directly to the conduct of the Defendant, so we believe 1 2 that those incident reports need to be turned over Electronically Filed 3 unredacted. Oct 11 2021 12:00 p.m. We did address the Clark County CoroElizabethaAeBrown 4 Clerk of Supreme Court and that case is about medical details regarding a 5 6 decedent, autopsy reports. We're not looking for that 7 kind of medical information. 8 We're looking for phone book information in this 9 situation as to specifics, why they fell, so we know 10 what the Venetian knew and when they knew it, that that stuff is relevant and proportionate to this case, and 11 12 the Venetian, whose not demonstrated good cause for 13 protecting this information. 14 Thank you, Your Honor. 15 THE COURT: Thank you. 16 Mr. Logan, you kept it tight, and Mr. Royal I 17 don't think there was anything new argued there, so I 18 don't know there's any final rebuttal, but I guess I want to make sure everybody's had the chance to sort of 19 20 flush out everything they want too flush out, so any 21 final word from you, Mr. Royal? 2.2 MR. ROYAL: No, Your Honor. 23 The fact is, the fact we are claimed as 24 comparative fault here doesn't open the doors to 25 providing all this private information to Plaintiff.

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1 Keep in mind we still haven't heard from the 2 Plaintiff as a right to a claim from the beginning to 3 take this information in unredacted form and share it with whoever and however they want, that in an of itself 4 5 is not being argued today is an admission we've shown 6 good cause. 7 Thank you. 8 THE COURT: Thank you. I think everybody did covering everything very 9 well. 10 Obviously, Miss Randolph, I didn't come to you 11 12 because I didn't see any joinders or anything, I wanted 13 to hear from the moving parties so to speak, but because 14 I also noted this is not really a motion, this is a 15 motion to place on calendar to have the discussion 16 necessary upon the remand from the Court of Appeals, is there something a third-party Defendant feels they have 17 at stake here? 18 MS. RANDOLPH: No, there's nothing on behalf of 19 20 the third-party Defendant. 21 Thank you. 22 THE COURT: Thank you, Miss Randolph. 23 All right. So I think the best way to orient 24 this is to recognize that the Court had previously 25 ordered what it had ordered, and had ultimately limited

the scope of the production from the date of the incident back five years prior, and the scope of the area to the Grand Lux Cafe, and so there's some argument here talks more broadly either way about those things the Court previously determined relevance to take, but did not determined, or at least there was no record of discussion of proportionality.

8 I think in all candor even though the rules now 9 have that language, it certainly is always something that the Court is taking into account, but it is more 10 formally now a requirement of the analysis, and of 11 12 course when it comes to the protective order, I believe 13 we had addressed to the degree necessary that we did not 14 find persuasive protective order requirement, and that 15 would if not explicitly by implication show there's no 16 good cause.

In the end we obviously needed to and should have better articulated our thought process and applied certain factors and our evolution of our case, how first of all our evolution of our rules and evolution of our case law to be more in keeping with the federal case law, which was also persuasive, perhaps more persuasive at the time.

24 What the Court ultimately was trying to determine 25 here in reversing the discovery commissioner in some parts and ultimately making the rulings it made was to
 give the Plaintiff the opportunity to prove their case.

Obviously the Defense has the opportunity to provide its defense, but not to artificially withhold information the Plaintiff should be entitled to in order to put on their case, and Mr. Royal argues today that they really already have that information without there being more, and maybe they haven't actually engaged with the information they already received.

10 In the end the Court is going to keep in place for the most part the entirety of its prior orders with 11 12 just a few adjustments, and I'm going to state for the record here today, without going into the details, I'm 13 14 persuaded by Plaintiff's argument that this discovery is 15 not only still relevant because the Court already made 16 that determination, and I appreciate the Venetian is 17 going for that to be revisited, but I don't think 18 relevancy changes because some disclosures have been 19 made.

The fact is, it's relevant, and there's not been the full disclosure sought by the Plaintiff or ultimately ordered by the Court, and when you look at the factors regarding proportionality, I believe they actually all weigh in favor of the Plaintiff, and I'm persuaded by Plaintiff's argument.

1	I'm not persuaded by the Venetian's argument that
2	somehow the resources, the access to the information,
3	the importance all of these things, don't weigh in favor
4	of the Plaintiff, or somehow weigh in favor of the
5	Venetian, but the reality is I think the Plaintiff has
6	articulated specific rationales in order to not only put
7	on its case, but address the Venetian's defense that
8	and this is potentially with the future medical bills
9	and pass medical bills is potentially a million dollar
10	plus case, that this is proportional, that there are
11	important issues at stake in the action, that the
12	Plaintiff has articulated the amount of controversy is
13	well-met here, and there's case law that we can use
14	again by comparison analysis were specific, if not
15	directly on point, that shows us that.
16	The Venetian has the access to the information,
17	has the resources to address it, it is important to the
18	discovery to resolve the case, and I think the burden
19	and expense does not outweigh the likely benefit.
20	Where I'm going to make an adjustment though is,
21	that there is some case law persuasive, but all case law
22	the Venetian pointed to, not the Porter case, but some
23	of the other cases talked about, it's not HIPAA, but
24	there are privacy expectations, privacy interests even
25	beyond medical information to what was necessary for the

1 incident report, so what I'm trying to get at is, name, 2 address, and telephone number, to the extent those 3 things were provided by the individual who slipped and 4 fell to the Venetian, and the Venetian otherwise has a 5 policy to require or opt out, to share that information.

6 Otherwise, in the end I believe there's no 7 expectation of privacy in those things from these 8 individuals, it would be shared with third persons, to 9 the extent they were self-reported, they fell, hit their 10 knee, or hurt their leg, or whatever their report was, 11 that is one thing.

12 To the extent that somebody came in and 13 ultimately did other medical financial analysis, that 14 would have provided protectable health information, EMTs 15 coming in and assessing anything, those types of things 16 exist in the record, I believe that medical information, 17 the protected health insurance in the report should be be able to be redacted, if the Venetian wishes to be the 18 19 one to protect that interest and is claiming that 20 interest in privacy, not HIPAA, but again privacy in 21 their report.

So in the end I believe that the proportionality and relevancy is there for all the reasons argued by the Plaintiff, and I should have mentioned this at the beginning, but I'm going to direct Mr. Logan to prepare

the order coming from today, we'll call it the order of 1 2 clarification as he styled his motion to place on 3 calendar, that was already for all intents and purposes granted because it's on the calendar, but what he was 4 5 seeking in his motion of course was to have the Court 6 make the determination the Court of Appeals indicated 7 the Court had not previously made and to reinforce, 8 reconfirm, whatever the right word is, its prior orders, 9 and the Court's doing so today.

So I'm going to direct Mr. Logan to indicate, 10 11 yes, the information sought by the Plaintiff is 12 proportional in the case with the full analysis of all the factors under 26(b)(1), and ultimately the Venetian 13 14 had established good cause for a limited protective 15 order, and that limited protective order that protects 16 the protected health information that may be contained 17 in these reports.

18 Again, that would be should they have engaged with medical professionals who added health information 19 20 to these incident reports beyond the scope of what these 21 individuals people had self-reported by I fell and hit 22 my knee, or fell and twisted my ankle, or something 23 along those lines, which is not going to go into the 24 health information that can be redacted, but not the 25 information with regard to how to contact these

1 individuals.

To the extent there's personal identifying information that is really not being sought by the Plaintiff, it does not need the be styled they asked for what they call phone book information, name, address, phone number, to the extent those things could be publicly available.

8 Social security numbers should be redacted, dates 9 of birth, I believe that is personal identifying information, also needs to be redacted, especially to 10 the extent the Court did not previously preclude the 11 12 Plaintiff from sharing this information finding no legal 13 basis to preclude them from sharing this information 14 with others, that information that is able to or capable 15 of being used by others improperly, social security 16 numbers, dates of birth, those can be redacted.

17 So in the end the order is, the Venetian will produce the incident reports limited to the Grand Lux 18 rotunda area from November 4th, 2011 to November 4th, 19 20 2016, inclusive of guest names and contact information, 21 with all other information being redacted, and Plaintiff 22 will please include in its order that it has made the 23 analysis for proportionality previously not articulated, 24 and made the good cause for protective order for the 25 limited purpose stated, and please give Mr. Royal an

opportunity to review, please make sure we get that order from today's hearing, that's how you can style it, order from June 1st, 20021 hearing like they do in Family Court, keep it simple, and put the information in it, and to the extent there is still some challenge that the Venetian wishes to make, fine.

7 We'll keep dialing this in until we get where we 8 need to go, but my point is, the Plaintiffs are entitled 9 to this information, it is relevant, it is proportional, 10 and the Venetian should be able to redact some information that crosses over into protected health 11 12 information, but otherwise these are potential fact 13 witnesses, and their contact information and the 14 incident reports what occurred with them that was 15 self-reported by these individuals, and was known to, 16 potentially by -- utilized by a third party is not 17 otherwise an expectation of privacy, and those things 18 should all be provided.

So that's how we are going to finish it for today.

I appreciate the opportunity for the argument. I certainly appreciate there may be further challenge to this, and some day we will eventually get this matter either resolved or go to trial with whatever information is appropriate. One thing Mr. Royal said, I do want to make sure Key on as we wrap up here today is, the Court has yet to make any ultimate determinations of admissibility of these things, and as Mr. Royal pointed out should these things be admissible, then maybe the Plaintiff already had what they needed.

7 The Court does not agree the Plaintiff already 8 had everything they needed, and whether or not the 9 Plaintiff engaged previously with the information we had 10 is not relevant, but there is still much to be determined obviously while the Plaintiff investigates 11 12 and looks at this relevant proportional information to 13 determine what if any of it will actually by able to be 14 utilized at the time of trial.

15 So I don't want there to be any mistake this 16 Court is somehow by allowing this discovery to a secure 17 place, making determinations as o admissibility, that 18 has not been made at this time.

19 All right.

20 MR. ROYAL: Your Honor, I'm sorry.

21 I just have a point of clarification.

22 THE COURT: Go ahead.

23 MR. ROYAL: We have already provided prior 24 incident reports to Plaintiff attached to their motion, 25 and that information that you have now ordered redacted

1 is already out there, not only in this case, but other 2 cases. 3 How do we address that? THE COURT: Well --4 5 MR. ROYAL: Once we give them the names and 6 stuff, anybody can match them up and figure it out. 7 So may be made a public record. 8 THE COURT: I don't know how to address it 9 because although you have said, Mr. Royal, this is what 10 they've done with it, again the argument from the very 11 beginning was they are not trying to actually find fact 12 witnesses for their own case, they are trying to get up 13 business for themselves and the colleagues and the 14 Plaintiffs bar to come sue us for other things. 15 I don't know what happened or hasn't happened in 16 that regard, I don't know how to do or undo anything, 17 just what I'm saying is, I've made the ruling I needed 18 to make, I believe it's appropriate under the case law 19 and the direction given from our Court of Appeals. 20 I suppose we could do an oral motion on your part 21 to deal with something previously gone out there, and 22 they can't really claw it back, I don't believe at this 23 point because I don't know what they've done with it, so 24 in the end I guess we could argue to them or state this is an oral motion to have them claw back anything that 25

was put out that contained protective information that 1 2 has been determined by the Court today to have needed to be redacted, and the Venetian provide the redacted 3 reports, and/or we can just seal up the redacted ones, 4 5 so they can't do a comparison. You tell me. 6 7 I think there's several different ways to slice a 8 pie. I can't take another 20, 30 minutes to figure this 9 out, I have taken my entire morning calendar on one 10 case. So I think you guys can figure that out. 11 12 My guess, my suggestion in just sort of of brain 13 storming is, the two options would be, let's deal with 14 what is going to be now provided, and they can't do the 15 comparison, but if you think there needs to be some 16 other documentation showing that things haven't gone 17 out, or things that have gone out we've asked for them 18 back, or whatever, you tell me. 19 What is your thought, Mr. Royal? 20 MR. ROYAL: Your Honor, this has been filed -- or 21 these have been filed as attachments to motions in other 22 cases. I don't know who they've given them to. I can 23 name two or three offices used them, so I'm just saying 24 if they want us to provide unredacted information, we 25 give them now the same reports with redacted medical

1 information in it, we we just got a problem, I don't 2 know to provide all the information -- but, Your Honor, 3 that's fine, I'll discuss that with counsel how we can 4 deal with that. 5 And just for the record we'd like to ask the 6 Court for a 30-day stay on the record to us allow us an 7 opportunity to bring this back to the Appellate Court if 8 necessary. THE COURT: We granted it before. I don't have a 9 10 problem granting it again. 11 Mr. Logan, do you want to address if you can come 12 up with a way to address this that satisfies the 13 Venetian, maybe they won't want to do their writ? 14 Some day again this case will go forward in a 15 meaningful fashion. 16 I think the Court's making the right call on 17 these things. I don't fault either side for its 18 advocacy, but the only issue in my opinion that has hung this thing up is to the extent the Plaintiffs have 19 20 instead of dealing with sharing the information with the 21 necessary expert or other people relevant to the case, 22 have provided to other members of the bar, so that they 23 can support their own litigations, or possibly find new 24 clients, then that is what takes this thing to a whole 25 other level that causes the Venetian perhaps appropriate 1 concern.

2	To the extent you can come up with something that
3	says, look we'll seal this, or we will not disclose
4	that, or we'll agree only for that, again I don't think
5	it's appropriate for me to order that, but Mr. Royal
6	pointed out that if somebody wants to take the time and
7	go through the comparisons, they can make these
8	connections to the unredacted information, I don't see
9	why Plaintiff can't resolve that.
10	But, Mr. Logan, anything you want to say on that
11	point?
12	MR. LOGAN: Your Honor, I would just say, on my
13	scout's honor I worked with Mr. Royal to come up with a
14	solution. That said, I don't believe that there's
15	really very much if any information that Court just now
16	said should be excluded in those reports, so I think
17	what Mr. Royal is claiming about really is not going to
18	be an issue.
19	Also, I'd like to remind the Court that any
20	disclosures that were made to others, as Mr. Royal said
21	a number of times here, was before his law firm was ever
22	involved. His law firm is now handling this case, and
23	we are not disclosing this information to others.
24	So again, his worry is unfounded here in terms of
25	what we're going to do with this information.

We want to share it with the jury, that's who we want to share it with. THE COURT: To the extent there's a dispute as to the order itself, and how it addresses the issues of concern, then you guys can't work out something, and if it's not signed off by both counsel, somebody let my law clerk know, and submit your competing orders, and we'll take a look. Okay. (Proceedings concluded.)

1 CERTIFICATE 2 3 4 STATE OF NEVADA) 5) ss. CLARK COUNTY 6) 7 8 9 I, Bill Nelson, RMR, CCR 191, do hereby certify 10 that I reported the foregoing proceedings; that the same 11 is true and correct to the best of my ability 12 considering the hearing by video under the Covid 13 restrictions as reflected by my original machine 14 shorthand notes taken at said time and place before the 15 Hon. Kathleen Delaney, District Court Judge, presiding. 16 Dated at Las Vegas, Nevada this 16th day of June, 2021. 17 18 19 /Bill Nelson 20 Bill Nelson, RMR, CCR 191, 21 Certified Court Reporter Las Vegas, Nevada 22 23 24 25

#	16:21, 17:22, 18:25, 22:14,	applied [1] - 25:18	briefing [3] - 6:12, 6:13, 7:8
	28:18, 30:14, 31:10, 32:13	appreciate [4] - 9:25, 26:16,	briefs [1] - 6:7
	access [2] - 27:2, 27:16	31:21, 31:22	bring [1] - 35:7
#191 [1] - 1:24	accident [1] - 4:20	approach [1] - 20:24	bringing [1] - 15:18
	according [1] - 10:11	appropriate [5] - 10:18,	broad [1] - 5:17
1	account [2] - 12:11, 25:10	31:25, 33:18, 35:25, 36:5	broadcasted [1] - 19:18
	acknowledge [1] - 18:23	approves [1] - 3:23	broader [1] - 4:21
/ Bill [1] - 38:19	acronym [1] - 13:10	arching [1] - 4:19	broadly [1] - 25:4
	action [1] - 27:11	area [6] - 14:22, 15:2, 15:6,	brought [3] - 13:22, 14:2,
1	add [1] - 15:13	21:2, 25:3, 30:19	20:23
•	added [1] - 29:19	argue [1] - 33:24	burden [6] - 6:25, 7:2, 7:5,
	address [15] - 4:12, 9:20,	argued [6] - 13:22, 15:14,	18:17, 21:6, 27:18
1 [2] - 1:18, 3:1	10:23, 13:16, 15:19, 22:4,	20:12, 23:17, 24:5, 28:23	business [2] - 8:16, 33:13
10:30 [1] - 21:25	23:4, 27:7, 27:17, 28:2,	argues [1] - 26:6	BY [1] - 1:23
16th [1] - 38:16	30:5, 33:3, 33:8, 35:11,	arguing [1] - 8:11	
191 [2] - 38:9, 38:20	35:12	argument [11] - 10:24, 11:1,	C
1st [1] - 31:3	addressed [3] - 10:9, 10:11,	17:24, 17:25, 18:12, 25:3,	
	25:13	26:14, 26:25, 27:1, 31:21,	Cafe [1] - 25:3
2	addresses [1] - 37:4	33:10	calendar [11] - 4:12, 5:10,
	- adjustment [1] - 27:20	arguments [2] - 17:11, 17:13	6:16, 14:16, 21:20, 21:25,
20 [1] - 34:8	adjustments [1] - 26:12	articulated [4] - 25:18, 27:6,	24:15, 29:3, 29:4, 34:9
20021 [1] - 31:3	admissibility [2] - 32:3,	27:12, 30:23	candor [1] - 25:8
2011 [1] - 30:19	32:17	artificially [1] - 26:4	capable [1] - 30:14
2016 [1] - 30:20	admissible [2] - 19:22, 32:5	assessing [1] - 28:15	care [1] - 18:7
2020 [2] - 14:21, 17:20	admission [1] - 24:5	assistance [1] - 18:8	case [49] - 4:9, 5:11, 5:15,
2021 [3] - 1:18, 3:1, 38:17	adopted [1] - 5:14	associated [1] - 17:9	5:18, 6:14, 6:23, 7:7, 7:17,
2061 [1] - 4:17	advance [2] - 3:17, 18:18	attached [3] - 14:16, 16:13,	8:2, 9:23, 10:17, 14:14,
20th [1] - 17:20	advertisements [1] - 8:18	32:24	15:25, 16:4, 16:16, 17:21,
25 [1] - 1:11	advocacy [1] - 35:18	attachments [1] - 34:21	18:1, 18:3, 18:11, 20:4,
26(b)(1 [1] - 29:13	affiliates [1] - 8:15	authorities [1] - 8:22	20:21, 21:9, 21:11, 22:24,
26(d [2] - 19:5, 21:7	agents [1] - 8:16	autopsy [1] - 23:6	22:25, 23:4, 23:5, 23:11,
	agree [2] - 32:7, 36:4	availability [1] - 7:3	25:19, 25:21, 26:2, 26:6,
3	agreeing [2] - 10:8, 10:9	available [1] - 30:7	27:7, 27:10, 27:13, 27:18,
5	ahead [2] - 13:4, 32:22	aware [1] - 18:3	27:21, 27:22, 29:12, 33:1,
	AL [1] - 1:12	В	33:12, 33:18, 34:10, 35:14,
30 [1] - 34:8	albeit [1] - 10:16	В	35:21, 36:22
30-day [1] - 35:6	alleged [1] - 15:20		Case [1] - 1:11
_	allow [2] - 5:21, 35:6	balances [1] - 19:13	cases [6] - 11:11, 16:14,
4	allowed [4] - 4:22, 4:23,	bar [2] - 33:14, 35:22	18:9, 27:23, 33:2, 34:22
	10:19, 19:21 allowing [1] - 32:16	based [1] - 7:7	CASINO [1] - 1:12
4th [2] - 30:19	- · ·	basis [1] - 30:13	causes [1] - 35:25
[2] 00110	alternative [1] - 7:3 amount [2] - 5:9, 27:12	beginning [4] - 13:21, 24:2,	CCR [3] - 1:24, 38:9, 38:20
7	analysis [11] - 4:25, 5:9,	28:25, 33:11	certain [3] - 10:6, 18:20,
1	5:12, 5:17, 5:24, 10:14,	begun [1] - 22:24	25:19
	25:11, 27:14, 28:13, 29:12,	behalf [1] - 24:19	certainly [10] - 6:12, 6:22,
70 [1] - 20:24	30:23	belief [1] - 9:12	11:7, 16:7, 16:22, 16:25,
702-360-4677 [1] - 4:9	analyzed [1] - 4:17	benefit [1] - 27:19	18:15, 19:18, 25:9, 31:22
	ankle [1] - 29:22	best [2] - 24:23, 38:11	Certified [1] - 38:21
9	anyway [1] - 20:17	better [2] - 7:13, 25:18	CERTIFIED [1] - 1:24
	apologize [1] - 12:23	beyond [2] - 27:25, 29:20	certify [1] - 38:9
9:00 [1] - 1:18	Appeals [8] - 4:13, 4:15, 5:4,	Bill [3] - 4:8, 38:9, 38:20	challenge [2] - 31:5, 31:22
	10:12, 10:14, 24:16, 29:6,	BILL [1] - 1:24	challenged [1] - 4:23
^	33:19	bills [2] - 27:8, 27:9	chance [1] - 23:19
Α	APPEARANCES [1] - 2:2	binding [2] - 5:19, 10:17	changes [1] - 26:18
	appearances [1] - 3:5	birth [2] - 30:9, 30:16	cholesterol [1] - 11:16
A-18-772761-C [1] - 1:11	Appellate [3] - 5:14, 18:2,	book [3] - 13:16, 23:8, 30:5	circumstances [6] - 10:4,
a.m [1] - 1:18	35:7	brain [1] - 34:12	11:3, 14:8, 19:9, 19:24,
ability [1] - 38:11	application [2] - 8:20, 8:21	brief [1] - 22:6	20:20
able [11] - 4:7, 10:25, 15:15,		briefed [1] - 6:19	cite [1] - 5:18

cited [3] - 10:17, 11:11, 18:1 claim [2] - 20:8, 24:2 claimed [1] - 23:23 claiming [3] - 20:8, 28:19, 36:17 claims [5] - 7:8, 7:10, 8:5, 8.8 9.8 clarification [2] - 29:2, 32:21 CLARK [2] - 1:6, 38:6 Clark [2] - 18:1, 23:4 claw [2] - 33:22, 33:25 clear [1] - 15:7 clerk [1] - 37:7 client [2] - 11:22, 22:13 client's [1] - 22:21 clients [1] - 35:24 colleagues [1] - 33:13 coming [2] - 28:15, 29:1 commissioner [8] - 14:3, 14:4, 15:9, 15:11, 16:11, 18:13, 19:2, 25:25 company [1] - 8:25 comparative [5] - 7:6, 13:23, 16:15, 17:13, 23:24 comparison [3] - 27:14, 34:5. 34:15 comparisons [1] - 36:7 compelled [1] - 22:2 competing [1] - 37:7 complains [1] - 11:10 complete [1] - 6:12 complexity [1] - 20:3 compliance [1] - 14:20 comply [1] - 8:23 concede [1] - 20:14 concedes [1] - 15:21 concern [3] - 11:13, 36:1, 37.5 concession [1] - 16:22 concise [1] - 10:1 concluded [1] - 37:10 condition [1] - 11:18 conditions [2] - 11:15 conduct [3] - 7:3, 8:18, 23:1 confusion [1] - 20:3 connect [1] - 19:3 connected [1] - 13:17 connections [1] - 36:8 consider [1] - 16:1 consideration [1] - 14:23 considering [1] - 38:12 constitutional [1] - 19:14 contact [13] - 7:25, 8:3, 8:5, 11:1, 14:10, 17:8, 17:22, 19:15, 21:1, 22:19, 29:25, 30:20, 31:13 contained [2] - 29:16, 34:1 continued [1] - 15:12 contrary [1] - 10:4

contribute [1] - 20:2 controversy [1] - 27:12 Coroner [1] - 18:1 Coroner's [1] - 23:4 correct [2] - 17:6, 38:11 correction [1] - 17:1 corrective [1] - 17:12 counsel [12] - 3:5, 3:13, 3:14, 3:25, 6:9, 12:17, 14:9, 17:14, 19:10, 35:3, 37:6 counsel's [1] - 17:24 COUNTY [2] - 1:6, 38:6 County [2] - 18:1, 23:4 course [5] - 4:18, 4:21, 5:24, 25:12, 29:5 **COURT** [19] - 1:6, 1:24, 3:4, 3:13, 4:3, 4:5, 9:25, 12:14, 12:21, 15:1, 21:14, 23:15, 24:8, 24:22, 32:22, 33:4, 33:8, 35:9, 37:3 Court [60] - 3:15, 3:21, 3:23, 4:13, 4:15, 4:22, 4:23, 4:25, 5:4, 5:14, 5:20, 6:11, 8:21, 10:6, 10:11, 10:14, 12:3, 13:22, 14:3, 14:15, 14:16, 14:25, 15:1, 15:5, 15:7, 15:14, 15:18, 16:4, 16:20, 16:22, 18:2, 18:3, 18:5, 19:13, 24:16, 24:24, 25:5, 25:10, 25:24, 26:10, 26:15, 26:22, 29:5, 29:6, 29:7, 30:11, 31:4, 32:2, 32:7, 32:16, 33:19, 34:2, 35:6, 35:7, 36:15, 36:19, 38:15, 38:21 Court's [8] - 4:16, 4:24, 11:13, 14:21, 14:23, 16:1, 29:9, 35:16 courtroom [1] - 3:16 covered [2] - 10:1, 22:4 covering [1] - 24:9 Covid [1] - 38:12 create [1] - 20:3 critical [2] - 17:21, 18:2 crosses [1] - 31:11 customers [4] - 6:3, 8:10, 9:3. 9:11 customers' [1] - 8:14 cut [1] - 21:23 D

damages [1] - 22:25 dangerous [1] - 20:13 date [1] - 25:1 Dated [1] - 38:16 dates [2] - 30:8, 30:16 deal [3] - 33:21, 34:13, 35:4 dealing [2] - 4:19, 35:20 decedent [1] - 23:6 defend [1] - 9:2 Defendant [16] - 3:10, 7:8, 7:10, 7:24, 8:3, 8:4, 8:8, 8:11, 8:13, 9:3, 9:8, 9:17, 9:22, 23:1, 24:17, 24:20 Defendant's [4] - 7:7, 7:20, 8:7, 9:14 Defendants [3] - 1:13, 2:4, 3:8 Defense [1] - 26:3 defense [2] - 26:4, 27:7 define [1] - 16:16 definitions [1] - 18:6 degree [1] - 25:13 **Delaney** [2] - 1:17, 38:15 demonstrated [1] - 23:12 Deposition [1] - 13:7 Dept [1] - 1:11 desire [1] - 16:23 detailed [1] - 12:20 details [2] - 23:5, 26:13 determination [6] - 5:1, 5:5, 5:21, 6:13, 26:16, 29:6 determinations [3] - 4:24, 32:3, 32:17 determine [4] - 4:14, 19:11, 25:24, 32:13 determined [7] - 15:9, 16:4, 18:13, 25:5, 25:6, 32:11, 34:2 dialing [1] - 31:7 different [1] - 34:7 direct [2] - 28:25, 29:10 directed [2] - 3:22, 4:13 direction [1] - 33:19 directly [3] - 13:18, 23:1, 27:15 disagree [1] - 9:15 disclose [2] - 8:19, 36:3 disclosed [3] - 8:6, 9:18, 12:1 disclosing [1] - 36:23 disclosure [5] - 8:9, 8:24, 18:18, 19:11, 26:21 disclosures [2] - 26:18, 36:20 **discovery** [14] - 4:18, 5:10, 5:21, 14:3, 14:4, 15:9, 15:11, 16:11, 18:13, 19:1, 25:25, 26:14, 27:18, 32:16 discuss [2] - 22:25, 35:3 discusses [1] - 14:9 discussion [5] - 3:11, 20:15, 21:21, 24:15, 25:7 dismissal [1] - 21:25 disorders [1] - 11:14 dispute [1] - 37:3

disseminate [1] - 15:16 DISTRICT [1] - 1:6 District [1] - 38:15 documentation [1] - 34:16 dollar [4] - 6:24, 18:19, 21:12, 27:9 done [3] - 14:12, 33:10, 33:23 doors [1] - 23:24 dozens [1] - 7:14 driver's [1] - 12:10 dry [5] - 20:11, 20:12, 20:14, 20:16, 20:19 due [1] - 7:9

Ε

effort [2] - 6:19, 14:19 efforts [1] - 9:5 EIGHTH [1] - 1:6 either [5] - 3:13, 3:25, 25:4, 31:24, 35:17 emphasis [1] - 18:5 employees [2] - 17:3, 17:9 EMT [2] - 12:19, 18:8 EMTs [1] - 28:14 end [8] - 5:6, 18:22, 25:17, 26:10, 28:6, 28:22, 30:17, 33:24 enforcement [1] - 8:22 engaged [3] - 26:8, 29:18, 32:9 entire [1] - 34:9 entirety [1] - 26:11 entitled [2] - 26:5, 31:8 entity [1] - 12:6 equally [1] - 5:16 especially [1] - 30:10 **Esq** [3] - 2:3, 2:4, 2:4 essential [1] - 11:17 establish [1] - 9:2 established [1] - 29:14 ET [1] - 1:12 event [1] - 19:16 events [2] - 9:6, 22:11 eventually [1] - 31:23 evolution [3] - 25:19, 25:20 exactly [1] - 22:24 example [2] - 13:15, 18:7 excessively [1] - 6:19 excluded [1] - 36:16 exercise [1] - 9:2 Exhibit [1] - 13:7 exist [1] - 28:16 expanded [1] - 21:3 expectation [2] - 28:7, 31:17 expectations [1] - 27:24 expedition [1] - 21:1 expense [1] - 27:19

702.360.4677 Fax 360.2844 VEN 3542 expert [1] - 35:21 explain [2] - 5:10, 13:9 explained [2] - 5:16, 20:1 explicitly [1] - 25:15 extent [14] - 11:1, 13:12, 16:24, 19:21, 28:2, 28:9, 28:12, 30:2, 30:6, 30:11, 31:5, 35:19, 36:2, 37:3 extremely [1] - 22:6

F

fact [14] - 7:16, 7:18, 7:21, 7:25, 8:4, 9:14, 9:22, 10:25, 20:8, 23:23, 26:20, 31:12, 33:11 factors [6] - 5:12, 5:14, 16:1, 25:19, 26:23, 29:13 facts [5] - 14:1, 14:7, 14:8, 19:4, 19:9 fail [1] - 19:19 failure [1] - 4:16 fall [5] - 7:8, 7:12, 11:19, 20:9, 21:3 fallen [2] - 7:15, 17:19 Family [1] - 31:4 far [1] - 19:25 fashion [1] - 35:15 fault [7] - 7:12, 13:23, 16:15, 17:13, 22:21, 23:24, 35:17 favor [5] - 10:15, 12:21, 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 feasibility [1] - 7:3 federal [2] - 5:15, 25:21 Federal [1] - 5:19 fell [8] - 12:8, 12:13, 20:19, 23:9, 28:4, 28:9, 29:21, 29:22 felt [1] - 19:7 few [2] - 6:20, 26:12 figure [3] - 33:6, 34:8, 34:11 filed [2] - 34:20, 34:21 filing [2] - 15:5, 15:19 final [3] - 6:13, 23:18, 23:21 financial [2] - 8:25, 28:13 fine [3] - 13:17, 31:6, 35:3 finish [1] - 31:19 firm [2] - 36:21, 36:22 first [6] - 4:15, 4:25, 13:22, 15:13, 19:2, 25:19 fishing [1] - 21:1 five [1] - 25:2 floor [10] - 7:11, 20:11, 20:12, 20:13, 20:14, 20:16, 20:19, 22:14, 22:16 flush [2] - 23:20 focusing [1] - 6:11 follow [1] - 21:15 follow-up [1] - 21:15

footnote [1] - 18:4 foregoing [1] - 38:10 foreign [1] - 20:17 foreseeability [1] - 6:25 form [2] - 14:18, 24:3 formally [1] - 25:11 forth [5] - 12:18, 13:16, 17:14, 20:7, 20:23 forward [1] - 35:14 frankly [1] - 21:8 freely [1] - 16:21 frustrates [1] - 22:8 full [3] - 3:15, 26:21, 29:12 fully [1] - 12:11 future [1] - 27:8

G

generalities [1] - 16:18 Geordan [2] - 2:3, 3:6 giveaways [1] - 8:18 given [2] - 33:19, 34:22 Glenby [1] - 16:3 government [2] - 8:23, 12:6 Grand [5] - 14:22, 15:2, 15:6, 25:3, 30:18 granted [5] - 14:4, 14:5, 16:11, 29:4, 35:9 granting [2] - 10:7, 35:10 gravity [1] - 7:1 great [2] - 16:16, 21:18 guess [4] - 12:17, 23:18, 33:24, 34:12 guest [1] - 30:20 guests [2] - 9:1, 17:10 guys [2] - 34:11, 37:5

Н

hand [1] - 11:19 handing [1] - 8:12 handling [1] - 36:22 harm [4] - 6:25, 7:1, 7:4, 8:25 head [1] - 11:24 health [11] - 13:10, 13:18, 17:25, 18:7, 19:16, 28:14, 28:17, 29:16, 29:19, 29:24, 31:11 health-related [1] - 19:16 hear [5] - 6:16, 10:3, 11:6, 21:24, 24:13 heard [1] - 24:1 hearing [4] - 12:25, 31:2, 31:3, 38:12 heart [1] - 11:15 help [1] - 6:6 hereby [1] - 38:9 herring [1] - 9:21

high [1] - 11:16 highlight [2] - 6:20, 22:2 highlighting [1] - 21:19 highlights [1] - 6:10 HIPAA [8] - 12:5, 12:6, 12:7, 12:18, 18:6, 18:14, 27:23, 28.20 HIPAA-protected [1] - 12:5 HIPAA-related [3] - 12:7, 12:18, 18:14 history [3] - 12:19, 13:8, 15:25 hit [3] - 11:23, 28:9, 29:21 hold [1] - 12:22 Hon [1] - 38:15 honor [1] - 36:13 Honor [18] - 4:2, 4:4, 6:18, 11:7, 12:16, 15:3, 17:4, 18:22, 19:13, 20:10, 21:5, 21:13, 23:14, 23:22, 32:20, 34:20, 35:2, 36:12 Honorable [1] - 1:17 hundreds [1] - 7:11 hung [1] - 35:18 hurt [1] - 28:10

L

idea [3] - 9:10, 9:19, 12:4 identified [4] - 4:15, 14:13, 17:23, 20:25 identify [2] - 20:18, 20:21 identifying [2] - 30:2, 30:9 immediately [1] - 17:7 implication [1] - 25:15 importance [1] - 27:3 important [5] - 6:21, 22:11, 22:18, 27:11, 27:17 improper [2] - 16:7, 16:8 improperly [1] - 30:15 IN [1] - 1:6 Inaudible) [1] - 7:1 incident [22] - 6:1, 7:14, 11:2, 11:8, 13:9, 13:25, 14:17, 16:9, 16:23, 17:10, 17:19, 19:4, 19:8, 20:6, 22:17, 23:2, 25:2, 28:1, 29:20, 30:18, 31:14, 32:24 incidents [5] - 14:6, 15:4, 19:21, 19:23, 20:17 include [2] - 18:6, 30:22 including [1] - 9:5 inclusive [1] - 30:20 indicate [1] - 29:10 indicated [2] - 5:4, 29:6 indicates [1] - 22:8 indicator [1] - 15:21 individual [1] - 28:3 individuals [9] - 4:20, 13:13,

14:10, 19:3, 19:25, 28:8, 29:21, 30:1, 31:15 information [115] - 5:25, 6:1, 6:2, 6:3, 7:25, 8:4, 8:5, 8:9, 8:12, 8:14, 8:15, 8:19, 9:4, 9:6. 9:10. 9:12. 9:16. 9:20. 10:2, 10:8, 10:18, 10:21, 11:3, 11:9, 11:11, 11:12, 11:14, 11:16, 11:20, 11:23, 11:24, 11:25, 12:2, 12:3, 12:5, 12:7, 12:9, 12:12, 12:18, 13:10, 13:12, 13:14, 13:16, 13:17, 13:18, 14:10, 15:16, 15:23, 16:2, 16:13, 16:21, 17:3, 17:9, 17:18, 17:25, 18:14, 18:25, 19:3, 19:12, 19:15, 19:16, 19:20, 19:22, 20:22, 21:7, 21:10, 21:19, 22:18, 23:7, 23:8, 23:13, 23:25, 24:3, 26:5, 26:7, 26:9, 27:2, 27:16, 27:25, 28:5, 28:14, 28:16, 29:11, 29:16, 29:19, 29:24, 29:25, 30:3, 30:5, 30:10, 30:12, 30:13, 30:14, 30:20, 30:21, 31:4, 31:9, 31:11, 31:12, 31:13, 31:24, 32:9, 32:12, 32:25, 34:1, 34:24, 35:1, 35:2, 35:20, 36:8, 36:15, 36:23, 36:25 informed [1] - 9:3 initial [2] - 15:9, 15:19 injured [4] - 11:18, 11:23, 11:24, 12:13 injury [2] - 11:9, 12:8 instance [2] - 4:25, 10:16 instances [1] - 22:23 instead [1] - 35:20 insurance [1] - 28:17 intent [1] - 13:11 intention [1] - 17:8 intents [1] - 29:3 interest [6] - 9:11, 18:9, 18:16, 18:18, 28:19, 28:20 interests [3] - 16:5, 18:23, 27:24 interrupt [1] - 13:2 investigates [1] - 32:11 invoice [2] - 4:6, 4:8 involved [3] - 17:10, 18:23, 36:22 issue [6] - 13:21, 13:23, 15:10, 17:17, 35:18, 36:18 issued [1] - 5:13 issues [2] - 27:11, 37:4 items [1] - 5:7 itself [2] - 24:4, 37:4

J job [1] - 21:18 joinders [1] - 24:12

JOYCE [1] - 1:9 Judge [1] - 38:15 JUDICIAL [1] - 1:6 June [4] - 1:18, 3:1, 31:3, 38:16 jury [1] - 37:1

K

Kathleen [2] - 1:17, 38:15keep [6] - 6:20, 14:25, 24:1, 26:10, 31:4, 31:7keeping [1] - 25:21kept [1] - 23:16key [1] - 32:2kind [5] - 11:24, 17:17, 17:18, 20:20, 23:7knee [5] - 11:18, 11:23, 28:10, 29:22known [2] - 7:13, 31:15

L

lack [1] - 7:5 language [1] - 25:9 Larson's [1] - 13:7 Las [3] - 3:1, 38:16, 38:21 law [15] - 5:15, 5:18, 8:21, 8:22, 9:1, 10:17, 25:21, 25:22, 27:13, 27:21, 33:18, 36:21, 36:22, 37:6 lawsuit [1] - 18:20 least [2] - 16:12, 25:6 leave [2] - 10:5, 10:15 leg [1] - 28:10 legal [4] - 8:21, 9:2, 9:8, 30:12 legitimate [3] - 15:22, 16:6 level [1] - 35:25 liabilities [1] - 9:9 license [1] - 12:10 light [2] - 4:17, 14:23 likely [1] - 27:19 limit [1] - 15:2 limitation [1] - 11:4 limitations [1] - 10:6 limited [8] - 12:12, 15:5, 21:2, 24:25, 29:14, 29:15, 30:18, 30:25 limiting [1] - 14:21 lines [1] - 29:23 list [1] - 19:16 listed [1] - 11:9

listening [1] - 22:9 litigation [2] - 15:24, 19:7 litigations [1] - 35:23 LLC [1] - 1:12 location [1] - 19:10 LOGAN [7] - 3:6, 4:2, 4:4, 6:18, 11:7, 22:6, 36:12 Logan [13] - 2:3, 3:6, 4:3, 6:15, 9:25, 12:14, 12:24, 21:20, 23:16, 28:25, 29:10, 35:11, 36:10 look [5] - 8:13, 11:20, 26:22, 36:3, 37:8 looking [3] - 11:21, 23:6, 23:8 looks [1] - 32:12 loss [1] - 8:25 Lux [5] - 14:22, 15:2, 15:6, 25:3, 30:18

Μ

machine [1] - 38:13 March [2] - 14:21, 17:20 marketing [4] - 8:17, 9:4, 19:15 match [1] - 33:6 matter [8] - 3:14, 3:21, 4:1, 4:11, 5:9, 6:16, 6:22, 31:23 matters [1] - 21:24 meaningful [1] - 35:15 medical [20] - 6:2, 10:18, 11:2, 11:9, 11:11, 11:15, 11:17, 11:22, 12:19, 18:14, 20:6, 23:5, 23:7, 27:8, 27:9, 27:25, 28:13, 28:16, 29:19.34:25 meet [2] - 5:11, 19:10 members [1] - 35:22 mental [1] - 11:14 mention [1] - 14:15 mentioned [1] - 28:24 messages [1] - 9:5 met [2] - 21:6, 27:13 mic [3] - 12:24, 12:25, 13:1 Michael [2] - 2:4, 3:7 million [4] - 6:24, 18:19, 21:11, 27:9 mind [3] - 6:8, 14:25, 24:1 minimum [2] - 18:24, 19:1 minutes [2] - 3:21, 34:8 Miss [2] - 24:11, 24:22 mistake [1] - 32:15 morning [1] - 34:9 most [4] - 6:21, 6:22, 13:8, 26.11 motion [11] - 16:10, 16:11, 21:7, 21:21, 24:14, 24:15, 29:2, 29:5, 32:24, 33:20,

33:25 MOTION [1] - 1:16 motions [3] - 10:7, 16:13, 34:21 moving [2] - 6:14, 24:13 **MR** [16] - 3:6, 3:7, 4:2, 4:4, 6:18, 11:7, 12:16, 13:6, 15:3, 22:6, 23:22, 32:20, 32:23, 33:5, 34:20, 36:12 MS [2] - 3:9, 24:19 multi [3] - 6:24, 18:19, 21:11 multi-million [3] - 6:24, 18:19, 21:11 must [4] - 8:1, 9:22, 11:12, 20.13 mute [2] - 12:24, 12:25

Ν

name [6] - 4:8, 10:22, 13:16, 28:1, 30:5, 34:23 names [4] - 7:24, 19:25, 30:20, 33:5 necessarily [2] - 10:22, 21:22 necessary [6] - 8:24, 24:16, 25:13, 27:25, 35:8, 35:21 need [16] - 4:9, 7:21, 10:25, 17:11, 17:12, 17:22, 18:20, 21:10, 21:22, 22:1, 22:2, 22:4, 22:14, 23:2, 30:4, 31:8 needed [5] - 25:17, 32:6, 32:8, 33:17, 34:2 needs [6] - 7:16, 11:25, 14:25, 20:22, 30:10, 34:15 negligence [1] - 7:6 NELSON [1] - 1:24 Nelson [4] - 4:8, 38:9, 38:19, 38:20 NEVADA [2] - 1:6, 38:4 Nevada [3] - 3:1, 38:16, 38:21 never [2] - 8:5, 14:12 nevertheless [1] - 18:9 new [2] - 23:17, 35:23 **non** [3] - 17:9, 18:11, 18:15 non-employees [1] - 17:9 non-trivial [2] - 18:11, 18:15 none [1] - 20:16 note [2] - 4:6, 17:1 noted [2] - 13:24, 24:14 notes [1] - 38:14 nothing [2] - 20:10, 24:19 notice [1] - 17:12 November [2] - 30:19 NRCP [1] - 4:17 number [5] - 4:9, 10:23, 28:2, 30:6, 36:21

numbers [6] - 9:20, 12:10, 12:11, 30:8, 30:16 O

obtain [2] - 3:19, 4:7 obviously [6] - 6:7, 15:8, 24:11, 25:17, 26:3, 32:11 occurred [1] - 31:14 OF [1] - 38:4 offered [1] - 11:23 offers [1] - 9:6 office [1] - 4:9 offices [1] - 34:23 official [1] - 15:5 officials [1] - 8:23 once [2] - 15:20, 33:5 one [10] - 12:22, 13:20, 13:24, 14:13, 16:1, 16:16, 28:11, 28:19, 32:1, 34:9 ones [1] - 34:4 open [1] - 23:24 opinion [2] - 18:4, 35:18 opinions [1] - 10:4 opportunities [1] - 16:19 opportunity [9] - 3:18, 3:23, 6:9, 21:17, 26:2, 26:3, 31:1, 31:21, 35:7 opposition [1] - 15:7 opt [2] - 9:16, 28:5 opted [1] - 9:17 options [1] - 34:13 oral [2] - 33:20, 33:25 order [32] - 3:21, 5:3, 5:6, 5:13, 5:23, 7:16, 8:1, 8:22, 9:23, 10:10, 14:5, 14:19, 14:21, 16:10, 16:25, 17:20, 18:10, 25:12, 25:14, 26:5, 27:6, 29:1, 29:15, 30:17, 30:22, 30:24, 31:2, 31:3, 36:5, 37:4 ordered [5] - 10:6, 24:25, 26:22, 32:25 orders [3] - 26:11, 29:8, 37:7 orient [1] - 24:23 original [2] - 10:7, 38:13 otherwise [5] - 6:2, 28:4, 28:6, 31:12, 31:17 outlined [1] - 9:15 outset [1] - 18:12 outside [1] - 18:25 outweigh [1] - 27:19 over-arching [1] - 4:19 own [5] - 7:12, 11:22, 12:19, 33:12. 35:23

42

BILL NELSON & ASSOCIATES Certified Court Reporters

- 26:25 Plaintiffe 121 - 31:8 33:14	21:8, 27:10, 29:12, 31:9, 32:12	rather [1] - 21:1 rationales [1] - 27:6
		read [1] - 6:7
• • • •		reading [1] - 22:9
	-	reality [1] - 27:5
		really [11] - 11:22, 13:14,
		20:1, 21:15, 21:21, 24:14,
		26:7, 30:3, 33:22, 36:15,
• • • •		36:17
	•	reasons [2] - 16:20, 28:23
		rebuttal [3] - 21:22, 22:3,
	-	23:18
	•	received [2] - 12:2, 26:9
		recognize [2] - 10:16, 24:24
		recognized [1] - 18:15
•		reconfirm [1] - 29:8
possibly [3] - 6:2, 12:24,		record [14] - 3:12, 4:5, 4:10,
35:23	•	4:16, 5:1, 5:2, 6:9, 10:19,
potential [1] - 31:12	protective [17] - 5:3, 5:5,	25:6, 26:13, 28:16, 33:7,
potentially [3] - 27:8, 27:9,	5:13, 5:23, 10:10, 13:10,	35:5, 35:6
31:16	14:5, 14:19, 16:10, 16:25,	recreate [1] - 3:23
preclude [2] - 30:11, 30:13	17:25, 25:12, 25:14, 29:14,	red [1] - 9:20
prepare [2] - 3:22, 28:25	29:15, 30:24, 34:1	redact [3] - 17:8, 19:3, 31:10
present [2] - 16:19, 22:22	protects [1] - 29:15	redacted [17] - 7:23, 10:20,
presents [1] - 14:9	prove [3] - 6:25, 7:2, 26:2	14:7, 14:11, 14:18, 17:3,
presiding [1] - 38:15	provide [5] - 8:3, 26:4, 34:3,	28:18, 29:24, 30:8, 30:10,
pretty [1] - 12:20	34:24, 35:2	30:16, 30:21, 32:25, 34:3,
prevent [1] - 8:24	provided [9] - 14:11, 17:4,	34:4, 34:25
prevented [1] - 7:4	18:10, 28:3, 28:14, 31:18,	redacting [1] - 12:11
•	32:23, 34:14, 35:22	redactions [1] - 10:20
	provider [1] - 18:7	reference [1] - 18:1
	providers [1] - 8:16	referring [1] - 11:12
	provides [2] - 8:11, 18:8	reflected [1] - 38:13
	providing [1] - 23:25	refuses [1] - 8:3
	public [4] - 9:1, 12:3, 18:18,	regard [3] - 10:20, 29:25,
	33:7	33:16
	publicly [1] - 30:7	regarding [5] - 5:1, 5:5,
		12:18, 23:5, 26:23
		reinforce [1] - 29:7
-		relate [1] - 20:17
		related [5] - 12:7, 12:18,
		14:1, 18:14, 19:16
		released [1] - 7:23
	-	
_		relevance [2] - 14:22, 25:5
	34.1	relevancy [2] - 26:18, 28:23
• • • • •	0	relevant [15] - 5:2, 6:22,
•	Q	10:8, 13:25, 14:24, 19:9,
		19:19, 21:8, 23:11, 26:15,
	questions [1] - 21:15	26:20, 31:9, 32:10, 32:12,
	quo [1] - 10:13	35:21
•	• • • •	remain [1] - 10:19
	R	remand [1] - 24:16
	••••	remanded [1] - 4:24
promotions [1] - 9:6		remands [1] - 4:12
proof [2] - 7:5, 9:19	raise [1] - 15:10	remember [4] - 14:3, 20:9,
properly [1] - 9:23	raised [1] - 12:4	20:15, 21:2
property [4] - 7:15, 7:20, 8:7,	Randolph [4] - 2:4, 3:9,	remind [1] - 36:19
	potential [1] - 31:12 potentially [3] - 27:8, 27:9, 31:16 preclude [2] - 30:11, 30:13 prepare [2] - 3:22, 28:25 present [2] - 16:19, 22:22 presents [1] - 14:9 presiding [1] - 38:15 pretty [1] - 12:20 prevent [1] - 8:24 prevented [1] - 7:4 prevented [1] - 7:4 prevention [1] - 9:7 previous [2] - 11:15, 22:22 previously [8] - 14:17, 24:24, 25:5, 29:7, 30:11, 30:23, 32:9, 33:21 privacy [15] - 8:9, 9:11, 13:14, 15:10, 16:5, 18:9, 18:16, 18:23, 19:14, 27:24, 28:7, 28:20, 31:17 private [5] - 6:1, 10:21, 13:18, 18:14, 23:25 problem [2] - 35:1, 35:10 procedures [1] - 8:12 proceed [1] - 12:3 Proceedings [2] - 1:19, 37:10 proceedings [2] - 1:19, 37:10 proceedings [2] - 38:10 proceeds [1] - 38:10 proceed [4] - 14:17, 14:18, 16:3, 17:16 produce [4] - 14:17, 14:18, 16:3, 17:16 promotional [1] - 8:17 promotions [1] - 9:6 proof [2] - 7:5, 9:19 properly [1] - 9:23	35:19 proportionality [7] - 4:17, pus [1] - 27:10 point [7] - 15:6, 22:3, 27:15, 31:8, 32:21, 33:23, 36:11 points [1] - 15:22, 32:4, 36:6 proportionality [7] - 6:23 points [1] - 18:20 proportionale [1] - 23:11 policy [2] - 8:13, 28:5 prosecute [3] - 7:17, 8:1, position [5] - 16:7, 19:1, 9:23 position [5] - 16:7, 19:1, 9:23 position [5] - 16:7, 19:1, 9:12, 11:12, 11:21, 11:25, possibly [3] - 6:2, 12:24, 5:23 possibly [3] - 6:2, 12:24, 5:5 potential [1] - 31:12 protecting [2] - 8:14, 23:13 postilin [1] - 31:12 protecting [2] - 8:14, 23:13 possibly [3] - 6:2, 12:24, 5:5 potential [1] - 31:12 protecting [2] - 8:14, 23:13 protecting [2] - 3:21, 22:22 prevential [1] - 31:13, preventin [1] - 8:15 provide [5] - 8:3, 26:4, 34:3, provide [1] - 7:4 provide [1] - 8:14, 23:25 providue [1] - 7:4 provide [1] - 8:19, 9:11, 13:14, 15:10, 16:5, 18:9, 18:16, 18:23, 19:14, 27:24, providue [1] - 11:8, 23:22 providue [1] - 11:8, 30:7 prevention [1] - 9:7 providue [1] - 12:3

BILL NELSON & ASSOCIATES Certified Court Reporters 702.360.4677 Fax 360.2844 VEN 3545

report [13] - 11:8, 11:21, 12:19, 13:25, 16:12, 19:8, 20:6, 20:7, 22:20, 28:1, 28:10, 28:17, 28:21 reported [6] - 3:14, 4:1, 28:9, 29:21, 31:15, 38:10 **REPORTED** [1] - 1:23 **Reporter** [3] - 3:15, 4:6, 38:21 **REPORTER** [1] - 1:24 Reporter's [1] - 1:19 reporting [1] - 12:8 reports [30] - 4:20, 6:1, 7:14, 7:22, 11:2, 12:9, 13:9, 13:19, 14:17, 15:4, 15:23, 16:9, 16:23, 17:10, 17:12, 17:16, 17:19, 19:5, 22:17, 22:18, 23:2, 23:6, 29:17, 29:20, 30:18, 31:14, 32:24, 34:4, 34:25, 36:16 representing [2] - 3:7, 3:9 request [5] - 3:16, 4:3, 4:18, 4:19, 4:21 requested [1] - 8:5 requests [1] - 8:23 require [1] - 28:5 required [2] - 8:20, 9:1 requirement [2] - 25:11, 25:14 resolve [3] - 6:24, 27:18, 36:9 resolved [1] - 31:24 **RESORT** [1] - 1:12 Resort [1] - 3:4 resources [2] - 27:2, 27:17 respect [7] - 15:8, 16:2, 16:15, 16:23, 17:24, 19:20, 21:6 responding [1] - 18:8 response [1] - 12:17 responsibility [1] - 20:9 rest [1] - 9:24 restrictions [1] - 38:13 result [1] - 7:12 reveal [1] - 11:2 reverb [1] - 13:3 reversed [1] - 4:24 reversing [1] - 25:25 review [2] - 6:12, 31:1 reviewing [1] - 21:18 revisit [2] - 5:6, 10:22 revisited [1] - 26:17 ridiculous [1] - 12:5 rights [2] - 8:10, 9:2 **RMR** [3] - 1:24, 38:9, 38:20 rotunda [1] - 30:19 Royal [6] - 2:4, 3:7, 21:14, 32:4, 33:9, 36:17 **ROYAL** [9] - 3:7, 12:16, 13:6,

15:3, 23:22, 32:20, 32:23, 33:5, 34:20 royal [19] - 10:3, 11:6, 11:11, 12:15, 12:21, 13:4, 15:1, 22:5, 22:7, 22:8, 23:16, 23:21. 26:6. 30:25. 32:1. 34:19, 36:5, 36:13, 36:20 rules [2] - 25:8, 25:20 ruling [1] - 33:17 rulings [1] - 26:1

S

safety [1] - 18:20 Sami [2] - 2:4, 3:9 satisfies [1] - 35:12 scope [6] - 4:23, 14:21, 17:20, 25:1, 25:2, 29:20 scout's [1] - 36:13 seal [2] - 34:4, 36:3 second [1] - 12:22 secure [1] - 32:16 security [4] - 12:10, 12:19, 30:8, 30:15 see [6] - 11:21, 11:22, 16:24, 19:19, 24:12, 36:8 seeking [1] - 29:5 SEKERA [1] - 1:9 self [3] - 28:9, 29:21, 31:15 self-reported [3] - 28:9, 29:21, 31:15 Selker [1] - 3:4 sent [1] - 10:14 separate [1] - 4:12 service [1] - 8:16 set [1] - 14:1 several [2] - 21:24, 34:7 share [9] - 8:14, 15:23, 16:21, 16:24, 18:25, 24:3, 28:5, 37:1, 37:2 shared [1] - 28:8 sharing [4] - 16:12, 30:12, 30:13, 35:20 shifted [1] - 18:17 shoes [7] - 7:9, 7:19, 17:14, 17:17, 20:20, 22:12, 22:15 shorthand [1] - 38:14 shotgun [1] - 20:23 show [4] - 15:8, 18:17, 21:6, 25:15 **showing** [2] - 4:16, 34:16 shown [2] - 18:24, 24:5 shows [1] - 27:15 side [3] - 21:17, 21:18, 35:17 signed [1] - 37:6 significant [1] - 5:9 similar [3] - 14:8, 19:9, 20:19 simple [2] - 6:20, 31:4 simply [1] - 12:7

situation [1] - 23:9 slice [1] - 34:7 slipped [2] - 20:18, 28:3 social [3] - 12:9, 30:8, 30:15 solution [1] - 36:14 someone [1] - 20:18 somewhere [1] - 13:8 sorry [3] - 13:5, 14:11, 32:20 **sort** [6] - 6:5, 11:10, 19:15, 22:8, 23:19, 34:12 sorts [1] - 19:25 sought [6] - 5:3, 5:11, 21:7, 26:21, 29:11, 30:3 specific [3] - 5:18, 27:6, 27:14 specifics [2] - 17:5, 23:9 spoken [1] - 22:7 **SS** [1] - 38:5 staff [1] - 3:15 stake [2] - 24:18, 27:11 stand [1] - 22:3 stands [1] - 13:10 STATE [1] - 38:4 state [3] - 3:5, 26:12, 33:24 statement [1] - 17:5 states [1] - 9:7 status [1] - 10:13 stay [1] - 35:6 still [6] - 13:23, 19:18, 24:1, 26:15, 31:5, 32:10 stopped [1] - 13:3 storming [1] - 34:13 stuff [4] - 11:14, 22:20, 23:11, 33:6 style [1] - 31:2 styled [2] - 29:2, 30:4 subject [1] - 14:18 subjects [1] - 5:20 submit [1] - 37:7 subpoena [1] - 8:22 substance [1] - 20:17 successfully [1] - 15:15 sue [1] - 33:14 sufficiently [1] - 14:8 suggestion [1] - 34:12 summarize [1] - 6:5 summary [2] - 6:5, 10:1 super [1] - 6:20 support [2] - 12:11, 35:23 suppose [1] - 33:20 sweepstakes [1] - 8:18 т

talks [3] - 17:14, 19:23, 25:4 telephone [1] - 28:2 terms [3] - 4:17, 16:17, 36:24 testimony [1] - 20:5 **THE** [18] - 1:6, 3:4, 3:13, 4:3,

4:5, 9:25, 12:14, 12:21, 15:1, 21:14, 23:15, 24:8, 24:22, 32:22, 33:4, 33:8, 35:9.37:3 themselves [1] - 33:13 Thereupon [1] - 3:11 they've [6] - 13:22, 16:19. 21:3, 33:10, 33:23, 34:22 third [4] - 24:17, 24:20, 28:8, 31:16 third-party [2] - 24:17, 24:20 thoughts [1] - 6:8 thousands [1] - 7:11 three [1] - 34:23 throughout [2] - 13:21, 21:3 tight [1] - 23:16 today [15] - 3:14, 4:5, 5:6, 6:8, 6:16, 14:23, 15:18, 24:5, 26:6, 26:13, 29:1, 29:9, 31:20, 32:2, 34:2 today's [1] - 31:2 took [1] - 12:19 towards [1] - 21:11 TRAN [1] - 1:1 transcript [3] - 3:19, 3:24, 4:7 Transcript [1] - 1:19 traversed [1] - 7:19 trial [2] - 31:24, 32:14 trivial [2] - 18:11, 18:15 true [1] - 38:11 Trust [1] - 16:3 try [1] - 10:22 trying [4] - 25:24, 28:1, 33:11, 33:12 Tuesday [2] - 1:18, 3:1 turned [1] - 23:2 twisted [1] - 29:22 two [4] - 4:12, 4:14, 34:13, 34:23 type [1] - 11:9 types [3] - 7:18, 9:5, 28:15

U

ultimate [1] - 32:3 ultimately [10] - 3:22, 4:21, 5:20, 5:22, 24:25, 25:24, 26:1, 26:22, 28:13, 29:13 under [5] - 12:6, 19:5, 29:13, 33:18, 38:12 underlying [1] - 5:24 undo [1] - 33:16 unfairly [1] - 21:23 unfounded [1] - 36:24 unintentional [1] - 17:6 unredacted [7] - 14:11, 15:23. 16:21. 23:3. 24:3. 34:24, 36:8

702.360.4677 Fax 360.2844 VEN 3546

F	
unrelated [1] - 16:14	written [3] - 3:16, 3:18, 3:20
up [11] - 11:8, 21:15, 22:1,	
32:2, 33:6, 33:12, 34:4,	Y
35:12, 35:19, 36:2, 36:13	•
updating [1] - 13:8	
utilized [2] - 31:16, 32:14	years [1] - 25:2
V	
valid [1] - 16:20	
Vegas [3] - 3:1, 38:16, 38:21	
VENETIAN [1] - 1:12	
Venetian [31] - 3:4, 4:22, 5:3,	
5:16, 6:4, 10:17, 12:1,	
12:6, 15:10, 17:3, 17:10,	
18:7, 21:3, 22:12, 22:20, 23:10, 23:12, 26:16, 27:5,	
27:16, 27:22, 28:4, 28:18,	
29:13, 30:17, 31:6, 31:10,	
34:3, 35:13, 35:25	
Venetian's [3] - 13:11, 27:1,	
27:7	
verdict [2] - 6:24, 21:12	
versus [1] - 3:4	
video [2] - 20:5, 38:12	
violation [1] - 8:9	
violations [1] - 16:5	
voluntarily [1] - 8:6	
vs [1] - 1:11	
W	
W	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14,	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19,	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 well-met [1] - 27:13	
walked $[3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16$ wants $[2] - 20:13, 36:6$ warranted $[1] - 10:10$ ways $[1] - 34:7$ wearing $[5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16$ weigh $[3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4$ well-met $[1] - 27:13$ whichever $[1] - 3:21$	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 well-met [1] - 27:13	
$\label{eq:walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16} \\ \mbox{warts [2] - 20:13, 36:6} \\ \mbox{warranted [1] - 10:10} \\ \mbox{ways [1] - 34:7} \\ \mbox{wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16} \\ \mbox{weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4} \\ \mbox{well-met [1] - 27:13} \\ \mbox{whichever [1] - 3:21} \\ \mbox{whole [2] - 12:4, 35:24} \\ \end{tabular}$	
$walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 \\wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 \\warranted [1] - 10:10 \\ways [1] - 34:7 \\wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 \\weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 \\well-met [1] - 27:13 \\whichever [1] - 3:21 \\whole [2] - 12:4, 35:24 \\wholesale [1] - 6:12 \\ \end{cases}$	
walked $[3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16$ wants $[2] - 20:13, 36:6$ warranted $[1] - 10:10$ ways $[1] - 34:7$ wearing $[5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16$ weigh $[3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4$ well-met $[1] - 27:13$ whichever $[1] - 3:21$ whole $[2] - 12:4, 35:24$ wholesale $[1] - 6:12$ wish $[2] - 3:14, 6:10$	
$\label{eq:second} \begin{array}{l} \textbf{walked} \ [3] - 7:11, \ 22:14, \\ 22:16 \\ \textbf{wants} \ [2] - 20:13, \ 36:6 \\ \textbf{warranted} \ [1] - 10:10 \\ \textbf{ways} \ [1] - 34:7 \\ \textbf{wearing} \ [5] - 7:9, \ 7:19, \\ 22:13, \ 22:16 \\ \textbf{weigh} \ [3] - 26:24, \ 27:3, \ 27:4 \\ \textbf{well-met} \ [1] - 27:13 \\ \textbf{whichever} \ [1] - 3:21 \\ \textbf{whole} \ [2] - 12:4, \ 35:24 \\ \textbf{wholesale} \ [1] - 6:12 \\ \textbf{wish} \ [2] - 3:14, \ 6:10 \\ \textbf{wishes} \ [2] - 28:18, \ 31:6 \\ \end{array}$	
walked $[3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16$ wants $[2] - 20:13, 36:6$ warranted $[1] - 10:10$ ways $[1] - 34:7$ wearing $[5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16$ weigh $[3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4$ well-met $[1] - 27:13$ whichever $[1] - 3:21$ whole $[2] - 12:4, 35:24$ wholesale $[1] - 6:12$ wish $[2] - 3:14, 6:10$ wishes $[2] - 28:18, 31:6$ withhold $[1] - 26:4$	
$\label{eq:second} \begin{array}{l} \textbf{walked} \ \textbf{[3]} - 7:11, \ 22:14, \\ 22:16 \\ \textbf{wants} \ \textbf{[2]} - 20:13, \ 36:6 \\ \textbf{warranted} \ \textbf{[1]} - 10:10 \\ \textbf{ways} \ \textbf{[1]} - 34:7 \\ \textbf{wearing} \ \textbf{[5]} - 7:9, \ 7:19, \\ 22:13, \ 22:16 \\ \textbf{weigh} \ \textbf{[3]} - 26:24, \ 27:3, \ 27:4 \\ \textbf{well-met} \ \textbf{[1]} - 27:13 \\ \textbf{whichever} \ \textbf{[1]} - 27:13 \\ \textbf{whichever} \ \textbf{[1]} - 3:21 \\ \textbf{whole} \ \textbf{[2]} - 12:4, \ 35:24 \\ \textbf{wholesale} \ \textbf{[1]} - 6:12 \\ \textbf{wish} \ \textbf{[2]} - 3:14, \ 6:10 \\ \textbf{wishes} \ \textbf{[2]} - 28:18, \ 31:6 \\ \textbf{withhold} \ \textbf{[1]} - 26:4 \\ \textbf{witness} \ \textbf{[1]} - 20:5 \\ \end{array}$	
$\label{eq:second} \begin{array}{l} \textbf{walked } [\texttt{3}] - 7:11, 22:14, \\ 22:16 \\ \textbf{wants } [\texttt{2}] - 20:13, 36:6 \\ \textbf{warranted } [\texttt{1}] - 10:10 \\ \textbf{ways } [\texttt{1}] - 34:7 \\ \textbf{wearing } [\texttt{5}] - 7:9, 7:19, \\ 22:13, 22:16 \\ \textbf{weigh } [\texttt{3}] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 \\ \textbf{well-met } [\texttt{1}] - 27:13 \\ \textbf{whichever } [\texttt{1}] - 3:21 \\ \textbf{whole } [\texttt{2}] - 12:4, 35:24 \\ \textbf{wholesale } [\texttt{1}] - 6:12 \\ \textbf{wish } [\texttt{2}] - 3:14, 6:10 \\ \textbf{wishes } [\texttt{2}] - 28:18, 31:6 \\ \textbf{withhold } [\texttt{1}] - 20:5 \\ \textbf{witnesses } [\texttt{10}] - 7:16, 7:18, \\ \end{array}$	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 well-met [1] - 27:13 whichever [1] - 3:21 whole [2] - 12:4, 35:24 wholesale [1] - 6:12 wish [2] - 3:14, 6:10 wishes [2] - 28:18, 31:6 withhold [1] - 26:4 witnesse [1] - 20:5 witnesses [10] - 7:16, 7:18, 7:22, 7:25, 8:4, 9:22,	
$\label{eq:second} \begin{array}{c} \mbox{walked } [3] - 7:11, 22:14, \\ 22:16 \\ \mbox{warts } [2] - 20:13, 36:6 \\ \mbox{warranted } [1] - 10:10 \\ \mbox{ways } [1] - 34:7 \\ \mbox{wearing } [5] - 7:9, 7:19, \\ 22:13, 22:16 \\ \mbox{weigh } [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 \\ \mbox{well-met } [1] - 27:13 \\ \mbox{whichever } [1] - 27:13 \\ \mbox{whichever } [1] - 3:21 \\ \mbox{whole } [2] - 12:4, 35:24 \\ \mbox{wholesale } [1] - 6:12 \\ \mbox{wish} [2] - 3:14, 6:10 \\ \mbox{wishes } [2] - 28:18, 31:6 \\ \mbox{withhold } [1] - 26:4 \\ \mbox{witnesses } [1] - 20:5 \\ \mbox{witnesses } [10] - 7:16, 7:18, \\ 7:22, 7:25, 8:4, 9:22, \\ 10:25, 20:1, 31:13, 33:12 \\ \end{array}$	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 well-met [1] - 27:13 whichever [1] - 3:21 whole [2] - 12:4, 35:24 wholesale [1] - 6:12 wish [2] - 3:14, 6:10 wishes [2] - 28:18, 31:6 withhold [1] - 26:4 witnesse [1] - 20:5 witnesses [10] - 7:16, 7:18, 7:22, 7:25, 8:4, 9:22, 10:25, 20:1, 31:13, 33:12 word [3] - 18:15, 23:21, 29:8	
$\label{eq:spectral_set} \begin{array}{l} \textbf{walked } [\texttt{3}] - 7:11, 22:14, \\ 22:16 \\ \textbf{wants } [\texttt{2}] - 20:13, 36:6 \\ \textbf{warranted } [\texttt{1}] - 10:10 \\ \textbf{ways } [\texttt{1}] - 34:7 \\ \textbf{wearing } [\texttt{5}] - 7:9, 7:19, \\ 22:13, 22:16 \\ \textbf{weigh } [\texttt{3}] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 \\ \textbf{well-met } [\texttt{1}] - 27:13 \\ \textbf{whichever } [\texttt{1}] - 3:21 \\ \textbf{whole } [\texttt{2}] - 12:4, 35:24 \\ \textbf{wholesale } [\texttt{1}] - 6:12 \\ \textbf{wish } [\texttt{2}] - 3:14, 6:10 \\ \textbf{wishes } [\texttt{2}] - 28:18, 31:6 \\ \textbf{withhold } [\texttt{1}] - 26:4 \\ \textbf{witness } [\texttt{1}] - 20:5 \\ \textbf{witnesses } [\texttt{10}] - 7:16, 7:18, \\ 7:22, 7:25, 8:4, 9:22, \\ 10:25, 20:1, 31:13, 33:12 \\ \textbf{word } [\texttt{3}] - 18:15, 23:21, 29:8 \\ \textbf{wore } [\texttt{1}] - 20:20 \\ \end{array}$	
walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 well-met [1] - 27:13 whichever [1] - 27:13 whichever [1] - 3:21 whole [2] - 12:4, 35:24 wholesale [1] - 6:12 wish [2] - 3:14, 6:10 wishes [2] - 28:18, 31:6 withhold [1] - 26:4 witnesse [1] - 20:5 witnesses [10] - 7:16, 7:18, 7:22, 7:25, 8:4, 9:22, 10:25, 20:1, 31:13, 33:12 word [3] - 18:15, 23:21, 29:8 wore [1] - 20:20 world [1] - 19:18	
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walked [3] - 7:11, 22:14, 22:16 wants [2] - 20:13, 36:6 warranted [1] - 10:10 ways [1] - 34:7 wearing [5] - 7:9, 7:19, 22:13, 22:16 weigh [3] - 26:24, 27:3, 27:4 well-met [1] - 27:13 whichever [1] - 3:21 whole [2] - 12:4, 35:24 wholesale [1] - 6:12 wish [2] - 3:14, 6:10 wishes [2] - 28:18, 31:6 withhold [1] - 26:4 witnesse [1] - 20:5 witnesses [10] - 7:16, 7:18, 7:22, 7:25, 8:4, 9:22, 10:25, 20:1, 31:13, 33:12 word [3] - 18:15, 23:21, 29:8 wore [1] - 20:20 world [1] - 19:18 worry [1] - 36:24 wrap [2] - 22:1, 32:2	

From:Ashley SchmittSent:Friday, June 25, 2021 3:30 PMTo:DC25Inbox@clarkcountycourts.usSubject:ORDR - A-18-772761-C - Sekera v. Venetian, et alAttachments:4Prior Claims (post writ) - Judge to sign.pdf

Dept. 25,

Enclosed please find Venetian's proposed order related to the June 1, 2021 hearing. Both counsels have prepared separate proposed orders based on our understanding of the issues presented.

Thank you,

Ashley Schmitt

Paralegal



Royal & Miles Le 1522 W. Warm Springs Road Henderson, NV 89014 Telephone: 702-471-6777 Facsimile: 702-531-6777 Website: royalmileslaw.com

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1	ORDR		
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7	Email: <u>mroyal@royalmileslaw.com</u> Attorneys for Defendants		
,	VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC and		
8	LAS VEGAS SANDS, LLC		
0			
9	DISTRIC	T COURT	
10			
11	CLARK COUT		A
11	JOYCE SEKERA, an Individual;	CASE NO.:	A-18-772761-C
12		DEPT. NO.:	25
12	Plaintiff,		
13			
14	V.		
	VENETIAN CASINO RESORT, LLC, d/b/a	OPDED OF	CLARIFICATION ON
15	THE VENETIAN LAS VEGAS, a Nevada		ON OF PRIOR INCIDENT
16	Limited Liability Company; LAS VEGAS	REPORTS	DI OF I RIOK II (CIDEI (I
10	SANDS, LLC d/b/a THE VENETIAN LAS		
17	VEGAS, a Nevada Limited Liability Company;		
	YET UNKNOWN EMPLOYEE; DOES I		
18	through X, inclusive,		
19			
17	Defendants.		
20		-	
	Plaintiff JOYCE SEKERA, by and throug	gh her counsel o	of record, CLAGGETT & SYKES
21			
22	LAW FIRM and THE GALLIHER LAW FIRM, fi	led Plaintiff's M	lotion to Place on Calendar on April
	20, 2021 for the Court to recordidge issues related	d to the must due t	ion of mion incident non-onto within
23	30, 2021 for the Court to reconsider issues related	a to the product	ion of prior incident reports within
24	the Grand Lux rotunda dome area of the Venetian G	Casino Resort fro	om November 4, 2011 to November
25			
25	4, 2016 in light of Venetian Casino Resort, LLC et al v. Eighth Judicial District Court et al, 136 Nev.		
26	Adv. Rep. 26, 467 P.3d 1 (2020), following two writ petitions filed on September 27, 2019 and March		
27	Auv. Rep. 20, 407 1.54 1 (2020), 1010 wing two wi	in petitions mee	ion September 27, 2017 and Waren
27	17, 2020, respectively, by Defendants VENETL	AN CASINO R	ESORT, LLC, and LAS VEGAS
28			
I	SANDS, LLC (collectively <i>Venetian</i>), by and the R:\Master Case Folder\383718\Pleadings\4Prior Claims (post writ) v3.wpd	rough their cour	nsel of record, ROYAL & MILES

ROYAL & MILES LLP 1522 W Warm Springs Road Henderson NV 89014 Tel: (702) 471-6777 ◆ Fax: (702) 531-6777

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LLP. On May 14, 2021, Venetian filed an Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion to Place on Calendar. Plaintiff filed a Reply on May 25, 2021.

This matter came before the Court for hearing at 9:00 am on June 1, 2021. Plaintiff appeared by and through her counsel, Geordan G. Logan, Esq., of Claggett & Sykes Law Firm, Defendant Venetian appeared by and through its counsel of record, Michael A. Royal, Esq., of Royal & Miles LLP, and Third-Party Defendant BRAND VEGAS, LLC, appeared by and through its counsel of record, Sami N. Randolf, Esq., of HOOKS MENG & CLEMENT.

BACKGROUND

This matter arises from a November 4, 2016 slip and fall involving the Plaintiff on Venetian property in the course and scope of her employment as a kiosk ticket sales representative for Brand Vegas, LLC, in which she alleges to have sustained personal injuries.

A. <u>Venetian's Motion for Protective Order, February 1, 2019 (Prior Incidents from</u> <u>November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016)</u>

On August 16, 2018, Plaintiff sent discovery to Venetian requesting copies of slip and fall related incident reports occurring on Venetian property from November 4, 2013 to the present. Venetian responded by producing prior incident reports from November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016 with all information identifying non-Venetian guests redacted and filed a motion for protection under NRCP 26(c) with the Discovery Commissioner on February 1, 2019. The Discovery Commissioner filed a Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation on April 4, 2019, recommending that Venetian's motion for protection be granted, finding that Venetian demonstrated good cause for protection under NRCP 26(c) based upon a privacy issue. The Discovery Commissioner recommended "that all information within the redacted prior incident reports produced by Venetian are to be protected under an NRCP 26(c) order, not to be shared with anyone who is not directly affiliated with the litigation (*i.e.* counsel, counsel's staff, experts, etc.), and when attached as exhibits to any filings with the Court are to be provided under seal." The Discovery Commissioner further

recommended that "if Plaintiff identifies a specific prior incident report she feels is sufficiently related to her fall, with substantially similar facts and circumstances, occurring in the same location, that counsel will have an EDCR 2.34 conference to discuss the request and determine whether the identify of those involved in the specific prior incident should be provided before filing a motion."

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Plaintiff's Objection to DCRR of April 4, 2019

Plaintiff filed an objection to the April 4, 2019 Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation on April 16, 2019, which was heard by this Court on May 14, 2019. In a July 31, 2019 order, this Court reversed the Discovery Commissioner's Report and Recommendation of April 4, 2019, finding there to be no legal basis for NRCP 26(c) protection of the prior incident reports. Venetian was therefore ordered to produce unredacted prior incident reports from November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016 to be used by Plaintiff without any restrictions related to the sharing of these documents outside the litigation. Venetian filed a motion for reconsideration on August 12, 2019, which was denied in a hearing held on September 17, 2019, followed by an order from this Court filed on October 11, 2019.

C. Venetian's First Writ of Mandamus and/or Writ of Prohibition, September 26, 2019

Venetian filed a petition for writ of mandamus and/or writ of prohibition on September 26, 2019 and motion to stay. The motion to stay was granted October 17, 2019 by the Nevada Court of Appeals in case no. 79689-COA.

D.

Plaintiff's Motion to Compel, August 5, 2019 (Prior Incidents from 1999 to the Present)

In the interim, on August 5, 2019, Plaintiff filed a Motion to Compel Testimony and Documents, which included the production of Venetian incident reports from 1999 to the present. Following a hearing on September 18, 2019, the Discovery Commissioner determined in a December 2, 2019 Report and Recommendation that, based on the District Court's July 31, 2019 order, Venetian must produce unredacted prior incident reports from November 4, 2011 to the present. Both Plaintiff and Venetian filed objections to the Discovery Commissioner's December 2, 2019 Report and - 3 -

Recommendation on December 16, 2019. At a January 21, 2020 hearing, this Court ordered that Venetian must produce unredacted copies of reports for slip and fall incidents occurring within the Grand Lux rotunda dome area for the time period of November 4, 2011 to November 4, 2013, without requested NRCP 26(c) protection, consistent with its order of July 31, 2019.¹

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Venetian's Second Writ of Mandamus and/or Writ of Prohibition, March 17, 2020

On March 17, 2020, Venetian filed a second petition for writ relief and a stay was granted on March 27, 2020 in a case identified as 80816-COA.

9 F.

Court of Appeals Order, May 14, 2020

On May 14, 2020, the Nevada Court of Appeals filed an opinion, *Venetian Casino Resort, LLC, supra*, granting Venetian's writ and remitting the issue to the District Court to conduct further proceedings consistent with its opinion. Specifically, the Court was instructed to address the issue of "good cause" under NRCP 26(c) and to consider the requirements of both relevance and proportionality within NRCP 26(b)(1) pertaining to Venetian's requested protection of private personal information of its guests identified in any prior incident reports to be produced from November 4, 2011 to November 4, 2016.

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G. Plaintiff's Motion to Place on Calendar, April 30, 2021

Plaintiff filed Plaintiff's Motion to Place on Calendar on April 30, 2021, presenting detailed briefing to address issues to be considered by the Court. Venetian filed a response and Plaintiff filed a reply. A hearing was held on June 1, 2021.

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1.

Plaintiff's Position

Plaintiff argued that Venetian has not established "good cause" for protection under NRCP 25 26(c) and asserted that Plaintiff's need for unredacted Venetian prior incident reports from November

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 ²⁷ ¹The orders of July 31, 2019 and March 13, 2020 combined directed Venetian to produce unredacted prior incident reports occurring within the Grand Lux rotunda dome area from November 4, 2011 to November 4, 2016.

4, 2011 to November 4, 2016 meets the requirements of relevance and proportionality under NRCP 26(b)(1), asserting that she believes her case has a multi-million dollar value (including a claim for punitive damages), that she needs the personal information of guests involved in prior incident reports to explore potentially relevant information about prior incidents and to rebut Venetian's affirmative defense of comparative fault. Plaintiff further argued that Venetian guests voluntarily provided their personal information in prior incident reports with no expectation of privacy.

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Venetian's Position

Venetian responded that it has met the "good cause" requirement of NRCP 26(c), noting that there is medical information in the prior incident reports which presents a "non-trivial privacy interest", as contemplated by Clark Ctv. Office of the Coroner v. Las Vegas Review-Journal, 458 P.3d 1048, 1058-59). Venetian further argued that Plaintiff's failure to defend its claimed right to distribute the prior incident reports outside this litigation (as she has previously done) is an admission that protection is warranted. Venetian also argued that the prior incident reports are not relevant based on Eldorado Club, Inv. v. Graff, 78 Nev. 507, 377 P.2d 174 (Nev. 1962), and that Plaintiff did not meet the proportionality requirement of NRCP 26(b)(1) as she has not established that her desire to have the personal contact information of Venetian guests unrelated to the subject litigation outweighs the privacy interests at issue.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Having reviewed the filings of the parties, heard oral argument, and considered this matter pursuant to Venetian Casino Resort, LLC et al v. Eighth Judicial District Court et al, 136 Nev. Adv. Rep. 26, 467 P.3d 1 (2020), the Court makes the following findings of fact and conclusions of law.

Venetian Has Established "Good Cause" For Limited Protection Under NRCP 26(c) A.

The Court finds that Venetian has demonstrated "good cause" for a limited protective order under NRCP 26(c), as the prior incident reports at issue contain certain health information that should remain private. The Court further finds that certain other private information, such as Social Security - 5 -

numbers, dates of birth and driver's license numbers, is also worthy of protection. However, the rest 1 2 of the information within the subject prior incident reports, including the personal contact information 3 of all Venetian guests identified, are not protected.

B. Personal Contact Information of Venetian Guests Involved in Prior Incident Reports is **Relevant Under NRCP 26(b)(1)**

The Court hereby finds that the contact information for Venetian guests involved in prior incidents is relevant. The Court rejects Venetian's argument that Eldorado Club, Inv. v. Graff, 78 Nev. 507, 377 P.2d 174 (Nev. 1962), prohibits the production of prior incident reports. In making this determination, the Court emphasizes that it reserves all rulings of admissibility at trial related to the information at issue.

С. Personal Contact Information of Venetian Guests Involved in Prior Incident Reports is Proportional to the Needs of the Case Under NRCP 26(b)(1)

The Court hereby finds that the contact information for Venetian guests involved in prior incidents is proportional to the needs of the case pursuant to NRCP 26(b)(1). This is based on the following factors:

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The Importance of the Issues at Stake in the Action

The Court finds that the issues of notice and foreseeability weigh in favor of Venetian's production of personal contact information of Venetian guests to Plaintiff. The Court further finds this information to be relevant to the Plaintiff's response to Venetian's comparative negligence affirmative defense.

The Amount in Controversy

Plaintiff is asserting to have sustained injuries to her brain and spine, with past medical 24 expenses exceeding \$114,000 and alleged future medical expenses to be in excess of \$450,000, with 25 26 a yet undetermined wage loss and loss of earning capacity. Plaintiff also asserts losses associated with 27 pain and suffering, and presently has a claim for punitive damages. The amount in controversy weighs 28 in favor of producing the personal contact information of Venetian guests involved in prior incidents. - 6 -

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4.

The Parties' Relative Access to Relevant Information

Venetian is presently in sole control of the personal guest contact information Plaintiff is seeking. This factor weighs in favor of producing this information to Plaintiff.

The Parties' Resources

The Venetian has substantial resources and can produce the private guest information requested by Plaintiff with minimal time and effort. This factor weighs in favor of disclosure.

5. The Importance of the Discovery in Resolving the Issues

The Court finds that providing the personal contact information of guests involved in prior incidents at the Venetian will help resolve issues related to notice, foreseeability and whether Plaintiff was comparatively at fault. This factor weighs in favor of disclosure.

6.

Whether the Burden or Expense of the Proposed Discovery Outweighs its Likely **Benefit**

The Court finds that the benefit of providing Plaintiff with prior incident reports revealing the personal contact information of Venetian guests outweighs any burden associated with Venetian's production in light of the factors discussed herein above. This factor weighs in favor of disclosure.

D.

Issue of Venetian's Production of Redacted Prior Incident Reports from November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016

Venetian raised a concern that the previously provided prior redacted incident reports were shared by Plaintiff with others outside the litigation when its initial motion for protection was filed and thereafter granted by the Discovery Commissioner in her report and recommendation. Venetian argued that these reports have been published by attorneys in litigation unrelated to this matter with unredacted health information. Venetian asserted that compliance with this order will have the same effect as producing the reports from November 4, 2013 to November 4, 2016 without redactions. The Court previously determined in its order of July 31, 2019 that Plaintiff had a right to distribute the prior incident reports and therefore makes no ruling herein to address that issue, but recommends that counsel confer on how to resolve it.

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21	Submitted by:
22	ROYAL & MIL
23	111:10
24	Michael A. Roya
25	Gregory A. Mile 1522 W. Warm S
26	Henderson, NV 8
27	Attorneys for De
27	

ORDER

the foregoing, this Court, having fully considered the matter and good cause

REBY ORDERED that the Court's orders of July 31, 2019 and March 13, 2020 are as follows: Venetian shall produce prior incident reports of slip and fall events the Grand Lux rotunda dome area of the Venetian property from November 4, 2011 2016, redacting only the private health information of Venetian guests contained as dates of birth, Social Security numbers and driver's license numbers. All other remain without redactions.

RTHER HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff is not restricted from sharing Venetian formation with others outside the litigation, as previously determined and ordered by

URTHER HEREBY ORDERED that Venetian's motion for a 30 day stay of n the date this order is filed with the Court to file a petition for writ of mandamus n is GRANTED.

this _____ day of ____ , 2021.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

LES LLP

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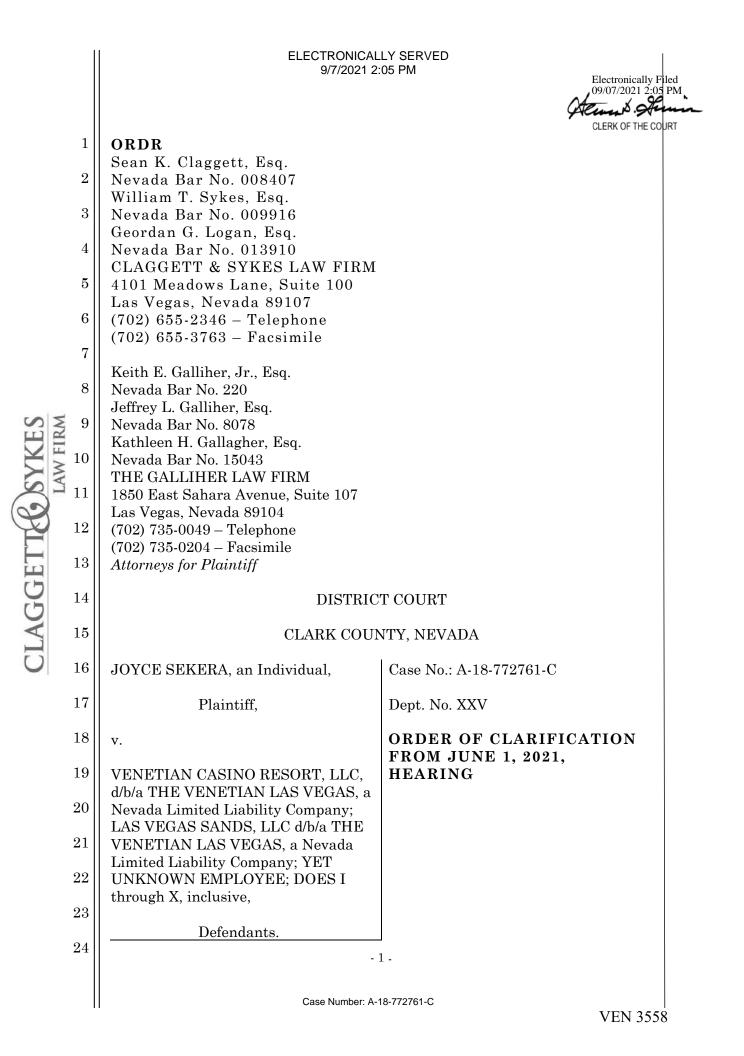
al, Esq. (SBN 4370) s, Esq. (SBN 4336) Springs Road 89014 fendants

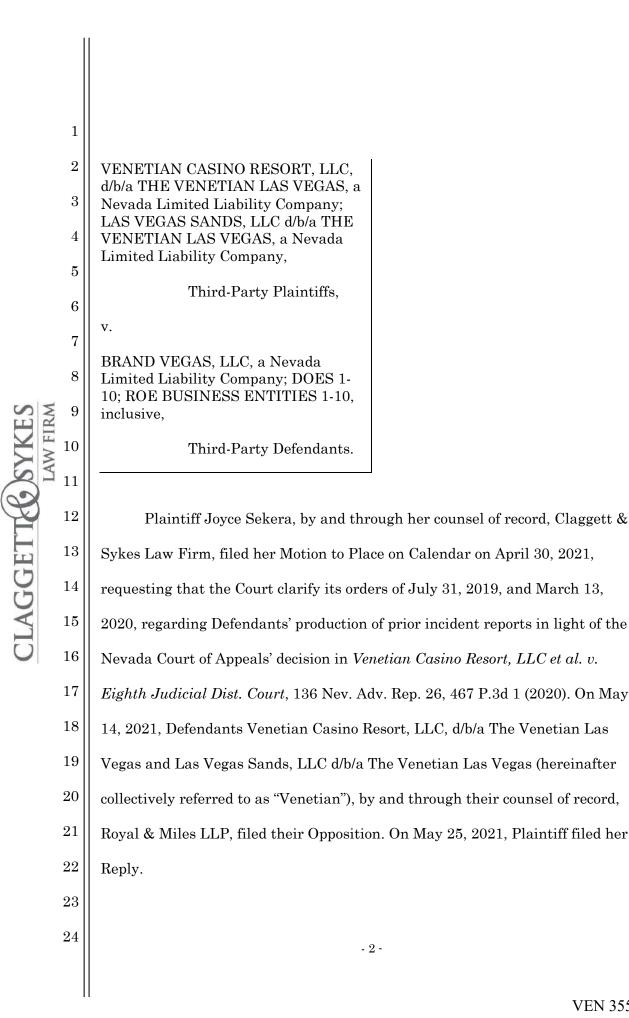
Reviewed by:

CLAGGETT & SYKES LAW FIRM

Sean K. Claggett, Esq. (SBN: 8407) William T. Sykes, Esq. (SBN: 9916) Geordan G. Logan, Esq. (SBN: 13910) 4101 Meadows Lane, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 Attorneys for Plaintiff

1	Reviewed by:
2	HOOKS MENG & CLEMENT
3	
4	Dalton L. Hooks, Jr., Esq. (SBN: 8121)
5	Sami Randolf, Esq. (SBN: 7876)
6	2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite C-23 Las Vegas, NV 89102
7	Attorneys for Third-Party Defendant BRAND VEGAS, LLC
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The matter came before the Court for hearing at 9:00 a.m. on June 1,
 2021, with Geordan G. Logan, Esq., of Claggett & Sykes Law Firm appearing on
 behalf of Plaintiff, Michael A. Royal, Esq., of Royal & Miles LLP, appearing on
 behalf of Venetian, and Sami N. Randolf, Esq., of Hooks Meng & Clement,
 appearing on behalf of Third-Party Defendant, Brand Vegas, LLC.

BACKGROUND

This is a personal injury case arising out of a slip and fall at the Venetian Casino Resort on November 4, 2016. On that day, Joyce slipped on the marble floor near the Grand Lux Café restrooms in the Venetian Casino Resort and, as a result, suffered injuries.

11 On August 15, 2018, Plaintiff requested, "True and correct copies of any 12and all claim forms, legal actions, civil complaints, statements, security reports, 13computer generated lists, investigative documents or other memoranda which 14have, as its subject matter, slip and fall cases occurring on marble floors within 15the subject VENETIAN CASINO RESORT within three years prior to the 16incident described in Plaintiff's Complaint, to the present." Venetian responded 17by producing prior incident reports from November 4, 2013, to November 4, 182016. The incident reports were redacted to prevent disclosure of the slip and 19fall victims' names and contact information. When Plaintiff requested that the 20redactions be removed, Venetian filed a motion for protective order with the 21Discovery Commissioner. On April 4, 2019, the Discovery Commissioner served 22her Report and Recommendations wherein she recommended that Venetian's 23motion be granted.

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LAW FIRM

CLAGGETT& SYKES

1 Plaintiff objected to the Discovery Commissioner's Report and $\mathbf{2}$ Recommendations and on July 31, 2019, the Court reversed the Discovery 3 Commissioner's recommendations holding "there is no legal basis to preclude 4 Plaintiff from knowing the identity of the individuals contained in the incident $\mathbf{5}$ reports as this information is relevant discovery." Accordingly, Venetian was 6 ordered to produce unredacted prior incident reports from November 4, 2013, to 7 November 4, 2016. On September 26, 2019, Venetian filed a writ petition 8 challenging the Court's July 31, 2019, Order.

9 On August 5, 2019, Plaintiff filed a Motion to Compel Testimony and 10 Documents wherein she sought the production of unredacted prior incident 11 reports, as well as previously requested subsequent incident reports. On July 1212, 2019, the Venetian opposed Plaintiff's motion to compel and filed a 13countermotion for a protective order. The Discovery Commissioner heard 14arguments regarding Plaintiff's motion to compel and recommended that 15Defendant produce unredacted incident reports from November 4, 2013, 16 through the date of production. Both parties objected to the Discovery 17Commissioner's December 2, 2019, Report and Recommendation.

On March 13, 2020, the Court ordered that Venetian "must produce prior
incident reports limited to the Grand Lux rotunda dome area from November 4,
2011 to November 4, 2016." The Court otherwise adopted the DCRR, "including
the order requiring that Venetian produce reports of prior incidents in
unredacted form without requested NRCP 26(c) protection." On March 17, 2020,
Venetian filed a second writ petition.

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CLAGGETT& SYKES

- 4 -

1 On May 14, 2020, the Nevada Court of Appeals issued its published $\mathbf{2}$ opinion granting Defendants' first petition. Further, the Nevada Court of 3 Appeals stated: 4 The district court shall conduct further proceedings consistent with this opinion to determine whether disclosure of the $\mathbf{5}$ unredacted reports is relevant and proportional under NRCP 26(b)(1). If disclosure is proper, the district court must conduct a 6 good-cause analysis under NRCP 26(c)(1), applying the framework provided herein to determine whether the Venetian 7 has shown good cause for a protective order. If the Venetian demonstrates good cause, the district court may issue a 8 protective order as dictated by the circumstances of this case CLAGGETT SYKES 9 Subsequently, the Clerk issued a Writ of Mandamus instructing the Court to, 10 "vacate your order denying the Venetian's motion for a protective order and to 11 conduct further proceedings consistent with the court's opinion[.]" 12Then, on June 19, 2020, the Nevada Court of Appeals issued its Order 13Granting Petition for Writ of Mandamus instructing the Court to vacate its 14March 13, 2020, Order and conduct proceedings consistent with its order and 15prior decision. Thereafter, the Clerk issued a Writ of Mandamus. 16On April 30, 2021, Plaintiff filed her Motion to Place on Calendar 17requesting that the Court reconsider its previous orders regarding Venetian's 18 prior incident reports in light of the Nevada Court of Appeals' decision and 19 orders. On May 14, 2021, Venetian filed its Opposition and on May 25, 2021, 20Plaintiff filed her Reply. The matter was heard on June 1, 2021. 21/// 22/// 23/// 24- 5 -

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

NRCP 26(b)(1), in relevant part, states:

Parties may obtain discovery regarding any nonprivileged matter that is relevant to any party's claims or defenses and proportional to the needs of the case, considering the importance of the issues at stake in the action, the amount in controversy, the parties' relative access to relevant information, the parties' resources, the importance of the discovery in resolving the issues, and whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit. Information within this scope of discovery need not be admissible in evidence to be discoverable.

NRCP 26(b)(1).

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CLAGGETT SYKES

10	Discovery sought must be both relevant and proportional to the needs of			
11	the case. See Venetian Casino Resort, LLC v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct., 467 P.3d			
12	1, 5 (Nev. App., May 14, 2020) (citing In re Bard IVC Filters Prods. Liab. Litig.,			
13	317 F.R.D. 562, 564 (D. Ari. 2016) ("Relevancy alone is no longer sufficient –			
14	discovery must also be proportional to the needs of the case"); <i>Samsung Elecs</i> .			
15	Am., Inc. v. Yang Kun Chung, 321 F.R.D. 250, 279 (N.D. Tex. 2017)			
16	("[D]iscoverable matter must be both relevant and proportional to the needs of			
17	the case – which are related but distinct requirements.")).			
18	Relevant to the Claims and Defenses in this Case			
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20	Relevant evidence is, "evidence having any tendency to make the			
21	existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action			
22	more or less probable than it would be without the evidence." NRS 48.015.			
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1 Venetian's incident reports, as well as the names and contact information $\mathbf{2}$ of the slip and fall victims, are relevant to the claims and defenses in this case. 3 First, the incident reports, and the information contained therein, are relevant 4 to show notice and foreseeability of any unsafe or dangerous condition. $\mathbf{5}$ Similarly, the incident reports are relevant to Plaintiff's claim for punitive 6 damages. Next, the incident reports are relevant to Venetian's affirmative 7 defense of comparative negligence. Finally, as to the redacted contact 8 information for injured guests, that information is relevant as well, as those LAW FIRM 9 individuals are witnesses who have information regarding: (1) the facts and 10 circumstances surrounding their slip and fall; and (2) the condition of 11 Venetian's flooring at the time and location of their slip and fall. 12В. The Incident Reports and Witness Contact Information are Proportional to the Needs of the Case. 13NRCP 26(b)(1) provides several factors for courts to consider regarding 14proportionality: (1) the importance of the issues at stake in the action; (2) the 15amount in controversy; (3) the parties' relative access to relevant information; 16 (4) the parties' resources; (5) the importance of the discovery in resolving the 17issues; and (6) whether the burden or expense of the proposed discovery 18 outweighs its likely benefit. 19The incident reports and witness contact information are proportional to 20the needs of the case as these factors all weigh in favor of Plaintiff. 211. The Importance of the Issues at Stake in the Action 22The issues at stake in this action are important. Specifically, issues of 23notice, foreseeability, and whether Plaintiff was comparatively negligent are 24- 7 -

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important to the claims and defenses in this case. The incident reports, $\mathbf{2}$ including the redacted witness contact information, are relevant to those issues. 3 This factor weighs in favor of disclosure.

2. The Amount in Controversy

 $\mathbf{5}$ To date, Plaintiff is claiming spinal and brain injuries, including, but not 6 limited to: (1) \$114,009.27 in past medical specials; (2) \$457,936.99 in future 7 medical expenses; (3) undetermined wage loss and loss of earning capacity; (4) 8 past and future pain, suffering, mental anguish, and loss of enjoyment of life; (5) 9 attorney's fees and costs; and (6) punitive damages. Thus, the amount in 10controversy is substantial and weighs in favor of disclosure. See, e.g., Guerrero 11 v. Wharton, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 225185, at *10 - *11 (D. Nev. Mar. 30, 2017) 12("Plaintiff's claim is not limited to past medical expenses, and she is instead 13suing to recover for past medical expenses, future medical expenses, lost wages, 14 pain and suffering, and emotional distress, as well as punitive damages.... Not 15including emotional damages and punitive damages, Plaintiff estimates these 16 damages at approximately \$242,675.94.... Including the possibility of a jury 17award of emotional damages and punitive damages, the amount in controversy 18would be much higher than that amount. Especially given the limited burden on 19Defendant in complying with these discovery requests, the amount in 20controversy tilts in favor of discoverability, not against it"); Schultz v. Sentinel 21Ins. Co., 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 72542, at *19 - *20 (D.S.D. June 3, 2016) ("The 22court applies the proportionality requirement built into Rule 26, but rejects 23Sentinel's characterization of the value of Ms. Schultz's case as a \$17,000 case

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that benefits her alone.... If punitive damages are awarded, Ms. Schultz has the
potential to affect Sentinel's alleged business practices and to remedy the
situation for many insureds, not just herself").

The Parties' Relative Access to Relevant Information

The information sought is solely in Venetian's control. The Venetian maintains the records, and Plaintiff has no other means of obtaining the information contained on the incident reports, including witness contact information. This factor weighs in favor of disclosure. *See, e.g., Labrier v. State Farm Fire & Cas. Co.*, 314 F.R.D. 637, 643 (W.D. Mo. May 9, 2016) ("LaBrier does not have access to the information she seeks, other than through the discovery, as it is in State Farm's own database and the database of its vendor, Xactware. In terms of resources, LaBrier is an individual, while State Farm is a corporation with a national presence, with sophisticated access to data").

4. The Parties' Resources

Venetian has substantial resources. Further, the act of un-redacting the
incident reports would involve minimal time, effort, or resources. This factor
weighs in favor of disclosure.

18 5. The Importance of the Discovery in Resolving the Issues
19 The incident reports and witness contact information are relevant to
20 issues of notice, foreseeability, whether Plaintiff is comparatively at-fault, and
21 Plaintiff's claim for punitive damages. This factor weighs in favor of disclosure.
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6. Whether the Burden or Expense of the Proposed Discovery Outweighs its Likely Benefit

The likely benefit of the incident reports and witness contact information outweighs any burden given: (1) the information's relevance to the claims and defenses in this case; (2) the substantial amount in controversy; and (3) the fact that Venetian is in sole possession of the requested information and Plaintiff has no alternative means of acquiring the same. Further, the Venetian has already produced redacted reports, so the primary burden is producing unredacted reports consistent with this order. This burden is nominal.

This factor weighs in favor of disclosure.

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C. Venetian Has Demonstrated Good Cause for a Limited Protective Order Within NRCP 26(c)

NRCP 26(c)(1) provides the standard for protective orders, stating that,
"[t]he court may, for good cause, issue an order to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, oppression, or undue burden or expense...."

In Venetian Casino Resort, LLC v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct., 467 P.3d 1

16 (Nev. App., May 14, 2020), the Nevada Court of Appeals adopted a three-part
17 test for conducting a good cause analysis under NRCP 26(c)(1).

"First, the district court must determine if particularized harm would
occur due to public disclosure of the information." *Venetian Casino Resort, LLC v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct.*, 467 P.3d 1, 10 (Nev. App., May 14, 2020) (citing *In re Roman Catholic Archbishop of Portland in Or.*, 661 F.3d 417, 424 (9th Cir.
2011) ("As we have explained, '[b]road allegations of harm, unsubstantiated by
specific examples or articulated reasoning, do not satisfy the Rule 26(c) test"").

- 10 -

"Second, if the district court concludes that particularized harm would
 result, then it must 'balance the public and private interests to decide whether
 ... a protective order is necessary." *Id.* (citing *Roman Catholic*, 661 F.3d at 424).
 In order to balance private and public interests, the Nevada Court of Appeals
 directed courts to the following list of factors set forth in *Glenmede Trust Co. v. Thompson*, 56 F.3d 476, 483 (3d Cir. 1995):

(1) whether disclosure will violate any privacy interests; (2) whether the information is being sought for a legitimate purpose or for an improper purpose; (3) whether disclosure of the information will cause a party embarrassment; (4) whether confidentiality is being sought over information important to public health or safety; (5) whether the sharing of information among litigants will promote fairness and efficiency; (6) whether a party benefitting from the order of confidentiality is a public entity or official; and (7) whether the case involves issues important to the public.

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Id. at 10-11 (quoting *Glenmede Trust Co. v. Thompson*, 56 F.3d 476, 483 (3d Cir. 1995)).

"Third, even if the factors balance in favor of protecting the discovery
material, 'a court must still consider whether redacting portions of the discovery
material will nevertheless allow disclosure." *Id.* at 11 (quoting *Roman Catholic*,
661 F.3d at 425).
In applying the three-part test adopted in *Venetian Casino Resort*, *LLC v*.

In applying the three-part test adopted in *Venetian Casino Resort, LLC v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct.*, 467 P.3d 1 (Nev. App., May 14, 2020), the Court finds
that Venetian has demonstrated good cause for a limited protective order under
NRCP 26(c). Specifically, the Court finds that the following private information
should be redacted from any incident reports produced by Venetian: (1) Social

Security numbers; (2) dates of birth; (3) driver's license numbers; and (4) certain
private health information, such as that provided to responding EMT's.

The Court also finds that the remaining information contained in the incident reports, including names and contact information for the slip and fall victims, details regarding the facts and circumstances of the particular incidents, and any self-reported injuries resulting from the incident should be produced and disclosed as there is no expectation of privacy in this information and it was voluntarily disclosed by these individuals to a third party, the Venetian.

ORDER

Based on the foregoing, this Court, having fully considered the matter and good cause appearing,

13IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Court's orders of July 31, 2019, and 14March 13, 2019, are modified as follows: Venetian shall produce prior incident 15reports for slip and fall events occurring within the Grand Lux rotunda dome 16 area from November 4, 2011, to November 4, 2016, redacting only Social 17Security numbers, dates of birth, driver's license numbers, and private health 18 information, such as that provided to responding EMT's. All other information, 19including but not limited to names and contact information, the facts and 20circumstances of the particular incidents, whether an ambulance was called to 21the scene, whether the individual was transported from the scene to a hospital, 22injuries observed or noted by Venetian's employees, and any self-reported 23injuries resulting from the incident shall be produced without redactions.

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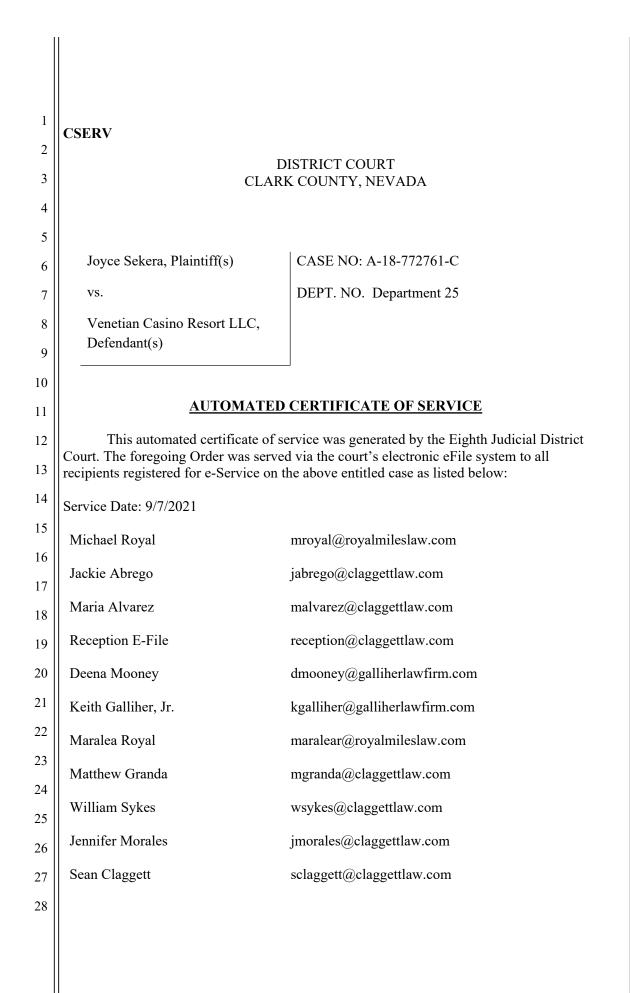
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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24	stay of proceedings for thirty (30) days is DATED this day of June, 2 <i>Submitted by:</i> DATED this 25th day of June, 2021. CLAGGETT & SYKES LAW FIRM <i>/s/ William T. Sykes</i> Sean K. Claggett, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 008407 William T. Sykes, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 009916 Geordan G. Logan, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 013910 4101 Meadows Lane, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89107 <i>Attorneys for Plaintiff</i> <i>Reviewed by:</i> DATED this day of June, 2021 HOOKS MENG & CLEMENT <i>No Response</i> Dalton L. Hooks, Jr., Esq. Nevada Bar No. 007876 2820 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite C-23 Las Vegas, NV 89102	2021. Dated this 7th day of September, 2021. WINTRICT COURT JUDGE 048 168 D58F 6A3A Kathleen E. Delaney District Court Judge Reviewed by: DATED this day of June, 2021 ROYAL & MILES LLP Submitting Competing Order Michael A. Royal, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 004370 Gregory A. Miles, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 004336 1522 W. Warm Springs Road Henderson, NV 89014 Attorneys for Defendants



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