IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM, an individual,

Appellant,

V

ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALISTS, a Nevada Corporation,

Respondent.

CASE NO. 83544 Electronically Filed Nov 02 2021 11:34 a.m. (Appeal of Eighth Elizabeth A. Brown District Court case no. A-f-Supreme Court 754423-B)

DOCKETING STATEMENT CIVIL APPEALS

1. Eighth Judicial District Court, Department XIII

County of Clark, the Honorable Mark R. Denton

District Ct. Case No. A-17-754423-B

2. Attorneys filing this docketing statement:

Attorney: Zachary P. Takos, Esq.

Telephone: (702) 856-4629

Firm: Takos Law Group, Ltd.

Address: 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 300

Las Vegas, Nevada 89135

Client: David P. Biesinger

Attorney: Steven R. Hart, Esq. Telephone: (702) 856-4629

Firm: Takos Law Group, Ltd.

Address: 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 300

Las Vegas, Nevada 89135

Client: David P. Biesinger

3.	Attorney(s) representing respoi	ident(s):	
	Attorneys:	_	sq., Nevada Bar No. 6621	
	Telephone	Paul C. Williams, Esq., Nevada Bar No. 12524 Telephone: (702) 562-8820 (Main) (702) 789-4552 (Direct)		
	(702) 562-8821 (Fax) Firm: BAILEY KENNEDY Address: 8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89148			
	Client:	Absolute Foot Care S		
4.	Nature of	disposition below (ch	eck all that apply):	
	☐ Judgment ☐ Summary ☐ Default jud ☐ Grant/Den ☐ Grant/Den ☐ Grant/Den	. •	Dismissal: Lack of jurisdiction Failure to state a claim Failure to prosecute Other (specify): Divorce Decree: Original Other disposition (specify):	
5.	Does this	appeal raise issues coi	ncerning any of the following? No	
	Child C	Custody		
	☐ Venue			
	Termin	ation of parental rights		

6. **Pending and prior proceedings in this court.** List the case name and docket number of all appeals or original proceedings presently or previously pending before this court which are related to this appeal:

None

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:

None

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

This is a civil action involving claims for breach of contract, and counterclaims for breach of contract, among other things. This case culminated in a motion for summary judgment by Respondent on its cause of action for breach of contract and against Appellant's counterclaims, on which the district court issued a Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Granting Plaintiff/Counterdefendant Absolute Foot Care Specialists' Motion for Summary Judgment on: (1) Its Breach of Contract Claims; and (2) Defendant/Counterclaimant David P. Biesinger, DPM's Counterclaims and a Judgment, from which Appellant now appeals.

- **9. Issues on appeal.** State concisely the principal issues(s) in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):
 - 1. Did the District Court err in granting the Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment when it held that the parties' Employment Agreement automatically renewed for successive one-year periods unless otherwise terminated it in accordance with Section VIII.B of the Employment Agreement?
 - 2. Did the District Court err in finding that Dr. Noah Levine's text communications did not confirm that the Employment Agreement had expired and did not modify the Employment Agreement?

	3.	Did the District Court err in finding that even if the Extension had abrogated the Evergreen Clause, the Employment Agreement renewed by operation of law pursuant to <i>Ringle v. Bruton</i> , 120 Nev. 82, 86 P.3d 1032 (2004)?
	4.	Did the District Court err in not allowing Dr. Biesinger to raise the affirmative defense of breach of the Employment Agreement pursuant to the Court's sanction of Dr. Biesinger under NRCP 37(b)?
10.	you a	ing proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues. If re aware of any proceedings presently pending before this court which the same or similar issues raised in this appeal, list the case name and et number and identify the same or similar issue raised:
	Respo	ondent is unaware of any such proceedings.
11.	statue not a	titutional issues. If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?
11.	statue not a	e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?
11.	statue not a attorn	e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130? /A
11.	statue not a attorn	e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130? /A es
11.	statue not a attorn No No No	e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130? /A es
11.	statue not a attorn No No No	e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130? /A es
11.12.	statue not a attorn No If not	e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130? /A es
	statue not a attorn No Ye If not	e, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the ney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130? /A es o c, explain:

	A substantial issue of first impression
	An issue of public policy
	An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's decisions
	A ballot question
	If so, explain: N/A
13.	Assignment to the Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court.
	NRAP 17(b)(6) indicates that the Court of Appeals should hear "cases involving a contract dispute where the amount in controversy is less than \$75,000." Respondent believes the case should be retained by the Supreme Court because Respondent was awarded a monetary judgment in the amount of six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000.00).
14.	Trial. If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last?
	N/A
	Was it bench or jury trial?
	N/A
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.
	TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL
16.	Date of entry of written judgment or order appealed from:
	Notice of Entry of the Court's Decision and Order: August 18, 2021
	And

	Notice of Entry of the Judgment: August 18, 2021.			
	If no written judgments	nt or order was filed in the district court, explain the ellate review: N/A		
17.	Date written notice of entry of judgment or order was served:			
	Notice of Entry of the Court's Decision and Order: August 18, 2021			
	And			
	Notice of Entry of the	Notice of Entry of the Judgment: August 18, 2021.		
	Was service by: ☐ Delivery ☐ Mail/electronic/fax			
18.	If the time for filing the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion (NRCP 50(b), 52(b), or 59): Not applicable			
	(a) Specify the type of date of filing.	(a) Specify the type of motion, the date and method of service the motion, and date of filing.		
	☐ NRCP 50(b)	Date of filing		
	NRCP 52(b)	Date of filing		
	□ NRCP 59	Date of filing:		
	(b) Date of entry of written order resolving tolling motion			
	Was Service Delivery Mail	•		

Date of notice of appeal filed: Notice of Appeal filed September 28, 2021.

19.

20.	_	cify statute or rule governing teal, e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other: N	he time limit for filing the notice of RAP 4(a)(1)
		SUBSTANTIVE A	APPEALABILITY
21.	_	cify the statute or other authori lew the judgment or order appea	ty granting this court jurisdiction to aled from:
	(a)		
		\square NRAP 3A(b)(1)	☐ NRS 38.205
		☐ NRAP 3A(b)(2)	☐ NRS 233B.150
		☐ NRAP 3A(b)(3)	☐ NRS 703.376
		Other (specify)	
		Explain how each authority provid rder:	es a basis for appeal from the judgment
	or p App Mot gran	proceeding commenced in the coupellant's action was commenced tion for Summary Judgment and	m a final judgment entered in an action art in which the judgment is rendered. in the court in which Respondent's Motion for Entry of Judgment were entry of its Decision and Order and the final judgment.
22.	List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court:		
	(a)	Parties:	
		Appellants (Defendant): David	P. Biesinger
		Respondent (Plaintiff): Absolut	e Foot Care Specialists

Defendant in district court: Lorraine Pallanti

(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:

Lorraine Pallanti was formally dismissed from the district court action after reaching a settlement with Absolute Foot Care Specialists.

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.

Respondent's claims against Appellant

- (1) Breach of Contract Summary Judgment- granted August 18, 2021
- (2) Breach of Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing Summary Judgment dismissed as moot August 18, 2021
- (3) Unjust Enrichment In the Alternative Summary Judgment dismissed as moot August 18, 2021
- (4) Breach of Fiduciary Duty Summary Judgment dismissed as moot August 18, 2021
- (5) Conversion Summary Judgment dismissed as moot August 18, 2021
- (6) Intentional Interference Summary Judgment dismissed as moot August18, 2021
- (7) Civil Conspiracy Summary Judgment dismissed as moot August 18,2021

	(1) Declaratory Relief - Summary Judgment denied August 18, 2021		
	(2) Breach of Contract - Summary Judgment denied August 18, 2021		
	(3) Breach of the Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing - Summary		
	Judgment denied August 18, 2021		
	(4) Unjust Enrichment - Summary Judgment denied August 18, 2021		
	(5) NRS 608.040-Waiting Time Penalties - Summary Judgment denied		
	August 18, 2021		
24.	Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claimalleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?		
	X Yes		
	□ No		
25.	If you answered "No" to question 23, complete the following:		
	(a) Specify the claims remaining pending below:		
	(b) Specify the parties remaining below:		
	(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?		
	Yes		
	☐ No		

Appellant's claims against Respondent

	(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 24, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):
	N/A

27. Attached file-stamped copies of the following documents:

- The latest-filed complaint, counterclaim, 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, cross-claims, and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidation 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.

David P. Biesinger	Zachary P. Takos
Name of Appellant	Name of counsel of record
October 28, 2021	/s/ Zachary P. Takos
Date	Signature of counsel of record
Clark County, Nevada	
State and county where signed	

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 28th day of October, 2021, I served a copy of this completed
docketing statement upon all counsel of record:
By personally serving it upon him/her; or
By mailing it by first class mail with sufficient postage prepaid to the following address(es): (NOTE: If all names and addresses cannot fit below, please list names below and attach a separate sheet with the addresses.)
PAUL C. WILLIAMS
BAILEY KENNEDY
8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-1302
PWilliams@BaileyKennedy.com
/s/ Steven Hart
Employee of Takos Law Group, Ltd.

Exhibit 1

Exhibit 1

BAILEY & KENNED)
896 SPARIH RECEATERUE
LAS VECAS, NEVEN 8946-300
702-562-8620

 Ms. Pallanti was an employee of Absolute Foot Care. Ms. Pallanti is a resident of Clark County, Nevada.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- This Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because the acts complained of herein were committed by Defendants within the State of Nevada.
- This Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter because Absolute Foot
 Care is seeking damages in excess of \$15,000 in addition to injunctive relief.
- 6. Venue is proper in the Eighth Judicial District Court for the State of Nevada, because Defendants reside in Clark County, Dr. Biesinger's Employment Agreement at issue is to be performed in Clark County, and Defendants' breaches and actions occurred in Clark County.

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- Absolute Foot Care is a podiatric medical practice wholly owned by Noah Levine,
 DPM ("Dr. Levine"), who has been licensed to practice podiatry in Nevada since 2001.
 - 8. Absolute Foot Care has done business in Clark County for over 15 years.
- Absolute Foot Care currently has two health care facilities—one located at 7125
 Grand Montecito Parkway, Suite 110, Las Vegas, Nevada 89149 (the "Centennial Office") and
 another office located at 2887 South Maryland Parkway, Suite 100, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.
- 10. On or about June 7, 2010, Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger entered into an Employment Agreement for Professional Services ("Employment Agreement") pursuant to which Dr. Biesinger became an employee of Absolute Foot Care and agreed to certain duties and responsibilities.
- On or about June 20, 2013, Absolute Foot Care hired Ms. Pallanti as an Administrative Medical Assistant.
- 12. Dr. Biesinger worked a very favorable schedule (primarily 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) and Absolute Foot Care paid him handsomely (several hundred thousand dollars per year).
- 13. As a consequence of the Employment Agreement, Dr. Biesinger was provided access to Absolute Foot Care's confidential information, including confidential information relating to patients.

	14.	As a consequence of her employment with Absolute Foot Care, Ms. Pallanti was		
provi	provided access to Absolute Foot Care's confidential information, including confidential information			
relati	ng to pa	tients.		
	15	Absolute Foot Care's policies and procedures also provided that Absolute Foot Care's		

- 15. Absolute Foot Care's policies and procedures also provided that Absolute Foot Care's confidential information was only to be utilized as authorized by Absolute Foot Care and/or as necessary to provide medical care.
 - 16. For example, Absolute Foot Care's Employee Handbook provides:

Information about patients, their illnesses, or their personal lives must be kept completely confidential. . . . Case histories, confidential papers, business records, and even the appointment book should be kept where passing patients will not see them. . . All information regarding patients (i.e. personal information, office notes, medical documents, etc.) is the property of Absolute Foot Care Specialists and will not be released to any entity without a signed release of information by the patient. Staff are forbidden from taking, selling or copying any information regarding any patient for personal or nefarious purposes or for profit.

(emphasis added.)

- Defendants received training with respect to Absolute Foot Care's policies and procedures on its confidential information.
- 18. Further, Dr. Biesinger agreed (in the Employment Agreement) not to disclose or utilize any of Absolute Foot Care's confidential information except as authorized by Absolute Foot Care and/or as necessary to provide medical care.
- 19. Dr. Biesinger's Employment Agreement also contains a Restrictive Covenant, wherein Dr. Biesinger agreed, among other things, not to do the following for two years following termination of his association with Absolute Foot Care: (i) practice podiatric medicine within eight miles of the Centennial Office for a period of two years following termination; (ii) solicit patients or other customers of Absolute Foot Care; and (iii) solicit employees of Absolute Foot Care.
- Dr. Biesinger expressly acknowledged that the Restrictive Covenant is narrowly tailored and reasonably necessary to protect Absolute Foot Care's legitimate interests.
- 21. Dr. Biesinger further acknowledged that the Restrictive Covenant is of significant value to Absolute Foot Care and was a material inducement for Absolute Foot Care to enter into the Employment Agreement and grant Dr. Biesinger access to its patients, employees, and business.

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- Dr. Biesinger also acknowledged that Absolute Foot Care would suffer irreparable 22. harm in the event Dr. Biesinger violated the Restrictive Covenant.
- For many years, the relationship between Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger 23. flourished, and Dr. Levine grew to trust Dr. Biesinger so much that he contemplated having Dr. Biesinger take over the practice upon his retirement.
- On April 3, 2017, Ms. Pallanti abruptly provided Absolute Foot Care with notice that 24. she was resigning on April 12, 2017.
- On April 5, 2017, Absolute Foot Care received a call from an insurer that appeared to 25. indicate Dr. Biesinger was potentially leaving his employment with Absolute Foot Care.
- Upon further investigation, Absolute Foot Care discovered Dr. Biesinger had 26. purchased property and was building out a medical suite located at 6200 North Durango, Las Vegas, Nevada—approximately one mile away from Absolute Foot Care's Centennial Office.
- Dr. Levine immediately went to Dr. Biesinger, asked him about the information 27. indicating Dr. Biesinger was leaving, and asked why Dr. Biesinger had not spoken with him (Dr. Levine) about it.
 - Dr. Biesinger became pale and did not immediately answer. 28.
- When he finally did answer, he stated that he "was going to get around to telling" Dr. 29. Levine and advised that his departure date was "indeterminate."
- Dr. Biesinger then stated that he was not being paid enough and represented that he 30. was entertaining a job offer from another group.
- However, Dr. Biesinger refused to disclose the group, representing that he was under 31. a confidentiality agreement.
- Dr. Biesinger indicated to Dr. Levine that he was exploring his options-including 32. remaining employed by Absolute Foot Care or becoming employed by a competing group-and did not give any indication that he was intending to resign in the near future.
- Notably, Dr. Biesinger did not disclose that he had purchased and was building out a 33. medical suite one mile down the street from Absolute Foot Care.

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requirement—on Dr. Levine's desk.

- Although Dr. Biesinger represented to Dr. Levine that he was exploring his options 1 34. and that his departure date was indeterminate, he waited until Dr. Levine and the Practice 2 Administrator of Absolute Foot Care were away from the office on a long-planned vacation and, on 3 April 20, 2017, advised staff members that he was resigning and provided his key to the office to a 4 staff member. 5 Dr. Biesinger did not provide any notice to Absolute Foot Care that he was resigning, 35. 6 let alone the ninety-day written notice required by his Employment Agreement. 7 Furthermore, Dr. Biesinger planted a resignation letter fraudulently backdated to 8 36. March 10, 2017—a date which still would not have complied with the ninety-day written notice 9
 - 37. Upon information and belief, Dr. Biesinger, while an employee of Absolute Foot Care, solicited and caused at least one of Absolute Foot Care's employees—Ms. Pallanti—to leave, and otherwise began competing with Absolute Foot Care while still an employee of Absolute Foot Care.
 - 38. Upon information and belief, Defendants have taken or copied records, patient information, and other confidential information of Absolute Foot Care. Moreover, although Dr. Biesinger knew he was leaving, Dr. Biesinger caused Absolute Foot Care to pay for and benefit Dr. Biesinger beyond his employment with Absolute Foot Care.
 - 39. On April 21, 2017, Absolute Foot Care began experiencing a disproportionate amount of appointment cancellations from patients.
 - 40. Indeed, on April 21, 2017, Absolute Foot Care learned Defendants had solicited multiple patients of Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Levine on April 20, 2017.
 - 41. For example, Ms. Pallanti—acting on behalf of Dr. Biesinger—left a voicemail for a patient of Dr. Levine's on April 20, 2017, stating, in pertinent part:

[T]his is Lori, Dr. Biesinger's office. You have an appointment scheduled for 8:00 a.m. I just want to let you know that Dr. Biesinger is no longer with Absolute Foot Care. He has opened his new practice, his own new practice, which is Centennial Foot and Ankle on 6200 North Durango, Suite 110. If you need to be seen tomorrow, you can certainly keep your appointment and you can see Dr. Levine. Or if you want to schedule with us, some scheduling for next week, and actually starting the week of May 1. Please give me a call back."

42. Upon information and belief, Defendants have made numerous similar solicitations to patients of Absolute Foot Care, including other patients of Dr. Levine.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Contract - Dr. Biesinger)

- 43. Absolute Foot Care repeats and realleges the above allegations as though fully set forth herein.
 - 44. Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger entered into a valid and binding contract.
- 45. Absolute Foot Care performed under the contract and/or was excused from performing.
- 46. Dr. Biesinger breached the contract by, among other things, competing with Absolute Foot Care within the Restricted Area, soliciting patients and employees, and misappropriating Absolute Foot Care's confidential information.
- 47. As a result of Dr. Biesinger's breaches, Absolute Foot Care has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.
- 48. As a further result of Dr. Biesinger's breach, Absolute Foot Care has been forced to incur attorney's fees and legal expenses and has suffered damages associated with such fees and expenses, which Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover under the Employment Agreement and as special damages.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing - Dr. Biesinger)

- 49. Absolute Foot Care repeats and realleges the above allegations as though fully set forth herein.
- 50. As a result of the contract, Dr. Biesinger owed Absolute Foot Care a duty of good faith and fair dealing.
- 51. Through his actions, Dr. Biesinger breached this duty, thereby depriving Absolute Foot Care of its justified expectations.
- 52. As a result of Dr. Biesinger's breach, Absolute Foot Care has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

53. As a further result of Dr. Biesinger's breach, Absolute Foot Care has been forced to incur attorney's fees and legal expenses and has suffered damages associated with such fees and expenses, which Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover under the Employment Agreement and as special damages.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Unjust Enrichment - Dr. Biesinger)

- 54. Absolute Foot Care repeats and realleges the above allegations as though fully set forth herein.
- 55. Dr. Biesinger has received benefits conferred upon him by Absolute Foot Care separate and apart of the Employment.
- 56. Dr. Biesinger's failure to pay Absolute Foot Care for such benefits is against fundamental principles of justice or equity and good conscience.
- 57. As a result of Dr. Biesinger's unjust enrichment, Absolute Foot Care has sustained damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.
- 58. As a further result of Dr. Biesinger's unjust enrichment, Absolute Foot Care has been forced to incur attorney's fees and legal expenses and has suffered damages associated with such fees and expenses, which Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover under the Employment Agreement and as special damages.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Breach of Fiduciary Duty - Defendants)

- 59. Absolute Foot Care repeats and realleges the above allegations as though fully set forth herein.
 - 60. Defendants owed a fiduciary duty to Absolute Foot Care.
- 61. Defendants breached that duty to Absolute Foot Care by, among other things, competing with Absolute Foot Care while still employed, soliciting patients and employees of Absolute Foot Care, and misappropriating Absolute Foot Care's confidential information
- 62. As a result of Defendants' breach of fiduciary duty, Absolute Foot Care has sustained damages in excess of \$15,000 as a proximate cause of the breach.

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- Defendants are guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice, express or implied, as well as a 63. conscious disregard for Absolute Foot Care's rights. Therefore, Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover punitive damages.
- As a further result of Defendants' breach, Absolute Foot Care has been forced to 64. incur attorney's fees and legal expenses and has suffered damages associated with such fees and expenses, which Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover under the Employment Agreement (as to Dr. Biesinger) and as special damages (as to Defendants).

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Conversion – Defendants)

- Absolute Foot Care repeats and realleges the above allegations as though fully set 65. forth herein.
- Defendants have wrongfully exerted dominion and control over Absolute Foot Care's 66. property, including Absolute Foot Care's confidential information.
- Defendants wrongfully exerted Absolute Foot Care property in denial of, or 67. inconsistent with, Absolute Foot Care's title or rights, in derogation, exclusion, or defiance of its title or rights.
- Absolute Foot Care has been harmed as a direct and proximate result of Defendants' 68. actions.
- As a result of Defendants' conversion, Absolute Foot Care has sustained damages in 69. an amount in excess of \$15,000.
- As a further result of Defendants' conversion, Absolute Foot Care has been forced to 70. incur attorney's fees and legal expenses and has suffered damages associated with such fees and expenses, which Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover under the Employment Agreement (as to Dr. Biesinger) and as special damages (as to Defendants).
- Defendants are guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice, express or implied, as well as a 71. conscious disregard for Absolute Foot Care's rights. Therefore, Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover punitive damages.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Intentional Interference – Defendants)

- 72. Absolute Foot Care repeats and realleges the above allegations as though fully set forth herein.
- 73. Actual and prospective contractual relationships exist or existed between Absolute Foot Care and third parties, including patients.
 - 74. Defendants knew of these actual and prospective contractual relationships.
 - 75. Defendants engaged in intentional acts to disrupt these relationships.
- 76. Defendants actually disrupted these relationships and did so without privilege or justification.
- 77. As a result of Defendants' intentional acts, Absolute Foot Care has sustained damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.
- 78. As a further result of Defendants' intentional acts, Absolute Foot Care has been forced to incur attorney's fees and legal expenses and has suffered damages associated with such fees and expenses, which Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover under the Employment Agreement (as to Dr. Biesinger) and as special damages (as to Defendants).
- 79. Defendants are guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice, express or implied, as well as a conscious disregard for Absolute Foot Care's rights. Therefore, Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover punitive damages.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION

(Civil Conspiracy - Defendants)

- 80. Absolute Foot Care repeats and realleges the above allegations as though fully set forth herein.
- 81. Defendants, and each of them, agreed and intended to accomplish an unlawful objective for the improper purpose of harming Absolute Foot Care.
- 82. Defendants acted in concert taking on the form of a civil conspiracy to commit specific wrongful acts and/or torts, including, but not limited to, breaching Dr. Biesinger's Employment Agreement, breaching the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing arising from

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Dr. Biesinger's Employment Agreement, converting Absolute Foot Care's confidential information,
and intentionally interfering with Absolute Foot Care's existing and prospective contractual
relationships.

- As a further result of Defendants' conspiracy, Absolute Foot Care has been forced to 83. incur attorney's fees and legal expenses and has suffered damages associated with such fees and expenses, which Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover under the Employment Agreement (as to Dr. Biesinger) and as special damages (as to Defendants).
- Defendants are guilty of oppression, fraud, or malice, express or implied, as well as a 84. conscious disregard for Absolute Foot Care's rights. Therefore, Absolute Foot Care is entitled to recover punitive damages.

WHEREFORE, Absolute Foot Care prays for relief as follows:

- For temporary, preliminary, and permanent injunctive relief restraining Dr. Biesinger from engaging in conduct in violation of the Restrictive Covenant in the Employment Agreement.
- For temporary, preliminary, and permanent injunctive relief prohibiting Defendants 2. from using, and requiring them to return, all of Absolute Foot Care's property, including confidential information.
 - 3. For judgment for damages in excess of \$15,000.
 - 4. For judgment for punitive damages according to proof.
 - 5. For an award interest and costs as provided by law.
- 6. For an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs as provided by the Employment Agreement.
 - 7. For an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs as special damages.
- 8. For an award of reasonable attorney's fees and costs on any other grounds authorized by law.
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For such other and further relief that the Court may deem just and proper.
 DATED this 24th day of April, 2017.

BAILEY . KENNEDY

By: /s/ Joshua M. Dickey
JOHN R. BAILEY
JOSHUA M. DICKEY
PAUL C. WILLIAMS
Attorneys for Plaintiff Absolute
Foot Care Specialists

Exhibit 2

Exhibit 2

Electronically Filed 6/2/2017 5:28 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **AACC** Dustin L. Clark, Bar # 10548 2 CLARK LAW COUNSEL PLLC 10161 Park Run Drive, Suite 150 3 Las Vegas, NV 89145 Telephone: 702.748.8600 E-mail: dustin@clarklawcounsel.com 4 5 Puonyarat K. Premsrirut, Bar # 7141 **BROWN BROWN & PREMSRIRUT** 6 520 S. Fourth Street, Second Floor Las Vegas, NV 89101 7 Telephone: 702.384.5563 E-mail: Puoy@brownlawlv.com 8 Attorneys for Defendant/Counter-Claimant 9 David P. Biesinger, DPM 10 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 11 ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALIST, a Case No. A-17-754423-B 12 Nevada Corporation, Dept. No. XIII 13 Plaintiff, 14 v. 15 DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM, an individual; **DEFENDANT/COUNTERCLAIMANT** and LORRAINE PALLANTI, an individual, DAVID P. BIESINGER'S ANSWER 16 AND COUNTERCLAIM Defendants. 17 18 DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM, an individual, 19 Counterclaimant. 20 v. 21 ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALIST, a Nevada Corporation; DOES I through X; and 22 ROE ENTITIES I through X, 23 Counter-Defendant. 24 **ANSWER** 25 Defendant/Counterclaimant David P. Biesinger, DPM ("Dr. Biesinger") hereby answers the 26 Complaint filed by Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Absolute Foot Care Specialist ("Absolute Foot Care") 27 in the above-captioned matter as follows: 28

Case Number: A-17-754423-B

- 1. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegation of paragraph 1 of the Complaint that Absolute Foot Care is, and at all times material hereto was, a Nevada corporation. Dr. Biesinger denies all remaining allegations of paragraph 1 of the Complaint.
 - 2. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegations of paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Complaint.
- 3. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegation of paragraph 4 of the Complaint that the Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants. Dr. Biesinger denies all remaining allegations of paragraph 4 of the Complaint.
- 4. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegations of paragraph 5 of the Complaint that the Court has subject matter jurisdiction over this matter. Dr. Biesinger denies all remaining allegations of paragraph 5 of the Complaint, including, but not limited to, any averment that he violated the law or infringed on any of Plaintiff's rights.
- 5. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegation of paragraph 6 of the Complaint that venue is proper in the Eighth Judicial District Court for the State of Nevada because Defendants reside in Clark County. Dr. Biesinger denies all remaining allegations of paragraph 6 of the Complaint.
- 6. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegation of paragraph 7 of the Complaint that Absolute Foot Care is a podiatric medical practice. Dr. Biesinger is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the remaining averments of paragraph 7 of the Complaint, which statement has the effect of a denial.
- 7. Dr. Biesinger is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the averments of paragraph 8 of the Complaint, which statement has the effect of a denial.
 - 8. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegations of paragraphs 9, 10, and 11 of the Complaint.
 - 9. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraph 12 of the Complaint.
- 10. Dr. Biesinger is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the averments of paragraphs 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17 of the Complaint, which statement has the effect of a denial of the averments of those paragraphs.
- 11. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 18, 19, 20, 21, and 22 of the Complaint.

12. Dr. Biesinger is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the	
truth of the averments of paragraph 23 of the Complaint, which statement has the effect of a denial of	
the averments of that paragraph.	
13. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 24, 25, and 26 of the Complaint.	
14. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36,	
37, and 38 of the Complaint.	
15. Dr. Biesinger is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the	
truth of the averments of paragraph 39 of the Complaint, which statement has the effect of a denial of	
the averments of that paragraph.	

- 16. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraph 40 of the Complaint.
- 17. Dr. Biesinger is without knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to the truth of the averments of paragraph 41 of the Complaint, which statement has the effect of a denial of the averments of that paragraph.
 - 18. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraph 42 of the Complaint.
- 19. Answering paragraph 43 of the Complaint, Dr. Biesinger repeats his answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 42 above as though fully set forth herein.
 - 20. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegations of paragraph 44 of the Complaint.
 - 21. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 45, 46, 47 and 48 of the Complaint.
- 22. Answering paragraph 49 of the Complaint, Dr. Biesinger repeats his answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 48 above as though fully set forth herein.
 - 23. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegations of paragraph 50 of the Complaint.
 - 24. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 51, 52, and 53 of the Complaint.
- 25. Answering paragraph 54 of the Complaint, Dr. Biesinger repeats his answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 53 above as though fully set forth herein.
 - 26. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 55, 56, 57, and 58 of the Complaint.
- 27. Answering paragraph 59 of the Complaint, Dr. Biesinger repeats his answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 58 above as though fully set forth herein.
 - 28. Dr. Biesinger admits the allegations of paragraph 60 of the Complaint.

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- 29. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 61, 62, 63, and 64 of the Complaint.
- 30. Answering paragraph 65 of the Complaint, Dr. Biesinger repeats his answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 64 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 31. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, and 71 of the Complaint.
- 32. Answering paragraph 72 of the Complaint, Dr. Biesinger repeats his answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 71 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 33. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, and 79 of the Complaint.
- 34. Answering paragraph 80 of the Complaint, Dr. Biesinger repeats his answers contained in Paragraphs 1 through 79 above as though fully set forth herein.
 - 35. Dr. Biesinger denies the allegations of paragraphs 81, 82, 83, and 84 of the Complaint.
- 36. Dr. Biesinger denies any and all allegations set forth in the section of the Complaint beginning with the words "WHEREFORE, Absolute Foot Care prays for relief as follows" on pages 10 and 11 of the Complaint, and Dr. Biesinger further denies that Plaintiffs are entitled to any damages whatsoever.
- 37. Dr. Biesinger denies each and every allegation of the Complaint not expressly admitted above.

AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

- 1. Plaintiff has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
- 2. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of unclean hands.
- 3. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of waiver.
- 4. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the doctrine of estoppel.
- 5. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by illegality because Plaintiff could not lawfully practice medicine or have patients.
- 6. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Dr. Biesinger's actions, if any, were privileged.
 - 7. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, for lack of consideration.

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- 8. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by the statute of frauds.
- 9. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, by NRS 613.200.
- 10. Plaintiff's tort and restitutionary claims are preempted and precluded by NRS 600A.090 to the extent such claims are based on alleged misappropriation of a trade secret.
- 11. Plaintiff's claims are barred, in whole or in part, because Plaintiff's prior material breach of the Employment Agreement discharged Dr. Biesinger of his contractual obligations, if any, under the Employment Agreement.
- 12. Dr. Biesinger did not act with malice or reckless disregard, so punitive damages may not be awarded against Dr. Biesinger.
- All possible affirmative defenses may not have been alleged herein in so far as 13. sufficient facts are not available after reasonable inquiry upon the filing of this Answer; Dr. Biesinger, therefore, reserves the right to amend this Answer to allege additional affirmative defenses as subsequent investigation warrants.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Biesinger prays for judgment as follows:

- A. That Plaintiff take nothing by virtue of its Complaint and that the same be dismissed with prejudice;
 - В. That judgment be entered in favor of Defendant Biesinger and against Plaintiff;
 - C. That Defendant Biesinger be awarded his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs; and
 - For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper. D.

COUNTERCLAIM

Pursuant to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 13, Defendant/Counterclaimant David P. Biesinger, DPM hereby alleges and complains against Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Absolute Foot Care Specialist as follows:

PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

1. Defendant/Counterclaimant David P. Biesinger, DPM ("Dr. Biesinger" "Counterclaimant") is an individual who at all times relevant to this action has resided in Clark County, Nevada.

- 2. Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant Absolute Foot Care Specialist ("Absolute Foot Care," "Company," or Counter-Defendant) is, at all times relevant to this action has been, a corporation organized and existing pursuant to Chapter 78 of Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") with its principal place of business in Clark County, Nevada.
- 3. Counterclaimant does not know the true names of the individuals, corporations, partnerships and entities sued and identified in fictitious names as DOES I through X, ROE ENTITIES I through X. Counterclaimant will request leave of this Honorable Court to amend this Counterclaim to allege the true names and capacities of each fictitious Counter-Defendant when Counter-Claimant discovers the information.
- 4. As the party who initiated the above-captioned action, Absolute Foot Care, a domestic corporation of Nevada, formed and existing pursuant to NRS Chapter 78, has submitted to the personal jurisdiction of the Court.
- 5. This Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over Dr. Biesinger's Counterclaim because he seeks damages in excess of \$15,000 as well as declaratory relief.
- 6. Venue is proper in this Court because Dr. Biesinger is a resident of Clark County, Nevada, Absolute Foot Care's principal place of business is Clark County, Nevada, and the events or omissions giving rise to the Counterclaim occurred in Clark County, Nevada.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS COMMON TO ALL CLAIMS FOR RELIEF

Dr. Biesinger's Medical Practice

- 7. Dr. Biesinger is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine licensed to practice in Michigan, North Carolina, and Nevada.
- 8. Dr. Biesinger graduated from the Pennsylvania College of Podiatric Medicine in 1997 and did his residency in foot and ankle reconstructive surgery from 1997 to 2000 at St. John North Shores Hospital in Harrison Township, Michigan where he served as Chief Resident during his last year.
- 9. Dr. Biesinger has been Chief of Podiatric Medicine and Surgery at Centennial Hills Hospital Medical Center (the "Centennial Hills Hospital") in Las Vegas, Nevada since December

2011. Dr. Biesinger is currently the *only* foot and ankle surgeon at Centennial Hills Hospital who does consults for inpatients.

- 10. Dr. Biesinger has performed thousands of surgical procedures, including, but not limited to: ORIF forefoot, rearfoot, and ankle fractures; tendoachilles repair and lengthening; tibial and fibular osteotomies; ankle arthroscopy; primary ankle ligament repair; lateral ankle stabilizations; forefoot and rearfoot/ankle arthrodesis; flatfoot, cavus, and charcot reconstructions; hallux abducto valgus; rheumatoid foot reconstruction, tarsal tunnel, osseous and soft tissue benign and malignant tumors; and microsurgical nerve repair.
- 11. Dr. Biesinger has received certifications from numerous medical professional boards, including the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery. According to the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery's online database, Dr. Biesinger is one of only fourteen medical professionals in Las Vegas, Nevada, and one of only six medical professionals within eight miles of Centennial Hills Hospital certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery.

Employment With Absolute Foot Care

- 12. In the spring of 2010, Dr. Biesinger responded to a posting for a job with Absolute Foot Care located in Las Vegas, Nevada, the Plaintiff in the above-referenced legal proceeding. Dr. Biesinger flew to Las Vegas and met with the Absolute Foot Care's President, Noah Levine, DPM.
- 13. After the meeting, Dr. Levine offered Dr. Biesinger employment with Absolute Foot Care with the promise that Dr. Biesinger would be eligible for partnership and an equity interest in the Company upon meeting certain financial benchmarks after faithful completion of the first two years of employment. The ability to become an owner in a practice, given his credentials, was of extreme importance to Dr. Biesinger.
- 14. In reliance upon the prospect of obtaining a partnership and equity interest, Dr. Biesinger accepted employment with Absolute Foot Care and executed an Employment Agreement for Professional Services effective June 7, 2010 (the "Employment Agreement").
- 15. Absolute Foot Care, however, failed to honor the Employment Agreement's provision regarding equity ownership.

The First Proposed Stock Purchase & Shareholder Agreement

- 16. In or about December 2012, after two-and-a-half years of employment and surpassing the contractual benchmarks for partnership, Dr. Levine offered Dr. Biesinger a 20% equity interest in Absolute Foot Care for a total buy-in price of \$25,000.
- 17. Although the December 2012 Stock Purchase and Shareholder Agreement was presented six months past the time in which it was supposed to be provided, Dr. Biesinger still proceeded in good faith in an effort to evaluate the buy-in proposal.
- 18. One of his first concerns were the inconsistencies in the corporate documentation. In particular, the 2012 Stock Purchase and Shareholder Agreement affirmatively represented that Dr. Levine owned 1,000 shares of the Company, yet Absolute Foot Care's Articles of Incorporation on file with the Nevada Secretary of State showed that the Company was only authorized by its charter to issue 100 shares of stock, raising concerns regarding the corporate governance of Absolute Foot Care, and acts committed without authority.
- 19. Absolute Foot Care's Articles of Incorporation also indicated that the Company was formed pursuant to NRS Chapter 78 and did not reveal any amendments as of 2012. To date, no amendment to the Articles of Incorporation has been filed. (A true and correct copy of the Nevada Secretary of State's Entity Actions for Absolute Foot Care Specialist is publicly available at http://nvsos.gov/sosentitysearch/corpActions.aspx?lx8nvq=TtUUOUAJm2t1Mzq0YXwzjQ%253d% 253d&CorpName=ABSOLUTE+FOOT+CARE+SPECIALIST (last visited June 2, 2017)).
- 20. Absolute Foot Care's Annual List of Officers and Directors filed December 14, 2012 identified Noah Levine, DPM as President, Lauren B. Mallow-Levine as Secretary, Irwin I. Levine as Treasurer, and Roberta B. Levine as a Director, illustrating the "Levine" family dominance of the Absolute Foot Care's affairs.
- 21. Article II.B of the proposed 2012 Stock Purchase and Shareholder Agreement required Dr. Biesinger to expressly acknowledge that he "had access to all of the information that [Dr. Biesinger] consider[] necessary or appropriate to make an informed decision regarding [Dr. Levine's offer to purchase shares]." Despite Dr. Biesinger's multiple requests and execution of a non-disclosure agreement, neither Dr. Levine nor his attorney representatives furnished the financial information that

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Dr. Biesinger considered necessary for him and his attorney to evaluate fully Absolute Foot Care, its financial condition, including its assets and liabilities, and the overall equity offer.

22. Dr. Biesinger's attempts to obtain the necessary financial information from Dr. Levine continued through mid-2013 and ultimately proved futile. Dr. Levine failed to provide financial data sufficient to allow Dr. Biesinger and his attorney to make an informed decision regarding whether to accept the December 2012 partnership offer.

Expiration Of The Employment Agreement

- 23. During the same time that Dr. Levine was "stonewalling" the buy-in transaction, Dr. Levine declared that the Employment Agreement had expired and asked Dr. Biesinger to sign an extension.
- 24. Given Dr. Levine's failure to follow through on the equity offer and Dr. Biesinger's feelings of uncertainty regarding his future with Absolute Foot Care, Dr. Biesinger was reluctant to continue under the Employment Agreement's original terms.
- 25. On January 25, 2013, Dr. Levine and Dr. Biesinger signed an Extension of Employment Agreement for Professional Services (the "Extension") that set January 22, 2015 as the contract's termination date and supplanted the Employment Agreement's automatic-renewal language.
- 26. While Dr. Levine informed Dr. Biesinger that the Employment Agreement was expired and an extension was necessary to maintain eligibility of any buy in, Dr. Biesinger was insistent that the termination of the contractual relationship with Absolute Foot Care conclude January 22, 2015, giving Dr. Biesinger sufficient time to try to consummate the equity transaction that Dr. Biesinger initially sought to achieve.
- 27. While Dr. Biesinger had no part in actually drafting the Extension, Dr. Biesinger was in agreement that the termination date of January 22, 2015 be inserted.
- 28. The Extension that Dr. Levine and Dr. Biesinger signed on January 25, 2013 constitutes the only agreement that Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger ever executed to extend the Employment Agreement.

29. Dr. Levine on behalf of Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger did not execute any document, or orally agree, to continue the Employment Agreement beyond January 22, 2015—the termination date set forth in the January 25, 2013 Extension.

Another Attempt To Negotiate An Ownership Interest

- 30. After the 2012-2013 attempts to consummate the buy-in failed, Dr. Biesinger mustered the temperament to re-visit the partnership transaction with Dr. Levine. Dr. Biesinger was prepared to set aside his prior frustrations to obtain the information and financials necessary to make an informed decision.
- 31. In response, Dr. Levine directed Dr. Biesinger to call his attorney, John Bailey, to obtain the financial information that Dr. Biesinger felt he needed to evaluate the equity offer.
- 32. Dr. Biesinger called Mr. Bailey to request the financials. Instead of receiving due diligence materials, Dr. Biesinger received a proposed Stock Purchase and Shareholder Agreement that differed dramatically and unreasonably from the first partnership offer.
- 33. As set forth in the 2015 Second Proposed Shareholder Agreement, Dr. Levine offered a 20% equity interest in exchange for \$25,000 per share, resulting in a total subscription price of \$500,000—a \$475,000 increase from his first offer.
- 34. This offer was shocking, offensive, and beyond unreasonable. It defied any and all expectations that Dr. Biesinger had to become an equity owner in the practice, especially since Dr. Biesinger was the sole capable and credentialed surgeon who had spent nearly six years of his life servicing patients to build the very practice that Dr. Biesinger was being precluded from joining, economically.
- 35. A Doctor of Podiatric Medicine must be certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery to be eligible for privileges at Centennials Hills Hospital. Dr. Levine is *not* certified by the American Board of Foot and Ankle Surgery and does *not* have privileges at Centennials Hills Hospital. He does not perform total ankle replacements, ankle arthroscopy surgeries, complex foot and ankle surgery like arthroscopic repair of talus fractures, or biocartilage repair of OCD lesions. Because Dr. Levine is not trained as a surgeon, he cannot become board certified as one.

- 36. Dr. Biesinger was frustrated that Dr. Levine had dangled the prospect of a partnership in front of Dr. Biesinger for so long, only to realize that he had no intention of honoring the buy-in or the conditions precedent to doing so.
- 37. As the contractual termination date was expressly amended to January 22, 2015, Dr. Biesinger was confronted with a decision on what to do during the two-year noncompetition period. While Dr. Biesinger felt the ban of surgical practice to be unreasonable (since Dr. Levine himself is not even qualified to do such), Dr. Biesinger opted to remain at Absolute Foot Care during the two-year post-contract termination period. It was not pleasant, as Dr. Levine and Dr. Biesinger failed to mesh personally, but Dr. Biesinger opted to serve out his two-year "sentence" to avoid further conflict.

Dr. Biesinger Learns Of Compensation Irregularities

- 38. In late-spring or early-summer of 2016, through discussions with Absolute Foot Care staff members, Dr. Biesinger discovered that Dr. Levine had altered his compensation, which during the contract period was thirty-percent (30%) of the revenue Dr. Biesinger generated. As a change from when the Employment Agreement was in effect, Dr. Biesinger was no longer given credit for products that he sold.
- 39. Dr. Biesinger was precluded from seeing the records that Absolute Foot Care used to calculate the revenue he generated and, in turn, his compensation.
- 40. Neither Dr. Levine nor any other representative of Absolute Foot Care provided written notice to Dr. Biesinger of any change to how his compensation would be calculated.

Termination Of Employment

- 41. As the Employment Agreement expired on January 22, 2015, the restrictive employment covenants were no longer in force and effect as of late-January 2017.
- 42. After the expiration of the non-compete, Dr. Biesinger began to explore starting his own practice. During or about the first week of April 2017, Dr. Biesinger disclosed to Dr. Levine that Dr. Biesinger was considering starting his own practice. In response, Dr. Levine stated that he would like to retire in maybe five years and raised the prospect of selling Dr. Biesinger the practice. Dr. Levine was not sure, however, if he wanted to sell it all at once or over several years. He spoke only

in generalities about selling the Company, which Dr. Biesinger interpreted as yet another attempt to dupe Dr. Biesinger into staying with his office.

- 43. As a result of Dr. Levine's vague, noncommittal comments about possibly selling the Practice, along with his previous failures to follow through on the partnership offer by not furnishing financial information, Dr. Biesinger decided on Monday, April 10, 2017 to resign from employment with Absolute Foot Care.
- 44. During the morning of April 4, 2017, Dr. Biesinger sent a text to Dr. Noah Levine noting that the Employment Agreement had expired. Dr. Levine did not dispute Dr. Biesinger's statement in the text message that the Employment Agreement had expired. Although Dr. Levine's text in response referenced the possibility of signing an extension, the parties did not sign an extension. The only extension to the Employment Agreement that the parties ever signed was executed on January 25, 2013 and set January 22, 2015 as the contract's termination date.
- 45. On April 11, 2017, Dr. Biesinger placed a resignation letter, mistakenly and not intentionally dated March 10 rather than April 10, on Dr. Levine's desk, informing him that his last day of employment would be April 20, 2017, which in fact it was.
- 46. On Friday, April 28, 2017, Dr. Biesinger opened his practice based on the determination that the Employment Agreement expired January 22, 2015, and the restrictive employment covenants were no longer in effect as of late-January 2017.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Declaratory Relief)

- 47. Dr. Biesinger hereby incorporates and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-46 above, as if set forth fully herein.
 - 48. Nevada has adopted the Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act (the "Act").
- 49. The Act permits persons interested under a deed, written contract or other writings constituting a contract, or whose rights, status or other legal relations are affected by a statute, municipal ordinance, contract or franchise, may have determined any question of construction or validity arising under the instrument, statute, ordinance, contract or franchise and obtain a declaration of rights, status or other legal relations thereunder.

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- 50. Counterclaimant Biesinger's rights, status and legal relations are affected by the
- 51. Counterclaimant seeks the following declaratory relief:
 - a. The "Non-Compete" provisions in the Employment Agreement defines the "Restricted Period" as the term of the employment and a period of two (2) years after thus Agreement expires or is terminated (whether terminated with or without cause regardless of who initiated such termination).
 - b. The initial Term of the Employment Agreement was for two years, which had expired on June 7, 2012.
 - c. The Extension Amendment to the Employment Agreement declared that the Term of the Agreement had expired, and that the Employer and Employee desire to continue their contractual relationship *up to* the point of the Extension.
 - d. The Extension Amendment provided that the Term of the Contract shall be extended until January 22, 2015.
 - Because the termination date of the Employment Agreement was amended e. pursuant to the Extension Agreement to the date of January 22, 2015, the contractual relationship expired non-competition period expired two (2) years after, on January 22, 2017.
- 52. Counterclaimant seeks all remedies available under NRS Chapter 30.
- 53. As a direct result of the aforementioned conduct on the part of the Counter-Defendant, Counterclaimant has been forced to retain the services of the undersigned counsel to defend and prosecute this matter and is thus entitled to an award of its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated herewith from Counter-Defendant as supplemental relief pursuant to NRS 30.100.

SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of Contract)

- 54. Dr. Biesinger hereby incorporates and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-53 above, as if set forth fully herein.
- 55. Counterclaimant incorporates the preceding paragraphs of this Counterclaim by reference as though fully set forth herein and further alleges as follows.

	56.	Pursuant to Section VIII of the Employment Agreement, Counter-defendant Absolute
Foot C	are Spe	cialists agreed to permit Dr. Biesinger to buy into the medical practice after faithful
perforn	nance u	nder the contract for two years.

- 57. Not only did Counter-defendant delay the buy in transaction in 2012, but Counter defendant failed to provide financials, corporate governance documentation and failed to proceed to consummate the transaction.
- 58. Counter-defendant and its agents further provided conflicting offering terms in the offering documents.
- 59. Moreover, Counter-defendant failed to provide Dr. Biesinger with the compensation promised to him.
- 60. Where Dr. Biesinger was receiving compensation on his total revenue brought in, which included related patient product sales, Counter-defendant unilaterally ceased payment to Dr. Biesinger on the amounts, thereby reducing his compensation in violation of their agreement.
- 61. By its above actions, Counter-Defendant has unlawfully breached its agreement with Counterclaimant.
- 62. By reason of the foregoing actions, Counterclaimant has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00.
- 63. As a direct result of the aforementioned conduct on the part of the Counter-Defendant, Counterclaimant has been forced to retain the services of the undersigned counsel to defend and prosecute this matter and is thus entitled to an award of its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated herewith from Counter-Defendant, as permitted by the Employment Agreement.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing) (In the Alternative)

64. Dr. Biesinger hereby incorporates and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-63 above, as if set forth fully herein.

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- 65. A valid and enforceable contract existed between Dr. Biesinger and Absolute Foot Care, which imposed on Absolute Foot Care an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, which prohibited arbitrary or unfair acts that worked to the disadvantage of Dr. Biesinger.
- 66. To the extent that Absolute Foot Care literally complied with the terms of the Employment Agreement, Absolute Foot Care's actions contravened the spirit and purpose of the Employment Agreement.
- 67. By its above actions relating to the buy-in of the practice, and the unilateral reduction in compensation, Counter-Defendant has destroyed and/or injured the right of Counterclaimant to receive the benefits of the agreement, and in so doing, has breached the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing.
- 68. By reason of the foregoing actions, Counterclaimant has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00.
- 69. As a direct result of the aforementioned conduct on the part of the Counter-Defendant, Counterclaimant has been forced to retain the services of the undersigned counsel to defend and prosecute this matter and is thus entitled to an award of his reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated herewith from Counter-Defendant.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Unjust Enrichment)

- 70. Dr. Biesinger hereby incorporates and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-69 above, as if set forth fully herein.
- 71. Counter-Defendant unjustly retained the financial benefit of Dr. Biesinger's medical and surgical services, and sales of medical supplies, without payment of full compensation to Dr. Biesinger.
- 72. Counter-Defendant further retained the added benefit of Dr. Biesinger's physician services to its practice, without ever having afforded Dr. Biesinger any meaningful opportunity to become an equity partner in the Absolute Foot Care practice.

- 73. Counter-Defendant's unjust retention of this aforementioned benefit is against the fundamental principles of justice, as the parties bargained for the agreement, and then Counter-Defendant breached its obligations thereto for the reasons set forth above.
- 74. Counter-Defendant has conferred a benefit upon Counterclaimant through his 7 years service, even though Counter-Defendant breached its obligations to permit the equity stock purchase, and to pay full compensation to Dr. Biesinger.
- 75. Counter-Defendant has appreciated this benefit, as well as accepted and retained this benefit.
- 76. As a direct and proximate result of Counter-Defendant's aforementioned conduct, Counterclaimant has been damaged in a substantial sum in excess of \$15,000.00, the exact amount of which will be set forth at the time of trial in this matter.
- 77. As a direct result of the aforementioned conduct on the part of the Counter-Defendant, Counterclaimant has been forced to retain the services of the undersigned counsel to defend and prosecute this matter and is thus entitled to an award of its reasonable attorneys' fees and costs associated herewith from Counter-Defendant.

FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(NRS 608.040 – Waiting Time Penalties)

- 78. Dr. Biesinger hereby incorporates and re-alleges the allegations set forth in paragraphs 1-77 above, as if set forth fully herein.
- 79. Under NRS 608.040(1)(b): "If an employer fails to pay . . . [o]n the day the wages or compensation is due to an employee who resigns or quits, the wages or compensation of the employee continues at the same rate from the day the employee resigned, quit or was discharged until paid or for 30 days, whichever is less."
- 80. Pursuant to NRS 608.040, Dr. Biesinger seeks waiting time penalties in addition to wages due.

WHEREFORE, Counterclaimant Dr. Biesinger prays for judgment against Counter-Defendant as follows:

A.

2	in excess of	f \$15,000.00;	
3	B.	With respect to the Second Claim for Relief (Brea	ch of Contract), judgment in an
4	amount in e	excess of \$15,000.00;	
5	C.	With respect to the Third Claim for Relief (Breach	of the Implied Covenant of Good
6	Fair and Fai	nir Dealing) judgment in an amount in excess of \$15,000.	00;
7	D.	With respect to the Fourth Claim for Relief (Unju	st Enrichment), judgment in an
8	amount in e	excess of \$15,000.00;	
9	E.	With respect to the Fifth Claim for Relief (NRS 608	3.040 – Waiting Time Penalties),
10	judgment in	n an amount in excess of \$15,000.00;	
11	F.	For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest;	
12	G.	For all costs and expenses incurred by David P. Biesi	nger, DPM in enforcing its rights
13	under the A	Agreement, including, but not limited to, reasonable atto	orneys' fees and costs incurred in
14	defending a	and prosecuting this action; and	
15	Н.	For such other and further relief as the Court deems j	ust and proper.
16	DAT	TED: June 2, 2017	
17		Respectfully submitted	,
18		CLARK LAW COUN	SEL PLLC
19			
20		<u>/s/ Dustin L. Clark</u> Dustin L. Clark	
21		Attorney for Defendant	
22		David P. Biesinger, DI	- IVI
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With respect to the First Claim for Relief (Declaratory Relief), judgment in an amount

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 Pursuant to NRCP 5 and EDCR 8.05, I hereby certify that I served a true and correct copy of 3 the above and foregoing DEFENDANT/COUNTERCLAIMANT DAVID P. BIESINGER'S 4 ANSWER AND COUNTERCLAIM upon the following via the Eighth Judicial District Court's E-5 Filing System: 6 John R. Bailey Joshua M. Dickey 7 Paul C. Williams **BAILEY KENNEDY** 8 8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue 9 Las Vegas, NV 89148-1302 JBailey@BaileyKennedy.com 10 JDickey@BaileyKennedy.com PWilliams@BaileyKennedy.com 11 Attorneys for Plaintiff 12 I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. 13 **DATED:** June 2, 2017 14 15 /s/ Dustin L. Clark Dustin L. Clark 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Exhibit 3

Exhibit 3

Electronically Filed

Case Number: A-17-754423-B

Sanctions Against David P. Biesinger, DPM, for Failure to Comply with Order Granting Motion to Compel (the "Renewed Motion for Sanctions").

APPEARANCES

- Paul C. Williams, Esq. of Bailey Kennedy on behalf of Plaintiff Absolute Foot Care ("Absolute Foot Care" or "Plaintiff");
- Zachary P. Takos, Esq. of Takos Law Group, Ltd. on behalf of Defendant David P. Biesinger, DPM ("Dr. Biesinger"); and
- Jeffrey Gronich, Esq. of Jeffrey Gronich, Attorney at Law, P.C. on behalf of Defendant Lorraine Pallanti ("Ms. Pallanti").

The Court, having examined the briefs of the parties, the records, the documents on file, having heard argument of counsel, being fully advised of the premises, and good cause appearing, hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order with regard to the Renewed Motion for Sanctions.

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On April 18, 2018, Absolute Foot Care served its First Set of Requests for Production of Documents to Dr. Biesinger (the "Biesinger RFPs").
- 2. On July 3, 2018, Dr. Biesinger served his Objections and Responses to the Biesinger RFPs.
- 3. After engaging in the meet-and-confer process, which began in December 2019, Absolute Foot Care filed its Motion to Compel Defendants' Responses to Plaintiff's First Set of Requests for Production on February 21, 2020 (the "Motion to Compel").
- 4. The Court entered an Order granting the Motion to Compel on May 1, 2020 (the "MTC Order").
- 5. In the MTC Order, the Court compelled Dr. Biesinger "to produce all documents responsive to Biesinger RFP Nos. 7, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 and 25" and to "produce his 2017, 2018, and 2019 Federal tax returns" (the "Compelled Documents"). (MTC Order at 5:5-9.) The Court compelled Dr. Biesinger to "produce the documents within fourteen (14) days of entry of th[e] Order." (*Id.* at 5:8-9.)

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- 6. On May 19, 2020, Dr. Biesinger submitted his Second Supplemental Responses to the Biesinger RFPs (the "Biesinger Second Supplemental Responses"). The Biesinger Second Supplemental Responses provided telephone records (the subject of Request Nos. 18 and 19), but did not include telephone records from January 1, 2017, through March 21, 2018, as the Court had compelled in the MTC Order. The Biesinger Second Supplemental Responses did not supplement his responses to Biesinger Request Nos. 15, 16, and 17.
- 7. On June 1, 2020, Absolute Foot Care filed a Countermotion for Sanctions pursuant to NRCP 37(b) (the "Initial Motion for Sanctions").
- 8. On June 17, 2020, Dr. Biesinger served his Third Supplemental Responses to the Biesinger RFPs (the "Biesinger Third Supplemental Responses"). The Biesinger Third Supplemental Responses purportedly supplemented Dr. Biesinger's responses to Request Nos. 7 (invoices for medical equipment) and 15 (lists of patients). The additional patient list in the Biesinger Third Supplemental Responses was a list of "Patients by CPT Code" (which did not contain any CPT codes) and did not contain pertinent patient information such as dates of birth, addresses, telephone numbers, dates when patients were seen, etc.
- 9. On July 9, 2020, this Court entered an order denying the Initial Motion for Sanctions "without prejudice as to renewal if Biesinger has not complied with the MTC Order within a reasonable time." (Order: (1) Denying Motions to Reconsider; and (2) Denying Countermotion for Sanctions, filed on July 9, 2020, at 3:6-8.)
- 10. On August 14, 2020, Dr. Biesinger supplemented his response to Request No. 15 (lists of patients) to identify certain documents he produced in response to Absolute Foot Care's Second Set of Requests for Production on August 12, 2020. However, the additional documents were financial records—e.g., insurance adjustments and payments.
- 11. If any of the foregoing findings of fact are properly construed to be conclusions of law, they shall be so deemed.

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CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 12. Where a party "fails to obey an order to provide or permit discovery . . . the court may issue" sanctions including:
 - (A) directing that the matters embraced in the order or other designated facts be taken as established for purposes of the action, as the prevailing party claims;
 - (B) prohibiting the disobedient party from supporting or opposing designated claims or defenses, or from introducing designated matters in evidence;
 - (C) striking pleadings in whole or in part;
 - (D) staying further proceedings until the order is obeyed;
 - (E) dismissing the action or proceeding in whole or in part;
 - (F) rendering a default judgment against the disobedient party; or
 - (G) treating as contempt of court the failure to obey any order except an order to submit to a physical or mental examination.

NRCP 37(b)(1).

- 13. "Nevada jurisprudence does not follow the federal model of requiring progressive sanctions against a party for failing to comply with a discovery order or for failing to attend their deposition." *Bahena v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.*, 126 Nev. 606, 610, 245 P.3d 1182, 1184-85 (2010).
- 14. The Court finds Dr. Biesinger has failed to fully comply with the MTC Order; specifically, by failing to adequately respond to Request Nos. 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20.
- 15. The Court finds that sanctions are appropriate based on Dr. Biesinger's failure to comply with the MTC Order, but not to the extent sought by Absolute Foot Care (the striking of Biesinger's Answer as to liability only).
- 16. Instead, the Court finds that the appropriate sanction is to strike all of the affirmative defenses asserted by Dr. Biesinger, leaving any and all denials and the Counterclaim intact, but not permitting evidence to be adduced that should have been provided.
- 17. If any of the foregoing conclusions of law are properly construed to be findings of fact, they shall be so deemed.

1 **ORDER** 2 Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and good cause 3 appearing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Renewed Motion for Sanctions is GRANTED IN 4 5 PART, as follows: All of the affirmative defenses asserted by Dr. Biesinger are hereby STRICKEN, 6 leaving any and all denials and the Counterclaim intact, but not permitting evidence to be adduced 7 that should have been provided. 8 9 10 December 08, 2020. 11 12 13 14 Respectfully Submitted By: Approved as to Form: 15 Bailey Kennedy TAKOS LAW GROUP, LTD. 16 By: By: /s/ Paul C. Williams ZACHARY P. TAKOS JOHN R. BAILEY 17 JOSHUA M. DICKEY Nevada Bar No. 11293 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 300 PAUL C. WILLIAMS 18 Attorneys for Plaintiff Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Absolute Foot Care Specialists zach@takoslaw.com 19 Telephone (702) 856-4629 Facsimile: (702) 9324-4422 20 **Attorney for Defendant** David P. Biesinger, DPM 21 22 Approved as to Form: 23 JEFFREY GRONICH, ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C. 24 By: /s/ Jeffrey Gronich JEFFREY GRONICH 25 Nevada Bar No. 13136 1810 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 109 26 Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 Telephone: (702) 430-6896 27 Facsimile: (702) 369-1290 jgronich@gronichlaw.com 28 Attorney for Defendant Lorraine Pallanti

Paul Williams

From: Sent: To:	Jeffrey Gronich <jgronich@gronichlaw.com> Friday, December 4, 2020 2:45 PM Paul Williams</jgronich@gronichlaw.com>
Cc: Subject:	Steven Hart; Zachary Takos; Joshua Dickey; Sharon Murnane; Karen Rodman Re: AFC v. Biesinger - Order on Renewed Motion for Sanctions
You may affix my signature, the	nank you.
Jeffrey Gronich, Esq. Jeffrey Gronich, Attorney at 1810 E. Sahara Ave Suite 109 Las Vegas, NV 89104 702-430-6896	Law, P.C.
On Fri, Dec 4, 2020 at 2:31 PM	M Paul Williams < PWilliams@baileykennedy.com > wrote:
Hi all,	
	der. Please let me know if I may affix your electronic signature and submit to the Court on Monday—if I do not have approval, I will apply a strike-through on eks.
Paul C. Williams	
Bailey Kennedy, LLP	
8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue	
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-13	302
(702) 562-8820 (Main)	
(702) 789-4552 (Direct)	
(702) 301-2725 (Cell)	
(702) 562-8821 (Fax)	

Exhibit 4

Exhibit 4

1 2 3 4 5 6	NEOJ JOHN R. BAILEY Nevada Bar No. 0137 JOSHUA M. DICKEY Nevada Bar No. 6621 PAUL C. WILLIAMS Nevada Bar No. 12524 BAILEY * KENNEDY 8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-1302 Telephone: 702.562.8820 Facsimile: 702.562.8821	12/10/2020 11:55 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT
7 8	JBailey@BaileyKennedy.com JDickey@BaileyKennedy.com PWilliams@BaileyKennedy.com	
9 10	Attorneys for Plaintiff Absolute Foot Care Specialists	
11	DISTRICT	CCOURT
12	CLARK COUN	TY, NEVADA
13	ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALISTS, a Nevada Corporation,	Case No. A-17-754423-B Dept. No. XIII
14	Plaintiff,	
15	VS.	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING, IN PART, RENEWED MOTION FOR NRCP
16	DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM, an individual; and LORRAINE PALLANTI, an individual,	37(B) SANCTIONS
17 18	Defendants.	
19	DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM, an individual,	
20	Counterclaimant, vs.	
21	ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALISTS, a	
22	Nevada Corporation; DOES I through X; and ROE ENTITIES I through X,	
23	Counter-Defendant.	
24	Country Defondant.	
25	PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order Gr	anting, in Part, Renewed Motion for NRCP 37(b)
26	Sanctions was entered in the above-entitled action	on December 8, 2020, a true and correct copy of
27	///	
28	///	
	Page 1 c	of 2

Electronically Filed 12/10/2020 11:55 AM

1	which is attached hereto.
2	DATED this 10th day of December, 2020.
3	Bailey * Kennedy
4 5	By: /s/ Paul C. Williams JOHN R. BAILEY JOSHUA M. DICKEY
6	PAUL C. WILLIAMS Attorneys for Plaintiff Absolute Foot Care Specialists
7 8	Pool Cure Specialisis
9	
10	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>
11	I certify that I am an employee of BAILEY KENNEDY and that on the 10th day of
12	December, 2020, service of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING, IN
13	PART, RENEWED MOTION FOR NRCP 37(B) SANCTIONS was made by mandatory
14	electronic service through the Eighth Judicial District Court's electronic filing system and/or by
15	depositing a true and correct copy in the U.S. Mail, first class postage prepaid, and addressed to the
16	following at their last known address:
17 18	ZACHARY P. TAKOS Email: zach@takoslaw.com TAKOS LAW GROUP, LTD. 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 300
19 20	Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Attorney for Defendant DAVID BIESINGER, DPM
21	JEFFREY GRONICH Email: jgronich@gronichlaw.com JEFFREY GRONICH,
22	ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C. 1810 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 109 Attorneys for Defendant Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 LORRAINE PALLANTI
2324	Las vegas, ivevada 65104 Eckivii ve i reeli ve reeli ve i reeli ve i reeli ve i reeli ve i reeli ve
25	/s/ Stephanie M Kishi Employee of BAILEY * KENNEDY
26	Employee of DAILE! * KENNED!
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Exhibit 5

Exhibit 5

ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 8/18/2021 10:34 AM

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08/18/2021 10:33 AM 1 CLERK OF THE COURT FFCO (CIV) JOHN R. BAILEY Nevada Bar No. 0137 JOSHUA M. DICKEY 3 Nevada Bar No. 6621 PAUL C. WILLIAMS 4 Nevada Bar No. 12524 **BAILEY * KENNEDY** 5 8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-1302 6 Telephone: 702.562.8820 Facsimile: 702.562.8821 7 JBailey@BaileyKennedy.com JDickey@BaileyKennedy.com 8 PWilliams@BaileyKennedy.com 9 Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterdefendant Absolute Foot Care Specialists 10 DISTRICT COURT 11 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 12 13 ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALISTS, a Case No. A-17-754423-B Nevada Corporation, Dept. No. XIII 14 Plaintiff, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF 15 VS. LAW, AND ORDER GRANTING 16 DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM, an individual; and PLAINTIFF/COUNTERDEFENDANT LORRAINE PALLANTI, an individual, 17 ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALISTS' Defendants. MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT ON: 18 (1) ITS BREACH OF CONTRACT CLAIMS; 19 DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM, an individual, AND (2) DEFENDANT/COUNTERCLAIMANT 20 DAVID P. BIESINGER, DPM'S Counterclaimant, VS. COUNTERCLAIMS 21 ABSOLUTE FOOT CARE SPECIALISTS, a 22 Nevada Corporation; DOES I through X; and ROE ENTITIES I through X, 23 Counter-Defendant. 24 25 This matter came before this Court on June 28, 2021, at 9:00 a.m., for a hearing regarding 26 Plaintiff Absolute Foot Care Specialists' ("Absolute Foot Care" or "Plaintiff") Motion for 27 Summary Judgment on: (1) Its Breach of Contract Claims; and (2) Defendant/ 28 Page 1 of 21

BAILEY * KENNEDY 8984 SPANISH RIDGE AVENUE LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89148-1302 702.562.8820

1	Counterclaimant David P. Biesinger, DPM's Counterclaims (the "Motion for Summary
2	Judgment").
3	<u>APPEARANCES</u>
4	• Paul C. Williams, Esq. of Bailey Kennedy on behalf of Plaintiff Absolute Foot
5	Care;
6	Zachary P. Takos, Esq. of Takos Law Group, Ltd. on behalf of Defendant David P.
7	Biesinger, DPM ("Dr. Biesinger"); and
8	Jeffrey Gronich, Esq. of Jeffrey Gronich, Attorney at Law, P.C. on behalf of former
9	Defendant Lorraine Pallanti ("Ms. Pallanti"). ¹
10	The Court, having examined the briefs of the parties, the records and documents on file, and
11	having heard argument of counsel, being fully advised of the premises, and good cause appearing,
12	makes the following findings of fact, conclusions of law, and order:
13	FINDINGS OF FACT
14	1. Absolute Foot Care is a Nevada corporation whose business is the practice of
15	podiatric medicine in Clark County, Nevada.
16	2. Absolute Foot Care operates a podiatry office at 7125 Grand Montecito Parkway,
17	#110, Las Vegas, Nevada 89149 (the "Centennial Office").
18	3. Absolute Foot Care's principal, Noah Levine, DPM ("Dr. Levine"), is the President
19	of Absolute Foot Care and is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine licensed to practice podiatry in Nevada
20	since 2001.
21	4. Dr. Biesinger is a Doctor of Podiatric Medicine and, prior to his resignation on April
22	20, 2017, was an employee of Absolute Foot Care.
23	5. On June 7, 2010, Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger entered into the Employment
24	Agreement pursuant to which Dr. Biesinger became an employee of Absolute Foot Care and agreed
25	to perform certain duties and undertake certain responsibilities.
26	
27	Based on a Stipulation and Order for Dismissal with Prejudice entered on July 6, 2021, Ms.
28	Pallanti was dismissed from this case.

- 6. The Employment Agreement contained restrictive covenants wherein Dr. Biesinger agreed, among other things, not to do the following for two years following the termination of his association with Absolute Foot Care: (a) practice podiatric medicine within eight miles of Absolute Foot Care's Centennial Office; (b) solicit patients or other customers of Absolute Foot Care; or (c) solicit employees of Absolute Foot Care (the "Restrictive Covenants").
- 7. Dr. Biesinger agreed that Absolute Foot Care would be entitled to \$650,000.00 in liquidated damages if he breached any one or more of the Restrictive Covenants.
- 8. The Employment Agreement specified that it had an initial term of two years (the "Initial Term"), but also contained an "evergreen" clause (the "Evergreen Clause")—which provided that the Employment Agreement automatically renewed for successive one-year periods unless otherwise terminated it in accordance with Section VIII.B of the Employment Agreement.
- 9. The Employment Agreement also provided that, at the end of the Initial Term, Dr. Biesinger would become eligible to become an equity owner in Absolute Foot Care "at and subject to the reasonable discretion of the Employer" if certain conditions were met. Specifically, the Employment Agreement stated that such a future agreement would need to be "memorialized in a separate agreement" under which Dr. Biesinger would become "eligible to acquire between ten percent (10%) and twenty percent (20%) of equity in" Absolute Foot Care for "an appropriate buyin amount." The Employment Agreement stated that Dr. Biesinger's potential buy-in would require "a majority consensus and approval."
- 10. The Employment Agreement provided Dr. Biesinger with a monthly salary and two types of incentive pay. Under the first type of incentive pay, Absolute Foot Care paid Dr. Biesinger thirty percent (30%) of net revenue (minus his salary) directly attributable to his work. Under the second type of incentive pay, Dr. Biesinger was paid ten percent (10%) of the net amount collected (amount collected minus cost of product) from the sale of cosmetic products to patients treated by Dr. Biesinger.
- 11. Shortly after the Initial Term, Dr. Biesinger and Absolute Foot Care began discussions regarding his potential purchase of an equity interest in Absolute Foot Care.

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- 12. On or about July 6, 2012, Dr. Biesinger and Absolute Foot Care executed a Letter of Intent (the "Letter of Intent"). The Letter of Intent states that it is an "expression of interest in allowing [Dr. Biesinger] to acquire an equity interest in [Absolute Foot Care] in accordance with Section VIII(A) of [the] Employment Agreement " The financial terms agreed upon in the Letter of Intent were: (a) Dr. Levine would sell up to 20 percent of his equity interest (20 of his 100 shares) in Absolute Foot Care to Dr. Biesinger; (b) "[t]he purchase price per percentage interest in the company shall be \$25,000.00 per share;" and (c) Dr. Biesinger could acquire the shares either all at once or over time.
- 13. On July 8, 2013, Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger entered into a Non-Disclosure Agreement (the "Non-Disclosure Agreement") governing Dr. Biesinger's access to Absolute Foot Care's confidential financial information.
- 14. On January 25, 2013, Absolute Foot Care and Dr. Biesinger executed an Extension of Employment Agreement for Professional Services (the "Extension"). A recital of the Extension states that "the term of the [Employment] Agreement has expired and upon expiration, Employee and Employer agreed to continue their contractual relationship up to the point of this Extension, and adhered to all terms and conditions under the [Employment] Agreement."
- 15. The Extension further provides, in pertinent part: "All terms and conditions of the [Employment] Agreement shall remain in full force and effect" except that the "term of the Contract shall be extended until January 22, 2015."
- 16. From January 23, 2015—the date which Dr. Biesinger contends the Employment Agreement expired—to April 20, 2017, Dr. Biesinger remained employed with Absolute Foot Care under the terms and conditions of the Employment Agreement. Specifically, Absolute Foot Care continued to: (i) pay Dr. Biesinger a salary in accordance with the terms of the Employment Agreement; (ii) pay Dr. Biesinger incentive bonuses pursuant to formulas detailed in the Employment Agreement (irrespective of whether the incentive bonuses were correctly calculated); (iii) provide Dr. Biesinger with benefits (e.g. malpractice insurance) in accordance with the Employment Agreement; and (iv) perform in accordance with the Employment Agreement.

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- 17. In 2015, Dr. Biesinger and Absolute Foot Care resumed discussions regarding his potential purchase of an equity interest in Absolute Foot Care. The terms of the potential purchase were materially similar to those contained in the Letter of Intent—Dr. Biesinger could purchase up to a twenty percent (20%) interest for \$25,000.00 per share.
- 18. While still employed at Absolute Foot Care, Dr. Biesinger purchased real property and was building out a medical suite located at 6200 North Durango, Las Vegas, Nevada (the "Durango Office")—which is approximately one mile away from Absolute Foot Care's Centennial Office.
- 19. On April 20, 2017—when Dr. Levine and Absolute Foot Care's Practice Administrator (Dr. Levine's wife Lauren Levine) were away on vacation—Dr. Biesinger advised staff members that he was resigning from Absolute Foot Care and provided his key to the office to a staff member. Dr. Biesinger also placed a resignation letter on Dr. Levine's desk, which was dated March 10, 2017.
- 20. On April 21, 2017, Absolute Foot Care began experiencing a disproportionate amount of appointment cancellations from its patients.
- 21. Absolute Foot Care learned that Dr. Biesinger and two former Absolute Foot Care employees had solicited multiple patients of Absolute Foot Care—including patients with which Dr. Biesinger had no prior relationship (i.e. patients that had only seen Dr. Levine)—to Dr. Biesinger's new podiatry practice at his Durango Office, located within one mile of Absolute Foot Care's Centennial Office. Specifically, Absolute Foot Care's patients revealed that they had received phone calls from someone, purporting to act on Dr. Biesinger's behalf, indicating: (a) that they had an appointment with Absolute Foot Care in the near future; (b) that Dr. Biesinger was no longer with Absolute Foot Care; (c) that Dr. Biesinger was starting his own practice (Centennial Foot & Ankle); and (d) to call Dr. Biesinger if they wanted to cancel their appointment with Absolute Foot Care and instead schedule an appointment with Dr. Biesinger at his new office.
- 22. Additionally, Absolute Foot Care learned that Dr. Biesinger and his agents elected not to contact certain patients that Dr. Biesinger treated at Absolute Foot Care—although they were

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still in need of medical care—that were not likely to result in significant reimbursements; primarily, patients needing post-operative care.

- 23. On May 22, 2017, this Court entered a Preliminary Injunction, enjoining Dr. Biesinger from violating the Restrictive Covenants.
- 24. Despite the Preliminary Injunction, Dr. Biesinger continued to operate a podiatry practice (Centennial Foot & Ankle) at his Durango Office until July 21, 2017.
- 25. This Court ultimately held Dr. Biesinger in contempt for violating the Preliminary Injunction and awarded Absolute Foot Care a significant portion of its reasonable attorney's fees and costs.
- 26. On December 8, 2020, this Court sanctioned Dr. Biesinger due to his failure to comply with this Court's order compelling him to produce certain documents—after having given Dr. Biesinger numerous opportunities to comply. Specifically, this Court struck Biesinger's affirmative defenses as a sanction pursuant to NRCP 37(b). Subsequently, on Biesinger's Motion for Reconsideration, this Court amended its order to "Any of the affirmative defenses asserted by Biesinger that relate to performance/breach/damages issues shall be disallowed, leaving any and all denials and the Counterclaim intact, but not permitting evidence to be adduced that should have been provided." (Order on Motion to Reconsider the Order Granting, in Part, Renewed Motion for NRCP 37(b) Sanctions, filed March 4, 2021, at 3:1-9.)
- 27. Absolute Foot Care's expert opined that it suffered damages in excess of \$1 million due to Dr. Biesinger's impermissible conduct. Dr. Biesinger disclosed a rebuttal expert that criticized Absolute Foot Care's expert's methodology.
- 28. Any findings of fact that are more appropriately considered conclusions of law shall be treated as such.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

29. "A party may move for summary judgment, identifying each claim or defense — or the part of each claim or defense — on which summary judgment is sought." NRCP 56(a). "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." *Id.*

- 30. "Summary judgment is an important procedural tool by which 'factually insufficient claims or defenses [may] be isolated and prevented from going to trial with the attendant unwarranted consumption of public and private resources." *Boesiger v. Desert Appraisals, LLC*, 135 Nev. 192, 194, 444 P.3d 436, 438-39 (2019) (quoting *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317, 327 (1986)).
- 31. "Summary judgment is appropriate and shall be rendered forthwith when the pleadings and other evidence on file demonstrate that no genuine issue as to any material fact [remains] and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." *Wood v. Safeway, Inc.*, 121 Nev. 724, 729, 121 P.3d 1026, 1029 (2005) (internal quotation marks omitted). "The substantive law controls which factual disputes are material and will preclude summary judgment." *Id.* at 731, 121 P.3d at 1031. "A factual dispute is genuine when the evidence is such that a rational trier of fact could return a verdict for the nonmoving party." *Id.* The Court must construe "the evidence, and any reasonable inferences drawn from it, . . . in a light most favorable to the nonmoving party." *Id.* at 729, 121 P.3d at 1029.
- 32. The party moving for summary judgment "bears the initial burden of production to show the absence of a genuine issue of material fact." *Cuzze v. Univ. & Comm. Coll. Sys. of Nev.*, 123 Nev. 598, 602, 172 P.3d 131, 134 (2007) (*citing Celotex Corp.*, 477 U.S. at 323). "[I]f the nonmoving party will bear the burden of persuasion at trial, the party moving for summary judgment may satisfy the burden of production by either (1) submitting evidence that negates an essential element of the nonmoving party's claim, or (2) 'pointing out . . . that there is an absence of evidence to support the nonmoving party's case." Cuzze v. Univ. & Cmty. Coll. Sys. of Nev., 123 Nev. 598, 602–03, 172 P.3d 131, 134 (2007) (quoting Celotex Corp., 477 U.S. at 323); accord NRCP 56(c)(1)(B). Assuming the moving party meets its initial burden of production in moving for summary judgment, the nonmoving party is then required to set forth those facts demonstrating the existence of a genuine issue for trial. See Torrealba v. Kesmetis, 124 Nev. 95, 100, 178 P.3d 716, 720 (2008).

Absolute Foot Care's Breach of Contract Claim

- 33. Absolute Foot Care, for purposes of its Motion for Summary Judgment, elected its breach of contract claim and liquidated damages of \$650,000.00 as its sole remedy—*i.e.* Absolute Foot Care agreed to forego its other claims for relief² if the Motion for Summary Judgment was granted.
- 34. Under Nevada law, a breach of contract claim requires the following: "(1) formation of a valid contract; (2) performance or excuse of performance by the plaintiff; (3) material breach by the defendant; and (4) damages." *Laguerre v. Nevada Sys. of Higher Educ.*, 837 F. Supp. 2d 1176, 1180 (D. Nev. 2011) (citing *Bernard v. Rockhill Dev. Co.*, 103 Nev. 132, 135, 734 P.2d 1238, 1240 (1987)).
- 35. The Court concludes that: (i) the Employment Agreement was a valid contract; (ii) Absolute Foot Care performed its obligations under the Employment Agreement; (iii) Dr. Biesinger breached the Employment Agreement by violating the Restrictive Covenants; and (iv) Absolute Foot Care sustained damages as a result of Dr. Biesinger's breaches.

The Evergreen Clause and the Extension

- 36. Dr. Biesinger argues that the Employment Agreement expired on January 22, 2015 (and thus the Restrictive Covenants expired two years later on January 22, 2017) based on his contention that the Extension removed the Evergreen Clause from the Employment Agreement. The Court rejects this argument and finds that the Evergreen Clause remained in effect until Dr. Biesinger's departure from Absolute Foot Care on April 20, 2017.
- 37. Under Nevada law, unambiguous contracts are construed according to their plain language. *United Rentals Hwy. Techs. v. Wells Cargo*, 128 Nev. 666, 678, 289 P.3d 221, 229 (2012).
- 38. *First*, the Court finds that the plain language of the Extension demonstrates that it was not intended to remove the Evergreen Provision from the Employment Agreement. The

In addition to its breach of contract claim, Absolute Foot Care asserted the following claims for relief: (i) breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; (ii) unjust enrichment; (iii) breach of fiduciary duty; (iv) conversion; (v) intentional interference; and (vi) civil conspiracy.

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Extension expressly provides that "the term of the [Employment] Agreement has expired and upon expiration, Employee and Employer agreed to continue their contractual relationship up to the point of this Extension, and adhered to all terms and conditions under the [Employment] Agreement." At that time, the only term in the Employment Agreement that had expired was the Initial Term.

- 39. The Extension then states that "by and through this Extension, Employee and Employer agree to formally extend the [Employment] Agreement for an additional two (2) years from the date of the execution of this Extension."
- 40. The Extension then provides that "[a]ll terms and conditions of the [Employment] Agreement shall remain in full force and effect" except that the term (i.e. the Initial Term), "shall be extended until January 22, 2015."
- 41. Dr. Biesinger's argument that the Extension's statement that the "term" had expired references the Employment Agreement generally (and not just the Initial Term) is contradicted by his own testimony. At his deposition, Dr. Biesinger conceded that, from June 7, 2012 (when the Initial Term expired), to January 2013 (when the Extension was signed) he was working for Absolute Foot Care pursuant to the Employment Agreement (i.e., it had not expired).
- 42. The Court finds that the plain language of the Extension does not express an intent by the parties to remove the Evergreen Clause from the Employment Agreement. To the contrary, the parties expressed an intent that all terms and conditions of the Employment Agreement were to "remain in full force and effect," and the Evergreen Clause is a term and condition of the Employment Agreement.
- 43. In essence, Dr. Biesinger argues that the Extension was intended to fully supplant the provisions contained in Section VII(A) of the Employment Agreement. However, the Extension does not express any such intent. Moreover, Section VII(A) contained other provisions in addition to the Initial Term and the Evergreen Clause. For example, Section VII(A) also included, among other things, Dr. Biesinger's entitlement to be considered for purchasing an ownership interest in Absolute Foot Care (subject to certain conditions and the reasonable discretion of Absolute Foot Care). While Dr. Biesinger contends that the Extension removed the Evergreen Clause, he nonetheless argued that he was entitled to purchase an ownership interest in

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Absolute Foot Care pursuant to Section VII(A). Dr. Biesinger's attempt to have it both ways (i.e. the Extension removing the Evergreen Clause but not his entitlement to purchase an ownership interest) is unavailing—he cannot accept the benefits of the Employment Agreement and, at the same time, reject its corresponding burdens. Bergstrom v. Estate of DeVoe, 109 Nev. 575, 577, 854 P.2d 860, 861 (1993) ("He cannot at the same time affirm the contract by retaining its benefits and rescind it by repudiating its burdens.") (quoting CORBIN ON CONTRACTS § 1114).

- 44. **Second**, assuming, *arguendo*, the Extension was ambiguous as to whether the parties intended to have the Evergreen Clause remain in full force and effect, the parties' course of conduct confirms that the Evergreen Clause remained in place and that the Employment Agreement persisted through Dr. Biesinger's departure from Absolute Foot Care.
- 45. Dr. Biesinger does not dispute that from January 22, 2015—the date Dr. Biesinger contends the Employment Agreement expired—until his departure, he was: (i) paid a salary in accordance with the terms of the Employment Agreement; (ii) paid incentive bonuses pursuant to formulas detailed in his Employment Agreement (irrespective of whether the incentive bonuses were correctly calculated); and (iii) provided with benefits (e.g. malpractice insurance, cell phone allowance, etc.).
- 46. Indeed, Dr. Biesinger's Counterclaims are based upon the existence of the Employment Agreement through the time of his departure—he contends that Absolute Foot Care did not pay him incentive pay pursuant to the specific terms of the Employment Agreement and did not give him an opportunity to purchase an ownership interest in Absolute Foot Care pursuant to the Employment Agreement.
- 47. Moreover, the Court finds Dr. Biesinger's arguments regarding an unauthenticated text message exchange are not persuasive. Even assuming the text message exchange was admissible, Dr. Levine's alleged communications did not confirm that the Employment Agreement had expired and did not modify the Employment Agreement. Rather, Dr. Levine's communications indicated that he believed that the formality of an extension was important to Dr. Biesinger, consistent with his deposition testimony.

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- 48. *Third*, assuming, *arguendo*, that the Extension had removed the Evergreen Provision, under Nevada law, "when an employee and employer continue an employment relationship after the term of duration contained in a written contract, the original contract is presumed to renew automatically under the same terms and conditions until either party terminates the contract." Ringle v. Bruton, 120 Nev. 82, 89, 86 P.3d 1032, 1037 (2004). Any terms of duration do not renew (i.e., a two-year contract does not renew for two years); rather, the contract simply continues until either party terminates it. See id.
- 49. Under Ringle, assuming, arguendo, Dr. Biesinger is correct and the Extension removed the Evergreen Clause, then the parties were subject to an amended Employment Agreement with the same terms and conditions, excepting the Evergreen Clause, for a term of two years. It is this amended Employment Agreement (without the Evergreen Clause) that would have extended by operation of law pursuant to Ringle—not the original Employment Agreement (with the Evergreen Clause).
- 50. Thus, under Dr. Biesinger's theory, the amended Employment Agreement (without the Evergreen Clause) would have ended, pursuant to its terms, on January 22, 2015. However, the amended Employment Agreement presumptively renewed by operation of law because Dr. Biesinger and Absolute Foot Care "continue[d] an employment relationship after the term of duration contained in" the amended Employment Agreement. Ringle, 120 Nev. at 89, 86 P.3d at 1037. The amended Employment Agreement continued indefinitely—without any term as to duration—until Dr. Biesinger resigned on April 20, 2017. See id.
- 51. In sum, because the Court finds the Evergreen Clause persisted after the Extension was executed, the Employment Agreement automatically renewed for one-year terms on January 23, 2015, January 23, 2016, and January 23, 2017, and remained in effect until Dr. Biesinger's departure from Absolute Foot Care on April 20, 2017. Alternatively, even if the Extension had abrogated the Evergreen Clause, the Court finds that the Employment Agreement renewed by operation of law pursuant to Ringle.

Absolute Foot Care Performed Its Obligations Under the Employment Agreement

- 52. The Court concludes that Absolute Foot Care performed its obligations under the Employment Agreement.
- 53. As detailed below, Dr. Biesinger contends that Absolute Foot Care breached the Employment Agreement and/or the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing by failing to compensate him according to the Employment Agreement and by failing to provide him with an opportunity to purchase an ownership interest in Absolute Foot Care. Dr. Biesinger has asserted, as an affirmative defense, that Absolute Foot Care's alleged breaches of the Employment Agreement excused his performance.
- 54. However, this Court has stricken, as a sanction under NRCP 37(b), "the affirmative defenses asserted by Dr. Biesinger that relate to *performance/breach*/damages issues." (*See* Order Granting, in Part, Renewed Motion for NRCP 37(b) Sanctions, filed on Dec. 8, 2020, at 4; *see also* Order on Motion to Reconsider the Order Granting, in Part, Renewed Motion for NRCP 37(b) Sanctions, filed March 4, 2021, at 3:1-9 (emphasis added).)
- 55. Accordingly, Dr. Biesinger may not raise Absolute Foot Care's alleged breaches of the Employment Agreement as an affirmative defense to Absolute Foot Care's breach of contract claim.

Dr. Biesinger Breached the Employment Agreement

- 56. The Court concludes that Dr. Biesinger breached the Employment Agreement by violating the Restrictive Covenants. Specifically, Dr. Biesinger violated the Restrictive Covenants by: (i) operating a competing podiatry practice approximately one mile from Absolute Foot Care's Centennial Office; and (ii) solicitating Absolute Foot Care patients.
- 57. Dr. Biesinger contends that he "had a professional responsibility to inform patients of his departure" and thus his conduct did not constitute solicitation under the Restrictive Covenants. The Court is not persuaded by this argument.
- 58. *First*, Dr. Biesinger's argument does not address the fact that he operated a competing podiatry practice approximately one mile from Absolute Foot Care's Centennial Office, which is a material breach of the Restrictive Covenants.

- 59. **Second**, under Dr. Biesinger's logic, a physician could never be subject to a restrictive covenant because it would require the physician to abandon his/her employer's patients. In contrast, the Nevada Supreme Court has held that the "medical profession is not exempt from a restrictive covenant." *Hanson v. Edwards*, 83 Nev. 189, 192, 426 P.2d 792, 793 (1967).
- 60. *Third*, Dr. Biesinger and his agents called patients with which he had no relationship. Moreover, Dr. Biesinger and his agents elected not to contact patients that Dr. Biesinger treated at Absolute Foot Care that—although they were still in need of medical care—were not likely to result in significant reimbursements; primarily, patients needing post-operative care.
- 61. *Fourth*, Absolute Foot Care's patients would not have been abandoned if Dr. Biesinger had not solicited them. Absolute Foot Care (*i.e.* Dr. Levine) could have provided the requisite care for its patients.

Damages

- 62. The Court concludes that Absolute Foot Care is entitled to \$650,000.00 in liquidated damages pursuant to the Employment Agreement.
- 63. Dr. Biesinger argues that the liquidated damages provision constitutes an unenforceable penalty. The Court finds that Dr. Biesinger may not raise this argument and, even if he could, Dr. Biesinger failed to meet his burden to demonstrate that there is a genuine issue of material fact as to the enforceability of the liquidated damages provision.
- 64. *First*, Dr. Biesinger did not raise this argument as an affirmative defense and it is therefore waived. *See Paulos v. FCH1, Ltd. Liab. Co.*, 136 Nev. Adv. Op. 2, 456 P.3d 589, 596 n.4 (2020) ("An affirmative defense that is not pleaded in the answer is waived."); *In re Snelson*, 305 B.R. 255, 262–63 (Bankr. N.D. Tex. 2003) ("Courts have held that a contention that a liquidated damages provision is unenforceable because it is a penalty is an affirmative defense that the contending party must plead and prove.") (collecting cases); *Pace Commun., Inc. v. Moonlight Design, Inc.*, 31 F.3d 587, 594 (7th Cir. 1994) (holding argument that a liquidated damages provision is an unenforceable penalty as an affirmative defense).

65.	Second , even if Dr. Biesinger had raised this argument as an affirmative defense,
this Court has s	stricken it, as a sanction under NRCP 37(b): "the affirmative defenses asserted by Dr.
Biesinger that i	relate to performance/breach/damages issues." (See Order Granting, in Part,
Renewed Motion	on for NRCP 37(b) Sanctions, filed on Dec. 8, 2020, at 4; see also Order on Motion
to Reconsider t	the Order Granting, in Part, Renewed Motion for NRCP 37(b) Sanctions, filed March
4, 2021, at 3:1-	9 (emphasis added).)

- Court finds that Dr. Biesinger has failed to establish the existence of a genuine issue of material fact as to whether the liquidated damages provision constitutes an unenforceable penalty. Under Nevada law, liquidated damages provisions "are *prima facie valid*" and the burden is on the party challenging the liquidated damages provision to "establish that its application amounts to a penalty." *Haromy v. Sawyer*, 98 Nev. 544, 546-47, 654 P.2d 1022, 1023 (1982) (emphasis added). "In order to prove a liquidated damage clause constitutes a penalty, the challenging party must persuade the court that the liquidated damages are disproportionate to the actual damages sustained by the injured party." *Id.* at 547, 654 P.2d at 1023.
- 67. Many courts have held that liquidated damages provisions are appropriate for non-competition provisions given the difficulties in calculating actual damages. *See, e.g., Wichita Clinic, P.A. v. Louis*, 185 P.3d 946, 957–59 (Kan. App. 2008); *Geisinger Clinic v. Di Cuccio*, 606 A.2d 509, 518 (Pa. Super. 1992).
- 68. Dr. Biesinger argues that his rebuttal expert's criticism of Absolute Foot Care's damages expert demonstrates that there is a genuine issue of material fact as to whether the liquidated damages constitute an unenforceable penalty. However, Absolute Foot Care has no obligation or burden to demonstrate that the liquidated damages are valid and enforceable—they are presumed so under Nevada law. *See Haromy*, 98 Nev. at 546-47, 654 P.2d at 1023. Instead, it is Dr. Biesinger's burden to demonstrate that the liquidated damages are an unenforceable penalty. *See id.*
- 69. Dr. Biesinger's rebuttal expert does not express any opinions concerning the liquidated damages or Absolute Foot Care's actual damages; he only critiques Absolute Foot Care's

70. Thus, Dr. Biesinger's criticisms of Absolute Foot Care's expert are immaterial because Dr. Biesinger has failed to adduce any competent evidence (*i.e.* a damages calculation) that shows that the liquidated damages (*i.e.* \$650,000.00) are disproportionate to Absolute Foot Care's actual damages.

Advice of Counsel Defense

- 71. Dr. Biesinger contends that he relied upon advice of counsel and alleged opinions from unidentified loan providers that he was not subject to the Restrictive Covenants. Dr. Biesinger's contention is immaterial.
- 72. *First*, Dr. Biesinger failed to raise advice of counsel as an affirmative defense and has thus waived it. *See* Ammondson v. N.W. Corp., 220 P.3d 1, 14–15 (Mont. 2009); *see also Bd. of Supervisors of LSU and A&M College v. Smack Apparel*, CV-04-1593, 2005 WL 8169213, at *1 (E.D. La. Mar. 21, 2005) (holding "advice of counsel is an affirmative defense which must be asserted in an answer under Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(c), or it is waived."); *Gause v. First Bank of Marianna*, 457 So. 2d 582, 585 (Fla. 1st Dist. App. 1984); *accord Paulos*, 136 Nev. Adv. Op. 2, 456 P.3d at 596 n.4.
- 73. Second, even if Dr. Biesinger had pled advice of counsel as an affirmative defense, it is not a defense to a breach of contract claim. Dr. Biesinger's motives, willfulness, and state of mind are irrelevant in deciding whether he breached the Employment Agreement. See Applied Equip. Corp. v. Litton Saudi Arabia Ltd., 869 P.2d 454, 461 (Cal. 1994) ("[T]he law generally does not distinguish between good and bad motives for breaching a contract."). Thus, even if Dr. Biesinger relied on legal advice, it would not shield him from liability for his breaches of the Restrictive Covenants.
- 74. *Third*, Dr. Biesinger did not present any component evidence concerning the legal advice he allegedly received from unidentified counsel and determinations allegedly made by unidentified loan providers—the advice/opinions are inadmissible hearsay. See NRS 51.065;

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accord U.S. v. Haisten, 790 Fed. Appx. 374, 378 (3d Cir. 2019) (finding statement from party that he received advice from counsel that his conduct was legal constituted hearsay).

75. In sum, the Court finds that there are no genuine issues as to any material facts concerning Absolute Foot Care's Breach of Contract claim and that Absolute Foot Care is entitled to judgment as a matter of law.

Dr. Biesinger's Counterclaims

- 76. Dr. Biesinger has pled five counterclaims: (1) declaratory relief; (2) breach of contract; (3) breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; (4) unjust enrichment; and (5) NRS 608.040.
- 77. Dr. Biesinger's Declaratory Relief claim seeks a declaratory judgment that the Employment Agreement expired on January 22, 2015, and, as a result, the Restrictive Period ended on January 22, 2017.
- 78. Dr. Biesinger's four coercive counterclaims—breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, unjust enrichment, and NRS 608.040—are based on allegations that Absolute Foot Care breached the Employment Agreement by failing to provide Dr. Biesinger with an opportunity to purchase an ownership interest in Absolute Foot Care and by failing to compensate him according to the Employment Agreement.

Dr. Biesinger Failed to Disclose a Damages Calculation

- 79. Dr. Biesinger must adduce evidence of legally cognizable damages on his four coercive counterclaims to survive summary judgment because damages is an essential element of each claim. See Brown v. Kinross Gold U.S.A., Inc., 531 F. Supp. 2d 1234, 1240 (D. Nev. 2008) (breach of contract); Reborn v. Univ. of Phx., No. 2:13-cv-00864-RFB-VCF, 2015 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 103250, at *15 (D. Nev. Aug. 5, 2015) (breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing); Saticoy Bay, LLC Series 1702 Empire Mine v. Fannie Mae, No. 2:14-CV-01975-KJD-NJK, 2019 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 142090, at *5-6 (D. Nev. Aug. 19, 2019) (unjust enrichment); NRS 608.040 (providing penalty for unpaid wages).
- 80. Dr. Biesinger not only failed to provide a damages calculation for any of his counterclaims, but he also failed to adduce any evidence that he has been damaged. Dr. Biesinger's

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failure to disclose a calculation of damages (either his own calculation or through an expert) prohibits him from seeking damages. See NRCP 37(c)(1) (providing that where "a party fails to provide information or identify a witness as required by Rule 16.1(a)(1) ..., the party is not allowed to use that information or witness to supply evidence on a motion, at a hearing, or at a trial, unless the failure was substantially justified or is harmless."); see also NRCP 16.1(a)(1)(A)(iv) (requiring parties to disclose "a computation of each category of damages claimed by the disclosing party").

81. Because Dr. Biesinger failed to identify evidence that he has been damaged or a calculation of damages for any of his four coercive counterclaims for relief, Absolute Foot Care is entitled to summary judgment in its favor. See Hoffman v. Impact Confections, Inc., 544 F. Supp. 2d 1121, 1128 (S.D. Cal. 2008) (granting summary judgment where plaintiff failed to provide any evidence or computation of damages).

Dr. Biesinger has Not Adduced Competent Evidence Indicating Absolute Foot Care Breached the Employment Agreement

- 82. Dr. Biesinger, in his contract-based counterclaims—breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and NRS 608.040—contends that Absolute Foot Care breached the Employment Agreement and/or the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing by failing to compensate him according to the Employment Agreement and by failing to provide him with an opportunity to purchase an ownership interest in Absolute Foot Care.
- 83. The Court finds that Dr. Biesinger has failed to demonstrate the existence of a genuine issue of material fact as to whether Absolute Foot Care breached the Employment Agreement.
- 84. *First*, Dr. Biesinger has not adduced any competent evidence that Absolute Foot Care failed to pay him in accordance with the terms of the Employment Agreement.
- 85. **Second**, the Court concludes that no rational fact-finder could determine that Absolute Foot Care failed to provide Dr. Biesinger with an opportunity to purchase an ownership interest in Absolute Foot Care pursuant to the Employment Agreement. The uncontroverted evidence demonstrates that Absolute Foot Care: (i) had a financial evaluation performed; (ii)

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entered into the Letter of Intent with Dr. Biesinger shortly after the Initial Term expired; (iii) agreed with Dr. Biesinger on the purchase price (\$25,000.00 per share) based on the financial evaluation; (iv) offered to provide Dr. Biesinger with information he needed to evaluate the potential purchase; (v) entered into a Non-Disclosure Agreement with Dr. Biesinger to enable him to view Absolute Foot Care's sensitive financial information; and (vi) presented Dr. Biesinger with a draft purchase agreement for his review.

- 86. While Dr. Biesinger argues that he needed additional information to determine whether he wanted to purchase an ownership interest in Absolute Foot Care, he failed to present any competent evidence that he told Absolute Foot Care he needed additional information or that information had not been provided to him.
- 87. Further, Dr. Biesinger's contention that Absolute Foot Care changed the financial terms of the potential purchase (from \$25,000.00 for 20% of Absolute Foot Care's shares to \$25,000.00 per share) is contradicted by the Letter of Intent—which was signed by both parties and demonstrates that the contemplated purchase price was \$25,000.00 per share.

Dr. Biesinger's Unjust Enrichment Claim Fails as a Matter of Law

- 88. Dr. Biesinger asserts, through his Unjust Enrichment counterclaim, that Absolute Foot Care: (i) "unjustly retained the financial benefit of Dr. Biesinger's medical and surgical services, and sales of medical supplies, without payment of full compensation to Dr. Biesinger;" and (ii) "retained the added benefit of Dr. Biesinger's physician services to its practice, without ever having afforded Dr. Biesinger any meaningful opportunity to become an equity partner "
- 89. The Court finds that Dr. Biesinger's Unjust Enrichment claim fails as a matter of law.
- 90. *First*, because there is an express written agreement (the Employment Agreement), Dr. Biesinger may not assert a claim for unjust enrichment. See Rockstar, Inc. v. Original Good Brand Corp., No. 09-cv-1499, 2010 WL 3154120, at *5 (D. Nev. Aug. 9, 2010) (holding the "law of Nevada is clear—where there is an express written agreement, a party may not assert a claim for unjust enrichment."); accord Leasepartners Corp. v. Robert L. Brooks Tr. Dated November 12, 1975, 113 Nev. 747, 755, 942 P.2d 182, 187 (1997) ("An action based on a theory of unjust

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enrichment is not available when there is an express, written contract, because no agreement can be implied when there is an express agreement.").

- 91. **Second**, Dr. Biesinger has not adduced any competent evidence to demonstrate Absolute Foot Care was unjustly enriched. Outside of a contractual agreement, a party is not entitled to obtain an ownership interest or bonus compensation simply by virtue of his or her labor. See Erickson v. Brown, 813 N.W.2d 531, 539 (N.D. 2012).
- 92. Further, Dr. Biesinger has not adduced any evidence that his compensation from Absolute Foot Care was inadequate or otherwise different from that which was required under the Employment Agreement. See id.

Dr. Biesinger's Declaratory Relief Counterclaim

- 93. Dr. Biesinger's Declaratory Relief counterclaim seeks a declaratory judgment that the Employment Agreement expired on January 22, 2015, and, as a result, the Restrictive Period ended on January 22, 2017.
- 94. "The Declaratory Judgment Act does not grant litigants an absolute right to a legal determination." United States v. State of Wash., 759 F.2d 1353, 1356 (9th Cir. 1985). In deciding whether declaratory relief is proper, courts "consider both the circumstances of the parties and the sound jurisprudence of the court." *Id.* at 1357. "Declaratory relief should be denied when it will neither serve a useful purpose in clarifying and settling the legal relations in issue nor terminate the proceedings and afford relief from the uncertainty and controversy faced by the parties." *Id.*
- 95. While the existence of other adequate remedies is not necessarily a bar to declaratory relief, "[w]here determination of [a] breach of contract claim [will] resolve any question regarding interpretation of the contract, there is no need for declaratory relief, and dismissal of a companion declaratory relief claim is appropriate." StreamCast Networks, Inc. v. IBIS LLC, No. CV 05-04239 MMM (Ex), 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 97607, at *11 (C.D. Cal. May 1, 2006) (internal quotation marks omitted) (alterations in original) (collecting cases); accord Tevis v. Hoseit (In re Tevis), Nos. EC-10-1318-JuKiD, EC-10-1319-JuKiD, EC-10-1320-JuKiD, EC-10-1321-JuKiD, 2011 Bankr. LEXIS 5307, at *42 (B.A.P. 9th Cir. Dec. 9, 2011) ("Where there is an accrued cause of action for a past breach of contract or other wrong, declaratory relief is inappropriate.").

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	96.	Here, the Court finds that the declaratory relief sought by Dr. Biesinger has been
fully	adjudicat	ted by the resolution of Absolute Foot Care's breach of contract claim, and thus
sumn	nary judg	ment on Dr. Biesinger's declaratory relief claim is appropriate. StreamCast Networks
<i>Inc.</i> ,]	No. CV (05-04239 MMM (Ex), 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 97607, at *11.

- 97. In sum, the Court finds that there are no genuine issues as to any material facts concerning Dr. Biesinger's counterclaims and that Absolute Foot Care is entitled to judgment in its favor on such counterclaims as a matter of law.
- 98. Any conclusions of law that are more appropriately considered findings of fact shall be treated as such.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing findings of fact and conclusions of law, and good cause appearing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Absolute Foot Care's Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that summary judgment is entered in favor of Absolute Foot Care and against Dr. Biesinger with respect to: (i) Absolute Foot Care's breach of contract claim; and (ii) Dr. Biesinger's counterclaims.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that a monetary judgment—in the amount of six hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$650,000.00) and any applicable prejudgment interest—consistent with this Order will be entered in favor of Absolute Foot Care and against Dr. Biesinger through a separate written judgment.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Absolute Foot Care's remaining claims—breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; unjust enrichment; breach of fiduciary duty; conversion; intentional interference; and civil conspiracy—are hereby DISMISSED, without prejudice, as MOOT.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Preliminary Injunction entered on June 15, 2017, is hereby DISSOLVED.

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1	IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that th	e Court Clerk shall immediately release to Absolute	
2	Foot Care Specialists the security posted by Absolute Foot Care Specialists: (i) for the Temporary		
3	Restraining Order (in the amount of \$500.00	0) on or about May 3, 2017; and (ii) for the Preliminary	
4	Injunction (in the amount of \$25,000.00) on	or about June 15, 2017.	
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6		Dated this 18th day of August, 2021	
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8		L (AT	
9		ABG	
10		9AA 054 216F B326 Mark R. Denton District Court Judge	
11		District Court studge	
12			
13	Respectfully submitted by:	Approved as to Form:	
14	BAILEY *KENNEDY	TAKOS LAW GROUP, LTD.	
15	By: /s/ Paul C. Williams	By: /s/ Steven R. Hart ZACHARY P. TAKOS	
16	JOHN R. BAILEY JOSHUA M. DICKEY	Nevada Bar No. 11293	
17	PAUL C. WILLIAMS Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterdefendant	Steven R. Hart Nevada Bar No. 15418	
18	Absolute Foot Care Specialists	1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135	
19		ZACH@TAKOSLAW.COM STEVEN@TAKOSLAW.COM	
20		TELEPHONE (702) 856-4629 FACSIMILE: (702) 9324-4422	
21		Attorney for Defendant David P. Biesinger, DPM	
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Sharon Murnane

From: Steven Hart <steven@takoslaw.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2021 5:02 PM

To: Paul Williams

Cc: Zachary Takos; Joshua Dickey; Karen Rodman; Sharon Murnane

Subject: Re: Absolute Foot Care v. Biesinger - Order & Judgment

Thanks Paul. I have reviewed and you may affix my e-signature to both the FFCL & Order and the Judgment.

Sincerely,

Steven R. Hart, Esq.

TakosLawGroup, Ltd.

1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 O: 702.856.4629

C: 801.380.8950 F: 702.924.4422

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From: Paul Williams < PWilliams@baileykennedy.com>

Date: Friday, August 6, 2021 at 10:10 AM **To:** Steven Hart <steven@takoslaw.com>

Cc: Zachary Takos <zach@takoslaw.com>, Joshua Dickey <JDickey@baileykennedy.com>, Karen Rodman

<KRodman@baileykennedy.com>, Sharon Murnane <SMurnane@baileykennedy.com>

Subject: RE: Absolute Foot Care v. Biesinger - Order & Judgment

Hi Steven,

Attached are revisions to your redline of the FFCL & Order (i.e. I accepted your revisions, and then edited from that version) in both clean and redline versions. We assume you have no revisions to the Judgment.

If the revisions to the FFCL & Order are acceptable, please confirm that I may affix your electronic signature to the same and the Judgment.

Thank you,

Paul C. Williams Bailey Kennedy, LLP 8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-1302 (702) 562-8820 (Main)

1	CSERV		
2		D	ISTRICT COURT
3		CLAR	K COUNTY, NEVADA
4			
5	Absolute Feet Core Speci	i al iata	CASE NO: A-17-754423-B
6	Absolute Foot Care Speci Plaintiff(s)	ialists,	
7	VS.		DEPT. NO. Department 13
8	David Biesinger, DPM,		
9	Defendant(s)		
10			
11	AUTO	MATED	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
12	This automated certifi	cate of se	ervice was generated by the Eighth Judicial District
13	Court. The foregoing Finding	s of Fact,	Conclusions of Law and Order was served via the ecipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled
14	case as listed below:		corpression regionaries for a service on the second entities
15	Service Date: 8/18/2021		
16 17	Zachary Takos	zach@t	akoslaw.com
18	Bailey Kennedy .	bkfeder	aldownloads@baileykennedy.com
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27	Steven Hart	steven@	takoslaw.com
20			

Dustin Clark

dclark@nevadafirm.com

Exhibit 6

Exhibit 6

Electronically Filed 8/18/2021 5:14 PM

1	Counterclaims was entered in the above-entitled action on August 18, 2021, a true and correct copy
2	of which is attached hereto.
3	DATED this 18 th day of August, 2021.
4	Bailey * Kennedy
5	By: /s/ Paul C. Williams
6	JOHN R. BAILEY JOSHUA M. DICKEY
7	PAUL C. WILLIAMS Attorneys for Plaintiff Absolute
8	Foot Care Specialists
9	
10	
11	<u>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</u>
12	I certify that I am an employee of BAILEY❖KENNEDY and that on the 18 th day of August,
13	2021, service of the foregoing was made by mandatory electronic service through the Eighth Judicia
14	District Court's electronic filing system and/or by depositing a true and correct copy in the U.S.
15	Mail, first class postage prepaid, and addressed to the following at their last known address:
16	ZACHARY P. TAKOS Email: zach@takoslaw.com STEVEN R. HART, Esq. steven@takoslaw.com
17	TAKOS LAW GROUP, LTD. 1980 Festival Plaza Drive, Suite 300 Attorney for Defendant
18	Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 DAVID BIESINGER, DPM
19	JEFFREY GRONICH Email: jgronich@gronichlaw.com
20	JEFFREY GRONICH, ATTORNEY AT LAW, P.C.
21	1810 East Sahara Avenue, Suite 109 Attorneys for Defendant Las Vegas, Nevada 89104 LORRAINE PALLANTI
22	
23	/s/ Sharon Murnane
24	Employee of BAILEY *KENNEDY
25	
26	
27	
28	