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

#### INDICATE FULL CAPTION:

TON VINH LEE, Plaintiff,

V.

INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN LAW GROUP PLLC, a Nevada Professional LLC, Defendants, No. 83213

#### DOCKETING STATEMENT CIVIL APPEALS

Electronically Filed Aug 4 2021 11:03 a.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

#### GENERAL INFORMATION

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

#### WARNING

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

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

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

1. Judicial District Eighth	Department 26
County Clark	Judge Gloria Sturman
District Ct. Case No. A-15-723134	
2. Attorney filing this docketing statemen	t:
Attorney Prescott T. Jones, Esq.	Telephone 702-997-1029
Firm Resnick & Louis, P.C.  Address 8925 W. Russell Rd., Ste. 220 Las Vegas, NV 89148	
Client(s) Ton Vinh Lee	
If this is a joint statement by multiple appellants, add the names of their clients on an additional sheet accomplising of this statement.	
3. Attorney(s) representing respondents(s	):
Attorney Christian Morris, Esq.	Telephone 702-434-8282
Firm Nettles Morris	
Address 1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014	
Client(s) Ingrid Patin	
Attorney Kerry Doyle, Esq.	Telephone <u>702-706-3323</u>
Firm Doyle Law Group, LLC	
Address 7375 S. Pecos Road, Suite 101 Las Vegas, NV 89120	
Client(s) Patin Law Group, PLLC	

4. Nature of disposition below (check	all that apply):
☐ Judgment after bench trial	☐ Dismissal:
☐ Judgment after jury verdict	☐ Lack of jurisdiction
☐ Summary judgment	☐ Failure to state a claim
☐ Default judgment	☐ Failure to prosecute
$\square$ Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief	☐ Other (specify):
☐ Grant/Denial of injunction	☐ Divorce Decree:
$\square$ Grant/Denial of declaratory relief	☐ Original ☐ Modification
☐ Review of agency determination	☑ Other disposition (specify): Grant of Fees/Costs
5. Does this appeal raise issues conce	erning any of the following?
☐ Child Custody	
☐ Venue	
$\square$ Termination of parental rights	
	this court. List the case name and docket number sently or previously pending before this court which

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

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

This appeal is taken from the District Court's award for attorney fees and costs in a civil action for defamation per se brought by Plaintiff Ton Vinh Lee, a dentist, against Defendants Ingrid Patin and Patin Law Group. On October 28, 2020, the District Court granted Defendant Ingrid Patin's Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, or in the Alternative, Summary Judgment, which was joined by Defendant Patin Law Group, PLLC. On November 29, 2020, Defendant Ingrid Patin filed her Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Interest pursuant to NRS 18.020(3) and NRCP 68. Defendant Patin Law Group filed its Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Interest pursuant to NRCP 68 on the same day. On April 23, 2021, the District Court issued its Notice of Entry of Decision and Order granting the Defendants' motions, finding that Defendants were entitled to fee and costs pursuant to NRCP 68. On May 7, 2021, Plaintiff filed his Motion for Reconsideration, or in the alternative, Motion to Alter/Amend Judgment Pursuant to NRCP 59(e). On June 11, 2021, the Court filed its Notice of Entry of Order denying the Motion for Reconsideration. Plaintiff now appeals the District Court's April 23, 2021, Order.

- **9.** Issues on appeal. State concisely the principal issue(s) in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):
- 1. Whether the District Court Failed to Apply the Complete Analysis for Awarding Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 68(g) Prior to Awarding Defendants' Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 68(g)
- 2. Whether the District Court is Required to Apply the Full Analysis Pursuant to NRCP 68 (g) Prior to Awarding Defendants' Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 68(g)
- 3. Whether the District Court Erred in awarding Defendants' Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 68 Because The District Court Failed to Apply the Full Analysis Pursuant to NRCP 68(g)
- 10. Pending proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues. If you are aware of any proceedings presently pending before this court which raises the same or similar issues raised in this appeal, list the case name and docket numbers and identify the same or similar issue raised:

None known.

11. Constitutional issues. If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?
⊠ N/A
$\square$ Yes
If not, explain:
2. Other issues. Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?
2. Other issues. Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?  ☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))
☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))
<ul> <li>□ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))</li> <li>□ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))</li> <li>☐ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions</li> <li>☐ A substantial issue of first impression</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))</li> <li>☐ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions</li> <li>☐ A substantial issue of first impression</li> <li>☐ An issue of public policy</li> <li>☐ An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>□ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))</li> <li>□ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions</li> <li>□ A substantial issue of first impression</li> <li>□ An issue of public policy</li> <li>□ An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's decisions</li> </ul>

13. Assignment to the Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court. Briefly set forth whether the matter is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court or assigned to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, and cite the subparagraph(s) of the Rule under which the matter falls. If appellant believes that the Supreme Court should retain the case despite its presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals, identify the specific issue(s) or circumstance(s) that warrant retaining the case, and include an explanation of their importance or significance:
This case does not fall under any of the categories of NRAP 17(a) or (b).
14. Trial. If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last?

**15. Judicial Disqualification.** Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice recuse him/herself from participation in this appeal? If so, which Justice? No.

Was it a bench or jury trial? N/A

#### TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

16. Date of	entry of v	written judgment or order appealed from April 23, 2021
	itten judgn appellate r	nent or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for review:
17. Date w	ritten not	ice of entry of judgment or order was served April 23, 2021
	rvice by:	
☐ Deliv		
⊠ Mail	/electronic/	fax
18. If the ti (NRCP 50(		ing the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion or 59)
	pecify the ty e date of fil	ype of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and ling.
	P 50(b)	Date of filing
	P 52(b)	Date of filing
$\boxtimes$ NRC	P 59	Date of filing May 7, 2021
time		ursuant to NRCP 60 or motions for rehearing or reconsideration may toll the notice of appeal. <i>See</i> AA Primo Builders v. Washington, 126 Nev, 245 .
(b) Da	ate of entry	of written order resolving tolling motion June 11, 2021
(c) Da	ite written	notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served June 11, 20
Wa	as service b	y:
	Delivery	
$\boxtimes$	Mail	

19. Date notice of app	peal filed <u>7/8/2021</u>
	arty has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each as filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:
20. Specify statute or e.g., NRAP 4(a) or oth	rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, er
NRAP 4(a)(4)(C)	
	SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY
21. Specify the statute the judgment or orde (a)	e or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review r appealed from:
☐ NRAP 3A(b)(1)	□ NRS 38.205
☐ NRAP 3A(b)(2)	□ NRS 233B.150
☐ NRAP 3A(b)(3)	□ NRS 703.376
⊠ Other (specify)	NRAP 3A(b)(8)
	thority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order: tranting Defendants' Motions for Attorney Fees and Costs is an order

issued after the Court's final judgment.

22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court: <ul> <li>(a) Parties:</li> <li>Plaintiff - Ton Vinh Lee</li> <li>Defendant - Ingrid Patin</li> <li>Defendant - Patin Law Group PLLC</li> </ul>
(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, e.g., formally dismissed, not served, or other:
23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, or third-party claims and the date of formal disposition of each claim.  Plaintiff - defamation per se (Order Granting Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment entered on 10/30/2020)  Defendant Ingrid Patin: Attorney Fees, Costs, and Interest (Order Granting Motion for Attorney Fees, Costs, and Interest entered on April 23, 2021)  Defendant Patin Law Group PLLC: Attorney Fees and Interest (Order Granting Motion for Attorney Fees and Interest entered on April 23, 2021)
24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below? $\hfill Yes \\ \hfill No$
25 If your organized UNI-U.A. and the second in the second
<ul><li>25. If you answered "No" to question 24, complete the following:</li><li>(a) Specify the claims remaining pending below:</li><li>The Order appealed from gave the determination of Defendants' post-judgment motions for attorney fees, costs, and interest.</li></ul>
The District Court entered its Order Granting Defendant's Motion for Summary Judgment on 10/30/2020, which Plaintiff has appealed. The appeal is pending as Case

No. 82516.

(b) Specify the parties remaining below: N/A
(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?
$\square$ Yes
$\boxtimes$ No
(d) Did the district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), that there is no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of judgment?
☐ Yes
⊠ No
26. If you answered "No" to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)): Order is appealable under NRAP 3A(b)(8).

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

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

#### **VERIFICATION**

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

Ton Vinh I Name of ap			Prescott T. Jones, Esq. Name of counsel of record
Mar 16, 20 Date	21		/s/ Prescott T. Jones Signature of counsel of record
Nevada, Cl State and c	ark County ounty where signe	d	
	•	CERTIFICATE OF	SERVICE
	at on the 4th locketing statemen	day of <u>August</u>	, 2021 , I served a copy of this record:
⊠ By radd belo Christ NETT 1389 CHende Attorn  Kerry DOYL 7375 SLas Ve	mailing it by first coress(es): (NOTE: If ow and attach a septian M. Morris, Esq. LES MORRIS Galleria Dr., Suite Street, NV 89014 ey for Defendant I. Doyle, Esq. E LAW GROUP St. Pecos Rd., #101 egas, NV 89120	Call names and addrest arate sheet with the	
Dated this	4th	day of August	,2021
			san Carbone gnature

2 3 4 5 6 7 8	SACOM PRESCOTT T. JONES, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 11617 AUGUST B. HOTCHKIN, ESQ. Nevada State Bar No. 12780 BREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP 1160 N. TOWN CENTER DRIVE SUITE 250 LAS VEGAS, NV 89144 TELEPHONE: (702) 258-6665 FACSIMILE: (702) 258-6662 pjones@bremerwhyte.com ahotchkin@bremerwhyte.com Attorneys for Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE	CLERK OF THE COURT	
9	DISTRICT	COURT	
	CLARK COUNT	Y; NEVADA	
11	TON VINH LEE, an individual	Case No.: A723134	
12   13	Plaintiff,	Dept. No.: IX	
	vs. INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN	SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT	
	LAW GROUP, PLLC, a Nevada Professional LLC,	() )	
16	Defendants.		
17		)	
18	COMES NOW, Plaintiff TON VINH LEE	E (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by and through his	
19	attorneys of record, Prescott T. Jones, Esq. and August B Hotchkin, Esq. of the law firm BREMER,		
20	WHYTE, BROWN & O'MEARA, LLP, and hereby complains and alleges as follows:		
21	1.		
22	<u>PARTIES</u>		
23	<ol> <li>Plaintiff is, and at all times relevant l</li> </ol>	nerein, was a resident of Clark County, Nevada.	
24	<ol><li>The actions complained of herein occ</li></ol>	curred in Clark County, Nevada.	
25	3. Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE (hereina	ofter "Plaintiff") is a Doctor of Dental Surgery	
26	(DDS), and owner of Ton V. Lee, DDS, P.C., d/b/a Summerlin Smiles located at 9525 West		
27	Russell Rd. Suite 100, Las Vegas, NV 89148.		
BREMER WHYTE BROWN & ONSEARA LLP. 1169 N. Town Confer Drice. Soile 250 Les Vegos, div. 46144 (102) 258-9665	4. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and	thereupon alleges, Defendant INGRID PATIN,	
0 0	H:\3354\592\PLD\Second Amended Complaint.doc		

Nevada Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 7.2, prohibit attorneys from advertising

23.

verdicts or recoveries that were not actually received or won. 1 24. The defamatory statement imputes to TON VINH LEE a lack of fitness as a dentist 2 in that it claims Plaintiffs were able to recover a \$3.4 million judgment for wrongful death. 25. The defamatory statement injures TON VINH LEE in his business as a simple 4 internet search reveals the claimed verdict for wrongful death. 6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff expressly reserving the right to amend this complaint prior to or at 7 the time of trial of this action, to insert those items of damage not yet fully ascertainable, prays judgement against all Defendants, and each of them, as follows: 9 1. For general damages in excess of \$10,000.00. 10 2. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs 11 3. For pre- and post-judgement interest on any award rendered herein; and 4. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper 12 BREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP Dated: April 11, 2016 14 15 By: Prescott T. Jones, Esq. 16 Nevada State Bar No. 11617 August B. Hotchkin, Esq. 17 Nevada State Bar No. 12780 Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 TON VINH LEE 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

BREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP 1180 N. Town Center Drive Sulle 250 Las Vegas, NV 88144 (702) 258-6865

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016, a true and correct copy of the foregoing document was electronically served on Wiznet upon all parties on the master e-file and serve list.

Ashley Boyd, an employee of Bremer Whyte Brown & O'Meara

SREMER WHYTE BROWN & O'MEARA LLP 1160 N. Town Center Drive Suite 250 Los Vegas, NV 89144 (702) 258-8685

Electronically Filed 5/7/2021 12:08 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

**RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.** PRESCOTT JONES Nevada Bar No. 11617 pjones@rlattorneys.com 3 MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO Nevada Bar No. 14340 malberto@rlattorneys.com 8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Telephone: (702) 997-3800 Facsimile: (702) 997-3800 7 Attorneys for Plaintiff, Ton Vinh Lee 8 9 DISTRICT COURT 10 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 11 12 CASE NO.: A-15-723134-C TON VINH LEE, 13 DEPT: 26 14 Plaintiff, v. PLAINTIFF TON VINH LEE'S 15 MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION, INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN or in the alternative, MOTION TO 16 ALTER OR AMEND JUDGMENT LAW GROUP, PLLC, a Nevada Professional **PURSUANT TO NRCP 59(e)** 17 LLC, (HEARING REQUESTED) 18 Defendants. 19 20 PLAINTIFF TON VINH LEE, by and through his counsel of record, Prescott T. Jones, 21 Esq. and Myraleigh A. Alberto, Esq. of the law firm of Resnick and Louis, P.C., hereby submits 22 this Motion for Reconsideration, or in the alternative, Motion to Alter or Amend Judgment 23 Pursuant to NRCP 59(e) ("Motion"). 24 111 25 26 27 28

This Motion is based upon the papers and pleadings on file with the Court, the exhibits attached hereto, the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and any oral argument the Court may entertain at the hearing on this Motion. DATED this 7th day of May, 2021. **RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.** By: /s/ Myraleigh A. Alberto PRESCOTT T. JONES, ESQ. State Bar Number 11617 pjones@rlattorneys.com MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO, ESQ. State Bar Number 14340 malberto@rlattorneys.com 8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220 Las Vegas, NV 89148 Telephone: (702) 997-3800 Facsimile: (702) 997-3800 Attorneys for Plaintiff Ton Vinh Lee 

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#### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

#### I. INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff Ton Vinh Lee ("Plaintiff" or "Dr. Lee") hereby files this Motion for Reconsideration and Motion to Alter or Amend Judgment respectfully requesting that the Court reconsider, or alter or amend its April 23, 2021, Order ("Order") granting Defendant Ingrid Patin and Defendant Patin Law Group, PLLC's ("PLG") respective motions for attorney fees and costs pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure ("NRCP") 68. In its Order, the Court found that Plaintiff did not obtain a more favorable outcome than the Defendants' offers of judgment, and that the Defendants' offers of judgment were reasonable in timing and amount, such that Defendants should be awarded fees and costs pursuant to NRCP 68.

Plaintiff respectfully submits this Motion on the grounds that the Court erred in finding that Plaintiff did not obtain a more favorable outcome than the Defendants' offers of judgment because the Court did not apply the complete analysis required by NRCP 68(g). Application of the complete NRCP 68(g) analysis results in a different result than what was provided in the Court's April 23, 2021, Order.

NRCP 68(g) requires Courts to compare (1) the outcome of a litigation, with (2) the amount of an offer of judgment, together with the offeree's pre-offer taxable costs, expenses, interest, and attorney fees (if attorney fees are permitted by law or contract). Here, Plaintiff is the offeree who was served with Defendants' offers of judgment. The total amount of the Defendants' offers of judgment were less than the fees, costs, interest, and expenses of Plaintiff. As a result, the total amount of Defendants' offers of judgment were in the negative. Offers in negative amounts are not offers at all, and therefore, are invalid. An invalid offer of judgment cannot provide a proper basis for an award of attorney fees and costs. Edwards Indus., Inc. v. DTE/ BTE, Inc., 112 Nev. 1025, 1035, 923 P.2d 569, 575 (1996). However, even if this Court deems Defendants' negative offers of judgment valid, Plaintiff still obtained a more favorable

result by rejecting Defendants' offers of judgment based on the amount of Plaintiff's pre-offer attorney fees alone.

#### A. Procedural History

On August 17, 2015, Plaintiff filed suit against Defendant Patin and Defendant PLG on the grounds that Defendants published on their website (patinlaw.com) a false and defamatory statement that identifies Plaintiff by name and incorrectly asserts that the Defendants' former client obtained a \$3.4 million jury verdict against Dr. Lee ("Statement"). Dr. Lee's Complaint asserted defamation *per se*, claiming that the Statement as a whole was false, defamatory, and imputed to Dr. Lee a lack of fitness in his profession as dentist and as a business owner.

After filing a total of four dispositive motions, on January 19, 2017, Defendant Patin served Plaintiff with an Offer of Judgment in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), "inclusive of all accrued interest, costs, and attorney fees, and any other sums that could be claimed by Defendant, INGRID PATIN, against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE." **Exhibit A** (Defendant Patin's January 19, 2017, Offer of Judgment).

On January 26, 2017, Defendant PLG served Plaintiff with an Offer of Judgment in the amount of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00), also "inclusive of all accrued interest, costs, and attorney fees, and any other sums that could be claimed by Defendant, PATIN LAW GROUP, against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE." **Exhibit B** (Defendant PLG's January 26, 2017, Offer of Judgment).

On August 7, 2020, Defendant filed her Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings, or in the Alternative, Motion for Summary Judgment, which was the eighth dispositive motion filed by the Defendants in this litigation. The Court granted this the August 7, 2020, motion following oral argument on September 15, 2020.

On November 29, 2020, Defendant Ingrid Patin filed her Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Interest pursuant to NRS 18.020(3) and NRCP 68. Defendant Patin Law Group filed its Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Interest pursuant to NRCP 68 on the same day.

On April 23, 2021, the Court issued its Notice of Entry of Decision and Order granting, in part, Defendant Ingrid Patin's Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Interest, and Defendant Patin Law Group's Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Interest, both pursuant to NRCP 68. For the reasons set forth below, Plaintiff now requests that the Court reconsider, or alter or amend this judgment.

#### II. <u>LEGAL STANDARD</u>

#### A. Legal Standard for Motion for Reconsideration

ECDR 2.24 permits parties to move for reconsideration of the Court's order:

(a) No motions once heard and disposed of may be renewed in the same cause, nor may the same matters therein embraced be reheard, unless by leave of the court granted upon motion therefor, after notice of such motion to the adverse parties.

(b) A party seeking reconsideration of a ruling of the court, other than any order that may be addressed by motion pursuant to NRCP 50(b), 52(b), 59 or 60, must file a motion for such relief within 14 days after service of written notice of the order or judgment unless the time is shortened or enlarged by order. A motion for rehearing or reconsideration must be served, noticed, filed and heard as is any other motion. A motion for reconsideration does not toll the period for filing a notice of appeal from a final order or judgment.

(c) If a motion for rehearing is granted, the court may make a final disposition of the cause without reargument or may reset it for reargument or resubmission or may make such other orders as are deemed appropriate under the circumstances of the particular case.

(emphasis added). Pursuant to EDCR 2.24(b), a motion for reconsideration must be filed within 14 days after service of the court's notice of the order. Here, the Order in question was filed on April 23, 2021, and as a result, the instant Motion is timely.

"A district court may reconsider a previously decided issue if substantially different evidence is subsequently introduced or the decision is clearly erroneous." Masonry and Tile Contractors Ass 'n of S. Nev. v. Jolley, Urga & Wirth, Ltd., 113 Nev. 737, 741, 941 P.2d 486, 489 (1997). A court may exercise its discretion to revisit and reverse a prior ruling if one of five circumstances is present. See U.S. v. Real Prop. Located at Incline Vill., 976 F. Supp. 1327, 1353 (D. Nev. 1997). Those circumstances are: (l) a clearly erroneous prior ruling, (2) an intervening change in controlling law, (3) substantially different evidence, (4) 'other changed circumstances,' and (5) that 'manifest injustice' would result were the prior ruling permitted to

stand. <u>Id</u>. Further, reconsideration is proper where "the Court has overlooked or misapprehended a material matter" or "in such other circumstances as will promote substantial justice." <u>In Re: Dunleavy</u>, 104 Nev. 784, 769 P.2d 1271 (1988).

Here, Plaintiff respectfully asserts that the Court erred in determining that Plaintiff failed to obtain a more favorable outcome than Defendants' offers of judgment because it did not apply the complete analysis required by NRCP 68(g). Accordingly, Plaintiff requests, that the Court reconsider its April 23, 2021, Order granting Defendants' motions for attorney fees and costs due the grounds set forth below.

#### B. Legal Standard for Motion to Alter or Amend Judgment Pursuant to NRCP 59(e)

NRCP 59(e) permits parties to move to alter or amend a judgment on a motion, within 28 days after service of written entry of judgment. Here, the Order in question was filed on April 23, 2021, and as a result, the instant Motion is timely. Additionally, pursuant to NRAP 4(C), a motion filed under Rule 59 to alter or amend a judgment will toll the time to file a notice of appeal until 30 days after entry of an order disposing such motion.

NRCP 59(e) echoes Fed. R. Civ. P. 59(e), and this Court may consult federal law in interpreting it. See AA Primo Builders, LLC v. Washington, 126 Nev. 578, 582 (2010); Coury v. Robison, 115 Nev. 84, 91 n.4, 976 P.2d 518, 522 n.4 (1999).

Because its terms are so general, Federal Rule 59(e) 'has been interpreted as permitting a motion to vacate a judgment rather than merely amend it,' and as 'cover[ing] a broad range of motions, [with] the only real limitation on the type of motion permitted [being] that it must request a substantive alteration of the judgment, not merely correction of a clerical error, or relief of a type wholly collateral to the judgment.'

<u>Id</u>. (internal citations omitted). Among the "basic grounds" for a Rule 59(e) motion are (1) "correct[ing] manifest errors of law or fact," (2) "newly discovered or previously unavailable evidence," (3) the need "to prevent manifest injustice," or (4) a "change in controlling law." *Id*.

Plaintiff again respectfully asserts that the Court erred in determining that Plaintiff failed to obtain a more favorable outcome than Defendants' offers of judgment because it did not apply the complete analysis required by NRCP 68(g). Accordingly, Plaintiff requests, in the alternative,

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that the Court's April 23, 2021, Order granting Defendants' motions for attorney fees and costs be vacated under NRCP 59(e) due the grounds set forth below.

#### C. Legal Standard for Award of Costs Pursuant to NRCP 68

NRCP 68(f) provides the penalties for rejecting an offer of judgment:

#### (f) Penalties for Rejection of Offer.

- (1) In General. If the offeree rejects an offer and fails to obtain a more favorable judgment:
  - (A) the offeree cannot recover any costs, expenses, or attorney fees and may not recover interest for the period after the service of the offer and before the judgment; and
  - (B) the offeree must pay the offeror's post-offer costs and expenses, including a reasonable sum to cover any expenses incurred by the offeror for each expert witness whose services were reasonably necessary to prepare for and conduct the trial of the case, applicable interest on the judgment from the time of the offer to the time of entry of the judgment and reasonable attorney fees, if any be allowed, actually incurred by the offeror from the time of the offer. If the offeror's attorney is collecting a contingent fee, the amount of any attorney fees awarded to the party for whom the offer is made must be deducted from that contingent fee.

Nevada Courts have recognized that where the court properly weighs the factors set forth in Beattie v. Thomas, courts have discretion to allow attorney fees under NRCP 68. 99 Nev. 579 (1983); see Bidart v. American Title Ins. Co., 103 Nev. 175 (1987). Courts exercising discretion in allowing fees and costs under NRCP 68 must evaluate the following factors:

(1) whether the plaintiff's claim was brought in good faith; (2) whether the defendants' offer of judgment was reasonable and in good faith in both its timing and amount; (3) whether the plaintiff's decision to reject the offer and proceed to trial was grossly unreasonable or in bad faith; and (4) whether the fees sought by the offeror are reasonable and justified in amount.

Beattie, 99 Nev. at 588-9; see also Uniroyal Goodrich Tire Co. v. Mercer, 111 Nev. 318, 890 P.2d 785 (1995). The Beattie Court found that "[a]fter weighing the foregoing factors, the district judge may, where warranted, award up to the full amount of fees requested. On the other hand, where the court has failed to consider these factors, and has made no findings based on evidence that the attorney's fees sought are reasonable and justified, it is an abuse of discretion for the court to award the full amount of fees requested." 99 Nev. at 589. Accordingly, the Nevada Supreme Court has reviewed awards of fees/costs based on an offers of judgment for abuse of discretion. LaForge v. State ex rel. Univ. & Cmty. College Sys., 116 Nev. 415, 423-4

(2000); O'Connell v. Wynn Las Vegas, LLC, 2018 Nev. App. LEXIS 6, 8 (2018). Further, the Beattie Court stated that the purpose of NRCP 68 is to encourage settlement, and it is not to force plaintiffs into forgoing legitimate claims. Id. at 588.

#### III. LEGAL ARGUMENT

## A. The Court Must Apply the Full NRCP 68(g) Analysis to Determine Whether Plaintiff Obtained a More Favorable Outcome

In applying the <u>Beattie</u> factors, the Court found that Plaintiff's case was brought in good faith and that Plaintiff's decision to reject the offers were not grossly unreasonable or in bad faith. However, the Court also found that Defendants' offers of judgement were reasonable in time and amount. <u>See Beattie</u>, 99 Nev. at 588-89. Specifically, the Court ruled that Plaintiff did not beat the Defendants' offers of judgment (inclusive of Defendants' attorney fees, costs, interest, and expenses) and granted Defendants' requests for fees and costs pursuant to NRCP 68.

Plaintiff respectfully submits the instant Motion on the grounds that the Court did not apply the complete analysis required by NRCP 68(g) for determining whether the offeree obtained a more favorable judgment than the offer. NRCP 68(g) sets forth how the Court must consider costs, expenses, interest, and attorney fees in deciding whether a more favorable judgment was obtained:

(g) How Costs, Expenses, Interest, and Attorney Fees Are Considered. To invoke the penalties of this rule, the court must determine if the offeree failed to obtain a more favorable judgment. If the offer provided that costs, expenses, interest, and if attorney fees are permitted by law or contract, attorney fees, would be added by the court, the court must compare the amount of the offer with the principal amount of the judgment, without inclusion of costs, expenses, issnterest, and if attorney fees are permitted by law or contract, attorney fees. If a party made an offer in a set amount that precluded a separate award of costs, expenses, interest, and if attorney fees are permitted by law or contract, attorney fees, the court must compare the amount of the offer, together with the offeree's pre-offer taxable costs, expenses, interest, and if attorney fees are permitted by law or contract, attorney fees, with the principal amount of the judgment.

(emphasis added). In its April 23, 2021, Order, the Court did not apply Plaintiff's pre-offer attorney fees, costs, interest, and expenses to the amounts of the Defendants' offers (inclusive of each Defendant's interest, costs, attorney fees, and expenses) when evaluating whether Plaintiff obtained a more favorable outcome. Further, Plaintiff respectfully submits that applying the

complete NRCP 68(g) analysis results in a different outcome than what was provided in the Court's April 23, 2021, Order.

Pursuant to NRCP 68(g), the Court <u>must</u> evaluate whether Plaintiff obtained a more favorable judgment by comparing (1) the outcome of the litigation, with (2) the amount of the offer of judgment, together with the pre-offer costs, expenses, interest, and attorney fees incurred by Plaintiff, the offeree. Applying this analysis to each Defendant's offer of judgment results in a negative offer amount for each Defendant due to the amount of Plaintiff's pre-offer fees, costs, expenses, and interest.

First, was no monetary judgment in this matter, making the judgment amount \$0.

Next, the amount of each Defendant's offer of judgment was for \$1,000.00, inclusive of each Defendant's interest, costs, attorney fees, and expenses. **Exhibits A-B**. Each Defendant's \$1,000.00 offer of judgment (inclusive of each Defendant's interest, costs, attorney fees, and expenses) must then be considered with Plaintiff's pre-offer interest, costs, attorney fees, and expenses. NRCP 68(g). Plaintiff had spent over \$10,000.00 in attorney fees alone by the time Defendants served their offers of judgment. Defendant Patin filed her Offer of Judgment on January 19, 2017, and Defendant PLG filed its offer of judgment ton January 26, 2017. By March 17, 2016, Plaintiff had spent at least \$10,000.00 on attorney fees in this litigation. **Exhibit C** (Plaintiff's Supplemental Opposition to Defendant Patin's Motion for Attorney Fees, Costs, and Interest, Declaration of Ton Vinh Lee) at p3, lines 19-24.

Because the amount of Plaintiff's pre-offer attorney fees alone far exceeded the amounts of each Defendant's \$1,000.00 offer of judgment, the amounts of each Defendant's offer of judgment were in the negative. An offer of judgment in a negative amount cannot constitute a valid offer because it is not an offer at all. Nevada Courts have held that an invalid offer of judgment cannot serve as the basis for an award of attorney fees. See Edwards Indus. Inc. v. DTE/BTE. Inc., 112 Nev. 1025, 1035, 923 P.2d 569, 575 (1996) (concluding that an invalid offer of judgment could not provide a proper basis for an award of attorney fees and costs).

Even if Defendants' negative offers of judgment are deemed valid by this Court, Defendants' offers of judgment still did not present a more favorable outcome for Plaintiff based on the amount he has spent in attorney fees alone. See Exhibit C (regarding amount spent by Plaintiff on attorney fees). There was no monetary judgment in this matter, making the judgment amount \$0. If Plaintiff had accepted Defendants' offers of judgment, Plaintiff would have received \$1,000.00 for each Defendant (inclusive of Defendants' fees, costs, and interest), less Plaintiff's own attorney fees, costs, and interest, which amounted to over \$10,000.00 by the time Defendants served their offers. As a result, Defendants' offers of judgment did not present a more favorable outcome for Plaintiff.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Plaintiff respectfully requests that the Court reconsider, or alter or amend its April 23, 2021 Order granting, in part, Defendants' motions for attorney fees and costs pursuant to NRCP 68.

DATED this 7th day of May, 2021.

#### **RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.**

/s/ Myraleigh A. Alberto PRESCOTT JONES Nevada Bar No. 11617 MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO Nevada Bar No. 14340 8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220 Las Vegas, NV 89148 Attorneys for Plaintiff, Ton Vinh Lee

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE 1 I HEREBY CERTIFY that service of the foregoing PLAINTIFF TON VINH LEE'S 2 MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION, or in the alternative, MOTION TO ALTER OR 3 4 AMEND JUDGMENT PURSUANT TO NRCP 59(e) was served this 7th day of May, 2021, 5 by: 6 [ ] BY U.S. MAIL: by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with 7 postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Las Vegas, Nevada, addressed as set forth below. 8 BY FACSIMILE: by transmitting via facsimile the document(s) listed above to the fax 9 number(s) set forth below on this date before 5:00 p.m. pursuant to EDCR Rule 7.26(a). 10 A printed transmission record is attached to the file copy of this document. 11 BY PERSONAL SERVICE: by causing personal delivery by an employee of Resnick [] & Louis, P.C. of the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set 12 forth below. 13 BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE: by transmitting via the Court's electronic filing [X]14 services the document(s) listed above to the Counsel set forth on the service list on this date pursuant to EDCR Rule 7.26(c)(4). 15 16 Christian M. Morris, Esq. 17 **NETTLES MORRIS** 1389 Galleria Dr., Suite 200 18 Henderson, NV 89014 Attorney for Defendant Ingrid Patin 19 Kerry J. Doyle, Esq. 20 **DOYLE LAW GROUP** 21 7375 S. Pecos Rd., #101 Las Vegas, NV 89120 22 Attorney for Defendant Patin Law Group, PLLC 23 24 25 /s/ Brittany Willis 26 An Employee of Resnick & Louis, P.C.

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#### **ELECTRONICALLY SERVED** 01/19/2017 11:34:47 AM

CASE NO.: A-15-723134-C

**DEFENDANT, INGRID PATIN'S OFFER** 

OF JUDGMENT TO PLAINTIFF

DEPT NO .: IX

LES LA	1389 Galleria Dr. Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014	0
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1	OFFR
2	CHRISTIAN M. MORRIS, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 11218
3	NETTLES LAW FIRM
4	1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 Henderson, Nevada 89014
5	Telephone: (702) 434-8282
	Facsimile: (702) 434-1488 christian@nettleslawfirm.com
6	Attorney for Defendant, Ingrid Patin
7	8
8	
9	CL
10	TON VINH LEE, an individual,

#### DISTRICT COURT ARK COUNTY, NEVADA

Plaintiff,

v.

TO:

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

Defendants.

TON VINH LEE, Plaintiff; and

PRESCOTT JONES, ESQ. of RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff. TO:

Pursuant to Rule 68 of the N.R.C.P., Defendant, INGRID PATIN, hereby offers to allow judgment to be taken in her favor, only, and against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, in the aboveentitled matter in the total amount of ONE THOUSAND AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$1,000.00), inclusive of all accrued interest, costs, and attorney fees, and any other sums that could be claimed by Defendant, INGRID PATIN, against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, in the above-captioned action.

Pursuant to Rule 68 of the N.R.C.P., this offer shall be open for a period of ten (10) days from the date of service of this Offer. In the event this Offer of Judgment is accepted by Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, Defendant, INGRID PATIN, will elect to pay the amount offered here within a

# NETTLES LAW FIRM 1389 Galleria Dr. Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014 702-434-8282 / 702-434-1488 (fax)

reasonable time and obtain a dismissal of the claim as provided by N.R.C.P. 68(d), rather than to allow judgment to be entered against Defendant, INGRID PATIN.

This Offer of Judgment is made solely for the purposes intended by N.R.C.P. 68 and is not to be construed as an admission in any form, shape or manner that Defendant, INGRID PATIN, is liable for any of the allegations made by Plaintiff in the Complaint. Nor is it an admission that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief, including, but not limited to, an award of damages, attorney's fees, costs or interest and is nullified by any such award.

DATED this / day of January, 2017.

**NETTLES LAW FIRM** 

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

Henderson, NV 89014
Attorneys for Defendant, Ingrid Patin

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NEFCR 9, NRCP 5(b) and EDCR 7.26, I certify that on this  $\frac{Q}{Q}$  day January, 2017, I served the foregoing **DEFENDANT**, **INGRID PATIN'S OFFER OF JUDGMENT TO PLAINTIFF** to the following parties by electronic transmission through the Wiznet system:

protection and the second		Email	
CONTROL AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE PART	Coreene Drose	cdrose@rlattorneys.com	
4.80 EP460.00 27	Lisa Bell	lbell@rlattorneys.com	
esnick & Loui	is, P.C.		
	Contact	Email	
The continue of the second	Prescott Jones	pjones@rlattorneys.com	

An Employee of NET(TSES LAW FIRM

1 OFFR PAUL E. LARSEN Nevada Bar No. 003756 3 JEREMY J. THOMPSON Nevada Bar No. 012503 4 MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LLP 3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Suite 500 5 Las Vegas, NV 89169 E Telephone: (702) 862-8300 Facsimile: (702) 862 - 8400 7 plarsen@mpplaw.com ithompson@mpplaw.com 8 Attorneys for Patin Law Group, PLLC 3 10 DISTRICT COURT 11 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 12 13 TON VIN LEE, an individual. Case No: A723134 Dept. No: IX 14 Plaintiff. V. DEFENDANT PATIN LAW 15 GROUP, PLLC'S OFFER OF 16 INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN JUDGMENT TO PLAINTIFF LAW GROUP, PLLC, a Nevada Professional 17 LLC. Defendants. 18 19 20 TO: TON VINH LEE, Plaintiff; and 21 TO: PRESCOTT JONES, ESQ. of RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C., Counsel for Plaintiff. 22 Pursuant to Rule 68 of the N.R.C.P., Defendant, PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC, hereby 23 offers to allow judgment to be taken in her favor, only, and against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, in 24 the above-entitled matter in the total amount of ONE THOUSAND AND NO/100THS 25 DOLLARS (\$1,000.00), inclusive of all accrued interest, costs, and attorney fees, and any other 26 sums that could be claimed by Defendant, PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC, against Plaintiff, TOM 2.7 VINH LEE, in the above-captioned action. 28

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Pursuant to Rule 68 of the N.R.C.P., this offer shall be open for a period of ten (10) days from the date of service of this Offer. In the event this Offer of Judgment is accepted by Plaintiff. TON VINH LEE, Defendant, PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC, will elect to pay the amount offered here within a reasonable time and obtain a dismissal of the claim as provided by N.R.C.P. 68(d), rather than to allow judgment to be entered against Defendant, PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC.

This Offer of Judgment is made solely for the purposes intended by N.R.C.P. 68 and is not to be construed as an admission in any form, shape or manner that Defendant, PATIN LAW GROUP, PLLC, is liable for any of the allegations made by Plaintiff in the Complaint. Nor is it an admission that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief, including, but not limited to, an award of damages, attorney's fees, costs or interest and is nullified by any such award.

DATED this <u>W</u> day of January, 2017.

#### MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LLP

PAUL ENLARSEN Nevada Bar No. 003756

JEREMY J. THOMPSON

Nevada Bar No. 012503

MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LLP

3800 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Suite 500

Las Vegas, NV 89169

Telephone: (702) 862-8300 Facsimile: (702) 862 – 8400

plarsen@mpplaw.com ithompson@mpplaw.com

Attorneys for Patin Law Group, PLLC

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NEFCR 9, NRCP 5(b) and EDCR 7.26, I certify that on this <u>Q6</u> day January, 2017, I served the foregoing **DEFENDANT PATIN LAW GROUP**, **PLLC'S OFFER OF JUDGMENT TO PLAINTIFF** to the following parties by electronic transmission through the Wiznet system:

•		
	Resnick & Louis	
	Contact	Email
	Coreene Drose	cdrose@riattomeys.com
	Lisa Beli	ibeli@rlattornevs.com

Resnick & Louis,	P.C.	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Contact	Email
	Prescott Jones	pjones@haltorneys.com

AMEMPIOYEE OF MORRIS POLICH & PURDY LL

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# EXHIBIT C

Electronically Filed 2/3/2021 12:16 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **SUPP RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.** PRESCOTT JONES Nevada Bar No. 11617 3 pjones@rlattorneys.com MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO Nevada Bar No. 14340 malberto@rlattorneys.com 8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Telephone: (702) 997-3800 Facsimile: (702) 997-3800 Attorneys for Plaintiff, 8 Ton Vinh Lee 9 DISTRICT COURT 10 11 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 12 13 CASE NO.: A-15-723134-C TON VINH LEE. 14 DEPT: 26 Plaintiff, 15 PLAINTIFF TON VINH LEE'S SUPPLEMENTAL OPPOSITION TO 16 INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN **DEFENDANT INGRID PATIN'S** LAW GROUP, PLLC, a Nevada Professional MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES, 17 COSTS, AND INTEREST LLC, 18 Defendants. 19 20 COMES NOW, Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, by and through his attorneys of record, 21 PRESCOTT T. JONES, ESQ. and MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO, ESQ. of the law firm of 22 RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C., hereby submits this SUPPLEMENTAL OPPOSITION TO 23 DEFENDANT INGRID PATIN'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND 24 INTEREST. 25 26 27

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This Supplement and the original Opposition are based upon the papers and pleadings on file with the Court, the exhibits attached hereto, the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, and any oral argument the Court may entertain at the hearing on this matter.

DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021.

#### **RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.**

/s/ Myraleigh A. Alberto

PRESCOTT JONES
Nevada Bar No. 11617
MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO
Nevada Bar No. 14340
8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220
Las Vegas, NV 89148
Attorneys for Plaintiff,
Ton Vinh Lee

#### I

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#### **DECLARATION OF TON VINH LEE**

- I, TON VINH LEE, pursuant to NRS 53.045, declare:
- 1. I am over the age of 21 years, and I am authorized to make the below representations based upon my own personal knowledge and/or upon information and belief where stated.
  - 2. I am the Plaintiff in Eighth Judicial District Court Case No. A-15-723134-C.
- 3. I make this Declaration in support of the Opposition to Defendant Ingrid Patin's Motion for Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Interest, and Supplement thereto, filed in Eighth Judicial District Court Case No. A-15-723134-C.
- 4. On January 19, 2017, Defendant Ingrid Patin served an Offer of Judgment in the amount of "ONE THOUSAND AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$1,000.00), inclusive of all accrued interest, costs, and attorney fees, and any other sums that could be claimed by Defendant, INGRID PATIN, against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, in the above-captioned litigation."
- 5. On October 30, 2020, this Court issued its Order granting Defendant Patin's Motion for Summary Judgment and Defendant Pain Law Group's joinder.
- 6. On November 19, 2020, Defendant Patin filed her Motion for Attorney Fees and Costs.
- 7. By March 17, 2016, I had spent at least \$10,000.00 in attorney fees in this litigation.
- 8. Upon retaining my attorney, Prescott Jones, Esq., for this litigation, and prior to filing of my August 17, 2015, Complaint, I paid my attorney a retainer of \$10,000.00. The initial \$10,000.00 retainer was depleted by attorney fees by March 17, 2016. As a result, on March 17, 2016, I deposited an additional \$10,000.00 to my retainer account for this litigation.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, memory, and understanding. DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021. /s/ Ton Vinh Lee Ton Vinh Lee 

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

I.

#### LEGAL ARGUMENT

A. Defendant Ingrid Patin is Not Entitled to Attorney's Fees, Costs, and Interest Pursuant to NRCP 68 Because Plaintiff Beat Defendant's Offer of Judgment, Which Was Inclusive of Attorney Fees

Defendant argues that she is also entitled to attorneys' fees, costs, and interest pursuant to NRCP 68(f), which states:

(f) Penalties for Rejection of Offer.

- (1) In General. If the offeree rejects an offer and fails to obtain a more favorable judgment:
  - (A) the offeree cannot recover any costs, expenses, or attorney fees and may not recover interest for the period after the service of the offer and before the judgment; and
  - (B) the offeree must pay the offeror's post-offer costs and expenses, including a reasonable sum to cover any expenses incurred by the offeror for each expert witness whose services were reasonably necessary to prepare for and conduct the trial of the case, applicable interest on the judgment from the time of the offer to the time of entry of the judgment and reasonable attorney fees, if any be allowed, actually incurred by the offeror from the time of the offer. If the offeror's attorney is collecting a contingent fee, the amount of any attorney fees awarded to the party for whom the offer is made must be deducted from that contingent fee.

On January 19, 2017, Defendant Ingrid Patin served an Offer of Judgment ("OOJ") in the amount of "ONE THOUSAND AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$1,000.00), inclusive of all accrued interest, costs, and attorney fees, and any other sums that could be claimed by Defendant, INGRID PATIN, against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, in the above-captioned litigation" (emphasis added). See Exhibit A. Plaintiff allowed Defendant's OOJ to expire, effectively rejecting the OOJ.

By March 17, 2016, Dr. Lee had spent at least \$10,000.00 on attorney fees in this litigation, which far exceeds Defendant Ingrid Patin's \$1,000.00 OOJ. Upon retaining counsel for this litigation, Dr. Lee paid an initial retainer of \$10,000.00 prior to filing his August 17, 2015, Complaint. By March 17, 2016, the initial \$10,000.00 retainer had been depleted by attorney fees. As a result, Dr. Lee deposited an additional \$10,000.00 to his retainer account on March 17, 2016 for this litigation. Defendant Patin's \$1,000.00 OOJ is clear that it is inclusive

of attorney fees. Accordingly, Defendant Ingrid Patin is not entitled to an award of attorney 1 fees because her OOJ did not present a more favorable outcome for Dr. Lee based on the 2 3 amount he has spent in attorney fees alone. III. 4 5 **CONCLUSION** 6 For the reasons set forth in this Supplemental Opposition, Defendant Ingrid Patin is not 7 entitled to an award of attorneys' fees, costs, and interest. Accordingly, Plaintiff respectfully 8 requests that this Court deny Defendant Ingrid Patin's Motion for Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and 9 Interest. 10 DATED this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 2021. 11 **RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.** 12 /s/ Myraleigh A. Alberto 13 PRESCOTT JONES 14 Nevada Bar No. 11617 MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO 15 Nevada Bar No. 14340 8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220 16 Las Vegas, NV 89148 17 Attorneys for Plaintiff, Ton Vinh Lee 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

1	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>				
2	I HEREBY CERTIFY that service of the foregoing PLAINTIFF TON VINH LEE'S				
3	SUPPLEMENTAL OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT INGRID PATIN'S MOTION FOR				
	ATTORNEYS' FEES, COSTS, AND INTEREST was served this 3 <sup>rd</sup> day of February*				
4	2021, by:				
5					
6 7	[] BY U.S. MAIL: by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Las Vegas, Nevada, addressed as set forth below.				
8					
9	BY FACSIMILE: by transmitting via facsimile the document(s) listed above to the fax number(s) set forth below on this date before 5:00 p.m. pursuant to EDCR Rule 7.26(a) A printed transmission record is attached to the file copy of this document.				
10	BY PERSONAL SERVICE: by causing personal delivery by an employee of Resnick				
12	& Louis, P.C. of the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below.				
13	[X] BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE: by transmitting via the Court's electronic filing				
14	services the document(s) listed above to the Counsel set forth on the service list on this date pursuant to EDCR Rule 7.26(c)(4).				
15					
6	Christian M. Morris, Esq. NETTLES MORRIS				
7	1389 Galleria Dr., Suite 200				
8	Henderson, NV 89014 Attorney for Defendant Ingrid Patin				
9					
20	Kerry J. Doyle, Esq.  DOYLE LAW GROUP				
21	7375 S. Pecos Rd., #101				
22	Las Vegas, NV 89120 Attorney for Defendant Patin Law Group, PLLC				
23					
24	/s/ Susan Carbone				
25	An Employee of Resnick & Louis, P.C.				
26	an Employee of Residence Eduis, 1 ie.				
7					

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NETTLES LAW FIRM	1389 Galleria Dr. Suite 200	Henderson, NV 89014	702-434-8282 / 702-434-1488 (fax)
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1	OFFR
2	CHRISTIAN M. MORRIS, ESQ.
2	Nevada Bar No. 11218
3	NETTLES LAW FIRM
5	1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200
4	Henderson, Nevada 89014
	Telephone: (702) 434-8282
5	Facsimile: (702) 434-1488
6	christian@nettleslawfirm.com
U	Attorney for Defendant, Ingrid Patin
7	=
8	
0	
9	CL

# DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

TON VINH LEE, an individual,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO.: A-15-723134-C

DEPT NO.: IX

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

DEFENDANT, INGRID PATIN'S OFFER OF JUDGMENT TO PLAINTIFF

Defendants.

TO: TON VINH LEE, Plaintiff; and

TO: PRESCOTT JONES, ESQ. of RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C., Attorney for Plaintiff.

Pursuant to Rule 68 of the N.R.C.P., Defendant, INGRID PATIN, hereby offers to allow judgment to be taken in her favor, only, and against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, in the above-entitled matter in the total amount of ONE THOUSAND AND NO/100THS DOLLARS (\$1,000.00), inclusive of all accrued interest, costs, and attorney fees, and any other sums that could be claimed by Defendant, INGRID PATIN, against Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, in the above-captioned action.

Pursuant to Rule 68 of the N.R.C.P., this offer shall be open for a period of ten (10) days from the date of service of this Offer. In the event this Offer of Judgment is accepted by Plaintiff, TON VINH LEE, Defendant, INGRID PATIN, will elect to pay the amount offered here within a

# NETTLES LAW FIRM 1389 Galleria Dr. Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014 702-434-8282 / 702-434-1488 (fax)

reasonable time and obtain a dismissal of the claim as provided by N.R.C.P. 68(d), rather than to allow judgment to be entered against Defendant, INGRID PATIN.

This Offer of Judgment is made solely for the purposes intended by N.R.C.P. 68 and is not to be construed as an admission in any form, shape or manner that Defendant, INGRID PATIN, is liable for any of the allegations made by Plaintiff in the Complaint. Nor is it an admission that Plaintiff is entitled to any relief, including, but not limited to, an award of damages, attorney's fees, costs or interest and is nullified by any such award.

DATED this / day of January, 2017.

**NETTLES LAW FIRM** 

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

Attorneys for Defendant, Ingrid Patin

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Pursuant to NEFCR 9, NRCP 5(b) and EDCR 7.26, I certify that on this Again day January, 2017, I served the foregoing **DEFENDANT**, **INGRID PATIN'S OFFER OF JUDGMENT TO PLAINTIFF** to the following parties by electronic transmission through the Wiznet system:

Resnick & Lo	Contact	Email
	Coreene Drose	cdrose@rlattorneys.com
19-4	Lisa Bell	lbell@rlattorneys.com
100-4 Sydneys	285.808682.8082.708062.23308182.2334.43.434.433.5304	
Resnick & Lo	ouis, P.C.	
Resnick & Lo	ouis, P.C. Contact	Email
Resnick & Lo		Email pjones@rlattorneys.com

An Employee of NETTINES LAW FIRM

Electronically Filed 6/11/2021 1:57 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

28

RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.
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Nevada Bar No. 14340
malberto@rlattorneys.com
8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148
Telephone: (702) 997-3800
Facsimile: (702) 997-3800
Attorneys for Plaintiff,

# DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

TON VINH LEE,

Plaintiff,

V.

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

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

Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO AMEND OR ALTER JUDGMENT PURSUANT TO NRCP 59(E) was entered on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021, a copy of which is attached hereto.

DATED this 11th day of June, 2021.

#### **RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.**

/s/ Prescott Jones

PRESCOTT JONES, SBN: 11617 MYRALEIGH A. ALBERTO, SBN: 14340 8925 W. Russell Road, Suite 220 Las Vegas, NV 89148 Attorneys for Plaintiff, Ton Vinh Lee

#### 1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 I HEREBY CERTIFY that service of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF 3 **ORDER** was served this 11<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021, by: 4 5 [] BY U.S. MAIL: by placing the document(s) listed above in a sealed envelope with postage thereon fully prepaid, in the United States mail at Las Vegas, Nevada, 6 addressed as set forth below. 7 BY FACSIMILE: by transmitting via facsimile the document(s) listed above to the fax [] number(s) set forth below on this date before 5:00 p.m. pursuant to EDCR Rule 7.26(a). 8 A printed transmission record is attached to the file copy of this document. 9 [] BY PERSONAL SERVICE: by causing personal delivery by an employee of Resnick 10 & Louis, P.C. of the document(s) listed above to the person(s) at the address(es) set forth below. 11 12 [X]BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE: by transmitting via the Court's electronic filing services the document(s) listed above to the Counsel set forth on the service list on this 13 date pursuant to EDCR Rule 7.26(c)(4). 14 15 Christian M. Morris, Esq. **NETTLES MORRIS** 16 1389 Galleria Dr., Suite 200 Henderson, NV 89014 17 Attorney for Defendant Ingrid Patin 18 Kerry J. Doyle, Esq. 19 **DOYLE LAW GROUP** 7375 S. Pecos Rd., #101 20 Las Vegas, NV 89120 Attorney for Defendant Patin Law Group, PLLC 21 22 23 /s/ Susan Carbone 24 An Employee of Resnick & Louis, P.C. 25 26 27

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CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **ORDR RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.** 2 PRESCOTT JONES Nevada Bar No. 11617 3 piones@rlattorneys.com 8925 W. Russell Rd., Ste. 220 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Telephone: (702) 997-1029 5 Facsimile: (702) 997-3800 Attorneys for Plaintiff, 6 Ton Vinh Lee 7 DISTRICT COURT 8 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 TON VINH LEE, CASE NO.: A-15-723134-C 11 Plaintiff. DEPT: 26 12 v. 13 ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S INGRID PATIN, an individual, and PATIN MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION, 14 LAW GROUP, PLLC, a Nevada Professional OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION LLC, TO AMEND OR ALTER JUDGMENT 15 **PURSUANT TO NRCP 59(E)** Defendants. 16 17 18 19 This matter came on for Hearing on May 19, 2021, before the Honorable Judge Gloria J. 20 Sturman. The Court having read and considered the pleadings on file, having heard the oral 21 arguments of counsel, and having considered the matter and being fully advised, and good cause 22 appearing therefore, finds as follows: 23 THIS COURT FINDS that Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration or, in the Alternative. 24 Motion to Amend or Alter Judgment, does not challenge the amount of attorney's fees awarded. 25 but rather challenges the granting of attorney's fees itself. 26 27

- 1			
1	THIS COURT FURTHER FINDS that Plaintiff's arguments regarding application		
2	NRCP 68(g) to be interesting but do not warrant reconsideration of the Court's April 21, 202		
3	Decision and Order.		
4	THIS COURT HEREBY ORDERS Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration or, in t		
5	Alternative, Motion to Amend or Alter Judgmen	nt is DENIED.	
6			
7	DATED this day of	, 2021.	
8		D-4-141-1-441-1	
9		Dated this 11th day of June, 2021	
10		DISTRICT COURT JUDGE	
11		CBB DD8 D89A FB17 Gloria Sturman	
12	Submitted by:	District Court Judge	
13	RESNICK & LOUIS, P.C.		
14			
15	/s/ Prescott Jones		
16	PRESCOTT JONES		
17	Nevada Bar No. 11617 8925 W. Russell Rd, Suite 220		
18	Las Vegas, NV 89148 pjones@rlattorneys.com		
19	Telephone: (702) 997-1029 Facsimile: (702) 997-3800		
20	Attorneys for Plaintiff, Ton Vinh Lee		
21	Ton vant Lee		
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1	Reviewed and approved as to form and content by:
1 2	NETTLES MORRIS
3	/s/ Christian Morris
4	
5	CHRISTIAN MORRIS, ESQ. Nevada Bar. No. 11218
6	1389 Galleria Drive, Suite 200 Henderson, Nevada 89014
7	Attorneys for Defendant, Ingrid Patin
8	
9	DOVI E LAW CDOUD LLC
10	DOYLE LAW GROUP, LLC
11	/s/ Kerry Doyle
12	KERRY DOYLE, ESQ.
13	Nevada Bar. No. 11218 7375 S. Pecos Rd., Suite 101
14	Las Vegas, Nevada 89120 Attorneys for Defendant,
15	Patin Law Group PLLC
16	
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From:

Christian Morris

To: Cc: Prescott Jones; kdoyle@doylelawgrouplv.com Jenn Alexy; Susan Carbone; Myraleigh Alberto

Subject:

RE: Lee v. Patin - Proposed Order

Date:

Monday, May 31, 2021 2:11:54 PM

Attachments:

image001.png

Hi Prescott,

You may affix my signature.

Thank you, Christian

**From:** Prescott Jones <pjones@rlattorneys.com>

Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 3:01 PM

To: Christian Morris <Christian@nettlesmorris.com>; kdoyle@doylelawgrouply.com

Cc: Jenn Alexy <Jenn@nettlesmorris.com>; Susan Carbone <scarbone@rlattorneys.com>; Myraleigh

Alberto < malberto@rlattornevs.com > Subject: Lee v. Patin - Proposed Order

Hi Christian and Kerry –

Attached is the proposed order on my client's Motion for Reconsideration for your review. Please let me know if you have any revisions by the end of the day Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Hope you both have a great holiday weekend.

Regards,

#### Prescott T. Jones, Esq.

Resnick & Louis, P.C. 8925 West Russell Road, Suite 220 Las Vegas, NV 89148

Direct Phone: 702-997-1029 piones@rlattornevs.com http://www.rlattornevs.com



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From: Kerry Doyle
To: Prescott Jones

Cc: Christian Morris; Jenn Alexy; Susan Carbone; Myraleigh Alberto

Subject: Re: Lee v. Patin - Proposed Order

Date: Tuesday, June 1, 2021 9:30:51 AM

Attachments: PastedGraphic-2.tiff

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#### Yes. Please.

Kerry J. Doyle, Esq.
Doyle Law Group
7375 S. Pecos Rd. #101
Las Vegas, NV 89120
702.706.3323 (general)
702.921.7823 (fax)
kdoyle@DoyleLawGroupLV.com
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lands.

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On Jun 1, 2021, at 9:29 AM, Prescott Jones piones@rlattornevs.com wrote:

Thank you Christian. Kerry – do we have your authority to include your signature?

#### Prescott T. Jones, Esq.

Resnick & Louis, P.C. 8925 West Russell Road, Suite 220 Las Vegas, NV 89148

Direct Phone: 702-997-1029 pjones@rlattorneys.com http://www.rlattorneys.com

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From: Christian Morris < <a href="mailto:Christian@nettlesmorris.com">Christian@nettlesmorris.com</a>>

**Sent:** Monday, May 31, 2021 2:12 PM

To: Prescott Jones com; kdoyle@doylelawgrouply.com

**Cc:** Jenn Alexy < <u>Jenn@nettlesmorris.com</u>>; Susan Carbone

<scarbone@rlattorneys.com>; Myraleigh Alberto <malberto@rlattorneys.com>

Subject: RE: Lee v. Patin - Proposed Order

Hi Prescott, You may affix my signature. Thank you, Christian

From: Prescott Jones <piones@rlattornevs.com>

Sent: Friday, May 28, 2021 3:01 PM

To: Christian Morris < <a href="mailto:Christian@nettlesmorris.com">Christian@nettlesmorris.com</a>; <a href="mailto:kdoyle@doylelawgrouply.com">kdoyle@doylelawgrouply.com</a>

**Cc:** Jenn Alexy < <u>Jenn@nettlesmorris.com</u>>; Susan Carbone

<scarbone@rlattorneys.com>; Myraleigh Alberto <malberto@rlattorneys.com>

Subject: Lee v. Patin - Proposed Order

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Regards,

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Direct Phone: 702-997-1029 pjones@rlattorneys.com http://www.rlattorneys.com

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1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Ton Lee, Plaintiff(s) CASE NO: A-15-723134-C 6 VS. DEPT. NO. Department 26 7 Ingrid Patin, Defendant(s) 8 9 10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District Court. The foregoing Order Denying Motion was served via the court's electronic eFile 12 system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 13 Service Date: 6/11/2021 14 "Christian M. Morris, Esq.". christianmorris@nettleslawfirm.com 15 "Jeremy J. Thompson, Esq.". jthompson@mpplaw.com 16 17 "Paul E Larsen, Esq.". plarsen@mpplaw.com 18 Coreene Drose. cdrose@rlattorneys.com 19 Cristina Robertson. crobertson@mpplaw.com 20 Debbie Surowiec. dsurowiec@mpplaw.com 21 Ingrid Patin. ingrid@patinlaw.com 22 Jenn Alexy. jenn@nettleslawfirm.com 23 Joyce Ulmer. julmer@mpplaw.com 24 25 Lisa Bell. lbell@rlattorneys.com 26 Nancy C. Rodriguez. nrodriguez@mpplaw.com 27

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