Case No. 84558

In the Supreme Court of Nevada

UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE COMPANY; UNITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES, INC.; UMR, INC.; SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC.; and HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA, INC.,

Appellants,

vs.

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES (MANDAVIA), LTD.; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-MANDAVIA, P.C.; and CRUM STEFANKO AND JONES, LTD.,

Respondents.

Electronically Filed Sep 06 2022 11:51 p.m. Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

RESPONSE TO ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Although the district court has entered orders regarding attorney's fees and costs and disposing of appellants' motion under NRCP 59(e) (Exx. A-C), the district court has yet to enter orders regarding appellants' motions under NRCP 50(b) and 59(a).

Respondents have not raised any objection to the timeliness of those motions. Appellants will supplement their notice of appeal after the "written disposition of the last-remaining" post-judgment motion, if this Court does not dismiss the appeal before then. NRAP 4(a)(6).

Dated this 6th day of September, 2022.

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: /s/Abraham G. Smith

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Attorneys for Appellant

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on September 6, 2022, I submitted the foregoing "Response to Order to Show Cause" for filing *via* the Court's eFlex electronic filing system. Electronic notification will be sent to the following:

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/s/Jessie M. Helm

An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

Electronically Filed 8/2/2022 9:24 AM Steven D. Grierson Steven D. Griefson.
CLERK OF THE COURT

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	Attorneys for Defendants	
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	DISTE	RICT COURT
20		
2.1	CLARK CO	DUNTY, NEVADA
21	FREMONT EMERGENCY SERV	YICES Case No.: A-19-792978-B
22	(MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada profes	
22	corporation; TEAM PHYSICIANS	OF
23		evada
23	professional corporation; CRUM, STEFA	
24	AND JONES, LTD. dba RUBY C	REST GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING
∠ ⊤	A DAADDOONION MEDICINIE N	

IN PART DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO RETAX COSTS

Plaintiffs,

MEDICINE,

VS.

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EMERGENCY

professional corporation,

UNITED **HEALTHCARE INSURANCE**

Nevada

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COMPANY, a Connecticut corporation; UNITED HEALTH CARE **SERVICES** INC., UNITEDHEALTHCARE, Minnesota corporation; UMR, INC., dba UNITED **MEDICAL** RESOURCES, Delaware corporation; SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation; HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA, INC., a Nevada corporation,

Defendants.

YOU WILL PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order Granting In Part and Denying In Part Defendants' Motion To Retax Costs was filed July 28, 2022, in the above-captioned matter.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 2022.

/s/ Brittany M. Llewellyn

A copy is attached hereto.

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CERTIFI	CATE	OF S	SERV	/ICF

I hereby certify that on the 2nd day of August, 2022, a true and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART DEFENDANTS' MOTION TO RETAX COSTS was electronically filed/served on counsel through the Court's electronic service system pursuant to Administrative Order 14-2 and N.E.F.C.R. 9, via the electronic mail addresses noted below, unless service by another method is stated or noted:

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Judge David Wall, Special Master Attention: Mara Satterthwaite & Michelle Samaniego **JAMS** 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway, 11th Floor Las Vegas, NV 89123 msatterthwaite@jamsadr.com msamaniego@jamsadr.com

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

/s/ Cynthia S. Bowman

An employee of WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS **GUNN & DIAL, LLC**

ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 7/28/2022 5:00 PM

Electronically Filed 07/28/2022 4:59 PM CLERK OF THE COURT

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21	CLARK COUN	TY, NEVADA
22	FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICE	S Case No.: A-19-792978-B
	(MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada professiona	- XY 05
23	corporation; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA	
- 1	MANDAVIA, P.C., a Nevada professions	al
24	corporation; CRUM, STEFANKO AND JONES	S ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND
_	LTD. dba RUBY CREST EMERGENC	Y DENYING IN PART DEFENDANTS'
25	MEDICINE, a Nevada professional corporation,	MOTION TO RETAX COSTS
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26	Plaintiffs,	
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27	vs.	
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Page 1 of 6

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INSURANCE UNITED HEALTHCARE COMPANY, a Connecticut corporation; UNITED INC., **CARE** dba HEALTH **SERVICES** UNITEDHEALTHCARE. Minnesota corporation; UMR, INC., dba UNITED MEDICAL RESOURCES, a Delaware corporation; SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation; HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA, INC., a Nevada corporation,

Defendants.

Defendants UnitedHealthcare Insurance Company; United HealthCare Services, Inc.; UMR, Inc.; Sierra Health and Life Insurance Company, Inc.; and Health Plan of Nevada, Inc. (collectively "Defendants") Motion to Retax Costs (the "Motion") came before the Court on June 29, 2022. Colby L. Balkenbush of Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC, Jeffrey E. Gordon of O'Melveny & Myers LLP, and Daniel F. Polsenberg of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of Defendants. Pat K. Lundvall of McDonald Carano LLP and P. Kevin Leyendecker, Jane Robinson, Jason S. McManis, and Joseph Y. Ahmad of Ahmad, Zavitsanos & Mensing appeared on behalf of Plaintiffs Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd.; Team Physicians of Nevada-Mandavia, P.C. ("Team Physicians"); Crum, Stefanko and Jones, Ltd. dba Ruby Crest Emergency Medicine ("Ruby Crest") (collectively the "Plaintiffs").

The Court, having considered Defendants' Motion, the Plaintiffs' Opposition, and the arguments of counsel at the hearing on this matter, and good cause appearing, finds and orders as follows:

THE COURT FINDS that Plaintiffs are entitled to costs as the prevailing parties pursuant to NRS 18.110, the Court's March 9, 2022 Judgment and 18.020(3), as they sought recovery of money or damages in excess of \$2,500 in this action.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that the Health Care Providers Verified Memorandum of Costs was timely submitted pursuant to NRS 18.110(1).

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that NRS 18.110(1) provides that a party seeking costs must provide a memorandum of costs setting forth the recoverable costs that have been necessarily incurred. A party seeking costs bears the burden of establishing that the claimed costs are

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reasonable as well as demonstrating how the fees were necessary to and incurred in the present action. The Cadle Company v. Woods & Erickson, LLP, 131 Nev. 114, 120, 345 P.3d 1049, 1054 (2015). NRS 18.005 sets forth and defines the costs that are recoverable.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that each requested cost in the Health Care Providers Verified Memorandum of Costs is authorized by NRS 18.005, except as provided herein.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS NRS 18.110(4) provides that an adverse party may move the Court to retax and settle the costs contained in a Memorandum of Costs.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that it has the discretion to determine the allowable costs under NRS 18.020.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that, with regard to costs submitted for parking fees and parking tickets, these costs are not recoverable under NRS 18.005.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that with regard to costs of \$22,938.40 submitted for "business meals" under 18.005(17), the recoverable costs are limited to \$5,734.60.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that, with regard to travel, costs for first class airline tickets are not reasonable and necessary under NRS 18.005(15). All first class flight costs shall be reduced to what the price of a coach ticket would have been, amounting to a total reduction of \$959.69.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that, with regard to lodging, hotel costs exceeding a total nightly rate of \$325.00 shall be reduced and billed at the Circa rate of \$325.00/night. Meals billed as "travel" costs are to be reduced by fifty percent (50%). Parking billed as "travel" is to be deducted, as these costs are not recoverable under NRS 18.005. Plaintiffs' travel and lodging expenses are therefore reduced by \$89,421.83 to \$269,178.54.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that, with regard to Plaintiffs' request for expert witness fees under NRS 18.005(5) in the amount of \$264,050.83, good cause exists for reducing the requested amount by twenty percent (20%), for a total reduction of \$52,810.16, to \$211,240.67 in recoverable costs

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS that, with regard to E-discovery fees, such fees will be allowed under 18.005(17), due to the circumstances of the case and the necessity to process a large

amount of information in a short amount of time.

HE COURT FURTHER FINDS after review that the costs for photocopies, \$10,788.90 for McDonald Carano and \$50,714.32 for Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing P.C., indicated on the record on June 29, 2022, were incorrect, as they reflected an amount exceeding the one requested in the Memorandum of Costs submitted by Pat Lundvall.

THE COURT FURTHER FINDS after sua sponte review of the Motion to Retax, that the amount requested by Plaintiff for photocopies, in the amount of \$46,304.27, is hereby DEDUCTED from the total costs requested.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Defendants' Motion to Retax is GRANTED IN PART and DENIED IN PART for the reasons stated on the record, thereafter in the Court's Order Amending Oral Ruling Granting Defendants' Motion to Retax and in this written Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT Plaintiffs costs are retaxed, with total costs allowed as follows:

COST TYPE	ALLOWED
NRS 18.005(1). Clerk's Fees	\$6,742.19
NRS 18.005(2). Reporters' fees for depositions, including a reporter's fee for one copy of each deposition.	\$139,941.94
NRS 18.005(3). Jurors' fees and expenses, together with reasonable compensation of an officer appointed to act in accordance with NRS 16.120.	\$7,035.93
NRS 18.005(4). Fees for witnesses at trial, pretrial hearings and deposing witnesses	\$1,517.00
NRS 18.005(5). Reasonable fees of not more than five expert witnesses in an amount of not more than \$1,500 for each witness, unless the court allows a larger fee after determining that the circumstances surrounding the expert's testimony were of such necessity as to require the larger fee.	\$211,240.67

NRS 18.005(7). The fee of any sheriff or licensed process server for the delivery or service of any summons or subpoena used in the action.	\$12,220.10
NRS 18.005(8). Compensation for the official reporter or reporter pro tempore.	\$35,502.12
NRS 18.005(12). Reasonable costs for photocopies.	\$0
NRS 18.005(13). Reasonable costs for long distance telephone calls.	\$898.58
NRS 18.005(14). Reasonable costs for postage	\$9,381.67
NRS 18.005(15). Reasonable costs for travel and lodging incurred taking depositions and conducting discovery.	\$269,178.54
NRS 18.005(17). Other expenses incurred in connection with the action:	\$193,099.78
E-Discovery Fees: \$78,315.20	
Courier Mileage Fees: \$15,388.27	
Westlaw: \$49,935.28	
Parking: \$0	
Recording Fees: \$237.54	
Business Meals: \$5,734.60	
Special Master: \$15,350.00	
NV State Bar Fees (pro hac): \$11,419.88	
Out of State Deposition Fees: \$7,272.52	
Videotaped Depositions: \$6,183.00	
Investigation Fees: \$3,263.49	
Total Recoverable Costs	\$886,758.52

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 28th day of July, 2022

Hon. Nancy L. Alf

6FA F87 725E 13D5 Nancy Allf District Court Judge

1	Submitted by:
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3	/s/ Colby L. Balkenbush D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq.
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Approved as to form/content:

/s/ Patrick K. Leyendecker Pat Lundvall, Esq. Kristen T. Gallagher, Esq. Amanda M. Perach, Esq. McDONALD CARANO LLP 2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

Bowman, Cindy S.

From:

Kevin Leyendecker <kleyendecker@AZALAW.COM>

Sent:

Thursday, July 28, 2022 4:04 PM

To:

Balkenbush, Colby

Cc:

Pat Lundvall; Jason McManis; dpolsenberg@lewisroca.com

Subject:

RE: Proposed Order on Fees

This Message originated outside your organization.

thx

From: Balkenbush, Colby < CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 6:04 PM

To: Kevin Leyendecker < kleyendecker@AZALAW.COM>

Cc: Pat Lundvall <plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Jason McManis <jmcmanis@AZALAW.COM>;

dpolsenberg@lewisroca.com

Subject: RE: Proposed Order on Fees

I am good with these changes. We will get this submitted. Thanks.

From: Kevin Leyendecker < kleyendecker@AZALAW.COM>

Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 3:26 PM

To: Balkenbush, Colby < CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com>

Cc: Pat Lundvall <plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Jason McManis <jmcmanis@AZALAW.COM>;

dpolsenberg@lewisroca.com

Subject: RE: Proposed Order on Fees

This Message originated outside your organization.

Couple of minor edits. If you make these, I'm good with your signing my name

thx

From: Balkenbush, Colby < CBalkenbush@wwhgd.com>

Sent: Thursday, July 28, 2022 1:21 PM

To: Kevin Leyendecker < kleyendecker@AZALAW.COM >

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dpolsenberg@lewisroca.com

Subject: RE: Proposed Order on Fees

Following up on this. May I attach your e-signature and submit the order?

From: Balkenbush, Colby

Sent: Tuesday, July 26, 2022 1:06 PM

To: Kevin Leyendecker < kleyendecker@AZALAW.COM>

Cc: Pat Lundvall <plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com>; Jason McManis <<u>imcmanis@AZALAW.COM</u>>;

1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Fremont Emergency Services CASE NO: A-19-792978-B 6 (Mandavia) Ltd, Plaintiff(s) DEPT. NO. Department 27 7 VS. 8 United Healthcare Insurance 9 Company, Defendant(s) 10 11 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 13 Court. The foregoing Order Granting Motion was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 7/28/2022 15 16 Michael Infuso minfuso@greeneinfusolaw.com 17 Keith Barlow kbarlow@greeneinfusolaw.com 18 Frances Ritchie fritchie@greeneinfusolaw.com 19 Greene Infuso, LLP filing@greeneinfusolaw.com 20 Audra Bonney abonney@wwhgd.com 21 Cindy Bowman cbowman@wwhgd.com 22 D. Lee Roberts 23 lroberts@wwhgd.com 24 Raiza Anne Torrenueva rtorrenueva@wwhgd.com 25 cbalkenbush@wwhgd.com Colby Balkenbush 26 Daniel Polsenberg dpolsenberg@lewisroca.com 27

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1	Mara Satterthwaite
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EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT B

NEOJ

Pat Lundvall (NSBN 3761)

McDONALD CARANO LLP

Kristen T. Gallagher (NSBN 9561)

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Electronically Filed 8/2/2022 10:00 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

Joseph Y. Ahmad (admitted pro hac vice) John Zavitsanos (admitted pro hac vice) Jason S. McManis (admitted pro hac vice) Michael Killingsworth (admitted pro hac vice) Louis Liao (admitted pro hac vice) Jane L. Robinson (admitted pro hac vice) P. Kevin Leyendecker (admitted pro hac vice) Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing, P.C. 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 2500 Houston, Texas 77010 Telephone: 713-600-4901 joeahmad@azalaw.com jzavitsanos@azalaw.com imcmanis@azalaw.com mkillingsworth@azalaw.com lliao@azalaw.com jrobinson@azalaw.com kleyendecker@azalaw.com

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

(MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada professional professional corporation; CRUM, STEFANKO

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP, INC., a Delaware INSURANCE COMPANY, a Connecticut corporation; OXFORD HEALTH PLANS, INC., a Delaware corporation; SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation; SIERRA HEALTH-CARE

Case No.: A-19-792978-B Dept. No.: XXVII

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER APPROVING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES

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OPTIONS, INC., a Nevada corporation;
HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA, INC., a Nevada
corporation; DOES 1-10; ROE ENTITIES 11-
20,

Defendants.

Please take notice that the Order Approving Plaintiffs' Motion For Attorneys' Fees was entered on August 1, 2022, a copy of which is attached hereto.

Dated this 2nd day of August, 2022.

McDONALD CARANO LLP

$\mathbf{R}_{\mathbf{W}}$	/c/	Pat	Luna	lvall
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Pat Lundvall (NSBN 3761) Kristen T. Gallagher (NSBN 9561) Amanda M. Perach (NSBN 12399) 2300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 1200 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102

P. Kevin Leyendecker (admitted pro hac vice)
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Houston, Texas 77010

Justin C. Fineberg (admitted pro hac vice) Rachel H. LeBlanc (admitted pro hac vice) Jonathan E. Siegelaub (admitted pro hac vice) Lash & Goldberg LLP Weston Corporate Centre I 2500 Weston Road Suite 220 Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33331

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

MCDONALD (CARANO 2300 WEST SAHARA AVENUE, SUITE 1200 • LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89102 PHONE 702,873,4100 • FAX 702,873,9966

28

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

-	<u> </u>		
2	I certify that I am an employee of McDonald Carano LLP, and that on this 2nd day of		
3	August, 2022, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF ENTRY OF		
4	ORDER APPROVING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES to be served vi		
5	this Court's Electronic Filing system in the above-captioned case, upon the following:		
6	D. Lee Roberts, Jr., Esq. Colby L. Balkenbush, Esq.	Paul J. Wooten, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>)	
7	Brittany M. Llewellyn, Esq. Phillip N. Smith, Jr., Esq.	Amanda Genovese, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>)	
8	Marjan Hajimirzaee, Esq. WEINBERG, WHEELER, HUDGINS,	Philip E. Legendy, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>)	
9	GUNN & DIAL, LLC 6385 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 400	O'Melveny & Myers LLP	
10	Las Vegas, Nevada 89118	Times Square Tower, Seven Times Square, New York New York 10036	
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13		Daniel F. Polsenberg, Esq. Joel D. Henriod, Esq.	
14	Dimitri Portnoi, Esq. (admitted pro hac vice) Jason A. Orr, Esq. (admitted pro hac vice) Adam G. Lavina, Esq. (admitted pro hac vice)	Abraham G. Smith, Esq. LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER	
15	Adam G. Levine, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>) Hannah Dunham, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>) Nadia L. Fariand, Esq. (admitted pro hac vice)	CHRISTIE LLP	
16	Nadia L. Farjood, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>) O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP	3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169	
17	400 South Hope Street, 18 th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90071-2899	dpolsenberg@lewisroca.com jhenriod@lewisroca.com asmith@lewisroca.com	
18	dportnoi@omm.com jorr@omm.com	Attorneys for Defendants	
19	alevine@omm.com hdunham@omm.com	Judge David Wall, Special Master	
20	nfarjood@omm.com	Attention: Mara Satterthwaite & Michelle Samaniego	
21	K. Lee Blalack, II, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>) Jeffrey E. Gordon, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>) Kayin D. Fodor, Esq. (admitted pro hac vice)	JAMS 3800 Howard Hughes Parkway	
22	Kevin D. Feder, Esq. (admitted <i>pro hac vice</i>) Jason Yan, Esq. (<i>pro hac vice</i> pending) O'Melveny & Myers LLP	11th Floor Las Vegas, NV 89123	
23	1625 I Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006	msatterthwaite@jamsadr.com msamaniego@jamsadr.com	
24	lblalack@omm.com jgordon@omm.com		
25	kfeder@omm.com		
26	Attorneys for Defendants	Ragu Nalson	
27	/s/ Beau Nelson An employee of McDonald Carano LLP		

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Attornevs for Plaintiffs

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DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES 16 (MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada professional corporation; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF 17 NEVADA-MANDAVIA, P.C., a Nevada professional corporation; CRUM, STEFANKO 18 AND JONES, LTD. dba RUBY CREST EMERGENCY MEDICINE, a Nevada professional corporation, 20

Plaintiffs,

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22 UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE

COMPANY, a Connecticut corporation; UNITED 23

HEALTH CARE SERVICES INC., dba

UNITEDHEALTHCARE, a Minnesota 24

corporation; UMR, INC., dba UNITED MEDICAL RESOURCES, a Delaware

25 corporation; SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE

INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., a Nevada 26 corporation; HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA,

INC., a Nevada corporation, 27

Defendants.

Case No.: A-19-792978-B Dept. No.: XXVII

ORDER APPROVING PLAINTIFFS' **MOTION FOR ATTORNEYS' FEES**

Hearing Date: June 29, 2022 Hearing Time: 10:00 a.m.

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This matter came before the Court on June 29, 2022 on the Motion for Attorneys' Fees (the "Motion") filed by Plaintiffs Fremont Emergency Services (Mandavia), Ltd.; Team Physicians of Nevada-Mandavia, P.C.; Crum, Stefanko and Jones, Ltd. dba Ruby Crest Emergency Medicine (collectively the "Plaintiffs").

Pat Lundvall, McDonald Carano LLP; and Joe Ahmad, Jane Robinson, Kevin Leyendecker and Jason McManis, Ahmad, Zavitsanos, Anaipakos, Alavi & Mensing, P.C., appeared on behalf the Plaintiffs.

Colby Balkenbush, Weinberg, Wheeler, Hudgins, Gunn & Dial, LLC; Jeffrey E. Gordon, O'Melveny & Myers LLP; and Dan Polsenberg Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of defendants United Healthcare Insurance Company; United Health Care Services Inc., dba UnitedHealthcare; UMR, Inc., dba United Medical Resources; Sierra Health And Life Insurance Company, Inc. and Health Plan Of Nevada, Inc. (collectively "Defendants").

The Court, having considered the Motion, the Defendants' Opposition, Plaintiffs' Reply, the evidence cited in the pleadings, the Court's background and familiarity with this matter, and the argument of counsel at the hearing on this matter, and good cause appearing, finds and orders as follows:

- 1. The Motion was timely pursuant to NRCP 54(d)(2)(B)(i).
- 2. The contents of the Motion met the requirements of NRCP 54(d)(2)(B)(ii-v).
- 3. Each law firm retained by Plaintiffs worked on an agreed-upon hourly basis and the attorneys' fees sought were actually incurred and paid by the Plaintiffs.
- 4. Plaintiffs utilized a program known as CounselLink to review all invoices, including auditing such invoices for duplicative or redundant billing entries.
- 5. All invoices were submitted in accord with agreed-upon rates for agreed-upon timekeepers.
 - 6. All invoices fell within the scope of the Plaintiffs' outside counsel guidelines.
- 7. After CounselLink reviewed each invoice, Plaintiffs' in-house counsel reviewed each invoice for accuracy and reasonableness as well as any comments generated by CounselLink before processing, adjusting as necessary and paying the invoice if the total amount invoiced was

less than \$75,000.

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- 8. In instances where an invoice exceeded \$75,000, Plaintiffs employed a third-level of review by another in-house counsel before the invoice was ultimately submitted, adjusted as necessary and paid.
- 9. The Plaintiffs' chosen law firms, attorneys and paralegals possessed the requisite qualities, including ability, training, education, experience, professional standing and skill, necessary for this case.
- The character of the work required by this case was extensive and complex in its 10. difficulty, intricacy and importance.
 - 11. The work performed by the attorneys and paralegals was required by this case.
- 12. The results achieved were successful and represent an exceptional result for the Plaintiffs.
- 13. Rule 54 of the Nevada Rules of Civil Procedure establishes the procedure for recovering attorneys' fees. Thomas v. City of N. Las Vegas, 122 Nev. 82, 94, 127 P.3d 1057, 1065 (2006) (stating that attorney fees may be provided for by statute, rule, or contract). These procedures require the Court to find that the party requesting attorneys' fees was the prevailing party.
- 14. A party can prevail under NRS 18.010(1) if it succeeds on any significant issue in litigation which achieves some of the benefit it sought in bringing the suit, counterclaim, or motion. Blom v. Floodsuckers, LLC, 3:12-cv-570-RCJ-WGC, 2013 WL 3463260 (D. Nev. July 9, 2013) (citing Valley Elec. Ass'n v. Overfield, 121 Nev. 7, 10, 106 P.3d 1198, 1200 (2005)). The Supreme Court of Nevada has held that "[a] plaintiff may be considered the prevailing party for attorney's fee purposes if it succeeds on any significant issue in litigation which achieves some of the benefit is sought in bringing the suit." *Hornwood v. Smith's Food King*, 105 Nev. 188, 192, 772 P.2d 1284 (1989). Courts have stated that the term "prevailing party" is a legal term of art which Black's Law Dictionary 1145 (7th ed. 1999) defines as "[a] party in whose favor a judgment is rendered, regardless of the amount of damages awarded ..." Cleverley v. Ballantyne, 2:12-CV-00444-GMN-GWF, 2014 WL 317775, at *3 (D. Nev. Jan. 28, 2014) (citing Buckhannon Bd. v.

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West Virginia D.H.H.R., 532 U.S. 598, 603, 121 S. Ct. 1835, 1839 (2001)).

- Plaintiffs were the prevailing parties in this matter. The Court has entered judgment in their favor, including as a result of the jury's unanimous Special Verdict finding in favor of Plaintiffs on all claims tried, including their Prompt Pay Act cause of action (specifically NRS 683A.0879(5)). The Prompt Pay Act specifically provides: "A court shall award costs and reasonable attorneys fees to the prevailing party in an action brought pursuant to this section." Plaintiffs were the prevailing party under their Prompt Pay Act claims.
- 16. For the reasons discussed herein, generally the fees requested by Plaintiffs satisfy the reasonable factors or standards set forth in Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat. Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 455 P.2d 31 (1969). Those standards for the Court's review for reasonableness include:
 - the qualities of the advocate: his/[her] ability, his/[her] training, education, experience, professional standing, and skill;
 - the character of the work to be done: its difficulty, its intricacy, its importance, time and skill required, the responsibility imposed and the prominence and character of the parties where they affect the importance of the litigation;
 - the work actually performed by the lawyer: the skill, time, and attention given to the work; and
 - the result: whether the attorney was successful and what benefits were derived.

Brunzell at 349, 455 P.2d at 33. The Nevada Supreme Court notes that while a district court may choose "any method rationally designed to calculate a reasonable amount" for an attorney fee award, the district court "must continue its analysis by considering" the Brunzell factors. Shuette v. Beazer Homes Holdings Corp., 121 Nev. 837, 864-65, 124 P.3d 530, 549 (2005).

- 17. No one Brunzell factor should predominate or be given undue weight as the Court evaluates the reasonableness of Plaintiffs' request for an award of attorneys' fees.
- 18. The Court studied every page of the invoices submitted by Plaintiffs and looked at number of issues, including hourly rates, who was doing the work, incremental billing times,

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duplication of effort, block billing and redactions. The Court did look specifically to see if Plaintiffs' counsel was pyramiding services such that the lower rate services reflected the bulk of the time spent and the higher rate services reflected a minority of the time spent. As a result of such review, the Court found that 70 to 80 percent of the work was done at the lower level rates, leaving about 20 to 30 percent of the work done at the higher rates. Such evidence demonstrates Plaintiffs' counsel staffed and worked the case and issues in a reasonable and necessary fashion.

- 19. In reviewing the Plaintiffs' invoices, the Court considered its view of the defense proffered by the Defendants. In particular, Defendants put up the most impressive defense the Court has seen, including creating a record and raising every potential issue that had a possibility for appeal, and in some instances multiple times. The effect of that impressive defense, however, necessarily caused Plaintiffs to spend additional time and effort than would have otherwise been spent pursing the Plaintiffs' claims.
- 20. The Court notes that Defendants objected to the rates request by Plaintiffs on the basis that such rates do not reflect the prevailing rates in southern Nevada. The Court disagrees.
- 21. The rates requested by Plaintiffs reflect the prevailing rates in Las Vegas for a number of reasons. First, the rates requested compare favorably to the rates charged by Nevada attorneys of comparable skill, experience, reputation and work on similarly complex cases. A review of available other attorneys' applications or orders thereon for reimbursement of attorneys' fees in other sophisticated and complex cases also reveals that the rates at issue herein are more than reasonable. Comparable lead attorneys, practicing in cases of comparable sophistication and complexity, are known to have charged the following rates:

Jim Pisanelli \$650 (2015 rates) - \$1,000¹

Todd Bice $$650 (2015 \text{ rates}) - $1,000^2$

See Wynn Resorts Ltd. v. Okada et. al., Case No. A-12-656710-B, Declaration of James J.

Pisanelli Esq. In Support of the Award of Attorneys Fees Related to the Wynn Parties' Motion for Sanctions for Violations of the Protective Order (Jan. 7, 2016).

See Wynn Resorts Ltd. v. Okada et. al., Case No. A-12-656710-B, Declaration of James J. Pisanelli Esq. In Support of the Award of Attorneys Fees Related to the Wynn Parties' Motion for Sanctions for Violations of the Protective Order (Jan. 7, 2016).

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•	Dennis Kennedy	$$1,000^3$
•	Dan Polsenberg	$\$785^{4}$

 $$550 (2015 \text{ rates}) - 750^5 Debra Spinelli

Colby Williams $$750^6$ Donald Campbell $$750^7$

22. Moreover, district court judges both in state court and federal court, evaluating the Plaintiffs' law firm's attorneys fee applications have found rates comparable to the partners, associates and paralegal rates at issue in this case to be reasonable on other of their cases. See for example, Pardee Homes of Nev. Corp. v. AGRW-Canyons, LLC, No. 2:16-cv-01952-JAD-PAL, 2018 WL 10455160, at *4 (D. Nev. Mar. 27, 2018)("Lundvall declares that her hourly rate during this case was \$625 . . . I find that Pardee has demonstrated that the billing rates for the one partner (\$625) and three associate attorneys (\$300, \$275 and \$235) who worked on this case are reasonable."); Winecup Gamble Inc. v. Gordon Ranch LP, No. 3:17-CV-00163-RJC-WCG, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 23380, at *13 (D. Nev. Feb. 8, 2021)("The Court finds that the hourly rates charged by Defendant's counsel [Lundvall \$625 - \$675, Rory Kay \$300 - \$350, Diane Welch \$350] were largely customary. Plaintiff contends that Ms. Lundvall's hourly rate which averaged

Personal knowledge.

See Boca Park Marketplace Syndications Grp., LLC v. Ross Dress for Less, Inc., No. 02:16-CV-1197-RFB-PAL, 2020 WL 2892586, at *3 (D. Nev. May 31, 2020) (granting a motion for attorney fees at the rate of \$750 per hour for attorney Dan Polsenberg); see also, Affidavit of John E. Bragonje In Support of Lewis and Roca Motion for Attorney Fees and Cost, at 4-5, Boca Park, 2020 WL 2892586, ECF No. 157-9 (listing the following rates for its supporting attorneys and paralegals: Partner Dan Polsenberg - \$785, Partner Schaffer - \$550, Partner Bragonje - \$445, Partner Henriod - \$485, Partner Fountain - \$470, Associate Thorpe - \$295, Associate Brantley -Lomeli - \$295, Associate Foley - \$295, Paralegal Helm - \$140).

See Wynn Resorts Ltd. v. Okada et. al., Case No. A-12-656710-B, Declaration of James J. Pisanelli Esq. In Support of the Award of Attorneys Fees Related to the Wynn Parties' Motion for Sanctions for Violations of the Protective Order (Jan. 7, 2016).

See Mark Hunt v. Zuffa, LLC, 528 F. Supp. 3d 1180, 1188 (D. Nev. 2021) (granting a motion for attorney fees at the rate of \$750 per hour for attorney Colby Williams); see also, Declaration of J. Colby Williams, at *4, Hunt, 528 F. Supp. 3d 1188, ECF No. 193-1.

See Mark Hunt v. Zuffa, LLC, 528 F. Supp. 3d 1180, 1188 (D. Nev. 2021) (granting a motion for attorney fees at the rate of \$750 per hour for attorney Colby Williams); see also, Declaration of J. Colby Williams, at *4, Hunt, 528 F. Supp. 3d 1188, ECF No. 193-1.

\$641 was unreasonable but the Court disagrees this rate is reasonable based on the fact Ms.
Lundvall has more than thirty years litigation experience in Nevada."); Pool v. Gail Wiley
Landscaping, Inc., No. 3:16-CV-0019-HDM-VPC, 2017 WL 343640, at *1 (D. Nev. Jan. 23,
2017) ("It is customary for attorneys to bill an hourly rate for legal services provided The
Court finds both of these hourly rates [charged by a McDonald Carano LLP partner and associate]
to be reasonable and comparable to hourly rates attorneys practicing before this court routinely
charge."); Maiss v. Fitz, No. CV18-02309, 2020 Nev. Dist. LEXIS 139, at *6 (J. Egan Walker
presiding) (McDonald Carano LLP's rates for partners, associates and paralegal found to be
reasonable under Nevada standards and substantiated and therefore recoverable); WLNS
Investments, LLC v. Fayad., No. A-20-813011-B, at **3 (Nev. Dist. Ct. Feb. 15, 2022, April 6,
2022 (J. Allf presiding) (twice, the Court awarded attorneys fees after specifically finding
"[McDonald Carano LLP attorneys and paralegals] were charging below market rates [.]"); Aevoe
Corp. v. Shenzhen Membrane Precise Electron Ltd., No. 2:12-CV-00054-GMN-PAL, 2012 WL
2244262, at *5 (D. Nev. June 15, 2012) ("The fees and costs charged by the McDonald Carance
Wilson law firm are the rates that reflect the customary rate charged to the firm's clients for similar
litigation, and are comparable to the rates charged by attorneys at similarly situated Nevada based
firms. McDonald Carano Wilson has received national recognition as one of the top law firms in
the country."); Saticoy Bay v. Tapestry at Town Center Homeowners Ass'n, No. A-19-789111-C.
2020 (J. Allf presiding) Nev. Dist. LEXIS 600, at **5-6 (Court found the rates charged by
McDonald Carano LLP's attorneys and paralegals Ogilvie \$550, Sifers \$275 to be reasonable,
awarding all requested fees and costs); Signature Fin. LLC v. Nisley, No. A-18-785296-C (Nev.
Dist. Ct. Oct. 17, 2019 (J. Bare, presiding) (order granting attorney fees based on rates charged by
McDonald Carano LLP's attorneys Ryan Works (\$550) and Amanda Perach (\$400) and paralegal
Brian Grubb (\$185) found to be reasonable and awarded); ACS Primary Care Physicians Sw. PA v.
Molina Healthcare of Texas Inc., No. 2017-77084, (Tex. Dist. Ct. December 11, 2021) (J. Rabeea
S. Collier presiding) (judgment awarded reasonable attorneys and paralegal fees sought by the law
firm of Ahmad Zavitsanos Anaipakos Alavi & Mensing P.C. ("AZA") at the following rates:
Zavitsanos \$750, Robinson \$595, Leyendecker \$595, Killingsworth \$320, Liao \$320, Peter \$250,

Flores \$250, Rivers \$250).

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- 23. Defendants concede, as they must, that the "Court may also rely on its own familiarity with the rates in the community to analyze those sought in the pending case." Opposition 5:23-25, citing United Steelworkers of Am. v. Phelps Dodge Corp., 896 F.2d 403, 407 (9th Cir. 1990). In that regard the Court has previously found the following rates to be reasonable for the Plaintiffs' Nevada law firm: Saticoy Bay v. Tapestry at Town Center Homeowners Ass'n, No. A-19-789111-C, 2020 (J. Allf presiding) Nev. Dist. LEXIS 600, at **5-6 (court found the rates charged by McDonald Carano LLP's attorneys and paralegals (Ogilvie \$550, Sifers \$275) to be reasonable, awarding all requested fees and costs); WLNS Investments, LLC v. Fayad., No. A-20-813011-B, at **3 Nev. Dist. Ct. Feb. 15, 2022, April 6, 2022 (J. Allf presiding)) (twice this Court awarded attorneys fees after specifically finding "[McDonald Carano LLP attorneys and paralegals] were charging below market rates[.]"). The Court specifically finds the rates charged by Plaintiffs' attorneys and paralegals to be both prevailing and reasonable.
- 24. Defendants object to counsel's intermittent use of block billing and contend that Nevada prohibits block billing. The Court disagrees.
- 25. Nevada's seminal case for evaluating requests for attorneys' fees is *Brunzell*. Under Brunzell, the guiding principle is always the reasonableness of the attorney's fees requested rather than any specific method or approach in reaching that result. See Haley v. Dist. Ct., 128 Nev. Advance. Op. 16, 273 P.3d 855, 860 (2012) (noting the Court's analysis may include "any method rationally designed to calculate a reasonable amount, so long as the requested amount is reviewed in light of the factors set forth in *Brunzell*.").
- 26. Instead of analyzing Brunzell, Defendants suggest the Court should reduce the requested attorneys fees by 70% because the Ninth Circuit disapproves of block billing, which Plaintiffs' counsel used on a portion of the invoices in this case. Opposition 14:14-22:8. In arguing this, Defendants exclusively rely on Ninth Circuit cases, particularly Welch v. Metro Life, Ins. Co. and Lahiri v. Universal Music & Video Distribution Corp. See 480 F.3d 942 (9th Cir. 2007) and 606 F.3d 1216 (9th Cir. 2010), respectively.
 - 27. But Welch and Lahiri are not Nevada cases and thus have no application to the

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Court's analysis under Brunzell or other cases from the Nevada Supreme Court. In both Welch and Lahiri, the Ninth Circuit noted that the trial courts in those cases relied on a report from the California State Bar's Committee on Mandatory Fee Arbitration in concluding block billing was inappropriate for those cases. See 480 F.3d at 948; 606 F.3d at 1222-23. Although the California State Bar's reports may be given deference in California actions, they are not due such deference in Nevada actions. Of note, Defendants did not present the Court with the California State Bar's report, and thus neither the parties nor the Court can test the report's conclusions or methodology. Simply put, Welch and Lahiri's reliance on the California State Bar report has no application to this case.

- 28. Instead, what does have application to this case is the Nevada Supreme Court's holding that "block-billed time entries are generally amenable to consideration under the Brunzell factors, and a district court must consider block-billed time entries when awarding attorney's fees." In re Margaret Mary Adams 2006 Trust, No. 6710, 2015 WL 1423378 at *2 (Mar. 26, 2015) (internal citations omitted); see also Branch Banking, 2016 WL 4644477 at *5 (quoting In re Margaret in allowing recovery for block billed attorney's fees). Thus, only "where a district court determines that <u>none</u> of the task entries comprising the block billing were necessary or reasonable may a district court categorically exclude all of the block-billed time entries." *In re Margaret*, No. 6710, 2015 WL 1423378 at *2 (emphasis added).
- 29. Here, counsel's time entries are all capable of analysis under Brunzell, and the billing descriptions are more than sufficient to justify an award of reasonable attorney's fees. Nevada caselaw required Defendants to identify any block-billed entry in which *none* of the task entries were allegedly unnecessary or unreasonable. In this regard, Defendants did not bring a single one to the Court's attention. Therefore, the Court may not categorically exclude any of the block-billed entries either in whole or in part.
- 30. Put simply, although some jurisdictions may criticize block billing, the Court's review of the invoices in question, and the periodic use of block billing, did not preclude an analysis of the reasonableness or necessity of the tasks performed. Consequently, under Brunzell, there is no basis to reduce the Plaintiffs' fee request due to the use of block billing.

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- 31. Nevada law is clear that apportionment is <u>not</u> required or mandatory and the Court does not abuse its discretion to award all fees or costs requested when the facts and claims founded upon those facts are too intertwined to separate and assign to separate claims. Mayfield v. Koroghli, 124 Nev. 343, 353, 184 P.3d 362, 369 (2008) (citing Abdallah v. United Savings Bank, 43 Ca. App. 4th 1101, 51 Cal Rptr. 286, 293 (1996), and concluding apportionment is not mandatory if the claims are too intertwined to separate).
- 32. Here, Plaintiffs sought discovery on and tried their case on a single set of facts. Those facts supported multiple legal theories - including the imposition of punitive damages. But no one fact was solely applicable to one claim versus another. All were inextricably intertwined. Defendants made no effort to apportion any of the requested fees.
- 33. The factual predicate to all claims for which discovery was sought and for all claims tried was so inextricably intertwined that it would be impossible to separate and assign some attorneys' fees to some claims but not to others
- 34. In light of the extensive review conducted by the Court of the Plaintiffs' invoices, the prevailing rates discussed herein, the defense put forth both before and during and after the trial, the complexity and uniqueness of the case, the quality of the lawyering, the rigorous nature of the trial and the results obtained, the *full* \$12,683,044.41 in attorneys' fees requested by Plaintiffs, including the rates requested for each of the timekeepers involved, is reasonable under the circumstances.
- 35. However, in light of the number of timekeepers involved and the few instances where the Court found the time invoiced was a little too sparsely described, a reduction of 10% in the amount of requested attorneys' fees is appropriate.
- 36. Consequently, the sum of \$11,414,739.97 reflects the reasonable and necessary fees incurred by Plaintiffs and the Court awards and orders Defendants pay such amount in addition to the amounts awarded Plaintiffs in the previously entered Final Judgment.
- 37. Finally, the Court notes that after filing the Motion, Plaintiffs filed a Notice of Supplemental Fees together with a supporting Affidavit. The Court intends to take up that Notice and the supplemental request for fees in due course after Defendants have had an opportunity to

1	file a response thereto.	
2	ORDER	
3	IT IS SO ORDERED.	
4		Dated this 1st day of August, 2022
5		Nancy L Allf
6		TW
7		F4B F1C C161 CD09 Nancy Allf
8		District Court Judge
9	Submitted by:	Approved/Disapproved as to form and
10		content:
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1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Fremont Emergency Services CASE NO: A-19-792978-B 6 (Mandavia) Ltd, Plaintiff(s) DEPT. NO. Department 27 7 VS. 8 United Healthcare Insurance 9 Company, Defendant(s) 10 11 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 13 Court. The foregoing Order Granting Motion was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 8/1/2022 15 16 Michael Infuso minfuso@greeneinfusolaw.com 17 Keith Barlow kbarlow@greeneinfusolaw.com 18 Frances Ritchie fritchie@greeneinfusolaw.com 19 Greene Infuso, LLP filing@greeneinfusolaw.com 20 Audra Bonney abonney@wwhgd.com 21 Cindy Bowman cbowman@wwhgd.com 22 23 Pat Lundvall plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com 24 Kristen Gallagher kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com 25 Amanda Perach aperach@mcdonaldcarano.com 26 Beau Nelson bnelson@mcdonaldcarano.com 27

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EXHIBIT C

EXHIBIT C

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Attornevs for Plaintiffs

DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES
(MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada professional
corporation; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF NEVADA-
MANDAVIA, P.C., a Nevada professional
corporation; CRUM, STEFANKO AND JONES,
LTD. dba RUBY CREST EMERGENCY
MEDICINE, a Nevada professional corporation,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

25 UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE 26 COMPANY, a Connecticut corporation; UNITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES INC., dba 27 UNITEDHEALTHCARE, a Minnesota corporation; UMR, INC., dba UNITED 28 MEDICAL RESOURCES, a Delaware

Case No.: A-19-792978-B

Dept. No.: XXVII

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR REMITTITUR AND TO ALTER OR AMEND THE JUDGMENT

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a Nevada corporation,

Defendants

Please take notice that an Order Denying Defendants' Motion for Remittitur and to Alter or Amend the Judgment was entered on July 18, 2022, in the above-captioned matter. A copy is attached hereto.

Dated this 19th day of July, 2022.

McDONALD CARANO LLP

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that I am an employee of McDonald Carano LLP, and on this 19th day of July, 2022, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR REMITTITUR AND TO ALTER OR AMEND THE JUDGMENT** to be filed and served via this Court's Electronic Filing system in the above-captioned case, upon the following:

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Attorneys for Defendants

/s/ Marianne Carter

An employee of McDonald Carano LLP

ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 7/18/2022 5:08 PM

Electronically Filed 07/18/2022 5:07 PM CLERK OF THE COURT

ODM

DISTRICT COURT

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FREMONT EMERGENCY SERVICES 4 (MANDAVIA), LTD., a Nevada professional corporation; TEAM PHYSICIANS OF 5 NEVADA-MANDAVIA, P.C., a Nevada 6 professional corporation; CRUM, STEFANKO AND JONES, LTD. dba RUBY 7 CREST EMERGENCY MEDICINE, a

Nevada professional corporation,

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VS.

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28 HONORABLE NANCY L. ALLF

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

DEPT XXVII

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CASE NO.: A-19-792978-B

DEPARTMENT 27

Plaintiff(s)

UNITEDHEALTH GROUP, INC., a Delaware corporation; UNITED HEALTHCARE INSURANCE COMPANY, a Connecticut corporation: UNITED HEALTH CARE SERVICES INC., dba UNITEDHEALTHCARE, a Minnesota corporation; UMR, INC., dba UNITED MEDICAL RESOURCES, a Delaware corporation; OXFORD HEALTH PLANS, INC., a Delaware corporation; SIERRA HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, INC., a Nevada corporation; SIERRA HEALTH-CARE OPTIONS, INC., a Nevada corporation; HEALTH PLAN OF NEVADA, INC., a Nevada corporation;

DOES 1-10; ROE ENTITIES 11-20,

Defendant(s).

ORDER DENYING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR REMITTITUR AND TO ALTER OR AMEND THE JUDGMENT

On June 29, 2022, a hearing was held before the Court on Defendants' Motion for Remittitur and to Alter or Amend the Judgment. This matter was taken under advisement. The Court, having considered the Motion, the Opposition, and the Reply, as well as the exhibits thereto, and argument of counsel, orders as follows:

Case Number: A-19-792978-B

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DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

DEPT XXVII

ORDER.

COURT FINDS after review that if an award of damages is excessive, the Court may order remittitur damnum to reduce the damages or, alternatively, a new trial. Canterino v. The Mirage Casino-Hotel, 117 Nev. 19, 22 (Nev. 2001). An award of compensatory damages must be overturned if the "award is so excessive that it appears to have been given under the influence of passion or prejudice." Bahena v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., 235 P.3d 592, 601 (Nev. 2010). Although the size of the award alone is not conclusive of passion or prejudice, the Court should reduce or disallow the award if "its judicial conscience is shocked." Guaranty Nat'l Ins. Co., v. Potter, 112 Nev. 199, 207 (Nev. 1996).

COURT FURTHER FINDS after review that with regard to special damages, while the amount of damages does not need to be mathematically exact, there must be "an evidentiary basis" for determining an amount that is reasonably accurate." Bahena, 235 P.3d at 601; see also Canterino, 117 Nev. at 24. The District Court has significant discretion in ruling upon a motion for remittitur. Canterino, 117 Nev. at 22. Indeed, on appeal, the Nevada Supreme Court will "accord deference to the trial judge's decision and reject a challenge to the judge's discretion if there is a material conflict of evidence regarding the extent of the damages." *Id.*

COURT FURTHER FINDS after review that to determine whether a punitive damage award violates a party's due process rights a court must consider (1) "the degree of reprehensibility of the defendant's conduct," (2) the ratio of the punitive damage award to the "actual harm inflicted on the plaintiff," and (3) how the punitive damages award compares to other civil or criminal penalties "that could be imposed for comparable misconduct." Bongiovi v. Sullivan, 122 Nev. 556, 582, 138 P.3d 433, 452 (2006).

COURT FURTHER FINDS after review that "[t]he most important indicium of reasonableness of a punitive damages award is the degree of reprehensibility of the defendant's conduct." State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Campbell, 123 S.Ct. 1513, 538 US 408, 419 (2003).

The reprehensibility factors considered are: 1) the type of the harm caused; 2) the indifference to or a reckless disregard of the health or safety of others; 3) whether the target of the conduct is financially vulnerability; 4) if the conduct involved repeated actions or was an isolated incident; and 5) the harm was the result of intentional malice, trickery, or deceit, or mere accident. *Id.* at 1521, 538 US at 419. The existence of any one of these factors weighing in favor of a plaintiff may not be sufficient to sustain a punitive damages award; and the absence of all of them renders any award suspect. *Id.*

COURT FURTHER FINDS after review when defendants' actions were intentional and repetitive, resulting in economic harm to plaintiffs, this can warrant an award of punitive damages. *In Re USA Commercial Mortg. Co.*, 2013 WL 3944184 (D. Nevada 2013). When assessing reprehensibility, the court can consider the risk of harm to others when the conduct at issue was putting them at risk too. *Merrick v. Paul Revere Life Ins. Co.*, 594 F.Supp.2d 1168, 1186 (D. Nev. 2008). During the trial, evidence was presented that supported the jury's finding of repeated wrongdoing, which harm was caused by oppression, intentional malice, and/or fraud.

COURT FURTHER FINDS after review and consideration of the entire record, that with respect to the reprehensibility factors, the evidence supports the jury's decision on punitive damages.

COURT FURTHER FINDS after review that "because there are no rigid benchmarks that a punitive damages award may not surpass, ratios greater than those we have previously upheld may comport with due process where a particularly egregious act has resulted in only a small amount of economic damages The converse is also true, however. When compensatory damages are substantial, then a lesser ratio, perhaps only equal to compensatory damages, can reach the outermost limit of the due process guarantee." *Campbell*, 123 S.Ct. at 1524, 538 US at 424-25.

HONORABLE NANCY L. ALLF

1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Fremont Emergency Services CASE NO: A-19-792978-B 6 (Mandavia) Ltd, Plaintiff(s) DEPT. NO. Department 27 7 VS. 8 United Healthcare Insurance 9 Company, Defendant(s) 10 11 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 12 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 13 Court. The foregoing Order Denying Motion was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 7/18/2022 15 16 Michael Infuso minfuso@greeneinfusolaw.com 17 Keith Barlow kbarlow@greeneinfusolaw.com 18 Frances Ritchie fritchie@greeneinfusolaw.com 19 Greene Infuso, LLP filing@greeneinfusolaw.com 20 Audra Bonney abonney@wwhgd.com 21 Cindy Bowman cbowman@wwhgd.com 22 D. Lee Roberts 23 lroberts@wwhgd.com 24 Raiza Anne Torrenueva rtorrenueva@wwhgd.com 25 Pat Lundvall plundvall@mcdonaldcarano.com 26 Kristen Gallagher kgallagher@mcdonaldcarano.com 27

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