authorized capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their sign upon behalf of which the person(s) acted, executed th	ature(s) on the instrument the person(s), or the entity
NEIL M. FAULMINO Notary Public - California Los Angeles County Commission # 2148098 My Comm. Expires Apr 1, 2020	I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct. WITNESS my hand and official seal.
Place Notary Seal and/or Stamp Above	Signature of Notary Public
Completing this information can d	ONAL  deter alteration of the document or form to an unintended document.
Description of Attached Document Title or Type of Document:	
Document Date:	Number of Pages:
Signer(s) Other Than Named Above:	
Capacity(ies) Claimed by Signer(s)	
Signer's Name:	Signer's Name:
□ Corporate Officer – Title(s):	☐ Corporate Officer — Title(s):
□ Partner - □ Limited □ General	□ Partner – □ Limited □ General
☐ Individual ☐ Attorney in Fact	☐ Individual ☐ Attorney in Fact
☐ Trustee ☐ Guardian of Conservator	☐ Trustee ☐ Guardian of Conservator ☐ Other:
☐ Other:	Otner:Signer is Representing:

©2017 National Notary Association

## EXHIBIT "A" Legal Description

Lot Nine (9) in Block Four (4) of JUBILEE TRACT, as shown by map thereof on file in Book 4 of Plats, Page 28, in the Office of the County recorder of Clark County, Nevada.

#### STATE OF NEVADA DECLARATION OF VALUE FORM

1. Assessor Parcel Number(s)	
a) 162-01-110-017	
b)	
c)	
d)	
2. Type of Property:	FOR RECORDERS OPTIONAL USE
a)	. Res. ONLY
c) ☐ Condo/Twnhse d) 🗗 2-4 Plex	Book Page
e) Apt. Bldg f) Comm'l/Ind	Date of Recording:
g) 🛘 Agricultural h) 🗖 Mobile Hon	ne Notes:
i)	
a m	1
3. Total Value/Sales Price of Property:	\$200,000.00
Deed in Lieu of Foreclosure Only (value of proper	
Transfer Tax Value	\$200,000.00
Real Property Transfer Tax Due:	\$ <u>1,020.00</u>
4. <u>If Exemption Claimed</u> a. Transfer Tax Exemption, per NRS 375.0	90, Section
b. Explain Reason for Exemption:	
0. Esperim Manual (0. Estato)	
5. Partial Interest: Percentage being transferred:	00 %
The undersigned declares and acknowledges, under pe	
and NRS 375.110, that the information provided is cor	tect to the best of their miormation and belief,
and can be supported by documentation if called upon	to substantiate the information provided herein.
Furthermore, the parties agree that disallowance of any additional tax due, may result in a penalty of 10% of the	y claimed exemption, or other determination of
to NRS 375.030, the Buyer and settler shall be jointly a	and severally liable for any additional amount owed
10 NRS 373.030, the Buyer and Seller shall be jointly a	and severally habit for any additional amount owed.
Signature	Capacity: Grantor
Signature	Capacity: Grantee
(GRANTOR) INFORMATION	(GRANTEE) INFORMATION
(REQUIRED)	(REQUIRED)
Print Name: TKNR Inc	Print Name: WLAB Investment, LLC
Address:	Address:
0 2410	428 CARBONA AVE
428 (ARBONIA AVE	
WALNUT, CA 91789	WALNUT, CA. 91789
COMPANY/PERSON REQUESTING RECORDING	NG (Required if not the Seller or Buyer)
Print Name: National Title Co./Lynnette Marrujo	Escrow #.: 17006699-LM1
Address: 8915 S. Pecos Road, Unit 20A, Henderson,	NV 89074
City State ZIP Code	

AS A PUBLIC RECORD THIS FORM MAY BE RECORDED/MICROFILMED

**Electronically Filed** 3/4/2021 4:23 PM Steven D. Grierson **CLERK OF THE COURT** BENJAMIN B. CHILDS 1 Nevada Bar # 3946 2 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 3 (702) 385-3865 Fax 384-1119 4 ben@benchilds.com Attorney for Plaintiff 5 DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 6 W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC 7 Case # A-18-785917-C 8 **Plaintiff** Dept # 14 VS. 9 TKNR, INC, a California Corporation, and 10 CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and } ZHONG KENNY LIN aka KENNY ZHONG LIN aka KEN 11 ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K.LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an 12 individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and 13 INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and 14 MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and 15 JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I LLC, a Nevada Limited Hearing: March 11, 2021 16 Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Neváda Limited Liability Company, and 17 Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporations I - XXX 18 Defendants/Counterclaimants 19 20 SUPPLEMENT TO PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO 21 COUNTERMOTIONS 22 23 The March 2, 2021 hearing before the Discovery Commissioner on 24 PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF 25 SANCTIONS re: TKNR - Request for Production of Documents and CHI WONG 26 - Request for Production of Documents and INVESTPRO LLC - Request for 27 Production of Documents resulted in a report and recommendation for 28 29 Defendants to supplement a combined 23 production of documents. Exhibit 10 30 is the minute order and the draft Report and Recommendation was forwarded by 31 32 Page 1 of 3

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

Appendix Page 110 of 263

Plaintiff's counsel on March 2, 2021.

The motions set for hearing on March 4, 2021 [PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS re: INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC- Second Request for Production of Documents and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I, LLC - Request for Production of Documents] and on March 11, 2021 [PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS re: MAN CHAU CHENG - Answers to Interrogatories and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I, LLC - Answers to Interrogatories] were resolved by counsel and the hearings vacated. 21 additional production and response to interrogatories from Defendants were agreed upon [Exhibit 11 is the email from defense counsel].

Finally, Kenny Lin failed to appear at his deposition which was scheduled for March 1, 2021. Defense counsel didn't even appear to make a record about the non-appearance. Mr. Lin is the key person on many levels in this case. When provided with the zoom information for the deposition, Defense counsel unconvincingly sent emails that they were unaware. It's noted that the prior Reply filed by Plaintiff on February 16, 2021 expressly reference Mr. Lin's deposition being scheduled for March 1, 2021. Exhibit 12 is the deposition transcript with exhibits.

This Supplement is meant to update the Court before the hearing on the status of discovery prior to the motion hearing. It would be prejudicial to grant summary judgment to Defendants on any level when they have failed to provide discovery that was requested in November, 2020.

/s/ Benjamin B. Childs, Sr.

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, Sr. Nevada Bar # 3946 Attorney for Plaintiff

1	
2	Exhibits  10 Minute order from Discovery Commissioner's March 2, 2021 hearing
3	11 Email dated March 3, 2021 resolving outstanding discovery from
4	Defendants
5	12 Lin March 1, 2021 deposition transcript with exhibits
6	
7	CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE
8	
9	This SUPPLEMENT TO PLAINTIFF'S REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO
10	COUNTERMOTIONS, with attachments, was served through the Odessey File
11	and Serve system. Electronic service is in place of service by mailing.
12	
13	/s/ Benjamin B. Childs, Sr.
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15	BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, Sr. ESQ. NEVADA BAR # 3946
16	NEVADA DAR # 3940
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# EXHIBIT 10 EXHIBIT 10

EXHIBIT 10 EXHIBIT 10

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

Other Real Proper	ty	COURT MINUTES	March 02, 2021
A-18-785917-C	W L A B Inves vs. TKNR Inc, De	stment LLC, Plaintiff(s) fendant(s)	
March 02, 2021	10:00 AM	Plaintiff's Motion to Compel Discovery Sanctions re: TKNR - Request for ProWong - Request for Production of Document	oduction of Documents, Chicuments and Investpro LLC
HEARD BY:	Truman, Erin	COURTROOM: RJC Level 5 H	earing Room

**COURT CLERK:** Lott, Jennifer

RECORDER: Haak, Francesca

REPORTER:

**PARTIES PRESENT:** 

Benjamin B. Childs, ESQ **Attorney for Plaintiff** Michael B. Lee **Attorney for Defendant** 

**JOURNAL ENTRIES** 

Frank Maio present.

Arguments by counsel. The Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the alternative, Partial Summary Judgment is set 3-11-2021. Commissioner FINDS there was a misunderstanding, and objections will STAND. Discovery closes today. Upon Commissioner's inquiry, Mr. Lee stated there is no Motion pending to extend the discovery deadlines. As the claims currently stand, Commissioner allowed the discovery to go forward. COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, motion is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART; DENIED as to an award of sanctions.

#### **TKNR**

COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, RFP 22 supplemental responses are COMPELLED from Deft; RFP 23 is PROTECTED; RFP 24 objection STANDS; RFP 25 identify and produce documents, receipts, and expenses paid for the property during the relevant timeframe; RFP 26 and 27 identify specific bates ranges in 16.1 documents that support Deft's position; RFP 28 is PROTECTED, and limited to communications between TKNR and InvestPro for the subject property from 2015 to 2018; RFP 29 similarly limited for the same time period.

#### CHI WONG

COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, RFP 1 through 6 communications limited to any and all documents for the subject property from 2015 to 2018; RFP 7 clarify and give bates numbers in Deft's possession, custody, or control; RFP 8 as Directed on the record; RFP 9 is PROTECTED; RFP 10 produce documents relevant to what ownership interest Deft has.

#### INVESTPRO LLC

COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, RFP 1 repairs, maintenance, or modifications made from August 2015 to July 31, 2018 at the subject property; RFP 2 is more appropriate for an Interrogatory; RFP 2 and 3 are PROTECTED; RFP 4 supplement required; RFP 5 further supplement required; RFP 6 is PROTECTED; RFP 7 is COMPELLED; RFP 8 is limited to

Printed Date: 3/4/2021 Page 1 of 2 Minutes Date: March 02, 2021

Prepared by: Jennifer Lott

allow communications, Contracts, instructions, and agreements (further response is required); RFP 11 is allowed limited to the subject property for the timeframe, to the extent it exists; RFP 12 is COMPELLED, and supplement; RFP 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18 must be supplemented.

Commissioner will be as consistent as the Commissioner can be on additional Motions. Commissioner Directed counsel to conduct an additional 2.34 conference to resolve any issues in the upcoming Motions based on the rulings given today. If issues are unresolved, the Motions will remain on calendar. COMMISSIONER RECOMMENDED, Countermotion for Protection is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART as stated.

Mr. Childs to prepare the Report and Recommendations, and Mr. Lee to approve as to form and content. Comply with Administrative Order 20-10, and submit the DCRR to DiscoveryInbox@clarkcountycourts.us. A proper report must be timely submitted within 14 days of the hearing. Otherwise, counsel will pay a contribution.

Prepared by: Jennifer Lott

Appendix Page 115 of 263

# EXHIBIT 11 EXHIBIT 11

EXHIBIT 11 EXHIBIT 11

#### 2.34 Conference re: Discovery Responses

#### Michael Matthis <matthis@mblnv.com>

Wed 3/3/2021 2:43 PM

To: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>
Cc: Mike Lee <mike@mblnv.com>

Mr. Childs,

Please see the following breakdown of my understanding regarding the 2.34 conference held earlier today. Defendants agree to supplement their respective responses as follows:

#### Management RPD

20: will supplement, if any

21-24, 28-32: limit to communications, contracts, agreements regarding subject

property, will supplement with respect to limitation

25: will supplement, if any

26, 27: will supplement, or advise if no more documents

#### Investments RPD

1: will supplement if any

2-3, 9-12: limit to communications, contracts, agreements regarding subject

property, will supplement with respect to limitation

4: will supplement

5: limit to subject property related to habitability, maintenance or sale, will

supplement with respect to limitation

6-7: Plaintiff concedes (Denied)

8: will supplement, if any

#### Cheng ROGS

1: will supplement

2: will supplement

3: answered

4: answered

5: Denied

6: answered

7: answered

8: no request made 9: will supplement

#### Investments ROGS

1: will supplement

2: will supplement

will supplement

4: will supplement

5: will supplement

Appendix Page 117 of 263

6: Denied

7: will supplement with specific reference to name of witnesses

8: answered

9: will supplement

10: answered11: supplement

12: duplicative to RPD 8

13: limit to subject property, will supplement

Defendants will provide verifications with the supplemental responses.

Let me know if there is anything I missed or that I may have misstated.

Sincerely, Mike Matthis, Esq.

matthis@mblnv.com



1820 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110, Las Vegas, NV 89104

Main Line: 702.477.7030 Fax: 702.477.0096

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# EXHIBIT 12 EXHIBIT 12

EXHIBIT 12 EXHIBIT 12

WLAB Investment, LLC vs TKNR, Inc, et al

Nonappearance of

#### **ZHONG KENNY LIN**

March 1, 2021



702.8Rocket (702.876.2538) www.RocketReporters.com

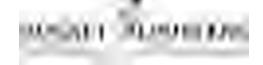
Appendix Page 120 of 263

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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
                  CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC
     Plaintiff/Counterdefendant
                                    )CASE NO A-18-785917-C
VS.
                                    ) DEPT. NO: 14
TKNR, INC, a California
Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka
CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and
                                    )
ZHONG KENNY LIN aka KENNY ZHONG
LIN aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH
ZHONG LIN, aka WHONG K.LIN aka
CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an
individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN
aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and
YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and
INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO
REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability
Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an
individual, and JOYCE A.
NICKRANDT, an individual and
INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I LLC, a
Nevada Limited Liability Company,
and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a
Nevada Limited Liability Company,
and Does 1 through 15 and Roe
Corporations, I - XXX
     Defendants/Counterclaimants
  PROPOSED VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF ZHONG KENNY LIN
                    Henderson, Nevada
                      March 1, 2021
                     1:00 p.m. (PST)
REPORTED BY:
MICHAEL A. BOULEY, RDR
NVCCR #960
```

, · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
page 2 1 PROPOSED VIDEOCONFERENCE DEPOSITION OF ZHONG KENNY LIN,	page 4  MR. CHILDS: This is the time and date for the
2 was taken on March 1, 2021, at 1:20 p.m. from Henderson,	
3 Nevada, before Michael A. Bouley, RDR, Nevada Certified	2 deposition of Kenny, K-E-N-N-Y, new word, Zhong,
	3 Z-H-O-N-G, new word, Lin, L-I-N, defendant. And it was
4 Court Reporter No. 960.	4 set for 1:00 o'clock on March 1st. It's now 1:20 on
	5 March 1st, and I have had email communications with
6 APPEARANCES:	6 opposing party claiming that he didn't have notice of it.
7 On Behalf of the Plaintiff/Counterdefendant	
8	7 And so I am making a record, nonappearance even
By: Mr. Benjamin B. Childs, Esq.	8 by the attorney, and he did get the Zoom email that I got
9 318 S. Maryland Parkway	9 from the court reporter. I forwarded that to him this
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101	10 morning.
10 (702) 251-0000	There are two exhibits, the email chain and the
ben@benchilds.com.	12 notice of deposition.
11	_
12	,
13 Also present:	(Proceedings concluded at 1:21 p.m.)
14 Mr. Frank Miao	15
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23	23
24	24
25	25
page 3	page 5
1 INDEX	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
1 INDEX PAGE	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were
1 INDEX 2 PAGE 3	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth; that the
1 INDEX 2 PAGE 3 4 Record made by Mr. Childs	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth; that the foregoing pages are a full, true and accurate record of
1 INDEX 2 PAGE 3 4 Record made by Mr. Childs	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth; that the foregoing pages are a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and
1 INDEX 2 PAGE 3 4 Record made by Mr. Childs	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth; that the foregoing pages are a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in
1 INDEX 2 PAGE 3 4 Record made by Mr. Childs	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth; that the foregoing pages are a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in stenographic shorthand and thereafter reduced to print
1 INDEX 2 PAGE 3 4 Record made by Mr. Childs	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth; that the foregoing pages are a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in stenographic shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.
1       INDEX         2       PAGE         3       4 Record made by Mr. Childs	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were taken before me; that the witness before testifying was duly sworn to testify to the whole truth; that the foregoing pages are a full, true and accurate record of the proceedings, all done to the best of my skill and ability; that the proceedings were taken down by me in stenographic shorthand and thereafter reduced to print under my direction.  I CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of
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#### **ELECTRONICALLY SERVED** 2/12/2021 10:12 AM BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. Nevada Bar # 3946 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 251 0000 385 1847 Fax ben@benchilds.com Attorney for Plaintiff/Counterdefendant 5 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 6 7 W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC 8 Case # A-18-785917-C Plaintiff/Counterdefendant Dept # 14 9 VS. TKNR, INC, a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and } ZHONG KENNY LIN aka KENNY ZHONG LIN aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG 12 K.LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, 14 a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and 15 JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I LLC, a Nevada Limited 16 ||Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporations I - XXX 17 NOTICE OF DEPOSITION Defendants/Counterclaimants 18 19 TO: ZHONG KENNY LIN aka KENNY ZHONG LIN aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH 20 ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K.LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN and his attorney Michael Lee, Esq. 21 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Monday March 1, 2021, at 1:00 PM Plaintiff will take 22 the deposition recorded by audio or audiovisual or stenographic means of ZHONG KENNY LIN 23 aka KENNY ZHONG LIN aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG 24 K.LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, upon oral examination, pursuant to Rules 26 25 and 30 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure, before a Notary Public, or before some other 26 officer authorized to administer oaths. The deposition is to be taken by Zoom [Covid-19] 27 protocol]. **EXHIBIT** 28

Page 1 of 2

Oral examination will continue from day to day until completed. You are invited to attend and cross-examine. /s/ Benjamin B. Childs BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 3946 Attorney for Plaintiff/Counterdefendant CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE This Notice of Deposition was served through the Odessey File and Serve system to opposing counsel. . Electronic service is in place of service by mailing. /s/ Benjamin B. Childs BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. Nevada Bar # 3946 

#### Re: Zoom info for dep today

#### Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>

Mon 3/1/2021 12:50 PM

To: Mike Lee <mike@mblnv.com>

I'll make a record and send you the bill.

Plus, presumptively you'll vacate the SJ hearing as obviously I haven't been able to complete discovery.

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 251 0000 Fax 385 1847 ben@benchilds.com

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From: Mike Lee <mike@mblnv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 12:34 PM
To: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>

Cc: mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com>; 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>

Subject: Re: Zoom info for dep today

I'm not available at that time.

I don't have an issue with the depo being preserved, so you can take it after the close of discovery.

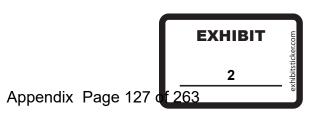
Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>
Date: 3/1/21 12:21 PM (GMT-08:00)
To: Mike Lee <mike@mblnv.com>

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>

Subject: Re: Zoom info for dep today



I can't do that because the discovery cutioff is tomorrow and I have a hearing before the NRED. Can Lin be available at 3 today?

From: Mike Lee <mike@mblnv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:48 AM
To: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>

Cc: mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com>; 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>

Subject: Re: Zoom info for dep today

I haven't had a chance to confirm with Lin. Can you give me some dates to reschedule and I will check with him? I'll waive the 15 day notice.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

----- Original message -----

From: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com> Date: 3/1/21 11:33 AM (GMT-08:00)

To: mike@mblnv.com

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>

Subject: Re: Zoom info for dep today

Today at 1

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 251 0000 Fax 385 1847

ben@benchilds.com

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From: mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:29 AM
To: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>

Subject: RE: Zoom info for dep today

I only received a notice of deposition for Wong. I never got it the Lin deposition. When did you have it set for?

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CONFIDENTIAL. This e-mail message and the information it contains are intended to be privileged and confidential communications protected from disclosure. Any file(s) or attachment(s) transmitted with it are transmitted based on a reasonable expectation of privacy consistent with ABA Formal Opinion No. 99-413. Any disclosure, distribution, copying, or use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient, regardless of address or routing, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by e-mail at <a href="mike@mblnv.com">mike@mblnv.com</a> and permanently delete this message. Personal messages express only the view of the sender and are not attributable to Michael B. Lee, P.C. IRS Circular 230 Disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. federal tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (a) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (b) promoting, marketing, or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

From: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 11:00 AM

To: mike@mblnv.com

Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>

Subject: Re: Zoom info for dep today

Just Wong, not Lin's

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 251 0000 Fax 385 1847 ben@benchilds.com

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From: mike@mblnv.com <mike@mblnv.com>
Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 10:56 AM
To: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>
Cc: 'Michael Matthis' <matthis@mblnv.com>

Subject: RE: Zoom info for dep today

You vacated the deposition.

CONFIDENTIAL. This e-mail message and the information it contains are intended to be privileged and confidential communications protected from disclosure. Any file(s) or attachment(s) transmitted with it are transmitted based on a reasonable expectation of privacy consistent with ABA Formal Opinion No. 99-413. Any disclosure, distribution, copying, or use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient, regardless of address or routing, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by e-mail at <a href="mike@mblnv.com">mike@mblnv.com</a> and permanently delete this message. Personal messages express only the view of the sender and are not attributable to Michael B. Lee, P.C. IRS Circular 230 Disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. federal tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (a) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (b) promoting,

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marketing, or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

From: Ben Childs < ben@benchilds.com > Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:16 AM

To: mike@mblnv.com

Subject: Fw: Zoom info for dep today

I will forward the exhibits in a few

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, NV 89101 (702) 251 0000 Fax 385 1847 ben@benchilds.com

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From: Calendar at Rocket Reporters < calendar@rocketreporters.com >

Sent: Monday, March 1, 2021 8:12 AM
To: Ben Childs < ben@benchilds.com >
Subject: RE: Zoom info for dep today

Rocket Reporters II is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Depo of Zhong Kenny Lin - WLAB Investments vs. TKNR, Job# 104814

Time: Mar 1, 2021 01:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

https://us02web.zoom.us

<u>/j/88258560729?pwd=eUp1SXZmQVFodTI1dDJLSWd6bHFHUT09</u>

Meeting ID: 882 5856 0729

Passcode: 062769 One tap mobile

+12532158782,,88258560729#,,,,\*062769# US (Tacoma) +13462487799,,88258560729#,,,,\*062769# US (Houston)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 882 5856 0729

Passcode: 062769

Find your local number: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kw2yo3Sfo">https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kw2yo3Sfo</a>

YES we are available during the Covid-19 outbreak. We are answering phone calls and emails routinely.

YES we can host remote depositions! Give us a call to find out how.

#### Please note our new address

Joene Conrad & Savannah Celestino 6070 S. Eastern Avenue, Suite 200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 ~ and ~ 18012 Cowan, Suite 200 Irvine, CA 92614

702-8ROCKET (702.876.2538)

----- Original Message ------Subject: Zoom info for dep today

From: Ben Childs < ben@benchilds.com > Date: Mon, March 01, 2021 6:55 am

To: "calendar@rocketreporters.com" < calendar@rocketreporters.com >

Do you have zoom info?

Sent from my iPhone. Please forgive any spelling errors.

#### Case # A-18-785917-C - W L A B Investment LLC, Plaintiff(s)vs.TKN

#### **Envelope Information**

Envelope Id

7392761

**Submitted Date** 

2/12/2021 10:09 AM PST

**Submitted User Name** 

ben@benchilds.com

Case Type

Other Real Property

#### **Case Information**

Location

Department 14

Case #

Civil

Category

A-18-785917-C

Filing Code

Notice of Entry of Order - NEOJ (CIV)

**Case Initiation Date** 

12/11/2018

**Assigned to Judge** 

Escobar, Adriana

#### **Filings**

#### **Filing Type**

**EFileAndServe** 

#### Filing Description

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER
SHORTENING TIME - PLAINTIFF'S
MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY
AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS
re: TKNR - Request for Production of
Documents and CHI WONG - Request for
Production of Documents and
INVESTPRO LLC - Request for
Production of Documents.

#### Filing on Behalf of

W L A B Investment LLC

Filing Status

Accepted

**Accept Comments** 

Auto Review Accepted

Accepted Date

2/12/2021 10:15 AM PST

EXHIBIT

3

#### Lead Document

File Name Security



**Public Filed Document** 

MotCompel0211211of3NEO.pdf

Original File Court Copy

#### **eService Details**

Status	Name	Firm	Served	Date Opened
Sent	BENJAMIN B CHILDS		Yes	2/12/2021 10:14 AM PST
Sent	Michael Matthis	Michael B. Lee, P.C.	Yes	Not Opened
Sent	Michael Lee	Michael B. Lee, PC	Yes	2/12/2021 10:27 AM PST

#### Filing Type

**EFileAndServe** 

#### **Filing Code**

Notice of Entry of Order - NEOJ (CIV)

#### **Filing Description**

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER re
PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL
DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF
SANCTIONS re: INVESTPRO MANAGER
LLC- Second Request for Production of
Documents and INVESTPRO
INVESTMENTS I, LLC - Request for
Production of Documents.

#### Filing on Behalf of

W L A B Investment LLC

#### **Filing Status**

Accepted

#### **Accepted Date**

2/12/2021 10:15 AM PST

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		Court Copy

#### **eService Details**

Status	Name	Firm	Served	Date Opened
Sent	Michael Matthis	Michael B. Lee, P.C.	Yes	Not Opened

Appendix Page 133 of 263

Status	Name	Firm	Served	Date Opened
Sent	Michael Lee	Michael B. Lee, PC	Yes	2/12/2021 10:26 AM PST
Sent	BENJAMIN B CHILDS		Yes	Not Opened

#### **Filing Type**

#### **Filing Code**

**EFileAndServe** 

Notice of Entry of Order - NEOJ (CIV)

#### **Filing Description**

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER SHORTENING TIME re PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO COMPEL DISCOVERY AND FOR IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS re: MAN CHAU CHENG - Answers to Interrogatories and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS I, LLC - Answers to Interrogatories.

#### Filing on Behalf of

W L A B Investment LLC

#### **Filing Status**

Accepted

**Accept Comments** 

Auto Review Accepted

**Accepted Date** 

2/12/2021 10:15 AM PST

#### **Lead Document**

File Name	Security	Download
MotCompel0211213of3NEO.pdf	Public Filed Document	Original File Court Copy

#### **eService Details**

Status	Name	Firm	Served	Date Opened
Sent	Michael Lee	Michael B. Lee, PC	Yes	2/12/2021 10:26 AM PST
Sent	Michael Matthis	Michael B. Lee, P.C.	Yes	Not Opened
Sent	BENJAMIN B CHILDS		Yes	Not Opened

#### **Filing Type Filing Code**

Appendix Page 134 of 263

Serve

Service Only

#### Filing Description

NOTICE OF DEPOSITION - Kenny Lin

#### Filing on Behalf of

W L A B Investment LLC

#### **Filing Status**

Served

#### Service Documents

File NameSecurityDownloadDepNotice021221.pdfOriginal File

Court Copy

#### **eService Details**

Status	Name	Firm	Served	Date Opened
Sent	Michael Lee	Michael B. Lee, PC	Yes	Not Opened
Sent	Michael Matthis	Michael B. Lee, P.C.	Yes	3/1/2021 11:35 AM PST
Sent	BENJAMIN B CHILDS		Yes	2/16/2021 1:42 PM PST

#### **Filing Type**

Serve

#### Filing Code

Service Only

#### **Filing Description**

NOTICE OF DEPOSITION - Chi On Wong

#### Filing on Behalf of

W L A B Investment LLC

#### **Filing Status**

Served

#### Service Documents

File Name	Security	Download
DepNotice021221.pdf		Original File Court Copy

Appendix Page 135 of 263

#### **eService Details**

Status	Name	Firm	Served	Date Opened
Sent	Michael Lee	Michael B. Lee, PC	Yes	2/12/2021 10:21 AM PST
Sent	Michael Matthis	Michael B. Lee, P.C.	Yes	Not Opened
Sent	BENJAMIN B CHILDS		Yes	2/16/2021 1:41 PM PST

#### Parties with No eService

Name Address

Chi On Wong 428 Carbonia Ave Walnut California

91789

Name Address

Zhong Kenny Lin

Name Address

Investpro LLC

Name Address

Joyce A Nickrandt

Name Address

Liwe Helen Chen

Name Address

Man Chau Cheng

Name Address

Investpro Investments I LLC

Name Address

Investpro Manager LLC

Name Address

Yan Qiu Zhang

Name Address

John J. Savage Holley Driggs Attn: John Savage, Esq

400 South Fourth Street, Third Floor Las

Vegas Nevada 89101

**Fees** 

Notice of Entry of Order - NEOJ (CIV)

**Description** Amount

Appendix Page 136 of 263

Filing Fee \$0.00

Filing Total: \$0.00

Notice of Entry of Order - NEOJ (CIV)

**Description** Amount

Filing Fee \$0.00

Filing Total: \$0.00

Notice of Entry of Order - NEOJ (CIV)

**Description** Amount

Filing Fee \$0.00

Filing Total: \$0.00

Service Only

**Description** Amount

Filing Fee \$0.00

Filing Total: \$0.00

**Service Only** 

**Description** Amount

Filing Fee \$0.00

Filing Total: \$0.00

Total Filing Fee \$0.00

E-File Fee \$3.50

Envelope Total: \$3.50

**Transaction Amount** \$3.50

Transaction Id 8505342

Filing Attorney Benjamin Childs, Sr. Order Id 007392761-0

Transaction Response Payment Complete

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Notification of Service for Case: A-18-785917-C, W L A B Investment LLC, Plaintiff(s)vs.TKNR Inc, Defendant(s) for filing Service Only, Envelope Number: 7392761

efilingmail@tylerhost.net <efilingmail@tylerhost.net>

Fri 2/12/2021 10:14 AM

To: Ben Childs <ben@benchilds.com>



### **Notification of Service**

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

Case Style: W L A B Investment LLC, Plaintiff(s)vs.TKNR Inc,

Defendant(s)

Envelope Number: 7392761

This is a notification of service for the filing listed. Please click the link below to retrieve the submitted document.

Filing Details		
Case Number A-18-785917-C		
Case Style W L A B Investment LLC, Plaintiff(s)vs.TKNR Inc, Defendant(s)		
Date/Time Submitted 2/12/2021 10:09 AM PST		
Filing Type Service Only		
Filing Description	g Description NOTICE OF DEPOSITION - Kenny Lin	
Filed By	Benajmin Childs	
	Other Service Contacts not associated with a party on the case:	
Service Contacts	Michael Lee (mike@mblnv.com)	
	Michael Matthis (matthis@mblnv.com)	
	W L A B Investment LLC:	
	BENJAMIN CHILDS (ben@benchilds.com)	

	Document Details	
Served Document	Download Document	Appendix Page 138 of 263
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820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

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MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122)
MICHAEL B. LEE P.C.
1820 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. 110
Las Vegas, NV 89104
Office: (702) 731-0244
Fax: (702) 477-0096
Email: mike@mblnv.com

Electronically Filed 3/31/2021 3:23 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

#### IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

#### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

CASE NO.:

DEPT. NO.:

A-18-785917-C

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

**GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION** 

FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, OR IN

<u>THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL</u>

SUMMARY JUDGMENT

XIV

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

Attorney for Defendants

VS.

TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual, and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, a Nevada Limited Company, **INVESTPRO** and MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

And Related Actions.

Defendants.

TO: ALL PARTIES

YOU, AND EACH OF YOU, will please take notice that an order in this matter was entered in this matter on March 30, 2021. A copy of said ORDER is attached hereto and incorporated herewith by reference.

Dated this 31 day of March, 2021.

/s/ Michael Lee MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) Attorneys for Defendants

Page 1 of 2

Appendix Page 140 of 263

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

# 820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

# $\Gamma$ EL -(702) 477.7030; FAX-(702) 477.0096 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

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#### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 31 day of March, 2021, I placed a copy of **NOTICE** OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT as required by Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 7.26 by delivering a copy or by mailing by United States mail it to the last known address of the parties listed below, facsimile transmission to the number listed, and/or electronic transmission through the Court's electronic filing system to the email address listed below.

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 251-0000 Email: ben@benchilds.com

STEVEN L. DAY, ESQ. DAY & NANCE 1060 Wigwam Parkway Henderson, NV 89074 Tel - 702.309.3333Fax - 702.309.1085sday@daynance.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s/ Mindy Pallares An employee of MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

### **ELECTRONICALLY SERVED** 3/30/2021 11:56 PM

Electronically Filed 03/30/2021 11:56 PM CLERK OF THE COURT

1 MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582) 2 MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. 1820 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 110 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone: (702) 477.7030 4 Facsimile: (702) 477.0096 mike@mblnv.com 5 Attorney for Defendants 6 IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 7 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 8 W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC, CASE NO.: A-18-785917-C DEPT. NO.: XIV 9 Plaintiff, 10 ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' VS. MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL 11 TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an **SUMMARY JUDGMENT** 12 individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG 13 LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG LIN aka ZHONG LIN, KENNY 14 individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka Date of Hearing: March 11, 2021 HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU Time of Hearing: 9:30 a.m. 15 ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada 16 Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE 17 NICKRANDT, an individual, INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, 18 Nevada Limited Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada 19 Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 20 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX, 21 Defendants. AND RELATED CLAIMS. 22

 $\text{Tel} - (702) \, 477.7030; \text{Fax} - (702) \, 477.0096$ 

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1820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

This matter being set for hearing before the Honorable Court on March 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., on Defendants' TKNR INC., CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, YAN QIU ZHANG, INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, MAN CHAU CHENG, JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC,

Page 1 of 43

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Case Number: A-18-785917-C

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(collectively, the "Defendants"), Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Partial Summary Judgment ("Motion"), by and through their attorney of record, MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. Plaintiff W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC appeared on and through its counsel of record, DAY & NANCE. Defendants filed the Motion on December 15, 2020. Plaintiff filed an Opposition to the Motion ("Opposition"), Countermotion for Continuance Based on NRCP 56(f) ("56(f) Countermotion"), and Countermotion for Imposition of Monetary Sanctions (collectively, "Countermotion") on December 29, 2020. On January 20, 2021, Defendants filed a Reply brief. On January 29, 2021, Defendants filed a Supplement ("Supplement") to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. The Supplement included the deposition of Frank Miao ("Miao"), the designated person most knowledgeable for Plaintiff, from January 12, 2021. Plaintiff did not file a response to the Supplement. Mr. Miao attended the hearing.

After considering the pleadings of counsel, the Court enters the following order **GRANTING** the Motion, **DENYING** the 56(f) Countermotion, and Countermotion, and GRANTING attorneys' fees and costs to Defendants pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11:

### **Findings of Facts**

### First Residential Purchase Agreement and Waiver of Inspections, Contractual Broker **Limitations**

- 1. 2132 Houston Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89104 ("Property") was originally constructed in 1954. On or about August 11, 2017, Marie Zhu ("Zhu"), the original purchaser, executed a residential purchase agreement ("RPA") for the Property. At all times relevant, Ms. Zhu and Mr. Miao, the managing member of Plaintiff, were sophisticated buyers related to "property management, property acquisition, and property maintenance." The purchase price for the property was \$200,000.
- 2. Through the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived her due diligence, although she had a right to conduct inspections:

During such Period, Buyer shall have the right to conduct, noninvasive/non-destructive inspections of all structural, roofing, electrical, plumbing, heating/air mechanical, conditioning,

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water/well/septic, pool/spa, survey, square footage, and any other property or systems, through licensed and bonded contractors or other qualified professionals.

- 3. Ms. Zhu did not cancel the contract related to any issues with the Property.
- 4. Under Paragraph 7(C) of the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived the Due Diligence condition. *Id.* Under Paragraph 7(D) of the RPA, it provided:

It is strongly recommended that Buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections. If any inspection is not completed and requested repairs are not delivered to Seller within the Due Diligence Period, Buyer is deemed to have waived the right to that inspection and Seller's liability for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted, except as otherwise provided by law.

- 5. Ms. Zhu waived any liability of Defendants for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted. Ms. Zhu also waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection.
- Under Paragraph 7(F), it was Ms. Zhu's responsibility to inspect the Property sufficiently as to satisfy her use. Additionally, Wong, Lin, Chen, Zhang, Cheng, and Nickrandt (collectively, "Brokers" or "Broker Defendants") had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or requested by one party."
- 7. On August 2, 2017, TKNR submitted Seller's Real Property Disclosure Form ("SRPDF" or "Seller's Disclosures") timely indicating all known conditions of the Subject Property. In fact, TKNR disclosed that "3 units has (sic) brand new AC installed within 3 months," and further that the "owner never resided in the property and never visited the property." It also disclosed that the minor renovations, such as painting, were conducted by the Seller's "handyman" as disclosed in the Seller's Disclosures. Seller also disclosed that it had done construction, modification, alterations, or repairs without permits. Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff chose not to inspect the Subject Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires.

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# $\Gamma$ EL -(702) 477.7030; FAX-(702) 477.0096

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### Second Residential Purchase Agreement and Waiver of Inspections, Contractual Broker Limitations

8. On or before September 5, 2017, Ms. Zhu had issues related to the financing for the Property because of an appraisal, so Ms. Zhu executed a new purchase agreement, and would agree to pay the difference in an appraisal with a lower value than the purchase price, and waive inspections:

> Please note that seller agree the rest of terms and request to add the below term on the contract:

> "Buyer agree to pay the difference in cash if appraisal come in lower than purchase price, not to exceed purchase price of \$200k" I just send you the docs, please review and sign if you are agree.

> (Per buyer's request will waive licensed home inspector to do the home inspection)

- 9. On the same day, Ms. Zhu and TKNR agreed to Addendum No. 1 to cancel the RPA dated August 11, 2017 and entered into a new Residential Purchase Agreement dated September 5, 2017 ("2<sup>nd</sup> RPA"). As before, the overall purchase price for the Property was \$200,000, but Ms. Zhu changed the contingency for the loan to \$150,000 with earnest money deposit of \$500 and a balance of \$49,500 owed at the close of escrow ("COE" or "Closing"). The COE was set for September 22, 2017.
- Notably, although Ms. Zhu had not initialed the "Failure to Cancel or Resolve 10. Objections" provision in the RPA, she initialed the corresponding provision in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. This was consistent with Ms. Zhu's instructions to Ms. Chen. Ex. D. This is the second time that Ms. Zhu waived inspections for the Property despite the language in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA that strongly advised to get an inspection done.
- 11. As noted, Ms. Zhu waived any inspections related to the purchase of the Property in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Although Ms. Zhu had actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures, and the Parties agreed to extend the COE to January 5, 2018, Ms. Zhu still never did any professional inspections. Instead, she put down an additional \$60,000 as a non-refundable deposit to the TNKR. Moreover, she also agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$650 per month for one of the units, and to also pay the property manager \$800 for the tenant placement fee. Through

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Addendum 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, Ms. Zhu later changed the purchaser to Plaintiff.

### Deposition of Plaintiff's Person Most Knowledgeable – Mr. Miao

- 12. Since 2008, Mr. Miao, Ms. Zhu, and/or Plaintiff have been involved in the purchase of approximately twenty residential properties. In Clark County alone, Ms. Zhu and Mr. Miao were involved with the purchase of at least eight rental properties starting in 2014.
  - 13. Plaintiff understands the importance of reading contracts.
- 14. Mr. Miao specified that he understands that he needs to check public records when conducting his due diligence.
- 15. Plaintiff was a sophisticated buyer who understood the necessity of getting properties inspected.

### Requirement to Inspect was Known

- 16. In terms of the RPA were clear to Plaintiff.
- 17. As to Paragraph 7(A), Mr. Miao specified that he believed that his inspection and conversations with the tenant constituted the actions necessary to deem the Property as satisfactory for Plaintiff's purchase.

19· · · A. · Yes. · Based on -- we bought this -- we go

20 to the inspection, then we also talk to the tenant,

21 so we thinking this is investment property; right?

22 So financial it's looking at the rent, it's

23 reasonable, it's not very high compared with the

24 surrounding area. Then also financially, it's good.

25···· Then I take a look at the – everything

Page 164

·1 outside. · Good. · So I said, Fine. · That's satisfied.

·2 That's the reason I command my wife to sign the

- ·3 purchase agreement.
- 18. At all times relevant prior to the purchase of the Property, Plaintiff had access to inspect the entire property and conduct non-invasive, non-destructive inspections:

 $\cdot 2 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot O$ . So at the time when you did your

·3 diligence, you had a right to conduct noninvasive,

·4 nondestructive inspection; correct?

 $\cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes$ , I did.

 $\cdot 6 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot$  And you had the opportunity to inspect all

·7 the structures?

 $\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot I$  check the other one -- on the walk, I

·9 don't see the new cracking, so the -- some older

10 cracking. I check the neighbor who also have that

 $\mathrm{TEL} - (702)\,477.7030; \mathrm{FAX} - (702)\,477.0096$ 

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

1		11 one.· I think it's okay; right?· Then the –
2	Supplement a	at 166:2-11.
3		8. · · · Q. · · So you had the right to inspect the
4		·9 structure; correct? 10··· A.··Yes, yes, I did that.
5		11··· Q.·· You had the right to inspect the roof; is 12 that correct?
6		13··· A.··Yes. 14··· Q.··Okay.· Did you do that?
7		15··· A.··I forgot.· I maybe did that because 16 usually I go to the roof.  * * *
8		22· · · Q.· · You had the right to inspect the
9		23 mechanical system; correct? 24···A.··Right.· Yes, yes.
10		25· · · Q.· · You had the right to inspect the Page 167
11		·1 electrical systems; correct? ·2··· A.·· I check the electrical system, yes.
12		·3··· Q.·· You had a right to inspect the plumbing ·4 systems; correct?
13		·5· · · A.· ·Yes. ·6· · · Q.· ·You had the right to inspect the
14		·7 heating/air conditioning system; correct? ·8···A.··Yes. * * *
15		$\cdot 3 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q$ . And then you could have inspected any
16		·4 other property or system within the property itself; ·5 correct?
17		·6· · · A.· ·Yes, yes.
18	<i>Id</i> . at 167:8-1	6, 167:22-25-168:1-11, 168:25-169:1-6.
19	19.	Prior to the purchase, Mr. Miao was always aware that the Seller "strongly
20	recommended	d that buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections":
21		13· · · Q.· · "It is strongly recommended that buyer
22		14 retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct 15 inspections."
23		16···A.··Yes. 17···Q.··Yeah.· So you were aware of this 18 recommendation at the time
24		19· · · A.· ·Yeah, I know.
25	<i>Id</i> . at 176:13-	19.
26	20.	Plaintiff was also aware of the language in the RPA under Paragraph 7(D) that
27	limited poten	tial damages that could have been discovered by an inspection:

18· · · Q. · · Okay. · So going back to paragraph 7D
19· · · A.· ·Yeah.
20· · · Q.· · right, after the language that's in
21 italics, would you admit that because it's in the
22 italics, it's conspicuous, you can see this
23 language?
24··· A.·· Yeah.· Yeah.
25· · · Q.· ·Okay. · Then it goes on to say, "If any
Page 179
·1 inspection is not completed and requested repairs
·2 are not delivered to seller within the due diligence
·3 period, buyer is deemed to have waived the right to
4 that inspection and seller's liability for the cost
·5 of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably
·6 identified had it been conducted."
·7· · · · · · Did I read that correctly?
$\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes, yes.$
·9· · · Q. · · Okay. · So we'll eventually get to the
10 issues that, you know, Ms. Chen identified that you
11 wanted corrected in the emails or text messages.
12···· Is that fair to say that those are the
13 only issues that you deemed needed to be resolved to
14 go forward with the purchase?
15··· A·· Yeah. After that time, ves.

*Id.* at 179:18-25-180:1-15.

21. Finally, as to the RPA, Mr. Miao agreed that all the terms in it were conspicuous and understandable, and it was a standard agreement similar to the other agreements he had used in purchasing the other properties in Clark County, Nevada. *Id.* at 198:19-25-199:1-2, 200:3-15.

### Mr. Miao Does Inspections for Plaintiff Although he is not a Licensed, Bonded Professional Inspector

- 22. As to all the properties purchased by Plaintiff, Mr. Miao always does the inspections and does not believe a professional inspection is necessary. *Id.* at 116:2-9, 119:3-25, 140:5-10. Based on his own belief, he does not believe that a professional inspection is necessary for multi-tenant residential properties. *Id.* at 120:6-9 (his own understanding), 120:16-25 (second-hand information he received).
- 23. Notably, he does not have any professional license related to being a general contractor, inspector, appraiser, or project manager. *Id.* at 123:5-16 (no professional licenses), 123:23-24 (no property management license), 169:7-14 (no licensed or bonded inspector), 171:23-25 (have not read the 1952 Uninformed Building Code), 172:17-19 (not an electrician),

20 21 22 23 24 25	21 22 23 24
22 23 24 25	22 23 24 25
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24 25	24 25
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172:23-25-1-16 (no general contractor license or qualified unde	r the intentional	building	code)
174:13-23 (not familiar with the international residential code).			

- 24. Mr. Miao has never hired a professional inspector in Clark County, *Id.* at 140:19-21, so he does not actually know what a professional inspection would encompass here. *Id.* at 143:9-13, 144:8-19.
- The main reason Plaintiff does not use a professional inspector is because of the 25. cost. Id. at 147:2-7.
- 26. On or about August 10, 2017, Mr. Miao did an inspection of the Property. *Id.* at 158:1-25-159:1-12. During that time, he admitted that he noticed some issues with the Property that were not up to code, finishing issues, GFCI outlets<sup>1</sup>, and electrical issues:

```
16· · · A. · · I looked at a lot of things. · For example,
17 like, the -- I point out some drywall is not
18 finished; right? And the -- some of smoke alarm is
19 not -- is missing and -- which is law required to
20 put in for smoke alarm. Then no carbon monoxide
21 alarm, so I ask them to put in.
22····Then in the kitchen, lot of electrical,
23 the outlet is not a GFCI outlet, so I tell them, I
24 said, You need to change this GFCI. Right now this
25 outlet is not meet code. You probably have problem.
```

Id.

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- 27. Similarly, he also specified that there was an issue with exposed electrical in Unit C. *Id.* at 175:10-24. He also noted that there could have been a potential asbestos issue as well. *Id.* at 160:7-12.
- 28. Additionally, Mr. Miao noted that there were cracks in the ceramic floor tiles, Id. at 249:22-25, and he was aware of visible cracks in the concrete foundation, *Id.* at 269:13-22 (aware of slab cracks), which were open and obvious. *Id.* at 270:14-24.
- 29. Mr. Miao also admitted that he could also have seen the dryer vent during his inspection. *Id.* at 269:23-25.

The Second Amended Complaint references GFCI at Paragraph 31(a). This illustrates the overall bad faith and frivolous nature of the pleading since Mr. Miao is the one who requested TKNR to install these for Plaintiff.

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	30.	As to those iss	ues, Mi	. Miac	det	termined tha	t the	aforement	tioned	issues	were the
only	issues th	at TKNR neede	ed to fix	k after	his	inspection.	Id.	at 171:2-9	(was	only c	oncerned
abou	t the appi	raisal), <i>Id</i> . at 219	):13-25-	221:1-	-2.						

- 31. Moreover, Mr. Miao received the SRPDF prior to the purchase of the Property. Id. at 201:22-25. As to SRPDF, Plaintiff was aware that TKNR was an investor who had not resided in the Property, and there were issues with the heating systems, cooling systems, and that there was work done without permits. *Id.* at 201:1-25-202:1-12. Similarly, it was aware that the Property was 63 years old at that time, *Id.* at 204:4-7, and all the work was done by a handyman other than the HVAC installation. Id. at 205:14-25, Id. at 134:14-25 (understands the difference between a handyman and a licensed contractor), 243:2 ("Yes. They did by the handyman, yes.").
  - 32. Despite these disclosures, Mr. Miao never followed up:

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23· · · Q. · · Okay. · So when they disclosed that there
```

24 was construction and modification, alterations,

25 and/or repairs made without State, City, County Page 205

· 1 building permits, which was also work that was done

·2 by owner's handyman, did you ever do any follow-up

·3 inquiries to the seller about this issue?

·4· · · A.· · No, I didn't follow up. ·

*Id.* at 204:23-25-205:1-4.

33. However, Mr. Miao also admitted that he could have followed up on the issues identified in the SRPDF that included the HVAC and the permits:

10· · · Q. · · Under the disclosure form --

 $11 \cdot \cdot \cdot \hat{A} \cdot \cdot Yeah$ .

12· · · Q.· ·-- like, where it specified that there

13 were heating system/cooling system issues that

14 they're aware of, that you could have elected to

15 have an inspection done at that time; correct?

 $16 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

Id. at 206:10-16.

15· · · Q. · · Okay. · So as your attorney said, you could

16 have obtained a copy of the permits at any time?

17 Yes?

 $18 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

19· · · Q. · · Okay. · And then it's fair to say that just

20 put you on notice of the potential permit issue;

21 correct?

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1		22 A. Hala mut was an nation of the insurer of
2		23··· Q.· It also put you on notice of the issues of 24 everything that's basically specified on page 38;
3		25 correct? Page 209 1··· A.··Yes.
4		1 · · · A. · · · i es.
5	<i>Id.</i> at 209:15	-25-210:1, 245:22-25 (could have obtained permit information in 2018).
6	34.	Similarly, Mr. Miao was aware that he should have contacted the local building
7	department a	s part of his due diligence:
8		22· · · Q. · · Okay. · So you understand that for more 23 information during the diligence process, you should
9		24 contact the local building department? 25··· A.··Yes.·
10		Page 260  * * *
11		·5· · · Q.· · it provides you with the address of the ·6 building and safety department; is that correct?
12		$\cdot 7 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.$
13		·8· · · Q. · · And the office hours; is that correct? ·9· · · A. · · Yes.
14		10· · · Q. · · And it also provides you with a phone 11 number; correct?
15		12· · · A. · Yes. 13· · · Q. · · And this is information or resources that
16		14 you could have used at any time related to finding 15 information about the permits of the property;
17		16 correct? 17··· A.··Yes.
18		18··· Q.·· And this would have been true prior to the 19 purchase of the building; correct?
19		20· · · A. · Yes. 21· · · Q. · · And this would also have been true at the
20		22 time you read the disclosure that specified that 23 some of the improvements or some of the disclosures
21		24 had been done without a permit; right? 25··· A.··Yes.
22	<i>Id</i> . at 260:22	-25, 261:5-25.
23	35.	Plaintiff was also on notice of the potential for mold and the requirement to get a
24	mold inspect	ion:
25		·5· · · Q. · · Okay. · And it says, "It's the buyer's duty
26		·6 to inspect. · Buyer hereby assumes responsibility to ·7 conduct whatever inspections buyer deems necessary
27		·8 to inspect the property for mold contamination. ·9····"Companies able to perform such
28		10 inspections can be found in the yellow pages under

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*Id.* at 209:2-25.

1	13··· A.· Yes.
2	14· · · Q. · · Okay. · And then you elected not to get a 15 mold inspection; correct?
3	16· · · A.· ·Ÿeah.·
4	<i>Id.</i> at 213:5-16.
5	·5· · · Q.· ·So you relied upon your own determination
6	·6 related to the potential mold exposure of the ·7 property; correct?
7	·8···A.··Yes. ·9···Q.··Okay.· And you elected to proceed with
8	10 purchasing it without a professional mold 11 inspection; correct? 12···A.··Yes.
9	12 11. 103.
10	<i>Id.</i> at 216:5-12.
11	36. Despite actual knowledge of these issues, Plaintiff did not elect to have a
12	professional inspection done. 160:17-20.
13	37. Finally, Plaintiff was also acutely aware of the requirement of Nevada law to
14	protect itself by getting an inspection:
15	·2· · · Q.· · If we go to page 40
16	·3···A.··Mm-hmm. ·4···Q.·· there's a bunch of Nevada statutes
17	·5 here. ·6· · · A.· ·Mm-hmm.
18	·7· ·· Q.· ·If you look at NRS 113.140 ·8· ·· A.· ·Mm-hmm.
19	9···Q.·· do you see that at the top of the page? 10 "Disclosure of unknown defects not required. Form
20	11 does not constitute warranty duty of buyer and 12 prospective buyer to exercise reasonable care."
21	13····Do you see that? 14···A.·Yes.
22	15··· Q.··Okay.· So this disclosure form gave Marie 16 Zhu, your wife, a copy of the Nevada law that was
23	17 applicable to the sale of the property; correct?  18 · · · A · · Yeah.
24	19· · · Q. · Okay. · And under NRS 113.1403, it 20 specifies, "Either this chapter or Chapter 645 of
25	21 the NRS relieves a buyer or prospective buyer of the 22 duty to exercise reasonable care to protect
26	23 himself." 24····Did I read that correctly?
27	25· · · A.· ·Yes.
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38.	Plaintiff assumed	the risk of failin	g to exercise reas	onable care to	protect itself.
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### No Dispute a Professional Inspection Could Have Revealed the Alleged Issues

39. The alleged defects identified by both parties' experts could have been discovered at the time of the original purchase. As to the ability to inspect, Mr. Miao admitted that he had access to the entire building. Id. at 250:22-25. He had access to the attic and looked at it. Id. at 251:4-14. Mr. Miao admitted that Plaintiff's expert examined the same areas that he did:

```
·6· · · Q. · · Okay. · So you walked through the property
·7 with him at the time he did his inspection; correct?
\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Right.
·9· · · Q. · · Okay. · During that time, did he inspect
10 any areas that -- that you did not have access to in
12· · · A. · · Yes. · He didn't go to anything I didn't
13 inspect during 2017 too.
14 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Q. So he inspected the same areas you
15 inspected?
16 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes, yes.
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*Id.* at 291:6-16.

- 40. Notably, Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the expert's access was exactly the same as Mr. Miao's original inspection. *Id.* at 291:1-5.
- 41. Mr. Miao admitted that Plaintiff's expert's inspection of the HVAC, *Id.* at 292:2-5, 293:18-23, and the plumbing system, *Id.* at 300:19-25-301:1-4, would have been the same as his in 2017.
- 42. Mr. Miao also admitted that the pictures attached to Plaintiff's expert report were areas that he could have inspected in 2017. *Id.* at 302:6-13.
- 43. Additionally, Mr. Miao accompanied Defendants' expert during his inspection. *Id.* at 320:31-25. As before, Mr. Miao had the same access to the Property in 2017 for the areas inspected by Defendants' expert. *Id.* at 321:1-6.
- 44. Mr. Miao agreed with Defendants' expert that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's expert were "open and obvious":

```
22· · · Q.· · And then the second line down, the first
23 sentence begins, "Items complained about in the Sani
24 report were open and obvious in the roof area, attic
25 area, and on the exterior/interior of the property."
Page 318
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1		* * *
2		·3· · · Q.· ·Do you agree with this statement? ·4· · · A.· ·Yes.
3	<i>Id</i> . at 318:22-2	25-319:3-4.
4	45.	He also agreed with Defendants' expert's finding that there was no noticeable
5	sagging in the	roof. <i>Id.</i> at 333:20-24.
6	46.	Incredibly, Mr. Miao also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report
7	that failed to	differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it
8	owned it, and	those afterwards:
9		17· · · Q.· · midway down the first complete sentence
10		18 says, "The Sani report does not recognize prior 19 conditions in existence before any work took place
11		20 by defendants." 21 · · · · · · Do you agree with this statement?
12		Page 321 ***
13		·3·····Yes, yes. ·4 BY MR. LEE:
14		·5· · · Q.· ·You agree with that? · Okay. ·6· · · A.· ·Agree.
15	<i>Id</i> . at 321:17-	21 - 322:3-6. This would have also included any issues with the dryer vent and
16	ducts, <i>Id</i> . at 33	25:3-20, as he recognized that most rentals do not include washer / dryer units. <i>Id</i> .
17	at 326:7-25-32	27:1-9.
18		No Permits Required for Cosmetic Work by TKNR
19	47.	No dispute exists that TKNR did not need permits for the interior work it had
20	done to the Pr	operty. Mr. Miao admitted the following:
21		·5· · · Q.· · Number 5 says, "Painting, papering,
22		·6 tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops, interior ·7 wall, floor or ceiling covering, and similar finish
23		·8 work." ·9····Do you see that?
24		10··· A.··Yes. 11··· Q.··So you agree that no permits are required
25		12 for any of these types of work; correct? 13··· A.··Yes.
26	<i>Id</i> . at 262:5-13	3.
27		·1 Window Replacements where no structural member no
28		·2 structural member is altered or changed," that does ·3 not need a permit either; right?

 $\cdot 4 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

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MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

1 2 3	24 tenant. The tenant is not going to do all this 25 inspection. They can't. The burden is on the Page 120 1 landlord to make sure all these building is safe and 2 in good condition.
4	<i>Id.</i> at 120:16-25-121:1-2, 140:10-14. However, they have not done any of the repairs listed by
5	Plaintiff's expert. <i>Id.</i> at 331:3-12. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff that there are
6	underlying conditions with the Property.
7	49. Moreover, Plaintiff does not provide any notice to the tenants about its expert's
8	report or this litigation:
9	·6· · · Q. · · All right. · In terms of tenants renting
10	·7 out the units to any tenants, do you ever provide ·8 them with a copy of the Sani report? ·9···A.··No.
11	10· · · Q. · · Do you ever provide them with any of the
12	11 pleadings or the first amended complaint, second 12 amended complaint, the complaint itself?
13	13···A.··No.  * * *
14	22···Q.··Okay.· So basically, you just tell them, 23 There's this.· You can inspect the unit if you want;
15	24 is that it? 25···A.··Yeah.· And also we need to tell is a lot
16	Page 337  1 of things report that we don't need to go to the
17	·2 inside the building.· It's wall cracking.· It's ·3 outside.· You can see.
18	·4· · · Q. · · Okay.· So it's open and obvious for them? ·5· · · A. · · Yeah.· You can see always outside.
19	<i>Id.</i> at 337:6-13, 337:22-25-338:1-5.
20	50. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff's claims, proven that it has done
21	nothing to correct the allegedly deficient conditions that are clearly not so dangerous as it does
22	not tell prospective tenants about them.
23	Squatters or Tenants Could Have Damaged the Property
24	51. Mr. Miao admitted that multiple third parties could have potentially damaged the
25	Property. The Property has a historic problem with squatters during the time that Plaintiff owned
26	it:
27	12···Q.··Do you generally have a squatter problem
28	13 with the property? 14···A.··Yes.· As a matter of fact, today I just

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15 saw the one text message that said one -- some 16 people go to my apartment.

*Id.* at 110:12-16. He also admitted that tenants could have damaged the Property while they were occupying it:

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·4· · · Q. · · Okay. · So the tenant in this context would
·5 have damaged the unit at the time that you owned it;
·6 is that fair?
\cdot 7 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Maybe. \cdot Yes.
·8· · · Q. · · Okay. · So some of the -- so the damage
·9 that was to the water heater system, could the
10 tenant have damaged that as well?
11 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
12· · · Q. · · And then he could have damaged the cooler
13 pump and the valve as well; is that correct?
14 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
16 that the tenant could have damaged; is that correct?
17 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.
18 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q. And then the same through for 145; is that
19 right?
20 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
```

Id. at 306:4-20, 330:5-7. This could also account for the cracking on the walls. Id. at 310:8-12. Tenants could have also damaged the Property if they hit it with their cars. *Id.* at 332:14-16.

### No Evidence That Defendants Knew of Alleged Conditions

- 52. Plaintiff's case is based on speculation that Defendants knew about the alleged conditions in the Property; however, Mr. Miao admitted that there is no evidence that shows Defendants knew about them. *Id.* at 245:1-13 (speculating that InvestPro made changes).
- 53. The entire case is based on Mr. Miao's personal belief and speculation. *Id.* at 253:17-19.
- 54. Mr. Miao admitted that he has no evidence Defendants knew about the alleged moisture conditions. *Id.* at 293:24-25-294:1-3. Additionally, he also admitted that there is no evidence that Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the plumbing system. *Id.* at 301:21-24. He also admitted that he did not know if Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the duct work when they owned the Property. Id. at 314:5-19. He also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards. *Id.* at 321:17-21 –

322:3-6.

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- 55. Mr. Miao also recognized that a 63-year-old property could have issues that were not caused by Defendants. Id. at 324:6-15. This would have also included any issues with the dryer vent and ducts, *Id.* at 325:3-20, and when the duct became disconnected. *Id.* at 329:1-16.
- 56. Plaintiff did not identify any discovery illustrating a genuine issue of material fact that Defendants knew of the alleged issues with the Property that they had not already disclosed on Seller's Disclosures.
- 57. Notably, during Mr. Miao's due diligence period, he spoke with the tenants of the Property. Id. at 163:12-25-164:1-6. This included a conversation with the long-term tenant of Unit A, who still resides in the Property to this day. *Id.* At that time, the tenant reported being very happy with the Property and had no complaints. *Id*. In fact, the tenant reported still being very happy with the Property. Id. at 170:7-9. This illustrates that there is no basis that Defendants should have been aware of any of the issues when Mr. Miao, a self-professed expert, did not even know about them following his inspection.

### No Basis for Claims for RICO and/or Related to Flipping Fund

58. The Flipping Fund had nothing to do with Plaintiff's decision to purchase the Property. *Id.* at 223:15-25.

> 20 · · · Q. · · Yeah. · So there's no way that you relied 21 upon any flipping fund since it would have been 22 closed at this time; right?  $23 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \text{Yeah}$ .

Id. at 274:20-23. He also admitted that he never received any pro forma, private placement information, calculations of profit and loss, capital contribution requirements, member share or units, or any such information about the Flipping Fund. *Id.* at 277:7-16.

### Plaintiff Admitted it Inflated its Cost of Repairs

59. Initially, Mr. Miao contacted contractors to bid the potential cost of repair for the Property and determined that it would have been \$102,873.00. Id. at 307:6-22. However, Plaintiff's expert opined that the cost of repair would have been \$600,000, although he did not provide an itemized cost of repair. *Id.* at 334:17-21. This illustrates that the bad faith purposes  $\Gamma$ EL -(702) 477.7030; FAX-(702) 477.0096

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60. Mr. Miao perjured himself in his Declaration in support of the Opposition. He denied, under the penalty of perjury, that he never made an offer to settle this matter for \$10,000. However, during his deposition he admitted that he did make this offer. *Id.* at 259:5-15 ("so maybe I tell Lin, Just pay us \$10,000"). As noted in the Motion, this illustrates the overall bad faith of the litigation where Plaintiff admittedly amplified its alleged damages by more than 6x, and then trebled the damages, and have run up egregious attorneys' fees for this frivolous action. These are undisputed facts that prove abuse of process as a matter of law.

### Allegations in the Second Amended Complaint

- 61. On November 23, 2020, Plaintiff filed its Second Amended Complaint ("SAC"). Based on the admissions of Mr. Miao and the waivers related to the RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, these allegations illustrate the overall frivolous nature of this action and why Rule 11 sanctions are appropriate:
  - TKNR failed to disclose one or more known condition(s) that materially affect(s) the value or use of the Subject Property in an adverse manner, as required by NRS Chapter 113, in a particular NRS 113.130.
  - Factual statements from the August 7, 2017 Seller Real 27. Property Disclosure Form (SRPDF) are set forth in Paragraph 31 and the subsections thereof state whe (sic) the disclosures were either inadequate or false. The SRPDF states that it was prepared, presented and initialed by Kenny Lin.
  - 29. Since the Subject Property is a residential rental apartment, to protect tenants and consumers, the applicable local building code requires all renovation, demolition, and construction work must be done by licensed contractors with permits and inspections to ensure compliance with the Uniform Building Code [UBC].
  - Defendants Lin, Investpro, as TKNR's agent, TKNR, Wong and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, as the true owner of the Subject Property, did not disclose any and all known conditions and aspects of the property which materially affect the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner, as itemized below.
    - a. SRPDF stated that Electrical System had no problems or defects. The fact is that many new electric lines were added and many old electric lines were removed by Investpro Manager LLC. The swamp coolers that were removed were supplied by 110 volt power supply lines. Investpro Manager LLC first added one 220v power supply

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104 TEL – (702) 477.7030; FAX – (702) 477.0096 line for one new 5 ton heat pump package unit on one roof top area for the whole building for Unit A. Unit B and Unit C. Investro (sic) Manager, LLC then removed the one year old 5 ton heat pump packaged unit from the roof top with power supply lines and added two new 220v power supply lines for two new 2 ton heart pump package units, one each for Unit B and Unit C.

Inestpro (sic) Manager, LLC then added one new 110 volt power supply line for two window cooling units for Unit A. The electrical system load for Unit A was increased due to the installation of two new cooling units and required 100 amp service, but the electrical service was not upgraded to 100 amp service from the existing 50 amp service. Failure to upgrade the electrical service caused the fuses to be blown out multiple times during the cooling seasons of 2018. The tenants in Unit A could not use air conditioning units in cooling seasons of 2018, causing Unit A to be uninhabitable until the Unit A electrical supply panel was upgraded to 100 amp service.

All the electrical supply line addition and removal work were performed without code required electrical load calculation, permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to do the electrical work and used low quality materials used inadequate electrical supply lines.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unskilled workers who did not know the UBC requirements to do the electrical work This substandard work may lead electrical lines to overheat and cause fires in the attic when tenant electrical load is high. Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unskilled workers who did not know the UBC requirements to do the electrical work. The outlets near the water faucets in kitchens, bathrooms and laundry areas were not GFCI outlets as required by the UBC.

### b. SRPDF stated that Plumbing System had no problems or defects

The fact is that that within two years prior to the sale to Plaintiff, Investpro Manager LLC removed and plugged swamp cooler water supply lines without UBC required permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers who just plugged high pressure water supply lines at rooftop instead of at ground level and who did not remove the water supply lines on top of the roof, inside the attic and behind the drywall. In cold winter, the high pressure water line which was left inside the building may freeze and break the copper line and lead flooding in the whole building.

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Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to remove and plug natural gas lines for the natural gas wall furnaces without UBC required permits and inspections.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers with little knowledge of natural gas pipe connection requirements. The unlicensed and unskilled workers used the wrong sealing materials and these sealing materials may degrade and lead to natural gas leaks and accumulation inside the drywall and the attic which may cause an explosion or fire.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to completely renovate all three bathrooms in the Subject Property without UBC required permits and inspections. Some faucets and connections behind tile walls and drywall leak and are causing moisture conditions behind tile walls and drywalls.

c. SRPDF stated that Sewer System and line had no problems or defects.

The subject property was built in 1954. Clay pipes were used at that time for sewer lines. Before the sale, within few days after tenants moved into apartment Unit B, they experienced clogged sewer line which caused the bathrooms to be flooded. The tenants called Investpro to ask them to fix the clogged pipes and address the flooding issues. After this report, Investpro asked tenants to pay to hire plumber to snake the sewer line. After tenants threatened to call the Las Vegas code enforcement office, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro used unlicensed and unskilled workers to snake the clay sewer pipes. Licensed contractors must be hired to snake sewer pipes as code required. This approach to clearing the clog may break the clay sewer pipes and cause future tree root grown into sewer lines and clogs in sewer lines.

d. SRPDF stated that Heating System had problems or defects.

No full explanation was provided, as required. Investro (sic) Manager, LLC disabled natural gas heating system without UBC required permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers with little knowledge about natural gas pipe connection requirements. They used the wrong sealing materials and these sealing materials may degrade and lead to a natural gas leak inside the drywall and the attic and may cause an explosion or fire.

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104 TEL – (702) 477.7030; FAX – (702) 477.0096 Further, Investpro Manager LLC installed two electrical heat pump heating systems without UBC required permits and inspections for Unit B and Unit C. The Unit A does not have an electrical heat pump heating system nor a natural gas wall furnace heating system now. Unit A has to use portable electrical heaters.

e. SRPDF stated that the Cooling System had problems or defects

No full explanation was provided, as required. Investro (sic) Manager, LLC removed old swamp cooler systems without UBC required permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro used unlicensed and unskilled workers to disconnect water supply lines, cover swamp cooler ducting holes, and disconnect 110V electrical supply lines.

Further, as early as March of 2016, Investro Manager, LLC hired Air Supply Cooling to install one five ton new heat pump package unit with new rooftop ducting systems on one roof area to supply cooling and heating air to the whole building consisting of Unit A, Unit B and Unit C without UBC required weight load and wind load calculations, permits and inspections. The five ton heat pumps package unit was too big, too heavy and had control problems. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC also used unlicensed and unskilled workers to remove the one year old five ton heat pump package unit with ducting system without UBC required permits and inspections. All of this work was done without UBC required structural calculation, permits and inspections.

Further, in early June, 2017, Investro Manager, LLC hired The AIRTEAM to install two new two ton heat pump package units, one each for Unit B and Unit C. Invespro (sic) Manager, LLC also used unlicensed

and unskilled workers to install two window cooling units in Unit A's exterior walls. All of the above work was done without UBC required permits and inspections.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investro Manager, LLC did not replace the old, uninsulated swamp cooler ducts with new insulated HVAC ducts as the UBC required. This resulted in the heat pump package units being overloaded and damaged during cooling season because cool air was heated by uninsulated attic hot air before delivering the cooled air to the rooms. The old, uninsulated swamp cooler ducts were also rusted and leaked due to high moisture air from the bathroom vent fans and the clothes washer/dryer combination unit exhaust vents. The heat pumps would run all the time but still could not cool the rooms.

f. SRPDF stated that Smoker detector had no problems or defects

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During Plaintiff's inspection at August 10, 2017 afternoon, some smoke detectors were missing.

g. SRPDF stated that no Previous or current moisture conditions and or water damage.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investro Manager, LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to vent high moisture bathroom fan exhaust and washer/dryer combination unit exhaust into the ceiling attic area instead of venting outside the building roof without UBC required permits and inspections. The improper ventings caused high moisture conditions in ceiling attic and water damages in ceiling and attic. The high moisture conditions in the ceiling attic destroyed ceiling attic insulations, damaged the roof decking, damaged roof trusses and damaged roof structure supports.

To saving money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to complete renovation to all three bathrooms without UBC required permits and inspections. Some faucets and connections behind tile walls and drywall leaks and caused moisture conditions behind tile walls and drywalls.

### h. SRPDF stated that there was no structure defect.

Investpro Manager LLC added one new five ton heat pump package unit with ducting systems on the one roof top area for the whole building in early March, 2016 without UBC required weight load and wind load calculation, permits and inspections. Due to the five ton heat pump package unit being too big, too heavy and having control problems to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investro (sic) Manager, LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to remove the one year old five ton heat pump package unit with part of the ducting system again without UBC required permits and inspections. Investpro Manager LLC added two new two ton heat pump package units on the two roof top areas for Unit B and Unit C with new ducting systems without UBC required weight load and wind loan calculation, permits and inspections.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to open two new window holes on

exterior walls for two window cooling units in Unit A without UBC required structure calculation, permits and inspections. This work damaged the building structure.

Further, the moisture condition behind tile walls and drywall due to faucets leaking damaged the building structure.

Further, Investpro Manager LLC's unlicensed and unskilled workers used the space between two building support columns as a duct to vent high moisture exhaust

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from the washer/dryer combination unit exhaust vent from Unit A without UBC required permits and inspections and this damaged the building structure.

The recent inspection of the exterior wall found multiple cracks which indicates structural problems caused by the heavy load on the roof.

i. SRPDF marked Yes and NO for construction, modification, alterations or repairs made without required state. city or county building permits.

Defendants Lin, Investpro, as TKNR's agent, TKNR, and Wong did not provide detailed explanations. All renovation, demolition, and construction work was done by Investpro Manager LLC using unlicensed, and unskilled workers without UBC required weight load and wind load calculations, permits and inspections.

j. SRPDF stated that there were not any problems with the roof.

The roof of the Subject Property was damaged by changing roof top HVAC units and ducting systems multiple times from October, 2015to June, 2017. Investpro Manager LLC removed the existing swamp coolers from roof top and covered the swamp coolers ducting holes. Investpro Manager LLC added a five ton heat pump package unit with a new ducting system on one roof top area in March, 2016. Investpro the removed the one year old five ton heat pump package unit with part of the ducting system from the one roof top area in June,2017. Then Investpro Manager LLC added two two ton heat pump package units on the two roof top areas in June, 2017. The work damaged the roof of the Subject Property to such an extent that when it rains the roof leaks. All of this renovation, demolition, and construction work was done without UBC required weight load and wind load calculations, permits and inspections and this damaged the building roof structure.

k. SRPDF stated that no there were not any fungus or mold problems.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC vented the bathroom high moisture fans and the washer/dryer combination unit exhaust vents into the ceiling and attic without venting outside of the roof. All of this renovation, demolition, and construction work was done without UBC required permits and inspections and this damaged the building structure. After the purchase of the Subject Property, Plaintiff discovered black color fungus mold was found inside ceiling and attic.

- 1. SRPDF stated that there were not any other conditions or aspects of the property which materially affect its value or use in an adverse manner.
  - i. Problems with flooring.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits,

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Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to lay low quality cheap ceramic tiles on the loose sandy ground rather than on a strong, smooth, concrete floor base. Within few months after tenants moving into the Subject Property, mass quantities of floor ceramic tiles cracked and the floor buckled. These cracked ceramic tiles may cut tenants' toes and create a trip and fall hazard. These are code violations had to be repaired before the units could be rented to tenants. The plaintiff has to spend lot money to replace all ceramic tile floor in Unit C with vinyl tile floor.

ii. Problems with the land/foundation.

Within few months after tenants moved into the Subject Property in 2017, large quantities of floor tiles cracked and the floor buckled. This indicated that there may have foundation problems likely due to heavy loads by the new HVAC systems and the venting of moisture into the ceiling and attic. Too much weight loads on the walls caused exterior wall cracking.

iii. Problems with closet doors.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to install closet doors with poor quality for Unit C, all closet doors fell down in three months after tenant move into Unit C.

- 62. As to 31(a), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the electrical system and items not up to code at the time that he did his inspection and/or that any issues with the electrical system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Incredibly, Mr. Miao admitted that he was the person who asked for TKNR to install the GFCI outlets, so he was clearly aware of this issue as well. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 63. As to 31(b), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, the lack of permits, and issues with the sprinklers. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the plumbing system were

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"open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.

- As to 31(c), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose the use of a handyman, the lack of permits, and issues with the sprinklers. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the sewer system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 65. As to 31(d), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he did his inspection and/or that any issues with the heating system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 66. As to 31(e), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the heating and cooling system and items not up to code at the time that he did his inspection and/or that any issues with the heating and cooling system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or

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before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.

- 67. As to 31(f), this allegation illustrates the prior knowledge that Plaintiff had before purchasing the Property, and the overall emphasis on the failure to obtain a professional inspection of the Property prior to purchasing it.
- As to 31(g), (k), Mr. Miao admitted Plaintiff executed the mold and moisture 68. waiver, and understood its affirmative duty to have an inspection done prior to the purchase of the Property. He also admitted that that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose the use of a handyman, installation of the cabinetry, bathrooms, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he personally inspected the attic and the dryer vent before Plaintiff purchased the Property. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 69. As to 31(h), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Mr. Miao admitted that there was visible cracking on the foundation, walls, and the tiles that were open and obvious at the time that Plaintiff purchased the Property in 2017. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 70. As to 31(i), this allegation illustrates the prior knowledge that Plaintiff had before purchasing the Property, and the overall emphasis on the failure to obtain a professional inspection of the Property prior to purchasing it. Mr. Miao admitted that he should have followed up related to the permit issue prior to Plaintiff purchasing the Property.
- 71. As to 31(j), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues were "open and obvious" that a reasonable,

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professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Mr. Miao agreed that there was no noticeable sagging on the roof. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.

As to 31(1), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures did disclose issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Mr. Miao admitted that there was visible cracking on the foundation, walls, and the tiles that were open and obvious at the time that Plaintiff purchased the Property in 2017. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues, and also admitted that squatters and tenants could have damaged the Property.

### No Reliance on Broker Agents

73. As to the Broker Defendants, Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Brokers or Broker's agent. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties. Ms. Zhu agreed to satisfy herself, as to the condition of the Property, prior to the close of escrow. Ms. Zhu waived all claims against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction.

### Mr. Miao Agreed with Defendants' Expert

74. On November 17, 2020, Defendants' expert, Neil D. Opfer, an Associate Professor of Construction Management at UNLV and overqualified expert, conducted an inspection of the Property. At that time, as noted earlier, Mr. Miao walked the Property with Professor Opfer. Supplement at 320:31-25.

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75. Mr. Miao agreed with Professor Opfer that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's alleged expert were open and obvious:

> [n]ote that the Plaintiff could have hired an inspector or contractor to evaluate this real-estate purchase beforehand but did not. Items complained about in the Sani Report were open and obvious at the roof area, attic area, and on the exterior and interior areas of the Property.

*Id.* at 318:22-25-319:3-4.

- 76. Mr. Miao agreed with Professor Opfer that Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the same alleged conditions that the alleged expert noted, would have been made by an inspector at the time of the purchase. *Id.* at 291:1-5.
- 77. Mr. Miao agreed with Professor Opfer that Plaintiff's alleged expert did "not recognize prior conditions in existence before any work took place by the Defendants." Id. at 321:17-21 - 322:3-6.

### **Conclusions of Law**

- 1. Summary judgment is appropriate when the pleadings, depositions, answers to interrogatories, admissions, and affidavits, if any, that are properly before the Court demonstrate that no genuine issue of material fact exist, and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 713, 57 P.3d 82, 87 (2002). Substantive law controls whether factual disputes are material and will preclude summary judgment; other factual disputes are irrelevant. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 106 S. Ct. 2505, 91 L.Ed.2d 202 (1986). A genuine issue of material fact is one where the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the non-moving party. Valley Bank v. Marble, 105 Nev. 366, 367, 775 P.2d 1278, 1282 (1989).
- 2. The Nevada Supreme Court has held that the non-moving party may not defeat a motion for summary judgment by relying "on gossamer threads of whimsy, speculation and conjecture." Wood v. Safeway, 121 Nev. 724, 732, 121 P.3d 1026, 1031 (2005). The Nevada Supreme Court has also made it abundantly clear when a motion for summary judgment is made and supported as required by Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 56, the non-moving party must not rest upon general allegations and conclusions, but must by affidavit or otherwise set forth

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specific facts demonstrating the existence of a genuine factual issue. *Id.* 

- 3. Under Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 56(a), a party may move for summary judgment, or partial summary judgment. "The court shall grant summary judgment if the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." The court may rely upon the admissible evidence cited in the moving papers and may also consider other materials in the record as well. *Id.* at 56(c). "If the court does not grant all the relief requested by the motion, it may enter an order stating any material fact — including an item of damages or other relief — that is not genuinely in dispute and treating the fact as established in the case." *Id.* at 56(g).
- 4. The pleadings and proof offered in a Motion for Summary Judgment are construed in the light most favorable to the non-moving party. Hoopes v. Hammargren, 102 Nev. 425, 429, 725 P.2d 238, 241 (1986). However, the non-moving party still "bears the burden to 'do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt' as to the operative facts in order to avoid summary judgment being entered." Wood, 121 Nev. at 732, 121 P.3d at 1031. "To successfully defend against a summary judgment motion, 'the nonmoving party must transcend the pleadings and, by affidavit or other admissible evidence, introduce specific facts that show a genuine issue of material fact." Torrealba v. Kesmetis, 178 P.3d 716, 720 (Nev. 2008) (quoting Cuzze v. Univ. & Cmty. Coll. Sys. of Nev., 172 P.3d 131, 134 (Nev. 2007).
- 5. The non-moving party bears the burden to set forth specific facts demonstrating the existence of a "genuine" issue for trial or have summary judgment entered against him. Collins v. Union Federal Savings & Loan, 99 Nev. 284, 294, 662 P.2d 610, 618-619 (1983). When there is no genuine issue of material fact and the non-moving party provides no admissible evidence to the contrary, summary judgment is "mandated." Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 US 317, 322 (1986). When a motion for summary judgment is made and supported, an adversary party who does not set forth specific facts showing a genuine issue to be resolved at trial may have a summary judgment entered against him. Collins v. Union Federal Sav. & Loan Ass'n, 99 Nev. 284, 294, 662 P.2d 610, 616 (1983) (citing Van Cleave v. Kietz-Mill Minit Mart, 97 Nev. 414, 633 P.2d 1220 (1981); Bird v. Casa Royale West, 97 Nev. 67, 624 P.2d 17 (1981)).

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6. "Under NRS Chapter 113, residential property sellers are required to disclose any defects to buyers within a specified time before the property is conveyed." Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007) (citing NRS 113.140(1)). "NRS 113.140(1), however, provides that a seller is not required to 'disclose a defect in residential property of which [she] is not aware.' A 'defect' is defined as "a condition that materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner." *Id.* (citing NRS 113.100(1)). The Nevada Supreme Court clarified that:

> [a]scribing to the term "aware" its plain meaning, we determine that the seller of residential real property does not have a duty to disclose a defect or condition that "materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner," if the seller does not realize, perceive, or have knowledge of that defect or condition. Any other interpretation of the statute would be unworkable, as it is impossible for a seller to disclose conditions in the property of which he or she has no realization, perception, or knowledge. The determination of whether a seller is aware of a defect, however, is a question of fact to be decided by the trier of

Id. at 425 (citations omitted). Thus, in the context where the plaintiff cannot demonstrate an omitted disclosure that caused damage, the seller is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law. Id. at 426.

- 7. Generally, "[n]ondisclosure by the seller of adverse information concerning real property . . . will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer to rescind or for damages when property is sold 'as is.' " Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552 (1993). Moreover, "[l]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). The general rule foreclosing liability for nondisclosure when property is purchased as-is does not apply when the seller knows of facts materially affecting the value or desirability of the property which are known or accessible only to [the seller] and also knows that such facts are not known to, or within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. *Mackintosh*, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552 (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted).
- A buyer waives its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would

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carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018). Accordingly, the Nevada Supreme Court concluded that an agreement to purchase property as-is foreclosed the buyer's common law claims, justifying the granting of summary judgment on common law claims. *Id.* (citation omitted).

> The terms and conditions of the purchase agreement do not create a duty to disclose. Rather, these disclosures are required by NRS Chapter 113, which sets forth specific statutory duties imposed by law independent of the purchase agreement's terms and conditions. Additionally, the terms of the purchase agreement do not require [the seller] to do anything other than provide the listed disclosures.

Anderson v. Ford Ranch, LLC, 78684-COA, 2020 WL 6955438, at \*5 (Nev. App. Nov. 25, 2020).

- 9. Nevada Revised Statute § 113.140 clearly provides that the Seller Disclosures does not constitute a warranty of the Subject Property and that the Buyer still has a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself. Nevada Revised Statute § 113.140 also provides that the Seller does not have to disclose any defect that he is unaware of. Similarly, Nevada Revised Statute § 113.130 does not require a seller to disclose a defect in residential property of which the seller is not aware. A completed disclosure form does not constitute an express or implied warranty regarding any condition of residential property. Nevada Revised Statute § 113.140(2). Chapters 113 and "645 of Nevada Revised Statutes do not relieve a buyer or prospective buyer of the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself or herself." *Id.* at § 113.140(2).
- 10. Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law on all of Plaintiff's claims. It is undisputed that the alleged deficiencies were either disclosed by Defendants, could have been discovered by an inspection, were open and obvious whereby Plaintiff / Ms. Zhu / Mr. Miao had notice of them at the time Plaintiff purchased the Property, or were unknown to Defendants at the time of the sale.
- On August 2, 2017, TKNR submitted its Seller Disclosures timely indicating all 11. known conditions of the Subject Property. TKNR disclosed that "3 units has (sic) brand new AC

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On August 11, 2020, through the original RPA, Ms. Zhu waived her due diligence, although she had a right to conduct inspections:

construction, modification, alterations, or repairs done without permits, and lead-based paints.

During such Period, Buyer shall have the right to conduct, noninvasive/non-destructive inspections of all structural, roofing, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating/air conditioning, water/well/septic, pool/spa, survey, square footage, and any other property or systems, through licensed and bonded contractors or other qualified professionals.

- 13. Section II(B)(1) lists the disclosures by TKNR. Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff chose not to inspect the Subject Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires. In fact, Ms. Zhu only cancelled the original RPA, Ex. E, because of an issue related to her financing, not because of any concerns related to the Seller's Disclosures. Notably, she included the explicit waiver of the inspections, which included her initialing the provision that she had not done in the original RPA. Ms. Zhu even directly informed her agent to waive all inspections. Although Ms. Zhu had actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures from August 11, 2017, and the Parties agreed to extend the COE to January 5, 2018, Ms. Zhu still never did any professional inspections. Instead, she put down an additional \$60,000 as a non-refundable deposit to the TNKR. Moreover, she also agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$650 per month for one of the units, and to also pay the property manager \$800 for the tenant placement fee. Through Addendum 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, Ms. Zhu later changed the purchaser to Plaintiff.
- 14. As to the Brokers Defendants, Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Brokers or Broker's agent. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties. Ms. Zhu agreed to satisfy herself, as to the condition of the Property, prior to the close of escrow. Ms. Zhu waived all claims

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against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction.

As to the waivers, Paragraph 7(D) of the both the RPA and 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA expressly 15. provided:

> It is strongly recommended that Buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections. If any inspection is not completed and requested repairs are not delivered to Seller within the Due Diligence Period, Buyer is deemed to have waived the right to that inspection and Seller's liability for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted, except as otherwise provided by law.

Under Paragraph 7(F), it was Ms. Zhu's responsibility to inspect the Property sufficiently as to satisfy her use. Nevertheless, Ms. Zhu waived her inspection related to the original RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, reinforced further by actually initialing next to the waiver in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Ms. Zhu also waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection. Thereby, Ms. Zhu waived any liability of Defendants for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted. The RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA clearly indicated that Ms. Zhu was purchasing the Property "AS-IS, WHERE-IS without any representations or warranties."

- 16. Additionally, Ms. Zhu also agreed that the Brokers Defendants had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or requested by one party." Paragraph 7(D) of the RPA.
- 17. Since 2008, Mr. Miao, Ms. Zhu, and/or Plaintiff have been involved in the purchase of approximately twenty residential properties. In Clark County alone, Ms. Zhu and Mr. Miao were involved with the purchase of at least eight rental properties starting in 2014.
  - Plaintiff understands the importance of reading contracts. 18.

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- 19. Mr. Miao specified that he understands that he needs to check public records when conducting his due diligence.
- 20. Plaintiff was a sophisticated buyer who understood the necessity of getting properties inspected.
  - 21. The terms of the RPA were clear to Plaintiff.
- 22. As to Paragraph 7(A), Mr. Miao specified that he believed that his inspection and conversations with the tenant constituted the actions necessary to deem the Property as satisfactory for Plaintiff's purchase.
- 23. At all times relevant prior to the purchase of the Property, Plaintiff had access to inspect the entire property and conduct non-invasive, non-destructive inspections.
- 24. Prior to the purchase, Mr. Miao was always aware that the Seller "strongly recommended that buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections".
- 25. Plaintiff was also aware of the language in the RPA under Paragraph 7(D) that limited potential damages that could have been discovered by an inspection.
- 26. As to the RPA, Mr. Miao agreed that all the terms in it were conspicuous and understandable, and it was a standard agreement similar to the other agreements he had used in purchasing the other properties in Clark County, Nevada.
- 27. On or about August 10, 2017, Mr. Miao did an inspection of the Property. During that time, he admitted that he noticed some issues with the Property that were not up to code, finishing issues, GFCI outlets<sup>2</sup>, and electrical issues.
- 28. Similarly, he also specified that there was an issue with exposed electrical in Unit C. He also noted that there could have been a potential asbestos issue as well.
- 29. Additionally, Mr. Miao noted that there were cracks in the ceramic floor tiles, and he was aware of visible cracks in the concrete foundation, which were open and obvious.

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The Second Amended Complaint references GFCI at Paragraph 31(a). This illustrates the overall bad faith and frivolous nature of the pleading since Mr. Miao is the one who requested TKNR to install these for Plaintiff.

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30.	Mr. Miao	also	admitted	that	he	could	also	have	seen	the	dryer	vent	during	his,
inspection.														

- 31. However, Mr. Miao also admitted that he could have followed up on the issues identified in the SRPDF that included the HVAC and the permits.
- 32. Similarly, Mr. Miao was aware that he should have contacted the local building department as part of his due diligence.
- 33. Plaintiff was also on notice of the potential for mold and the requirement to get a mold inspection.
- 34. Despite actual knowledge of these issues, Plaintiff did not elect to have a professional inspection done.
- 35. Finally, Plaintiff was also acutely aware of the requirement of Nevada law to protect itself by getting an inspection.
  - 36. Plaintiff assumed the risk of failing to exercise reasonable care to protect itself.
- The alleged defects identified by both parties' experts could have been discovered 37. at the time of the original purchase as they were "open and obvious".
- 38. Plaintiff failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards.
- 39. No dispute exists that TKNR did not need permits for the interior work it had done to the Property.
- 40. Plaintiff has always been trying to lease the Property despite not doing any of the repairs listed by Plaintiff's expert. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff that there are underlying conditions with the Property.
- 41. Moreover, Plaintiff does not provide any notice to the tenants about its expert's report or this litigation. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff's claims and proves that it has done nothing to correct the allegedly deficient conditions that are clearly not so dangerous as it does not tell prospective tenants about them.
- 42. Mr. Miao admitted that multiple third parties could have potentially damaged the Property.

- 44. Mr. Miao admitted that he has no evidence Defendants knew about the alleged moisture conditions. Additionally, he also admitted that there is no evidence that Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the plumbing system. He also admitted that he did not know if Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the duct work when they owned the Property. He also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards.
- 45. Mr. Miao also recognized that a 63-year-old property could have issues that were not caused by Defendants.
- 46. The Flipping Fund had nothing to do with Plaintiff's decision to purchase the Property.
- 47. Plaintiff admittedly amplified its alleged damages by more than 6x, and then trebled the damages, and have run up egregious attorneys' fees for this frivolous action. These are undisputed facts that prove abuse of process as a matter of law given the known issues with the Property and Plaintiff's waivers related to the inspections. Plaintiff waived the inspections and purchased the property "as is". This shows that Plaintiff had no interest in having a professional inspection done. It shows the behavior of the Plaintiff related to the entire case.
- 48. Plaintiff were encouraged to inspect the property, and they did not do it. It was a 63-year-old property. There were specific disclosures that were made by the Seller, and Plaintiff was strongly encouraged to conduct the inspection, and they did not want to.
  - 49. This is a 2018 case. Plaintiff has not been diligent in conducting discovery.

Rule 56(f) is not a shield that can be raised to block a motion for summary judgment without even the slightest showing by the opposing party that his opposition is meritorious. A party invoking its protections must do so in good faith by affirmatively demonstrating why he cannot respond to a movant's affidavits as otherwise required by Rule 56(e) and how postponement of a ruling on the motion will enable him, by discovery or other means, to rebut the movant's showing of the absence of a genuine issue of fact. Where, as here, a party fails to carry his burden under Rule 56(f), postponement of a ruling on a motion for summary judgment is unjustified.

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- Plaintiff failed to articulate the alleged discovery that it would likely have. 50. Additionally, Plaintiff already opposed enlarging discovery by specifying that any extension of discovery would prejudice it, indicating that it had no need for additional discovery and that Plaintiff would largely rest upon the findings of its expert. See Plaintiff's Opposition to Motion to Enlarge Discovery. Also, Plaintiff's counsel's declaration in the Opposition illustrated that he had additional discussions with Plaintiff's expert related to the MSJ, but Plaintiff's expert did not proffer any additional opinions to counter the Motion. See *Opp.* at p. 18:7-9.
- 51. As a matter of law, Plaintiff is precluded from seeking damages from Defendants because of her failure to inspect. "Nondisclosure by the seller of adverse information concerning real property . . . will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer to rescind or for damages when property is sold 'as is.' " Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552 (1993). Moreover, "[1]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015).
- 52. Defendants also do not have liability as Ms. Zhu / Plaintiff purchased the Property "as-is" within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. *Mackintosh*, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552. NRS § 113.140 clearly provides that the disclosures do not constitute a warranty of the Property and that the purchaser still has a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself. A completed disclosure form does not constitute an express or implied warranty regarding any condition of residential property. NRS § 113.140(2). Chapters 113 and "645 of Nevada Revised Statutes do not relieve a buyer or prospective buyer of the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself or herself." *Id.* at § 113.140(2).
- 53. Plaintiff waived its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close

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of escrow, and the information regarding Property was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018).

- As such, Summary Judgment is appropriate under NRS § 113.140(1) (seller is not 54. required to disclose a defect in residential property of which she is not aware). Under this statute, "[a]scribing to the term 'aware' its plain meaning, . . . the seller of residential real property does not have a duty to disclose a defect or condition that 'materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner,' if the seller does not realize, perceive, or have knowledge of that defect or condition." Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007). Thus, as Plaintiff cannot demonstrate an omitted disclosure that caused damage, Defendants are entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law. *Id.* at 426.
- In total, under NRS § 113.140(1) (seller is not required to disclose a defect in 55. residential property of which she is not aware), Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007), and NRS § 645.259(2), Defendants are entitled to Summary Judgment on Plaintiff's claims for (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113, (2) Constructive Fraud, (3) Common Law Fraud, (4) Fraudulent Inducement, (5) Fraudulent Concealment, (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty, (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1), (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education, (12) Civil Conspiracy, (13) Breach Of Contract, and (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing]. It also eliminates the causes of action for (7) RICO, (10) Fraudulent Conveyance, (11) Fraudulent Conveyance, and (15) Abuse of Process since they have no basis in fact or law.
- 56. Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 2.20(e) provides that, "[f]ailure of the opposing party to serve and file written opposition may be construed as an admission that the motion and/or joinder is meritorious and a consent to granting the same." Simply filing an opposition does not relieve a party of its duty to actually oppose the issues raised in the motion. See Benjamin v. Frias Transportation Mgt. Sys., Inc., 433 P.3d 1257 (Nev. 2019) (unpublished disposition).

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- 57. The Opposition failed to address the Motion's arguments related to summary judgment in favor of Defendants on Plaintiff's claims for: (7) RICO; (10) Fraudulent Conveyance; (11) Fraudulent Conveyance; (12) Civil Conspiracy; and (15) Abuse of Process. Additionally, Plaintiff fails to provide any meaningful or competent opposition to the Motion's argument for summary judgment as to Plaintiff's claims against the Broker Defendants. As there is no Opposition provided to those arguments made in the Motion, this court should find that those arguments are meritorious and grant the request as to those unopposed issues.
- 58. Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(b), by presenting to the court a pleading or other paper, an attorney or unrepresented party certifies: (1) it is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation, (2) the claims and other legal contentions are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law, (3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support, and (4) the denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or.
- 59. "If, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the court determines that Rule 11(b) has been violated, the court may impose an appropriate sanction on any attorney, law firm, or party that violated the rule or is responsible for the violation. Absent exceptional circumstances, a law firm must be held jointly responsible for a violation committed by its partner, associate, or employee." NEV. R. CIV. PRO. 11(c).
- 60. "On its own, the court may order an attorney, law firm, or party to show cause why conduct specifically described in the order has not violated Rule 11(b)." *Id.* at 11(c)(3). "A sanction imposed under this rule must be limited to what suffices to deter repetition of the conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. The sanction may include nonmonetary directives; an order to pay a penalty into court; or, if imposed on motion and warranted for effective deterrence, an order directing payment to the movant of part or all of the reasonable attorney fees and other expenses directly resulting from the violation." 11(c)(4).

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6	51.	Rule 11 prevents	a party from	m bringing a la	awsuit for	an impr	oper purpo	se, which
includes	: (1) ha	arassment, causing	g unnecessa	ary delay, or ne	eedless ind	creasing	the cost of	litigation;
or (2) m	naking	frivolous claims.	NEV. R. C	Civ. Pro. 11(b)	)(1)-(2).	Rule 11	sanctions s	should be
imposed	for fri	volous actions. M	Iarshall v. I	District Court,	108 Nev.	459, 465	5, 836 P.2d	47, 52.

- 62. A frivolous claim is one that is "both baseless and made without a reasonable and competent inquiry." Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 676, 856 P.2d 560, 564 (1993) (quoting Townsend v. Holman Consulting Corp., 929 F.2d 1358, 1362 (9th Cir.1990); Golden Eagle Distrib. Corp. v. Burroughs Corp., 801 F.2d 1531, 1537 (9th Cir. 1986)). A determination of whether a claim is frivolous involves a two-pronged analysis: (1) the court must determine whether the pleading is "well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law"; and (2) whether the attorney made a reasonable and competent inquiry. Bergmann, 109 Nev. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564. A sanction imposed for violation of Rule 11 shall be limited to what is sufficient to deter repetition of such conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. Id. at 11(c)(2).
- 63. Furthermore, a court may award attorneys' fees to a prevailing party when it finds that the claim was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. NEV. REV. STAT. § 18.010(2)(b). In other cases, a court may award attorneys' fees "when it finds that the opposing party brought or maintained a claim without reasonable grounds." Rodriguez v. Primadonna Co., LLC, 216 P.3d 793, 800 (Nev. 2009). "The court shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations." *Id.* The Nevada Legislature explained that:

[i]t is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions pursuant to Rule 11 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure in all appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in business and providing professional services to the public.

Id. "A claim is groundless if 'the allegations in the complaint . . . are not supported by any credible evidence at trial." Barozzi v. Benna, 112 Nev. 635, 639, 918 P.2d 301, 303 (1996)

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(quoting Western United Realty, Inc. v. Isaacs, 679 P.2d 1063, 1069 (Colo.1984)).

- 78. The overwhelming facts and law illustrate that Plaintiff's claim is frivolous. The findings of fact are incorporated by reference.
- Plaintiff's claim is clearly frivolous: (1) where the pleading was not "well 79. grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law", and (2) Plaintiff's attorney continued to make frivolous claims. Bergmann, 109 Nev. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564. Sanctions are warranted against Plaintiff and its counsel, which includes an award attorneys' fees to Defendants.
- 80. Alternatively, the elements of an abuse of process claim are: "(1) an ulterior purpose by the defendants other than resolving a legal dispute, and (2) a willful act in the use of the legal process not proper in the regular conduct of the proceeding." Posadas v. City of Reno, 109 Nev. 448, 452, 851 P.2d 438, 441-42 (1993). Abuse of process can arise from both civil and criminal proceedings. LaMantia v. Redisi, 118 Nev. 27, 30, 38 P.3d 877, 879 (2002). Malice, want of probable cause, and termination in favor of the person initiating or instituting proceedings are not necessary elements for a prima facie abuse of process claim. Nevada Credit Rating Bur. v. Williams, 88 Nev. 601, 606, 503 P.2d 9, 12 (1972); Restatement (Second) of Torts § 682 cmt. a (1977). The mere filing of a complaint is insufficient to establish the tort of abuse of process. Laxalt v. McClatchy, 622 F. Supp. 737, 751 (1985).
- 81. Under either Rule 11 or Defendants' counterclaim for abuse of process, Plaintiff brought or maintained this action without reasonable ground and only to harass Defendants. NEV. REV. STAT. § 18.010(2)(b). The overwhelming facts and law also show that Plaintiff brought or maintained this claim without reasonable grounds, which justifies an award of attorneys' fees. Rodriguez v. Primadonna Co., LLC, 216 P.3d 793, 800 (Nev. 2009).
- 82. Defendants are directed to file a separate order to show cause pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c)(3) on Plaintiff and Plaintiff's prior counsel, Benjamin Childs, as this Honorable Court determined that Plaintiff has violated Rule 11(b). The court will impose an appropriate sanction on any attorney, law firm, or party that violated the rule or is responsible for the violation. The court intends to award to the Defendants the reasonable expenses, including

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attorneys' fees and costs, incurred for defending this frivolous lawsuit, either under Rule 11 or as damages for Defendants' counterclaim for abuse of process. This sanction will be limited to what suffices to deter repetition of the conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. The Court may also consider sanctions including nonmonetary directives, an order to pay a penalty into court, or, an order directing payment to Defendants for part or all of the reasonable attorney fees and other expenses directly resulting from the violation.

Based on the foregoing, the Court GRANTS Defendants Motion, DENIES the Counterclaim, and GRANTS attorneys' fees and costs to Defendants pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that the Motion is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that the Countermotion, including the 56(f) Countermotion, is **DENIED**. This is a 2018 case. This Honorable Court will not agree to enlarge discovery.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that Defendants are awarded attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Rule 11 and/or under the abuse of process counterclaim. Defendants may file an affidavit in support of requested attorney's fees and costs within 10 days of the entry of Order and the Order to Show Cause. Plaintiff may file an objection to any portion of the attorney's fees by filing an objection within five judicial days of service of the affidavit and/or the Order to Show Cause. After the fees are granted, Plaintiff will have ten (10) days of entry of this Order to provide proof of payment to be noticed and filed with the Court.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that this is a final order related to the claims and counterclaim. This Honorable Court directs entry of a final judgment of all claims. To the extent that post-judgment award of attorneys' fees are pending, Defendants may make the claim as set forth in Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 54(d)(D) (claims for attorney fees as sanctions).

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1820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

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2	CSERV					
3		DISTRICT COURT K COUNTY, NEVADA				
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5						
6	W L A B Investment LLC,	CASE NO: A-18-785917-C				
7	Plaintiff(s)	DEPT. NO. Department 14				
8	VS.					
9	TKNR Inc, Defendant(s)					
10						
11	AUTOMATED	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE				
12		ervice was generated by the Eighth Judicial District				
13	Court. The foregoing Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:					
14	Service Date: 3/30/2021					
15	Brinley Richeson	bricheson@daynance.com				
16 17	Steven Day	sday@daynance.com				
18	Michael Matthis	matthis@mblnv.com				
19	BENJAMIN CHILDS	ben@benchilds.com				
20	Nikita Burdick	nburdick@burdicklawnv.com				
21	Michael Lee	mike@mblnv.com				
22	Bradley Marx	brad@marxfirm.com				
23	Frank Miao	frankmiao@yahoo.com				
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RE: A-18-785917-C - ORDR - Order to Show Cause Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c)(3) on Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Prior Counsel, Benjamin Childs, for Violation of Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure11(b)

### Reed, Ariana <dept14lc@clarkcountycourts.us>

Thu 4/8/2021 4:15 PM

To: 'mike@mblnv.com' <mike@mblnv.com>

Noted. Thank you for your prompt response.

Be well and stay safe,

### Ariana Reed, Esq.

Law Clerk to the Honorable Adriana Escobar Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. 14

Dept14LC@clarkcountycourts.us

Phone: (702) 671-4423 Fax: (702) 671-4418

From: mike@mblnv.com [mailto:mike@mblnv.com]

**Sent:** Thursday, April 8, 2021 11:35 AM

To: Reed, Ariana

Cc: 'Brinley Richeson'; 'Michael Matthis'; 'Steve Day'; 'Benjamin B. Childs'; Powell, Diana

**Subject:** RE: A-18-785917-C - ORDR - Order to Show Cause Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c)(3) on Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Prior Counsel, Benjamin Childs, for Violation of Nevada Rule of Civil

Procedure11(b)

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Eighth Judicial District Court -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Received. It would appear that the proposed order related to the OSC is moot and we can withdraw it.

CONFIDENTIAL. This e-mail message and the information it contains are intended to be privileged and confidential communications protected from disclosure. Any file(s) or attachment(s) transmitted with it are transmitted based on a reasonable expectation of privacy consistent with ABA Formal Opinion No. 99-413. Any disclosure, distribution, copying, or use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient, regardless of address or routing, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by e-mail at <a href="mike@mblnv.com">mike@mblnv.com</a> and permanently delete this message. Personal messages express only the view of the sender and are not attributable to Michael B. Lee, P.C. IRS Circular 230 Disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. federal tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (a) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (b) promoting, marketing, or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

From: Reed, Ariana <dept14lc@clarkcountycourts.us>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:44 PM **To:** 'mike@mblnv.com' <mike@mblnv.com>

**Cc:** 'Brinley Richeson' <bri> Steve Day' | Steve Day' |

<sday@dayattorneys.com>; Benjamin B. Childs <ben@benchilds.com>; Powell, Diana

<PowellD@clarkcountycourts.us>

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**Subject:** RE: A-18-785917-C - ORDR - Order to Show Cause Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c)(3) on Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Prior Counsel, Benjamin Childs, for Violation of Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure11(b)

Hello,

In light of the Amended Order (attached) filed on April 7, 2021, the submitted proposed order may no longer be applicable. Please review the Amended Order. If counsel determines the proposed order is line with the Amended Order, counsel may resubmit to the Department 14 Inbox.

Please reply to confirm receipt and include all parties to avoid *ex parte* communications. Please also include Diana Powell, our JEA, on all email correspondence to ensure you receive the most prompt response (<u>PowellD@clarkcountycourts.us</u>). Thank you.

Please review the notes below for further Department 14 protocol and instructions:

### \*\*ELECTRONIC SERVICE\*\*

Pursuant to Administrative Order 20-17, **ALL lawyers** must register for electronic service on **every case they have in the district court**. Please ensure you are registered to receive electronic service at <a href="https://nevada.tylerhost.net/OfsWeb">https://nevada.tylerhost.net/OfsWeb</a> so that you will receive the electronically filed document once processed.

### \*\*\*MATTERS ON CALENDAR\*\*\*

The Court will hold limited hearings via **Blue Jeans** until further notice. Unless the Court instructs parties to appear via Blue Jeans, <u>all matters</u>—except for TROs, preliminary injunctions, record sealing, and default judgment applications exceeding \$50,000.00 in damages—will be decided on the pleadings via Minute Order. This decision will occur in chambers and <u>no appearances are required</u>.

Please contact chambers at least two business days prior to your hearing date to confirm how the Court will handle your hearing.

### \*\*\*STATUS CHECKS ON CALENDAR\*\*\*

All status checks that are on calendar will be resolved via email and no appearances are required.

### \*\*\*ORDERS\*\*\*

Until further notice, all parties must submit <u>orders</u> electronically, in <u>both</u> PDF version and Word version to the Department 14 inbox at <u>DC14Inbox@clarkcountycourts.us</u>.

All orders must have original signatures from all parties or an email—appended as the last page(s) of the proposed order—confirming that the parties approved use of their electronic signatures.

The subject line of the e-mail should identify the full case number, filing code and case caption.

Orders that do not comply with these instructions will be returned for resubmittal.

### \*\*\*RULE 16 HEARINGS/CONFERENCES\*\*\*

All Rule 16 Conferences will be heard via Blue Jeans until further notice. Please contact the

Appendix Page 187 of 263

Department for information about the hearing schedule.\*\*\*

Be well and stay safe,

### Ariana Reed, Esq.

Law Clerk to the Honorable Adriana Escobar Eighth Judicial District Court, Dept. 14

Dept14LC@clarkcountycourts.us

Phone: (702) 671-4423 Fax: (702) 671-4418

From: mike@mblnv.com [mailto:mike@mblnv.com]

**Sent:** Friday, April 2, 2021 11:58 AM

To: DC14Inbox

Cc: 'Brinley Richeson'; 'Michael Matthis'; 'Steve Day'; Reed, Ariana; Benjamin B. Childs

Subject: A-18-785917-C - ORDR - Order to Show Cause Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c)(3) on Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Prior Counsel, Benjamin Childs, for Violation of Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure11(b)

[NOTICE: This message originated outside of Eighth Judicial District Court -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Dear Administrator:

As directed by this Honorable Court through the Order filed on March 30, 2021, please find the proposed Order to Show Cause related to the Rule 11 violations. I have copied Mr. Childs on this e-mail chain. As noted in the proposed OSC, we will also provide any executed Order to Frank Miao, the representative for Plaintiff, and Mr. Childs through e-mail. We have not included Mr. Miao on this e-mail at this time, but Plaintiff's current counsel is copied.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. As always, please contact me with any questions, comments, or concerns.

MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ.

mike@mblnv.com



1820 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110, Las Vegas, NV 89104

Direct Line - 702.731.0244 Main Line: 702.477.7030 Fax: 702.477.0096

CONFIDENTIAL. This e-mail message and the information it contains are intended to be privileged and confidential communications protected from disclosure. Any file(s) or attachment(s) transmitted with it are transmitted based on a reasonable expectation of privacy consistent with ABA Formal Opinion No. 99-413. Any disclosure, distribution, copying, or use of this information by anyone other than the intended recipient, regardless of address or routing, is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify the sender by e-mail at mike@mblnv.com and permanently delete this message. Personal messages express only the view of the sender and are not attributable to Michael B. Lee, P.C. IRS Circular 230 Disclosure: To ensure compliance with requirements imposed by the IRS, we inform you that any U.S. federal tax advice contained in this communication (including any attachments) is not intended or written to be used, and cannot be used, for the purpose of (a) avoiding penalties under the Internal Revenue Code or (b) promoting, marketing, or recommending to another party any transaction or matter addressed herein.

Appendix Page 188 of 263

TEL-(702) 477.7030; FAX-(702) 477.0096

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. 820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

This matter prior being set for hearing before the Honorable Court on March 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., on Defendants' TKNR INC., CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, YAN QIU ZHANG, INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, MAN CHAU CHENG, JOYCE A.

Page 1 of 4

NICKRANDT, INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC.

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(collectively, the "Defendants"), Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Partial Summary Judgment ("Motion"), and this Court's finding that "[t]he overwhelming facts and law illustrate that Plaintiff's claim is frivolous" (Order at ¶ 78), issues this Order to Show Cause Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c)(3) on Plaintiff and Plaintiff's Prior Counsel, Benjamin Childs, Esq., for Violation of Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 1(b).

### IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that:

- Frank Miao, on behalf of Plaintiff, and Benjamin Childs, Esq., are to appear, which may be through remote means if elected by the Court, before this Honorable Court in Department XIV, 200 Lewis Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89155, on the day of \_, 2021, at \_\_:\_ \_\_.m., to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court.
- Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(b), this Honorable Court 2. previously found that Plaintiff violated Rule 11(b), and the Court sets this Order to Show Cause related to appropriate sanctions on any attorney, law firm, or party that violated the rule or is responsible for the violation. Absent exceptional circumstances, a law firm must be held jointly responsible for a violation committed by its partner, associate, or employee." NEV. R. CIV. PRO. 11(c).
- "On its own, the court may order an attorney, law firm, or party to show cause 3. why conduct specifically described in the order has not violated Rule 11(b)." Id. at 11(c)(3). "A sanction imposed under this rule must be limited to what suffices to deter repetition of the conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. The sanction may include nonmonetary directives, an order to pay a penalty into court, or, if imposed on motion and warranted for effective deterrence, an order directing payment to the movant of part or all of the reasonable attorney fees and other expenses directly resulting from the violation." 11(c)(4).
- Rule 11 prevents a party from bringing a lawsuit for an improper purpose, which includes: (1) harassment, causing unnecessary delay, or needless increasing the cost of litigation; or (2) making frivolous claims. NEV. R. CIV. PRO. 11(b)(1)-(2). Rule 11 sanctions should be

imposed for frivolous actions.

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- A frivolous claim is one that is "both baseless and made without a reasonable and competent inquiry." Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 676, 856 P.2d 560, 564 (1993) (quoting Townsend v. Holman Consulting Corp., 929 F.2d 1358, 1362 (9th Cir.1990); Golden Eagle Distrib. Corp. v. Burroughs Corp., 801 F.2d 1531, 1537 (9th Cir.1986)). A determination of whether a claim is frivolous involves a two-pronged analysis; (1) the court must determine whether the pleading is "well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law"; and (2) whether the attorney made a reasonable and competent inquiry. Bergmann, 109 Nev. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564.
- The court intends to award to the Defendants the reasonable expenses, including 6. attorneys' fees and costs, incurred for defending this frivolous lawsuit, either under Rule 11 or as damages for Defendants' counterclaim for abuse of process. This sanction will be limited to what suffices to deter repetition of the conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. The Court may also consider sanctions including nonmonetary directives, an order to pay a penalty into court, or, an order directing payment to Defendants for part or all of the reasonable attorney fees and other expenses directly resulting from the violation.
- 7. WLAB and Mr. Childs may file affidavits on their behalf with the Court and may appear and present testimony at the hearing, or may, at or prior to the hearing, file with the Court a written response to this Order to Show Cause and as it relates to the Rule 11 issued identified herein and in the underlying Order;
- In the event that Mr. Miao and/or Mr. Childs fail to appear at the Order to Show Cause hearing, or fail to show sufficient cause why WLAB and Mr. Childs should not be sanctioned under Rule 11, the Court will enter an order holding WLAB, Mr. Childs, and Benjamin B. Childs (Law Firm), jointly and severally liable under Rule 11 for sanctions, and consider holding WLAB and Mr. Childs in contempt of court, which may include both monetary sanctions and jail time in the county jail; and
- 9. Defendants are directed to use reasonable means to serve a copy of this Order on WLAB and Mr. Childs as expeditiously as possible, including, which may include electronic

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. 1820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

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820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

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MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL B. LEE P.C. 1820 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. 110 Las Vegas, NV 89104 Office: (702) 731-0244 Fax: (702) 477-0096 Email: mike@mblnv.com Electronically Filed
4/8/2021 11:39 AM
Steven D. Grierson
CLERK OF THE COURT

## IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

CASE NO.:

DEPT. NO.:

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

Attorney for Defendants

VS.

TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual, and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, a Nevada Limited Company, **INVESTPRO** and MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF AME

XIV

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF AMENDED ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS'
MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT,
OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL
SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A-18-785917-C

<u>Defendants.</u>
And Related Actions.

TO: ALL PARTIES

YOU, AND EACH OF YOU, will please take notice that an order in this matter was entered in this matter on April 7, 2021. A copy of said ORDER is attached hereto and incorporated herewith by reference.

Dated this 8 day of April, 2021.

/s/ Michael Lee MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) Attorneys for Defendants

Page 1 of 2

Appendix Page 193 of 263

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

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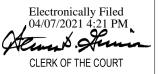
### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 8 day of April, 2021, I placed a copy of **NOTICE OF** ENTRY OF AMENDED ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL SUMMARY **JUDGMENT** as required by Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 7.26 by delivering a copy or by mailing by United States mail it to the last known address of the parties listed below, facsimile transmission to the number listed, and/or electronic transmission through the Court's electronic filing system to the e-mail address listed below.

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ.
318 S. Maryland Parkway
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Telephone: (702) 251-0000
Email: ben@benchilds.com
<del>-</del>

STEVEN L. DAY, ESQ. DAY & NANCE 1060 Wigwam Parkway Henderson, NV 89074 Tel - 702.309.3333Fax - 702.309.1085sday@daynance.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s/ Mindy Pallares An employee of MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.



1 MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582) 2 MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. 1820 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 110 3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone: (702) 477.7030 4 Facsimile: (702) 477.0096 mike@mblnv.com 5 Attorney for Defendants IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 6 7 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 8 W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC, 9 Plaintiff, 10 vs.

TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an

individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG

LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG

individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka

HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU

ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada

Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE

INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada

Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1

through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

an

**INVESTMENTS** 

aka ZHONG LIN,

individual.

Liability Company, and

LLC,

### ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, PARTIAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT

A-18-785917-C

XIV

Date of Hearing: March 11, 2021 Time of Hearing: 9:30 a.m.

CASE NO.:

DEPT. NO.:

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1820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

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Defendants. AND RELATED CLAIMS

LIN

NICKRANDT,

INVESTPRO

Nevada Limited

This matter being set for hearing before the Honorable Court on March 11, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., on Defendants' TKNR INC., CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, YAN QIU ZHANG, INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, MAN CHAU CHENG, JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC,

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(collectively, the "Defendants"), Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Partial Summary Judgment ("Motion"), by and through their attorney of record, MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C. Plaintiff W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC appeared on and through its counsel of record, DAY & NANCE. Defendants filed the Motion on December 15, 2020. Plaintiff filed an Opposition to the Motion ("Opposition"), Countermotion for Continuance Based on NRCP 56(f) ("56(f) Countermotion"), and Countermotion for Imposition of Monetary Sanctions (collectively, "Countermotion") on December 29, 2020. On January 20, 2021, Defendants filed a Reply brief. On January 29, 2021, Defendants filed a Supplement ("Supplement") to Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment. The Supplement included the deposition of Frank Miao ("Miao"), the designated person most knowledgeable for Plaintiff, from January 12, 2021. Plaintiff did not file a response to the Supplement. Mr. Miao attended the hearing.

After considering the pleadings of counsel, the Court enters the following order **GRANTING** the Motion, **DENYING** the 56(f) Countermotion, and Countermotion, and **GRANTING** attorneys' fees and costs to Defendants pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11:

### **Findings of Facts**

### First Residential Purchase Agreement and Waiver of Inspections, Contractual Broker **Limitations**

- 1. 2132 Houston Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89104 ("Property") was originally constructed in 1954. On or about August 11, 2017, Marie Zhu ("Zhu"), the original purchaser, executed a residential purchase agreement ("RPA") for the Property. At all times relevant, Ms. Zhu and Mr. Miao, the managing member of Plaintiff, were sophisticated buyers related to "property management, property acquisition, and property maintenance." The purchase price for the property was \$200,000.
- 2. Through the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived her due diligence, although she had a right to conduct inspections:

During such Period, Buyer shall have the right to conduct, noninvasive/non-destructive inspections of all structural, roofing, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating/air conditioning,

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water/well/septic, pool/spa, survey, square footage, and any other property or systems, through licensed and bonded contractors or other qualified professionals.

- 3. Ms. Zhu did not cancel the contract related to any issues with the Property.
- 4. Under Paragraph 7(C) of the RPA, Ms. Zhu waived the Due Diligence condition. *Id.* Under Paragraph 7(D) of the RPA, it provided:

It is strongly recommended that Buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections. If any inspection is not completed and requested repairs are not delivered to Seller within the Due Diligence Period, Buyer is deemed to have waived the right to that inspection and Seller's liability for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted, except as otherwise provided by law.

- 5. Ms. Zhu waived any liability of Defendants for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted. Ms. Zhu also waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection.
- Under Paragraph 7(F), it was Ms. Zhu's responsibility to inspect the Property sufficiently as to satisfy her use. Additionally, Wong, Lin, Chen, Zhang, Cheng, and Nickrandt (collectively, "Brokers" or "Broker Defendants") had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or requested by one party."
- 7. On August 2, 2017, TKNR submitted Seller's Real Property Disclosure Form ("SRPDF" or "Seller's Disclosures") timely indicating all known conditions of the Subject Property. In fact, TKNR disclosed that "3 units has (sic) brand new AC installed within 3 months," and further that the "owner never resided in the property and never visited the property." It also disclosed that the minor renovations, such as painting, were conducted by the Seller's "handyman" as disclosed in the Seller's Disclosures. Seller also disclosed that it had done construction, modification, alterations, or repairs without permits. Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff chose not to inspect the Subject Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires.

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### Second Residential Purchase Agreement and Waiver of Inspections, Contractual Broker **Limitations**

8. On or before September 5, 2017, Ms. Zhu had issues related to the financing for the Property because of an appraisal, so Ms. Zhu executed a new purchase agreement, and would agree to pay the difference in an appraisal with a lower value than the purchase price, and waive inspections:

> Please note that seller agree the rest of terms and request to add the below term on the contract:

> "Buyer agree to pay the difference in cash if appraisal come in lower than purchase price, not to exceed purchase price of \$200k" I just send you the docs, please review and sign if you are agree.

> (Per buyer's request will waive licensed home inspector to do the home inspection)

- On the same day, Ms. Zhu and TKNR agreed to Addendum No. 1 to cancel the 9. RPA dated August 11, 2017 and entered into a new Residential Purchase Agreement dated September 5, 2017 ("2<sup>nd</sup> RPA"). As before, the overall purchase price for the Property was \$200,000, but Ms. Zhu changed the contingency for the loan to \$150,000 with earnest money deposit of \$500 and a balance of \$49,500 owed at the close of escrow ("COE" or "Closing"). The COE was set for September 22, 2017.
- 10. Notably, although Ms. Zhu had not initialed the "Failure to Cancel or Resolve Objections" provision in the RPA, she initialed the corresponding provision in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. This was consistent with Ms. Zhu's instructions to Ms. Chen. Ex. D. This is the second time that Ms. Zhu waived inspections for the Property despite the language in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA that strongly advised to get an inspection done.
- 11. As noted, Ms. Zhu waived any inspections related to the purchase of the Property in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Although Ms. Zhu had actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures, and the Parties agreed to extend the COE to January 5, 2018, Ms. Zhu did not conduct professional inspections. Instead, she put down an additional \$60,000 as a non-refundable deposit to the TNKR. Moreover, she also agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$650 per month for one of the units, and to also pay the property manager \$800 for the tenant placement fee. Through

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Addendum 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, Ms. Zhu later changed the purchaser to Plaintiff.

### Deposition of Plaintiff's Person Most Knowledgeable – Mr. Miao

- 12. Since 2008, Mr. Miao, Ms. Zhu, and/or Plaintiff have been involved in the purchase of approximately twenty residential properties. In Clark County alone, Ms. Zhu and Mr. Miao were involved with the purchase of at least eight rental properties starting in 2014.
  - 13. Plaintiff understands the importance of reading contracts.
- 14. Mr. Miao specified that he understands that he needs to check public records when conducting his due diligence.
- 15. Plaintiff was a sophisticated buyer who understood the necessity of getting properties inspected.

### Requirement to Inspect was Known

- 16. The terms of the RPA were clear to Plaintiff.
- 17. As to Paragraph 7(A), Mr. Miao specified that he believed that his inspection and conversations with the tenant constituted the actions necessary to deem the Property as satisfactory for Plaintiff's purchase.

 $19 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes \cdot \cdot Based on -- we bought this -- we go$ 20 to the inspection, then we also talk to the tenant, 21 so we thinking this is investment property; right? 22 So financial it's looking at the rent, it's

23 reasonable, it's not very high compared with the

24 surrounding area. Then also financially, it's good.

25····Then I take a look at the – everything Page 164

·1 outside. · Good. · So I said, Fine. · That's satisfied.

- ·2 That's the reason I command my wife to sign the
- ·3 purchase agreement.
- 18. At all times relevant prior to the purchase of the Property, Plaintiff had access to inspect the entire property and conduct non-invasive, non-destructive inspections:

 $\cdot 2 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot O_{\cdot} \cdot \cdot \cdot S_{0}$  at the time when you did your

·3 diligence, you had a right to conduct noninvasive,

·4 nondestructive inspection; correct?

 $\cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes$ , I did.

 $\cdot 6 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot$  And you had the opportunity to inspect all

·7 the structures?

 $\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot I$  check the other one -- on the walk, I

·9 don't see the new cracking, so the -- some older

10 cracking. I check the neighbor who also have that

 $\mathrm{TEL} - (702)\,477.7030;\,\mathrm{FAX} - (702)\,477.0096$ 

1	11 one. · I think it's okay; right? · Then the −
2	Supplement at 166:2-11.
3	8· · · Q. · · So you had the right to inspect the · 9 structure; correct?
4	$10 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes$ , yes, I did that.
5	11··· Q.··You had the right to inspect the roof; is 12 that correct? 13··· A.··Yes.
6	14· · · Q. · · Okay. · Did you do that?
7	15··· A.··I forgot.· I maybe did that because 16 usually I go to the roof.  * * *
8	22···Q··You had the right to inspect the 23 mechanical system; correct?
9	24··· A.··Right.· Yes, yes. 25··· Q.··You had the right to inspect the
10	Page 167 ·1 electrical systems; correct?
11	$\cdot 2 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot I$ check the electrical system, yes.
12	·3··· Q.··You had a right to inspect the plumbing ·4 systems; correct? ·5··· A.··Yes.
13	$\cdot 6 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot $ You had the right to inspect the
14	·7 heating/air conditioning system; correct? ·8···A.··Yes. * * *
15	·3···Q.··And then you could have inspected any ·4 other property or system within the property itself;
16	·5 correct? ·6··· A.·· Yes, yes.
17	10 A 1 es, yes.
18	<i>Id.</i> at 167:8-16, 167:22-25-168:1-11, 168:25-169:1-6.
19	19. Prior to the purchase, Mr. Miao was always aware that the Seller "strongly
20	recommended that buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections":
21	13· · · Q.· ·"It is strongly recommended that buyer 14 retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct
22	15 inspections."  16··· A.··Yes.
23	17··· Q.··Yeah.· So you were aware of this 18 recommendation at the time
24	19··· A.·· Yeah, I know.
25	<i>Id.</i> at 176:13-19.
26	20. Plaintiff was also aware of the language in the RPA under Paragraph 7(D) that
27	limited potential damages that could have been discovered by an inspection:
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18· · · Q. · · Okay. · So going back to paragraph 7D
$19 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yeah.$
$20 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot -$ right, after the language that's in
21 italics, would you admit that because it's in the
22 italics, it's conspicuous, you can see this
23 language?
24· · · A.· · Yeah. · Yeah.
$25 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot $
Page 179
·1 inspection is not completed and requested repairs
·2 are not delivered to seller within the due diligence
·3 period, buyer is deemed to have waived the right to
·4 that inspection and seller's liability for the cost
·5 of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably
·6 identified had it been conducted."
$\cdot 7 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$ Did I read that correctly?
$\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes$ , yes.
$\cdot 9 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot O$ kay. So we'll eventually get to the
10 issues that, you know, Ms. Chen identified that you
11 wanted corrected in the emails or text messages.
$12 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot$ Is that fair to say that those are the
13 only issues that you deemed needed to be resolved to
14 go forward with the purchase?
$15 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \text{Yeah} \cdot \text{After that time, ves}$

Id. at 179:18-25-180:1-15.

21. Finally, as to the RPA, Mr. Miao agreed that all the terms in it were conspicuous and understandable, and it was a standard agreement similar to the other agreements he had used in purchasing the other properties in Clark County, Nevada. *Id.* at 198:19-25-199:1-2, 200:3-15.

### Mr. Miao Does Inspections for Plaintiff Although he is not a Licensed, Bonded Professional Inspector

- 22. As to all the properties purchased by Plaintiff, Mr. Miao always does the inspections and does not believe a professional inspection is necessary. *Id.* at 116:2-9, 119:3-25, 140:5-10. Based on his own belief, he does not believe that a professional inspection is necessary for multi-tenant residential properties. Id. at 120:6-9 (his own understanding), 120:16-25 (second-hand information he received).
- Notably, he does not have any professional license related to being a general 23. contractor, inspector, appraiser, or project manager. *Id.* at 123:5-16 (no professional licenses), 123:23-24 (no property management license), 169:7-14 (no licensed or bonded inspector), 171:23-25 (have not read the 1952 Uninformed Building Code), 172:17-19 (not an electrician),

172:23-25-1-16 (no general contractor license or	qualified under	the intentional	building	code)
174:13-23 (not familiar with the international res	dential code).			

- 24. Mr. Miao has never hired a professional inspector in Clark County, *Id.* at 140:19-21, so he does not actually know what a professional inspection would encompass here. *Id.* at 143:9-13, 144:8-19.
- 25. The main reason Plaintiff does not use a professional inspector is because of the cost. Id. at 147:2-7.
- 26. On or about August 10, 2017, Mr. Miao did an inspection of the Property. *Id.* at 158:1-25-159:1-12. During that time, he admitted that he noticed some issues with the Property that were not up to code, finishing issues, GFCI outlets, and electrical issues:

```
16 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot I looked at a lot of things. For example,
17 like, the -- I point out some drywall is not
18 finished; right? And the -- some of smoke alarm is
19 not -- is missing and -- which is law required to
20 put in for smoke alarm. Then no carbon monoxide
21 alarm, so I ask them to put in.
22 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Then in the kitchen, lot of electrical,
23 the outlet is not a GFCI outlet, so I tell them, I
24 said, You need to change this GFCI. Right now this
25 outlet is not meet code. You probably have problem.
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Id.

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- 27. Similarly, he also specified that there was an issue with exposed electrical in Unit C. *Id.* at 175:10-24. He also noted that there could have been a potential asbestos issue as well. *Id.* at 160:7-12.
- 28. Additionally, Mr. Miao noted that there were cracks in the ceramic floor tiles, Id. at 249:22-25, and he was aware of visible cracks in the concrete foundation, *Id.* at 269:13-22 (aware of slab cracks), which were open and obvious. *Id.* at 270:14-24.
- 29. Mr. Miao admitted that he could also have seen the dryer vent during his inspection. *Id.* at 269:23-25.
- 30. As to those issues, Mr. Miao determined that the aforementioned issues were the only issues that TKNR needed to fix after his inspection. *Id.* at 171:2-9 (was only concerned about the appraisal), *Id.* at 219:13-25-221:1-2.

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31. Moreover, Mr. Miao received the SRPDF prior to the purchase of the Property.
Id. at 201:22-25. As to SRPDF, Plaintiff was aware that TKNR was an investor who had not
resided in the Property, and there were issues with the heating systems, cooling systems, and that
there was work done without permits. Id. at 201:1-25-202:1-12. Similarly, it was aware that the
Property was 63 years old at that time, Id. at 204:4-7, and all the work was done by a handyman
other than the HVAC installation. Id. at 205:14-25, Id. at 134:14-25 (understands the difference
between a handyman and a licensed contractor), 243:2 ("Yes. They did by the handyman, yes.").

32. Despite these disclosures, Mr. Miao never followed up:

> 24 was construction and modification, alterations, 25 and/or repairs made without State, City, County

·1 building permits, which was also work that was done

·2 by owner's handyman, did you ever do any follow-up

·3 inquiries to the seller about this issue?

·4· · · A. · · No, I didn't follow up. ·

*Id.* at 204:23-25-205:1-4.

33. However, Mr. Miao also admitted that he could have followed up on the issues identified in the SRPDF that included the HVAC and the permits:

> $10 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot$  Under the disclosure form -- $11 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yeah$ .  $12 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot -$  like, where it specified that there 13 were heating system/cooling system issues that 14 they're aware of, that you could have elected to 15 have an inspection done at that time; correct?  $16 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$

Id. at 206:10-16.

16 have obtained a copy of the permits at any time? 17 Yes?  $18 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 20 put you on notice of the potential permit issue; 21 correct?  $22 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$  $23 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q. \cdot$  It also put you on notice of the issues of 24 everything that's basically specified on page 38; 25 correct? Page 209  $1 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

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*Id.* at 209:15-25-210:1, 245:22-25 (could have obtained permit information in 2018).

34. Similarly, Mr. Miao was aware that he should have contacted the local building department as part of his due diligence:

22··· Q.··Okay.· So you understand that for more 23 information during the diligence process, you should 24 contact the local building department? 25··· A.··Yes.· Page 260

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 $\cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot -$  it provides you with the address of the  $\cdot 6$  building and safety department; is that correct?  $\cdot 7 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes$ .

 $\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot$  And the office hours; is that correct?  $\cdot 9 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes$ .

 $10 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot$  And it also provides you with a phone 11 number; correct?

 $12 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

13··· Q.·· And this is information or resources that 14 you could have used at any time related to finding 15 information about the permits of the property; 16 correct?

 $17 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

 $18 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q$ . · And this would have been true prior to the 19 purchase of the building; correct?

 $20 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

 $21 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Q$ . And this would also have been true at the 22 time you read the disclosure that specified that

23 some of the improvements or some of the disclosures

24 had been done without a permit; right?

 $25 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

Id. at 260:22-25, 261:5-25.

35. Plaintiff was also on notice of the potential for mold and the requirement to get a mold inspection:

·5··· Q.··Okay.· And it says, "It's the buyer's duty
·6 to inspect.· Buyer hereby assumes responsibility to
·7 conduct whatever inspections buyer deems necessary
·8 to inspect the property for mold contamination.
·9····"Companies able to perform such
10 inspections can be found in the yellow pages under
11 environmental and ecological services."
12·····I read that correctly?· Yes?
13···A.·Yes.
14···Q.··Okay.· And then you elected not to get a
15 mold inspection; correct?
16···A.··Yeah.·

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39.

The alleged defects identified by both parties' experts could have been discovered

at the time of the original purchase. As to the ability to inspect, Mr. Miao admitted that he had access to the entire building. Id. at 250:22-25. He had access to the attic and looked at it. Id. at 251:4-14. Mr. Miao admitted that Plaintiff's expert examined the same areas that he did:

```
\cdot 6 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot Okay. · So you walked through the property
·7 with him at the time he did his inspection; correct?
\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Right.
·9· · · Q. · · Okay. · During that time, did he inspect
10 any areas that -- that you did not have access to in
11 2017?
12 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes \cdot \cdot He didn't go to anything I didn't
13 inspect during 2017 too.
14 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot So he inspected the same areas you
15 inspected?
16 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \text{Yes}, yes.
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Id. at 291:6-16.

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- 40. Notably, Plaintiff's expert did not do any destructive testing, so the expert's access was exactly the same as Mr. Miao's original inspection. *Id.* at 291:1-5.
- 41. Mr. Miao admitted that Plaintiff's expert's inspection of the HVAC, *Id.* at 292:2-5, 293:18-23, and the plumbing system, *Id.* at 300:19-25-301:1-4, would have been the same as his in 2017.
- 42. Mr. Miao also admitted that the pictures attached to Plaintiff's expert report were areas that he could have inspected in 2017. *Id.* at 302:6-13.
- 43. Additionally, Mr. Miao accompanied Defendants' expert during his inspection. *Id.* at 320:31-25. As before, Mr. Miao had the same access to the Property in 2017 for the areas inspected by Defendants' expert. *Id.* at 321:1-6.
- 44. Mr. Miao agreed with Defendants' expert that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's expert were "open and obvious":

```
22 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot And then the second line down, the first
23 sentence begins, "Items complained about in the Sani
24 report were open and obvious in the roof area, attic
25 area, and on the exterior/interior of the property."
Page 318
\cdot 3 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot Do you agree with this statement?
\cdot 4 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes.
```

*Id.* at 318:22-25-319:3-4.

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Id. at 262:5-13.

Id. at 265:1-4.

45.	He also agree	ed with Do	efendants'	expert's	finding	that	there	was	no	noticeable
sagging in the	roof. <i>Id</i> . at 3	33:20-24.								

46. Incredibly, Mr. Miao also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards:

```
17 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot - \cdot midway down the first complete sentence
18 says, "The Sani report does not recognize prior
19 conditions in existence before any work took place
20 by defendants."
21 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Do you agree with this statement?
Page 321
\cdot 3 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Yes, yes.
·4 BY MR. LEE:
\cdot 5 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot You agree with that? Okay.
\cdot 6 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Agree.
```

Id. at 321:17-21 - 322:3-6. This would have also included any issues with the dryer vent and ducts, Id. at 325:3-20, as he recognized that most rentals do not include washer / dryer units. Id. at 326:7-25-327:1-9.

### No Permits Required for Cosmetic Work by TKNR

47. No dispute exists that TKNR did not need permits for the interior work it had done to the Property. Mr. Miao admitted the following:

> ·5· · · Q. · · Number 5 says, "Painting, papering, ·6 tiling, carpeting, cabinets, countertops, interior

```
·7 wall, floor or ceiling covering, and similar finish
·8 work."
\cdot 9 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Do you see that?
10 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
11 \cdot \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot So you agree that no permits are required
12 for any of these types of work; correct?
13 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
·1 Window Replacements where no structural member -- no
·2 structural member is altered or changed," that does
·3 not need a permit either; right?
\cdot 4 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.
18 Plumbing Improvements, no permits required to repair
```

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

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1020 E. SAHAKA AVENUE, SUITE 110	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104	(702) 4	14
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<i>Id.</i> at 120:16-25-1	21:1-2, 140:10-14	4. However, they have not done any of the repairs listed by
Plaintiff's expert.	<i>Id.</i> at 331:3-12.	This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff that there are
underlying conditi	ons with the Prope	erty.

49. Moreover, Plaintiff does not provide any notice to the tenants about its expert's report or this litigation:

```
\cdot 6 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot All right. In terms of tenants -- renting
·7 out the units to any tenants, do you ever provide
·8 them with a copy of the Sani report?
\cdot 9 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot No.
10 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot Do you ever provide them with any of the
11 pleadings or the first amended complaint, second
12 amended complaint, the complaint itself?
13 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \text{No.}
    * * *
23 There's this. You can inspect the unit if you want;
24 is that it?
25 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot  Yeah. And also we need to tell is a lot
Page 337
1 of things report that we don't need to go to the
·2 inside the building. · It's wall cracking. · It's
·3 outside. · You can see.
·5· · · A. · Yeah. · You can see always outside.
```

*Id.* at 337:6-13, 337:22-25-338:1-5.

This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff's claims, proven that it has done 50. nothing to correct the allegedly deficient conditions that are clearly not so dangerous as it does not tell prospective tenants about them.

### Squatters or Tenants Could Have Damaged the Property

51. Mr. Miao admitted that multiple third parties could have potentially damaged the Property. The Property has a historic problem with squatters during the time that Plaintiff owned it:

```
12 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdotDo you generally have a squatter problem
13 with the property?
14 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes \cdot \cdot As a matter of fact, today I just
15 saw the one text message that said one -- some
16 people go to my apartment.
```

*Id.* at 110:12-16. He also admitted that tenants could have damaged the Property while they

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were occupying it:

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 $\cdot 4 \cdot \cdot \cdot O \cdot \cdot \cdot O$ kav. So the tenant in this context would ·5 have damaged the unit at the time that you owned it; ·6 is that fair?  $\cdot 7 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \cdot Maybe \cdot \cdot Yes$ .  $\cdot 8 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot O$ kay. So some of the -- so the damage ·9 that was to the water heater system, could the 10 tenant have damaged that as well?  $11 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$  $12 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q$ . And then he could have damaged the cooler 13 pump and the valve as well; is that correct?  $14 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$  $15 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot \cdot O$ kay. Then on 122, these are all issues 16 that the tenant could have damaged; is that correct?  $17 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot Yes.$  $18 \cdot \cdot \cdot Q \cdot \cdot$  And then the same through for 145; is that 19 right?  $20 \cdot \cdot \cdot A. \cdot \cdot Yes.$ 

Id. at 306:4-20, 330:5-7. This could also account for the cracking on the walls. Id. at 310:8-12. Tenants could have also damaged the Property if they hit it with their cars. *Id.* at 332:14-16.

### No Evidence That Defendants Knew of Alleged Conditions

- 52. Plaintiff's case is based on assertions that Defendants knew about the alleged conditions in the Property; however, Mr. Miao admitted that there is no evidence that shows Defendants knew about them. *Id.* at 245:1-13 (speculating that InvestPro made changes).
- 53. The entire case is based on Mr. Miao's personal belief and speculation. *Id.* at 253:17-19.
- 54. Mr. Miao admitted that he has no evidence Defendants knew about the alleged moisture conditions. *Id.* at 293:24-25-294:1-3. Additionally, he also admitted that there is no evidence that Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the plumbing system. Id. at 301:21-24. He also admitted that he did not know if Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the duct work when they owned the Property. Id. at 314:5-19. He also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards. *Id.* at 321:17-21 – 322:3-6.
- 55. Mr. Miao recognized that a 63-year-old property could have issues that were not caused by Defendants. *Id.* at 324:6-15. This would have also included any issues with the dryer

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- 56. Plaintiff did not identify any discovery illustrating a genuine issue of material fact that Defendants knew of the alleged issues with the Property that they had not already disclosed on Seller's Disclosures.
- 57. Notably, during Mr. Miao's due diligence period, he spoke with the tenants of the Property. Id. at 163:12-25-164:1-6. This included a conversation with the long-term tenant of Unit A, who still resides in the Property to this day. *Id.* At that time, the tenant reported being very happy with the Property and had no complaints. *Id.* In fact, the tenant reported still being very happy with the Property. Id. at 170:7-9. This illustrates that there is no basis that Defendants should have been aware of any of the issues when Mr. Miao, a self-professed expert, did not even know about them following his inspection.

### No Basis for Claims for RICO and/or Related to Flipping Fund

58. The Flipping Fund had nothing to do with Plaintiff's decision to purchase the Property. *Id.* at 223:15-25.

> 20· · · Q. · · Yeah. · So there's no way that you relied 21 upon any flipping fund since it would have been 22 closed at this time; right?  $23 \cdot \cdot \cdot A \cdot \cdot \text{Yeah}$ .

*Id.* at 274:20-23. He also admitted that he never received any pro forma, private placement information, calculations of profit and loss, capital contribution requirements, member share or units, or any such information about the Flipping Fund. *Id.* at 277:7-16.

### Cost of Repairs

59. Mr. Miao contacted contractors to bid the potential cost of repair for the Property and determined that it would have been \$102,873.00. Id. at 307:6-22. However, Plaintiff's expert opined that the cost of repair would have been \$600,000, although he did not provide an itemized cost of repair. *Id.* at 334:17-21.

### Allegations in the Second Amended Complaint

60. On November 23, 2020, Plaintiff filed its Second Amended Complaint ("SAC").

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Based on the admissions of Mr. Miao and the waivers related to the RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, these allegations illustrate the overall frivolous nature of this action and why Rule 11 sanctions are appropriate:

> 25. TKNR failed to disclose one or more known condition(s) that materially affect(s) the value or use of the Subject Property in an adverse manner, as required by NRS Chapter 113, in a particular NRS 113.130.

- 27. Factual statements from the August 7, 2017 Seller Real Property Disclosure Form (SRPDF) are set forth in Paragraph 31 and the subsections thereof state whe (sic) the disclosures were either inadequate or false. The SRPDF states that it was prepared, presented and initialed by Kenny Lin.
- Since the Subject Property is a residential rental apartment, to protect tenants and consumers, the applicable local building code requires all renovation, demolition, and construction work must be done by licensed contractors with permits and inspections to ensure compliance with the Uniform Building Code [UBC].
- 31. Defendants Lin, Investpro, as TKNR's agent, TKNR, Wong and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, as the true owner of the Subject Property, did not disclose any and all known conditions and aspects of the property which materially affect the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner, as itemized below.
  - a. SRPDF stated that Electrical System had no problems or defects. The fact is that many new electric lines were added and many old electric lines were removed by Investpro Manager LLC . The swamp coolers that were removed were supplied by 110 volt power supply lines. Investpro Manager LLC first added one 220v power supply line for one new 5 ton heat pump package unit on one roof top area for the whole building for Unit A. Unit B and Unit C. Investro (sic) Manager, LLC then removed the one year old 5 ton heat pump packaged unit from the roof top with power supply lines and added two new 220v power supply lines for two new 2 ton heart pump package units, one each for Unit B and Unit C.

Inestpro (sic) Manager, LLC then added one new 110 volt power supply line for two window cooling units for Unit A. The electrical system load for Unit A was increased due to the installation of two new cooling units and required 100 amp service, but the electrical service was not upgraded to 100 amp service from the existing 50 amp service. Failure to upgrade the electrical service caused the fuses to be blown out multiple times during the cooling seasons of 2018. The tenants in Unit A could not use air conditioning units in cooling seasons of 2018, causing Unit A to be uninhabitable until the Unit A electrical supply panel was upgraded to 100 amp service.

All the electrical supply line addition and removal work

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LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104 TEL – (702) 477.7030; FAX – (702) 477.0096 were performed without code required electrical load calculation, permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to do the electrical work and used low quality materials used inadequate electrical supply lines.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, maximize flipping fund profits. Investpro

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unskilled workers who did not know the UBC requirements to do the electrical work This substandard work may lead electrical lines to overheat and cause fires in the attic when tenant electrical load is high. Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unskilled workers who did not know the UBC requirements to do the electrical work. The outlets near the water faucets in kitchens, bathrooms and laundry areas were not GFCI outlets as required by the UBC.

# b. SRPDF stated that Plumbing System had no problems or defects

The fact is that that within two years prior to the sale to Plaintiff, Investpro Manager LLC removed and plugged swamp cooler water supply lines without UBC required permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers who just plugged high pressure water supply lines at rooftop instead of at ground level and who did not remove the water supply lines on top of the roof, inside the attic and behind the drywall. In cold winter, the high pressure water line which was left inside the building may freeze and break the copper line and lead flooding in the whole building.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to remove and plug natural gas lines for the natural gas wall furnaces without UBC required permits and inspections.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers with little knowledge of natural gas pipe connection requirements. The unlicensed and unskilled workers used the wrong sealing materials and these sealing materials may degrade and lead to natural gas leaks and accumulation inside the drywall and the attic which may cause an explosion or fire.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to completely renovate all three bathrooms in the Subject Property without UBC required permits and inspections. Some faucets and connections behind tile walls and drywall

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leak and are causing moisture conditions behind tile walls and drywalls.

c. SRPDF stated that Sewer System and line had no problems or defects.

The subject property was built in 1954. Clay pipes were used at that time for sewer lines. Before the sale, within few days after tenants moved into apartment Unit B, they experienced clogged sewer line which caused the bathrooms to be flooded. The tenants called Investpro to ask them to fix the clogged pipes and address the flooding issues. After this report, Investpro asked tenants to pay to hire plumber to snake the sewer line. After tenants threatened to call the Las Vegas code enforcement office, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro used unlicensed and unskilled workers to snake the clay sewer pipes. Licensed contractors must be hired to snake sewer pipes as code required. This approach to clearing the clog may break the clay sewer pipes and cause future tree root grown into sewer lines and clogs in sewer lines.

d. SRPDF stated that Heating System had problems or defects.

No full explanation was provided, as required. Investro (sic) Manager, LLC disabled natural gas heating system without UBC required permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers with little knowledge about natural gas pipe connection requirements. They used the wrong sealing materials and these sealing materials may degrade and lead to a natural gas leak inside the drywall and the attic and may cause an explosion or fire.

Further, Investpro Manager LLC installed two electrical heat pump heating systems without UBC required permits and inspections for Unit B and Unit C. The Unit A does not have an electrical heat pump heating system nor a natural gas wall furnace heating system now. Unit A has to use portable electrical heaters.

e. SRPDF stated that the Cooling System had problems or defects

No full explanation was provided, as required. Investro (sic) Manager, LLC removed old swamp cooler systems without UBC required permits and inspections. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro used unlicensed and unskilled workers to disconnect water supply lines, cover swamp cooler ducting holes, and disconnect 110V electrical supply lines.

Further, as early as March of 2016, Investro Manager, LLC hired Air Supply Cooling to install one five ton new heat pump package unit with new rooftop ducting systems on

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Tel. – (702) 477.7030; Fax. – (702) 477.0096 one roof area to supply cooling and heating air to the whole building consisting of Unit A, Unit B and Unit C without UBC required weight load and wind load calculations, permits and inspections. The five ton heat pumps package unit was too big, too heavy and had control problems. To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC also used unlicensed and unskilled workers to remove the one year old five ton heat pump package unit with ducting system without UBC required permits and inspections. All of this work was done without UBC required structural calculation, permits and inspections.

Further, in early June, 2017, Investro Manager, LLC hired The AIRTEAM to install two new two ton heat pump package units, one each for Unit B and Unit C. Invespro (sic) Manager, LLC also used unlicensed

and unskilled workers to install two window cooling units in Unit A's exterior walls. All of the above work was done without UBC required permits and inspections.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investro Manager, LLC did not replace the old, uninsulated swamp cooler ducts with new insulated HVAC ducts as the UBC required. This resulted in the heat pump package units being overloaded and damaged during cooling season because cool air was heated by uninsulated attic hot air before delivering the cooled air to the rooms. The old, uninsulated swamp cooler ducts were also rusted and leaked due to high moisture air from the bathroom vent fans and the clothes washer/dryer combination unit exhaust vents. The heat pumps would run all the time but still could not cool the rooms.

f. SRPDF stated that Smoker detector had no problems or defects

During Plaintiff's inspection at August 10, 2017 afternoon, some smoke detectors were missing.

g. SRPDF stated that no Previous or current moisture conditions and or water damage.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investro Manager, LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to vent high moisture bathroom fan exhaust and washer/dryer combination unit exhaust into the ceiling attic area instead of venting outside the building roof without UBC required permits and inspections. The improper ventings caused high moisture conditions in ceiling attic and water damages in ceiling and attic. The high moisture conditions in the ceiling attic destroyed ceiling attic insulations, damaged the roof decking, damaged roof trusses and damaged roof structure supports.

To saving money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to

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complete renovation to all three bathrooms without UBC required permits and inspections. Some faucets and connections behind tile walls and drywall leaks and caused moisture conditions behind tile walls and drywalls.

h. SRPDF stated that there was no structure defect.

Investpro Manager LLC added one new five ton heat pump package unit with ducting systems on the one roof top area for the whole building in early March, 2016 without UBC required weight load and wind load calculation, permits and inspections. Due to the five ton heat pump package unit being too big, too heavy and having control problems to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investro (sic) Manager, LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to remove the one year old five ton heat pump package unit with part of the ducting system again without UBC required permits and inspections. Investpro Manager LLC added two new two ton heat pump package units on the two roof top areas for Unit B and Unit C with new ducting systems without UBC required weight load and wind loan calculation, permits and inspections.

Further, to save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to open two new window holes on

exterior walls for two window cooling units in Unit A without UBC required structure calculation, permits and inspections. This work damaged the building structure.

Further, the moisture condition behind tile walls and drywall due to faucets leaking damaged the building structure.

Further, Investpro Manager LLC's unlicensed and unskilled workers used the space between two building support columns as a duct to vent high moisture exhaust from the washer/dryer combination unit exhaust vent from Unit A without UBC required permits and inspections and this damaged the building structure.

The recent inspection of the exterior wall found multiple cracks which indicates structural problems caused by the heavy load on the roof.

SRPDF marked Yes and NO for construction, modification, alterations or repairs made without required state. city or county building permits.

Defendants Lin, Investpro, as TKNR's agent, TKNR, and Wong did not provide detailed explanations. All renovation, demolition, and construction work was done by Investpro Manager LLC using unlicensed, and unskilled workers without UBC required weight load and wind load calculations, permits and inspections.

j. SRPDF stated that there were not any problems with the roof.

The roof of the Subject Property was damaged by changing

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roof top HVAC units and ducting systems multiple times from October, 2015to June, 2017. Investpro Manager LLC removed the existing swamp coolers from roof top and covered the swamp coolers ducting holes. Investpro Manager LLC added a five ton heat pump package unit with a new ducting system on one roof top area in March, 2016. Investpro the removed the one year old five ton heat pump package unit with part of the ducting system from the one roof top area in June,2017. Then Investpro Manager LLC added two two ton heat pump package units on the two roof top areas in June, 2017. The work damaged the roof of the Subject Property to such an extent that when it rains the roof leaks. All of this renovation, demolition, and construction work was done without UBC required weight load and wind load calculations, permits and inspections and this damaged the building roof structure.

k. SRPDF stated that no there were not any fungus or mold problems.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC vented the bathroom high moisture fans and the washer/dryer combination unit exhaust vents into the ceiling and attic without venting outside of the roof. All of this renovation, demolition, and construction work was done without UBC required permits and inspections and this damaged the building structure. After the purchase of the Subject Property, Plaintiff discovered black color fungus mold was found inside ceiling and attic.

1. SRPDF stated that there were not any other conditions or aspects of the property which materially affect its value or use in an adverse manner.

i. Problems with flooring.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to lay low quality cheap ceramic tiles on the loose sandy ground rather than on a strong, smooth, concrete floor base. Within few months after tenants moving into the Subject Property, mass quantities of floor ceramic tiles cracked and the floor buckled. These cracked ceramic tiles may cut tenants' toes and create a trip and fall hazard. These are code violations had to be repaired before the units could be rented to tenants. The plaintiff has to spend lot money to replace all ceramic tile floor in Unit C with vinyl tile floor.

ii. Problems with the land/foundation.

Within few months after tenants moved into the Subject Property in 2017, large quantities of floor tiles cracked and the floor buckled. This indicated that there may have foundation problems likely due to heavy loads by the new HVAC systems and the venting of moisture into the ceiling and attic. Too much weight loads on the walls caused exterior wall

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cracking.

iii. Problems with closet doors.

To save money, minimize flipping cost, minimize flipping time, and maximize flipping fund profits, Investpro Manager LLC used unlicensed and unskilled workers to install closet doors with poor quality for Unit C, all closet doors fell down in three months after tenant move into Unit C.

- 61. As to 31(a), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the electrical system and items not up to code at the time that he did his inspection and/or that any issues with the electrical system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Incredibly, Mr. Miao admitted that he was the person who asked for TKNR to install the GFCI outlets, so he was clearly aware of this issue as well. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 62. As to 31(b), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, the lack of permits, and issues with the sprinklers. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the plumbing system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- As to 31(c), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed the use of a 63. handyman, the lack of permits, and issues with the sprinklers. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the sewer system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff

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- 64. As to 31(d), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he did his inspection and/or that any issues with the heating system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 65. As to 31(e), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues with the heating and cooling system and items not up to code at the time that he did his inspection and/or that any issues with the heating and cooling system were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 66. As to 31(f), this allegation illustrates that Plaintiff had knowledge before purchasing the Property, and the overall emphasis on the failure to obtain a professional inspection of the Property prior to purchasing it.
- 67. As to 31(g), (k), Mr. Miao admitted Plaintiff executed the mold and moisture waiver, and understood its affirmative duty to have an inspection done prior to the purchase of the Property. He also admitted that that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed the use of a handyman, installation of the cabinetry, bathrooms, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he personally inspected the attic and the dryer vent before Plaintiff purchased the Property. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover,

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Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.

- 68. As to 31(h), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Mr. Miao admitted that there was visible cracking on the foundation, walls, and the tiles that were open and obvious at the time that Plaintiff purchased the Property in 2017. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 69. As to 31(i), this allegation illustrates the prior knowledge that Plaintiff had before purchasing the Property, and the overall emphasis on the failure to obtain a professional inspection of the Property prior to purchasing it. Mr. Miao admitted that he should have followed up related to the permit issue prior to Plaintiff purchasing the Property.
- 70. As to 31(j), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Additionally, he specified that he noted issues were "open and obvious" that a reasonable, professional inspection could have discovered in 2017. Mr. Miao agreed that there was no noticeable sagging on the roof. Despite these issues, Plaintiff chose not to have a professional inspection. Moreover, Mr. Miao specified that this was a condition that Plaintiff could have inspected at or before the time it had originally purchased the Property. Notably, Mr. Miao admitted that no evidence showed that Defendants were aware of any of these issues.
- 71. As to 31(l), Mr. Miao admitted that the Seller's Disclosures disclosed issues with the heating and cooling systems, the use of a handyman, and the lack of permits. Mr. Miao admitted that there was visible cracking on the foundation, walls, and the tiles that were open and obvious at the time that Plaintiff purchased the Property in 2017. Mr. Miao noted that this condition could have been inspected at or prior to the Property's purchase. acknowledged there was no evidence that Defendants were aware of these issues.

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#### Plaintiffs Did Not Reply on Broker Agents

72. As to the Broker Defendants, Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Brokers or Broker's agent. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties. Ms. Zhu waived all claims against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction.

#### Mr. Miao Agreed with Defendants' Expert

- 73. On November 17, 2020, Defendants' expert, Neil D. Opfer, an Associate Professor of Construction Management at UNLV and overqualified expert, conducted an inspection of the Property. At that time, as noted earlier, Mr. Miao walked the Property with Professor Opfer. Supplement at 320:31-25.
- 74. Mr. Miao agreed with Professor Opfer that the alleged conditions identified by Plaintiff's alleged expert were open and obvious:

[n]ote that the Plaintiff could have hired an inspector or contractor to evaluate this real-estate purchase beforehand but did not. Items complained about in the Sani Report were open and obvious at the roof area, attic area, and on the exterior and interior areas of the Property.

*Id.* at 318:22-25-319:3-4.

- 75. Mr. Miao agreed with Professor Opfer that Plaintiff's expert did not conduct destructive testing, so the same alleged conditions that the expert noted would have been made by an inspector at the time of the purchase. *Id.* at 291:1-5.
- 76. Mr. Miao agreed with Professor Opfer that Plaintiff's expert did "not recognize prior conditions in existence before any work took place by the Defendants." *Id.* at 321:17-21 – 322:3-6.

#### **Conclusions of Law**

Summary judgment is appropriate when the pleadings, depositions, answers to 1.

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interrogatories, admissions, and affidavits, if any, that are properly before the Court demonstrate that no genuine issue of material fact exist, and the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 713, 57 P.3d 82, 87 (2002). Substantive law controls whether factual disputes are material and will preclude summary judgment; other factual disputes are irrelevant. Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 106 S. Ct. 2505, 91 L.Ed.2d 202 (1986). A genuine issue of material fact is one where the evidence is such that a reasonable jury could return a verdict for the non-moving party. Valley Bank v. Marble, 105 Nev. 366, 367, 775 P.2d 1278, 1282 (1989).

- 2. The Nevada Supreme Court has held that the non-moving party may not defeat a motion for summary judgment by relying "on gossamer threads of whimsy, speculation and conjecture." Wood v. Safeway, 121 Nev. 724, 732, 121 P.3d 1026, 1031 (2005). The Nevada Supreme Court has also made it abundantly clear when a motion for summary judgment is made and supported as required by Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 56, the non-moving party must 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. *Id.*
- 3. Under Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 56(a), a party may move for summary judgment, or partial summary judgment. "The court shall grant summary judgment if the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." The court may rely upon the admissible evidence cited in the moving papers and may also consider other materials in the record as well. *Id.* at 56(c). "If the court does not grant all the relief requested by the motion, it may enter an order stating any material fact — including an item of damages or other relief — that is not genuinely in dispute and treating the fact as established in the case." *Id.* at 56(g).
- 4. The pleadings and proof offered in a Motion for Summary Judgment are construed in the light most favorable to the non-moving party. Hoopes v. Hammargren, 102 Nev. 425, 429, 725 P.2d 238, 241 (1986). However, the non-moving party still "bears the burden to 'do more than simply show that there is some metaphysical doubt' as to the operative facts in order to avoid summary judgment being entered." Wood, 121 Nev. at 732, 121 P.3d at

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1031. "To successfully defend against a summary judgment motion, 'the nonmoving party must transcend the pleadings and, by affidavit or other admissible evidence, introduce specific facts that show a genuine issue of material fact." Torrealba v. Kesmetis, 178 P.3d 716, 720 (Nev. 2008) (quoting Cuzze v. Univ. & Cmty. Coll. Sys. of Nev., 172 P.3d 131, 134 (Nev. 2007).

- 5. The non-moving party bears the burden to set forth specific facts demonstrating the existence of a "genuine" issue for trial or have summary judgment entered against him. Collins v. Union Federal Savings & Loan, 99 Nev. 284, 294, 662 P.2d 610, 618-619 (1983). When there is no genuine issue of material fact and the non-moving party provides no admissible evidence to the contrary, summary judgment is "mandated." Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 US 317, 322 (1986). When a motion for summary judgment is made and supported, an adversary party who does not set forth specific facts showing a genuine issue to be resolved at trial may have a summary judgment entered against him. Collins v. Union Federal Sav. & Loan Ass'n, 99 Nev. 284, 294, 662 P.2d 610, 616 (1983) (citing Van Cleave v. Kietz-Mill Minit Mart, 97 Nev. 414, 633 P.2d 1220 (1981); Bird v. Casa Royale West, 97 Nev. 67, 624 P.2d 17 (1981)).
- 6. "Under NRS Chapter 113, residential property sellers are required to disclose any defects to buyers within a specified time before the property is conveyed." Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007) (citing NRS 113.140(1)). "NRS 113.140(1), however, provides that a seller is not required to 'disclose a defect in residential property of which [she] is not aware.' A 'defect' is defined as "a condition that materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner." *Id.* (citing NRS 113.100(1)). The Nevada Supreme Court clarified that:

[a]scribing to the term "aware" its plain meaning, we determine that the seller of residential real property does not have a duty to disclose a defect or condition that "materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner," if the seller does not realize, perceive, or have knowledge of that defect or condition. Any other interpretation of the statute would be unworkable, as it is impossible for a seller to disclose conditions in the property of which he or she has no realization, perception, or knowledge. The determination of whether a seller is aware of a defect, however, is a question of fact to be decided by the trier of

Id. at 425 (citations omitted). Thus, in the context where the plaintiff cannot demonstrate an omitted disclosure that caused damage, the seller is entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law. Id. at 426.

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7. Generally, "[n]ondisclosure by the seller of adverse information concerning real property . . . will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer to rescind or for damages when property is sold 'as is.' " Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552 (1993). Moreover, "[l]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015). The general rule foreclosing liability for nondisclosure when property is purchased as-is does not apply when the seller knows of facts materially affecting the value or desirability of the property which are known or accessible only to [the seller] and also knows that such facts are not known to, or within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. *Mackintosh*, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552 (alteration in original) (internal quotation marks omitted).

8. A buyer waives its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018). Accordingly, the Nevada Supreme Court concluded that an agreement to purchase property as-is foreclosed the buyer's common law claims, justifying the granting of summary judgment on common law claims. *Id.* (citation omitted).

> The terms and conditions of the purchase agreement do not create a duty to disclose. Rather, these disclosures are required by NRS Chapter 113, which sets forth specific statutory duties imposed by law independent of the purchase agreement's terms and conditions. Additionally, the terms of the purchase agreement do not require [the seller] to do anything other than provide the listed disclosures.

Anderson v. Ford Ranch, LLC, 78684-COA, 2020 WL 6955438, at \*5 (Nev. App. Nov. 25, 2020).

9. Nevada Revised Statute § 113.140 clearly provides that the Seller Disclosures does not constitute a warranty of the Subject Property and that the Buyer still has a duty to

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exercise reasonable care to protect himself. Nevada Revised Statute § 113.140 also provides that the Seller does not have to disclose any defect that he is unaware of. Similarly, Nevada Revised Statute § 113.130 does not require a seller to disclose a defect in residential property of which the seller is not aware. A completed disclosure form does not constitute an express or implied warranty regarding any condition of residential property. Nevada Revised Statute § 113.140(2). Chapters 113 and "645 of Nevada Revised Statutes do not relieve a buyer or prospective buyer of the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself or herself." *Id.* at § 113.140(2).

- 10. Summary Judgment is appropriate as a matter of law on all of Plaintiff's claims. It is undisputed that the alleged deficiencies were either disclosed by Defendants, could have been discovered by an inspection, were open and obvious whereby Plaintiff / Ms. Zhu / Mr. Miao had notice of them at the time Plaintiff purchased the Property, or were unknown to Defendants at the time of the sale.
- On August 2, 2017, TKNR submitted its Seller Disclosures timely indicating all 11. known conditions of the Subject Property. TKNR disclosed that "3 units has (sic) brand new AC installed within 3 months," and further that the "owner never resided in the property and never visited the property." Plaintiff was also aware that the minor renovations, such as painting, was conducted by the Seller's "handyman" as disclosed in the Seller's Disclosures. TNKR also disclosed that it was aware of issues with the heating and cooling systems, there was construction, modification, alterations, or repairs done without permits, and lead-based paints.
- 12. On August 11, 2020, through the original RPA, Ms. Zhu waived her due diligence, although she had a right to conduct inspections:

During such Period, Buyer shall have the right to conduct, noninvasive/non-destructive inspections of all structural, roofing, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, heating/air conditioning, water/well/septic, pool/spa, survey, square footage, and any other property or systems, through licensed and bonded contractors or other qualified professionals.

13. Section II(B)(1) lists the disclosures by TKNR. Despite these disclosures, Plaintiff did not inspect the Subject Property, request additional information and/or conduct any reasonable inquires. Ms. Zhu cancelled the original RPA, Ex. E, because of an issue related to

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her financing, unrelated to the Seller's Disclosures. Notably, she included the explicit waiver of the inspections, which included her initialing the provision that she had not done in the original RPA. Ms. Zhu informed her agent to waive all inspections. Although Ms. Zhu had actual knowledge of the Seller's Disclosures from August 11, 2017, and the Parties agreed to extend the COE to January 5, 2018, Ms. Zhu still never did any professional inspections. Instead, she put down an additional \$60,000 as a non-refundable deposit to the TNKR. Moreover, she also agreed to pay rent in the amount of \$650 per month for one of the units, and to also pay the property manager \$800 for the tenant placement fee. Through Addendum 2 to the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Ms. Zhu later changed the purchaser to Plaintiff.

14. Ms. Zhu agreed that she was not relying upon any representations made by Brokers or Broker's agent. Ms. Zhu agreed to purchase the Property AS-IS, WHERE-IS, without any representations or warranties. Thus, Ms. Zhu waived all claims against Brokers or their agents for (a) defects in the Property . . . (h) factors related to Ms. Zhu's failure to conduct walk-throughs or inspections. Ms. Zhu assumed full responsibility and agreed to conduct such tests, walk-throughs, inspections and research, as she deemed necessary. In any event, Broker's liability was limited, under any and all circumstances, to the amount of that Broker's commission/fee received in the transaction.

As to the waivers, Paragraph 7(D) of the both the RPA and 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA expressly 15. provided:

> It is strongly recommended that Buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections. If any inspection is not completed and requested repairs are not delivered to Seller within the Due Diligence Period, Buyer is deemed to have waived the right to that inspection and Seller's liability for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted, except as otherwise provided by law.

Nevertheless, Ms. Zhu waived her inspection related to the original RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA, reinforced further by actually initialing next to the waiver in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA. Ms. Zhu also waived the energy audit, pest inspection, roof inspection, septic lid removal inspection, mechanical inspection, soil inspection, and structural inspection. Thereby, Ms. Zhu waived any liability of

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Defendants for the cost of all repairs that inspection would have reasonably identified had it been conducted. The RPA and the 2<sup>nd</sup> RPA clearly indicated that Ms. Zhu was purchasing the Property "AS-IS, WHERE-IS without any representations or warranties."

- 16. Additionally, Ms. Zhu also agreed that the Brokers Defendants had "no responsibility to assist in the payment of any repair, correction or deferred maintenance on the Property which may have been revealed by the above inspections, agreed upon by the Buyer and Seller or requested by one party." Paragraph 7(D) of the RPA.
- 17. Since 2008, Mr. Miao, Ms. Zhu, and/or Plaintiff have been involved in the purchase of approximately twenty residential properties. In Clark County alone, Ms. Zhu and Mr. Miao were involved with the purchase of at least eight rental properties starting in 2014.
- 18. Mr. Miao understood the importance to check public records when conducting due diligence.
  - 19. Plaintiff was a sophisticated buyer aware of the necessity of property inspection.
- 20. At all times relevant prior to the purchase of the Property, Plaintiff had access to inspect the entire property and conduct non-invasive, non-destructive inspections.
- 21. Prior to the purchase, Mr. Miao was aware that the Seller "strongly recommended that buyer retain licensed Nevada professionals to conduct inspections".
- 22. Plaintiff was also aware of the language in the RPA under Paragraph 7(D) that limited potential damages that could have been discovered by an inspection.
- 23. As to the RPA, Mr. Miao agreed that all the terms in it were conspicuous and understandable, and it was a standard agreement similar to the other agreements he had used in purchasing the other properties in Clark County, Nevada.
- 24. On or about August 10, 2017, Mr. Miao inspected Property. During that time, Mr. Miao noted issues with the Property that were not up to code, finishing issues, GFCI outlets<sup>1</sup>, and electrical issues.
  - 25. Mr. Miao acknowledged there was an issue with exposed electrical in Unit C as

The Second Amended Complaint references GFCI at Paragraph 31(a). This illustrates the frivolous nature of the pleading since Mr. Miao requested TKNR to install these for Plaintiff.

well as possible asbestos.

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- Mr. Miao noted that there were cracks in the ceramic floor tiles and visible cracks 26. in the concrete foundation, which were open and obvious.
- 27. Mr. Miao admitted that he could also have seen the dryer vent during his inspection.
- 28. Mr. Miao admitted that he could have followed up on the issues identified in the SRPDF that included the HVAC and the permits.
- 29. Similarly, Mr. Miao should have contacted the local building department as part of his due diligence.
- 30. Plaintiff was also on notice of the potential for mold and the requirement to get a mold inspection.
- 31. Despite actual knowledge of these issues, Plaintiff did not elect to have a professional inspection done.
- 32. Finally, Plaintiff was also acutely aware of the requirement of Nevada law to protect itself by getting an inspection.
  - 33. Plaintiff assumed the risk of failing to exercise reasonable care to protect itself.
- 34. The alleged defects identified by both parties' experts could have been discovered at the time of the original purchase as they were "open and obvious".
- 35. Plaintiff failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards.
- 36. No dispute exists that TKNR did not need permits for the interior work it had done to the Property.
- 37. Plaintiff has always been trying to lease the Property despite not doing any of the repairs listed by Plaintiff's expert. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff that there are underlying conditions with the Property.
- 38. Moreover, Plaintiff does not provide any notice to the tenants about its expert's report or this litigation. This illustrates the lack of merit of Plaintiff's claims and proves that it has done nothing to correct the allegedly deficient conditions that are clearly not so dangerous as

it does not tell prospective tenants about them.

- 39. Mr. Miao admitted that multiple third parties could have potentially damaged the Property.
- 40. Plaintiff did not present any evidence related to Defendants' alleged knowledge other than his personal belief and speculation.
- 41. Mr. Miao admitted that he has no evidence Defendants knew about the alleged moisture conditions. Additionally, he also admitted that there is no evidence that Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the plumbing system. He also admitted that he did not know if Defendants knew about the alleged issues with the duct work when they owned the Property. He also recognized the deficiency in Plaintiff's expert's report that failed to differentiate between conditions prior to when TKNR owned the Property, while it owned it, and those afterwards.
- 42. Mr. Miao also recognized that a 63-year-old property could have issues that were not caused by Defendants.
- 43. The Flipping Fund had nothing to do with Plaintiff's decision to purchase the Property.
- 44. Plaintiff admittedly amplified its alleged damages by more than 6x, and then trebled the damages, and have run up egregious attorneys' fees for this frivolous action. These are undisputed facts that prove abuse of process as a matter of law given the known issues with the Property and Plaintiff's waivers related to the inspections. Plaintiff waived the inspections and purchased the property "as is". This shows that Plaintiff had no interest in having a professional inspection done. It shows the behavior of the Plaintiff related to the entire case.
- 45. Plaintiff was encouraged to inspect the property, and they did not do it. It was a 63-year-old property. There were specific disclosures that were made by the Seller, and Plaintiff was strongly encouraged to conduct the inspection, and they did not want to.
  - 46. This is a 2018 case. Plaintiff has not been diligent in conducting discovery.

Rule 56(f) is not a shield that can be raised to block a motion for summary judgment without even the slightest showing by the opposing party that his opposition is meritorious. A party invoking its protections must do so in good faith by affirmatively demonstrating why he cannot respond to a movant's affidavits as

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otherwise required by Rule 56(e) and how postponement of a ruling on the motion will enable him, by discovery or other means, to rebut the movant's showing of the absence of a genuine issue of fact. Where, as here, a party fails to carry his burden under Rule 56(f), postponement of a ruling on a motion for summary judgment is unjustified.

See Bakerink v. Orthopaedic Associates, Ltd., 581 P.2d 9, 11 (Nev. 1978) (quoting Willmar Poultry Co. v. Morton-Norwich Products, 520 F.2d 289, 297 (8th Cir. 1975), Cert. denied, 424 U.S. 915, 96 S.Ct. 1116, 47 L.Ed.2d 320 (1975).

- 47. Plaintiff failed to articulate the alleged discovery that it would likely have. Additionally, Plaintiff already opposed enlarging discovery by specifying that any extension of discovery would prejudice it, indicating that it had no need for additional discovery and that Plaintiff would largely rest upon the findings of its expert. See Plaintiff's Opposition to Motion to Enlarge Discovery. Also, Plaintiff's counsel's declaration in the Opposition illustrated that he had additional discussions with Plaintiff's expert related to the MSJ, but Plaintiff's expert did not proffer any additional opinions to counter the Motion. See *Opp.* at p. 18:7-9.
- 48. As a matter of law, Plaintiff is precluded from seeking damages from Defendants because of her failure to inspect. "Nondisclosure by the seller of adverse information concerning real property . . . will not provide the basis for an action by the buyer to rescind or for damages when property is sold 'as is.' " Mackintosh v. Jack Matthews & Co., 109 Nev. 628, 633, 855 P.2d 549, 552 (1993). Moreover, "[1]iability for nondisclosure is generally not imposed where the buyer either knew of or could have discovered the defects prior to the purchase." Land Baron Invs., Inc. v. Bonnie Springs Family LP, 131 Nev. 686, 696, 356 P.3d 511, 518 (2015).
- 49. Defendants also do not have liability as Ms. Zhu / Plaintiff purchased the Property "as-is" within the reach of the diligent attention and observation of the buyer. *Mackintosh*, 109 Nev. at 633, 855 P.2d at 552. NRS § 113.140 clearly provides that the disclosures do not constitute a warranty of the Property and that the purchaser still has a duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself. A completed disclosure form does not constitute an express or implied warranty regarding any condition of residential property. NRS § 113.140(2). Chapters 113 and "645 of Nevada Revised Statutes do not relieve a buyer or prospective buyer of the duty to exercise reasonable care to protect himself or herself." *Id.* at § 113.140(2).

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50. Plaintiff waived its common law claims of negligent misrepresentation, fraudulent or intentional misrepresentation, and/or unjust enrichment when it expressly agreed that it would carry the duty to inspect the property and ensure that all aspects of it were suitable prior to close of escrow, and the information regarding Property was reasonably accessible to the buyer. Frederic and Barbara Rosenberg Living Tr. v. MacDonald Highlands Realty, LLC, 427 P.3d 104, 111 (Nev. 2018).

- 51. Summary judgment is appropriate under NRS § 113.140(1) (seller is not required to disclose a defect in residential property of which she is not aware). Under this statute, "[a]scribing to the term 'aware' its plain meaning, . . . the seller of residential real property does not have a duty to disclose a defect or condition that 'materially affects the value or use of residential property in an adverse manner,' if the seller does not realize, perceive, or have knowledge of that defect or condition." Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007). Thus, as Plaintiff cannot demonstrate an omitted disclosure that caused damage, Defendants are entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law. *Id.* at 426.
- 52. Under NRS § 113.140(1) (seller is not required to disclose a defect in residential property of which she is not aware), Nelson v. Heer, 163 P.3d 420, 425 (Nev. 2007), and NRS § 645.259(2), Defendants are entitled to Summary Judgment on Plaintiff's claims for (1) Recovery Under NRS Chapter 113, (2) Constructive Fraud, (3) Common Law Fraud, (4) Fraudulent Inducement, (5) Fraudulent Concealment, (6) Breach Of Fiduciary Duty, (8) Damages Under NRS 645.257(1), (9) Failure To Supervise, Inadequate training and Education, (12) Civil Conspiracy, (13) Breach Of Contract, and (14) Breach Of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing]. It also eliminates the causes of action for (7) RICO, (10) Fraudulent Conveyance, (11) Fraudulent Conveyance, and (15) Abuse of Process since they have no basis in fact or law.
- 53. Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 2.20(e) provides that, "[f]ailure of the opposing party to serve and file written opposition may be construed as an admission that the motion and/or joinder is meritorious and a consent to granting the same." Simply filing an opposition does not relieve a party of its duty to actually oppose the issues raised in the motion. See Benjamin v. Frias Transportation Mgt. Sys., Inc., 433 P.3d 1257 (Nev. 2019) (unpublished

disposition).

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- 54. The Opposition failed to address the Motion's arguments related to summary judgment in favor of Defendants on Plaintiff's claims for: (7) RICO; (10) Fraudulent Conveyance; (11) Fraudulent Conveyance; (12) Civil Conspiracy; and (15) Abuse of Process. Additionally, Plaintiff fails to provide any meaningful or competent opposition to the Motion's argument for summary judgment as to Plaintiff's claims against the Broker Defendants. As there is no Opposition provided to those arguments made in the Motion, this court should find that those arguments are meritorious and grant the request as to those unopposed issues.
- 55. Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 11(b), by presenting to the court a pleading or other paper, an attorney or unrepresented party certifies: (1) it is not being presented for any improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation, (2) the claims and other legal contentions are warranted by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law or for establishing new law, (3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support, and (4) the denials of factual contentions are warranted on the evidence or.
- 56. "If, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the court determines that Rule 11(b) has been violated, the court may impose an appropriate sanction on any attorney, law firm, or party that violated the rule or is responsible for the violation. Absent exceptional circumstances, a law firm must be held jointly responsible for a violation committed by its partner, associate, or employee." NEV. R. CIV. PRO. 11(c).
- 57. "On its own, the court may order an attorney, law firm, or party to show cause why conduct specifically described in the order has not violated Rule 11(b)." Id. at 11(c)(3). "A sanction imposed under this rule must be limited to what suffices to deter repetition of the conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. The sanction may include nonmonetary directives; an order to pay a penalty into court; or, if imposed on motion and warranted for effective deterrence, an order directing payment to the movant of part or all of the reasonable attorney fees and other expenses directly resulting from the violation." Id. at 11(c)(4).

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- 58. Rule 11 prevents a party from bringing a lawsuit for an improper purpose, which includes: (1) harassment, causing unnecessary delay, or needless increasing the cost of litigation; or (2) making frivolous claims. NEV. R. CIV. PRO. 11(b)(1)-(2). Rule 11 sanctions should be imposed for frivolous actions. Marshall v. District Court, 108 Nev. 459, 465, 836 P.2d 47, 52.
- 59. A frivolous claim is one that is "both baseless and made without a reasonable and competent inquiry." Bergmann v. Boyce, 109 Nev. 670, 676, 856 P.2d 560, 564 (1993) (quoting Townsend v. Holman Consulting Corp., 929 F.2d 1358, 1362 (9th Cir.1990); Golden Eagle Distrib. Corp. v. Burroughs Corp., 801 F.2d 1531, 1537 (9th Cir.1986)). A determination of whether a claim is frivolous involves a two-pronged analysis: (1) the court must determine whether the pleading is "well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law"; and (2) whether the attorney made a reasonable and competent inquiry. Bergmann, 109 Nev. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564. A sanction imposed for violation of Rule 11 shall be limited to what is sufficient to deter repetition of such conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated. *Id.* at 11(c)(2).
- 60. Furthermore, a court may award attorneys' fees to a prevailing party when it finds that the claim was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party. NEV. REV. STAT. § 18.010(2)(b). In other cases, a court may award attorneys' fees "when it finds that the opposing party brought or maintained a claim without reasonable grounds." Rodriguez v. Primadonna Co., LLC, 216 P.3d 793, 800 (Nev. 2009). "The court shall liberally construe the provisions of this paragraph in favor of awarding attorney's fees in all appropriate situations." *Id.* The Nevada Legislature explained that:

[i]t is the intent of the Legislature that the court award attorney's fees pursuant to this paragraph and impose sanctions pursuant to Rule 11 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure in all appropriate situations to punish for and deter frivolous or vexatious claims and defenses because such claims and defenses overburden limited judicial resources, hinder the timely resolution of meritorious claims and increase the costs of engaging in business and providing professional services to the public.

Id. "A claim is groundless if 'the allegations in the complaint . . . are not supported by any credible evidence at trial." Barozzi v. Benna, 112 Nev. 635, 639, 918 P.2d 301, 303 (1996)

(quoting Western United Realty, Inc. v. Isaacs, 679 P.2d 1063, 1069 (Colo.1984)).

- 77. The overwhelming facts and law illustrate that Plaintiff's claim is frivolous. The findings of fact are incorporated by reference.
- 78. Plaintiff's claim is clearly frivolous: (1) where the pleading was not "well grounded in fact and is warranted by existing law or a good faith argument for the extension, modification or reversal of existing law", and (2) Plaintiff's attorney continued to make frivolous claims. *Bergmann*, 109 Nev. at 676, 856 P.2d at 564. Sanctions are warranted against Plaintiff and its counsel, which includes an award attorneys' fees to Defendants.
- 79. Alternatively, the elements of an abuse of process claim are: "(1) an ulterior purpose by the defendants other than resolving a legal dispute, and (2) a willful act in the use of the legal process not proper in the regular conduct of the proceeding." *Posadas v. City of Reno*, 109 Nev. 448, 452, 851 P.2d 438, 441-42 (1993). Abuse of process can arise from both civil and criminal proceedings. *LaMantia v. Redisi*, 118 Nev. 27, 30, 38 P.3d 877, 879 (2002). Malice, want of probable cause, and termination in favor of the person initiating or instituting proceedings are not necessary elements for a prima facie abuse of process claim. *Nevada Credit Rating Bur. v. Williams*, 88 Nev. 601, 606, 503 P.2d 9, 12 (1972); Restatement (Second) of Torts § 682 cmt. a (1977). The mere filing of a complaint is insufficient to establish the tort of abuse of process. *Laxalt v. McClatchy*, 622 F. Supp. 737, 751 (1985).
- 80. Under either Rule 11, Plaintiff brought and maintained this action without reasonable ground. NEV. REV. STAT. § 18.010(2)(b). The overwhelming facts and law illustrate that Plaintiff brought or maintained this claim without reasonable grounds, which justifies an award of attorneys' fees. *Rodriguez v. Primadonna Co., LLC*, 216 P.3d 793, 800 (Nev. 2009).
- 81. The court intends to award to the Defendants the reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees and costs, incurred for defending this lawsuit under Rule 11. This sanction is limited to what suffices to deter repetition of the conduct or comparable conduct by others similarly situated.

Based on the foregoing, the Court GRANTS Defendants Motion, DENIES the Counterclaim, and GRANTS attorneys' fees and costs to Defendants pursuant to Nevada Rule of

Civil Procedure 11.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that the Motion is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that the Countermotion, including the 56(f) Countermotion, is **DENIED**. This is a 2018 case. Discovery ended October 30, 2020. This Court will not agree to enlarge discovery.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that Defendants are awarded attorneys' fees and costs pursuant to Rule 11. Defendants may file an affidavit in support of requested attorney's fees and costs within 10 days of the entry of Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that this is a final order related to the claims and counterclaim. This Court directs entry of a final judgment of all claims.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that any outstanding or pending discovery is quashed as moot.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that any trial dates and/or calendar calls are vacated as moot.

Dated this 7th day of April, 2021

THE HON. ADRIANA ESCOBAR DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

158 436 3E2D 40F2 Adriana Escobar **District Court Judge** 

2	John Savage	Holley Driggs Attn: John Savage, Esq		
3		400 South Fourth Street, Third Floor Las Vegas, NV, 89101		
4	N. D.			
5	Nikita Pierce	6625 South Valley View Blvd. Suite 232 Las Vegas, NV, 89118		
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### DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Other Real Property COURT MINUTES May 17, 2021

A-18-785917-C W L A B Investment LLC, Plaintiff(s)

VS.

TKNR Inc, Defendant(s)

May 17, 2021 03:00 AM Minute Order

**HEARD BY:** Escobar, Adriana **COURTROOM:** Chambers

**COURT CLERK:** Packer, Nylasia

RECORDER: REPORTER:

PARTIES PRESENT:

#### **JOURNAL ENTRIES**

Plaintiffs Motion to Reconsider (Motion), which Defendants opposed, was scheduled for hearing before Department XIV of the Eighth Judicial District Court, the Honorable Adriana Escobar presiding, on May 18, 2021. Pursuant to Administrative Order 21-03 and preceding administrative orders, this matter may be decided after a hearing, decided on the pleadings, or continued. In an effort to comply with Covid-19 restrictions, and to avoid the need for hearings when possible, this Court has determined that it would be appropriate to decide this matter based on the pleadings submitted. Upon thorough review of the pleadings, this Court issues the following order:

Leave for reconsideration of motions is within this Court's discretion under EDCR 2.24.

A district court may reconsider a previously decided issue if substantially different evidence is subsequently introduced or the decision is clearly erroneous. Masonry & Tile Contractors v. Jolley, Urga & Wirth, 113 Nev. 737, 741 (1997).

Unless otherwise ordered by the court, papers submitted in support of pretrial and post-trial briefs shall be limited to 30 pages, excluding exhibits. EDCR 2.20(a).

Plaintiff seeks reconsideration of this Court s April 7, 2021, Amended Order Granting Defendants Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Partial Summary Judgment.

It its opposition, Defendants argue that Plaintiff's Notice of Appeal in this matter divests this Court of jurisdiction to rule on Plaintiff's Motion. This Court disagrees. Because Plaintiff filed a motion for reconsideration, the April 7, 2021, order is not final appealable order. Therefore, the appeal was premature. A premature notice of appeal does NOT divest the district court of jurisdiction. NRAP 4(a)(6). Therefore, this Court has jurisdiction to rule on the Motion.

Additionally, Defendants argument that Plaintiff's Motion was untimely filed lacks merit. Defendants filed the Notice of Entry of Order on April 8, 2021. Therefore, Plaintiff had until April 22, 2021, to file the instant Motion. Plaintiff filed this Motion on April 16, 2021, and thus, the Motion is timely.

Before addressing the substantive merits of Plaintiff's Motion, this Court notes that Plaintiff's 179-page Motion includes 40 pages of argument, notwithstanding the exhibits. Although Plaintiff did not seek an order from this Court permitting a longer brief, Court addresses the

Prepared by: Nylasia Packer

Motion in full.

Plaintiff spends a majority of its Motion rehashing the facts of the underlying dispute. Plaintiff argues that exhibits the Court relied on in granting Defendants underlying motion for summary judgment namely, the Residential Purchase Agreement and the Second Residential Purchase Agreement were not properly authenticated. Plaintiff additionally argues that Defendants discussed an email from Chen to Ms. Zhu without providing a foundation for the email. Plaintiff s argument is that this Court committed clear error by relying on unauthenticated documents, or hearsay, in ruling on Defendants motion for summary judgment.

In opposing summary judgment, Plaintiff was required to point to specific facts creating a genuine issue of material fact. LaMantia v. Redisi, 118 Nev. 27, 29 (2002). Plaintiff did not so.

Moreover, Defendants were not required to authenticate the first and second Residential Purchase Agreement before this Court could rely on those documents in granting summary judgment. First, Plaintiff did not contest the authenticity of the disputed documents in opposing summary judgment. Second, Plaintiff could have objected that these documents, which were Defendants repeatedly cite to in their motion for summary judgment, cannot be presented in a form that would be admissible in evidence. NRCP 56(b)(2) it did not. Finally, summary judgment is not trial. Authentication is for purposes of introducing evidence at trial. Therefore, this argument lacks merits.

Plaintiff has not demonstrated that this Court's ruling was clearly erroneous.

Plaintiff additionally argues that Rule 11 sanctions were not warranted and also asks this Court to clarify whether Mr. Day and his firm are to be included in the sanctions. Plaintiff has not demonstrated that this Court s decision to grant Rule 11 sanctions was clearly erroneous. However, this Court does clarify that the sanctions are awarded against Plaintiff s former counsel, Ben Childs, and not Plaintiff s current counsel, Mr. Day. See NRCP 11(c)(1): (If, after notice and a reasonable opportunity to respond, the court determines that Rule 11(b) has been violated, the court may impose an appropriate sanction on any attorney, law firm, or party that violated the rule or is responsible for the violation.).

The Court additionally notes the following: Although they do not caption their opposition as a countermotion, Defendants opposition raise an argument that Rule 11 sanctions are warranted as to Plaintiff's instant Motion. This Court does not find that Rule 11 sanctions are warranted for Plaintiff's filing of this Motion.

Defendants also ask that this Court issue an award of attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$128,166.78. In its April 7, 2021, order, this Court granted Defendants attorney fees and costs pursuant to Rule 11. Plaintiff, through its former or new counsel, does not oppose the specific amounts requested. This Court grants the amount Defendants seek.

Based on the foregoing, this Court GRANTS IN PART AND DENIES IN PART Plaintiff's Motion. This Court does not find that its ruling was clearly erroneous. However, the Court clarifies that the attorney fees and costs is awarded against Plaintiff's former counsel.

Counsel for Defendants is directed to prepare a proposed order that incorporates the substance of this minute order and the pleadings. Plaintiff must approve as to form and content.

Counsel must submit the proposed order within 14 days of the entry of this minute order. EDCR 1.90(a)(4).

All parties must submit their orders electronically, in both PDF version and Word version, until

Prepared by: Nylasia Packer

further notice. You may do so by emailing DC14Inbox@clarkcountycourts.us. All orders must have either original signatures from all parties or an email appended as the last page of the proposed order confirming that all parties approved use of their electronic signatures. The subject line of the e-mail should identify the full case number, filing code and case caption.

CLERK S NOTE: Counsel are to ensure a copy of the forgoing minute order is distributed to all interested parties; additionally, a copy of the foregoing minute order was distributed to the registered service recipients via Odyssey eFileNV E-Service (5-17-21 np).

A-18-785917-C

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

GRANTING, IN PART, AND DENYING,

IN PART, PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO

RECONSIDER AND JUDGMENT

AGAINST PLAINTIFF AND PREVIOUS

COUNSEL

MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL B. LEE P.C. 1820 E. Sahara Ave., Ste. 110

Las Vegas, NV 89104 Office: (702) 731-0244

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Fax: (702) 477-0096 Email: mike@mblnv.com Attorney for Defendants

IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

**CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 

CASE NO.:

DEPT. NO.:

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

VS.

TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, an individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual, and INVESTPRO INVESTMENTS LLC, a Nevada Limited **INVESTPRO** Liability Company, and MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

Defendants.
And Related Actions.

TO: ALL PARTIES

YOU, AND EACH OF YOU, will please take notice that an order and judgment in this matter was entered in this matter on May, 2021. A copy of said ORDER and JUDGMENT is attached hereto and incorporated herewith by reference.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2021.

/s/ Michael Lee MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) Attorneys for Defendants

Page 1 of 2

Appendix Page 241 of 263

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

# **MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.** 1820 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110

 $\text{Tel} - (702) \, 477.7030; \text{Fax} - (702) \, 477.0096$ 

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

<u>LERI</u>	IFICA	IE OF	WAL	LING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 25th day of May, 2021, I placed a copy of **NOTICE**OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING, IN PART, AND DENYING, IN PART,

PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND JUDGMENT AGAINST PLAINTIFF

AND PREVIOUS COUNSEL as required by Eighth Judicial District Court Rule 7.26 by delivering a copy or by mailing by United States mail it to the last known address of the parties listed below, facsimile transmission to the number listed, and/or electronic transmission through the Court's electronic filing system to the e-mail address listed below.

BENJAMIN B. CHILDS, ESQ. 318 S. Maryland Parkway Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Telephone: (702) 251-0000 Email: ben@benchilds.com

STEVEN L. DAY, ESQ. DAY & NANCE 1060 Wigwam Parkway Henderson, NV 89074 Tel – 702.309.3333 Fax – 702.309.1085 sday@daynance.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

/s/ Mindy Pallares
An employee of MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

#### **ELECTRONICALLY SERVED** 5/25/2021 1:41 PM

Electronically Filed 05/25/2021 1:40 PM CLERK OF THE COURT

1 MICHAEL B. LEE, ESQ. (NSB 10122) MICHAEL MATTHIS, ESQ. (NSB 14582)

2 MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

1820 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 110

3 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone: (702) 477.7030

Facsimile: (702) 477.0096 4

mike@mblnv.com

5 Attorney for Defendants

#### IN THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

#### **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC,

Plaintiff,

VS.

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TKNR INC., a California Corporation, and CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, an individual, and KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG **ZHONG KENNY** LIN aka LIN, individual, and LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, an individual and YAN QIU ZHANG, an individual, and INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, a Nevada Limited Liability Company, and MAN CHAU CHENG, an individual, and JOYCE NICKRANDT, an individual, INVESTPRO **INVESTMENTS** LLC, Nevada Limited Liability Company, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, a Nevada Limited Liability Company and JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, an individual and Does 1 through 15 and Roe Corporation I - XXX,

CASE NO.: A-18-785917-C

DEPT. NO.: XIV

ORDER GRANTING, IN PART, AND **DENYING, IN PART, PLAINTIFF'S** MOTION TO RECONSIDER AND JUDGMENT AGAINST PLAINTIFF AND PREVIOUS COUNSEL

Date of Hearing: May 17, 2021 Time of Hearing: chambers

Defendants.

This matter being set for hearing before the Honorable Court on May 18, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., on W L A B INVESTMENT, LLC ("WLAB" or "Plaintiff"), Motion to Reconsider ("Motion"), by and through its attorney of record, DAY & NANCE. Defendants' TKNR INC., CHI ON WONG aka CHI KUEN WONG, KENNY ZHONG LIN, aka KEN ZHONG LIN aka KENNETH ZHONG LIN aka WHONG K. LIN aka CHONG KENNY LIN aka ZHONG LIN, LIWE HELEN CHEN aka HELEN CHEN, YAN QIU ZHANG, INVESTPRO LLC dba INVESTPRO REALTY, MAN CHAU CHENG, JOYCE A. NICKRANDT, INVESTPRO

Page 1 of 5

Appendix Page 243 of 263

Case Number: A-18-785917-C

1820 E. SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 110

 $\text{Tel} - (702) \, 477.7030; \text{Fax} - (702) \, 477.0096$ LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89104

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INVESTMENTS LLC, and INVESTPRO MANAGER LLC, (collectively, the "Defendants") filed an Opposition to the Motion and appeared by and through its counsel of record, MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

Pursuant to Administrative Order 21-03 and preceding administrative orders, this matter may be decided after a hearing, decided on the pleadings, or continued. In an effort to comply with Covid-19 restrictions, and to avoid the need for hearings when possible, this Court has determined that it was appropriate to decide this matter based on the pleadings submitted. Upon thorough review of the pleadings, the Court issues the following order:

- 1. Leave for reconsideration of motions is within this Court's discretion under EDCR 2.24.
- 2. A district court may reconsider a previously decided issue if substantially different evidence is subsequently introduced or the decision is clearly erroneous. See Masonry & Tile Contractors v. Jolley, Urga & Wirth, 113 Nev. 737, 741 (1997).
- 3. Plaintiff seeks reconsideration of this Court's April 7, 2021, Amended Order Granting Defendants Motion for Summary Judgment, or in the Alternative, Partial Summary Judgment ("Amended Order").
- 4. Although Defendants argue that Plaintiff's Notice of Appeal divests this Court of jurisdiction to rule on the Motion, this Court disagrees because the Amended Order was not final and appealable by virtue of Plaintiff filing the Motion. Therefore, the appeal was premature, and the court is not divested of jurisdiction on the filing of a premature notice of appeal, allowing the court to rule on the Motion. See NRAP 4(a)(6).
- 5. The Motion was timely filed within fourteen (14) days of the Notice of Entry of the Amended Order.
- 6. Plaintiff spends a majority of its Motion rehashing the facts of the underlying dispute. Plaintiff argues that exhibits the Court relied on in granting Defendants underlying motion for summary judgment namely, the Residential Purchase Agreement and the Second Residential Purchase Agreement were not properly authenticated. Plaintiff additionally argues that Defendants discussed an email from Chen to Ms. Zhu without providing a foundation for the

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email. Plaintiff's argument is that this Court committed clear error by relying on unauthenticated documents, or hearsay, in ruling on Defendants' motion for summary judgment.

- 7. In opposing summary judgment, Plaintiff was required to point to specific facts creating a genuine issue of material fact. See LaMantia v. Redisi, 118 Nev. 27, 29 (2002). Plaintiff did not do so.
- 8. Defendants were not required to authenticate the first and second Residential Purchase Agreement before this Court could rely on those documents in granting summary judgment.
- 9. Plaintiff did not contest the authenticity of the disputed documents in opposing summary judgment.
- 10. Plaintiff could have objected that these documents, which were Defendants repeatedly cite to in their motion for summary judgment, cannot be presented in a form that would be admissible in evidence. See NRCP 56(b)(2). However, Plaintiff did not so object.
- 11. The summary judgment hearing was not a trial. Authentication is for purposes of introducing evidence at trial; therefore, Plaintiff's authentication argument lacks merit.
  - 12. Plaintiff has not demonstrated that this Court's ruling was clearly erroneous.
- 13. Plaintiff has not demonstrated that this Court's decision to grant Rule 11 sanctions was clearly erroneous. However, this Court does clarify that the sanctions are awarded against Plaintiff's former counsel, Ben Childs, and not Plaintiff's current counsel, Mr. Day.
- 14. Defendants also ask that this Court issue an award of attorney fees and costs in the amount of \$128,166.78 related to the Courts' April 7, 2021 Order this Court granting Defendants' attorney fees and costs pursuant to Rule 11. Plaintiff, through its former or new counsel, does not oppose the specific amounts requested.
- 15. As such, this Court grants the amount Defendants seek and enters judgment against Plaintiff and their former counsel, Ben Childs, Esq. in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Seventy-Eight cents (\$128,166.78).
- 16. Defendants' countermotion for additional Rule 11 sanctions against Plaintiff for filing the Motion is denied.

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that the Motion is GRANTED, in part, and DENIED, in part, as the Court's ruling was not clearly erroneous but clarifies the attorney fees and costs is awarded against Plaintiff and its former counsel Ben Childs, Esq.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that Judgment is entered in favor of Defendants against Plaintiff, and its former counsel, Benjamin Childs, individually, and Benjamin B. Childs, Esq, the law firm, jointly and severally, in the amount of One Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars and Seventy-Eight cents (\$128,166.78) and that they pay Defendants the following amounts:

- 1. The principal sum of \$118,955.014 in attorneys' fees;
- 2. The principal sum of \$9,211.64 for costs incurred to date; and
- 3. Post-judgment interest from the date of the entry of the underlying Order for the attorneys' fees and costs be granted at the statutory rate of 5.25% per annum.

A total Judgment in favor of Defendants, and against Plaintiff, and its former counsel, Benjamin Childs, individually, and Benjamin B. Childs, Esq, the law firm, jointly and severally, in the amount of \$128,166.78, all to bear interest at the statutory rate of 5.25% per annum until paid in full.

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## IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDICATED, AND DECREED that this Order and Judgment shall be considered a final for all purposes.

Dated this 25th day of May, 2021

C78 3DB 37F8 7A17 Adriana Escobar District Colort Loudgel.

Approved of as to Form and Content By:

DAY & NANCE

/s/ Stephen Day
STEPHEN DAY, ESQ. (NSB 3708)
1060 Wigwam Pkwy
Las Vegas, Nevada 89074
Tel - (702) 309.3333
Fax - (702) 309.1085
sday@daynance.com
Attorney for Plaintiff

Date: May 18, 2021.

MICHAEL B. LEE, P.C.

Respectfully Submitted By:

#### RE: WLAB v. TKNR, et al.; A-18-785917-C; Proposed Order

From: Steve Day (sday@dayattorneys.com)

To: matthis@mblnv.com

Date: Wednesday, May 19, 2021, 02:20 PM PDT

Looks okay. Okay to use my e-sig. Correct name: Steven L. Day

Steve

### Steven L. Day, Esq.

## **DAY&ASSOCIATES**

1060 Wigwam Parkway

Henderson, NV 89074

Tel. (702) 309-3333

Fax (702) 309-1085

Mobile (702) 596-5350

sday@dayattorneys.com

From: Michael Matthis <matthis@mblnv.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 2:06 PM
To: Steve Day <sday@dayattorneys.com>

Cc: Mike Lee <mike@mblnv.com>

Subject: WLAB v. TKNR, et al.; A-18-785917-C; Proposed Order

Dear Mr. Day,

Please see the attached proposed order denying Plaintiff's Motion to Reconsider and advise if I can affix your e-signature. If not, I have left the proposed order in word and would ask that you track any proposed edits in redline. If we do not receive a response by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, May 24, we will submit absent your signature.

Sincerely,

Mike Matthis, Esq.

matthis@mblnv.com



1820 E. Sahara Avenue, Suite 110, Las Vegas, NV 89104

Main Line: 702.477.7030 Fax: 702.477.0096

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1	CSERV			
2	DISTRICT COURT			
3	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA			
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6	W L A B Investment LLC,	CASE NO: A-18-785917-C		
7	Plaintiff(s)	DEPT. NO. Department 14		
8	VS.			
9	TKNR Inc, Defendant(s)			
10				
11	AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE			
12	This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below:			
13				
14	Service Date: 5/25/2021			
15	Brinley Richeson	bricheson@daynance.com		
16 17	Steven Day	sday@daynance.com		
18	Michael Matthis	matthis@mblnv.com		
19	Nikita Burdick	nburdick@burdicklawnv.com		
20	Michael Lee	mike@mblnv.com		
21	Bradley Marx	brad@marxfirm.com		
22	Frank Miao	frankmiao@yahoo.com		
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