In the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada

NATIONSBUILDERS INSURANCE SERVICES INC., a foreign corporation; NBIS CONSTRUCTION & TRANSPORT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC., a foreign corporation;

Petitioners,

vs.

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of the State of Nevada, in and for the County of Clark; and THE HONORABLE MARK R. DENTON, District Judge;

Respondents.

DIANE SANCHEZ, an individual; Real Party in Interest. Supreme Court Case No. 84227

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District Court Aprel 12022 05:02 p.m.

A-19-805351-C Elizabeth A. Brown

Clerk of Supreme Court

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST DIANE SANCHEZ'S APPENDIX TO ANSWER TO WRIT PETITION VOLUME I PAGES 1-250

DENNIS M. PRINCE Nevada Bar No. 5092 KEVIN T. STRONG Nevada Bar No. 12107

PRINCE LAW GROUP

10801 W. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 560 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Tel: (702) 534-7600 Fax: (702) 534-7601 Attorneys for Real Party in Interest

Diane Sanchez

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CLERK OF THE COURT OPPM DENNIS M. PRINCE Nevada Bar No. 5092 2 KEVIN T. STRONG 3 Nevada Bar No. 12107 PRINCE LAW GROUP 4 10801 West Charleston Boulevard Suite 560 5 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Tel: (702) 534-7600 Fax: (702) 534-7601 6 Email: eservice@thedplg.com 7 Attorneys for Plaintiff Diane Šanchez 8 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 9 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 10 DIANE SANCHEZ, CASE NO. A-15-722815-C 11 DEPT. NO. XXV Plaintiff. 12 PLAINTIFF DIANE SANCHEZ'S 13 vs. OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT BLAS BON'S MOTION TO SET BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH 14 ASIDE DEFAULT JUDGMENT ACOSTA, individually; WILFREDO ACOSTA, individually; DOES I-X and ROE CORPORATIONS I-X, inclusive, 15 Hearing Date: February 25, 2020 Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m. 16 Defendants. 17 18 Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ, by and through her attorneys of record, Dennis M. 19 Prince and Kevin T. Strong of PRINCE LAW GROUP, hereby submits her Opposition to 20 Defendant Blas Bon's Motion to Set Aside Default Judgment. 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28



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This Opposition is based on the pleadings and papers on file in this action, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities set forth herein, and any argument this Court wishes to entertain at the hearing of this matter.

DATED this day of February, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

PRINCE LAW GROUP

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I.

INTRODUCTION

Nearly four (4) years after entry of default and nearly six (6) months after entry of a default judgment, Defendant Blas Bon ("Bon") has suddenly decided to become involved in this litigation. Rest assured, however, that Bon himself has not initiated this attempt to set aside the substantial default judgment entered against him because his negligence caused Plaintiff Diane Sanchez ("Sanchez") to sustain severe injuries. Rather, it is Bon's insurance company, ATX Premier Insurance ("ATX"), that has now decided to use Bon to involve itself in this litigation. The timing of ATX/Windhaven's involvement in this action should come as no surprise given that Sanchez obtained Bon's rights via judicial assignment and recently sued ATX/Windhaven and DMA Claims Services ("DMA").

ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, wants this Court to somehow believe that Bon was surprised by entry of the Default Judgment and that service of the Summons and Complaint was ineffective. Not only are these arguments invalid, but they also reek of desperation given the posture of this case. ATX/Windhaven cannot escape the reality that ATX had notice that Sanchez sued Bon for personal injuries and that Bon was served with the Summons and Complaint. Yet, when presented with this information, ATX stuck its head in the sand and refused to satisfy its contractual obligation to defend Bon against Sanchez's allegations against him.² ATX chose to not protect Bon's interests by defending him in this litigation. There is no indication that ATX ever even attempted to contact Bon upon learning that he was sued. Even when ATX was directly informed that a default was entered against Bon, there was no attempt to participate in this action on Bon's behalf. Now that a substantial default judgment has been entered,

¹ ATX Premier Insurance no longer exists. Windhaven National Insurance Company ("Windhaven") purchased the assets of ATX, which became effective on October 24, 2016.

² The Honorable Judge Douglas W. Herndon characterized Century Surety Company's failure to defend its insured in precisely the same terms when he refused to set aside the Default Judgment in *Pretner v. Vasquez*, Case No. A-11-632845-C. See 12/10/12 hearing transcript excerpt, at 32:25 – 33:5, attached as **Exhibit "1."**

ATX/Windhaven expect this Court to simply set aside the Default Judgment because it now wants to represent Bon's interests. ATX/Windhaven ask this Court to shift the blame for entry of the Default Judgment on Sanchez based on arguments that lack a sufficient factual or legal basis. ATX/Windhaven fail to provide this Court with any legitimate reason to set aside the Default Judgment entered in this action and the motion should be denied.

II.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Both Bon and ATX received adequate notice that a claim was initiated against Bon and that a default was entered. ATX failed to act on Bon's behalf until a substantial default judgment was entered against him and Sanchez sued ATX/Windhaven and DMA. To fully understand and appreciate that a default judgment was entered because ATX chose not to satisfy its contractual duty owed to Bon, a detailed explanation of Sanchez's claim and her subsequent lawsuit is necessary.

A. Bon Causes a Motor Vehicle Collision and Sanchez Sustains Injuries

On April 28, 2015, a motor vehicle collision that involved four (4) cars occurred on Interstate 15 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Sanchez traveled northbound on Interstate 15 in a 1995 BMW 325i sedan behind non-party Donna Evans ("Evans") in the #5 travel lane. Bon drove a 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck directly behind Sanchez. Bon hauled two wheelbarrows in the back of the truck at that time. Sanchez slowed her vehicle down for traffic that was ahead of her. Bon failed to pay attention to the traffic in front of him and veered hard to the left to avoid striking Sanchez's vehicle. Bon's efforts were unsuccessful, however, and he struck the left portion of Sanchez's rear bumper with the right front end of his truck. Bon's truck eventually came to a rest in the #4 travel lane. Former Defendant Joseph Acosta ("Joseph"), who drove a 1997 BMW 528i directly behind Bon, was unable to bring his vehicle to a stop and also struck the rear bumper on Sanchez' car. As a result of the second impact, Sanchez's car struck the back of Evans's vehicle. Sanchez's vehicle suffered damage to both the front bumper and rear bumper as a result of the subject collision.



B. Sanchez Submits an Injury Claim to ATX

Non-party Hipolito Cruz was the registered owner of the Dodge pickup truck that Bon negligently drove when he crashed into Sanchez's vehicle. At the time of the subject collision, ATX issued a personal liability insurance policy to Cruz, policy number ANV00003087. See ATX proof of insurance, attached as **Exhibit "2."** The ATX policy provided personal automobile liability coverage limits of \$15,000.00 per person and \$30,000.00 per occurrence. Id. As a permissive driver, Bon was personally insured under the ATX policy at the time of the subject collision. Notably, ATX never disputed that Bon was a permissive driver.

On May 21, 2015, Sanchez faxed and mailed a letter to ATX Insurance wherein she enclosed her medical records for treatment she received for the injuries sustained as a result of the subject collision. See 5/21/15 letter to ATX, attached as **Exhibit "3."** Sanchez also requested that ATX disclose the applicable policy limits for Bon in the May 21, 2015 letter. Id. ATX was already aware of Sanchez's injury claim at the time of the May 21, 2015 letter because Claim No. DMA0147074 was assigned. Id.

On June 16, 2015, Sanchez faxed and mailed her two-week time limit demand for policy limits to DMA Claims Services ("DMA"). See 6/21/15 demand letter, attached as **Exhibit "4."** At the time of the demand, Sanchez's past medical special damages totaled \$7,818.00 and she was recommended to undergo a cervical fusion surgery at C6-7. *Id.* Sanchez included a copy of the traffic accident report and her medical records, including the record outlining her future surgical recommendation, with her demand. *Id.*

On July 10, 2015, DeLawrence Templeton ("Templeton"), a bodily injury claims representative with DMA, sent a letter to Sanchez's attorney. See 7/10/15 DMA letter, attached as Exhibit "5." Templeton informed Sanchez's attorney that DMA represented the interests of ATX for the subject collision. Id. Templeton requested additional time to complete its investigation of Sanchez's claim because he was unable to gather information he believed was necessary to determine liability. Id. The information Templeton believed he needed was a statement from the drivers involved in the subject collision and photographs of the vehicles involved in the subject collision. Id. Templeton estimated that he would be able to evaluate Sanchez's claim within thirty



(30) days after receiving the information. *Id*. Templeton confirmed that he would contact Sanchez's attorney after he received and reviewed the information. *Id*.

On July 17, 2015, a mere one (1) week after Templeton's initial letter, he mailed another letter to Sanchez's attorney. See 7/17/15 DMA letter, attached as Exhibit "6." Templeton informed Sanchez's counsel that he completed a thorough investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the subject collision. Id. Templeton inexplicably determined that Bon, its insured, was not liable for the subject collision, despite the contents of the traffic accident report, which he possessed. Id. Based on this determination, Templeton denied Sanchez's claim because the policy "only covers losses for which our insured becomes legally liable." Id. Templeton never confirmed that he actually obtained the information referenced in his July 10, 2015 letter as part of his investigation and denial of Sanchez's claim.

On December 11, 2015, Sanchez's counsel mailed a letter to Templeton in which he formally withdrew Sanchez's policy limits demand. See 12/11/15 letter to Templeton, attached as Exhibit "7." Sanchez's counsel noted that Templeton contacted him on July 10, 2015 to inform him that demands sent to ATX at that time were not assigned to claims handlers with DMA in a timely fashion. Id. at p. 1. Notably, the December 11, 2015 letter was sent to DMA's PO Box address contained on Templeton's July 10, 2015 letter. See Exhibit "5." ATX, DMA, and Templeton never responded to the December 11, 2015 letter. ATX, DMA, and Templeton's complete failure to take any interest in Sanchez's injury claim or to consider the interests of its insured, Bon, continued even after Sanchez filed her Complaint.

C. Sanchez Sues Bon for Personal Injuries and Makes Substantial Efforts to Serve Bon with the Summons and Complaint

On August 7, 2015, Sanchez sued Bon and Acosta for personal injuries stemming from the subject collision. The traffic accident report listed 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 as Bon's residential address. See traffic accident report, at p. 3, attached as **Exhibit "8."** On October 20, 2015, Sanchez filed her Affidavit of Due Diligence wherein Michael E. Clarke, the process server, described his failed efforts to personally serve Bon at his last known address:



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10/19/15 - 8:36 AM Attempted to serve defendant at last known address of 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106, Las Vegas Nevada. This address is a Clark County neighborhood community center where the defendant had his mail sent, his current whereabouts are now unknown to them. A record search with the Clark County Assessor's Office reveals no records found. A search with the Clark County voters registration reveals no records found. A local phone search for defendant's phone number reveals no records found. A registered vehicle search with Nevada DMV and Premium Finder search reveals no records found.

See 10/20/15 Affidavit of Due Diligence, at p. 2, attached as Exhibit "9."

On October 27, 2015, Sanchez's attorney delivered a letter to the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles wherein he enclosed copies of the Complaint, Summons, and Affidavit of Due Diligence. See 10/27/15 letter to DMV, attached as Exhibit "10." Sanchez's counsel remitted payment of \$5.00 and requested the DMV to serve Bon pursuant to NRS 14.070. Id. On November 2, 2015, the DMV mailed a letter to Sanchez's attorney acknowledging service of the Summons and Complaint on Bon. See 11/2/15 DMV letter, attached as Exhibit "11." On November 9, 2015, Sanchez's attorney mailed, via certified mail, return receipt requested, copies of the Summons, Complaint, traffic accident report, and DMV letter confirming proof of service to Bon's last known address. See 3/29/16 Amended Affidavit of Compliance, at Exhibit 2, attached as Exhibit "12." On November 12, 2015, the package containing such documents was returned to Sanchez's attorney because it was unclaimed. Id. On November 19, 2015, Sanchez filed her Affidavit of Compliance, but inadvertently forgot to notify the Court that the package was returned as unclaimed. See 11/19/15 Affidavit of Compliance, attached as Exhibit "13." On March 29, 2016, Sanchez filed her Amended Affidavit of Compliance wherein she confirmed that she served Bon through the DMV and attempted, yet again, to notify Bon of her lawsuit via certified mail, return receipt requested. See Exhibit "12," at p. 2. Sanchez informed the Court in the amended affidavit that the package sent by certified mail was returned as unclaimed. *Id.* at p. 3.

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D. <u>Sanchez Directly Notifies Templeton, ATX, and DMA that Bon was Served with the Summons and Complaint</u>

On January 20, 2016, Sanchez's attorney sent a letter, via U.S. mail, to Templeton advising him that ATX's insured, Bon, was served with the Summons and Sanchez's personal injury complaint via the Nevada DMV. See 1/20/16 letter to ATX, attached as Exhibit "14." Sanchez's attorney enclosed copies of the Complaint, the November 19, 2015 Affidavit of Compliance, and the November 2, 2015 DMV letter confirming service on Bon with her January 20, 2016 letter to Templeton. Id. Sanchez's attorney specifically requested Templeton and/or ATX to "file an Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint as soon as possible, or I will have no choice but to request for the Court to enter a Default against your insured." Id. (emphasis added).

E. Sanchez Requests Templeton and ATX to File an Answer on Bon's Behalf for a Second Time

On February 16, 2016, Sanchez's attorney sent yet another letter to Templeton and ATX advising that Bon still had not yet filed his Answer to Sanchez's Complaint. See 2/16/16 letter to ATX, attached as Exhibit "15." Sanchez's attorney clarified that if Bon did not file his Answer to Sanchez's Complaint by February 23, 2016, he would "request for the Court to enter a Default against your insured." Id. From February 16, 2016 through March 31, 2016, ATX never: (1) responded to the February 16, 2016 letter, or (2) filed an answer to Sanchez's Complaint on Bon's behalf.

F. Default is Entered Against Bon and ATX Receives Notice of the Same

On April 1, 2016, Sanchez filed her Default against Bon. On June 22, 2016, Sanchez filed her Notice of Entry of Default and served a copy of its to Templeton, ATX, and DMA via certified mail. See 6/22/16 Notice of Entry of Default, attached as **Exhibit** "16." Templeton, ATX, and DMA took no further action in response to the entry of default against its insured, Bon.

G. Sanchez Files Her Amended Complaint and Resolves Her Claims Against Acosta and Wilfredo Acosta

On August 29, 2016, over four (4) months after default was entered against Bon, Sanchez filed a motion for leave to file an amended complaint. See 8/29/16 Motion, pleading portion only, attached as Exhibit "17." The requested amendment solely

related to the inclusion of Defendant Wilfredo Acosta, Joseph's father and the owner of the vehicle that Joseph drove when the collision occurred. *Id.* at p. 3. Joseph admitted that he received Wilfredo's permission to drive the vehicle at the time of the subject collision. *Id.* On October 13, 2016, Sanchez filed her Amended Complaint wherein Wilfredo was named as a Defendant and a negligent entrustment cause of action was alleged against Wilfredo. *See* 10/13/16 Amended Complaint, at pp. 3-4, attached as **Exhibit "18."** No new or additional claims or allegations were asserted against Bon in the Amended Complaint. *Id.*

On October 16, 2018, after several years of litigation, Sanchez, Joseph, and Wilfredo filed their Stipulation and Order for Dismissal, with Prejudice, following their confidential settlement of Sanchez's claims.

H. <u>Default Judgment is Entered Against Bon and Sanchez is Judicially Assigned Bon's Claims against ATX/Windhaven and DMA</u>

On March 29, 2019, Sanchez filed her Application for Entry of Default Judgment. On July 19, 2019, a default judgment in the amount of \$15,209,896.28 plus costs of \$2,759.45 was entered in favor of Sanchez and against Bon. See 7/19/19 Default Judgment, attached as **Exhibit "19."** Entry of the Default Judgment also resolved all issues of liability and causation against Bon. Id. at p. 2.

After the Default Judgment was entered against Bon, Sanchez filed her Motion for Judicial Assignment of each of Bon's claims or causes of action against ATX or any other applicable liability insurer. On August 20, 2018, the Court granted Sanchez's Motion for Judicial Assignment. See 8/20/18 Order, attached as Exhibit "20." The August 20, 2018 Order expressly authorized Sanchez to assert:

all of Defendant Blas Bon's claims of any kind whatsoever, arising in contract or tort, including, but not limited to, claims for breach of contract, breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing, breach of the duty to settle, breach of the contractual duty to defend, and any other tort claims or claims for breach of fiduciary duties, against his insurer(s), including, but not limited to, ATX Premier Insurance, or any other insurance company or entity....

Id. at p. 2.

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I. Sanchez Sues ATX, Windhaven, DMA, and Bon and the Underlying Motion Follows

On November 13, 2019, Sanchez filed her lawsuit against ATX/Windhaven, DMA, and Bon. See 11/13/19 Complaint, attached as Exhibit "21." Sanchez asserts claims for breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and violation of Nevada's Unfair Claims Practices Act against ATX/Windhaven and DMA. Sanchez also asserts an action on the default judgment claim against Bon. On December 20, 2019, Windhaven removed the bad faith/enforcement action to federal court. It should come as no surprise to this Court that Bon has not yet been able to be served with the Summons and Complaint in this action. In fact, a motion to serve Bon by publication is currently pending before the federal court.

Despite Sanchez's diligent efforts to serve Bon with her bad faith/enforcement action, Bon miraculously filed the underlying motion to set aside the default judgment. Notably, "Bon's" counsel in this matter does not represent him in the federal enforcement action. See 1/22/20 letter from Bon's counsel, attached as **Exhibit "22."** In fact, Bon's counsel in this action still has yet to confirm whether he knows the whereabouts of Bon so that Sanchez can effectuate service of the bad faith/enforcement action on Bon. See 1/23/20 letter, attached as **Exhibit "23."**

III.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, requests this Court to set aside the default judgment on three separate grounds: (1) surprise and excusable neglect; (2) alternative circumstances that justify relief; and (3) allegedly defective service on Bon.

A. Legal Standard to Set Aside a Default Judgment

As an initial matter, the underlying public policy to adjudicate cases on the merits has its limitations, particularly in the context of setting aside a default judgment:

We wish not to be understood, however, that this judicial tendency to grant relief from a default judgment implies that the trial court should always grant relief from a default judgment. Litigants and their counsel may not properly be allowed to disregard process or procedural rules with impunity. Lack of good faith or diligence, or lack of merit in the proposed defense,



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may very well warrant a denial of the motion for relief from the judgment.

Kahn v. Orme, 108 Nev. 510, 516 (1992) (quoting Lentz v. Boles, 84 Nev. 197, 200 (1968)) (emphasis added).

There is no question that both Bon and his insurer at the time, ATX, disregarded that Sanchez filed a lawsuit for personal injuries against Bon. Not only did Sanchez exercise all options available to serve Bon, but she also directly informed his insurer that she filed a complaint and that she served Bon with the complaint. Sanchez provided Bon and ATX with more than enough time and notice to defend Bon against the action. A sophisticated insurer, like ATX, should have known that it was required to tender a defense on Bon's behalf. Yet, ATX chose to ignore its contractual obligation to defend Bon and did not even take any action to contact Bon regarding the allegations in the personal injury complaint. The inaction of Bon and ATX belies all logic and common sense and undermines the validity of the arguments set forth in the motion to set aside the default judgment.

Generally, a district court has broad discretion to determine whether a default judgment should be set aside. Britz v. Consolidated Casinos Corp., 87 Nev. 441, 445 (1971). The standard to set aside entry of a default judgment under NRCP 55(c) is good cause. See Nev. R. Civ. P. 55(c). The NRCP 55(c) standard applies to "non-final default judgments." Nev. Direct Ins. Co. v. Fields, No. 66561, 2016 Nev. Unpub. LEXIS 457, at *3, 2016 WL 797048 (Feb. 26, 2016) (citing Dassault Systemes, SA v. Childress, 663 F.3d 832, 840 (6th Cir. 2011)). NRCP 60(b) applies to final judgments. Id. Sanchez stipulated to dismiss her claims against Joseph and Wilfredo after reaching a confidential settlement agreement. Therefore, the default judgment entered against Bon, who was the last remaining defendant, is final and subject to the standard set forth in NRCP 60(b).

NRCP 60(b) articulates the specific grounds for a court to provide relief from a final judgment:

³ NRAP 36(c)(3) allows a party to cite an unpublished disposition issued by the Nevada Supreme Court on or after January 1, 2016 for its persuasive value.



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- (2) newly discovered evidence that, with reasonable diligence, could not have been discovered in time to move for a new trial under Rule 59(b);
- (3) fraud (whether previously called intrinsic or extrinsic), misrepresentation, or misconduct by an opposing party;
- (4) the judgment is void;
- (5) the judgment has been satisfied, released, or discharged; it is based on an earlier judgment that has been reversed, or vacated; or applying it prospectively is not longer equitable; or
- (6) any other reason that justifies relief.

See Nev. R. Civ. P. 60(b).

A district court's decision to set aside a judgment is reviewed for abuse of discretion and the decision must be affirmed if supported by sufficient evidence in the record. Cook v. Cook, 112 Nev. 179, 181-82 (1996). "The salutary purpose of Rule 60(b) is to redress any injustices that may have resulted because of excusable neglect or the wrongs of an opposing party." Nevada Indus. Dev. v. Benedetti, 103 Nev. 360, 364 (1987) (emphasis added). Of course, the only wrongs in this action were perpetrated by ATX for its failure to defend Bon upon timely notice that he was served with the Summons and Complaint. Similarly, Bon failed to timely answer or otherwise dispute the factual allegations contained within Sanchez's complaint for personal injuries. As a result, entry of the default constitutes an admission by Bon of all material facts alleged in Sanchez's Complaint. Estate of LoMastro v. Am. Family Ins. Group, 124 Nev. 1060, 1068 (2008). These are the relevant facts that inform this Court's analysis of the arguments ATX/Windhaven, through "Bon," set forth in the underlying motion.

B. Bon Fails to Provide this Court with any Credible Factual Basis Necessary to Set Aside the Default Judgment for Surprise or Excusable Neglect

Rule 60(b)(1) "permits relief from judgment because of mistake, inadvertence, surprise, or excusable neglect, but that rule requires the moving party to justify its



actions" In re M/V/Peacock, 809 F.2d 1403, 1405 (9th Cir. 1987).⁴ The Nevada Supreme Court has not defined "surprise" in the context of NRCP 60(b)(1). However, the Idaho Supreme Court has defined surprise in the context of Rule 60(b) as "some condition or situation in which a party to an action is unexpectedly placed to his injury, without any default or negligence of his own, and which ordinary prudence could not have guarded against." Leasefirst v. Burns, 131 Idaho 158, 162 (Idaho 1998) (emphasis added).⁵

Although a district court has the discretion to relieve a party from a final judgment due to excusable neglect, "the district court has wide discretion in determining what neglect is excusable and what neglect is inexcusable." *Durango Fire Prot., Inc. v. Troncoso*, 120 Nev. 658, 662 (2004). There are three disjunctive factors employed to determine if excusable neglect justifies setting aside a default judgment pursuant to Rule 60(b):

(1) Whether the party seeking to set aside the default engaged in culpable conduct that led to the default; (2) whether it had no meritorious defense; or (3) whether reopening the default judgment would prejudice the other party.

United States v. Aguilar, 782 F.3d 1101, 1105 (9th Cir. 2015).

The disjunctive aspect of this standard is important because it means that "a finding that any one of these factors is true is sufficient reason for the district court to refuse to set aside the default." *United States v. Mesle*, 615 F.3d 1085, 1091 (9th Cir. 2010). "A court need not consider the meritorious defense or prejudice prongs of the test if culpable conduct is shown. *FTC v. International Charity Consultants*, No. CV-S-94-0195-DWH (RLH), 1997 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 7954, at *7 (D. Nev. May 27, 1997) (citing Meadows v. Dominican Republic, 817 F.2d 517, 521 (9th Cir. 1987)). "Conduct is culpable if the defendant has received actual or constructive notice of the filing of

⁵ Idaho Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(1) is identical in language to Nevada Rule of Civil Procedure 60(b)(1).



⁴ "Federal cases interpreting the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure are strong persuasive authority, because the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure are based in large party upon their federal counterparts." Exec. Mgmt. v. Ticor Title Ins. Co,, 118 Nev. 46, 53 (2002) (emphasis added).

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10801 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 560 Las Vegas, NV 89135 the action and fails to answer." Id. at *7 (citing Alan Neuman Prods., Inc. v. Albright, 862 F.2d 1388, 1392 (9th Cir. 1988)) (emphasis added).

Bon and ATX cannot credibly claim that they were surprised by entry of the Default Judgment. There is no dispute that Bon and ATX had actual notice that Sanchez filed a complaint for personal injuries. Bon was properly served with the Summons and Complaint via the DMV pursuant to NRS 14.070. See Exhibit "11." Bon knew or should have known that entry of a default and a default judgment would follow because the Summons expressly warned of the same:

2. Unless you respond, your default will be entered upon application of the Plaintiff(s) and this Court may enter judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint, which could result in the taking of money or property or other relief requested in the complaint.

See **Exhibit "10,"** at p. 5

ATX received actual notice of the complaint when Sanchez's counsel mailed a copy of the Complaint, and proof of service on Bon through the DMV on January 20, 2016. See Exhibit "14." At that point, ATX, as a sophisticated insurer, knew that if Bon did not answer the complaint, a default would be entered. Sanchez's counsel even warned ATX that he would "have no choice but to request for the Court to enter a Default against your insured" if an answer was not filed. Id. Sanchez's counsel notified ATX a second time on February 16, 2016 that Bon had yet to file an answer and that if an answer was not filed a default would be entered. See Exhibit "15." ATX chose to do absolutely nothing to protect Bon's interests by satisfying its contractual duty to defend him against Sanchez's personal injury allegations. Accordingly, neither Bon, nor ATX, can now assert that they were surprised that a default judgment would be entered as a result of Bon's failure to file his Answer to Sanchez's Complaint.

Bon and ATX/Windhaven's claim that they were surprised because the Default Judgment was entered three (3) years after default was entered is similarly not persuasive. Sanchez was not obligated to file her default judgment application by a certain date or time, particularly because she continued to litigate her personal injury claims against Defendants Joseph and Wilfredo. Once Sanchez's claims against Joseph

and Wilfredo resolved and a stipulation and order to dismiss was filed on October 16, 2018, Sanchez filed her default judgment application a little more than five (5) months later. Even if Sanchez submitted her default judgment application earlier, neither Bon, nor ATX, gave any indication that they would dispute the application or otherwise ever become involved in the action.

Bon and ATX/Windhaven also incorrectly imply that there is Nevada Supreme Court precedent to set aside a default judgment based on when the application is made in relation to when the default was entered. See Bruno v. Schoch, 94 Nev. 712, 714 (1978). In Bruno, the mother initiated an action against the putative father for support of their children. Id. at 713. Eleven (11) months after a default was entered, the mother secured a default judgment against the father. Id. The Bruno Court determined the trial court abused its discretion to set aside and vacate the default judgment. Id. However, the Bruno Court relied on uncontroverted evidence the father presented to the district court that he carried on a relationship with the mother after the default was entered. Id. Thus, the length of time the mother waited to seek a default judgment did not cause the surprise necessary to set aside the default judgment. Rather, the fact that the father continued to carry on a relationship with the mother during the months leading up to entry of the default created the surprise. Id. Clearly, the facts of Bruno are not analogous here as both Bon and ATX knew that a default was entered and should have known that, at any time, a default judgment would be entered against Bon.

Bon and ATX/Windhaven's claim that they were surprised by the substantial amount of the Default Judgment rings hollow. Any surprise they may have suffered from the size of the Default Judgment was a direct result of ATX's failure to defend Bon against Sanchez's personal injury allegations. Had ATX chosen to defend Bon against these claims by actively defending him in the personal injury action, both Bon and ATX would have known that Sanchez's injuries were severe. They would have known that Sanchez received ongoing care and treatment for her injuries that culminated in a fusion surgery of the cervical spine. In fact, ATX knew that Sanchez's past medical expenses would grow because she informed ATX that her treating spine surgeon recommended that she undergo a cervical fusion surgery before she even filed her Complaint. See



Exhibit "3." For ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, to now somehow claim surprise by the judgment amount truly reflects their failure to accept responsibility for the consequences of their failure to defend Bon.

ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, cannot establish excusable neglect to justify this Court to set aside the default judgment. Both Bon and ATX were clearly aware of the proceedings. ATX and Bon were aware of the consequences that would result if an answer was not filed. This conduct was deliberate and culpable, which automatically proves that there is no excusable neglect to set aside the Default Judgment. Alan Neuman Prods., Inc. 862 F.2d at 1392. The factors outlined in Yochum v. Davis, 98 Nev. 484 (1982) similarly do not justify an order setting aside the Default Judgment. ATX and Bon knew, through the Summons and two (2) letters, that a default and default judgment would be entered if an answer was not filed. Bon's lack of representation during the subject proceedings was **solely and directly** a result of ATX's failure to fulfill its contractual duty to defend Bon. For ATX/Windhaven to even imply that they played no role in Bon's failure to have defense counsel underscores the tenuous legal grounds upon which the arguments contained in the underlying motion are based. It also establishes the utter lack of credibility that ATX/Windhaven have before this Court. ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, have not moved in good faith to set aside the default judgment. Instead, ATX/Windhaven improperly ask this Court to absolve ATX of the consequences that resulted from its wrongful failure to defend Bon against Sanchez's personal injury claims.

C. There are No Other Reasons to Justify Relief from Entry of the Default Judgment

ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, also seek to set aside the Default Judgment for other reasons they believe justify relief pursuant to NRCP 60(b)(6). ATX/Windhaven somehow believe this Court should set aside the Default Judgment because the other defendants were represented by counsel, Bon was never able to retain his own experts or cross-examine Sanchez's experts, and that his liability was questionable. The absurdity of these claims is obvious and certainly cannot reasonably be questioned. Bon was unable to dispute liability, retain experts, or otherwise learn that Sanchez's medical



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damages were substantial because ATX breached its contractual duty to defend Bon. ATX/Windhaven cannot reasonably request this Court to adjudicate this action on the merits when it had every opportunity to do just that but failed. Allowing ATX/Windhaven to use Bon to set aside the Default Judgment would effectively reward ATX for its failure to defend Bon. Setting aside the Default Judgment would also condone ATX's breach of its contractual duty to defend by erasing the inevitable consequences that result from such a breach. Not only does this contravene express Nevada law, but it also disregards the importance of the duty to defend to insureds, like Bon.

1. The relationship of confidence and trust between the insurer and insured underscores the importance of the duty to defend

The insurance industry is heavily regulated by the state because it is an important public trust. Ainsworth v. Combined Ins. Co., 104 Nev. 587, 592 (1988). "A consumer buys insurance for security, protection, and peace of mind." Id. The important role insurance plays in society, particularly to individual insureds, is the cornerstone that establishes the relationship between insurer and insured to be one of special confidence. Id. The Nevada Supreme Court has recognized this special relationship between an insurer and insured as being akin to a fiduciary relationship. Powers v. United Servs. Auto Ass'n, 114 Nev. 690, 700 (1998). The nature of this relationship requires that the insurer adequately protect the insured's interest and requires the insurer, at a minimum, to equally consider the insured's interests with its own. Allstate Ins. Co. v. Miller, 125 Nev. 300, 311 (2009).

A liability insurer's primary business purpose is to manage risk, which is why this insurer makes a promise to provide litigation insurance (i.e. the duty to defend) against the costs of those risks. *Elliott v. Donahue*, 169 Wis. 2d 310, 320, 485 N.W.2d 403, 407 (Wis. 1992). This is precisely why individuals and businesses alike contract to purchase liability insurance policies, namely to secure the insurer's sophistication to navigate the uncertainties of litigation by providing a defense against third-party claims.

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The insured's desire to secure the right to call on the insurer's superior resources for the defense of third party claims is, in all likelihood, typically as significant a motive for the purchase of insurance as is the wish to obtain indemnity for possible liability.

Montrose Chemical Corp. v. Superior Court, 6 Cal. 4th 287, 295-96, 861 P.2d 1153, 1158 (1993) (emphasis added).

Given the unequal bargaining power between insured and insurer, the Nevada Supreme Court has undertaken the approach to construe liability insurance policies with a keen eye towards equalizing this imbalance. The Nevada Supreme Court has achieved this goal by incentivizing insurers to fulfill their duties under the policy. Specifically, any ambiguity or uncertainty as to an obligation in an insurance policy must be construed against the insurer and in favor of the insured. Vitale v. Jefferson Ins. Co., 116 Nev. 590, 594 (2000). Construing any uncertainty in an insurance policy against the insurer is appropriate because the insurer is in a "superior bargaining position to the insured." United Rentals Highway Techs., Inc. v. Wells Cargo, Inc., 128 Nev. 666, 677 (2012). The Nevada Supreme Court has continually relied on this approach to protect insureds when insurers skirt their responsibilities under the insurance policies.

2. The duty to defend is an expansive contractual obligation that ATX should have satisfied

The four corners of a personal injury complaint solely dictate whether an insurer must satisfy its contractual duty to defend. This is unquestionably the state of the law in Nevada as recently articulated by the Nevada Supreme Court in Century Surety Co. v. Andrew:

> We take this opportunity to clarify that where there is potential coverage based on 'comparing the allegations of the complaint with the terms of the policy,' an insurer does have a duty to defend.

_, 432 P.3d 180, 184 n.4 (2018) (quoting United Natl Ins. Co. v. Frontier Ins. Co., 120 Nev. 678, 687, 99 P.3d 1153, 1158 (2004)).

An insurer's duty to defend is, by definition, broader than the duty to indemnify because it is triggered whenever there is even the *potential* for indemnification coverage under the policy. Benchmark Ins. Co. v. Sparks, 127 Nev. 407, 412 (2011). An



insurer's duty to defend continues until the potential for indemnification ends. *Id.* If there is even a shred of doubt as to whether the insurer must defend, that doubt should be resolved in the *insured's favor*. Therefore, an insurer that does not provide a defense, like ATX here, does so at its own risk. *Howard v. American National Fire Ins. Co.*, 187 Cal. App. 4th 498, 520, 115 Cal Rptr. 3d 42, 62 (Cal. Ct. App. 2010).

The duty to defend gives the insurer the right to control litigation against the insured. *Miller*, 125 Nev. at 309. The right to control litigation creates the contractual duty to defend insureds from lawsuits that merely contain allegations that fall within the scope of the policy's insurance coverage. *Id.* In Nevada, an insurer has an *absolute duty* to defend an action brought against its insured that potentially seeks damages within the coverage of the policy, even if the claims are false, fraudulent or unprovable. *Rockwood Ins. Co. v. Federated Capital Corp.*, 694 F. Supp. 772, 776 (D. Nev. 1998).

There is no question that ATX had notice that the allegations in the Complaint implicated coverage and triggered the duty to defend. ATX received a copy of the personal injury complaint. See Exhibit "14." On two (2) separate occasions, Sanchez essentially requested ATX to file an answer on behalf of Bon. Id.; see also Exhibit "15." Both times, ATX failed to defend Bon and failed to even acknowledge the existence of Sanchez's personal injury complaint. Incredibly, ATX/Windhaven now ask this Court to effectively set aside the Default Judgment for their benefit because they understand that ATX breached its contractual duty to defend. ATX/Windhaven cannot provide this Court with any legitimate excuse for ATX's failure to defend. It bears repeating that if ATX simply defended Bon against Sanchez's personal injury claims, a default judgment would not have resulted. This fact alone defeats the arguments to set aside the Default Judgment pursuant to NRCP 60(b) set forth in the underlying motion.

D. Sanchez Did Not Improperly Serve Bon with the Summons and Complaint

ATX/Windhaven's desperate attempt to set aside the Default Judgment through its "representation" of Bon is alternatively based on alleged defects in the way Bon was served. As detailed below, Sanchez was not required to serve Bon with the Amended Complaint because the Amended Complaint did not assert new claims against Bon in



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any way. Further, Sanchez fully complied with the requirements of NRS 14.070 for service through the DMV.

1. Sanchez was not required to serve Bon with the amended complaint as a matter of Nevada law

NRCP 5(a)(2) governs service of pleadings when a party fails to appear and states, in relevant part:

No service is required on a party who is in default for failing to appear. But a pleading that asserts a new claim for relief against such party must be served on that party under Rule 4 (emphasis added).

The Amended Complaint does not assert any new claims against Bon. It is not surprising that ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, fail to identify any new claim asserted against Bon in the Amended Complaint. Rather, ATX/Windhaven assert that the allegations in the Amended Complaint are unclear as they relate to Bon. This contention is not only baseless, but irrelevant to establish that Bon should have been served with the Amended Complaint. On April 1, 2016, a default was entered against Bon. See Exhibit "16." On August 29, 2016, Sanchez filed a motion for leave to file an amended complaint that only impacted her claims against Joseph, not Bon. Specifically, Sanchez discovered that Joseph had permission from his father, Wilfredo, to drive his car at the time of the subject collision. See generally Exhibit "17." As a result, Sanchez filed her Amended Complaint to name Wilfredo and assert a cause of action against him pursuant to NRS 41.440. See Exhibit "15," at pp. 3-4. ATX/Windhaven cherry-pick allegations that refer solely to Joseph to somehow imply that the claims in the Amended Complaint substantively changed against Bon, which is not true. The irrationality of ATX/Windhaven's argument is apparent by their reference to the singular use of "Defendant" in Paragraph 13 of the Amended Complaint. The Court need only compare Paragraphs 13 in **both** the Complaint and Amended Complaint to realize that they both read exactly the same:

13. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of care to operate their vehicles in a reasonable and safe manner. Defendant breached that duty of care by striking Plaintiff's vehicle on the roadway. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendant,



Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00

See Exhibit "18," at p. 3, ¶ 13; see also, Exhibit "10," at Diane Sanchez Complaint, p. 3, ¶ 13.

The Amended Complaint was not the operative complaint as to Bon because no new claims were asserted against him and a default was already entered against him on the same claims asserted in both Complaints. Therefore, the Default Judgment is not void and should remain in full force and effect against Bon.

2. Sanchez properly served Bon with the summons and complaint in accordance with the terms outlined in NRS 14.070

NRS 14.070 allows service of process to be effectuated on the Director of the DMV for any action arising from the defendant's negligent operation of a motor vehicle if the motorist cannot be found within the state. *Browning v. Dixon*, 114 Nev. 213, 216 (1998). The precise method to effectuate service of process through the DMV is articulated in the statute, which reads, in pertinent part:

2. Service of process must be made by leaving a copy of the process with a fee of \$5 in the hands of the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles or in the Office of the Director, and the service shall be deemed sufficient upon the operator if notice of service and a copy of the process is sent by registered or certified mail by the plaintiff to the defendant at the address supplied by the defendant in the defendant's crash report, if any, and if not, at the best address available to the plaintiff, and a return receipt signed by the defendant or a return of the United States Postal Service stating that the defendant refused to accept delivery or could not be located, or that the address was insufficient, and the plaintiff's affidavit of compliance therewith are attached to the original process and returned and filed in the action in which it was issued.

See Nev. Rev. Stat. 14.070(2).

ATX/Windhaven first assert that Sanchez's Affidavit of Compliance and Amended Affidavit of Compliance are defective because neither state the source of the Cambridge Address. This argument is truly one of form over substance and not at all persuasive. Even ATX/Windhaven, through Bon, acknowledge in the underlying motion that the traffic accident report lists 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 as Bon's address. See Motion to Set Aside, at 6:16-17. This directly undermines any

suggestion or implication that the source of this address should reasonably be questioned as fraudulent. ATX/Windhaven inaccurately suggest to this Court that the affidavit of compliance must state the source of the best-known address. In actuality, "[w]hen notice is sent to the best address to the plaintiff, the affidavit **should** state the source of the address." *Mitchell v. Second Judicial Dist. Court*, 82 Nev. 377, 381 (1966) (emphasis added). Stating the source of the best-known address is not mandatory, particularly in this context when the facts clearly establish that Sanchez served Bon at the address listed on the traffic accident report. This is not a legitimate basis to set aside the Default Judgment for defective service of process through the DMV.

ATX/Windhaven also argue that Sanchez failed to exercise due diligence to locate Bon before serving him through the DMV. This argument defies logic as Sanchez exhausted all reasonable options to locate Bon before serving him through the DMV. The Affidavit of Due Diligence details the efforts that process server Michael E. Clarke made to locate Bon. See Exhibit "9." Obviously, Mr. Clarke learned that the Cambridge address was Bon's residential address from the traffic accident report. The reliability of the traffic accident report as the source of the address could not reasonably be questioned then and cannot be questioned now. Aside from his attempt to personally serve Bon at his residential address, Mr. Clarke performed a records search with the Clark County Assessor's Office, Clark County Voter Registration, and a registered vehicle search with the Nevada DMV and Premium Finder. Id. Mr. Clarke also searched the phone records. Id. The efforts made to serve Bon were substantial and satisfied Sanchez's obligation to diligently. ATX/Windhaven somehow believe that Sanchez should have tried to serve Bon at his alleged place of work even though NRCP 5(a)(2)(B)(ii) requires service to be effectuated at "a person's dwelling or usual place of abode." There is no evidence that Bon maintained an office with his alleged employer at the time of the subject collision, "South West Trees" to justify service of process pursuant to NRCP 5(a)(2)(B)(i). Furthermore, Sanchez had no reason to suspect that Bon lived with Hipolito Cruz, the owner of the subject pickup truck, merely because he drove the truck when the subject collision occurred.



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Sanchez's failure to serve Bon at the address of 4000 Abrams 89, Las Vegas, Nevada that is contained in his voluntary statement does not undermine the diligence made to personally serve Bon. The ultimate fact that defeats any claim that Sanchez failed to diligently search for Bon is that Sanchez mailed letters to Templeton at the address for DMA informing him that the complaint was filed and served on Bon. See Exhibit "14;" Exhibit "15." Templeton and DMA's knowledge that Bon was served with the Summons and Complaint should be imputed to ATX given that ATX hired DMA to represent its interests. See Exhibit "5." It defies all logic and common sense that ATX/Windhaven have the audacity to represent to this Court that DMA was never contacted about the Summons and Complaint. Not only was DMA contacted about the Summons and Complaint, but Sanchez even provided Templeton/DMA with a copy of the Complaint. Once again, this further establishes the desperation of ATX/Windhaven to set aside the Default Judgment to escape liability for ATX's clear breach of its contractual duty to defend.

Finally, ATX/Windhaven ask this Court to determine that service through the DMV was defective because Sanchez allegedly did not file a return receipt that stated the address was insufficient. As a practical matter, the return receipt does not list an option that the address was "insufficient." The mere fact that the package containing the Summons, Complaint, traffic accident report, and copy of the DMV letter establishing proof of service was returned as unclaimed in and of itself establishes the insufficiency of the address. If the address was sufficient, then Bon would have either accepted delivery of the certified mail or refused to accept it. This analysis requires a simplistic approach and the desperation with which ATX/Windhaven seek to question the sufficiency of service is apparent and not at all convincing.

E. ATX and/or DMA Claims Made it Abundantly Clear that They had No Intention to Defend Bon Before Default was Entered

ATX/Windhaven's final argument demonstrates their complete lack of self-awareness and ability to recognize their own culpable conduct. On January 20, 2016, Sanchez provided Templeton, ATX, and DMA with a copy of the Complaint and proof that Bon was served with the Complaint through the DMV. See Exhibit "14." Sanchez



requested ATX to file an answer on behalf of Bon to the Complaint. Certainly, Templeton, ATX, and DMA understood that filing an answer on behalf of Bon required the retention of an attorney. Yet, nearly one month went by and no answer was filed. On February 16, 2016, Sanchez provided ATX, Templeton, and DMA with yet another chance to file an answer on behalf of Bon. See Exhibit "15." From February 16, 2016 through March 31, 2016, ATX, Templeton, and DMA could have secured counsel to file an answer and defend Bon. None of them lifted a finger. Despite the inaction and utter disregard for the consequences resulting from ATX's failure to defend, ATX/Windhaven shockingly accuse Sanchez's counsel of violating the spirit of NRPC 3.5A. Nearly four (4) years after default was first entered against it insured and ATX/Windhaven still refuse to acknowledge their own misconduct. Now, they choose to serve Bon's interests to avoid the consequences of their own failures. ATX/Windhaven's motivation behind the filing of the underlying motion cannot be questioned and justifies this Court's denial of the motion in its entirety.

IV.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing facts, law, and analysis, Plaintiff Diane Sanchez respectfully requests that this Court **DENY** Blas Bon's Motion to Set Aside Default Judgment.

DATED this day of February, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted,

PRINCE LAW GROUP

DENNIS M. PRINCE Nevada Bar No. 5092 KEVIN T. STRONG Nevada Bar No. 12107

10801 West Charleston Boulevard

Suite 560

Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Attorneys for Plaintiff Diane Sanchez



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of **PRINCE LAW GROUP**, and that on the ____ day of January, 2020, I caused the foregoing document entitled <u>PLAINTIFF DIANE SANCHEZ'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT BLAS</u> <u>BON'S MOTION TO SET ASIDE DEFAULT JUDGMENT</u> to be served upon those persons designated by the parties in the E-Service Master List for the above-referenced matter in the Eighth Judicial District Court E-Filing System in accordance with the mandatory electronic service requirements of Administrative Order 14-2 and the Nevada Electronic Filing and Conversion Rules.

William P. Volk William D. Schuller KOLESAR & LEATHAM

400 South Rampart Boulevard Suite 400

Las Vegas, Nevada 89145 Attorneys for Defendant Blas Bon

An Employee of PRINCE LAW GROUP



EXHIBIT 1

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	9	LEE PRETNER,	
	10	Plaintiff,	
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	12	vs.	MOTION FOR LEAVE
	13	MICHAEL VASQUEZ,	
	14	Defendant.	
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	16	DEFORE THE HONOR'S	OT EL DOUGT AG MEDNIDON
	17		BLE DOUGLAS HERNDON COURT JUDGE
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	24	REPORTED BY: SHARON F	HOWARD, C.C.R. NO. 745
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**	_ 1	APPEARANCES:				
	2			DENNIS PRINCE,	ESQ.	
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	4	For the Defendant:		ALAN LEFEBVRE,	ESQ.	
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- 1	LAS VEGAS, NEVADA; MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2012
2	PROCEEDINGS
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5	THE COURT: Good morning.
6	MR. LEFEBVRE: I appreciate the court continuing
7	the matter to have a full review of the papers. And of
8	course, as all civil lawyers we like to load you up with
9	as much
10	THE COURT: My appreciation is for you all
11	understanding I didn't get it all done the first time.
12	But thank you.
13	MR. LEFEBVRE: There are a couple of things that
14	are not as apparent from the papers as perhaps they should
15	be. One is you recall the accident occurred in January of
16	2009. Mr. Prince did not become counsel until the end of
17	2010 and into '11. And a great deal happened during that
18	period of time.
19	The other policy, as you recall we have two. We have
20	the Progressive policy and my client, Century. Both of
21	which have two duties duty to defend, duty to
22	indemnify. Indemnify means pay the policy limits.
23	What happened, if we look at the file that was in the
24	hands of prior counsel, Ms. Esperaza, prior to when
25	Mr. Prince and his firm were involved, she already had, on

default and chose not to seek any kind of intervention or involvement in the case. Ultimately default judgment is entered.

I also think that under Chapter 12, the right to intervene exists before trial, when there is a litigation ongoing between the original parties in the case. I don't believe that there is a right to intervene after final judgment has been entered and now you feel aggrieved somehow by the language of an order and you want to basically breathe life into a closed case, all for the purpose of getting your intervention.

I think your intervention exists when there is a litigation that's ongoing. Even under Rule 24, when it talks about -- or even under the case law, when it talks about timeliness issues and not delaying or prejudicing the original parties, that is speaking solely to what's happening ongoing in a litigation pending resolution. That you can't intervene in an untimely fashion and somehow delay the ability of the original parties to get justice to move forward and bring the case to resolution.

So I think that it's woefully untimely under Chapter 12 and Rule 24 and under the cause law, because we're not even pending a trial. This case has been closed out.

Secondarily I think you had notice of it. This is a

think Century stuck their head in the sand and said, hey. We determined we're not going to have coverage here because of what we believe the facts to be. So we're going to stand back and we're not going to defend. We're not going to intervene. We're not going to seek any reservation of rights or any declaratory relief. We're just going to let the baby fall forward and hopefully we won't have any involvement. Then oops. It's going into default. I know the lawsuits says course and scope of employment. Clear as day on page 3 of the facts alleged in the complaint. But that's okay. Now they're in default.

case honestly -- not you Mr. Lefebure, this is Century.

Just like I'm certain that Mr. Prince could guess that the insurance company was going to try and take a position of, you know what. This wasn't course and scope. I would also fall out of my chair if the insurance company said even though a lawsuit was filed alleging course and scope, even though it went into default, I never guessed they were actually assess that position when they came in for judgment and put it in the order. Of course the insurance company could have or should have reasonably guessed that a part of the lawsuit was part of the order.

In regard to just discussing intervention under 24,

CERTIFICATE OF CERTIFIED COURT REPORTER I, the undersigned certified court reporter in and for the State of Nevada, do hereby certify: That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth; that the testimony and all objections made at the time of the proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the foregoing is a true record of the testimony and of all objections made at the time of the proceedings. C.C.R. #745

Coverages Page 1 of 2

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VIA FAX AND US MAIL 866-291-3559

ATX Premier Insurance PO BOX 648 Battle Creek Michigan 49016

RE:

Our Client

: Diane Sanchez

Your Insured

: T-Bon Blass

Claim No.

: DMA0147074

Date of Accident

: April 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed all currently available medical records incurred by our client:

Records and billing from Align Chiropractor for Diane Sanchez.

Pursuant to Nevada Revised Statutes § 690B.042(3), you are required to immediately disclose all pertinent facts or provisions of the policy relating to any coverage at issue. More particularly, the statute states:

3. Upon receipt of any photocopies of medical reports or bills or a written authorization pursuant to subsection 2, the insurer who issued the policy specified in subsection 1 shall, upon request <u>immediately</u> disclose to the insured or the claimant all pertinent facts or provisions of the policy relating to any coverage at issue.

WE REQUEST DISCLOSURE OF APPLICABLE POLICY LIMITS. THIS DISCLOSURE SHOULD INCLUDE ANY EXCESS COVERAGES.

Also enclosed is an affidavit of coverage for your insured. Please be advised that we need the affidavit filled out in its entirety and it must be notarized. Please note that "N/A" is not an acceptable answer for any of the questions. We need a written out answer. If the insured does not have that type of policy, please have him specify that using the word "none".

If you have any questions, feel free to contact my office at the above-listed telephone number.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.





June 16, 2015

VIA FAX AND U.S. MAIL 866-291-3559

DMA Claims Services P.O. BOX 648 Battle Creek, MI 49016

RE:

Our Client Your Insured Claim No.

: Hipolito Cruz : DMA-0147074 : April 28, 2015

: Diane Sanchez

Date of Accident

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter and the attached information constitute our settlement demand in the above-mentioned matter for Diane Sanchez.

Specials. The medical bills of Ms. Sanchez total \$7,818 the bills and records are attached for your review.

Futures: Ms. Sanchez has been recommended for C6-C7 cervical decompression and fusion by Dr. Khavkin which is in Dr. Khavkin's June 4, 2015 chart note.

Demand. We are prepared to settle this matter on behalf of Diane Sanchez, fully and finally, for ALL APPLICABLE POLICY LIMITS. If you do not respond to this demand by June 30, 2015, we will file suit and seek the full measure of our client's damages, without regard to policy limits. Your response must be delivered by 5 p.m. Pacific Standard Time by either facsimile or phone call on the aforementioned date. Notice by regular mail will be insufficient notice since it is unlikely that the mail will reach my office prior to the deadline.

Additionally, please disclose the existence of any other applicable policies, umbrellas, or any other coverage on this claim. I look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your courtesy and cooperation.

Sincerely,

P.O. Box 142768, Irving, TX 75014

Fax: (866) 657-0633

July 10, 2015

Nevada Injury Lawyers 7785 West Sahara, Suite 101 Las Vegas, NV 89117

Re: Insured:

Hipolito Cruz

Claim Number: Diane Sanchez Date of Loss: 04/28/2015

Owner of File: DMA-0147074

Dear Mr. Powell:

We represent the interest of ATX Premier Insurance Company for the above loss.

We are writing to advise you that we are in the process of investigating DMA-0147074this claim. In order for us to complete our investigation, we need additional time to secure the following information:

Statement from the vehicle drivers involved in this incident. Photos of the vehicles involved in this incident

We are unable to come to a determination regarding DMA-0147074 claim because we have not received the above information. There are multiple impacts involved in this incident and we are attempting to determine the liability. We are currently operating on a reservation of rights with our insured for non-cooperation. If you have additional information that could help us make these determinations we would appreciate any assistance that you can provide.

We estimate that we will be in a position to evaluate DMA-0147074 claim within thirty days of receipt of this information. We will contact you after we have received and had the opportunity to review the above.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please let us know. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

DeLawrence Templeton **Bodily Injury Claims Representative** (269) 200-4846 dtempleton@dmaclaims.com

ARIZONA - CALIFORNIA - CONNECTICUT - FLORIDA - IDAHO - ILLINOIS - LOUISIANA - MASSACHUSETTS MICHIGAN - NEVADA - NEW JERSEY - NEW YORK - OREGON - SOUTH CAROLINA - TEXAS - WASHINGTON



P.O. Box 648 Battle Creek, MI 49016

July 17, 2015

Nevada Injury Lawyers 7785 West Sahara, Suite 101 Las Vegas, NV 89117

Insured: Hipolito Cruz
Claim No: DMA-0147074
D/Loss: 04/28/2015
O/File: Diane Sanchez

Dear Mr. Powell:

We represent the interests of ATX Premier Insurance Company in the above matter.

We have completed a thorough investigation and examination of the facts and circumstances surrounding the above-referenced accident.

We have completed our investigation into the facts of the above listed loss and must inform you that the claim is denied. Our policy only covers losses for which our insured becomes legally liable. After a review of the facts of this loss, we have determined that our insured was not the proximate cause of the loss, and therefore, not legally liable for the resulting damages.

Therefore, we are unable to consider any portion of your claim. In taking this action of denying the claim for specific reasons stated herein, ATX Premier Insurance Company EXPRESSLY RESERVES and DOES NOT WAIVE any right to raise other defenses at any subsequent time.

If there is any information, not already provided, that you believe would affect this determination, please forward it to the undersigned for further consideration.

Sincerely,

DeLawrence Templeton Bodily Injury Claims Representative (269) 200-4846 dtempleton@dmaclaims.com

"ANY PERSON WHO KNOWINGLY PRESENTS A FALSE OR FRAUDULENT CLAIM FOR PAYMENT OF A LOSS OR BENEFIT OR KNOWINGLY PRESENTS FALSE INFORMATION IN AN APPLICATION IS GUILTY OF A CRIME AND MAY BE SUBJECT TO CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES"



December 11, 2015

Via U.S. MAIL

ATX Premier Insurance Attn: DeLawrence Templeton PO Box 142768 Dallas, Texas 75014

Re: Sanchez v. Cruz

Claim No. DMA-0147074
Date of Loss: April 28, 2015

Dear Mr. Templeton:

I am in receipt of your correspondence from July 10, 2015. As you know, my office recently attempted to resolve Ms. Sanchez's claims with ATX PREMIER. The policy limit of your insured, Mr. Cruz, is just \$15,000. At the time of the demand, Ms. Sanchez's bills were nearly \$8,000, and she was scheduled to undergo a cervical fusion surgery by Dr. Gene Khavkin for crash-related injuries. Instead of paying the policy limit, ATX PREMIER confusingly failed to respond to the time-sensitive demand.

On July 10, 2015 — approximately 10 days after the demand due date — you contacted me and requested additional time to evaluate the claim. You indicated to me that the claim was passed around to multiple claims handlers prior to you. You indicated that ATX PREMIER was bought by an another company and that any demands sent to the ATX PREMIER PO Box weren't handled in a timely manner with respect to allocation to claims handlers.

As you know, this crash occurred in late April 2015. The Traffic Report indicates that Mr. Blas (who was driving the car insured by Mr. Cruz) caused the start of a four-car crash by striking Ms. Sanchez from behind. There is no dispute that fault lies with Mr. Blas under Nevada's "duty to use due care" requirement. ATX PREMIER indicated that it could not offer any settlement on the case because it was still evaluating the claim. Yet, you indicated that ATX PREMIER had yet to investigate the claim due to the mishaps with the PO Box. ATX PREMIER had yet to review photos of the crash. ATX PREMIER made no substantive efforts to contact Mr. Blas or Mr. Cruz. And even if driver/insured were contacted, it doesn't change our story line — Mr. Blas struck Ms.

6785 W. RUSSELL, SUITE 210 · LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 · (702) 728-5500 · FAX (702) 728-550

Sanchez from behind, and Ms. Sanchez required immediate fusion surgery for crash-related injuries.

In light of the need for immediate fusion surgery, and considering the nature of this crash, the refusal to tender policy limits is troubling. Please be advised that Ms. Sanchez withdraws the policy limit demand. The refusal by ATX PREMIER to timely tender the policy limits forces Ms. Sanchez to file a lawsuit. She also intends to continue with recommended medical treatment. As this case now moves into litigation, please be advised that ATX PREMIER's conduct will be treated as a bad faith attempt to avoid payment. Accordingly, Ms. Sanchez will no longer accept the ATX PREMIER policy limits at any time in the future.

The bad faith component is important as we move forward. In my experience, it is unlikely that ATX PREMIER will alert Mr. Cruz to the fact that Ms. Sanchez offered to settle for the policy limit prior to commencing litigation, and that ATX PREMIER rejected this offer. It is also unlikely that ATX PREMIER will alert Mr. Cruz to potential extra-contractual claims based on the likelihood of an excess judgment. Insurance companies never do. This failure to notify your own insured of this bad faith conduct creates a direct conflict between ATX PREMIER and Mr. Cruz.

ATX PREMIER's business gamble also creates a troublesome conflict for the defense attorney on this case. The attorney is hired by ATX PREMIER. But ultimately, the attorney must provide Mr. Cruz with advice that is potentially detrimental to ATX PREMIER. To alleviate this conflict, both long-standing and recent case law suggests that Mr. Cruz should consult with independent bad faith counsel.

To further this protection, I can suggest several extremely competent bad faith attorneys who can advise Mr. Cruz of the potential bad faith rights. <u>Importantly, these attorneys will meet with Mr. Cruz at no charge</u>. In my experience, bad faith counsel is critical to ensure that Mr. Cruz receives a fair-handed legal evaluation. And considering the present and future medical care in this case, an excess verdict is likely — thus mandating the need for bad faith counsel. Please let me know if you would like assistance in this regard, or if you desire to discuss this matter further.

||| ||| |||

III

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Lastly, to my knowledge, at no time since our earlier discussion has ATX PREMIER engaged in any contact with my office. And no additional settlement offers were provided. Once again, please be advised that any offers to settle for policy limits have been withdrawn. A lawsuit has been filed on behalf of my client. And my client intends to treat for injuries sustained in this crash, and to recover the full measure of damages through litigation. The sole cause of this need to litigate is because ATX PREMIER failed to properly and fairly evaluate the claim. Please notify your insured of this upcoming litigation and the unfortunate need for bad faith counsel.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Powell, Esq.

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A.i.C.: ______ Page 2 of 10

Scene Information

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SANCHEZ-LAZO, DIANE MARIA Street Address: 2551 STURROCK DR				☐ 5) <u>©</u> Trans	other								
	te / Country 图 1) N	Zip Co 89044		Persor Type:			Seating Position	 n: 1		OR	Occupant	s. 7	
☐ 1) Maio ☐ 3) Unknown ☐ ☐ 3: ☑ 2) £emato	Phone N	Number:		Injury Severi		1	Injury Location	1		3		187	
OLN: State: 🔀1) M	NV Class: ☐1) ⊆ C	=	cense Status:	Airbags		Airba	•		Ejected:	0	Tra	pped: 0	
Compliance: Endorsements ▼1) Restrict	Re	estriction	15				D		Factors				
Alcohol/Drug Involvement 1) Not Involved Method of Determ 2) Suspected Impairment 1) Floid Sobriety Test 3) Alcohol 4) Drugs 2) Evidentiary Breath 5) Unknown 3) Driver Admission	4) Urine Test 5) Blood Test	up to 2) Test Results: 2) Had Been Drinking 7) Other Impropup to 2) Test Results: 3) Original Involvement 8) Original Involvement 9) Other Injetter 14) Apparently Eatigued / Asleep 9) Physical Impropulation 15) Obstructed View 10) Unknown					ttention mpairme	riving / Distract	od				
Vehicle Year: Vehicle Make: Vehicle # 1995 BMW 3251	Model: V	Vehicle Ty SEDAN 4-I					Ve	hicle	Factors				
Plate / Permit No.: State: 🗷 1) NV Expiration	on Date: V	Vehicle Co WHI		2) <u>D</u> I	alled To Yield Ri	ol Device		10) Foli	ed To Maintain	lose	□17) ¥	rivortoss <u>Y</u> ohlclo	
Vehicle Identification Number: WBACB4329SFM21272				4) E ₂	od Fast For Con geoding Speed	Limit		12) Mad	gafe Lane Cha de Improper T	ľum	☐19) <u>H</u> I	en Off Road	
Registered Owner Name: IN 1) Same As Driver SANCHEZ-LAZO, DIANE MA	RIA			□6) W	Yrong Way / Dire Jechanical Defec Prove Left Of Con	cts	<u>-</u>	14) Oth	er Correct/Ste ter Improper E gressive / Rec	Drivi <u>ng</u>	21)0	oad Dofect (^) bject Avoldance	
Registered Owner Address: 2551 STURROCK DR, HENDERSON, NV 8904	14			□8) O	Oth <u>o</u> r			19120	Tuestan	-	22) (Jaknowa (B)	
Insurance Company Name: 1) Insured MENDAKOTA INSURANCE CO.				1st Contact					□ 4]	(1) Ero		
	tive: To / 2014 6	To: 6 / 20	0 / 2015		7. 3200	1 V	**	11:	2) Right Side				
Insurance Company Address or Phone Number: 1-800-422-0792				01	<u> </u>	# -		7.	— <u> </u>		X 4) Rot 6) Rig 6) Rig	ht Front	
1) Yehicle Towed By: FAST TOW (AAA))] 8		7	E 110.	⊠ 6		7) Io	_	
Removed To: TOW YARD					1) Qvor Ri	ide		<u>U</u> nder F	Rido	1	(X) 9) Lof	t Fro <u>n</u> t	
Traffic Control F 1) Speed Zone 11) Step Sten 2) Signat Light 12) Yield Sten	Distance To After Im 5 FEET	npact	Spe From 0	eed Est			Extent] 1) Minor] 2) Modera] 3) Major	rato 🔲	amage 4) Iotal 5) None 6) Unknown		11) Lr	nknown	
3) Flashing Light 13) R. R. Sign			Sequence Of Events						<u> </u>				
4) School Zono 14) R. R. Gatgs 5) Pod. Signal 15) R. R. Signal (#)	Code								Fixed	ion With Object	Most Harmful Event		
6) No Passing F 16) Marked Lanes	1st 214 MOTOR VEHICLE IN TRANS 2nd 217 SLOW/STOPPED VEHICLE						:T					□ ⊠	
7) No <u>C</u> ontrols 17) Tire Chains/Snow 8) <u>Warning Sign</u> 18) Permissive Green	ow Red.				DAELHOTT				-				
9) Turn Signal 19) Unknown	4th												
10) Qthor	5th												
1) NRS 2) GFR 3) CC / MC 4) Pending (1)			Violation						Citation Number				
☐ 1) <u>M</u> RS ☐ 2) <u>C</u> FR ☐ 3) CC / <u>M</u> C (2)			Violation			I	NOC			Citation Number			
Investigator(s) Diaz	ID Number H6143	4	Date / 28 /	2015	Review Kevin Kelle	-	·		ate Review				

Event Number:	1,		ATE OF NE	. ! NATE 130402417						
			C ACCIDEN CLE INFORMATION Revised 1/14/04	ON SHEET	(I)	Agency NEVADA	Name: HIGHWAY PA	TROL	•	
Name: (Lasi Name, First Hame, Middle Name Seffin)				Transported	Ву: 🔲 1) М	ot Transported	[] 2) EWS []:	3) Police [4) <u>U</u> nknown	
Street Address:	 .			Transported	I То:	-				
City:	State / Country	□1) NV	Zip Code:	Person Type:	-	Seating Position:			Occupant Restraints:	
1) Male 3) Linknown DOB:	, '	Phone Nu	ımber:	injury Severity:		injury Location:				
				Airbage:		bag ltch:	Ejected:		Trapped:	
Name: (Lest Name, First Name, Aldrie Name Semo)				Transported	By: □1) <u>4</u>	ol Transported	2) EM9:	3) Police (4) <u>U</u> nknown	
Street Address:				Transported	To:		-			
City:	State / Country	□11 FW	Zip Code:	Person Type:		Seating Position:		Occup		
1) Maie 3) Linknown DOB:	,	Phone Nu		Injury Severity:		injury Location:	on:			
Name Cost Name Start Manua Alletta Manua Senting		t	in the State	Airbags:		bag lich:	Ejected:		Trapped:	
NBITTO: (Last Name, First Herre, Middle Herre Suffig				Transported ☐ 6) Qiher	Ву: □1)№	Detrogenant to	2) EMS :	3) Polico (☐ 4) <u>U</u> nknown	
Street Address:	Address:									
City:	State / Country	Zip Code:	Person Type:		Seating Position:		Occup Restra			
1) Hale 3) Unknown DOB:	1	Phone Nu	ımber:	Injury Severity:		injury Location:				
		6		Airbags:		bag itch:	Ejected:		Trapped:	
1) Irailing Unit 1 VIN:				Plate:		State: 1)	Yv Type:			
1) Irailing Unit 2 VIN:				Plate:		State: 1)	ұv Туре:			
1) Irelling Unit 3 VIN:				Plate:		State: 1)	<u>t</u> ∨ Type:			
Commercial Veh	cle Configur	ation	ti a sint	,	1) <u>C</u> on	snorcial Vehicle	7.4	2) <u>S</u> cho	ol Bus	
1) Bus, 9 - 16 Occupants 6) Tractor C 2) Bus, > 16 Occupants 7) Tractor (3) Bingle 2 Axie and 6 Tire 8) Tractor (4) Single > 3 Axie 9) Tractor (6) Any 4 Tiro Vehicle 10) Truck w	Trailer 12) (Doubles 13) (Triples 14) (Passenger	om) TraBer Vehicie, (Hez-Het) k, (Hez-Mat) ry Vehicie	2)	<u>D</u> river Log Book Shipping <u>P</u> ep	S ors / Trip Manife	☐ 5) ž	<u>B</u> tato Rog. Sido <u>O</u> f Vel O jhe r		
Carrier Name:				1) ≤ 10,00		er Unit GV\ 10,000 - 28,000 I	VR <u>⊅</u> s □ 3) ≥ 26,0	00 Lbs	1) <u>Haz-Mat</u> 2) <u>R</u> eleased	
Carrier Street Address:				City:			State: 🗌 17	NV Zip		
Cargo Body Type	···	Ha	z-Mat ID#:		Type of C	arrier NA	Safety Report	#:		
2) I ank 7) Concrete Mixer 12) <u>G</u> rain, Gravol Chips) <u>B</u> ue, 9 - 15 Occupan	rts.		2) <u>U</u> 2) <u>U</u> 50) <u>Single State</u>) <u>USDO7</u> Carrier Number:				
) Bug. > 18 Occupant) <u>O</u> thor	s Haz	zard Classification			00	1. 1	6	Page of 10	
C - 1 Trust C 1 tot Web trees of C		L_			C Teal	1000		. v.	٠٠ ال	

Event Number:	STATE OF NEVADA TRAFFIC ACCIDENT REPORT Accident Number: NHP150402417											
Vohicle # Coccupants		HICLE I	ACCIDEN INFORMATI Revised 1/14/0	TION SH					Name: HIGHWAY	/ PATR		
of Travel: ☐2) South ☐4) West IR												Travel Lane #: 5
Vehicle ≤1) Straight (3) Left Turn (6) U-Turn (7) y Action: (2) Backing (4) Right Turn (6) Perked (8) S										_	_	s
Driver: (Lest Name, First Name, Middle Name Suffer) ACOSTA, JOSEPH ALEXANDER			H-1	Trans	sported By: 2							i) <u>U</u> nknown
Street Address: 2356 MYSTIC STAR ST				Trans	Qther sported To:							
City: State /	Country 11 HV	' '	Code:	Perso			Seating			Or	ocupani	t 7
HENDERSON NV X 1) Melo 3) Maknown DOB:	Phone N	8904 Number:	·	Type:			Position	n: .		Ke	lestraint	s: '
2) <u>Fernate</u> 12 / 4 / 1993	l l	26949			rity: O		Injury Location	:n:		!		io Ci
OLN: State: 図1) 번V NV	Class: 1) C	×	Iconse Status:			Airt	bag itch:		Ejected:	0	Tra	apped: 0
Compliance: Endorsements	Re	estriction	ns I	_	25.1				Factors			· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Alcohol/Drug Involvement	nation tobackup		Tost Results:	1 0	1) <u>Apperently</u> N 2) <u>H</u> ad Boon Dri	rinking			6) Oriver III / I 7) Other Impi	roper Dri	_	
	4) Urine Test	0 2)	lost resum.	⊔] 3) <u>D</u> rug tnyotyor] 4) Apparently <u>F</u> e		d / Asloop		8) Driver (<u>n</u> at 9) <u>Physical</u> in			ed
3) Alcohol 4) Drugs 2) Evidentiary Breath 3 6) Unknown 3) Oriver Admission 6	-	ith Tost	l'	_	5) Obstructed V		•	=	10) <u>U</u> nknown			
Vehicle Year: Vehicle Make: Vehicle Mod 1997 BMW 528I AUTON		ehicle T					_	_	Factors			
Plate / Permit No.: State: 11 NV Expiration C	Date: Ve	ehicle C		1= -	Ealled To Yield Ri Disregard Contro		_ =		od To Maintair Howing Too Ci		=	iriveriess <u>Y</u> ehicle Insafe Backing
361LKK NV 12 / 13 Vehicle Identification Number:	3 / 2015 SI	- U		Loo Fast For Con				gafo Lano Cha		_	ten Off Road	
WBADD6321VBW19396					Ezceeding Speed		_	_	de Imgroper T		= -	it and Run
Registered Owner Name: 1) Same As Driver ACOSTA, WILFRED STAR ST F	₹			☐6) M	<u>W</u> rong Way / Diro <u>W</u> echanical Defec Drove Leit Of Cer	octs	0]14) OU	er Correct/Sto her Improper C	Drivi <u>n</u> g	21) 0	load Defect (^) Object Avoidance
Registered Owner Address: 2356 MYSTIC STAR ST, HENDERSON, NV 8904	4	_			Drove <u>L</u> eft Of Cer Oth <u>e</u> r	nter		15) Ayı	grossive / Rec	_		Unknown (ii)
Insurance Company Name:	<u>'</u>				1	ontact			Damag	jed Areas		
■ 1) Insured STATE FARM Policy Number: Effective): To				□ 2		1 <u>3</u>		<u> </u>		X 1) £ro 2) Rig	
0957130E2128B			21 / 2015	.I	. B.			[,]	(3) Loft (4) Bos	ft Side
Insurance Company Address or Phone Number: 1-800-782-8332				X 1	1—	s.•—		11	— <u>□</u> <u>5</u>	[☐ 6) Rig ☐ 6) Rig ☐ 6) Rig	ght Front
1) Yehicle Toward Towed By: ABC TOWING [AAA]				l c] 8	ا ا	7		□ <u>6</u>		7) Ios	P
Removed To: OWNERS RESIDENCE/REQUEST					1) Qver Ri			<u>U</u> ndor l		- □	B) rou	der <u>C</u> arriage N Fro <u>n</u> t
Traffic Control	Distance Tra			eed Es		T_{ϵ}			amage	_	10) Lo 11) Yo	_
F 1) Speed Zone 11) Sjop Sign 2) Signal Light 12) Yield Sign	MOVED	Jaci	From 40	10 45	65	×] 1) Minor X 2) Moder I 3) Melor	rato 🔲			12) 01	
3) Flashing Light 13) R. R. Sign			1,-	Sequence Of Events					<u> </u>			
4) School Zone 14) R. R. Gates Si Ped. Signal 15) R. R. Signal (8)	Code					ription					on With Object	Most Harmful Event
6) Ped. Signal 15) R. R. Signal (2) 6) No Passing F 16) Marked Lanes	1st 214	4	MOTOR	VEHIC	LE IN TRANS	SPOF	RT					×
7) No Controls 17) Tire Chains/Snow Ro												
8) Warning Sign 18) Permissive Green 9) Tum Signal 19) Unknown	3rd 4th		+									
10) Other	5th											
X 1) NRS 21 CFR 31 CC / MC 41 Pending (1) 4848.127	FOLLOWING	G T00 (Violation CLOSELY			5379	NOC 94		X01313228	Citatio	on Numb	
☐ 1) MRS ☐ 2) GFR ☐ 3) CC / MC (2)			Violation				NOC	7		Citation Number		
Investigator(s) Diaz	ID Number H6143	4	Date / 28 /	2015	Review Kevin Kelle	-	У	4	ate Review	red 2015	7	Page of 10

Event Number:	Ι.		TATE OF NE			Accident Number: NHP150402417					
			IC ACCIDEN' CLE INFORMATIO Revised 1/14/04	ON SHEET	\	Agency Na NEVADA HI	ime: IGHWAY PA	TROL			
Name: (Last Name, First Hams, Middle Name Softice)			100	Transported		ot Transported]2] EMS []3) Police [] 4) <u>U</u> nknown		
Street Address:	<u> </u>	 		Transported							
Chy:	State / Countr	y □1) <u>k</u> V	Zip Code:	Person Typo:		Seating Position:		Occupant Restraints:			
☐ 1) Male ☐ 3) Unknown DOB: ☐ 2) Eemale / /	1	Phone No	umber:	Injury Severity:		injury Location:					
				Airbags:	Swi	bag Nch:	Ejected:		Trapped:		
Name: (Less Name, First Name, Middle Name Suffla)				1_		ot Transported []2) EMS []3) Police [34) Unknown		
Street Address:				Transported	To:						
City:	State / Countr	ry □1) <u>N</u> V	Zip Code:	Person Type:		Seating Position:		Occup			
1) Male 3) Maknown DOB: 2) Comple	·	Phone N	umber:	injury Severity:		injury Location:					
		War.		Airbags:		bag itch:	Ejected:		Trapped:		
Name: (Lest Name, First Home, Middle Name Suffu)				Transported	Ву: □1)№	ical Trensported [] 2) <u>E</u> ws 1	3) Polico []4}∐nknown		
Street Address:				Transported	To:						
City:	State / Countr	y □1) KV	Zip Code:	Person Type:		Seating Position:		Occup Restra			
1) <u>M</u> eto	1	Phone N	umber:	Injury Severity:		Injury Location:					
	- 1877 - 18			Airbegs:	1	bag itch:	Ejected:		Trapped:		
1) Iralling Unit 1 VIN:				Piate:		State: 11 NV					
1) Iralling Unit 2 VIN:				Plate:		State: 1) NV					
1} Iralling Unit 3 VIN:				Plate:		State: 11 HV	Туре:				
Commercial Vehicl	e Configu	ration	2 P.	· M+1	1) <u>C</u> on	amercia) Vehicle		2) Scho	ol Bus		
1) Bus, 9 - 15 Occupants	iller		or Vehicle, (<u>H</u> az-Hst) <u>c</u> k, (Haz-Mst)	1 = 1	Log Book	SOI era / Trip Manifost	<u>□</u> 5) 5	<u>State</u> Reg. Side <u>O</u> f Vel Oljher			
Carrier Name:	****	-		1) ≤ 10,000		er Unit GVW 10,000 - 26,000 Լ <u>Ե</u>		00 Lbs	1) Hez-Mat 2) Released		
Carrier Street Address:				City:			State: 🔲 1)	NV Zip	:		
Cargo Body Type	and a		ez-Mat ID #:	<u></u>	Type of C	- 1	Safety Report	#:			
1) Pole				ation #: [] 1) Sing		OT Carri	er Numbor:				
	14) Other				4) Moxi	teo Milit		8	Page of 10		

Event Number:	`	STATE OF NEVADA Accident Number: NHP150402417						:				
Vehicle # Coccupants 11 At Fault V4 1 2) Non Contact Vehicle	TRAFFIC A	Revised 1/14/0	ION SHE			Agency NEVADA	Name: HIGHWAY	PATROL				
Direction 1) North 3) East 5) Unknown High of Travel: 2) South 4) Wost	way / Street Name:								Travel Lane #: 5			
Vehicle ☐1) Straight ☐3) Left Turn ☐5) U·Jurn ☐7) We Action: ☐2) Backing ☐4) Right Turn ☐6) Parked 図8) Str								-	nge 19) <u>U</u> nknow			
Driver: (Last Name, First Name, Middle Name Suffer)	pppo C	C 12) Eurosini							4) Unknown			
EVANS, DONNA MAE			6) Qthe									
Street Address: 2323 NW 188TH AVE Apt# 926			Transpo	orted To:								
City: State / C HILLSBORO OR	ountry 11 NV Zip 0	Code: 24	Person Type:	1	Sea	ating sition: 1		Occupant Restraints: 7				
☐ 1) Halo ☐ 3) Unknown DOB: ☑ 2) Eemate 9 / 7 / 1971	Phone Number 5034599186	:	Injury Severity:	. 0	Inju		ş,					
		icense Status;			Airbag							
			Airbags:	2	Switch:	:	Ejected:	0	Trapped: 0			
Compliance: Endorsements	Restrictio	ons -		A			r Factors	Internal				
Alcohol/Drug Involvement I Not Involved Method of Determinate	Plan to be to the St	Tost Results:	_	<u>A</u> pparently No <u>H</u> ad Been Drir		-] 7) <u>O</u> lher Impi	-				
2) Suspected Impairment 1) Eloid Sobriety Test 4)	<u>U</u> rine Tost	TOBE NOSCIES.	I = '	<u>O</u> rug involvem Apparently <u>E</u> a		=] 8) Driver inat] 9) Physical tr		acted			
3) Alcohol	_		_	Obstructed Vic] 10) <u>U</u> nknown					
Vehicle Year: Vehicle Make: Vehicle Mode 2015 KIA Vehicle Mode SOUL	Vehicle 1	Type: BACK 4-DOOS			Vehicle Factors To Yield Right Of Way ☐ 9) Falled To Maintain Lane ☐ 16) Drivertess ¥ehicle							
Plate / Permit No.: State: 1) NV Expiration Do	rte: Vehicle C			ed To Yield Rig agard Control		=	led To Maintali Blowing Too C		i) Driverless <u>V</u> ehicle ') <u>Unsafe Backing</u>			
7JRZ583 CA 2 / 2 Vehicle Identification Number:	/ 2016 BLK		I	Fast For Cond			ngalo Lono Chi) <u>R</u> an Off Road			
KNDJP3A50F7159001			1= -	eoding Spood		= '	ade Improper 1	_) <u>H</u> it and Run			
Registered Owner Name: 1) Same As Driver PV HOLDING CORP, PV HOLDING	NG)) Road Defect (^) i) Object Avoldance			
Registered Owner Address: 5721 W 96TH ST, LOS ANGELES, CA 90045			B) Ortho	_	ior		ggressive / Kei	22) Unknown (B)				
Insurance Company Name: [E] 1) Insured SELF INSURED AVIS RENT A CAR				1:	et Conta	act	□ 4	Dam	aged Areas			
Policy Number: Effective:	To:		ب ا	<u> </u>			≥ 4	2)	Right Side			
#77 7 1 1 Insurance Company Address or Phone Number:	/ 2014 6 / 3	30 / 2015	<u> </u>	3.30		į.	— <u> </u>	☐ 3) 区 4)	<u>L</u> oft Sido <u>R</u> oar			
6 SYLVAN WAY. PARSIPPANY, NEW JERSEY 07				<i>,</i>		-1-		_	Right Front Right Roar			
1) Yehicle Towed By: *RETAINED BY DRIVE	ER			<u>8</u>			□ 6		<u>T</u> op Under <u>C</u> arriage			
Removed To:	-		-	1) Qver Ric	10 [2) <u>U</u> nder	Ride	-	Left Frogt			
Traffic Control	Distance Traveled After Impact	an Stormer	ed Estin		1.0	ktent Of [_	_) Laft Regr) <u>U</u> nknown			
F 1) Speed Zone 11) Sign Sign 2) Signal Light 12) Yield Sign	MOVED	6 From	т•	Limit 65		Mogerate [Other			
3) Flashing Light 13) R. R. Sign		<u> </u>	<u> </u>		Ce Of Eve		6) <u>U</u> nknown					
4) School Zone 14) R. R. Gates 5) Ped. Signal 15) R. R. Signal (#)	Code #			Descrip				Collision Wi				
5) Pod. Signal 15) R. R. Signal (g) 6) No Passing F 16) Marked Lance	1st 217	SLOW/S1	TOPPED	VEHICLE					×			
7) No Controls 17) Tire Chains/Snow Req												
8) Warning Sign 18) Permissive Green 9) Tym Signal 19) Unknown	3rd 4th											
10) Other	5th	+							1 8			
1) <u>MRS</u> 2) <u>CFR</u> 3) CC / <u>MC</u> 4) <u>Pending</u> (1)		Violation			NO	oc		Citation No	mber			
11 NRS 21 CFR 31 CC 1 MC (2)	Violation			on NOC			C Citation Number					
Investigator(s) Diaz	ID Number H6143 4	Date / 28 /	2015 K	Review (evin Kelley	-	4	Date Review	ed 2015 9	Page of 10			

Event Number:			TATE OF NE		د مودر		dent N 50402	umber: 417	,	92
			IC ACCIDEN' CLE INFORMATION ROVIDED 1/14/04			Agen	Cy Nai	me: SHWAY PAT	TROL	
Namo: (Lest Hame, First Name, Middle Name Sumd				Transported			rted _	2) <u>EM</u> 8 🗍 3)	<u>P</u> alice	4) <u>U</u> nknown
Street Address:		. 72		Transported						
City:	State / Countr	עצונים ע	Zip Code:	Person Type:		Seating Position	:		Occup	
1) Male 3) Linknown DOB:	I	Phone N	umber:	Injury Severity:		injury Location	1:	N THE		
		- SE		Airbags:		bag itch:		Ejected:		Trapped:
Name: (Last Hame, First Home, 1909s Name Settle)				Transported			rted [2) <u>E</u> MS	Police	4) <u>U</u> nknown
Street Address:				Transported	То:					
Chy:	State / Countr	y □11 <u>8</u> v	Zip Code:	Person Type:		Seating Position	1:		Occup	
1) Male 3) Unknown DOB:	1	Phone N	umber:	Injury Severity:		injury Location	n:			
	\ \\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\			Airbags:	1	bag Itch:		Ejected:		Trapped:
Name: (Lest Name, First Name, 1966) Name Suffic				Transported	Ву: □1}№	ol Transpo	rted [2) EMS [] 3)	Potice (4) Unknown
Street Address:				Transported	То:					
City:	State / Countr	y □1) <u>H</u> V	Zip Code:	Person Type:	•	Seating Position			Occup	
1) Malo 3) Mnknown DOB:	1	Phone N	umber:	Injury Severity:		Injury Location	n:			
	i i kie vi			Airbags:		bag l(ch:		Ejected:		Trapped:
1) Trailing Unit 1 VIN:				Plate:		State:		Туре:		
1) Irailing Unit 2 VIN:				Plate:		State: [Туре:		
1) Irailing Unit 3 VIN:				Plate:		State: [] 1) <u>N</u> V	Туре:		
Commercial Vehic	le Configu	ration	φ.		1) <u>C</u> on	unercial Ve	hicle] .] 2) <u>S</u> etho	od Bus
1) Bus, 9 - 16 Occupants 6) Tractor Onto 2) Bus, > 16 Occupants 7) Tractor / Tractor / Tractor / Que 3) Single 2 Axie and 6 Tiro 0) Tractor / Que 4) Single > 3 Axie 9) Tractor / Tr	80or 12 xubles 13 jples 14) Passenge	Semi Trailor or Vehiclo, (<u>H</u> az-Mat) <u>ck, (Haz-Mat)</u> vy Vehiclo	20	Qriver Log Book Shipping <u>P</u> ap	ers / Trip M	Sou	□ 4) §	tata Reg. iide <u>O</u> f Vo	
Carrier Name:				1) ≤ 10,000		er Unit 10,000 - 28		} [] 3) ≥ 26,00	io Lbs	1) Haz-Mat 2) Released
Carrier Street Address:	-			City:				State: 🔲 1)	NV Zij);
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1	Paul D. Powell, Esq.	Alm to Chum
2	Nevada Bar No. 7488 THE POWELL LAW FIRM	CLERK OF THE COURT
	6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210	
3	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 paul@TPLF.com	
4	Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501	
5	Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ	
6	DISTRICT	COURT
7	CLARK COUN	TV NEVADA
8		11, NEVADA
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)
10	Plaintiff,)
1	vs.) CASE NO. A722815) DEPT. NO. XXV
12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,) DEFT. NO. AXV
13	individually; DOES I - X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,) AFFIDAVIT OF DUE DILIGENCE
4)
	Defendants.	_)
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Paul Powell	POP COUPT USE ONLY
5705 West Russell Road. Las Vegas, NV 89118	
TELEPHONE NO. (702) 728-5501 FAX NO. FAX NO.	
ATTORNEY FOR (Asses) Plaintiff Come to a Sanchez v. Bon DISTRICT COURT	
STREET ADDRESS 200 LEWIS AVENUE	
CITY AND ZIP CODE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89115	
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Diane Sanchez	
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Sias Son	
DECLARATION OF DILIGENCE	CASE NUMBER
SCATALINA DE LA CONTRACTA DE L	A722815

I received the within assignment for filing and/or service on. September 22, 2015 and that after due and diligent effort. I have not been able to serve said person, attempted service on this servee on the following dates and times:

Servee: Blas Bon

Documents. Summons & Complaint;;

Address: 3900 Cambridge Street Suite 106

Las Vegas, NV 89119

As enumerated below:

10/19/2015 - 9:36 AM Attempted to serve defendant at last known address of 3900 Cambridge Street Suite 106, Las Vegas Neveda. This address is a Clark County neighborhood community center where the defendant had his mail sent, his current whereabouts are now unknown to them. A record search with the Clark County Assessor's Office reveals no records found. A search with Clark County voters registration reveals no records found. A local phone search for defendants phone number reveals no records found. A registered vehicle search with Nevada DMV and Premium Finder search reveals no records found.



Registration No.: #R-003972 Clark County Process Service LLC dba CCPS LV 720 E Charleston Blvd, Suite 135 Las Vegas, NV 88104 State License #2031C



I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signature:

Michael E. Clarke

DECLARATION OF DILIGENCE

Order#: CC9817/DillFormat.mdl



October 27, 2015

Department of Motor Vehicles Attention: Director's Office 555 Wright Way Carson City, Nevada 89711

Re:

Sanchez vs. Bon

Case No.:

A-15-722815-C

Date of Loss:

April 28, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

Please find enclosed copies of the Complaint, Summons and Declaration of Diligence with regards to the above-referenced matter. Also, pursuant to NRS 14.070, please find enclosed a check (#1811) in the amount of \$5.00. Please serve Defendant, Blas Bon, accordingly.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office.

Sincerely,

Paul D. Powell, Esq.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS A COLORED SECURITY BACKGROUND. DO NOT CASH IF THE WORD "VOID" IS VISIBLE. THIS PAPER HAS AN ARTIFICIAL WATERMARK ON REVERSE SIDE AND IS ALTERATION PROTECTED DBA THE POWELL LAW FIRM 8785 W. RUSSELL ROAD, SUITE 210 Bank of America. LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 70-361/711 1811 PAY TO THE ORDER OF DMV 10/27/2015 Five and 00/100******* DMV MEMO Process Service - Sanchez AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE NEVADA INJURY ATTORNEY'S, INC. DBA THE POWELL LAW FIRM 1811

Process Service - Sanchez 10/27/2015 5.00

CIB - Cost #5083 Process Service - Sanchez 5.00

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	•	DISTRICT (COURT
		CLARK COUNT	
Bi in Co	dividually; ORPORAT Plaint	Plaintiff, individually, JOSEPH ACOSTA, DOES I - X, and ROE TONS I - X, inclusive, Defendants. iff DIANE SANCHEZ, by and through the power of the	A-15-722815-C CASE NO. DEPT. NO. XXV DIANE SANCHEZ COMPLAINT h attorney of record, PAUL D. POWELL, gainst Defendants BLAS BON and JOSEPH
		GENERAL ALL	EGATIONS
	2.	mentioned herein, was, a resident of That Defendant BLAS BON (herein	the County of Clark, State of Nevada. after "Defendant") is, and at all times the County of Clark, State of Nevada.
	3.		(hereinafter "Defendant") is, and at all times the County of Clark, State of Nevada.
	4.		f the Defendants designated herein as Doe or
		Page 1 of	74

Roe Corporations are presently unknown to Plaintiff at this time, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. When the true names and capacities of these defendants are ascertained, Plaintiff will amend this Complaint accordingly.

- That at all times pertinent, Defendants were agents, servants, employees or joint venturers of every other Defendant herein, and at all times mentioned herein were acting within the scope and course of said agency, employment, or joint venture, with knowledge and permission and consent of all other named Defendants.
- 6. That on April 28, 2015, in Clark County, Nevada, Defendants BLAS BON caused a crash with Plaintiff. During the same sequence of events, Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA also negligently crashed into Plaintiff. The vehicle operated by BLAS BON was owned by HIPOLITO CRUZ. The vehicle operated by JOSEPH ACOSTA was owned by WILFRED ACOSTA.
- 7. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff sustained injuries to Plaintiff's shoulders, back, bodily limbs, organs and systems, all or some of which condition may be permanent and disabling, and all to Plaintiff's damage in a sum in excess of \$10,000.
- 8. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff received medical and other treatment for the aforementioned injuries, and that said services, care, and treatment are continuing and shall continue in the future, all to the damage of Plaintiff.

- 9. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff has been required to, and has limited occupational and recreational activities, which have caused and shall continue to cause Plaintiff loss of earning capacity, lost wages, physical impairment, mental anguish, and loss of enjoyment of life, in a presently unascertainable amount.
- 10. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff's vehicle was damaged and Plaintiff lost the use of that vehicle.
- 11. That as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligent of all Defendants, Plaintiff has been required to engage the services of an attorney, incurring attorney's fees and costs to bring this action.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 12. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 15 of the Complaint as though said paragraphs were fully set forth herein.
- 13. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of care to operate their vehicles in a reasonable and safe manner. Defendant breached that duty of care by striking Plaintiff's vehicle on the roadway. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

14. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 17 of the Complaint as though said paragraphs were fully set forth herein.

15. The acts of Defendants as described herein violated the traffic laws of the State of Nevada and Clark County, constituting negligence per se, and Plaintiff has been damaged as a direct and proximate result thereof in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff expressly reserving the right to amend this complaint prior to or at the time of trial of this action, to insert those items of damage not yet fully ascertainable, prays judgment against all Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- 1. For general damages sustained by Plaintiff in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00;
- 2. For special damages sustained by Plaintiff in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00;
- 3. For property damages sustained by Plaintiff;
- 4. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- 5. For interest at the statutory rate; and
- 6. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED this Hay of August 2015.

THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ

ORIGINAL

1 2 3	Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118	
4	paul@TPLF.com Phone: (702) 728-5500	
5	Facsimile: (702) 728-5501 Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ	
6	DISTRICT	COURT
7	CLARK COUN	ΓY, NEVADA
8	DIANE SANCHEZ,	1
	·)
10 11	Plaintiff, vs.) CASE NO. A722815
12	BLAS BON, individually, DOES I - X, and ROE) DEPT. NO. XXV
13	CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,) <u>SUMMONS</u>
14	Defendants.)
15 16 17	NOTICE! YOU HAVE BEEN SUED, THE COURT I YOUR BEING HEARD UNLESS YOU RESPOND V BELOW.	MAY DECIDE AGAINST YOU WITHOUT VITHIN 20 DAYS, READ THE INFORMATION
18	BLAS I	BON
19	TO THE DEFENDANT(S): A civil Complaint has trelief set forth in the Complaint.	peen filed by the Plaintiff(s) against you for the
20		ter this Summons is served on you, exclusive of the day
21		ess is shown below, a formal written response to the e Court, with the appropriate filing fee.
22	 b. Serve a copy of your response upon the attor Unless you respond, your default will be entered upor 	ney whose name and address is shown below. I application of the Plaintiff(s) and this Court may enter a
23	Judgment against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint other relief requested in the Complaint	t, which could result in the taking of money or property or
24	 If you intend to seek the advise of an attorney in this is may be filed on time. 	matter, you should do so promptly so that your response
25 26	111	
27	111	
28	111	

4. The State of Nevada, its political subdivisions, agencies, officers, employees, board members, commission members and legislators, each have 45 days after service of this summons within which to file an answer or other responsive pleading to the complaint.

Issued at the direction of:

Paul D. Powell, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 7488
6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117
Attorneys for Diane Sanchez

CLERK OF THE COURT

SEP 1 4 2015

DATE

County Courtablise

200 Lewis Average, 3rd Floor, Suite 3125

Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

Electronically Filed 10/20/2015 10:22:20 AM

1	Paul D. Powell, Esq.	Street & Elium
2	Nevada Bar No. 7488 THE POWELL LAW FIRM	CLERK OF THE COURT
3	6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118	
4	paul@TPLF.com Phone: (702) 728-5500	
5	Facsimile: (702) 728-5501 Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ	
6	DISTRIC	Γ COURT
7		
8	CLARK COUN	TTY, NEVADA
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)
10	Plaintiff,)
11	vs.) CASE NO. A722815) DEPT. NO. XXV
12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA, individually; DOES I - X, and ROE)) AFFIDAVIT OF DUE DILIGENCE
13	CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,)
14	Defendants.	
15		

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Powell Law Firm		
8785 West Russell Road Las Vegas, NV 89118		
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STREET ADDRESS TOO LEWIS AVENUE		
CITYANG ZIP CODE, LAS VEGAS, NV 89116		
,		
PLAINTIFF/PETITIONER: Diano Sanchez	***************************************	
DEFENDANT/RESPONDENT: Blas Bon		
		CASE NUMBER
DECLARATION OF DILIGENCE		A722815
	ALLENS AND A PROPERTY OF THE PERSON NAMED AND ADDRESS OF THE P	4

I received the within assignment for filing and/or service on. September 22, 2015 and that after due and diligent effort I have not been able to serve said person. I attempted service on this servee on the following dates and times:

Servee: Blas Bon

Documents: Summons & Complaint;

Address: 3900 Cambridge Street Suite 106

Las Vegas, NV 89118

As enumerated below:

10/19/2015 - 9:36 AM Altempted to serve defendant at last known address of 3900 Cambridge Street Suite 106, Las Vegas Nevada. This address is a Clark County neighborhood community center where the defendant had his mail sent, his current whereabouts are now unknown to them. A record search with the Clark County Assessor's Office reveals no records found. A search with Clark County voters registration reveals no records found. A local phone search for defendants phone number reveals no records found. A registered vehicle search with Nevada DMV and Premium Finder search reveals no records



Registration No.: #R-003972 Clark County Process Service LLC dba CCPS LV 729 E Charleston Blvd, Suite 135 Las Vegas, NV 89104 State License #2031C



I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Nevada that the foregoing it true and conect.

Freeze

Michael E. Clarke

DECLARATION OF DILIGENCE

Signature:

Order#: CC9817/Dillformat.mdi

Brian Sandoval Governor



Troy L. Dillard
Director

555 Wright Way Carson City, Nevada 89711 Telephone (775) 684-4368 www.dmvnv.com

November 2, 2015

Mr.Paul D Powell Esq 6785 W. Russell Rd., Ste. 210 Las Vegas Nevada 89118

Re: Diane Sanchez vs. Blas Bon; Joseph Acosta

CASE NO: A-15-722815-C SERVICE DATE: 11/2/15 DELIVERY METHOD: USPS

Dear Mr. Powell Esq,

This letter acknowledges service of a Summons Complaint received in the Director's office of the State of Nevada, Department of Motor Vehicles for the above referenced case, along with \$5.00 as provided for in the NRS 14.070.

Sincerely,

Tina Springer

Administrative Assistant Director's Office

Electronically Filed 03/29/2016 04:08:25 PM

1	AFFT	Alm & Chum	
2	Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488	CLERK OF THE COURT	
3	THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210		
4	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 paul@TPLF.com		
5	Phone: (702) 728-5500		
6	Facsimile: (702) 728-5501 Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ		
7	DISTRICT	COURT	
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA		
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)	
10	Plaintiff,) CASE NO. A722815) DEPT. NO. XXV	
11	VS.) DEP1. NO. XXV	
12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,) AMENDED AFFIDAVIT OF	
13	individually; DOES I - X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,) COMPLIANCE	
14	· ·)	
15	Defendants.		
16	STATE OF NEVADA)		
17) ss.		
18	COUNTY OF CLARK)		
19	DALIE DOWELL EGO 1 ' 11	.1 1 1	
20	PAUL D. POWELL, ESQ., being duly swor	n on oath, deposes and says:	
21	That I am an attorney at THE POWELL LA	W FIRM maintaining offices at 6785 W. Russell	
22	Road, Suite 210, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 and	the firm has been retained by Plaintiff DIANE	
23	SANCHEZ to represent her in an action against De	fendant BLAS BON.	
24	That on October 19, 2015 service of the	Complaint on file herein and a copy of the	
25		•	
26	Summons issued following the filing of said Com	plaint was attempted on BLAS BON at his best	
27	known address of 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 19	06, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. Said best known	
28			

address was found not to be current for BLAS BON as evidenced by the Declaration of Diligence attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**.

That on or about October 27, 2015 I caused to be served upon the Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles of the State of Nevada at Carson City, Nevada, via United States Mail, a copy of the Complaint on file herein, a copy of the Summons issued following the filing of the Complaint, a copy of the Declaration of Diligence, together with the statutory fee of \$5.00, all in accordance with N.R.S. 14.070. Said documents were received by the Department of Motor Vehicles on November 2, 2015 as evidenced by the letter from the Department of Motor Vehicles attached hereto as **Exhibit 2**, acknowledging receipt of said Complaint and Summons.

That on or about November 9, 2015 I caused to be deposited in the United States Mail at Las Vegas, Nevada, certified mail return receipt requested, with postage fully prepaid thercon, a copy of the Complaint and Summons, the traffic accident report and a copy of the DMV letter evidencing proof of service on Defendant BLAS BON at the Defendant's last known address of 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. The package was returned to sender on November 12, 2015 as unclaimed. A copy is attached hereto as Exhibit 3.

DATED this 29th day of March, 2015.

THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this day of March, 2016.

NO VARY PUBLI



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure 5 (b), I hereby certify that on the 29th day of March, 2015, the **AMENDED AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE** was served via electronic service to the following counsel of record:

Marissa Temple, Esq. MESSNER REEVES LLP 5556 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Attorneys for Defendant

/s/ Lauren Pellino

An Employee of THE POWELL LAW FIRM

- 1	.1	
1	AFFT	
2	Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488	
3	THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210	
4	Las Vcgas, Nevada 89118 paul@TPLF.com	
5	Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501	
6	Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ	
7	DISTRICT C	OURT
8	CLARK COUNTY	, NEVADA
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)	
10) Plaintiff,	CASE NO. A722815 DEPT. NO. XXV
11	vs.	
12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,	AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE
13	individually; DOES I - X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,	
14		
15	Defendants.	
16	STATE OF NEVADA)	
17) ss.	
18	COUNTY OF CLARK)	
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To date, return receipt (Article Number 7015 0640 0004 9496 0326) has not been returned.

DATED this 3 th day of November, 2015.

THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russcil Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before me this day of November, 2015.

27 this (1)

NOTARY PUBLIC



Brian Sandoval

Governor



Troy L. Dillard
Director

555 Wright Way Carson City, Nevada 89711 Telephone (775) 684-4368 www.dmvnv.com

November 2, 2015

Mr.Paul D Powell Esq 6785 W. Russell Rd., Ste. 210 Las Vegas Nevada 89118

Re: Diane Sanchez vs. Blas Bon; Joseph Acosta

CASE NO: A-15-722815-C SERVICE DATE: 11/2/15 DELIVERY METHOD: USPS

Dear Mr. Powell Esq,

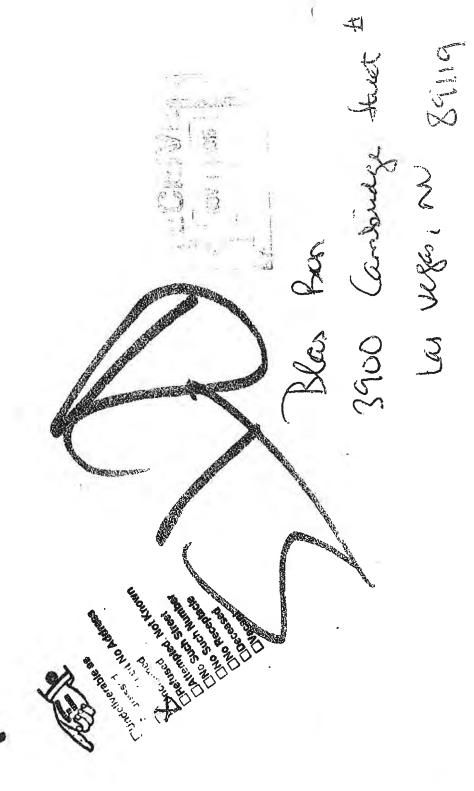
This letter acknowledges service of a Summons Complaint received in the Director's office of the State of Nevada, Department of Motor Vehicles for the above referenced case, along with \$5.00 as provided for in the NRS 14.070.

Sincerely,

Tina Springer Administrative Assistant

Director's Office





The Pariety Law Frim 6785 W. Rensell Rd #210 Les Vezes M 8918

Electronically Filed 11/19/2015 02:58:27 PM

		Alm & Lemin	
1	AFFT		
2	Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488	CLERK OF THE COURT	
3	THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210		
. 4	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 paul@TPLF.com		
5	Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501		
6	Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ		
7	DISTRICT (COURT	
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA		
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)	
10	Plaintiff,) CASE NO. A722815) DEPT. NO. XXV	
11	VS.)	
12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,) AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE	
13	individually; DOES I - X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,))	
14))	
15	Defendants.)	
16	STATE OF NEVADA)		
17) ss.		
18	COUNTY OF CLARK)		
19	DAVI D DOMENT PRO 1 ' 11	al I f	
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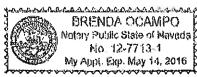
THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

RIBED AMD SWORN TO before me SUBS **t**his

day of November, 2015.

NOTARY PUBILIC



- 1	·i		
1	AFFT		
2	Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488		
3	THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210		
4	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 paul@TPLF.com		
5	Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501		
6	Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ		
7	DISTRICT	COURT	
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA		
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)	
10	Plaintiff,) CASE NO. A722815) DEPT. NO. XXV	
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14)	
15	Defendants.)	
16	STATE OF NEVADA)		
17) ss.	4	
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DATED this 13 th day of November, 2015.

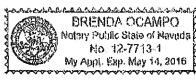
THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

SUBSTRIBED AND SWORN TO before me

day of November, 2015.

NOTARY PUBLIC



Brian Sandoval Governor



Troy L. Dillard
Director

555 Wright Way Carson City, Nevada 89711 Telephone (775) 684-4368 www.dmvnv.com

November 2, 2015

Mr.Paul D Powell Esq 6785 W. Russell Rd., Ste. 210 Las Vegas Nevada 89118

Re: Diane Sanchez vs. Blas Bon; Joseph Acosta

CASE NO: A-15-722815-C SERVICE DATE: 11/2/15 DELIVERY METHOD: USPS

Dear Mr. Powell Esq,

This letter acknowledges service of a Summons Complaint received in the Director's office of the State of Nevada, Department of Motor Vehicles for the above referenced case, along with \$5.00 as provided for in the NRS 14.070.

Sincerely,

Tina Springer
Administrative Assistant
Director's Office

(O) 4034 C

THE POWELL LAW FIRM

January 20, 2016

Via U.S. Mail

ATX Premier Insurance Attn: DeLawrence Templeton PO Box 142768 Dallas, Texas 75014

Re: Sanchez vs. Bon

Claim No. DMA-0147074
Date of Loss: April 28, 2015

Dear Mr. Templeton:

Please be advised that your insured, Blas Bon, has been served in the above-referenced matter. I have enclosed a copy of the Complaint and Affidavit of Compliance, evidencing proof of service via the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Please file an Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint as soon as possible, or I will have no choice but to request for the Court to enter a Default against your insured.

Sincerely,

6785 W. RUSSELL, SULLE 210 - LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 - (702) 728-5500 - FAX (702) 728-550

		Electronically Filed 08/07/2015 02:41:36 PM		
1 2 3 4 5 6	COMP Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501 Email: paul@TPLF.com Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ DISTRICT C	CLERK OF THE COURT		
7	CLARK COUNTY	, NEVADA		
9 10 11	DIANE SANCHEZ, Plaintiff, vs.) A-15-722815-C) CASE NO.) DEPT. NO. XXV		
12 13 14 15	BLAS BON, individually, JOSEPH ACOSTA, individually; DOES I - X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive, Defendants.)) DIANE SANCHEZ COMPLAINT))		
16 17 18	Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ, by and through attorney of record, PAUL D. POWELL, ESQ., of THE POWELL LAW FIRM complains against Defendants BLAS BON and JOSEPH			
19	ACOSTA, as follows:			
20	GENERAL ALLE	CGATIONS		
21	That Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ (h.	ereinafter "Plaintiff") is, and at all times		
23	mentioned herein, was, a resident of 2. That Defendant BLAS BON (hereina	the County of Clark, State of Nevada. after "Defendant") is, and at all times		
24	mentioned herein, was, a resident of	the County of Clark, State of Nevada.		
26	3. That Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA	(hereinaster "Desendant") is, and at all times		
27	mentioned herein, was, a resident of	the County of Clark, State of Nevada.		
-~	4. That the true names and capacities of	f the Defendants designated herein as Doe or		
	Page 1 of	4		

Roe Corporations are presently unknown to Plaintiff at this time, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. When the true names and capacities of these defendants are ascertained, Plaintiff will amend this Complaint accordingly.

- 5. That at all times pertinent, Defendants were agents, servants, employees or joint venturers of every other Defendant herein, and at all times mentioned herein were acting within the scope and course of said agency, employment, or joint venture, with knowledge and permission and consent of all other named Defendants.
- 6. That on April 28, 2015, in Clark County, Nevada, Defendants BLAS BON caused a crash with Plaintiff. During the same sequence of events, Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA also negligently crashed into Plaintiff. The vehicle operated by BLAS BON was owned by HIPOLITO CRUZ. The vehicle operated by JOSEPH ACOSTA was owned by WILFRED ACOSTA.
- 7. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff sustained injuries to Plaintiff's shoulders, back, bodily limbs, organs and systems, all or some of which condition may be permanent and disabling, and all to Plaintiff's damage in a sum in excess of \$10,000.
- 8. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff received medical and other treatment for the aforementioned injuries, and that said services, care, and treatment are continuing and shall continue in the future, all to the damage of Plaintiff.

- 9. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff has been required to, and has limited occupational and recreational activities, which have caused and shall continue to cause Plaintiff loss of earning capacity, lost wages, physical impairment, mental anguish, and loss of enjoyment of life, in a presently unascertainable amount.
- 10. That as a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff's vehicle was damaged and Plaintiff lost the use of that vehicle.
- 11. That as a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligent of all Defendants, Plaintiff has been required to engage the services of an attorney, incurring attorney's fees and costs to bring this action.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 12. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 15 of the Complaint as though said paragraphs were fully set forth herein.
- 13. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of care to operate their vehicles in a reasonable and safe manner. Defendant breached that duty of care by striking Plaintiff's vehicle on the roadway. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

14. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 17 of the Complaint as though said paragraphs were fully set forth herein.

Page 3 of 4

15. The acts of Defendants as described herein violated the traffic laws of the State of Nevada and Clark County, constituting negligence per se, and Plaintiff has been damaged as a direct and proximate result thereof in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff expressly reserving the right to amend this complaint prior to or at the time of trial of this action, to insert those items of damage not yet fully ascertainable, prays judgment against all Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- 1. For general damages sustained by Plaintiff in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00;
- 2. For special damages sustained by Plaintiff in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00;
- 3. For property damages sustained by Plaintiff;
- 4. For reasonable attorney's fees and costs;
- 5. For interest at the statutory rate; and
- 6. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED this day of August 2015.

THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ

Electronically Filed 11/19/2015 02:58:27 PM

1 2 3 4 5 6	AFFT Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 paul@TPLF.com Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501 Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ	Alun A. Lehring CLERK OF THE COURT
7	DISTRICT C	OURT
8	CLARK COUNTY	, NEVADA
9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 22 22 22 22 22 22 22	Road, Suite 210, Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 and the SANCHEZ to represent her in an action against Defe	FIRM maintaining offices at 6785 W. Russell e firm has been retained by Plaintiff DIANE and ant BLAS BON. Complaint on file herein and a copy of the
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28	N)	

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DATED this 13 th day of November, 2015.

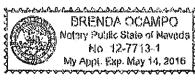
THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

SUBSERIBED AND SWORN TO before me

this day of November, 2015.

NOTARY PUBILIC



1	AFFT					
2	Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488					
3	THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210					
4	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 paul@TPLF.com					
5	Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501					
6	Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ					
7	DISTRICT COURT					
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA					
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)				
10	Plaintiff,) CASE NO. A722815) DEPT. NO. XXV				
11	VS.) DEI 1. NO. XXV)				
12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,) AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE				
13	individually; DOES I - X, and ROE)				
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THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

SUBSTRIBED AND SWORN TO before me

this day of November, 2015.

OTARY PUBLIC



Brian Sandoval



Troy L. Dillard
Director

555 Wright Way Carson City, Nevada 89711 Telephone (775) 684-4368 www.dmvnv.com

November 2, 2015

Mr.Paul D Powell Esq 6785 W. Russell Rd., Ste. 210 Las Vegas Nevada 89118

Re: Diane Sanchez vs. Blas Bon; Joseph Acosta

CASE NO: A-15-722815-C SERVICE DATE: 11/2/15 DELIVERY METHOD: USPS

Dear Mr. Powell Esq,

This letter acknowledges service of a Summons Complaint received in the Director's office of the State of Nevada, Department of Motor Vehicles for the above referenced case, along with \$5.00 as provided for in the NRS 14.070.

Sincerely,

Tina Springer
Administrative Assistant
Director's Office



February 16, 2016

Via U.S. Mail

ATX Premier Insurance Attn: DeLawrence Templeton PO Box 142768 Dallas, Texas 75014

Re: Sanchez vs. Bon

Claim No. DMA-0147074
Date of Loss: April 28, 2015

Dear Mr. Templeton:

I am following up on my correspondence dated January 20, 2016, wherein I informed you that your insured, Blas Bon, had been served with the Complaint and Summons in the above-referenced matter. To date, I still have not received an Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint.

If I do not receive Mr. Bon's Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint by February 23, 2016, I will request for the Court to enter a Default against your insured.

Paul D. Powell, Esq.

6785 W. RUSSELL, SUITE 210 + LAS VEGAS, NV 89118 + (702) 728-5500 + FAX (702) 728-550

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1	11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Alm A. Com			
2		CLERK OF THE COURT			
3	THE POWELL LAW FIRM 6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210				
4	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118				
5	Phone: (702) 728-5500				
6	Attornave for DIANE SANCHEZ				
7	DISTRICT COURT				
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA				
9	DIANE SANCHEZ,				
10) (A	ASE NO. A722815			
11		EPT. NO. XXV			
12 13	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,) NO	OTICE OF ENTRY OF DEFAULT			
14	CORPORATIONS I - X. inclusive.				
15	Defendants)				
16		dant Blas Bon was entered on March 31,			
17	7 2016.				
18		· 1			
19	- 11	. 1.			
20	DATED this 22 nd day of June, 2016.				
21	THE DOWELL LAW	/ FIRM			
22					
23					
24	Navada Dan Na. 7499	Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488			
25	6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210				
		υ			
26					
27					
28	3				

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 Pursuant to Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure 5 (b), I hereby certify that on the 22nd 3 day of June, 2016, the NOTICE OF ENTRY OF DEFAULT was served via electronic and 4 U.S. Mail service to the following counsel of record: 5 Marissa Temple, Esq. Blas Bon 6 MESSNER REEVES LLP 3900 Cambridge Street, #106 7 5556 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89119 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Via Certified Mail: 7015 0640 0004 8 Attorneys for Defendant 9496 4218 9 10 DeLawrence Templeton **DMA Claims Services** 11 PO Box 142768 Irving, Texas 75014 12 Via Certified Mail: 7015 0640 0004 13 9496 0395 14 /s/ Lauren Pellino 15 An Employee of THE POWELL LAW FIRM 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

CLERK OF THE COURT

		Nevada Bar No. 7488 THE POWELL LAW FIRM				
	3	6785 West Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118				
	4	paul@TPLF.com				
	5	Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501				
	6	Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ				
	7	DISTRICT	OURT			
	8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA				
	9	DIANE SANCHEZ,)			
	10	Plaintiff,) CASE NO. A722815) DEPT. NO. XXV			
	11	VS.)			
	12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,) DEFAULT ON DEFENDANT BLAS BON			
	13	individually; DOES I - X, and ROE				
	14	CORPORATIONS 1 - X, inclusive,)			
	15	Defendants.)			
	16	s and the shows entitled action that BLAS I				
	17	7 Defendant herein, being duly served with a copy of the Summons and Complaint through				
	18	Department of Motor of Vehicles on November 2, 2015; that more than twenty (20) days, exclusive				
_	19	of the day of service, having expired since service upon the Defendant; that no answer or other				
SE SE	20					
곳	MAR	Exprearance having been filed and no further time having been granted, the default of the above-				
유	20 12 4	med Defendant for failing to answer or otherwise plead to Plaintiff's Complaint is hereby entered.				
干	2206	THE POWELL LAW FIRM	CLERK-OF THE COURT			
CLERK OF THE COURT	24		Kalend Breau			
4	25		By: 1000000			

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

Paul D. Powell, Esq.

Deputy Clcrk Regional Justice Center

200 Lewis Avenuc 3 1 2016 Las Vegas, NV 89153

PATRICIA AZUCENA

27 28

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure 5 (b), I hereby certify that on the 21th day of March, 2016, the DEFAULT ON DEFENDANT, BLAS BON was served via electronic service to the following counsel of record:

Marissa Temple, Esq. MESSNER REEVES LLP 5556 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Attorneys for Defendant

An Employee of THE POWELL LAW FIRM

-2-

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1 2 3 4 5	MOT Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 The Powell Law Firm 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 paul@tplf.com Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501				
6	Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ				
7	DISTRICT COURT				
8	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA				
10	DIANE SANCHEZ,) CASE NO. A722815				
11	Plaintiff,) DEPT. NO. XXV vs.				
12	BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA,) PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AN AMENDED COMPLAINT				
14	individually; DOES I - X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,				
15	Defendants.				
16	Plaintiff Diane Sanchez, by and through his attorneys of record at The Powell Law Firm files				
17					
18	his Motion to Amend Complaint to add Wilfredoo Acosta as a defendant under NRS 41.440. This				
19	Motion is supported by the memorandum of Points and Authorities that follow, any exhibits attached				
20	hereto, and oral argument the Court may entertain.				
21 22	DATED this 29 th day of August, 2016.				
23					
24	THE POWELL LAW FIRM				
25	/s/ Paul Powell				
26	Paul D. Powell, Esq.				
27	Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210				
28	Las Vegas, NV 89118				

1 **NOTICE OF MOTION** 2 TO: Sarah Smith, Esq. MESSNER REEVES LLP 3 5556 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 100 4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Attorneys for Defendant 5 6 YOU AND EACH OF YOU PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Plaintiff will bring on for 7 hearing in Department 7 of the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, on the $\frac{0.4}{100}$ day 8 OCTOBER of ______, 2016, at the hour of 9:00A _____, his Motion for Leave to File Amended Complaint. 9 10 You are invited to submit any joinder or opposition that you may wish, and to attend and participate 11 in the hearing. 12 DATED this 29th day of August, 2016. 13 THE POWELL LAW FIRM 14 /s/ Paul Powell 15 Paul D. Powell, Esq. 16 Nevada Bar No. 7488 17 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

A. Facts.

This is a personal injury case. On April 28, 2015, Plaintiff Diane Sanchez ("Diane") was traveling northbound on Interstate 15. Traffic in front of Diane came to a stop, so Diane came to a stop. Cross Defendant Bon was unable to stop and the front of his car clipped the back of Diane's car. Cross-Defendant Bon, in an attempt to avoid hitting Diane, veered his car to the left.

Defendant Joseph Acosta ("Defendant Joseph") was traveling behind Cross Defendant Bon.

Defendant Joseph did not stop in time, and the front of the BMW he was driving crashed into the back of Diane's car. This propelled Diane into the car in front of her (who is a non-party to this action). See Ex. 1- Traffic Accident Report ("TAR") for a complete description of the crash.

Per the TAR, the owner of the vehicle driven by the Defendant Joseph is Wilfredoo Acosta ("Acosta"). Acosta is the father or Defendant Joseph. See Ex. 2 Defendant Joseph's Answers to Interrogatories, Answer # 15. Defendant Joseph was driving his father's car with his father's permission. Id.

Diane filed her Complaint in this matter on August 7, 2015. See Complaint of File with this Court. Defendant Joseph filed his answer and cross-claims against Cross-Defendant Bon on December 1, 2015. See Answer and Cross Claim on File with this Court. Discovery is ongoing, with discovery cut off currently set for February 14, 2017. See JCCR on File with this Court. The last day to file motions to amend pleadings or add parties is November 15, 2016. Id.

B. Law Germane to this Motion.

NRS 41.440 provides that:

Any liability imposed upon a wife, husband, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister or other immediate family member of a family arising out of his or her driving and operating a motor vehicle with the permission, express or implied, of such owner is

hereby imposed upon the owner of the motor vehicle, and such owner shall be jointly and severally liable with his or her wife, husband, son, daughter, father, mother, brother, sister or other immediate member of a family for any damages proximately resulting from such negligence or willful misconduct, and such negligent or willful misconduct shall be imputed to the owner of the motor vehicle for all purposes of civil damages.

NRCP 15 controls motions to amend pleadings. The following provision of NRCP 15(a) applies to amendments of pleadings after a responsive pleading has already been filed: "[A] party may amend the party's pleading only be leave of court or by written consent of the adverse party; and leave shall be freely given when justice requires." See Adamson v. Bowker, 405 P.2d 796 (Nev. 1969), citing Forman v. Davis, 371 U.S. 178, 83 S.Ct. 227, 9 L.Ed.2d 222 (1962) "Rule 15(a) declares that leave to amend 'shall be freely given when justice so requires'; this mandate is to be heeded." A motion to amend should only be denied if there is showing of dilatory motive, undue prejudice or futility of amendment. *Id*.

C. Argument.

This is a simple Motion. Pursuant to the mandate of NRCP 15 and cases interpreting same, Sanchez must be allowed to amend her Complaint. There is no question under NRS 41.440 that Wilfredo Acosta is jointly and severally liable for all damages caused by his son's (Defendant Joseph) negligence. There is no question Defendant Joseph had permission to use the car, and there is no question Wilfredo Acosta is Joseph's father. Thus, all prongs of NRS 41.440 are met.

There is no dilatory motive here- Sanchez is moving to add a party who appears to be jointly and severally liable for all of Defendant Joseph's damages. Amendment is not futile- NRCP 41.440 places liability on immediate family members when one family member causes injury to someone else using a "family" vehicle. There is no undue delay. Discovery is still ongoing, and there is plenty of time for Wilfredo Acosta to do any additional discovery he may feel is necessary. That

said, because Wilfredo Acosta's liability is derivative and stems from his son's negligence, there shouldn't be any additional discovery that Wilfredo would need to do anyway.

In short, this is a timely Motion supported by evidence indicating that Wilfredo Acosta should be added as a party and as provided by NRS 41.440.

D. Conclusion.

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiff's Motion to Amend should be granted. Attached at Ex. 3 is a copy of the proposed Amended Complaint. For ease of reference, the amendments are in bold. If the Motion is granted, the Amended Complaint will be filed without the text of the amendments being in bold.

DATED this 29th day of August, 2016.

THE POWELL LAW FIRM

/s/ Paul Powell

Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210 Las Vegas, NV 89118

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE Pursuant to Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure 5 (b), I hereby certify that on the 29th day of August, 2016, the PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE AN AMENDED **COMPLAINT** was served via electronic service to the following counsel of record: Sarah Smith, Esq. MESSNER REEVES LLP 5556 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Attorneys for Defendant /s/ Jenny Marimberga An Employee of THE POWELL LAW FIRM

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CLERK OF THE COURT

1 | ACOMP Paul D. Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 748

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Nevada Bar No. 7488 THE POWELL LAW FIRM

6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210

Las Vegas, Nevada 89118 Phone: (702) 728-5500 Facsimile: (702) 728-5501 Email: paul@TPLF.com

Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ

Attorneys for DIANE BANCIE

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

DIANE SANCHEZ,

Plaintiff,
vs.

BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA, individually; WILFREDO ACOSTA, individually;
DOES I - X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I - X, inclusive,

Defendants.

Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ, by and through attorney of record, PAUL D. POWELL, ESQ., of THE POWELL LAW FIRM complains against Defendants BLAS BON, JOSEPH ACOSTA and WILFREDO ACOSTA, as follows:

GENERAL ALLEGATIONS

- Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ (hereinafter "Plaintiff") is, and at all times mentioned herein, was, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada.
- That Defendants BLAS BON, JOSEPH ACOSTA and WILFRDO ACOSTA (hereinafter "Defendants") are, and at all times mentioned herein, were, a resident of the County of Clark, State of Nevada.
- 3. The true names and capacities of the Defendants designated herein as Doe or Roe Corporations are presently unknown to Plaintiff at this time, who therefore sues

Page 1 of 6

said Defendants by such fictitious names. When the true names and capacities of these defendants are ascertained, Plaintiff will amend this Complaint accordingly.

- 4. At all times pertinent, Defendants were agents, servants, employees or joint venturers of every other Defendant herein, and at all times mentioned herein were acting within the scope and course of said agency, employment, or joint venture, with knowledge and permission and consent of all other named Defendants.
- 5. Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA was, at all times mentioned herein, the operator of a 1997 BMW 52851, Nevada Plate No. 361LKK (hereinafter referred to as the "Vehicle"). The Vehicle was owned by Defendant WILFREDO ACOSTA.
- 6. On April 28, 2015, in Clark County, Nevada, Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA caused a crash with Plaintiff.
- 7. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff sustained injuries to Plaintiff's shoulders, back, bodily limbs, organs and systems, all or some of which condition may be permanent and disabling, and all to Plaintiff's damage in a sum in excess of \$10,000.
- 8. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff received medical and other treatment for the aforementioned injuries, and that said services, care, and treatment are continuing and shall continue in the future, all to the damage of Plaintiff.
- 9. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff has been required to, and has limited occupational and recreational activities, which have caused and shall continue to cause Plaintiff loss of earning capacity, lost wages,

- physical impairment, mental anguish, and loss of enjoyment of life, in a presently unascertainable amount.
- 10. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendants, Plaintiff's vehicle was damaged and Plaintiff lost the use of that vehicle.
- 11. As a direct and proximate result of the aforementioned negligence of all Defendants, Plaintiff has been required to engage the services of an attorney, incurring attorney's fees and costs to bring this action.

FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

- 12. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 11 of the Complaint as though said paragraphs were fully set forth herein.
- 13. Defendants owed Plaintiff a duty of care to operate their vehicles in a reasonable and safe manner. Defendant breached that duty of care by striking Plaintiff's vehicle on the roadway. As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of Defendant, Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

- 14. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 14 of the Complaint as though said paragraphs were fully set forth herein.
- 15. The acts of Defendants as described herein violated the traffic laws of the State of Nevada and Clark County, constituting negligence per se, and Plaintiff has been damaged as a direct and proximate result thereof in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00.

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THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

- 16. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1 through 15 of the Complaint as though said paragraphs were fully set forth herein.
- 17. Defendant WILFREDO ACOSTA was the registered owner of the Vehicle driven by Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA at the time of the acts plead herein.
- 18. Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA had either the express or implied permission of Defendant WILFREDO ACOSTA to operate the Vehicle.
- 19. Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA and Defendant WILFREDO ACOSTA are related as defined by NRS 41.440. To wit: WILFREDO ACOSTA is JOSEPH ACOSTA's father.
- 20. Pursuant to NRS 41.440, Defendant WILFREDO ACOSTA is jointly and severally liable for any damages proximately resulting from Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA's negligence.
- 21. Pursuant to NRS 41.440, Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA's negligence is imputed to Defendant WILFREDO ACOSTA for all purposes of civil damages.
- 22. As a direct and proximate cause of Defendant JOSEPH ACOSTA's negligence,
 Plaintiff has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff expressly reserving the right to amend this complaint prior to or at the time of trial of this action, to insert those items of damage not yet fully ascertainable, prays judgment against all Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- 1. For general damages sustained by Plaintiff in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00;
- 2. For special damages sustained by Plaintiff in an amount in excess of \$10,000.00;
- 3. For property damages sustained by Plaintiff;

- For reasonable attorney's fees and costs; 4.
- 5. For interest at the statutory rate; and
- For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper. 6.

DATED this _____day of October, 2016.

THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Paul D Powell, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7488 Michael A. Kristof, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 7780 6785 W. Russell Road, Suite 210

Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

Attorneys for DIANE SANCHEZ

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure 5 (b), I hereby certify that on the 12 th day of October, 2016, the AMENDED COMPLAINT was served via electronic service to the following counsel of record:

Sarah Smith, Esq.
MESSNER REEVES LLP
5556 S. Fort Apache Road, Suite 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148
Attorneys for Defendant

An Employee of THE POWELL LAW FIRM

Page 6 of 6

7/19/2019 3:14 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **JUDG** DENNIS M. PRINCE 2 Nevada Bar No. 5092 KEVIN T. STRONG 3 Nevada Bar No. 12107 PRINCE LAW GROUP 8816 Spanish Ridge Avenue 4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 Tel: 702.534.7600 5 Fax: 702.534.7601 Attorneys for Plaintiff 6 Diane Sanchez 7 DISTRICT COURT 8 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 9 Case No. A-15-722815-C DIANE SANCHEZ, 10 Dept. No. XXV Plaintiff, 11 **DEFAULT JUDGMENT** VS. 12 BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH 13 ACOSTA, individually, WILFREDO ACOSTA, individually, DOES I-X and ROE 14 CORPORATIONS I-X, inclusive, 15 Defendants. 16 Plaintiff Diane Sanchez's ("Sanchez") Application for Default Judgment was brought for 17 hearing in Department XXV of the Eighth Judicial District Court, before The Honorable Kathleen E. 18 Delaney, on the 11th day of June, 2019, with Dennis M. Prince and Kevin T. Strong of PRINCE LAW 19 GROUP, appearing on behalf of Plaintiff Diane Sanchez and no one appearing on behalf of Defendant 20 Blas Bon. The Court having reviewed the application on file herein, the documents attached thereto, 2.1 and being duly advised in the premises: 22 This matter arises from a motor vehicle collision involving four (4) cars that occurred on April 23 28, 2015. On August 7, 2015, Sanchez filed her Complaint for personal injuries against Defendants 24 Blas Bon ("Bon") and Joseph Acosta. On October 13, 2016, Sanchez filed her Amended Complaint



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confidential settlement of Sanchez's claims.

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wherein she named Wilfredo Acosta as an additional defendant. On October 16, 2018, Sanchez and

the Acosta Defendants filed their Stipulation and Order for Dismissal with Prejudice following their

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As to Bon, Sanchez filed her Affidavit of Due Diligence on October 22, 2015 wherein the process server described his failed efforts to personally serve Bon with the Summons and Complaint at his last known address on September 22, 2015. On March 29, 2016, Sanchez filed her Amended Affidavit of Compliance wherein she confirmed that Bon was served with the Summons and Complaint through the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to NRS 14.070, on November 2, 2015. On November 9, 2015, Sanchez also sent, via certified mail, copies of the Summons, Complaint, traffic accident report, and November 2, 2015 DMV letter confirming proof of service, to Bon's last known address: 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. This package went unclaimed and was returned to Sanchez on November 12, 2015. On April 1, 2016, the district court entered Default against Bon for his failure to file an answer to Sanchez's Complaint or to otherwise appear in the action within twenty (20) days of service. On March 29, 2019, Sanchez filed her Application for Entry of Default Judgment pursuant to NRCP 55(b)(2). The district court's entry of default constitutes an admission by Bon of all material facts alleged in Sanchez's Complaint. Estate of LoMastro v. Am. Family Ins. Group, 124 Nev. 1060, 1068 (2008). As a result, entry of default against Bon resolves the issues of liability and causation for all claims for relief in Sanchez's Complaint. Id. The only outstanding issue is the extent of Sanchez's damages.

Based on the foregoing, this Court finds and enters judgment against Bon as follows:

- 1. On April 28, 2015, Sanchez traveled northbound on Interstate 15 in a 1995 BMW 325i in the #5 travel lane. Bon drove a 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck, wherein he hauled two wheelbarrows in the truck bed, directly behind Sanchez. Bon negligently collided with the left side of Sanchez's rear bumper.
- 2. As a result of Bon's negligence, Sanchez sustained severe and life-altering injuries to her cervical spine and lumbar spine that required substantial medical treatment, including anterior artificial disc replacement surgery at L4-5 of her lumbar spine, as established by her medical records.
- 3. As a result of Bon's negligence, it is reasonably foreseeable that Sanchez will suffer ongoing pain, suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life. It is also reasonably foreseeable that Sanchez will

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Sanchez v. Bon, et al. Case No. A-15-722815-C Default Judgment

undergo future medical treatment to address her cervical and lumbar spine injuries and ongoing residual chronic pain complaints suffered as a result of Bon's negligence. Sanchez's need for future medical treatment and the associated costs for her future medical treatment are established by her medical records and opinions of her retained medical expert, David J. Oliveri, M.D. Dr. Oliveri offers these opinions to a reasonable degree of medical probability.

4. As a result of Bon's negligence, Sanchez suffered past economic damages and it is reasonably foreseeable that Sanchez will suffer future economic damages that consist of: (1) future medical expenses, (2) past and future loss of wages and employee benefits, (3) loss of past and future housekeeping and household management services, and (4) reduction in the value of life damages. The extent of Sanchez's past and future economic damages is established by the opinions of her retained economist, Stan V. Smith, Ph.D. Dr. Smith offers his opinions to a reasonable degree of economic probability. Sanchez's permanent functional capacity disability that will preclude her from working in the future is established by the opinions of Dr. Oliveri. Dr. Oliveri offers this opinion to a reasonable degree of medical probability.

Based upon the papers, pleadings, and evidence on file herein, judgment is hereby entered in favor of Plaintiff Diane Sanchez and against Defendant Blas Bon, jointly and severally, as follows:

Total Damages:	\$10,864,211.63
8. Pre-judgment interest as allowed by Nevada law on past damages:	<u>\$599,417.62</u>
7. Future reduction in the value of life:	\$2,685,877.00
6. Future pain and suffering:	\$3,000,000.00
5. Past pain and suffering:	\$2,000,000.00
4. Past and future economic loss of household services:	\$446,334.00
3. Past and future economic wage loss and employee benefits:	\$840,260.00
2. Future medical special damages:	\$827,038.00
1. Past medical special damages:	\$465,285.01

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Sanchez v. Bon, et al. Case No. A-15-722815-C Default Judgment

Attorneys' fees based on a contingency fee agreement of forty percent (40%) of the total judgment award in the amount of \$4,345,684.65 (\$10,864,211.63 * .40) pursuant to O'Connell v. Wynn Las Vegas, LLC, 134 Nev. Adv. Rep. 67, 429 P.3d 664, 670-71 (Nev. Ct. App. 2018).

A total judgment in the amount of \$15,209,896.28, plus costs in the amount of \$2,759.45, is hereby entered in favor of Plaintiff Diane Sanchez and against Defendant Blas Bon. Plaintiff Diane Sanchez shall also be entitled to interest as allowed by Nevada law from the date of entry hereof until the judgment is fully satisfied.

DATED this day of July, 2019.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Respectfully Submitted By:

PRINCE LAW GROUP

DENNIS M. PRINCE Nevada Bar No. 5092

KEVIN T. STRONG Nevada Bar No. 12107

Tel: 702.534.7600 Fax: 702.534.7601

Diane Sanchez

Attorneys for Plaintiff

8816 Spanish Ridge Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89148

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Prince Law Group 8816 Spanish Ridge I sa Vance, NV R914R 4

Electronically Filed 8/20/2019 11:25 AM Steven D. Grierson **CLERK OF THE COURT ORDR** 1 **DENNIS M. PRINCE** 2 Nevada Bar No. 5092 **KEVIN T. STRONG** Nevada Bar No. 12107 PRINCE LAW GROUP 8816 Spanish Ridge Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89148 5 Tel: (702) 534-7600 Fax: (702) 534-7601 E-service: <u>eservice@thedplg.com</u> Attorneys for Plaintiff 7 Diane Sanchez 8 DISTRICT COURT 9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 10 Case No. A-15-722815-C DIANE SANCHEZ, 11 Dept. No. XXV Plaintiff, 12 ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION PURSUANT TO NRS 13 21.320 FOR JUDICIAL BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ASSIGNMENT OF CLAIMS 14 AND/OR CAUSES OF ACTION ACOSTA, individually; WILFREDO ACOSTA, individually; DOES I-X and ROE **DEFENDANT BLAS BON HAS** 15 CORPORATIONS I-X, inclusive, AGAINST ATX PREMIER INSURANCE OR ANY OTHER 16 APPLICABLE LIABILITY INSURER Defendants. 17 18 19 Plaintiff's Motion Pursuant to NRS 21.320 for Judicial Assignment of Claims and/or Causes 20 of Action Defendant Blas Bon has Against ATX Premier Insurance or any other Applicable Liability Insurer was brought for hearing in Department XXV of the Eighth Judicial District Court, before The 21 Honorable Kathleen E. Delaney, on the 20th day of August, 2019, with Kevin T. Strong of PRINCE 22 LAW GROUP, appearing on behalf of Plaintiff Diane Sanchez, and no one appearing on behalf of 23 Defendant Blas Bon. The Court having reviewed the pleadings and papers on file herein and being 24 duly advised in the premises: 25 26 27 28

Case Number: A-15-722815-C

Order Granting Plaintiff's Motion Pursuant to NRS 21.320 for Judicial Assignment

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that Plaintiff's Motion Pursuant to NRS 21.320 for Judicial Assignment of Claims and/or Causes of Action Defendant Blas Bon has Against ATX Premier Insurance or any other Applicable Liability Insurer is **GRANTED**.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED, AND DECREED that all of Defendant Blas Bon's claims of any kind whatsoever, arising in contract or tort, including, but not limited to, claims for breach of contract, breach of the duty of good faith and fair dealing, breach of the duty to settle, breach of the contractual duty to defend, and any other tort claims or claims for breach of fiduciary duties, against his insurer(s), including, but not limited to, ATX Premier Insurance, or any other insurance company or entity, shall be assigned to Plaintiff Diane Sanchez to collect upon the judgment in the amount of \$15,212,655.73, plus any post-judgment interest.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED this day of August, 2019.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Respectfully Submitted By:

PRINCE LAW GROUP

DENNIS M. PRINCE

Nevada Bar No. 5092

KEVIN T. STRONG

Nevada Bar No. 12107

8816 Spanish Ridge Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89148

Tel: (702) 534-7600

22 | Fax: (702) 534-7601

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23 Attorneys for Plaintiff

Diane Sanchez

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EXHIBIT 21

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8	COMP DENNIS M. PRINCE Nevada Bar No. 5092 KEVIN T. STRONG Nevada Bar No. 12107 JONATHAN A. RICH Nevada Bar No. 15312 PRINCE LAW GROUP 8816 Spanish Ridge Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89148 P: (702) 534-7600 F: (702) 534-7601 Email: eservice@thedplg.com Attorneys for Plaintiff Diane Sanchez		Electronically Filed 11/13/2019 4:20 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT CASE NO: A-19-805351-0 Department 13			
10	DISTRI	ICT COURT				
11	CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA					
12						
13	DIANE SANCHEZ,					
14	Plaintiff,	CASE NO.:				
15	,	DEPT. NO.:				
16	VS.		COMPLAINT			
17	ATX PREMIER INSURANCE, a domestic corporation; WINDHAVEN NATIONAL					
18	INSURANCE COMPANY, a domestic					
19	corporation; DMA CLAIMS SERVICES, a foreign corporation; BLAS BON, an					
20	individual; DOES I-X and ROE CORPORATIONS I-X, inclusive,					
21	Defendants.					
22	Detendants.					
23						
24	Plaintiff Diane Sanchez, by and through	her attorneys of rec	ord, PRINCE LAW GROUP, and			
25	for her Complaint against Defendants ATX					
26	Company, DMA Claims Services, and Blas Bon	, asserts and alleges	s as follows:			
27	///					
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	•					



Case Number: A-19-805351-C

2,

I.

PARTIES & JURISDICTION

- 1. That all incidents complained of herein occurred in the County of Clark, State of Nevada.
- 2. At all times relevant herein, Plaintiff Diane Sanchez (hereinafter as "Ms. Sanchez") is and was a resident of the State of Nevada.
- 3. That the true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, or otherwise, of DOES I through X and ROES business entities, inclusive, are unknown to Ms. Sanchez, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Ms. Sanchez is informed and believes and upon that basis alleges that each of the Defendants designated herein as a DOE Defendant are responsible in some manner for events and happenings herein referred to and caused damages proximately thereby to Ms. Sanchez as herein alleged. Ms. Sanchez further alleges that she will ask leave of this Court to amend this Complaint to insert the true names, identities, and capacities of said DOES I through X and ROE Business Entities I-X, inclusive, when the same have been ascertained by Ms. Sanchez, together with appropriate charging allegations.
- 4. Based upon information and belief, Defendant ATX Premier Insurance (hereinafter as "ATX"), was a domestic corporation domiciled in the State of Florida and authorized to do the business of insurance as a property and casualty insurer in the State of Nevada since January 3, 1994.
- 5. Based upon information and belief, Defendant Windhaven National Insurance Company (hereinafter as "Windhaven") is a domestic corporation domiciled in the State of Florida. Windhaven purchased the assets of ATX effective October 24, 2016, thereby assuming all authorizations, obligations, liabilities, and duties owed by ATX. Windhaven is authorized to do the business of insurance as a property and casualty insurer in the State of Nevada as the successor entity to ATX. As the successor of ATX, Windhaven is liable for all debts and obligations of ATX in any and all amounts caused to Ms. Sanchez by ATX's breach of duties described herein.
- 6. Based upon information and belief, Defendant DMA Claims Services (hereinafter as "DMA"), is a foreign corporation domiciled in the State of Nevada and authorized to do the business of insurance claims adjustment as an independent adjuster since November 14, 2001.





7. Based upon information and belief, Defendant Blas Bon (hereinafter as "Bon") is, and at all time mentioned herein, was, a resident of the State of Nevada.

II.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 8. Prior to April 15, 2015, ATX issued a personal liability policy to non-party Hipolito Cruz (hereinafter as "Cruz"), policy number ANV00003087. The policy included personal automobile liability insurance coverage. The liability insurance coverage limits are for bodily injury claims of \$15,000.00 per person and \$30,000.00 per occurrence (the "Policy").
- 9. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Policy, ATX agreed to provide liability insurance coverage to its insureds, including coverage for those liability claims arising out of the permissive use of an insured vehicle by third parties.
- 10. On April 15, 2015, Bon was driving Cruz's 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck with the express permission of Cruz. As a permissive driver of the Cruz vehicle, Bon had coverage as an insured under the ATX policy for the injuries caused to Ms. Sanchez.
- 11. On or about April 15, 2015, Ms. Sanchez was driving her vehicle northbound on I-15 behind non-party Donna Evans ("Evans"), in Clark County, Nevada. Bon, while operating the Cruz vehicle, negligently operated the Cruz vehicle so as to cause it to strike Ms. Sanchez's vehicle. In addition, Ms. Sanchez's vehicle was struck by another liable party who Ms. Sanchez subsequently resolved her claims against.
- 12. As a result of the subject collision, Ms. Sanchez sustained catastrophic and life altering injuries to her neck and back.
- 13. At the time of the subject collision, ATX had issued an automobile liability insurance policy to Cruz. Bon was driving the insured vehicle with permission from Cruz. Bon, as a permissive user of the insured vehicle was personally insured by ATX. ATX owed Bon a contractual duty to defend; a duty of good faith and fair dealing to defend, indemnify or settle Ms. Sanchez's claims when it knew of the pendency of the action; a duty to timely intervene; a duty to diligently investigate the facts and circumstances of Ms. Sanchez's accident; and a duty to settle the claim within the policy limits when it had a reasonable opportunity to do so or take action to protect the interests of its insureds.

	14.	Prior to the accident, ATX and DMA entered into a contract wherein DMA agreed to
serve as	s an inc	lependent adjuster for claims received by ATX. DMA assumed a duty to carry out the
terms a	nd cond	ditions owed by ATX to Ms. Sanchez under the Policy.

- 15. Following the accident, on May 21, 2015, Ms. Sanchez, through her counsel, reported her claim to ATX, which included her medical records, bills, and other supporting documentation. ATX assigned Ms. Sanchez's claim a claim number of DMA-0147074, signifying that DMA would serve as an independent adjuster for Ms. Sanchez's claim. Ms. Sanchez's medical specials at that time totaled in excess of \$8,000.00, and Ms. Sanchez was still undergoing treatment for her injuries.
- 16. On June 16, 2015, Ms. Sanchez sent DMA a written demand letter pursuant to the direction of ATX that it would serve as a third-party claims administrator, offering to settle the matter concerning the subject collision for all applicable policy limits. The demand letter made clear that Ms. Sanchez would file suit if no response was received prior to June 30, 2015. DMA and ATX failed to respond to Ms. Sanchez's letter prior to June 30, 2015.
- 17. On July 10, 2015, DMA sent Ms. Sanchez a letter acknowledging that DMA represented the interests of ATX regarding the subject collision. No further communications from DMA were received by Ms. Sanchez or appointed counsel.
- 18. Pursuant to DMA's agreement with ATX to serve as an independent adjuster, DMA assumed certain contractual duties and obligations including, a duty to timely respond to electronic and written communications as well as a duty to investigate Ms. Sanchez's claim under Nevada law and failed to do so.
- 19. On August 7, 2015, a Complaint was filed by Ms. Sanchez against Bon and the other defendant who hit her vehicle in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Case No. A-15-722815-C. The allegations contained in the Complaint are incorporated herein by this reference as if fully set forth herein. In the Complaint, Ms. Sanchez alleged, among other things, that (1) Defendants were negligent in causing the accident and injuries to Ms. Sanchez; and (2) Bon operated the truck owned by Cruz during the subject collision.
- 20. Bon was properly served, under Nevada law, with the Summons, Complaint, and traffic accident report.



- 21. On December 11, 2015, Ms. Sanchez through her counsel sent ATX a letter withdrawing her demand.
- 22. On January 20, 2016, Ms. Sanchez through her counsel sent ATX a letter advising that Bon had been served and provided a copy of the Summons and Complaint.
 - 23. ATX and DMA failed to respond to the January 20, 2016 correspondence.
- 24. On February 16, 2016, Ms. Sanchez again sent ATX another letter advising that Bon had not provided an Answer to Ms. Sanchez's Complaint and that a request for the Court to enter a Default would be entered if Bon failed to provide an Answer to Ms. Sanchez's Complaint.
 - 25. Bon subsequently failed to provide an Answer to Ms. Sanchez's Complaint.
 - 26. ATX and DMA failed to respond to the February 16, 2016 correspondence.
- 27. On April 1, 2016, the district court entered Default against Bon for his failure to file an answer to Ms. Sanchez's Complaint or to otherwise appear in the action within twenty (20) days of service.
- 28. Even after being notified of the entry of default, ATX failed and refused to investigate, provide a defense, or indemnify its insureds for this substantial loss. ATX did not hire counsel, request that the default be set aside, or undertake any steps to defend its insureds.
- 29. Based upon the allegations set forth in the Complaint, ATX had a duty to defend its insureds against the allegations in Ms. Sanchez's Complaint under Nevada law and failed to do so.
- 30. On October 24, 2016, ATX changed its name and began doing business as Windhaven National Insurance Company while maintaining its principal and mailing addresses. Windhaven assumed all duties and obligations owed by ATX to Ms. Sanchez under the Policy.
- 31. On March 29, 2019, Ms. Sanchez filed an Application for Entry of Default Judgment pursuant to NRCP 55(b)(2) seeking a judicial determination of damages. A notice of the hearing was served upon Bon.
- 32. On July 19, 2019, a Default Judgment was entered in the amount of \$10,864,211.63 against Bon.
- 33. On July 19, 2019, Ms. Sanchez filed a Motion Pursuant to NRS 21.320 for Judicial Assignment of Claims and/or Causes of Action Defendant Blas Bon has Against ATX Insurance or any other Applicable Liability Insurer.



- 34. On August 20, 2019, an Order Granting Ms. Sanchez's Motion Pursuant to NRS 21.320 for Judicial Assignment of Claims and/or Causes of Action Defendant Blas Bon has Against ATX Insurance or any other Applicable Liability Insurer was entered. Ms. Sanchez as the assignee has the legal right and ability to assert all claims against ATX and Windhaven to satisfy the full judgment amount based upon the breach of duties owed to Bon.
- 35. Defendants ATX and Windhaven have failed to compensate Ms. Sanchez for all damages she incurred in excess of Bon's liability limits, to the extent of the first-party policy benefits under the policy issued by ATX. ATX and Windhaven had a duty to indemnify its insureds for the loss suffered by Ms. Sanchez under Nevada law and failed to do so.

FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of Contract Against Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA)

- 36. Ms. Sanchez repeats and realleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1-35 as though fully set forth herein.
- 37. A contract of insurance existed between ATX and Cruz on the date of the accident described herein. Cruz and Bon are insureds under the terms and conditions of the ATX policy. Defendants owed contractual duties to Cruz and Bon.
- 38. At the time of the subject incident, all premiums were paid under Cruz's insurance policy. All proofs of loss were submitted under said policy, and Cruz and Bon performed all conditions required by the policy to be performed.
- 39. Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA breached their contractual duties owed to Bon by failing to defend, indemnify, investigate, or settle Ms. Sanchez's claims when it knew of the pendency of the action, failed to timely intervene, and failed to settle the claim within policy limits when it had a reasonable opportunity to do so or take action to protect the interests of its insureds. Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA are legally bound by the judgment entered in Case No. A-15-722815-C, in the amount of \$10,864,211.63 and must satisfy the same.
- 40. As a result thereof, Ms. Sanchez has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00.
- 41. Ms. Sanchez has been compelled to retain the services of an attorney to prosecute this action and is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred herein.



SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing Against Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA)

- 42. Ms. Sanchez repeats and realleges the allegations contained in paragraphs 1-41 as though fully set forth herein.
- 43. That Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA owed a duty of good faith and fair dealing arising out of the contract of insurance to Cruz and Bon.
- 44. Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA breached their duty of good faith and fair dealing owed to Bon by failing to defend, indemnify, investigate or settle Ms. Sanchez's claims when it knew of the pendency of the action, failed to timely intervene, failed to diligently investigate the facts and circumstances of Ms. Sanchez's accident, and failed to settle the claim within the policy limits when it had a reasonable opportunity to do so or take action to protect the interests of its insureds.
- 45. As a result of Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA bad faith refusal to defend, indemnify, investigate, intervene, or settle Ms. Sanchez's claim, Ms. Sanchez has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00.
- 46. Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA conduct was willful, wanton, malicious, oppressive and done in reckless disregard of Ms. Sanchez's rights. By reason of Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA conduct and the bad faith, Ms. Sanchez is entitled to exemplary and punitive damages.
- 47. Ms. Sanchez has been compelled to retain the services of an attorney to prosecute this action and is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred herein.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violation of Nevada's Unfair Claims Practices Act Against Defendants ATX,

Windhaven, and DMA)

48. Ms. Sanchez repeats and realleges the allegations contained in Paragraphs 1-47 as though fully set forth herein.

	49.	Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA were obligated to comply with Nevada's
Unfair	Claims	Practices Act set forth in NRS 686A.310 plus all other applicable regulations adopted
by the	Nevada	Insurance Commissioner.

- 50. Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA rejected Ms. Sanchez's offer to settle her claim for the policy limit prior to Ms. Sanchez commencing litigation.
- 51. Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA failed to diligently investigate the facts and circumstances of Ms. Sanchez's accident, fairly evaluate her claim, and act promptly and reasonably in rejecting or settling the claim.
- 52. By failing and refusing to defend, indemnify and/or settle Ms. Sanchez's claim, Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA violated NRS 686A.310 as well as regulations adopted by the Nevada Insurance Commissioner.
- 53. As a result of Defendants ATX, Windhaven, and DMA violation of NRS 686A.310 and accompanying regulations, Ms. Sanchez has been damaged in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00.
- 54. Ms. Sanchez has been compelled to retain the services of an attorney to prosecute this action and is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred herein.

FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Action on the Default Judgment Against Defendant Blas Bon)

- 55. Ms. Sanchez repeats and realleges the allegations set forth in Paragraphs 1-54 as though fully set forth herein.
- 56. On July 19, 2019, the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, entered a Default Judgment against Bon in the amount of \$10,864,211.63.
- 57. The July 19, 2019 Default Judgment was entered against Bon for his failure to file an answer to Ms. Sanchez's Complaint for personal injuries, filed on August 7, 2015, or to otherwise appear in that action within twenty (20) days of service of the Summons and Complaint for personal injuries.
- 58. As a direct result of the Eighth Judicial District Court's entry of the Default Judgment against Bon, all issues of liability, causation, and damages arising from Ms. Sanchez's personal injury claims are fully resolved.



60. As the judgment debtor, Bon is legally responsible for satisfying the full amount of the Default Judgment entered against him on July 19, 2019 and in the amount of \$10,864,211.63.

Ms. Sanchez, as the judgment creditor, hereby reserves the right to utilize all remedies under Nevada law to collect on the July 19, 2019 Default Judgment by way of her action on the default judgment, including the Court's issuance of a writ of attachment upon the personal property of Bon pursuant to NRS 31.010 et seq.; the Court's issuance of a writ of garnishment upon the money, credits, effects, debts, choses in action, and other personal property of Bon pursuant to NRS 31.240 et seq.; replevin; or any other means of collection available to her under Nevada law.

62. Ms. Sanchez has been compelled to retain the services of an attorney to prosecute this action and is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred herein.

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EXHIBIT 22

From: 01/22/2020 09:25 #545 P.002/002



ATTORNEYS AT LAW

400 SOUTH RAMPART BLVD., SUITE 400 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89145 702.362 7800

kInevada.com

January 22, 2020

Via Facsimile: (702) 534-7601

Dennis M. Prince, Esq. Kevin T. Strong, Esq. PRINCE LAW GROUP 10801 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite 560 Las Vegas, NV 89135

Re: Diane Sanchez v. Blas Bon, et.al.

Eighth Judicial District Court Case No. A-15-722815-C

Our File No. 10917-1

Dear Counsel:

In response to your correspondence of January 21, 2020, I can advise that I have been retained to represent Mr. Bon in the state court action, noted above. I am not representing the insurance company, Windhaven fka ATX, or DMA Claims, Inc., which are represented by Mr. Podesta and Mr. Schumacher, respectively. Also, as of this time, I have not been retained to represent Mr. Bon in the federal enforcement action (Case 2:19-cv-02196-RFB-VCF).

Very truly yours,

KOLESAR & LEATHAM

William P. Volk, Esq.

WPV/laf

cc: John H. Podesta, Esq.

john.podesta@wilsonelser.com Robert E. Schumacher, Esq. rschumacher@grsm.com

3310529 (10917-1)

EXHIBIT 23



January 23, 2020

Via Facsimile (702) 362-9472

William P. Volk William D. Schuller KOLESAR & LEATHAM 400 South Rampart Boulevard Suite 400 Las Vegas, Nevada 89145

> Re: Sanchez v. Bon et al. Case No. A-15-722815

Case No. 2:19-cv-02196-RFB-VCF

Dear Mr. Volk,

Thank you for your letter dated January 22, 2020 wherein you confirm that you have been retained to represent Mr. Bon in the state court action. Based on your retention, please advise of Mr. Bon's whereabouts so that we may serve him with the summons and complaint in the federal enforcement action (Case No. 2:19-cv-02196-RFB-VCF). Please also confirm whether you waive acceptance of service of the summons and complaint on Mr. Bon's behalf in the federal enforcement action pursuant to FRCP 4(e).

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

PRINCE LAW GROUP

Dennis M. Prince Kevin T. Strong

10801 W. Charleston Boulevard, Suite 560, Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 T: 702.534.7600 | F: 702.534.7601 www.thedplg.com

Electronically Filed 10/19/2020 11:12 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

MAMJ 1 WILLIAM P. VOLK, (SBN 6167) HOLLEY DRIGGS 400 S. Fourth Street 3 Suite 300 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 (702) 791-0308 4 WVolk@NevadaFirm.com 5 Daniel F. Polsenberg (SBN 2376) JOEL D. HENRIOD (SBN 8492) 6 ABRAHAM G. SMITH (SBN 13,250) LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP 7 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 8 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169-5996 (702) 949-8200 DPolsenberg@LRRC.com 9 JHenriod@LRRC.com 10 ASmith@LRRC.com 11 Attorneys for Defendant Blas Bon 12

> DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

DIANE SANCHEZ,

Plaintiff,

vs.

17 BLAS BON, INDIVIDUALLY; JOSEPH ACOSTA, INDIVIDUALLY; WILFREDO ACOSTA, INDIVIDUALLY; DOES I-X AND ROE CORPORATIONS I-X, INCLUSIVE,

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Case No. A-15-722815-C

Dept. No. 25

[Hearing Requested]

MOTION FOR REHEARING AND TO ALTER OR AMEND THE JUDGMENT AND ORDER DENYING RULE 60(b) RELIEF

Defendants.

Defendant Blas Bon asks thabreis Court to rehear the Rule 60(b) motion and to enter an order vacating its prior order and default judgment, which are void for lack of due process. NRCP 60(b)(4), 59(e); see also NRCP 52(b), 54(c), 55(c). See generally Lytle v. Rosemere Estates Prop. Owners, 129 Nev. 923, 926, 314 P.3d 946, 948 (2013) ("a motion to alter or amend is permitted as to any appealable order, not just final judgments").

Hearing this motion now allows this Court to correct the constitutional error before it is reversed on appeal.

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ARGUMENT

The judgment against defendant Blas Bon is void for lack of due process. First, the judgment violates Bon's due process right to actual notice of the complaint through proper service under NRCP 4. Second, the judgment is unconstitutional because the complaint itself does not provide notice of Bon's potential liability for a judgment for more than \$10 million in damages (ultimately more than \$15 million, with interest). As a void judgment may be vacated at any time, *Rawson v. Ninth Judicial Dist. Court*, 133 Nev., Adv. Op. 44, 396 P.3d 842, 848 & n.4 (2017), this Court should correct these constitutional errors now, on rehearing, rather than awaiting a reversal by the Supreme Court.

I.

THE DEFAULT JUDGMENT IS VOID BECAUSE IT WAS ENTERED WITHOUT ACTUAL SERVICE UPON THE DEFENDANT, OR EVEN A DILIGENT ATTEMPT

Bon did not get proper service, either of the original complaint or the amended complaint on which the default judgment was ultimately entered. Plaintiff Diane Sanchez concedes that the summons and complaint—mailed only to a community center that was plainly not a permanent place of abode—were returned unserved, and she made *no* effort, much less a diligent one, to locate Bon through the other address and place of employment he provided in the initial accident report.

A. Standard of Review

"The statutory provisions for acquiring jurisdiction over a defendant by other than personal service must be strictly pursued." Foster v. Lewis, 78 Nev. 330, 333, 372 P.2d 679, 680–81 (1962) (citing State ex rel. Crummer v. Fourth Judicial Dist. Court, 68 Nev. 527, 238 P.2d 1125 and Perry v. Seventh Judicial Dist. Court, 42 Nev. 284, 174 P. 1058 (1918).

This is because constructive service raises grave due process concerns. *Browning v. Dixon*, 114 Nev. 213, 216–18, 954 P.2d 741, 743–44 (1998). The

Nevada Supreme Court has so held expressly in the context of service through the DMV under NRS 14.070:

> [T]he phrase "cannot be found" imposes an affirmative obligation on a plaintiff to diligently search for a resident motorist defendant to determine whether the defendant has, in fact, departed the state or cannot be located within the state. Any other conclusion contravenes the plain meaning of the statute and *violates the principles of procedural due process*.

Id. (emphasis added) (citing *Sheriff v. Wu*, 101 Nev. 687, 689–90, 708 P.2d 305, 306 (1985) ("Where a statute may be given conflicting interpretations, one rendering it constitutional, and the other unconstitutional, the constitutional interpretation is favored.")).

B. Due Process Requires Due Diligence, Including Reasonable Efforts to Locate a Defendant through the Information He Provides

1. New NRCP 4.4 Codifies Existing Due Process Requirements

In 2019, the Nevada Supreme Court promulgated comprehensive amendments to the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure. In many cases, those rules aimed at clarifying or codifying what previously had developed through the common law. See, e.g., 2019 Advisory Committee Note to Rule 41.

So, too, with the amendments to former Rule 4, now spread across five rules (Rules 4, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, and 4.4). In particular, Rule 4.4(b) prevents the hasty resort to service by publication or other constructive methods by requiring plaintiffs to exhaust certain several alternatives for locating a hard-to-find defendant, such as: "the defendant's known, or last-known, contact information, including the defendant's address, phone numbers, email addresses, social media accounts, or any other information used to communicate with the defendant." NRCP 4.4(b)(2)(A)(ii). Even then, the plaintiff must should how the alternative service method "comports with due process." NRCP 4.4(b)(2)(B). This provision is modeled on Rule 4.1(k) of the Arizona Rules of Civil Procedure,

Rule 4.4(b), and was expressly designed to "authorize[] the court to fashion a method of service *consistent with due process* when no other available service meth-od remains besides publication, which should only be used as a last resort." 2019 Advisory Committee Notes to Rule 4.4 (emphasis added).

These alternative efforts, in other words, track what due process already requires. *See Browning v. Dixon*, 114 Nev. 213, 216–18, 954 P.2d 741, 743–44 (1998) (holding that due process requires attempted service by alternative means before resorting to NRS 14.070 or service by publication under former NRCP 4(e)(1)(i)).

That Nevada drew from Arizona in codifying the due process requirement of alternative service is no surprise. Like Nevada, Arizona holds that alternative means of service "other than personal service must be strictly construed. Llamas v. Superior Court in & for Pima County, 474 P.2d 459, 460 (Ariz. 1970) (citing Miller v. Corning Glass Works, 429 P.2d 438 (Ariz. 1967); compare Foster v. Lewis, 78 Nev. 330, 333, 372 P.2d 679, 680–81 (1962). In Ruffino v. Lokosky, for instance, the plaintiff's process server conducted a skip trace and nine times attempted to serve the defendant at three different addresses before serving by publication. 425 P.3d 1108, 1110–11 (Ariz. Ct. App. 2018). As a matter of law, this was insufficient: "[D]ue process impose[s] a requirement that service by publication be the best means practicable to provide notice to the interested party." Id. at 1113. In that case, that meant attempting "modern methods of communication, especially email" through alternative service, rather than through publication in a distant newspaper. Id.; cf. also Llamas v. Superior Court in & for Pima County, 474 P.2d 459, 460 (Ariz. 1970) (vacating as void a default judgment entered after publication when the plaintiff could have ascertained the defendant's identity through mortgage documents and the phone book); Sprang v. Petersen Lumber, Inc., 798 P.2d 395, 399-400 (Ariz. Ct. App. 1990) (county property records ought to have been searched).

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The Nevada Supreme Court has imposed similar due diligence requirements on plaintiffs seeking service by publication or through the DMV under NRS 14.070. These extraordinary measures of last resort apply only when "the defendant has, in fact, departed the state or cannot be located within the state." Browning v. Dixon, 114 Nev. 213, 216–18, 954 P.2d 741, 743–44 (1998); NRS 14.070(5), (6). "Cannot" presupposes some level of impossibility or at least impracticability: "Where other reasonable methods exist for locating the whereabouts of a defendant, plaintiff should exercise those methods." Price v. Dunn, 106 Nev. 100, 103, 787 P.2d 785, 787 (1990).

Three specific ways of finding a defendant that a plaintiff must ordinarily exhaust are the defendant's employer, Browning v. Dixon, 114 Nev. 213, 215, 954 P.2d 741, 742 (1998), information provided in a police report, Abreu v. Gilmer, 115 Nev. 308, 314, 985 P.2d 746, 749 (1999), and the defendant's acquaintances, Price v. Dunn, 106 Nev. 100, 103, 787 P.2d 785, 787 (1990). In Abreu, the Supreme Court held that a plaintiff had acted diligently, in part because there was no police report to assist in locating the defendant. 115 Nev. at 314, 985 P.2d at 749. In Browning, by contrast, the defendant's employer was known, so although the defendant moved after the accident, the plaintiff ought to have sought the defendant through inquiring at his work. 114 Nev. at 218, 954 P.2d at 744. See also Gassett v. Snappy Car Rental, 111 Nev. 1416, 906 P.2d 258 (1995) (no attempt to locate the defendant through her known attorney). Likewise, in *Price v. Dunn*, the plaintiff's technical compliance with the rule did not excuse failure to exhaust reasonable means of locating and serving the defendant, including contacting the defendant's relatives. 106 Nev. 100, 787 P.2d 785 (1990).

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C. Sanchez Did Not Attempt to Locate Bon through His Employer or the Address He Provided for the Vehicle He Borrowed

Here, Sanchez did not satisfy due process through a diligent exhaustion of the information that Bon himself provided at the time of the accident. As detailed in the prior motion (at 6–7), Bon identified his employer, South West Trees (which a Google search confirms is located at 2901 S. Highland Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109), and 4000 Abrams Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89110 as the address of Hipolito Felipe Cruz, the owner of the car, from whom Bon had borrowed the car and who clearly knew Bon. (Ex. 1 to Default Judgment Application.)

Sanchez tried neither. (Default Judgment Application.) Sanchez cannot, by having a process server tick off *other* mechanical boxes like voter registration records, excuse the failure to do what any reasonable person trying to find Bon outside of litigation would do: ask his employer and the car's owner, both who knew him and likely could have located him at the time.

Sanchez complains that Bon might not have *lived* at those addresses, but that misses the point. Bon clearly did not live at the community center, either, as evidenced by the unsuccessful attempt to mail him the complaint through the DMV. But those efforts would have likely helped *locate* Bon to be personally served. And even if this proved difficult, Sanchez could have moved for additional time. She could have moved for service by alternative means, or as a last resort, when the summons and complaint returned unopened from the DMV, she could have moved for service by publication. She did none of these things. Because "reasonable methods exist[ed] for locating the whereabouts of [Bon], [Sanchez] should [have] exercise[d] those methods." *See Price v. Dunn*,

¹ Without trying, however, Sanchez cannot establish this. Co-defendant Joseph Acosta served a cross-claim on Bon at the Abrams address. (Exx. 1–2 to Motion to Enlarge Time.)

106 Nev. 100, 103, 787 P.2d 785, 787 (1990).

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D. The Defective Service Voids the Judgment

Defective service is a due process violation. It is not something that can be cast aside, as Sanchez attempts, by pointing the finger at alleged failures by the defendant's insurance company, or excused by speculation that the defendant likely heard about the lawsuit through other means. Cf. Feinstein v. Bergner, 397 N.E.2d 1161, 1164–65 (N.Y. 1979) ("actual notice of the suit does not cure this defect, since notice received by means other than those authorized by statute cannot serve to bring a defendant within the jurisdiction of the court"). A defendant is entitled to service as a matter of due process, and defective service renders a default judgment void. Gassett v. Snappy Car Rental, 111 Nev. 1416, 1419, 906 P.2d 258, 261 (1995).

Here, Sanchez's failure to personally serve Bon or even exercise due diligence to locate him render the judgment void.

\mathbf{E} . The Amended Complaint Was Not Served

Sanchez admits that she did not even try to give Bon notice of the amended complaint through service under Rule 4 or even under Rule 5. So the due process violation from the failure to serve the initial complaint stood uncorrected. What's more, as stated in Bon's original motion (at 12–13), this amended complaint changed the fundamental allegations about what happened and which defendant was responsible for what. This violation of Rule 5(a) independently violated Bon's due process.

F. Improper Service Is Not Excused by Accusations against an Insurer

Sanchez improperly relies on unsubstantiated charges against ATX, an insurance company, but those accusations do not forfeit Bon's right to due process. Sanchez speculates that Bon's insurer might not have provided a defense even if Bon had been properly served. That kind of counterfactual musing,

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ewis Roca. however, cannot excuse ignoring the requirements of due process.

Bon had a right to be served with the complaint and the amended complaint: he could have been appointed counsel, but even if not, he could have represented himself or retained counsel. Sanchez's grievances against Bon's insurer do not justify the due process deprivation.

II.

THE DEFAULT JUDGMENT IS VOID FOR LACK OF NOTICE OF THE DAMAGES

The default judgment entered against Bon is also void for lack of due process because it purports to award more than \$15.2 million to plaintiff, despite plaintiff's complaint and amended complaint having sought only "an amount in excess of \$10,000.00 for general damages" and an "an amount in excess of \$10,000.00 for special damages." In other words, the default judgment for \$15.2 million drastically "exceeds in amount" plaintiff's request for a total of \$20,000 in the operative pleadings, which could not have apprised and did not apprise Bon (or anyone else) of the actual relief at issue. The default judgment must therefore be vacated or, in the alternative, amended to reflect a maximum of \$20,000 in damages.

A. Nevada's General Pleading Rules for Cases in Which All Parties Appear Must Bend to Constitutional Due Process

It is true that the version of NRCP 8(a)(4) in effect in 2016 provided that, "if the pleader seeks more than \$10,000 in monetary damages, the demand for relief may request damages 'in excess of \$10,000' without further specification of the amount." In turn, NRCP 54(c) has allowed courts to determine the amount of damages when the prayer for relief is unspecified pursuant to NRCP 8(a)(4). The Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure, however, cannot permit parties and courts to do what the Constitution forbids.

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B. Due Process Requires Notice of the Amount of Damages a Plaintiff Will Seek via Default

1. The Complaint Must State the Amount of Damages to Be Recovered if the Defendant Defaults

More specifically, constitutional due-process requirements prohibit default judgments that "differ in kind from, or exceed in amount," the demands in the relevant pleadings. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c) ("A default judgment must not differ in kind from, or exceed in amount, what is demanded in the pleadings."); see also Amendola et al., 16D C.J.S. Constitutional Law § 1946 (Sept. 2020 Update) ("The content of [a] notice must apprise the defendant of the nature of the claim and of the relief sought. For due process purposes, the notice must inform one of the antagonist's demands and of the consequences of a default") (citing In re Marriage of Lippel, 51 Cal. 3d 1160, 1166 (1990) ("It is fundamental to the concept of due process that a defendant be given notice of the existence of a lawsuit and notice of the specific relief which is sought in the complaint served upon him. The logic underlying this principle is simple: a defendant who has been served with a lawsuit has the right, in view of the relief which the complainant is seeking from him, to decide not to appear and defend."); Greenup v. Rodman, 42 Cal. 3d 822, 826 (1986) ("a default judgment greater than the amount specifically demanded is void as beyond the court's jurisdiction," even when the defendant has actual notice of some greater amount at issue)) (other citations omitted).

2. Federal Courts Recognize the Due Process Limit on Rule 54(c)

This has been always been the common-law rule and was retained by the federal courts even after pleading standards were relaxed in favor of "notice pleading." *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 54, Notes of Advisory Committee on Rules – 1937 ("Note to Subdivision (c). For the limitation on default contained in the first sentence, *see* 2 N.D. COMP. LAWS ANN. (1913) §7680; N.Y.C.P.A. (1937) §479.

Compare English Rules Under the Judicature Act (The Annual Practice, 1937) O. 13, r.r. 3–12."); see also Nat'l Discount Corp. v. O'Mell, 194 F.2d 452, 455-56 (6th Cir. 1952) ("Rule 54(c), Rules of Civil Procedure, provides 'A judgment by default shall not be different in kind from or exceed in amount that prayed for in the demand for judgment.' The rule was well settled even before the adoption of the Rules of Civil Procedure that in rendering a default judgment the Court can only give to the plaintiff such relief as was proper upon the face of the bill." (citing Thomson v. Wooster, 114 U.S. 104, 113-114 (1885); Clifton v. Tomb, 21 F.2d 893, 897 (4th Cir. 1927); H. Wagner & Adler Co. v. Mali, 74 F.2d 666, 669 (2d Cir. 1935)).

In short, Rule 54(c) merely codified the constitutional due-process limitations for default judgments, which existed and still exist independently of Rule 54(c) itself. See Wright & Miller, 10 Federal Practice and Procedure § 2663 (4th ed.) (April 2020 update) ("It would be fundamentally unfair to have the complaint lead defendant to believe that only a certain type and dimension of relief was being sought and then, should defendant attempt to limit the scope and size of the potential judgment by not appearing or otherwise defaulting, allow the court to give a different type of relief or a larger damage award. In a similar vein, unless all the parties in interest have appeared and voluntarily litigated an issue not within the pleadings, the court should consider only those issues presented in the pleadings. In sum, then, a default judgment may not extend to matters outside the issues raised by the pleadings or beyond the scope of the relief demanded. A judgment in a default case that awards relief that either is more than or different in kind from that requested originally is null and void[,] and defendant may attack it collaterally in another proceeding.") (citations omitted).

3. Most States Agree with this Due-Process Limitation

Most states also follow the federal rule (almost verbatim) as a necessary result of due-process considerations. See, e.g., Cont'l Cas. Co. v. Barlar, 316 So. 2d 690 (Ala. 1975) (applying Ala. R. Civ. P. 54(c) [substantively identical to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c)]: "It is obviously the purpose of the rule that a defendant after being served with a complaint and determining not to appear and defend, not be found liable after default for a different offense or amount of damages than that originally charged. Such has been the federal rule and that of other states.") (collecting cases); Pruitt v. Taylor, 100 S.E.2d 841, 842–43 (N.C 1957) (citing N.C. G.S. § 1-226 (later replaced by N.C. G.S. 1A-54(c) [substantively identical to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c)]): "A default judgment rendered contrary to this statutory provision for an amount in excess of the damages alleged and the sum prayed for in the complaint is irregular.")); Troutbrook Farm, Inc. v. DeWitt, 540 A.2d 18, 20 (R.I. 1988) (applying Rhode Island Superior Court Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 54(c) [substantively identical to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c)] in holding that "a default judgment that exceeds the amount of demand for judgment to be null and void in its entirety.") (citing S. Ariz. School for Boys, Inc. v. Chery, 580 P.2d 738, 744 (Ariz. Ct. App. 1978)); Holt v. Holt, 672 P.2d 738, 741 (Utah 1983) ("The generally accepted rule with regard to the scope of relief granted in a default judgment has been pronounced thus: '[A] party to a lawsuit may voluntarily default and in so doing rely on the relief requested in the pleadings. A defaulting party should expect that the relief granted will not exceed or substantially differ from that sought in the complaint.") (quoting S. Ariz. School for *Boys*, 119 Ariz. at 283).

4. Nevada's Outlier Approach Is Unconstitutional

In fact, Nevada is the only state within the 9th Circuit that purports to allow default judgments in excess of the amount stated in the pleadings. *See* Alaska Rules of Court, Rule of Civil Procedure 54(c) (substantively identical to

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Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c)); S. Ariz. School for Boys, Inc., 119 Ariz. at 283 (plaintiff cannot escape Ariz. R. Civ. P. 54(d) and 55(b)(3) [substantively identical to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c)], even when there is a hearing on unliquidated damages, and even where the defendant appears at the hearing to dispute those damages); In re Marriage of Lippel, 51 Cal.3d at 1166 (explaining the due-process rationale for the California default-judgment rule); Greenup, 42 Cal.3d at 826 (same); Colo. R. Civ. P. 54(c) (substantively identical to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c)); Haw. R. Civ. P. 54(c) (same); Ida. R. Civ. P. 54(c) (same); Mont. R. Civ. P. 54(c) (same); Ore. R. Civ. P. 67(C) ("A judgment for relief different in kind from or exceeding the amount prayed for in the pleadings may not be rendered unless reasonable notice and opportunity to be heard are given to any party against whom the judgment is to be entered."); Columbia Val. Credit Exchange, Inc. v. Lampson, 12 Wash.App. 952, 954-55 (1975) ("It is a well-settled rule that 'one has a right to assume that the relief granted on default will not exceed or substantially differ from that described in the complaint and may safely allow a default to be taken in reliance upon this assumption.") (collecting Washington cases pre-dating State of Washington Superior Court Civil Rule 54(c), which is substantively identical to Fed. R. Civ. P. 54(c)).

Moreover, NRCP 54(c) itself provides that "[a] default judgment must not differ in kind from, or exceed in amount, what is demanded in the pleadings" It is only the following clause and the exception to that rule which is unique to Nevada and which runs afoul of the constitutional due-process requirements (and swallows the rule itself). *See id*. ("except that if the prayer is for unspecified damages under Rule 8(a)(4), the court must determine the amount of the judgment.")

Of course, this Nevada-specific exception suggests that an unspecified prayer for relief can be cured or "proved up" at a hearing under NRCP 55(b)(2). Such a hearing, however, cannot cure the constitutional deficiencies in the

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pleading itself, particularly when a non-appearing defendant is not even entitled to (and, in this case, has not received) formal notice of that hearing. *Compare* NRCP 55(b)(2) (requiring written notice only when "the party against whom a default judgment is sought has appeared personally or by a representative"); with S. Ariz. School for Boys, Inc., 119 Ariz. at 283; Silge v. Merz, 510 F.3d 157, 160-62 (2nd Cir. 2007) (rejecting argument that default judgment could exceed amount in complaint where defendant received notice of post-default hearing, explaining: "While notice is one of the policy objectives underlying Rule 54(c), notice alone is insufficient to satisfy the rule. The timing and method of such notice (i.e., that it come before the decision to default and be evident from the face of the complaint) are both critical to the analysis.") (italics in original).

Simply put, the constitutional due-process requirements embodied in Fed R. Civ. P. 54(c) establish "a ceiling rather than a floor on damages." Smith v. Cummings, 445 F.3d 1254, 1260 (10th Cir. 2006). Thus, the resulting pleading requirements are straightforward: to recover on a default judgment, a plaintiff must have pleaded all amounts to which she claims to be entitled, including all sums certain and a ceiling for all sums not capable of being made certain. If all of the damages are sums certain, then judgment can be entered by the clerk on plaintiff's affidavit, without any need for a hearing, pursuant to NRCP 55(b)(1) (or Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(1); Ariz. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(1), etc.). If, however, the amount pleaded includes other damages that are not sums certain, the plaintiff must "prove up" those damages on a motion and/or at a hearing under NRCP 55(b)(2) (or Fed. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(2); Ariz. R. Civ. P. 55(b)(2), etc.). In other words, a Rule 55(b)(2) hearing is a necessary, additional step required before a plaintiff can reach the ceiling established in her pleadings, but it is not sufficient (even when the defaulted defendant is given notice of such a hearing) to establish the ceiling itself or otherwise meet the constitutional due-process and

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notice requirements. Silge, 510 F.3d at 160-62; S. Ariz. School for Boys, Inc., 119 Ariz. at 283; Greenup, 42 Cal.3d at 826.

C. Plaintiff Cannot Recover a Default Judgment for More than \$15 Million Based on a Complaint that Discloses only \$20,000 in Damages

Here, as noted above, the \$15.2-million default judgment entered against Bon drastically exceeds the \$20,000 in relief sought by plaintiff in the operative pleadings. Accordingly, and notwithstanding NRCP 8(a)(4) and 54(c), the default judgment is null and void and must be set aside under NRCP 60(b)(4) for lack of due process. Alternatively, the default judgment should be amended pursuant to NRCP 59(e) to comport with due process by limiting plaintiff's recoverable damages to the \$20,000 demanded in her operative pleadings.

CONCLUSION

This Court has the opportunity under Rule 60(b)(4) and Rule 59(e) to correct constitutional error before a reversal by the Supreme Court. This Court should rehear the motion to set aside the default judgment and vacate that judgment for its violation of Bon's due process.

Dated this 19th day of October, 2020.

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: /s/ Abraham G. Smith

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Attorneys for Defendant Blas Bon

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on October 19, 2020, I served the foregoing motion on counsel by the Court's electronic filing system and by courtesy email to the person and addresses listed below:

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 $Attorneys\ for\ Plaintiff\ Diane\ Sanchez$

/s/ Jessie M. Helm

An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

Lewis Roca ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

Diane Sanchez

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

11 DIANE SANCHEZ.

Case No. A-19-805351-C Dept. No. XIII Plaintiff,

vs.

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ATX PREMIER INSURANCE COMPANY now known as WINDHAVEN NATIONAL

16 COMPANY, a foreign INSURANCE NATIONSBUILDERS corporation; 17 INSURANCE SERVICES, INC., a foreign

corporation; NBIS CONSTRUCTION & TRANSPORT INSURANCE SERVICES,

corporation; DMA INC.. a foreign MANAGEMENT, CLAIMS INC., 20 BON, an foreign corporation; BLAS

individual; 21 DOES I-X: and ROE

CORPORATIONS I-X, inclusive, 22

Defendants.

Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ, by and through her attorneys of record, PRINCE LAW GROUP, for her Complaint against Defendants ATX PREMIER INSURANCE

COMPANY now known as WINDHAVEN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY;

NATIONSBUILDERS INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.; NBIS CONSTRUCTION &



RPLAPP.000168

PLAINTIFF DIANE SANCHEZ'S

SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT

Case Number: A-19-805351-C

TRANSPORT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.; DMA CLAIMS MANAGEMENT, INC.; and BLAS BON, hereby alleges and complains as follows:

I.

PARTIES AND JURISDICTION

- 1. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ ("Sanchez") was and is a resident of the State of Nevada, Clark County.
- 2. Based upon information and belief, Defendant ATX PREMIER INSURANCE COMPANY now known as WINDHAVEN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY ("ATX") was a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Florida and was authorized to do business in the State of Nevada at the time of the incident alleged herein. Based upon information and belief, WINDHAVEN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY ("Windhaven") is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Texas, with its principal place of business in the State of Florida, and is authorized to do business and is doing business in the State of Nevada. In approximately April of 2016, Windhaven purchased the assets of ATX, but did not assume all obligations, liabilities, or duties owed by ATX for any insurance policies issued by ATX before the 2016 sale.
- 3. Based upon information and belief, Defendant NATIONSBUILDERS INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. ("NBIS") is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in the State of Georgia, and is authorized to do business and is doing business in the State of Nevada.
- 4. Based upon information and belief, Defendant NBIS CONSTRUCTION & TRANSPORT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC. ("CTIS") is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, with its principal place of business in the State of Georgia, and is authorized to do business and is doing business in the State of Nevada. CTIS is an affiliated company of NBIS.
- 5. Based upon information and belief, Defendant DMA CLAIMS MANAGEMENT, INC. ("DMA") is a foreign corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of California and is authorized to do business and is doing business in the State of Nevada.



6. Based upon information and belief, Defendant Blas Bon ("Bon") was and is a resident of the State of Nevada, Clark County, at all times material hereto.

- 7. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, partnership, or otherwise, of Defendants DOES I through X, inclusive, are unknown to Sanchez, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Sanchez is informed and believes, and therefore alleges that each of the Defendants designated herein as DOES I through X are responsible in some manner for the events and happenings referred to herein, and in some manner, caused the injuries and damages to Sanchez as alleged herein. Sanchez will ask leave of this Court to amend her Complaint to assert the true names and capacities of said Defendants DOES I through X, inclusive, when the same have been ascertained by Sanchez, together with the appropriate charging allegations, and to join such Defendants in this action.
- 8. The true names and capacities, whether individual, corporate, associate, partnership, or otherwise, of Defendants ROE CORPORTATIONS I through X, inclusive, are unknown to Sanchez, who therefore sues said Defendants by such fictitious names. Sanchez is informed and believes, and therefore alleges that each of the Defendants designated herein as ROE CORPORATIONS I through X are responsible in some manner for the events and happenings referred to herein, and in some manner, caused the injuries and damages to Sanchez as alleged herein. Sanchez will ask leave of this Court to amend her Complaint to assert the true names and capacities of said Defendants ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, inclusive, when the same have been ascertained by Sanchez, together with the appropriate charging allegations, and to join such Defendants in this action.
 - 9. All acts complained of herein occurred in the State of Nevada.
- 10. The motor vehicle collision described herein occurred in the State of Nevada, Clark County.

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II.

FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

A. The Underlying Motor Vehicle Collision

- 11. On December 16, 2014, ATX issued a personal automobile liability insurance policy to non-party Hipolito Cruz ("Cruz"), Policy No. ANV00003087. The policy provided liability insurance coverage limits of \$15,000.00 per person and \$30,000.00 per occurrence ("the ATX Insurance Policy").
- 12. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the ATX Insurance Policy, ATX agreed to provide liability insurance coverage to its insured, including coverage for those liability claims arising from a third party's permissive use of the insured vehicle.
- 13. On April 28, 2015, Sanchez traveled northbound on Interstate 15 in a 1995 BMW 325i sedan.
- 14. Bon drove Cruz's 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck directly behind Sanchez on northbound Interstate 15.
- 15. Bon, while driving Cruz's 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck, negligently collided with the back of Sanchez's 1995 BMW 325i sedan while she slowed down for traffic.
- 16. At the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision, Bon drove Cruz's 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck with the express permission of Cruz. As a permissive driver of Cruz's pickup truck, Bon was covered under the relevant ATX Insurance Policy.
- 17. Following the collision with Bon, Sanchez's BMW 325i sedan was struck from behind by another vehicle. Sanchez subsequently resolved her claim against the driver of this other vehicle.

B. The Applicable ATX Insurance Policy

- 18. The term dates of the ATX Insurance Policy issued to Cruz and covering Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision spanned from December 16, 2014 through June 16, 2015.
- 19. At the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision, the ATX Insurance Policy issued to Cruz was in full force and effect. As a permissive driver, Bon was

insured under the ATX Insurance Policy when the April 28, 2015 collision occurred. As a result, ATX owed Bon a contractual duty to defend; a duty of good faith and fair dealing to defend, indemnify, or settle Sanchez's claims prior to and during the pendency of the action; a duty to timely intervene; a duty to diligently investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the collision; and a duty to settle Sanchez's claim within policy limits when it had a reasonable opportunity to do so, or to otherwise take action to protect the interests of Bon, its insured.

- 20. ATX was the licensed insurer and underwriter of the applicable automobile liability insurance policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.
 - 21. As early as February 22, 2013, NBIS served as the parent company of ATX.
- 22. On April 1, 2015, ATX, CTIS, AutoTex MGA, Inc. ("AutoTex"), and Safe Auto Insurance Company ("Safe Auto") entered into their Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement. See Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement, attached as Exhibit "1."
- 23. The Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement, in addition to confirming Safe Auto's acquisition of one hundred percent (100%) of the stock of AutoTex, outlined specific definitional guidelines regarding the treatment of ongoing business obligations before the stock sale to Safe Auto that are relevant to this action:
 - (A) **Pre-close Policy. Pre-close Policy** means any policy which was issued on or before the closing date of the sale of **AutoTex**, or which may be validly reinstated after such closing date by the policyholder during a reinstatement period. It also means any new policy written or renewed on or after the closing date which: (1) resides in the state of Arizona; (2) is produced by the LA Franchise Agency or its affiliates in any state; or (3) has been certified under the financial responsibility laws and regulations of any state.

See Exhibit "1."

24. The Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement affirmed that policies issued by ATX (referred to as "Company" in the agreement) before the March 2, 2015 stock sale of AutoTex to Safe Auto remained with CTIS:



WHEREAS, CTIS wishes to assume the rights and obligations hereunder to administer Pre-close Policies as the Pre-close Policy Claims Administrator.

WHEREAS, CTIS is in the business of providing claims services on behalf of Insurance companies and is willing to provide such services on behalf of Company on all Preclose Policies in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein, and as set forth in any agreed to Addenda attached to and made part of this Agreement.

See Exhibit "1."

- 25. The express terms of the Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement confirmed that NBIS and CTIS retained control over policies issued by ATX before March 2, 2015. The ATX policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision went into effect on December 16, 2014. By definition, the ATX Insurance Policy that gives rise to Sanchez's claims was a "Pre-close Policy" that remained under the control and financial responsibility of NBIS and CTIS.
- 26. On April 1, 2015, CTIS (the "Company") and DMA (the "Claims Administrator") memorialized and executed their "Claims Administration Agreement" whereby DMA agreed to "perform claims adjustment and administrative services for certain claims and losses arising out of policies issued by affiliated companies of the Company." See Claims Administration Agreement, at Bates no. PLTF001627, attached as Exhibit "2."
- 27. ATX was an affiliated company of CTIS that issued policies for which DMA expressly agreed to "perform claims adjustment and administrative services for certain claims and losses arising out of" the policies. *Id.* Therefore, ATX was a third-party beneficiary of the "Claims Administration Agreement." Alternatively, ATX and DMA entered into a contract wherein DMA agreed to serve as a third-party claims administrator and adjuster for bodily injury claims arising from liability insurance policies issued by ATX.
- 28. The "Claims Administration Agreement" specifically defined various "Claims Adjusting Services for DMA to perform for the benefit of CTIS.

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- Receive from Company coverage information for the applicable policy for the claim or loss reported. If authorized by Company, where coverage is in question, draft reservation of rights letters to be reviewed by the Company prior to sending to the insured. When Claims Administrator is advised by Company that no coverage exists, draft declination letters, which are to be reviewed by the Company as required, prior to sending to the insured. When appropriate, advise interested parties of the extent of coverage; and
- 3) If instructed by the Company, establish records for incidents or occurrences reported by the insured that are not claims but may become claims at a later date; and
- 4) Establish and adequately reserve each Qualified Claim and Feature, and code such claim in accordance with Company's statistical data requirements. Claims Administrator shall adopt and agree upon guidelines for reserving Features that comply with Company's guidelines and are consistent with industry standards; and
- Conduct a prompt and detailed investigation of each Qualified Claim. Company and Claims Administrator shall adopt and agree upon guidelines for referring claims investigation to field investigators and adjusters that comply with Company's guidelines and are consistent with industry standards; and
- 7) Assure that there is sufficient evidence and documentation gathered and in the Company's claims system on a Qualified Claim, to allow the adjuster to properly evaluate the merits of the claim; and
- 8) Provide, in accordance with the Company's procedures and authority, an initial report and periodic reports on the status of each Qualified Claim in excess of the reporting level or otherwise reportable; and

10) Respond immediately to any inquiry, complaint or request received from an insurance department or any other regulatory agency in compliance with written instructions, if any, provided by the



Company. Respond promptly to any inquiry, complaint or request received from a client, claimant, agent, broker, or other interested party in connection with the Claims Adjusting Services; and

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- 15) Adjust, settle or otherwise resolve claims in accordance with authority levels granted; and
- Pay or recommend payment where appropriate, all Qualified Claims and Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses, on a timely basis and in accordance with Authority granted by the Company.

See Exhibit "2," at Bates nos. PLTF001629-PLTF001630.

- 29. The express terms of the Claims Management Agreement detail the extensive control CTIS retained over DMA's administration of claims arising from insurance policies issued by ATX.
- 30. In approximately April of 2016, Windhaven purchased ATX from NBIS. Windhaven did not purchase or assume control over any ATX liability insurance policies issued before the sale, including the subject ATX Insurance Policy.
- 31. In a matter before the Nevada federal district court entitled *Hayes v. ATX Premier Insurance Company et al.*, Case No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK, counsel for ATX and NBIS stated in briefing filed with the district court that NBIS retained financial responsibility for claims relating to insurance policies that were issued prior to the sale of ATX to Windhaven.
- 32. In the *Hayes* matter, counsel for ATX and NBIS also stated in briefing filed with the district court, that CTIS is an affiliated company of NBIS and engaged in claims services.
- 33. NBIS and CTIS assumed all contractual obligations arising from ATX insurance policies issued before the sale of ATX to Windhaven in 2016, including the ATX Insurance Policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.
- 34. NBIS and/or CTIS assumed the indemnity obligations of ATX and is financially responsible for damages arising from Sanchez's claim against the ATX



Insurance Policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.

- 35. As an NBIS affiliate, CTIS performed claims management, claims handling, and claims administration oversight duties for the benefit of ATX pursuant to the "Claims Management Agreement" by and between CTIS and DMA wherein DMA agreed to serve as a third-party claims administrator and adjuster for bodily injury claims arising from automobile liability insurance policies issued by ATX, including the subject ATX Insurance Policy.
- 36. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS together with DMA jointly managed, investigated, evaluated, adjusted, and performed other claims handling tasks regarding Sanchez's bodily injury claim against the ATX Insurance Policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.
- 37. As a third-party claims administrator and adjuster, DMA's remuneration from ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS was based upon the volume of third-party bodily injury claims for which DMA performed an investigation, evaluation, or any other claims adjusting or handling duties and responsibilities that DMA was contracted to perform for the benefit of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS.
- 38. As a third-party claims administrator and adjuster, DMA's remuneration from ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS was based on the percentage of claim savings ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS received as a direct result of the investigation, evaluation, or any other claims adjusting or handling duties and responsibilities that DMA was contracted to perform for the benefit of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS.
- 39. As a third-party claims administrator and adjuster, DMA shared a common pecuniary interest with ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS to reduce costs arising from claims and to pay reasonable amounts on claims necessary to optimize the financial interests of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS.

C. Sanchez's Bodily Injury Claim Against Bon

40. On May 21, 2015, Sanchez, through her counsel, faxed and mailed a letter notifying ATX of her bodily injury claim. Sanchez enclosed her medical records, bills, and other supporting documentation with the letter. ATX and/or CTIS and/or DMA



assigned claim number DMA0147074 to Sanchez's bodily injury claim. This claim number signified that DMA was to serve as the third-party administrator and adjuster of Sanchez's bodily injury claim on behalf of ATX and under the express supervision and control of CTIS pursuant to their "Claims Administration Agreement."

- 41. On June 16, 2015, Sanchez, through her counsel, faxed and mailed a letter to DMA wherein she offered to settle her bodily injury claim for all applicable policy limits under the ATX policy that covered Bon. At that time, Sanchez's past medical expenses totaled \$7,818.00 and she was recommended to undergo a cervical fusion surgery. Sanchez included a copy of the traffic accident report and her medical records and bills, including the record outlining her future surgical recommendation, with the June 16, 2015 offer letter. Sanchez's policy limits offer remained open until June 30, 2015. Sanchez clearly articulated her intent to file a lawsuit against Bon if she did not receive a response to her offer by June 30, 2015.
- 42. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to timely respond to Sanchez's June 16, 2015 offer letter.
- 43. On July 10, 2015, DMA sent a letter to Sanchez's counsel acknowledging that DMA represented the interests of ATX for the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision. DMA requested additional time to complete its investigation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim because of its supposed need to gather information necessary to determine liability. The information DMA allegedly required to reach this determination was a statement from the vehicle drivers involved in the crash and photos of the vehicles involved in the crash. DMA made this request even though Sanchez provided a copy of the traffic accident report and her medical records and bills to DMA as part of her June 16, 2015 demand.
- 44. On July 17, 2015, one week after its initial letter, DMA sent another letter to Sanchez's counsel. DMA stated that after completing a thorough investigation of the facts and circumstances surrounding the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision, Sanchez's bodily injury claim was denied because its insured, Bon, was not the proximate cause of the crash and therefore, was not legally liable for Sanchez's damages. DMA never confirmed that it actually obtained the information referenced in its July



10, 2015 letter as part of its investigation and ultimate denial of Sanchez's bodily injury claim.

45. Sanchez never received any further oral or written communications from ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA.

D. Sanchez's Personal Injury Lawsuit Against Bon

- 46. On August 7, 2015, Sanchez filed her complaint for personal injuries in the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County ("Nevada state district court"), Case No. A-15-722815-C. The allegations contained within her personal injury complaint are incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein. In her personal injury complaint, Sanchez set forth several allegations that included: (1) Bon negligently drove his vehicle, which caused the motor vehicle collision and Sanchez's resulting injuries; and (2) Bon drove the truck owned by Cruz at the time of the motor vehicle collision.
- 47. The factual allegations set forth in Sanchez's personal injury complaint triggered ATX's duty to defend Bon, its insured, pursuant to Nevada law.
- 48. Sanchez properly served Bon with her summons and personal injury complaint in accordance with Nevada law.
- 49. On December 11, 2015, Sanchez, through her counsel, sent a letter advising DMA and ATX of her withdrawal of the policy limits demand sent on June 16, 2015.
- 50. On January 20, 2016, Sanchez, through her counsel, mailed a letter to ATX and DMA advising that Bon was served with the summons and Sanchez's personal injury complaint via the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV"). Copies of the personal injury complaint, the affidavit of compliance, and a letter dated November 2, 2015 from the DMV confirming service of the summons and personal injury complaint were included in the January 20, 2016 letter to ATX and DMA. Sanchez's counsel specifically requested DMA and/or ATX to file an answer to the personal injury complaint as soon as possible or else Sanchez would request the Nevada state court to enter a default against Bon.
- 51. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to respond to the January 20, 2016 letter.



52. On February 16, 2016, Sanchez, through her counsel, mailed another letter to ATX and DMA advising that Bon still had not yet filed an answer to Sanchez's personal injury complaint. Sanchez's counsel clarified that if Bon did not file his answer by February 23, 2016, a request for the Nevada state court to enter a default against Bon would be made by Sanchez.

- 53. From February 17, 2016 through March 31, 2016, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA: (1) never responded to Sanchez's February 16, 2016 letter and (2) never filed an answer to Sanchez's personal injury complaint on behalf of Bon.
- 54. Bon never filed an answer to Sanchez's personal injury complaint in Case No. A-15-722815-C.
- 55. On April 1, 2016, the Nevada state court entered a default against Bon in the personal injury action, Case No. A-15-722815-C.
- 56. On June 22, 2016, Sanchez filed her notice of entry of default against Bon in the personal injury action, Case No. A-15-722815-C, and mailed a copy of it to ATX and DMA, via certified mail.
- 57. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA took no further action in response to the entry of default against the Bon.
- 58. Even after Sanchez notified ATX and DMA of the entry of default against Bon, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed and refused to investigate, provide Bon, ATX's insured, with a defense, or indemnify Bon against the substantial losses Sanchez incurred as a result of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to retain counsel to represent the interests of Bon or undertake any other steps to defend him against Sanchez's allegations set forth in her personal injury complaint.
- 59. On March 29, 2019, Sanchez filed an application for entry of a default judgment pursuant to NRCP 55(b)(2) in the personal injury action, Case No. A-15-722815-C. Sanchez sought a judicial determination from the Nevada state district court of the damages she suffered as a result of Bon's negligence.





- 61. Bon was notified of the hearing for Sanchez's application for entry of a default judgment.
- 62. On July 19, 2019, the Nevada state district court entered a default judgment against Bon in the amount of \$15,212,655.73, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, in the personal injury action, Case No. A-15-722815-C.
- 63. On July 19, 2019, Sanchez filed a motion for judicial assignment of Bon's claims or causes of action against ATX or any other applicable liability insurer or entity pursuant to NRS 21.320 in the personal injury action, Case No. A-15-722815-C.
- 64. On August 20, 2019, the Nevada state district court entered an order granting Sanchez's motion for judicial assignment of Bon's claims or causes of action against ATX, or any other insurance company or entity.
- 65. On September 8, 2020, the Nevada state district court granted Sanchez's motion to clarify its August 20, 2019 Order and confirmed that its judicial assignment of Bon's claims or causes of action included those claims or causes of action against any third-party claims administration, third-party claims adjuster, or other applicable insurer, administrator, or entity.
- 66. Sanchez, as the judicial assignee of Bon's claims or causes of action, has the legal right and ability to assert all claims against ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA to satisfy the entire default judgment amount based upon their respective breaches of the duties owed to Bon.
- 67. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS failed to compensate Sanchez for all the damages she incurred in excess of Bon's automobile liability insurance policy limits for third-party claims under the ATX Insurance Policy that was issued in December of 2014 and covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS had a duty to indemnify Bon, as its insured, for the loss suffered by Sanchez under Nevada law and failed to satisfy this duty.

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FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of Contract against Defendants ATX, NBIS, CTIS, and DMA)

- 68. Sanchez hereby incorporates, by reference, each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 67 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 69. A contract of insurance existed between ATX and Cruz on the date of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision described herein. As a permissive driver, Bon was the insured under the express terms and conditions of the ATX Insurance Policy. ATX owed contractual duties to Bon as the insurer.
- 70. At the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision, all premiums were paid under Cruz's ATX Insurance Policy. All proofs of loss were submitted under said policy and Cruz and/or Bon performed all conditions required to be performed by the policy.
- 71. NBIS assumed all of ATX's indemnity obligations for claims arising from ATX insurance policies issued before the sale of ATX to Windhaven in April of 2016. The ATX Insurance Policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision was issued on December 16, 2014. NBIS is financially responsible for all damages arising from Sanchez's claims in this Complaint.
- 72. CTIS performed claims management, claims handling, and claims administration oversight duties for the benefit of ATX pursuant to the "Claims Management Agreement" by and between CTIS and DMA wherein DMA agreed to serve as a third-party claims administrator and adjuster for bodily injury claims arising from automobile liability insurance policies issued by ATX, including the subject ATX Insurance Policy.
- 73. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS together with DMA jointly managed, investigated, evaluated, adjusted, and performed other claims handling tasks regarding Sanchez's bodily injury claim against the ATX Insurance Policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.
- 74. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA each possessed a joint financial interest to act for the benefit of each other by satisfying the duty to investigate, evaluate,



adjust, and perform other claims handling and/or administrative tasks as joint venturers.

- 75. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA breached their respective contractual duties to defend, indemnify, investigate, or settle Sanchez's claim when each of them had notice of Sanchez's bodily injury claim and her subsequent personal injury action, and failed to take any actions necessary to protect Bon's interests. Specifically, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to conduct any type of substantive investigation or evaluation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim necessary to settle or resolve her bodily injury claim before she filed her personal injury lawsuit.
- 76. After Sanchez filed her personal injury lawsuit in Nevada state court and provided ample notice to ATX and DMA of the same, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to tender a defense on behalf of Bon against the allegations set forth in the personal injury complaint, failed to retain an attorney to represent the interests of Bon, failed to timely intervene in the personal injury action, and failed to settle Sanchez's personal injury claim within policy limits when it had a reasonable opportunity to do so, or to otherwise take any and all necessary actions to protect the interests of its insured, Bon.
- 77. As a result of the actions and/or inactions of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA, each of them are legally bound by the default judgment entered in the Nevada state court action, Case No. A-15-722815-C, in the amount of \$15,212,655.73, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs and are obligated to satisfy the same.
- 78. As a result of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA's breaches of their respective contractual duties, Sanchez, as assignee of Bon, has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00, the exact amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 79. Sanchez has been compelled to retain counsel to prosecute this action and is therefore entitled to recover attorneys' fees and costs.

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SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing Against ATX, NBIS, CTIS, and DMA)

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80. Sanchez hereby incorporates, by reference, each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 79 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.

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81. There was an implied covenant in the ATX Insurance Policy that covered Bon whereby ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS was obligated to act in good faith and deal fairly with Bon. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS owed this duty of good faith and fair dealing to Bon implied in the ATX Insurance Policy that covered Bon at the time of the

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April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.

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82. As joint venturers tasked to perform claims management, claims handling, and claims administration duties and tasks for the benefit of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS, DMA and/or each of them were obligated to act in good faith and deal fairly with Bon in relation to Sanchez's bodily injury claim arising from the ATX Insurance

83. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA had a special relationship with Bon as the insured at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision and Sanchez's bodily injury claim arising from that collision. This special relationship between ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA and Bon was akin to a fiduciary relationship.

Policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.

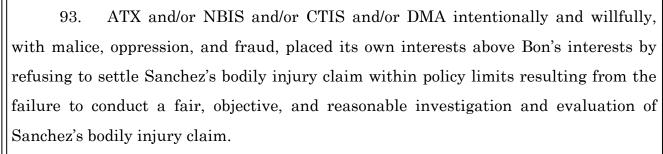
- 84. The nature of the fiduciary-like relationship required ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA to adequately protect Bon's interests.
- 85. At all material times hereto, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA each had a duty to give equal consideration to Bon's interests.
- 86. As the assignee of Bon's claims for relief and/or causes of action against ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA, Sanchez possesses all legal authority to pursue all of Bon's claims for relief and/or causes of action for breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing against each of them.
- 87. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA knowingly and deliberately breached their respective implied covenants of good faith and fair dealing by failing to defend, indemnify, investigate, or settle Sanchez's bodily injury claim when each of them



had notice of Sanchez's bodily injury claim and her subsequent personal injury action, and failed to take any actions necessary to protect Bon's interests. Specifically, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to conduct any type of substantive investigation or evaluation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim necessary to settle or resolve her bodily injury claim before she filed her personal injury lawsuit.

- 88. After Sanchez filed her personal injury lawsuit in the Nevada state district court and provided ample notice to ATX and DMA of the same, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA knowingly and deliberately failed to tender a defense on behalf of Bon against the allegations set forth in the personal injury complaint, failed to retain an attorney to represent the interests of Bon, failed to timely intervene in the personal injury action, and failed to settle Sanchez's personal injury claim within policy limits when it had a reasonable opportunity to do so, or to otherwise take any and all necessary actions to protect the interests of its insured, Bon.
- 89. As a proximate result of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA's respective breaches of the implied covenant and good faith and fair dealing and bad faith refusal to defend, indemnify, investigate, evaluate, or settle Sanchez's bodily injury claim, Sanchez, as assignee of Bon, has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00, the exact amount of which will be proven at trial.
- 90. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA intentionally and willfully, with malice, oppression, and fraud, failed to conduct a fair, objective, and reasonable investigation and evaluation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim to satisfy the duties they owed to Bon.
- 91. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA intentionally and willfully, with malice, oppression, and fraud, refused to give equal consideration to Bon's interests by taking affirmative actions to gather facts necessary to conduct a fair, objective, and reasonable investigation and evaluation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim.
- 92. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA intentionally and willfully, with malice, oppression, and fraud, failed to settle Sanchez's bodily injury claim within Bon's ATX Insurance Policy's limits without any factual basis.





- 94. By reason of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA's intentional and willful bad faith conduct, Sanchez is entitled to recover punitive or exemplary damages.
- 95. Sanchez has been compelled to retain counsel to prosecute this action and is therefore entitled to recover attorneys' fees and costs.

THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Violation of the Nevada Unfair Claims Practices Act, NRS 686A.310, NAC 686A et seq. Against ATX, NBIS, CTIS, and DMA)

- 96. Sanchez hereby incorporates, by reference, each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 95 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 97. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA were obligated to satisfy the provisions outlined in the Nevada Unfair Claims Practices Act set forth in NRS 686A.310, plus all other applicable regulations adopted by Nevada Administrative Code § 686A et seq.
- 98. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to acknowledge and act reasonably promptly to Sanchez's June 16, 2015 letter wherein she offered to resolve her bodily injury claim against Bon for the statutory minimum \$15,000.00 automobile liability insurance policy limits available under the ATX Insurance Policy.
- 99. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to acknowledge and act reasonably promptly to Sanchez's January 20, 2016 and February 16, 2016 letters wherein she advised that Bon was served with the summons and personal injury complaint, requested ATX and/or DMA to file an answer on behalf of Bon, and stated that if an answer was not filed, she would request the Nevada state court to enter a default against Bon.
- 100. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to effectuate a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement of Sanchez's bodily injury claim on behalf of Bon by



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Las Vegas, NV 89135

willfully and deliberately ignoring Sanchez's June 16, 2015 offer to tender Bon's minimum automobile liability insurance policy limit of \$15,000.00 available under the ATX Insurance Policy covering Bon. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA knew that liability was not in dispute when Sanchez made her June 16, 2015 offer because she provided a copy of the traffic accident report and ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to take any additional steps to investigate the cause of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision.

- 101. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to inform Bon of Sanchez's June 16, 2015 settlement offer for policy limits and failed to communicate to Bon about the contractual duty to defend him against the allegations set forth in Sanchez's personal injury complaint.
- 102. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA deliberately and willfully rejected Sanchez's bodily injury claim for Bon's minimum automobile liability insurance policy limit of \$15,000.00 in direct contravention of Bon's interests prior to the commencement of Sanchez's personal injury lawsuit.
- 103. ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA failed to diligently investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision involving the insured, Bon, and Sanchez, to aid in its investigation and evaluation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim necessary to complete a thorough and adequate investigation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim within 30 days.
- 104. By failing and refusing to defend, indemnify, and/or settle Sanchez's claim, ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA violated the express provisions of NRS 686A.310 and regulations adopted by Nevada Administrative Code § 686A *et seq*.
- 105. As a proximate result of ATX and/or NBIS and/or CTIS and/or DMA's respective violations of the Nevada Unfair Claims Practices Act set forth in NRS 686A.310, plus all other applicable regulations adopted by Nevada Administrative Code § 686A et seq., Sanchez, as assignee of Bon, has suffered damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000.00, the exact amount of which will be proven at trial.

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FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF

(Action on the Default Judgment Against Defendant Blas Bon)

- 106. Sanchez hereby incorporates, by reference, each and every allegation set forth in Paragraphs 1 through 105 of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 107. On July 19, 2019, the Nevada state district court entered a default judgment against Bon in the amount of \$15,212,655.73, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs, in Case No. A-15-722815-C.
- 108. The July 19, 2019 Default Judgment was entered against Bon for his failure to file an answer to Sanchez's personal injury complaint, filed on August 7, 2015, or to otherwise appear in the personal injury action within 20 days of service of the summons and personal injury complaint.
- 109. As a direct result of the Nevada state district court's entry of a default judgment against Bon, all issues of liability, causation, and damages arising from Sanchez's personal injury claims are fully resolved.
- 110. The full amount of the \$15,212,655.73 default judgment entered against Bon remains unsatisfied.
- 111. As the judgment debtor, Bon is legally responsible for satisfying the full amount of the default judgment entered against him on July 19, 2019 by the Nevada state court in the amount of \$15,212,655.73.
- 112. Sanchez, as the judgment creditor, hereby reserves the right to utilize all remedies under Nevada law to collect on the July 19, 2019 default judgment by way of her action on the default judgment, including the Court's issuance of a writ of attachment upon the personal property of Bon pursuant to NRS 31.010 *et seq.*; the Court's issuance of a writ of garnishment upon the money, credits, effects, debts, choses in action, and other personal property of Bon pursuant to NRS 31.240 *et seq.*; replevin; or any other means of collection available to her under Nevada law.
- 113. Sanchez has been compelled to retain the services of an attorney to prosecute this action and is therefore entitled to reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred herein.

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114. Sanchez timely pursues this claim for action on the default judgment against Bon in accordance with NRS 11.190(1)(a).

III.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Plaintiff Diane Sanchez prays for judgment against Defendants, and each of them, as follows:

- 1. Satisfaction of the July 19, 2019 default judgment in the amount of \$15,212,655.73, plus post-judgment interest;
- 2. General Damages for a sum in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars and 00/100 Cents (\$15,000.00);
- 3. Special damages for a sum in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars and 00/100 Cents (\$15,000.00);
- 4. Punitive damages for a sum in excess of Fifteen Thousand Dollars and 00/100 Cents (\$15,000.00);
- 5. For attorneys' fees, costs of suit, and pre-judgment and post-judgment interest incurred herein; and
 - 6. Such other and further relief as this Court deems just and proper. DATED this 1st day of June, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

PRINCE LAW GROUP

/s/Kevin T. Strong
DENNIS M. PRINCE
Nevada Bar No. 5092
KEVIN T. STRONG
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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Diane Sanchez

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DPL

Marcus about 10801 W. Charleston Blvd.
Suite 560

1	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE									
2	Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of PRINCE LAW									
3	$oxed{GROUP}$, and that on the 1st day of June, 2021, I caused the foregoing document entitled									
4	PLAINTIFF DIANE SANCHEZ'S SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT to be served									
$\begin{bmatrix} 5 \\ a \end{bmatrix}$	upon those persons designated by the parties in the E-Service Master List for the above- referenced matter in the Eighth Judicial District Court E-Filing System in accordance									
$\begin{bmatrix} 6 \\ 7 \end{bmatrix}$										
8	with the mandatory electronic service requirements of Administrative Order 14-2 and									
9	the Nevada Electronic Filing and Conversion Rules. Robert E. Schumacher									
10										
11	Wing Yan Wong GORDON REES SCULLY MANSUKHANI, LLP									
12	300 South 4th Street, Suite 1550 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Tel: (702) 577-9300									
13 14	Fax: (702) 255-2858 Attorneys for Defendant									
15	DMA Claims Management, Inc.									
16	John H. Podesta Christopher Phipps									
17	WILSON, ELSER, MOSKOWITZ, EDELMAN & DICKER, LLP 300 South 4th Street, Suite 1100 Las Vegas, Nevada 89101									
18	Tel: (702) 727-1400 Fax: (702) 727-1401									
19	Attorneys for Defendant ATX Premier Insurance now known as									
20	Windhaven National Insurance Company									
21										
22										
23	/s/ Amy Ebinger									
24	An Employee of Prince Law Group									
25										
26										
27										



EXHIBIT "1"

AMENDED AND RESTATED CLAIMS HANDLING AGREEMENT

This Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement ("Agreement") entered into and effective March 22, 2013, and amended April 1, 2015 12:01 am, is made and entered into by and between ATX Premier Insurance Company ("Company"); NBIS Construction & Transport Insurance Services, Inc. ("CTIS"; or, "Pre-close Policy Claims Administrator"); AutoTex MGA, Inc. ("AutoTex"; or, "Former Administrator"); and Safe Auto Insurance Company ("SafeAuto"; or, "Post-close Policy Claims Administrator"), collectively "Administrator". SafeAuto; AutoTex; CTIS; and, Company are each hereinafter referred to as a "Party" and collectively as the "Parties".

WHEREAS, Company has the authority to issue insurance policy(ies) to insureds and is responsible for claims settlement on those policies;

WHEREAS, NationsBuilders Insurance Services, Inc. ("NBIS"), the current parent company of AutoTex and Company, has, contemporaneously with the execution of this Agreement, closed a certain Stock Purchase Agreement (executed on March 2, 2015, "SPA") with Safe Auto Insurance Group, Inc. (the acquirer of AutoTex and parent company of SafeAuto) whereby Safe Auto Insurance Group, Inc. has acquired one hundred percent (100%) of the stock of AutoTex;

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the aforementioned stock purchase agreement, Safe Auto Insurance Group, Inc. and NBIS have agreed to certain definitional guidelines regarding the ongoing treatment of business which was produced by AutoTex prior to the closing of the transaction and business which will be produced by AutoTex after the closing of such transaction, and which are applicable to the administration of this Agreement going forward and to which the Parties agree to incorporate herein:

- (A) Pre-close Policy. Pre-close Policy means any policy which was issued on or before the closing date of the sale of AutoTex, or which may be validly reinstated after such closing date by the policyholder during a reinstatement period. It also means any new policy written or renewed on or after the closing date which: (1) resides in the state of Arizona; (2) is produced by the LA Franchise Agency or its affiliates in any state; or (3) has been certified under the financial responsibility laws and regulations of any state.
- (B) Post-close Policy. Post-close Policy means any new or renewal policy term written after the closing date and not included in the definition of Pre-close Policy.

WHEREAS, CTIS wishes to assume the rights and obligations hereunder to administer Pre-close Policies as the Pre-close Policy Claims Administrator;

WHEREAS, CTIS is in the business of providing claims services on behalf of insurance companies and is willing to provide such services on behalf of Company on all Pre-close Policles in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein, and as set forth in any agreed to Addenda attached to and made a part of this Agreement;

WHEREAS, the Parties acknowledge that the role of CTIS as the Pre-close Policy Claims Administrator will terminate and cease to exist, subject to those provisions of this Agreement which may otherwise remain in effect, upon the expiration of the last claim from any Pre-close Policy.

WHEREAS, SafeAuto is a property and casualty insurer licensed to conduct business in States of Arkansas, Arizona, Nevada and Texas and, wishes to assume the rights and obligations hereunder to administer Post-close Policies as the Post-close Policy Claims Administrator;

WHEREAS, Company has reviewed and accepted the qualifications of SafeAuto and CTIS, and wishes to authorize them to provide the to provide the services set forth herein;

EXHIBIT "2"

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

by and between

NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc. (hereinafter the "Company")

and

DMA Claims Management, Inc. (hereinafter the "Claims Administrator")

Effective Date: April 1, 2015

WHEREAS, the Company desires to employ Claims Administrator to perform claims adjustment and administrative services for certain claims and losses arising out of policies issued by affiliated companies of the Company;

WHEREAS, the parties desire to enter into a Claims Administration Agreement (hereinafter, the "Agreement") that will outline their primary duties and obligations with respect to this engagement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual promises and agreements, the parties agree as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. The term "Allocated Loss Adjustment Expense" as used herein shall mean all claims adjustment costs and expenses incurred in connection with the investigation, adjustment and settlement or defense of a claim for benefits. Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses are limited to reasonable, customary and necessary expenses. Such expenses shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
 - 1) attorneys fees and disbursements; and
 - 2) fees to court reporters; and
 - 3) all court costs, court fees and court expenses; and
 - 4) costs of automobile and property appraisals and re-inspections; and

- 5) costs of any required investigations by claims adjusters in the field; and
- 6) costs of interpreters; and
- 7) fees for database searches; and
- 8) fees for service of process; and
- 9) costs of surveillance and detective services; and
- 10) costs for employing experts for the preparation of maps, professional photographs, accounting, chemical or physical analysis, diagrams; and
- 11) costs for employing experts for their advice, opinions or testimony concerning claims under investigation or in litigation or for which a declaratory judgment is sought; and
- 12) costs for independent medical examination and/or evaluation for rehabilitation and/or to determine the extent of the Company' liability; and
- 13) costs of legal transcripts of testimony taken at coroner's inquests, criminal or civil proceedings; and
- 14) costs for copies of any public records and/or medical records; and
- 15) costs of depositions and court reported and/or recorded statements; and
- 16) costs and expenses of subrogation when referred to outside attorneys or other vendors; and
- 17) costs of engineers, handwriting experts and/or any other type of expert used in the preparation of litigation and/or used on a one-time basis to resolve disputes; and
- 18) charges for medical cost containment services, i.e., utilization review, preadmission authorization, hospital bill audit, provider bill audit and medical case management incurred only with the prior approval of the Company.
- 19) any other similar cost, fee or expense reasonably chargeable to the investigation, negotiation, settlement or defense of a claim or loss or to the protection or perfection of the subrogation rights of the Company.
- B. The term "Qualified Claim" shall mean a claim assigned by Company to Claims Administrator.

- C. The term "Feature" shall mean any separate coverage exposure within a claim. For example, one claim might have a Collision feature and one or more Bodily Injury or Property Damage features.
- D. The term "Claims Adjusting Services" as used herein shall mean the furnishing by the Claims Administrator to the Company of the following services in compliance with the terms of the applicable insurance policy, the laws and regulations of the applicable state(s), and industry-wide standards:
 - 1) Review all Company's claims and loss reports; and
 - Receive from Company coverage information for the applicable policy for the claim or loss reported. If authorized by Company, where coverage is in question, draft reservation of rights letters to be reviewed by the Company prior to sending to the insured. When Claims Administrator is advised by Company that no coverage exists, draft declination letters, which are to be reviewed by the Company as required, prior to sending to the insured. When appropriate, advise interested parties of the extent of coverage; and
 - 3) If instructed by the Company, establish records for incidents or occurrences reported by the insured that are not claims but may become claims at a later date; and
 - 4) Establish and adequately reserve each Qualified Claim and Feature, and code such claim in accordance with Company's statistical data requirements. Claims Administrator shall adopt and agree upon guidelines for reserving Features that comply with Company's guidelines and are consistent with industry standards; and
 - 5) Conduct a prompt and detailed investigation of each Qualified Claim. Company and Claims Administrator shall adopt and agree upon guidelines for referring claims investigation to field investigators and adjusters that comply with Company's guidelines and are consistent with industry standards; and
 - 6) Adjust Qualified Claims for Property and/or Physical Damage by obtaining itemized estimates and/or appraisals of damage; and
 - Assure that there is sufficient evidence and documentation gathered and in the Company's claims system on a Qualified Claim, to allow the adjuster to properly evaluate the merits of the claim; and
 - Provide, in accordance with the Company's procedures and authority, an initial report and periodic reports on the status of each Qualified Claim in excess of the reporting level or otherwise reportable; and

- Perform all necessary administrative work in connection with Qualified Claims; and
- 10) Respond immediately to any inquiry, complaint or request received from an insurance department or any other regulatory agency in compliance with written instructions, if any, provided by the Company. Respond promptly to any inquiry, complaint or request received from a client, claimant, agent, broker, or other interested party in connection with the Claims Adjusting Services; and
- 11) Process each Qualified Claim utilizing industry-wide standard forms where applicable; and
- 12) Attend, where appropriate and approved by the Company, mediation, arbitration, court-related or other dispute resolution hearings and/or conferences; and
- Maintain files for all Qualified Claims in the Company's claims system, that may include, where necessary, a) defense of claims; b) other litigation (such as subrogation, contribution or indemnity); c) other proceedings; d) claims handling activities; and e) expense control and disbursements; and
- 14) Pursue all reasonable possibilities of subrogation, contribution or indemnity on behalf of the Company; and
- 15) Adjust, settle or otherwise resolve claims in accordance with authority levels granted; and
- 16) Pay or recommend payment where appropriate, all Qualified Claims and Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses, on a timely basis and in accordance with authority granted by the Company; and
- 17) Pursue recovery of third party liability deductibles; and
- 18) Maintain closed claim files in accordance with state regulations and/or Company requirements.
- E. The term "Claims Files" shall mean all information and documentation in written, electronic, photographic, or audio form gathered as part of the Claims Adjusting Services.

II. SERVICES

- A. In consideration of service fees paid by the Company as set forth in the Compensation Schedule attached hereto and made part of this Agreement, Claims Administrator agrees to provide Claims Adjusting Services with respect to all Qualified Claims, including those in excess of the Claims Administrator's authority level.
- B. Claims exceeding the authority level are to be immediately reported by email to the Company. Claims Administrator shall seek the Company's prior written approval on all Qualified Claim settlements in excess of the authority level. With respect to those Qualified Claims in excess of the authority level, Claims Administrator shall calculate and recommend reserves, and then, upon approval by the Company, post such reserves. However, ultimate determination of settlement and reserve amounts shall be retained by the Company.
- C. Claims Administrator warrants and represents that: 1) it shall perform all Claims Adjusting Services that are necessary and appropriate directly or through licensed independent claims adjusters; and 2) it and/or its employees hold all adjuster licenses as required by law to perform the designated services; and 3) it and its employees and persons under contract to Claims Administrator will at all times observe the requirements of laws and regulations of each state in the territory in which it operates, specifically including but not limited to the privacy laws, fair claims practices acts, and fair trade practices acts.
- D. If a Summons and Complaint is filed on a Qualified Claim, the Claims Administrator shall transfer that claim and all its Features back to the Company and shall no longer be responsible for the further handling of that claim.

III. TERM AND TERMINATION

- A. This Agreement shall be effective April 1, 2015, and shall be in effect until cancelled by either party with ninety (90) days' notice.
- B. In the event any license necessary to conduct the Claims Administrator's business expires or terminates, for any reason, the Claims Administrator shall immediately notify the Company and this Agreement shall automatically terminate as of the date of such license's expiration or termination unless, within one week from the date the Company receives notice of the license expiration or termination from the Claims Administrator, the Company agrees, in writing, to modify the provisions of this paragraph so as to allow the Agreement to continue.
- C. This Agreement may be terminated immediately upon written notice to either party if there has been an event of fraud, abandonment, insolvency, or gross or willful misconduct on the part of the other party.

- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Claims Administrator shall commit any material breach of the terms of this Agreement, or fail to comply with any material instruction or direction by the Company, the Company may, in its sole discretion, immediately upon notice, suspend or terminate any or all authority of the Claims Administrator. Upon receipt of such notice, the Claims Administrator shall thereupon cease to exercise such power or powers in accordance with such notice.
- E. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Company shall commit any material breach of the terms of this Agreement, or fail to fulfill its obligations under the Agreement, Claims Administrator may immediately upon notice, suspend and/or terminate all claims handling under this Agreement.
- F. If the Agreement is terminated as per the provisions above, the Claims Administrator shall transfer all open Features to the Company at termination. The Company shall pay Claims Administrator all service fees earned up to the date of termination according to the Compensation Schedule attached hereto. Any time and expenses incurred by the Claims Administrator in the return of such files will be billed to the Company, with supporting documentation for such billing, and the Company shall pay such billing to the Claims Administrator within thirty (30) days from billing date.

IV. DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR

- A. Claims Administrator shall maintain all industry standard claim information necessary in the jurisdictions in which Claims Administrator performs Claims Adjusting Services.
- B. Claims Administrator shall comply with reasonable requests of the Company to achieve compliance with applicable state insurance statutes and regulations regarding the creation and maintenance of a Special Investigative Unit for the business of this Agreement.
- C. Claims Administrator shall cooperate with requests of the Company to achieve compliance with the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) relative to Company's obligation to assure that illicit transactions involving target countries and Specifically Designated Nationals are not processed. To the extent that the Claims Administrator incurs out-of-pocket costs for such compliance that solely benefits the Company, the Company will reimburse prior approved expenses.
- D. Claims Administrator shall comply with the Company's Privacy Policy under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, as set forth below:

NBIS does not disclose any nonpublic personal information about individual policyholders or claimants to any affiliate or any non-affiliate third party other than those permitted by law and only for the purpose of transacting the business of the policyholder's insurance coverage or claim.

Claims Administrator shall fulfill any obligation of the Company to provide claimants with a copy of the Privacy Policy of the Company as may be required by law.

- E. Claims Administrator shall at all times be an independent contractor and shall not for any purpose be deemed to be or hold itself out to be an employee of or affiliated with the Company.
- F. In any state that levies a tax on the services provided by Claims Administrator to Company, Claims Administrator shall prepare an accounting of the tax owed as required by law and submit an invoice for this tax to Company. Once Company has paid the invoice, Claims Administrator shall forward the tax to the appropriate state agency.

V. DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF COMPANY

- A. Company will provide all information relevant to particular claims to Claims Administrator in order for Claims Administrator to fulfill its duties and obligations as set out in this Agreement, including applicable policy and coverage information and coverage confirmation status.
- B. Company has ultimate authority and responsibility for authorizing claims payment and settlement of claims under this Agreement.
- C. Company will provide to Claims Administrator access to Company's claims system and policy and coverage information as required by Claims Administrator to perform its authorized duties under this Agreement.
- D. Company shall be responsible for the payment of all Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses relating to the Qualified Claims and the Claim Adjusting Services provided by Claims Administrator.

VI. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

A. As a condition precedent and an ongoing obligation throughout the term of this Agreement, Claims Administrator shall, no less than annually, provide the Company with evidence of a policy of insurance providing Errors and Omissions insurance coverage for services performed pursuant to this Agreement, from an

insurance carrier acceptable to the Company, with a Limit of Liability no less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$1,000,000 in the aggregate. Claims Administrator shall immediately notify the Company in the event of any cancellation, non-renewal, or reduction of coverage on any such policy.

- B. Claims Administrator agrees to defend the Company from any and all claims, suits or demands asserted by anyone against the Company, as a result of any errors or omissions of Claims Administrator, its officers, directors, employees or successors. If the Company becomes legally obligated to pay damages due to the errors or omissions of Claims Administrator, Claims Administrator agrees to indemnify the Company and to reimburse the Company for any costs, damages and expenses, of any nature whatsoever incurred or sustained by the Company, including but not limited to attorneys fees and other expenses, in connection with investigating and defending any actions, claims or suits against the Company as a result thereof. Claims Administrator agrees to cooperate with the Company in the investigation and defense of any such claims.
- C. The Company agrees to defend the Claims Administrator from any and all claims, suits or demands asserted by anyone against the Claims Administrator, as a result of any errors or omissions of Company, its officers, directors, employees or successors. If the Claims Administrator becomes legally obligated to pay damages due to the errors or omissions of Company, Company agrees to indemnify the Claims Administrator and to reimburse the Claims Administrator for any costs, damages and expenses, of any nature whatsoever incurred or sustained by the Claims Administrator, including but not limited to attorneys fees and other expenses, in connection with investigating and defending any actions, claims or suits against the Claims Administrator as a result thereof. Company agrees to cooperate with the Claims Administrator in the investigation and defense of any such claims.
- D. Claims Administrator does not agree to defend or indemnify any claims, suits or demands where the alleged errors or omissions concern parties other than Claims Administrator or its officers, directors, employees, successors, representatives or agents, such as matters of underwriting or policy administration.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- A. This Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the state of Georgia. Any cause of action brought arising out of the rights or obligations of this Agreement shall be brought in Atlanta, Georgia.
- B. Any forbearance or failure by the Company or Claims Administrator to enforce any right, provision, or power established under this Agreement or by operation of law shall not operate as a modification or waiver of such right, provision or

power, and the Company or Claims Administrator may, at any time, pursue all rights or remedies available to it to enforce all terms and conditions of this Agreement.

- C. This Agreement represents the full and complete understanding of the parties as to the subject matter herein, superseding all previous agreements, whether written or verbal. This Agreement may be modified or altered only by written amendment to this Agreement signed by duly authorized representatives of the parties.
- D. Claims Administrator understands and agrees that it shall retain liability for any loss or damage arising out of any work performed by any subcontractor retained by Claims Administrator to perform its duties under this Agreement.
- E. Claims Administrator understands and agrees that it shall retain liability for any loss or damage directly or indirectly caused by or arising out of Claims Administrator's access or use of Company's claims and policy systems.
- F. To be validly given, all notices, requests, consents, and other communications arising out of this Agreement must be in writing and mailed, postage paid, to the address of the party provided for in this Agreement. As an ongoing obligation throughout the term of this Agreement, each party shall notify the other of any change of address.
- G. This Agreement shall not become effective until signed by a duly authorized representative of both the Company and Claims Administrator.
- H. Headings on titles to the several sections herein are for identification purposes only and shall not be construed as forming a part hereof.
- In the event that any section, sub-section, or provision of this Agreement is declared by statute or by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or void, such section, sub-section, or provision shall be deemed severed from the Agreement, and all other sections, sub-sections, terms, conditions and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.
- J. During the course of this Agreement, the parties will have access to proprietary, confidential information of each other. The parties will protect such information and treat it as strictly confidential, and shall not provide it to any third party or utilize it in any fashion outside of the scope of this Agreement, except as expressly authorized in writing by the parties or as required by law. The Claims Administrator agrees to adhere to all reasonable confidentiality policies as adopted from time to time by the Company regarding the protection of the Company's information.

For purposes of this Agreement, "proprietary information" means any non-public information regarding or relating to the business operations, technology, insureds,

customers, employees, business methods and other non-public information about Company and/or Claims Administrator. Such non-public business and technical information collectively constitutes trade secrets. For purposes of this Agreement, "confidential information" shall include, without limitation, information concerning insureds or prospective insureds, claimants, and employees and agents of Company and employees, methods, claims administrative procedures, metrics and other work practices of Claims Administrator.

- K. The Company, its authorized agents, officers and employees, and Claims Administrator mutually agree that until one (1) year after termination of this Agreement, they will not solicit, recruit or hire the other party's officers, employees, contractors or agents.
- L. Any notice under this Agreement shall be sent, postage prepaid, to the addresses provided below:

If to the Company:

NBIS Construction & Transport Insurance Service, Inc.

800 Overlook, 2859 Paces Ferry Road

Atlanta, GA 30339 (770) 257-1130

E-mail: akirkner@nbis.com

Attention: Arthur P. Kirkner, Vice President - Claims

If to the Claims Administrator:

DMA Claims Management, Inc.

P.O. Box 26004

Glendale, CA 91222-6004

(323) 342-6800 (323) 342-6850

Attn: Thomas J. Reitze, President

M. Dispute Resolution. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach thereof shall be addressed first by mediation between the parties. The costs of mediation shall be borne by both parties. If not resolved by mediation, the matter shall be addressed and settled by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial Arbitration Rules, and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. All parties to this Agreement and their authorized agents, officers and employees agree that during the dispute resolution process and afterwards, they will not at any time disparage, defame or hold up to public embarrassment or ridicule the other parties involved.

NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc.

Its:

Date:

By: Its: Date:

ADDENDUM TO CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

This Addendum incorporates by reference that certain Claims Administration Agreement effective April 1, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement"), by and between the Company as identified in the Agreement, and the Claims Administrator as identified in the Agreement.

Claims Administrator will receive the following compensation from Company for its services:

- 1. For Property Damage, Collision or Comprehensive features that are open and being handled by Claims Administrator as of April 1, 2015, \$75 per feature. Payable when the feature closes.
- For Bodily Injury features that are open as of April 1, 2015, and are assigned to Claims Administrator by Company to handle to conclusion, \$375 per feature. \$187.50 is earned on assignment, and \$187.50 is earned when the feature is closed.
- 3. For new features opened after April 1, 2015, \$500 per Bodily Injury feature and \$250 per Property Damage, Collision or Comprehensive feature, with a cap of \$800 per accident regardless of the number of features arising out of the accident. Regarding Bodily Injury features, \$250 is earned on assignment, and \$250 is earned when the feature is closed.
- 4. \$75 for incident-only claims where no investigation is warranted.
- 5. For First Notices of Loss, \$12.50 per First Notice of Loss taken.
- 6. For administrative services including but not limited to bank and check stock setup, positive pay setup, FileHandler claims system setup, creation of Quality Control reports and testing, and setup of other required reports, \$200 per hour.
- For one administrative employee of Claims Administrator who is assigned to this program, Claims Administrator will receive the employee's actual salary plus 20%.

- 8. For administration and maintenance of the FileHandler claims system, \$1,000 per month.
- 9. Twenty-five percent (25%) of Net Subrogation Recoveries, earned when the recoveries are received. Net Subrogation recoveries are the gross amounts recovered through subrogation efforts by the claims Administrator on behalf of the Company, less any outside costs involved in the recovery process such as attorney fees.
- 10. \$105 per vehicle appraisal, \$115 per vehicle appraisal for a total loss, and actual cost outside of the DMA appraisal network, all earned upon completion.
- 11. \$35 per desk review of an auto damage estimate, earned upon completion.
- 12. \$45 per damaged auto assigned to Claims Administrator's shop network, earned upon assignment.

All ALAE is passed through to the Company for payment and is not included in this fee per feature. Any feature that goes into litigation is to be returned by Claims Administrator to Company.

At the end of each month Claims Administrator will prepare an invoice itemizing the services rendered as described in 1 through 12 above, and will send the invoice to the Company by email. The Company will pay the invoice within 20 days of receipt.

NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc.

By: The state of t

DMA CLAIMS MANAGEMENT, INC.

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Diane Sanchez

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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

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DIANE SANCHEZ.

Plaintiff,

vs.

ATX PREMIER INSURANCE COMPANY now known as WINDHAVEN NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY, a foreign corporation; NATIONSBUILDERS INSURANCE SERVICES, INC., a foreign corporation; NBIS CONSTRUCTION & TRANSPORT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC., a foreign corporation; DMA CLAIMS MANAGEMENT, INC.. foreign corporation; BLAS BON, an individual; DOES I-X; and ROE CORPORATIONS I-X. inclusive.

Defendants.

Case No. A-19-805351-C Dept. No. XIII

PLAINTIFF DIANE SANCHEZ'S
OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS
NATIONSBUILDERS INSURANCE
SERVICES, INC. AND NBIS
CONSTRUCTION & TRANSPORT
INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.'S
MOTION TO DISMISS SECOND
AMENDED COMPLAINT, OR IN
THE ALTERNATIVE, MOTION TO
STAY PROCEEDINGS

Hearing Date: August 23, 2021 Hearing Time: 9:00 a.m.

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Plaintiff DIANE SANCHEZ, by and through her counsel of record, Dennis M. Prince and Kevin T. Strong of PRINCE LAW GROUP, hereby submits her *Opposition to Defendants Nationsbuilders Insurance Services, Inc. and NBIS Construction & Transport Insurance Services, Inc.'s Motion to Dismiss Second Amended Complaint, or in the Alternative, Motion to Stay Proceedings.*



RPLAPP.000206

This Opposition is based on the pleadings and papers on file in this action, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities set forth herein, the exhibits attached hereto, and any argument this Court wishes to entertain at the hearing of this matter.

DATED this 5th day of August, 2021.

PRINCE LAW GROUP

/s/ Kevin T. Strong
DENNIS M. PRINCE
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10801 West Charleston Boulevard
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Attorneys for Plaintiff
Diane Sanchez



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10801 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 560 Las Vegas, NV 89135

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I.

INTRODUCTION

Within the first two pages of Defendants NationsBuilders Insurance Services, Inc. ("NBIS") and NBIS Construction & Transport Insurance Services, Inc.'s ("CTIS") Motion to Dismiss, it is obvious that their arguments and claims are rooted in fiction and obfuscation. Plaintiff Diane Sanchez ("Sanchez") obtained a valid default judgment against Defendant ATX Premier Insurance Company's ("ATX") insured, Blas Bon ("Bon") in Case No. A-15-722815-C ("the personal injury action"). The district court in the personal injury action concluded, on three separate occasions, that Bon was properly served with the summons and personal injury complaint. Sanchez had no knowledge that Bon was allegedly homeless as NBIS and CTIS claim. Of course, ATX and its thirdparty claims administrator, Defendant DMA Claims Management, Inc. ("DMA") were well aware of the fact that Bon was served with the personal injury complaint and given every opportunity to tender a defense on his behalf. Yet, no action was taken on Bon's behalf by: (1) ATX; (2) DMA; (3) NBIS, the parent company of ATX; or (4) CTIS, an affiliate of NBIS. At the time, CTIS was responsible for overseeing the claims adjustment and administrative services performed by DMA for insurance policies "issued by affiliated companies of [CTIS]." See Claims Administration Agreement between CTIS and DMA, attached as Exhibit "1."

NBIS and CTIS's suggestion that Bon initiated the appeal of the order denying the motion to set aside the default judgment has no basis in reality. Once Sanchez commenced this insurance bad faith and judgment enforcement action implicating the financial interests of ATX, NBIS, and CTIS, "Bon" miraculously sought to set aside the default judgment. NBIS and CTIS are now using Bon's party status in the personal injury action to set aside the default judgment solely to protect their own financial interests, not Bon's interests. Afterall, NBIS and CTIS have yet to produce any proof that they have been in contact with Bon or that Bon's whereabouts are known.

Notably, this Court has already denied DMA's request to stay this matter because of "Bon's" pending appeal in the personal injury litigation. See 3/25/21 Order Denying

DMA Claims Management, Inc.'s Motion to Dismiss or, Alternatively, Motion to Stay, at p. 2. Indeed, Sanchez's alleged damages resulting from NBIS and CTIS's collective bad faith conduct remain valid, irrespective of the pending appeal that NBIS and CTIS have initiated to further their own interests. Perfecting an appeal of an order denying a motion to set aside a default judgment has no legal impact on the finality of that default judgment because it was never timely appealed. Moreover, there is no stay in the underlying personal injury case, which means Sanchez is not forbidden from seeking collection on the default judgment through this enforcement action.

NBIS and CTIS's request for a stay based on the Texas State Court's entry of its Order Appointing Liquidator, Permanent Injunction and Notice of Automatic Stay ("Liquidation Order") against Windhaven National Insurance Company ("Windhaven") is similarly unavailing. As Sanchez has detailed to this Court on numerous occasions, the Liquidation Order has no bearing on this matter because Windhaven did not assume financial responsibility or control over the underlying ATX insurance policy at issue. NBIS and CTIS should be keenly aware that Windhaven's financial condition has no bearing on this matter as their representatives attended the NRAP 16 settlement conference addressing the appeal in the personal injury action. Nobody on behalf of Windhaven attended. Accordingly, the Liquidation Order provides no basis for a stay of this litigation.

Finally, NBIS and CTIS's request for dismissal pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5) is without merit. Sanchez articulates detailed factual allegations demonstrating that NBIS assumed financial responsibility and control over claims arising from ATX insurance policies issued before ATX was sold to Windhaven. These allegations are based directly on reliable documentation and representations made by NBIS's attorney in a similar insurance bad faith case. Further, Sanchez refers specifically to a Claims Administration Agreement between CTIS and DMA demonstrating that CTS performed claims management, handling, and administration duties for the benefit of ATX and its parent company, NBIS. All of those facts sufficiently detail a joint venture amongst these entities necessary to establish liability for breach of contract and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing. As the entity that admittedly retained



indemnity obligations for claims arising from liability insurance policies issued by ATX before its sale to Windhaven, NBIS should be treated as a liability insurer for purposes of this action. This further validates all of Sanchez's claims for relief asserted against NBIS and CTIS.

The conspicuous absence of any documentary information to refute Sanchez's allegations demonstrates that Sanchez should be permitted to proceed with her claims and conduct discovery to substantiate NBIS and CTIS's roles, responsibilities, and culpability. NBIS and CTIS's failure to satisfy their burden to show Sanchez has not stated plausible claims for relief pursuant to the liberal notice-pleading standard set forth in NRCP 8(a) warrants this Court's denial of their Motion in its entirety. All of Sanchez's claims for relief are not only based on substantially detailed facts, but are also legally viable and ripe.

II.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Naturally, NBIS and CTIS distort the underlying facts surrounding Sanchez's pre-litigation bodily injury claim as well as the underlying facts of the personal injury action. To ensure this Court is accurately and fully apprised of the relevant facts, Sanchez provides a detailed recitation of the relevant facts below.

A. Bon Negligently Caused a Motor Vehicle Collision, Sanchez Sustained Severe Bodily Injuries, and Sanchez Made a Bodily Injury Claim to ATX and DMA

On April 28, 2015, a motor vehicle collision involving four cars occurred on Interstate-15 in Las Vegas, Nevada. *See* Default Judgment, *Sanchez v. Bon, et al.*, Case No. A-15-722815-C, at 1:23-15; p. 2, ¶ 1, attached as **Exhibit "2."** Bon drove a 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck directly behind Sanchez that carried two wheelbarrows in the truck bed. *Id.* at p. 2, ¶ 1. Bon negligently collided with the left side of Sanchez's rear bumper. *Id.*; *see also*, Sanchez's Second Amended Complaint ("SAC"), at p. 2, ¶ 14.1

¹ A third vehicle driven by non-party Joseph Acosta also struck the rear bumper of Sanchez's vehicle. *See* **Exhibit "2**," at 1:24-27. Sanchez sued Joseph Acosta and later, Wilfredo Acosta, who was the owner of Joseph Acosta's vehicle. *Id*. Sanchez resolved her claims against the Acosta Defendants. *Id*.



As a result of the subject collision, Sanchez suffered catastrophic injuries to her cervical spine and lumbar spine. See **Exhibit "2,"** at p. 2, ¶ 2. These extensive injuries necessitated substantial medical treatment, including anterior artificial disc replacement surgery at the L4-5 level of Sanchez's lumbar spine. Id.

Before Sanchez filed her personal injury lawsuit, she made a bodily injury claim with Bon's insurer, ATX. See SAC, at pp. 9-10, ¶ 40. At the time of the subject collision, ATX issued a personal automobile liability insurance policy to non-party Hipolito Cruz ("Cruz") that covered the Dodge pickup truck driven by Bon. Id. at pp. 4-5, ¶ 19. The ATX policy was in full force and effect at the time of the subject collision because the term of the policy ran from December 16, 2014 through June 16, 2015. Id. at p. 4, ¶ 18. The applicable liability insurance coverage limits under the ATX policy were \$15,000.00 per person and \$30,000.00 per occurrence. Id. at p. 4, ¶ 11. Bon was insured under the ATX policy when the collision occurred because he was a permissive driver of Cruz's pickup truck. Id. at pp. 4-5, ¶ 19. This fact has never been disputed. On May 21, 2015, Sanchez, through her counsel, reported her claim to ATX, via letter. Id. at pp. 9-10, ¶ 40. Sanchez included her medical records and bills for all treatment she underwent at that time. Id. A claim number of DMA-0147074 was already assigned to Sanchez's claim when she sent the May 21, 2015 letter. Id.

B. NBIS and CTIS Retained Financial Responsibility and Control Over All Claims Arising from Liability Insurance Policies Issued by ATX Before ATX was sold to Windhaven

At the time of Sanchez's claim, a contractual relationship existed between ATX and DMA whereby DMA provided services as a third-party claims adjuster for any claims made under policies issued by ATX. See SAC, at p. 6, ¶ 27. DMA was contractually obligated to carry out the duties ATX owed to Bon under the express terms of the policy. Id. A contractual relationship also existed between DMA and CTIS whereby DMA was obligated, on behalf of CTIS, to perform a variety of "claims adjusting services" for "claims and losses arising out of policies issued by affiliated companies of [CTIS]." Id. at pp. 6-7, ¶¶ 26-29; see also, Exhibit "1," at pp. 1, 3-7. One of those affiliated companies was ATX because NBIS and/or CTIS retained control over ATX



10801 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 560 Las Vegas, NV 89135 policies, which included indemnity, administrative, and handling obligations. *See* SAC, at pp. 8-9, $\P\P$ 31-35.

As early as February 22, 2013, NBIS was the parent company of ATX. *Id.* at p. 5, ¶ 21; *see also*, Official Order of the Texas Commissioner of Insurance, attached as an exhibit to Plaintiff's Motion to Amend Complaint to Add ATX Premier Insurance Company and NationsBuilders Insurance Services, Inc. as Defendants, *Hayes v. ATX Premier Ins. Co.*, Case No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK, at bates no. NBIS0065, ¶ 5, attached as **Exhibit "3."** On April 1, 2015, ATX, CTIS, AutoTex MGA, Inc. ("AutoTex"), and Safe Auto Insurance Company ("Safe Auto") entered into their Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement. *See* SAC, at p. 5, ¶¶ 22-24; *see also*, Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement excerpt, attached as an exhibit to Plaintiff's Motion to Amend Complaint to Add ATX Premier Insurance Company and NationsBuilders Insurance Services, Inc. as Defendants, *Hayes v. ATX Premier Ins. Co.*, Case No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK, attached as **Exhibit "4."** The Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement outlines specific "definitional guidelines" regarding the treatment of ongoing business obligations before the stock sale to Safe Auto that are relevant to this action:

(A) **Pre-close Policy. Pre-close Policy** means any policy which was issued on or before the closing date of the sale of **Auto Tex**, or which may be validly reinstated after such closing date by the policyholder during a reinstatement period. It also means any new policy written or renewed on or after the closing date which: (1) resides in the state of Arizona; (2) is produced by the LA Franchise Agency or its affiliates in any state; or (3) has been certified under the financial responsibility laws and regulations of any state,

See SAC, at p. 5, \P 23; see also, **Exhibit "4."**

The Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement confirms that policies issued by ATX before the March 2, 2015 stock sale of AutoTex to Safe Auto remained with CTIS:

WHEREAS, CTIS wishes to assume the rights and obligations hereunder to administer Pre-close Policies as the Pre-close Policy Claims Administrator;

WHEREAS, CTIS is in the business of providing claim services on behalf of insurance companies and is willing to

provide such services on behalf of **Company** on all **Preclose Policies** in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein; and as set forth in any agreed to Addenda attached to and made part of this Agreement;

See SAC, at pp. 5-6, ¶ 24; see also, Exhibit "4."

The Amended and Restated Claims Handling Agreement defines ATX as "Company" under the contract. See SAC, at p. 5, ¶ 24; see also, Exhibit "4." As such, the express terms of the agreement confirm NBIS and CTIS retained distinct management and control over insurance policies issued by ATX before March 2, 2015. Id. The ATX policy covering Bon went into effect on December 16, 2014. See SAC, at p. 4, ¶ 18. By definition, the ATX automobile liability insurance policy giving rise to Sanchez's claims in this action was a "Pre-close Policy" that has always remained under the control of NBIS and CTIS. See Exhibit "4."

NBIS eventually sold ATX to Windhaven in approximately April of 2016. See Windhaven™ Insurance Acquires ATX Premier; Ready to Grow Local Agent Business Countrywide, April 5, 2016, attached as Exhibit "5." The Texas Insurance Commissioner's Order approving the acquisition references only that "Windhaven will acquire control of ATX through the purchase of 100% of the issued and outstanding common capital stock of ATX for \$7,500,000 cash." See 3/3/16 Official Order of the Texas Commissioner of Insurance approving acquisition of ATX, at p. 1, ¶ 2, attached as Exhibit "6." This Order does not articulate that Windhaven also assumed or reserved financial responsibility and control over any of ATX's liabilities, including pre-sale liability insurance policies issued. See generally, Exhibit "6." There is evidence or documentation that has ever been disclosed to confirm Windhaven assumed any financial responsibility or control over any ATX liability insurance policies as part of its acquisition of ATX. No such evidence actually exists given the representations previously made by attorney John Podesta ("Podesta"), who represented ATX and NBIS in a Nevada federal district court action styled as Hayes v. ATX Premier Ins. Co., Case No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK. As Sanchez has articulated to this Court on several occasions, the Hayes matter involved claims arising from an ATX insurance policy that was issued in 2014. See Third Amended Complaint, Hayes v. ATX Premier Ins. Co., Case



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No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK, at pp. 1-2, \P 1, attached as **Exhibit "7."** Podesta made representations in dispositive motion practice in the *Hayes* action addressing NBIS's financial responsibilities:

In the context of this case, NBIS retained financial responsibility for claims relating to policies that were issued prior to the sale of ATX in 2015 [sic].

See ATX and NBIS's Opposition to Plaintiff's Motion for Summary Judgment, Hayes v. ATX Premier Ins. Co., Case No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK, pleading portion only, at 7:18-19, attached as **Exhibit "8"** (emphasis added).

Podesta confirmed NBIS's role as indemnitor and also detailed the role that CTIS played regarding claims arising from ATX policies issued in 2014 in a summary judgment motion filed in *Hayes* on November 7, 2019:

NBIS is a holding company that, as part of the sale of ATX, agreed to indemnify ATX for losses associated with pre-sale policies, akin to a reinsurer to insurance companies.

. . .

While NBIS-affiliated companies engage in **claim oversight activities** – notably NBIS Construction and Transport Services ("CTIS") – it is a completely separate company from NBIS.

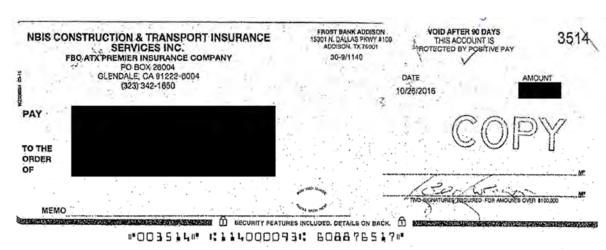
See ATX and NBIS's Motion for Summary Judgment or in the alternative Motion for Partial Summary Judgment, *Hayes v. ATX Premier Ins. Co.*, Case No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK, pleading portion only, at 3:18-20, 4:17-19, attached as **Exhibit "9"** (emphasis added).

The representations made by Podesta solidify that Windhaven's purchase of ATX in 2016 did not include the assumption of financial responsibility or control over any pre-sale insurance policies issued by ATX. This is precisely what happened when NBIS sold AutoTex to Safe Auto. *See* Exhibit "4." As a result, Windhaven never assumed any contractual or indemnity obligations arising from the way Sanchez's bodily injury claim was investigated, evaluate, or adjusted by ATX, DMA, NBIS, or CTIS. In fact, CTIS issued a settlement check for the benefit of ATX in the *Hayes* matter dated October 26, 2016, over six months after Windhaven purchased ATX:

. . .

| . .





See 10/26/16 check issued by CTIS, attached as an exhibit to Plaintiff's Motion to Amend Complaint to Add ATX Premier Insurance Company and NationsBuilders Insurance Services, Inc. as Defendants, Hayes v. ATX Premier Ins. Co., Case No. 2:18-cv-01938-GMN-NJK, attached as Exhibit "10."

This settlement check was tendered in relation to a claim arising from the ATX policy issued in 2014 to the owner of the car in Hayes, the same year that ATX issued the subject policy in Bon. See **Exhibit "7**," at p. 2, ¶¶ 2-3. Sanchez's factual allegations set forth in her Second Amended Complaint are predicated on these facts, which NBIS and CTIS conveniently do not acknowledge.

C. <u>Sanchez Submitted Her Policy Limits Demand, Which was Untimely Rejected Without any Basis</u>

On June 16, 2015, Sanchez made a two-week time limit demand for Bon's policy limits to DMA and ATX. See SAC, at p. 10, ¶ 41. At the time of the demand, Sanchez's past medical expenses for her treatment were approximately \$8,000.00, which was already very close to the \$15,000.00 minimum policy limit. Id. By that time, Sanchez was also recommended to undergo a cervical fusion surgery in the future. Id. Sanchez included a copy of the traffic accident report and her medical records and bills, including the record outlining her future surgical recommendations, with her demand letter. Id. Neither ATX, nor DMA, advised Sanchez that additional time was needed to respond to her policy limits demand before the June 30, 2015 deadline. NBIS and CTIS's suggestion that her policy limits demand was unreasonable now rings hollow.

On July 10, 2015, DMA sent Sanchez a letter acknowledging it represented the interests of ATX regarding the subject collision. Id. at p. 10, ¶ 43. It was not until that



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time that DMA requested additional time to complete its investigation of Sanchez's bodily injury claim because it allegedly needed to gather additional information to determine liability. Id. On July 17, 2015, one week after its initial letter, DMA advised Sanchez that her bodily injury claim was denied because its insured, Bon, was not the proximate cause of the crash and therefore, was not legally liable for Sanchez's damages. Id. at p. 10, ¶ 44. This was a completely baseless reason to disclaim coverage and outright reject Sanchez's policy limits demand. After that date, Sanchez received no further oral or written communication from ATX, DMA, NBIS, or CTIS. Id. at p. 11, ¶ 45. ATX, DMA, NBIS, and CTIS never even responded to Sanchez's numerous letters advising them that she filed and served her personal injury complaint on Bon. Id. at p. 11, ¶ 58.

D. <u>Sanchez Filed Her Personal Injury Complaint, Properly Served Bon with the Summons and Complaint Under Nevada Law, and Directly Notified and Advised ATX and DMA of Those Developments</u>

On August 7, 2015, Sanchez filed her complaint for personal injuries against Bon. See SAC, at p. 11, ¶ 46. There is no dispute Sanchez used diligent efforts to serve Bon with the summons and personal injury complaint. The district court concluded, on three separate occasions, that Sanchez properly served Bon with the summons and personal injury complaint as a matter of Nevada law:

As to Bon, Sanchez filed her Affidavit of Due Diligence on October 22, 2015 wherein the process server described his failed efforts to personally serve Bon with the Summons and Complaint at his last known address on September 22, 2015. On March 29, 2016, Sanchez filed her Amended Affidavit of Compliance wherein she confirmed that Bon was served with the Summons and Complaint through the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to NRS 14.070, on November 2, 2015. On November 9, 2015, Sanchez also sent, via certified mail, copies of the Complaint, traffic accident report, Summons, November 2, 2015 DMV letter confirming proof of service to Bon's last known address: 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. This package went unclaimed and was returned to Sanchez on November 12, 2015. On April 1, 2016, the district court entered Default against Bon for his failure to file an answer to Sanchez's Complaint or to otherwise appear in the action within twenty (20) days of service.

See Exhibit "2," at 2:3-13.



THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that Plaintiff properly served her Complaint on Defendant Blas Bon through the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles pursuant to NRS 14.070. Plaintiff exercised due diligence to locate and personally serve Bon before effectuating service through the DMV. . . . The efforts made to locate Bon were reasonably diligent and justified service of Sanchez's Complaint through the DMV.

See 9/19/20 Order Denying Bon's Motion to Set Aside Default Judgment, Case No. A-15-722815-C, at 2:10-20, attached as **Exhibit "11"** (emphasis added).

Court does not see a sufficient basis here that due diligence was lacking. There was [from] the Court's [perspective] appropriate due diligence.

See 11/24/20 Minute Order denying Bon's Motion for Rehearing and to Alter or Amend the Judgment and Order Denying Rule 60(b) Relief, attached as **Exhibit "12."**

Contrary to NBIS and CTIS's assertion, Sanchez was unaware that Bon was allegedly homeless at the time she attempted to effectuate personal service of the summons and personal injury complaint. This constitutes the same failed attempt made by DMA to excuse ATX and DMA's respective failures to take any action to safeguard the interests of Bon by defending him against Sanchez's personal injury lawsuit. NBIS and CTIS conveniently fail to acknowledge Sanchez notified and furnished proof to ATX and DMA, on multiple occasions, that she filed and served her personal injury lawsuit against Bon. It was at that time that NBIS, CTIS, ATX, or DMA should have challenged the validity of service, not several years later. NBIS and CTIS are sadly mistaken if they believe this action is the proper venue to litigate the merits of service to somehow invalidate the default judgment. NBIS and CTIS's blatant mischaracterization of the service issue is simply an act of desperation designed to avoid responsibility for the consequences of their own bad faith conduct.²

² NBIS and CTIS's reference that Sanchez did not serve Bon with her Amended Complaint in the personal injury action is similarly irrelevant to these proceedings. Pursuant to NRCP 5(a)(2), "no service is required on a party who is in default for failing to appear," unless the amended pleading asserts a new claim for relief against that party. Sanchez's Amended Complaint did not assert a new claim for relief against Bon. This underscores the tenuous positions NBIS and CTIS have taken to try to set aside a default judgment in their own self-interests.



It comes as no surprise that NBIS and CTIS overlook the chances that its affiliated insurer, ATX, and its contracted third-party claims administrator, DMA, had to preserve Bon's interests, of which they were duty-bound to perform. On January 20, 2016, Sanchez mailed a letter to ATX and DMA advising Bon was served with the summons and personal injury complaint via the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. See SAC, at p. 11, ¶ 50. Sanchez enclosed copies of the summons and personal injury complaint with this letter. Id. DMA and ATX failed to respond to the letter and took no action to tender a defense on behalf of Bon in the personal injury action. Id. at p. 11, \P 51. On February 16, 2016, Sanchez sent yet another letter to ATX and DMA advising Bon still had not yet filed an answer to the personal injury complaint. *Id.* at p. 12, ¶ 52. Sanchez further advised if Bon did not file an answer to the personal injury complaint, she would request the district court to enter a default against Bon, the insured. *Id.* Once again, DMA and ATX failed to respond to this letter or otherwise make an appearance on behalf of Bon to defend him against Sanchez's personal injury complaint. Id. at p. 12, ¶¶ 53-54. The district court did not even enter a default against Bon until April 1, 2016, which means DMA and ATX had over a month and a half from the February 16, 2016 letter to provide a defense for Bon and still failed to take that necessary action. Id. at p. 12, ¶ 55. Sanchez even notified ATX and DMA that a default was entered against Bon and provided them with a copy of the same. Id. at p. 12, \P 56-57. Once again, no action was undertaken by ATX, DMA, NBIS, or CTIS at that time to request the district court to set aside the default or to defend Bon in any way. *Id.*

E. ATX and/or DMA, and/or NBIS, and/or CTIS's Breach of Contract and Breach of the Implied Covenant of Good Faith and Fair Dealing Caused Entry of a Default Judgment

Due notice of the personal injury action was provided to Bon, ATX, and DMA, who admittedly represented ATX, CTIS, and NBIS's interests regarding the subject collision and Sanchez's bodily injury claim. See SAC, at p. 9, ¶¶ 35-39; p. 12, ¶ 58. ATX and/or NBIS, and/or CTIS, and/or DMA breached their respective contractual duties to defend and breached their respective duties to make reasonable settlement decisions in bad faith. Id. at p. 15, ¶ 75, pp. 16-17, ¶ 87. As a result, the Nevada state court entered a



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default judgment against Bon in the amount of \$15,212,655.73, inclusive of attorney's fees and costs. See Exhibit "2." at p. 4.

F. The District Court Judicially Assigned Bon's Claims Against ATX, DMA, NBIS, and CTIS to Sanchez and Sanchez Commenced this Action

Following entry of the default judgment against Bon, the district court granted Sanchez's Motion for Judicial Assignment of Bon's claims and causes of action against ATX and any other liability insurer or entity. See SAC, at p. 13, ¶ 64. Subsequently, the district court granted Sanchez's motion to clarify its judicial assignment order and made clear that its judicial assignment of Bon's claims included those against any thirdparty claims administrator, third-party claims adjuster, or any other applicable insurer, administrator, or entity. *Id.* at p. 13, ¶ 65.

Sanchez initiated her insurance bad faith and judgment enforcement action in 2019. After Windhaven removed this matter to federal court, the federal court remanded the case back to this Court on November 5, 2020. Shortly thereafter, this Court granted Sanchez's Motion for Leave to File Second Amended Complaint to Name ATX, NBIS, and CTIS, and to Voluntarily Dismiss Windhaven, Without Prejudice.

G. NBIS and CTIS's Recent Efforts to Set Aside the Default Judgment Entered Against Bon

Now that Bon's claims for relief have been judicially assigned to Sanchez, it comes as no surprise that now NBIS and CTIS have decided to take actions in the personal injury action to preserve their own financial interests under the guise of protecting Bon. Specifically, CTIS paid for counsel to file a motion to set aside the default judgment entered against Bon:

Kevin:

I want to clarify that it was NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc. that retained my office. They are obviously part of the NBIS family of **companies**. I should have been more precise about that point.

See 4/29/20 e-mail from attorney William Volk ("Volk"), attached as Exhibit "13" (emphasis added).



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10801 W. Charleston Blvd. Suite 560 Las Vegas. NV 89135 Five minutes before Volk sent this e-mail, Podesta was forced to clarify Volk's earlier e-mail regarding the entity that hired Volk:

And we see the reason that defense lawyers are kept in the dark about how things really work. Sorry, Bill. Mr. Volk's retention was by NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc., for the benefit of ATX Premier Insurance Co., who then utilized DMA Claims as the claims administrator.

See 4/29/20 e-mail from Podesta, attached as Exhibit "14" (emphasis added).

Podesta sent this e-mail after the March 25, 2200 Liquidation Order was entered against Windhaven, which further refutes the notion that this matter should be stayed. The NBIS/CTIS entities continue to use Bon to further their own self-interests and act for the benefit of ATX by pursuing various legal avenues to avoid the default judgment that was entered against Bon in the personal injury action. The NBIS/CTIS entities first hired Volk to file a motion to set aside the default judgment, which the district court denied on September 19, 2020. See Exhibit "11." Following the denial of that motion, NBIS/CTIS hired appellate counsel to file a motion for rehearing and to alter or amend the judgment and order denying Rule 60(b) relief, which the Court also denied. See Exhibit "12." NBIS/CTIS also simultaneously filed a notice of appeal on behalf of "Bon." See 10/20/20 Notice of Appeal, attached as **Exhibit "15."** It is certainly predictable that the only actions taken by NBIS/CTIS on Bon's behalf occurred when their financial interests became implicated. It is also confounding that NBIS/CTIS seek to stay this matter on account of the Liquidation Order entered against Windhaven when Windhaven, an insolvent insurer, lacks the money to fund NBIS and CTIS's feeble attempt to avoid the default judgment. The Second Amended Complaint makes it plain that Sanchez has no viable claim to submit pursuant to the Liquidation Order because Windhaven is not financially responsible for Sanchez's claim arising from a pre-sale ATX insurance policy.

III.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

NBIS and CTIS first contend this matter should be stayed pending adjudication of the appeal they have effectuated in the personal injury action and the lifting of the

Liquidation Order. Both of these arguments are not persuasive because they are based on two legally flawed premises: (1) that the default judgment is somehow not final; and (2) that the Liquidation Order applies to these proceedings. NBIS and CTIS set forth even weaker arguments requesting the dismissal of Sanchez's claims against them because she has failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted. Sanchez provides detailed allegations in her Second Amended Complaint to establish NBIS and CTIS's roles and involvement as joint venturers with ATX and DMA as it relates to the mishandling of Sanchez's bodily injury claim and her personal injury lawsuit. It is ironic that NBIS and CTIS wish to hold Sanchez to a more exacting pleading standard even though NBIS and CTIS possess all of the documents that most certainly validate Sanchez's claims. For the reasons set forth below, NBIS and CTIS's requests for dismissal or a stay are not meritorious and warrant a complete denial of their Motion.

A. Standard of Review Governing Dismissal Under NRCP 12(b)(5)

NRCP 12(b)(5) states that a claim may be dismissed for "failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted." *Simpson v. Mars Inc.*, 113 Nev. 188, 190 (1997). The standard of review to dismiss a claim under NRCP 12(b)(5) is rigorous. *Sanchez v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.*, 125 Nev. 818, 823 (2009). The district court "must construe the pleading liberally and draw every fair inference in favor of the nonmoving party" and "all factual allegations of the complaint must be accepted as true." *Simpson*, 113 Nev. at 190 (emphasis added.) "A complaint will not be dismissed for failure to state a claim unless it appears beyond a doubt that the plaintiff could prove no set of facts which, if accepted by the trier of fact, would entitle him or her to relief." *Id.* (emphasis added.)

"Because Nevada is a notice-pleading jurisdiction, our courts liberally construe pleadings to place into issue matters which are fairly noticed to the adverse party." *Hay v. Hay*, 100 Nev. 196, 198 (1984). In asserting a claim for relief, the pleading "shall contain (1) a short and plain statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief, and (2) a demand for judgment for the relief the pleader seeks." Nev. R. Civ. P. 8(a); *Swartz v. Adams*, 93 Nev. 240, 245 (1977). It "shall be simple, concise, and direct," and no technical forms of pleading are required. Nev. R. Civ. P. 8(e)(1). Nevada pleading



requirements do not necessitate the legal theory relied upon to be correctly identified. Swartz, 93 Nev. at 245. The pleading of legal or factual conclusions is sufficient so long as the pleading gives fair notice of the nature and basis of the claim. $Crucil\ v.\ Carson\ City$, 95 Nev. 583, 585 (1979). Discovery may later disclose the facts needed to support these conclusions, but for pleading purposes, conclusions alone are sufficient to withstand review under NRCP 12(b)(5). Id. The rationale behind the liberal pleading requirements of NRCP 8 centers on providing notice to the defendant of the tortious or wrongful conduct alleged, which is consistent with Nevada's status as a notice-pleading state. $Western\ States\ Constr.\ v.\ Michoff$, 108 Nev. 931, 936 (1992).

B. NBIS and CTIS Fail to Articulate any Legitimate Basis to Justify Entering a Stay in this Action

A trial court has the discretion to stay an action pending resolution of separate proceedings that may impact a case. Leyva v. Certified Grocers of Cal., Ltd., 593 F.2d 857, 863 (9th Cir. 1979). This discretion "is appropriately used when the resolution of another matter will have a direct impact on the issues before the court, substantially simplifying the issues presented." Dowkin v. City & Cty. of Honolulu, Case No. 10-00097 LEK-RLP, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 138375, at *16 (D. Haw. Sep. 30, 2014) (citing Mediterranean Enters. v. Ssangyong Corp., 708 F.2d 1458 (9th Cir. 1983)). NBIS and CTIS do not articulate how resolution of the appeal in the personal injury matter will have a direct impact by simplifying the issues before this Court. Instead, they rely on inapposite caselaw to somehow legitimize their contention that the underlying default judgment is not final for purposes of this action. This argument failed when DMA first presented it to this Court and nothing has changed to warrant a stay on this basis now.

1. The outcome of "Bon's appeal" does not impact the finality of the default judgment to justify a stay

A point lost upon NBIS and CTIS is that by securing a judicial assignment of Bon's rights, Sanchez has stepped into the shoes of Bon to enforce the default judgment against Defendants to aid her collection efforts. Even though the default judgment remains final and valid, NBIS and CTIS never posted a supersedeas bond or other bond or security that is required to stay the personal injury action pursuant to NRCP 62(d).



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there has been no bond posted in the personal injury action, Sanchez remains free, as a judgment creditor, to pursue collection efforts to satisfy the default judgment. This is a direct action to collect upon the final default judgment that is no different than any other method of collection available to a judgment debtor under Nevada law. See Gallegos v. Malco Enters. of Nev., 127 Nev. 579, 583 (2011) ("[A] district court may assign a judgment debtor's right of action to a judgment creditor in execution of a judgment . . ."). Because the personal injury action and resulting default judgment are not subject to a stay, NBIS and CTIS cannot use this action to thwart Sanchez's collection efforts by requesting a stay.

Yet, NBIS and CTIS somehow believe they are entitled to a stay in this action. Because

NBIS and CTIS also rely on the same failed premise that their convenient attempt to use Bon to avoid financial responsibility for the default judgment through an appeal negates the finality of the default judgment. This is legally incorrect because of the prevailing circumstances giving rise to the appeal in the personal injury action.

The default judgment was entered against Bon on July 19, 2019. See Exhibit "2." On January 17, 2020, nearly six months or 180 days after the default judgment was entered, NBIS and/or CTIS, used Bon to file a motion to set aside the default judgment pursuant to NRCP 60(b). NBIS and/or CTIS took this action solely to avoid financial responsibility for the resulting default judgment, not to protect or otherwise serve the interests of Bon. NRCP 60(c) addresses the interplay between filing a Rule 60(b) motion and the finality of the judgment entered:

(c) Timing and Effect of that Motion

(2) Effect on Finality. The motion does not affect the iudgment's finality its \mathbf{or} suspend (emphasis added).

NBIS and/or CTIS only used Bon to file a motion to set aside the default judgment, which was denied well after August 19, 2019, the deadline to appeal the default judgment. See Nev. R. App. P. 4(a)(1). This is precisely why an order denying a motion seeking relief pursuant to NRCP 60(b) is independently appealable and the only



substantive order on appeal before the Nevada Supreme Court. See Holiday Inn Downtown v. Barnett, 103 Nev. 60, 63 (1987); see also, Miller v. Freeman, No. 75291, 2018 Nev. Unpub. LEXIS 332, at *1 (Apr. 16, 2018) ("unpublished decision") ("[A]n order denying a motion seeking NRCP 60(b) relief is independently appealable). Therefore, the finality of the default judgment was not impacted when the district court denied NBIS and CTIS's NRCP 60(b) motion to set aside and is not now impacted by their appeal of that order.

Even NBIS and CTIS's subsequent filing of a motion to alter or amend the judgment pursuant to NRCP 59(e) on October 19, 2020 has not impacted the finality of the default judgment. A party must file his notice of appeal after entry of a written judgment or order no later than 30 days after the date such judgment or order is entered. Nev. R. App. P. 4(a)(1). NRCP 59(e) allows a party to file a motion to alter or amend a judgment no later than 28 days after service of written notice of entry of judgment. Motions filed with the district court pursuant to NRCP 59 toll the time period for a party to file their notice of appeal of a judgment or order. See Nev. R. App. P. 4(a)(4); see also, Winston Prods. Co. v. Deboer, 122 Nev. 517, 519-20 (2006). However, NBIS and CTIS failed to timely toll the 30-day time period to appeal the default judgment because their NRCP 59(e) motion was never filed until over a year after the 30-day time period to appeal the default judgment expired. Therefore, the pending appeal addresses **only**: (1) the order denying the motion to set aside the default judgment and (2) the order denying the motion to alter or amend the order denying Rule 60(b) relief, not the default judgment. The default judgment entered against Bon remains final. Accordingly, Sanchez can proceed with her claims for breach of contract, breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing, and violation of Nevada's Unfair Claims Practices Act.

NBIS and CTIS's reliance on *Branch Banking & Tr. Co. v. Nev. Title Co.*, Case No. 2:10-CV-1970 JCM (RJJ), 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 40948 (D. Nev. Ap. 13, 2011) is not persuasive. In *Branch Banking*, the district court determined the bad faith claim was not ripe because the policy stated the insurer shall have no liability until there was a final disposition of all appeals, not just because an appeal was pending. 2011 U.S. Dist.



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LEXIS 40948, at *10-11. There is no such similar policy language here that NBIS and CTIS identify. NBIS and CTIS's reliance on *Smenza v. Nevada Medical Liability Ins.* Co., 104 Nev. 666, 668 (1988) is similarly unavailing. In *Smenza*, the Court determined a legal malpractice claim did not accrue because the judgment in the action in which the alleged malpractice took place was timely appealed and, as a result, no damages were sustained. 104 Nev. at 185-86. As Sanchez demonstrates above, she has established her damages because the finality of the default judgment is not impacted in any way by the pending appeal. Therefore, her damages are established and allow her to maintain this bad faith action against all Defendants, including NBIS and CTIS.

2. The Liquidation Order entered against Windhaven is Not Applicable

NBIS and CTIS's attempt to use the Liquidation Order entered against Windhaven to avoid litigating this matter is laughable. NBIS and CTIS know that Windhaven did not assume any financial responsibility or control over any ATX automobile liability insurance policies that were previously issued as part of its acquisition of ATX. NBIS's counsel affirmatively made these representations to the Nevada federal district court in Hayes less than two years ago. Those statements constitute judicial admissions of fact that are binding on NBIS and CTIS. See Purgess v. Sharrock, 33 F.3d 132, 144 (2d. Cir. 1994) ("A court can appropriately treat statements in briefs as binding judicial admissions of fact"); see also, Baxter v. MBA Group Ins. Trust Health & Welfare Plan, 958 F. Supp. 2d 1223, 1233 (W.D. Wash. 2013) (citing Gospel Missions of Am v. City of L.A., 328 F.3d 548, 557 (9th Cir. 2003)). NBIS and CTIS retained financial responsibility and control over any claims arising from ATX's pre-sale insurance policies. If the opposite were true, NBIS and CTIS would have provided the appropriate documentation to prove it. No such documents exist. This is precisely why representatives from NBIS and/or CTIS attended the NRAP 16 settlement conference in the personal injury action. See Declaration of Kevin T. Strong, at p. 2, ¶ 6, attached as Exhibit "16." NBIS and/or CTIS also offered money in excess of the minimum \$15,000.00 policy limits available under the relevant ATX policy that covered Bon. *Id.* at p. 2, ¶ 7. This directly negates the applicability of the Liquidation Order entered against Bon as well as the relevant provisions of the Nevada Insurance Guaranty



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Association, which governs claims arising from policies underwritten by insolvent insurers:

The obligation of the Association to pay a covered claim is limited to the payment of:

. . .

(3) The limit specified in a policy or \$300,000, whichever is less, for each occurrence for any covered claim other than a covered claim specified in subparagraph (1) or (2).

See Nev. Rev. Stat. 687A.060(1)(a)(3) (emphasis added).

Windhaven is not a party to this litigation. ATX's status as a party to this litigation does not alter or change the Court's analysis because Windhaven never assumed financial responsibility or control over ATX insurance policies issued before the acquisition, including the ATX policy that covered Bon. As a result, Sanchez has no viable claim to even present to the Texas Liquidator. There has been no documentary evidence disclosed to refute this fact or the substantive factual allegations set forth in Sanchez's Second Amended Complaint. This further negates the legitimacy of NBIS and CTIS's request for a stay under any scenario.

C. <u>Sanchez States Plausible Claims for Relief Against NBIS and CTIS Given The Detailed Facts Alleged in Her Second Amended Complaint</u>

NBIS and CTIS conveniently ignore the factual allegations supporting her claims for breach of contract and bad faith while simultaneously seeking to hold her to an overly detailed and exacting pleading standard that contravenes Nevada law. NBIS and CTIS also overlook that the existence of a contractual relationship is not a prerequisite to pursue claims for breach of contract and insurance bad faith. Albert H. Wohlers & Co. v. Bartgis, 114 Nev. 1249, 1262 (1998). Wohlers involved an insured's claims for breach of contract and bad faith against her health insurer, Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America and Wohlers, the administrator of the policy. Id. at 1252. The claims stemmed from Allianz and Wohlers's failure to provide coverage for certain costs incurred by the insured during her hospital stay based on a new policy term that was not told to the insured. Id. At trial, the insured was awarded extensive damages by the jury. Id. One of the issues on appeal centered on whether the law supported the jury's



determination that Wohlers was liable for breach of contract and bad faith even though it was not a party to the insurance contract. *Id.* at 1262.

The Nevada Supreme Court recognized an exception to the general rule that only parties to a contract are liable for claims arising from the contract:

However, according to a well-established exception to this general rule, where a claims administrator is **engaged in** a joint venture with an insurer, the administrator may be held liable for its bad faith in handling the insured's claim, even though the organization is not technically a party to the insurance policy.

Wohlers, 114 Nev. at 1262 (emphasis added).

The Wohlers Court concluded that Wohlers and Allianz were involved in a joint venture sufficient to expose Wohlers to liability on all contract claims and bad faith claims. *Id.* The Wohlers Court specifically relied on evidence that showed Wohlers performed various administrative tasks for Allianz that included billing and collecting premiums and paying and adjudicating claims to establish the presence of a joint venture relationship. *Id.*

Sanchez does not attempt "to end-run the lack of contractual privity" in her Second Amended Complaint. See Motion, at 12:5-6. Rather, she sets forth, in substantial detail, how NBIS, the parent company of ATX, and CTIS, its affiliate, retained financial responsibility and control over all ATX insurance policies issued prior to the sale of ATX to Windhaven. See SAC, at pp. 5-6, ¶¶ 21-25. Sanchez details how CTIS, an affiliated company of NBIS, executed a "Claims Administration Agreement whereby DMA agreed to perform claims adjustment and administrative services for claims and loses arises from policies issued by affiliated companies. Id. at p. 6, ¶ 26. ATX was one of those affiliated companies because Windhaven did not "purchase or assume control over any ATX liability insurance policies issued before the sale, including the subject ATX Insurance Policy." Id. at p. 8, ¶ 30. Even NBIS and ATX's counsel in the Hayes federal court action admitted NBIS "retained financial responsibility for claims relating to insurance policies that were issued prior to the sale of ATX to Windhaven" and "agreed to indemnify ATX." Id. at p. 8, ¶ 31; see also, Exhibit "9," at 3:18-20, 4:17-19. In turn, CTIS tendered a settlement check "for the benefit of ATX."



See Exhibit "10." NBIS and CTIS have taken actions consistent with the obligations they assumed under the ATX insurance policies. Therefore, DMA performed claims adjusting services for the benefit of both NBIS, as the parent company and indemnitor for policies issued by ATX, and CTIS, the entity that reserved extensive control over DMA's administration of claims arising from ATX policies. Suggesting NBIS, CTIS, ATX, and DMA did not possess a joint financial interest to act for the benefit of each other through their joint management, investigation, evaluation, adjustment, and handling of bodily injury claims defies all logic and commonsense.

NBIS and CTIS's characterization of Sanchez's factual allegations as "vague and insufficient to survive a motion to dismiss" is similarly unavailing. See Motion, at 12:11-12. To support this assertion, NBIS and CTIS rely on the federal court's heightened pleading standard that is wholly inconsistent with Nevada's well-established notice pleading standard. NBIS and CTIS also overlook that a joint venture does not have to be extensive to hold them responsible for breach of contract and insurance bad faith. Wohlers, 114 Nev. at 1262 (citing Farr v. Transamerica Occidental Life Ins. Co., 699 P.2d 376, 386 (Ariz. Ct. App. 1984)). In Farr, which the Wohlers Court solely relied upon, the Arizona Court of Appeals noted that all of the features of a joint venture, such as profit and loss sharing, need not be present to establish claims for breach of contract and bad faith. 699 P.2d at 386. Yet, NBIS and CTIS somehow expect Sanchez to plead, with particularity, their various administrative responsibilities, and profit-sharing details when not a single document has yet to be produced by any entity in this action. Not only is this expectation completely unreasonable, but it also discounts the nature of the allegations made in Sanchez's Second Amended Complaint based on the limited amount of information in her possession. Sanchez's Second Amended Complaint details the interrelationship between NBIS, CTIS, ATX, and DMA based on their respective financial and administrative roles for claims arising from ATX policies with precision. Viewing those factual allegations and the reasonable inferences therefrom in a light most favorable to Sanchez sufficiently defeats NBIS and CTIS's request for dismissal pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5).



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NBIS and CTIS's request for dismissal of Sanchez's third claim for violation of Nevada's Unfair Claims Practices Act is premature. The *Wohlers* Court concluded that liability for a violation of Nevada's Unfair Claims Practices Act is limited to insurers or a company as defined by NRS 686A.330(2). 114 Nev. at 1264. "Company means a person engaged in the business of entering into agreements" Nev. Rev. Stat. 686A.330(2).

Agreement means a contract between a person and an insured or prospective insured under which the person agrees to pay a premium in advance on behalf of the insured or prospective insured in exchange for repayment of the amount advanced with interest or for some other consideration.

Nev. Rev. Stat. 686A.330(1).

Here, Sanchez alleges "NBIS and/or CTIS assumed the indemnity obligations of ATX and is financially responsible for damages arising from Sanchez's claim against the ATX Insurance Policy that covered Bon at the time of the April 28, 2015 motor vehicle collision." See SAC, at pp. 8-9, ¶ 34. NBIS should be treated as an insurer because it assumed ATX's indemnity obligations as part of its retention of all insurance policies underwritten by ATX before it was sold to Windhaven. NBIS's counsel admitted this to be true. See Exhibit "9," at 3:18-20. It is logical to infer that, as the entity that assumed indemnity obligations, NBIS also received any premiums that continued to be paid by ATX insureds post-sale. Under this factual scenario, NBIS also qualifies as a "Company" subject to liability for a violation of Nevada's Unfair Claims Practices Act. Wohlers, 114 Nev. at 1264.

Although CTIS characterizes itself as a claims administrator, Sanchez properly alleges CTIS may also have assumed ATX's indemnity obligations. Specifically, CTIS was the named payee "for the benefit of ATX Premier Insurance Company" that tendered a settlement check in the *Hayes* federal action for a claim arising from a 2014 ATX insurance policy. *See* SAC, at pp. 8-9, ¶¶ 34-35; *see also*, **Exhibit "10."** This creates a logical inference that CTIS also, or in conjunction with NBIS, retained the indemnity obligations arising from pre-sale ATX insurance policies. At this early stage of litigation, Sanchez should be permitted to conduct detailed discovery addressing the connection between NBIS and CTIS as it relates to the handling and administration of claims



arising from policies issued by ATX. An early dismissal of Sanchez's well-founded claims against NBIS and CTIS will unfairly hinder those discovery efforts, particularly when NBIS and CTIS downplay the significance of their alleged involvement in this case. Based on the Nevada's liberal pleading standard, NBIS and CTIS fail to satisfy the burden required to show Sanchez fails to state claims upon which relief can be granted pursuant to NRCP 12(b)(5).

IV.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing facts, law, and analysis, Plaintiff Diane Sanchez respectfully requests this Court to **DENY** Defendants Nationsbuilders Insurance Services, Inc. and NBIS Construction & Transport Insurance Services, Inc.'s Motion to Dismiss Second Amended Complaint, or in the Alternative, Motion to Stay Proceedings in its entirety.

DATED this 5th day of August, 2021.

PRINCE LAW GROUP

/s/ Kevin T. Strong

DENNIS M. PRINCE Nevada Bar No. 5092 KEVIN T. STRONG Nevada Bar No. 12107 10801 West Charleston Boulevard Suite 560 Las Vegas, Nevada 89135 Tel: (702) 534-7600 Fax: (702) 534-7601 Attorneys for Plaintiff Diane Sanchez



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NATIONSBUILDERS

DMA Claims Management, Inc.

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NBIS Construction & Transport Insurance Services, Inc.

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/s/ Kevin T. Strong An Employee of PRINCE LAW GROUP 26

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

GROUP, and that on the 5th day of August, 2021, I caused the foregoing document

entitled PLAINTIFF DIANE SANCHEZ'S OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS

CONSTRUCTION & TRANSPORT INSURANCE SERVICES, INC.'S MOTION

TO DISMISS SECOND AMENDED COMPLAINT, OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE,

MOTION TO STAY PROCEEDINGS to be served upon those persons designated by

the parties in the E-Service Master List for the above-referenced matter in the Eighth

Judicial District Court E-Filing System in accordance with the mandatory electronic

service requirements of Administrative Order 14-2 and the Nevada Electronic Filing

INSURANCE

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of PRINCE LAW

SERVICES.

INC.

AND

NBIS



EXHIBIT 1

CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

by and between

NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc. (hereinafter the "Company")

and

DMA Claims Management, Inc. (hereinafter the "Claims Administrator")

Effective Date: April 1, 2015

WHEREAS, the Company desires to employ Claims Administrator to perform claims adjustment and administrative services for certain claims and losses arising out of policies issued by affiliated companies of the Company;

WHEREAS, the parties desire to enter into a Claims Administration Agreement (hereinafter, the "Agreement") that will outline their primary duties and obligations with respect to this engagement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual promises and agreements, the parties agree as follows:

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. The term "Allocated Loss Adjustment Expense" as used herein shall mean all claims adjustment costs and expenses incurred in connection with the investigation, adjustment and settlement or defense of a claim for benefits. Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses are limited to reasonable, customary and necessary expenses. Such expenses shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following:
 - 1) attorneys fees and disbursements; and
 - 2) fees to court reporters; and
 - 3) all court costs, court fees and court expenses; and
 - 4) costs of automobile and property appraisals and re-inspections; and

- 5) costs of any required investigations by claims adjusters in the field; and
- 6) costs of interpreters; and
- 7) fees for database searches; and
- 8) fees for service of process; and
- 9) costs of surveillance and detective services; and
- 10) costs for employing experts for the preparation of maps, professional photographs, accounting, chemical or physical analysis, diagrams; and
- 11) costs for employing experts for their advice, opinions or testimony concerning claims under investigation or in litigation or for which a declaratory judgment is sought; and
- 12) costs for independent medical examination and/or evaluation for rehabilitation and/or to determine the extent of the Company' liability; and
- 13) costs of legal transcripts of testimony taken at coroner's inquests, criminal or civil proceedings; and
- 14) costs for copies of any public records and/or medical records; and
- 15) costs of depositions and court reported and/or recorded statements; and
- 16) costs and expenses of subrogation when referred to outside attorneys or other vendors; and
- 17) costs of engineers, handwriting experts and/or any other type of expert used in the preparation of litigation and/or used on a one-time basis to resolve disputes; and
- 18) charges for medical cost containment services, i.e., utilization review, preadmission authorization, hospital bill audit, provider bill audit and medical case management incurred only with the prior approval of the Company.
- 19) any other similar cost, fee or expense reasonably chargeable to the investigation, negotiation, settlement or defense of a claim or loss or to the protection or perfection of the subrogation rights of the Company.
- B. The term "Qualified Claim" shall mean a claim assigned by Company to Claims Administrator.

- C. The term "Feature" shall mean any separate coverage exposure within a claim. For example, one claim might have a Collision feature and one or more Bodily Injury or Property Damage features.
- D. The term "Claims Adjusting Services" as used herein shall mean the furnishing by the Claims Administrator to the Company of the following services in compliance with the terms of the applicable insurance policy, the laws and regulations of the applicable state(s), and industry-wide standards:
 - 1) Review all Company's claims and loss reports; and
 - Receive from Company coverage information for the applicable policy for the claim or loss reported. If authorized by Company, where coverage is in question, draft reservation of rights letters to be reviewed by the Company prior to sending to the insured. When Claims Administrator is advised by Company that no coverage exists, draft declination letters, which are to be reviewed by the Company as required, prior to sending to the insured. When appropriate, advise interested parties of the extent of coverage; and
 - 3) If instructed by the Company, establish records for incidents or occurrences reported by the insured that are not claims but may become claims at a later date; and
 - 4) Establish and adequately reserve each Qualified Claim and Feature, and code such claim in accordance with Company's statistical data requirements. Claims Administrator shall adopt and agree upon guidelines for reserving Features that comply with Company's guidelines and are consistent with industry standards; and
 - Conduct a prompt and detailed investigation of each Qualified Claim. Company and Claims Administrator shall adopt and agree upon guidelines for referring claims investigation to field investigators and adjusters that comply with Company's guidelines and are consistent with industry standards; and
 - 6) Adjust Qualified Claims for Property and/or Physical Damage by obtaining itemized estimates and/or appraisals of damage; and
 - Assure that there is sufficient evidence and documentation gathered and in the Company's claims system on a Qualified Claim, to allow the adjuster to properly evaluate the merits of the claim; and
 - 8) Provide, in accordance with the Company's procedures and authority, an initial report and periodic reports on the status of each Qualified Claim in excess of the reporting level or otherwise reportable; and

- Perform all necessary administrative work in connection with Qualified Claims; and
- 10) Respond immediately to any inquiry, complaint or request received from an insurance department or any other regulatory agency in compliance with written instructions, if any, provided by the Company. Respond promptly to any inquiry, complaint or request received from a client, claimant, agent, broker, or other interested party in connection with the Claims Adjusting Services; and
- 11) Process each Qualified Claim utilizing industry-wide standard forms where applicable; and
- 12) Attend, where appropriate and approved by the Company, mediation, arbitration, court-related or other dispute resolution hearings and/or conferences; and
- Maintain files for all Qualified Claims in the Company's claims system, that may include, where necessary, a) defense of claims; b) other litigation (such as subrogation, contribution or indemnity); c) other proceedings; d) claims handling activities; and e) expense control and disbursements; and
- 14) Pursue all reasonable possibilities of subrogation, contribution or indemnity on behalf of the Company; and
- 15) Adjust, settle or otherwise resolve claims in accordance with authority levels granted; and
- Pay or recommend payment where appropriate, all Qualified Claims and Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses, on a timely basis and in accordance with authority granted by the Company; and
- 17) Pursue recovery of third party liability deductibles; and
- 18) Maintain closed claim files in accordance with state regulations and/or Company requirements.
- E. The term "Claims Files" shall mean all information and documentation in written, electronic, photographic, or audio form gathered as part of the Claims Adjusting Services.

II. SERVICES

- A. In consideration of service fees paid by the Company as set forth in the Compensation Schedule attached hereto and made part of this Agreement, Claims Administrator agrees to provide Claims Adjusting Services with respect to all Qualified Claims, including those in excess of the Claims Administrator's authority level.
- B. Claims exceeding the authority level are to be immediately reported by email to the Company. Claims Administrator shall seek the Company's prior written approval on all Qualified Claim settlements in excess of the authority level. With respect to those Qualified Claims in excess of the authority level, Claims Administrator shall calculate and recommend reserves, and then, upon approval by the Company, post such reserves. However, ultimate determination of settlement and reserve amounts shall be retained by the Company.
- C. Claims Administrator warrants and represents that: 1) it shall perform all Claims Adjusting Services that are necessary and appropriate directly or through licensed independent claims adjusters; and 2) it and/or its employees hold all adjuster licenses as required by law to perform the designated services; and 3) it and its employees and persons under contract to Claims Administrator will at all times observe the requirements of laws and regulations of each state in the territory in which it operates, specifically including but not limited to the privacy laws, fair claims practices acts, and fair trade practices acts.
- D. If a Summons and Complaint is filed on a Qualified Claim, the Claims Administrator shall transfer that claim and all its Features back to the Company and shall no longer be responsible for the further handling of that claim.

III. TERM AND TERMINATION

- A. This Agreement shall be effective April 1, 2015, and shall be in effect until cancelled by either party with ninety (90) days' notice.
- B. In the event any license necessary to conduct the Claims Administrator's business expires or terminates, for any reason, the Claims Administrator shall immediately notify the Company and this Agreement shall automatically terminate as of the date of such license's expiration or termination unless, within one week from the date the Company receives notice of the license expiration or termination from the Claims Administrator, the Company agrees, in writing, to modify the provisions of this paragraph so as to allow the Agreement to continue.
- C. This Agreement may be terminated immediately upon written notice to either party if there has been an event of fraud, abandonment, insolvency, or gross or willful misconduct on the part of the other party.

- D. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Claims Administrator shall commit any material breach of the terms of this Agreement, or fail to comply with any material instruction or direction by the Company, the Company may, in its sole discretion, immediately upon notice, suspend or terminate any or all authority of the Claims Administrator. Upon receipt of such notice, the Claims Administrator shall thereupon cease to exercise such power or powers in accordance with such notice.
- E. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the Company shall commit any material breach of the terms of this Agreement, or fail to fulfill its obligations under the Agreement, Claims Administrator may immediately upon notice, suspend and/or terminate all claims handling under this Agreement.
- F. If the Agreement is terminated as per the provisions above, the Claims Administrator shall transfer all open Features to the Company at termination. The Company shall pay Claims Administrator all service fees earned up to the date of termination according to the Compensation Schedule attached hereto. Any time and expenses incurred by the Claims Administrator in the return of such files will be billed to the Company, with supporting documentation for such billing, and the Company shall pay such billing to the Claims Administrator within thirty (30) days from billing date.

IV. DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR

- A. Claims Administrator shall maintain all industry standard claim information necessary in the jurisdictions in which Claims Administrator performs Claims Adjusting Services.
- B. Claims Administrator shall comply with reasonable requests of the Company to achieve compliance with applicable state insurance statutes and regulations regarding the creation and maintenance of a Special Investigative Unit for the business of this Agreement.
- C. Claims Administrator shall cooperate with requests of the Company to achieve compliance with the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) relative to Company's obligation to assure that illicit transactions involving target countries and Specifically Designated Nationals are not processed. To the extent that the Claims Administrator incurs out-of-pocket costs for such compliance that solely benefits the Company, the Company will reimburse prior approved expenses.
- D. Claims Administrator shall comply with the Company's Privacy Policy under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act of 1999, as set forth below:

NBIS does not disclose any nonpublic personal information about individual policyholders or claimants to any affiliate or any non-affiliate third party other than those permitted by law and only for the purpose of transacting the business of the policyholder's insurance coverage or claim.

Claims Administrator shall fulfill any obligation of the Company to provide claimants with a copy of the Privacy Policy of the Company as may be required by law.

- E. Claims Administrator shall at all times be an independent contractor and shall not for any purpose be deemed to be or hold itself out to be an employee of or affiliated with the Company.
- F. In any state that levies a tax on the services provided by Claims Administrator to Company, Claims Administrator shall prepare an accounting of the tax owed as required by law and submit an invoice for this tax to Company. Once Company has paid the invoice, Claims Administrator shall forward the tax to the appropriate state agency.

V. DUTIES AND OBLIGATIONS OF COMPANY

- A. Company will provide all information relevant to particular claims to Claims Administrator in order for Claims Administrator to fulfill its duties and obligations as set out in this Agreement, including applicable policy and coverage information and coverage confirmation status.
- B. Company has ultimate authority and responsibility for authorizing claims payment and settlement of claims under this Agreement.
- C. Company will provide to Claims Administrator access to Company's claims system and policy and coverage information as required by Claims Administrator to perform its authorized duties under this Agreement.
- D. Company shall be responsible for the payment of all Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses relating to the Qualified Claims and the Claim Adjusting Services provided by Claims Administrator.

VI. INSURANCE AND INDEMNIFICATION

A. As a condition precedent and an ongoing obligation throughout the term of this Agreement, Claims Administrator shall, no less than annually, provide the Company with evidence of a policy of insurance providing Errors and Omissions insurance coverage for services performed pursuant to this Agreement, from an

insurance carrier acceptable to the Company, with a Limit of Liability no less than \$1,000,000 per claim and \$1,000,000 in the aggregate. Claims Administrator shall immediately notify the Company in the event of any cancellation, non-renewal, or reduction of coverage on any such policy.

- B. Claims Administrator agrees to defend the Company from any and all claims, suits or demands asserted by anyone against the Company, as a result of any errors or omissions of Claims Administrator, its officers, directors, employees or successors. If the Company becomes legally obligated to pay damages due to the errors or omissions of Claims Administrator, Claims Administrator agrees to indemnify the Company and to reimburse the Company for any costs, damages and expenses, of any nature whatsoever incurred or sustained by the Company, including but not limited to attorneys fees and other expenses, in connection with investigating and defending any actions, claims or suits against the Company as a result thereof. Claims Administrator agrees to cooperate with the Company in the investigation and defense of any such claims.
- C. The Company agrees to defend the Claims Administrator from any and all claims, suits or demands asserted by anyone against the Claims Administrator, as a result of any errors or omissions of Company, its officers, directors, employees or successors. If the Claims Administrator becomes legally obligated to pay damages due to the errors or omissions of Company, Company agrees to indemnify the Claims Administrator and to reimburse the Claims Administrator for any costs, damages and expenses, of any nature whatsoever incurred or sustained by the Claims Administrator, including but not limited to attorneys fees and other expenses, in connection with investigating and defending any actions, claims or suits against the Claims Administrator as a result thereof. Company agrees to cooperate with the Claims Administrator in the investigation and defense of any such claims.
- D. Claims Administrator does not agree to defend or indemnify any claims, suits or demands where the alleged errors or omissions concern parties other than Claims Administrator or its officers, directors, employees, successors, representatives or agents, such as matters of underwriting or policy administration.

VII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

- A. This Agreement shall be interpreted in accordance with the laws of the state of Georgia. Any cause of action brought arising out of the rights or obligations of this Agreement shall be brought in Atlanta, Georgia.
- B. Any forbearance or failure by the Company or Claims Administrator to enforce any right, provision, or power established under this Agreement or by operation of law shall not operate as a modification or waiver of such right, provision or

power, and the Company or Claims Administrator may, at any time, pursue all rights or remedies available to it to enforce all terms and conditions of this Agreement.

- C. This Agreement represents the full and complete understanding of the parties as to the subject matter herein, superseding all previous agreements, whether written or verbal. This Agreement may be modified or altered only by written amendment to this Agreement signed by duly authorized representatives of the parties.
- D. Claims Administrator understands and agrees that it shall retain liability for any loss or damage arising out of any work performed by any subcontractor retained by Claims Administrator to perform its duties under this Agreement.
- E. Claims Administrator understands and agrees that it shall retain liability for any loss or damage directly or indirectly caused by or arising out of Claims Administrator's access or use of Company's claims and policy systems.
- F. To be validly given, all notices, requests, consents, and other communications arising out of this Agreement must be in writing and mailed, postage paid, to the address of the party provided for in this Agreement. As an ongoing obligation throughout the term of this Agreement, each party shall notify the other of any change of address.
- G. This Agreement shall not become effective until signed by a duly authorized representative of both the Company and Claims Administrator.
- H. Headings on titles to the several sections herein are for identification purposes only and shall not be construed as forming a part hereof.
- In the event that any section, sub-section, or provision of this Agreement is declared by statute or by a court of competent jurisdiction to be illegal or void, such section, sub-section, or provision shall be deemed severed from the Agreement, and all other sections, sub-sections, terms, conditions and provisions shall remain in full force and effect.
- J. During the course of this Agreement, the parties will have access to proprietary, confidential information of each other. The parties will protect such information and treat it as strictly confidential, and shall not provide it to any third party or utilize it in any fashion outside of the scope of this Agreement, except as expressly authorized in writing by the parties or as required by law. The Claims Administrator agrees to adhere to all reasonable confidentiality policies as adopted from time to time by the Company regarding the protection of the Company's information.

For purposes of this Agreement, "proprietary information" means any non-public information regarding or relating to the business operations, technology, insureds,

customers, employees, business methods and other non-public information about Company and/or Claims Administrator. Such non-public business and technical information collectively constitutes trade secrets. For purposes of this Agreement, "confidential information" shall include, without limitation, information concerning insureds or prospective insureds, claimants, and employees and agents of Company and employees, methods, claims administrative procedures, metrics and other work practices of Claims Administrator.

- K. The Company, its authorized agents, officers and employees, and Claims Administrator mutually agree that until one (1) year after termination of this Agreement, they will not solicit, recruit or hire the other party's officers, employees, contractors or agents.
- L. Any notice under this Agreement shall be sent, postage prepaid, to the addresses provided below:

If to the Company:

NBIS Construction & Transport Insurance Service, Inc.

800 Overlook, 2859 Paces Ferry Road

Atlanta, GA 30339 (770) 257-1130

E-mail: akirkner@nbis.com

Attention: Arthur P. Kirkner, Vice President - Claims

If to the Claims Administrator:

DMA Claims Management, Inc.

P.O. Box 26004

Glendale, CA 91222-6004

(323) 342-6800 (323) 342-6850

Attn: Thomas J. Reitze, President

M. Dispute Resolution. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement or the breach thereof shall be addressed first by mediation between the parties. The costs of mediation shall be borne by both parties. If not resolved by mediation, the matter shall be addressed and settled by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association under its Commercial Arbitration Rules, and judgment on the award rendered by the arbitrator(s) may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. All parties to this Agreement and their authorized agents, officers and employees agree that during the dispute resolution process and afterwards, they will not at any time disparage, defame or hold up to public embarrassment or ridicule the other parties involved.

NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc.

Its:

Date:

By: Its: Date:

ADDENDUM TO CLAIMS ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENT

This Addendum incorporates by reference that certain Claims Administration Agreement effective April 1, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the "Agreement"), by and between the Company as identified in the Agreement, and the Claims Administrator as identified in the Agreement.

Claims Administrator will receive the following compensation from Company for its services:

- 1. For Property Damage, Collision or Comprehensive features that are open and being handled by Claims Administrator as of April 1, 2015, \$75 per feature. Payable when the feature closes.
- For Bodily Injury features that are open as of April 1, 2015, and are assigned to Claims Administrator by Company to handle to conclusion, \$375 per feature. \$187.50 is earned on assignment, and \$187.50 is earned when the feature is closed.
- 3. For new features opened after April 1, 2015, \$500 per Bodily Injury feature and \$250 per Property Damage, Collision or Comprehensive feature, with a cap of \$800 per accident regardless of the number of features arising out of the accident. Regarding Bodily Injury features, \$250 is earned on assignment, and \$250 is earned when the feature is closed.
- 4. \$75 for incident-only claims where no investigation is warranted.
- 5. For First Notices of Loss, \$12.50 per First Notice of Loss taken.
- 6. For administrative services including but not limited to bank and check stock setup, positive pay setup, FileHandler claims system setup, creation of Quality Control reports and testing, and setup of other required reports, \$200 per hour.
- For one administrative employee of Claims Administrator who is assigned to this program, Claims Administrator will receive the employee's actual salary plus 20%.

- 8. For administration and maintenance of the FileHandler claims system, \$1,000 per month.
- 9. Twenty-five percent (25%) of Net Subrogation Recoveries, earned when the recoveries are received. Net Subrogation recoveries are the gross amounts recovered through subrogation efforts by the claims Administrator on behalf of the Company, less any outside costs involved in the recovery process such as attorney fees.
- 10. \$105 per vehicle appraisal, \$115 per vehicle appraisal for a total loss, and actual cost outside of the DMA appraisal network, all earned upon completion.
- 11. \$35 per desk review of an auto damage estimate, earned upon completion.
- 12. \$45 per damaged auto assigned to Claims Administrator's shop network, earned upon assignment.

All ALAE is passed through to the Company for payment and is not included in this fee per feature. Any feature that goes into litigation is to be returned by Claims Administrator to Company.

At the end of each month Claims Administrator will prepare an invoice itemizing the services rendered as described in 1 through 12 above, and will send the invoice to the Company by email. The Company will pay the invoice within 20 days of receipt.

NBIS Construction and Transport Insurance Services, Inc.

By: 1 1 1 1

Date: 5/15/2015

DMA CLAIMS MANAGEMENT, INC.

By:

Its: PRES

Date: 5/9/15

EXHIBIT 2

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DENNIS M. PRINCE

Nevada Bar No. 5092 KEVIN T. STRONG

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Attorneys for Plaintiff

Diane Sanchez

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

DIANE SANCHEZ,

Plaintiff,

Flailluil

VS.

BLAS BON, individually; JOSEPH ACOSTA, individually; WILFREDO

ACOSTA, individually; DOES I-X and ROE CORPORATIONS I-X, inclusive,

Defendants.

Case No. A-15-722815-C Dept. No. XXV

DEFAULT JUDGMENT

Plaintiff Diane Sanchez's ("Sanchez") Application for Default Judgment was brought for hearing in Department XXV of the Eighth Judicial District Court, before The Honorable Kathleen E. Delaney, on the 11th day of June, 2019, with Dennis M. Prince and Kevin T. Strong of PRINCE LAW GROUP, appearing on behalf of Plaintiff Diane Sanchez and no one appearing on behalf of Defendant Blas Bon. The Court having reviewed the application on file herein, the documents attached thereto, and being duly advised in the premises:

This matter arises from a motor vehicle collision involving four (4) cars that occurred on April 28, 2015. On August 7, 2015, Sanchez filed her Complaint for personal injuries against Defendants Blas Bon ("Bon") and Joseph Acosta. On October 13, 2016, Sanchez filed her Amended Complaint wherein she named Wilfredo Acosta as an additional defendant. On October 16, 2018, Sanchez and the Acosta Defendants filed their Stipulation and Order for Dismissal with Prejudice following their confidential settlement of Sanchez's claims.

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☐ Voluntary Dismissal
☐ Involuntary Dismissal
☐ Stipulated Judgment
☐ Stipulated Dismissal
☐ Motion to Dismiss by Deft(s)

☐ Judgment ☐ Judgment

Prince Law Group 8816 Spanish Ridge

RPI.APP.000247 2 2019

Case Number: A-15-722815-C

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As to Bon, Sanchez filed her Affidavit of Due Diligence on October 22, 2015 wherein the process server described his failed efforts to personally serve Bon with the Summons and Complaint at his last known address on September 22, 2015. On March 29, 2016, Sanchez filed her Amended Affidavit of Compliance wherein she confirmed that Bon was served with the Summons and Complaint through the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles, pursuant to NRS 14.070, on November 2, 2015. On November 9, 2015, Sanchez also sent, via certified mail, copies of the Summons, Complaint, traffic accident report, and November 2, 2015 DMV letter confirming proof of service, to Bon's last known address: 3900 Cambridge Street, Suite 106, Las Vegas, Nevada 89119. This package went unclaimed and was returned to Sanchez on November 12, 2015. On April 1, 2016, the district court entered Default against Bon for his failure to file an answer to Sanchez's Complaint or to otherwise appear in the action within twenty (20) days of service. On March 29, 2019, Sanchez filed her Application for Entry of Default Judgment pursuant to NRCP 55(b)(2). The district court's entry of default constitutes an admission by Bon of all material facts alleged in Sanchez's Complaint. Estate of LoMastro v. Am. Family Ins. Group, 124 Nev. 1060, 1068 (2008). As a result, entry of default against Bon resolves the issues of liability and causation for all claims for relief in Sanchez's Complaint. Id. The only outstanding issue is the extent of Sanchez's damages.

Based on the foregoing, this Court finds and enters judgment against Bon as follows:

- 1. On April 28, 2015, Sanchez traveled northbound on Interstate 15 in a 1995 BMW 325i in the #5 travel lane. Bon drove a 1997 Dodge Ram 2500 pickup truck, wherein he hauled two wheelbarrows in the truck bed, directly behind Sanchez. Bon negligently collided with the left side of Sanchez's rear bumper.
- 2. As a result of Bon's negligence, Sanchez sustained severe and life-altering injuries to her cervical spine and lumbar spine that required substantial medical treatment, including anterior artificial disc replacement surgery at L4-5 of her lumbar spine, as established by her medical records.
- 3. As a result of Bon's negligence, it is reasonably foreseeable that Sanchez will suffer ongoing pain, suffering, and loss of enjoyment of life. It is also reasonably foreseeable that Sanchez will



undergo future medical treatment to address her cervical and lumbar spine injuries and ongoing residual chronic pain complaints suffered as a result of Bon's negligence. Sanchez's need for future medical treatment and the associated costs for her future medical treatment are established by her medical records and opinions of her retained medical expert, David J. Oliveri, M.D. Dr. Oliveri offers these opinions to a reasonable degree of medical probability.

4. As a result of Bon's negligence, Sanchez suffered past economic damages and it is reasonably foreseeable that Sanchez will suffer future economic damages that consist of: (1) future medical expenses, (2) past and future loss of wages and employee benefits, (3) loss of past and future housekeeping and household management services, and (4) reduction in the value of life damages. The extent of Sanchez's past and future economic damages is established by the opinions of her retained economist, Stan V. Smith, Ph.D. Dr. Smith offers his opinions to a reasonable degree of economic probability. Sanchez's permanent functional capacity disability that will preclude her from working in the future is established by the opinions of Dr. Oliveri. Dr. Oliveri offers this opinion to a reasonable degree of medical probability.

Based upon the papers, pleadings, and evidence on file herein, judgment is hereby entered in favor of Plaintiff Diane Sanchez and against Defendant Blas Bon, jointly and severally, as follows:

1. Past medical special damages:	\$465,285.01
2. Future medical special damages:	\$827,038.00
3. Past and future economic wage loss and employee benefits:	\$840,260.00
4. Past and future economic loss of household services:	\$446,334.00
5. Past pain and suffering:	\$2,000,000.00
6. Future pain and suffering:	\$3,000,000.00
7. Future reduction in the value of life:	\$2,685,877.00
8. Pre-judgment interest as allowed by Nevada law on past damages:	\$599,417.62
Total Damages:	\$10,864,211.63



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Attorneys' fees based on a contingency fee agreement of forty percent (40%) of the total judgment award in the amount of \$4,345,684.65 (\$10,864,211.63 * .40) pursuant to O'Connell v. Wynn Las Vegas, LLC, 134 Nev. Adv. Rep. 67, 429 P.3d 664, 670-71 (Nev. Ct. App. 2018).

A total judgment in the amount of \$15,209,896.28, plus costs in the amount of \$2,759.45, is hereby entered in favor of Plaintiff Diane Sanchez and against Defendant Blas Bon. Plaintiff Diane Sanchez shall also be entitled to interest as allowed by Nevada law from the date of entry hereof until the judgment is fully satisfied.

DATED this day of July, 2019.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

PRINCE LAW GROUP

Respectfully Submitted By:

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