# IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS, DECEASED.

TODD ROBBEN,

Appellant,

VS.

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS; AND THE THOMAS J. HARRIS TRUST,

Respondents.

Case No. 86096

Electronically Filed Aug 28 2023 03:41 PM Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

# RESPONDENTS' APPENDIX

# Volume 9

Tara Flanagan, as Personal Representative of the Estate of Thomas J.

Harris and Trustee of the Thomas J. Harris Trust

By and through her Legal Counsel

Wallace & Millsap

F. McClure Wallace

Nevada Bar No. 10264

510 W. Plumb Lane, Suite A

Reno, Nevada 89509

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mcclure@wallacemillsap.com

Respondents, the Estate of Thomas J. Harris and the Thomas J. Harris Trust, by and through Tara Flanagan, in her capacity as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Thomas J. Harris and Trustee of the Thomas J. Harris Trust by and through her Legal Counsel hereby submits her Appendix in compliance with Nevada Rule of Appellate Procedure 30.

TITLE	DATE	BATE	VOL.
Declaration of Trust Known as the Thomas J. Harris Trust, dated June 12, 2019	6/12/2019	RA 7-42	1
Docketing Statement	2/3/2023	RA 815-825	11
Emergency Stay Request; Emergency Verified Motion to Reconsider; Request for Calcification; Notice of Non Hearsay Proof of Thomas Joseph and Olga Harris Living Trust	6/22/2022	RA 148-212	2
Last Will & Testament of Thomas Joseph Harris	6/12/2019	RA 1-6	1
Letters Testamentary	4/22/2021	RA 60-61	1
Limited Opposition to Petitioner's Motion for a Decision on the Pleadings; Petitioner's Motion Declining Oral Argument filed by The Estate of Thomas J. Harris and The Thomas J. Harris Trust	12/15/2022	RA 615-620	9
Memorandum of Temporary Assignment	8/5/2022	RA 359	5
Minutes of Hearing	1/6/2023	RA 776	10
Motion to Dismiss filed by the Estate of Thomas J. Harris	10/6/2022	RA 367-459	6
Notice of Appeal	6/27/2022	RA 213-214	3
Notice of Appeal filed by Todd Robben	2/3/2023	RA 812-814	11
Notice of Entry of Order	7/15/2022	RA 256-262	3

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Notice of Entry of Order	2/16/2023	RA 838-853	11
Notice of Hearing	4/15/2022	RA 102-105	1
Notice of Motion for Continuance and Motion for Continuance	5/23/2022	RA 138-139	2
Objection to Petitioner Todd Robben's Verified Petition to Invalidate The Thomas J. Harris Will and Trust; Petitioner's Request for Appointment of Counsel Pursuant to NRS 136.200; Emergency Request for Stay of Final Distribution; Peremptory Challenge to Judge Nathan Tod Young filed by The Estate of Thomas J. Harris	12/15/2022	RA 621-708	9
Opposition to Emergency Verified Motion to Reconsider; Request for Calcification (SIC); Notice of Non Hearsay Proof of the Thomas Joseph and Olga Harris Living Trust; Opposition to Emergency Stay Request	7/1/2022	RA 215-232	3
Opposition to Petitioner's Motion to Strike Respondent's Objection, Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Summary Judgment filed by The Estate of Thomas J. Harris and The Thomas J. Harris Trust	12/30/2022	RA 743-753	10
Order	7/13/2022	RA 253-255	3
Order Appointing Special Administrator	3/11/2021	RA 58-59	1
Order Appointing Successor Executor and Issuing Successor Letters Testamentary	7/27/2021	RA 98-101	1
Order Confirming Transfer to Department 1	7/26/2022	RA 357-358	5
Order Dismissing Appeal	7/8/2022	RA 251-252	3
Order Granting Motion for Summary Judgment; Motion to Dismiss; & Deeming Petitioner a Vexatious Litigant	2/8/2023	RA 826-837	11

Order Granting Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs	6/22/2022	RA 140-147	2
Order Granting Respondents' Motion to Continue Hearing	9/27/2022	RA 364-366	5
Order Setting Hearing	9/6/2022	RA 360-361	5
Order Setting Hearing	11/30/2022	RA 607-608	9
Order Shortening Time	9/19/2022	RA 362-363	5
Order to Proceed in Forma Pauperis	7/26/2022	RA 355-356	5
Order Transferring Case to Department I	7/26/2022	RA 353-354	5
Petition for Appointment of Successor Executor and for Issuance of Successor Letters Testamentary	6/25/2021	RA 67-74	1
Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs	4/15/2022	RA 106-137	1
Petitioner Todd Robben's Objection to Respondent's Motion to Dismiss	10/21/2022	RA 471-514	7
Petitioner Todd Robben's Verified Objection to Respondent's Motion for Summary Judgment	10/21/2022	RA 515-556	7
Petitioner, Todd Robben's Notice and Affidavits in Support of the Pre-Existing Olga and Thomas J. Harris Living Trust with Petitioner Named Beneficiary	11/2/2022	RA 580-584	8
Petitioner, Todd Robben's Petition to Invalidate The Thomas J. Harris Will and Trust; Petitioner's Request for Appointment of Counsel Pursuant to NRS 136.200; Emergency Request for Stay of Final Distribution; Peremptory Challenge to Judge Nathan Tod Young filed by The Estate of Thomas J. Harris	7/26/2022	RA 263-352	4

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Petitioner's First Amended Reply in Support of Motion to Strike Respondent's Objections, Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Summary Judgment	1/3/2023	RA 768-775	10
Petitioner's Motion for a Decision on the Pleadings; Petitioner's Motion Declining Oral Argument	12/8/2022	RA 609-614	9
Petitioner's Motion to Strike Respondent's Objections, Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Summary Judgment	12/23/2022	RA 717-725	10
Petitioner's Motion to Strike Respondent's Unlawful Surreply	11/7/2022	RA 591-595	8
Petitioner's Notice and Provisional Motion to Strike Respondent's Objections, Motion to Dismiss and Motion for Summary Judgment	1/3/2023	RA 754-767	10
Petitioner's Reply in Support of Emergency Stay Request & Emergency Verified Motion to Reconsider; Request for Clarification; Notice of Non Hearsay Proof of the Thomas Joseph and Olga Harris Living Trust	7/5/2022	RA 233-250	3
Petitioner's Reply in Support of Motion to Strike Respondents Unlawful Surreply	11/21/2022	RA 600-606	9
Petitioner's Verified Reply in Support of Motion for a Decision on the Pleadings; Petitioner's Motion Declining Oral Argument	12/23/2022	RA 726-742	10
Reply in Support of Motion to Dismiss	10/31/2022	RA 565-579	8
Request to Appear Remotely via Zoom for Court Appearance/Hearing	12/28/2022	RA 854-855	11
Resignation of Trustee and Acceptance by Successor Trustee of the Thomas J. Harris Trust dated June 12, 2019	5/17/2021	RA 62-66	1

Submission of Proposed Order Granting Motion for SummaryJudgment; Motion to Dismiss; & Deeming Petitioner a Vexatious Litigant	1/10/2023	RA 800-811	11
The Thomas J. Harris Trust's Motion for Summary Judgment	10/6/2022	RA 460-470	7
The Thomas J. Harris Trust's Objection & Response to Todd Robben's Petition to Invalidate the Trust	12/15/2022	RA 709-716	10
The Thomas J. Harris Trust's Opposition to Motion to Strike	11/14/2022	RA 596-599	8
The Thomas J. Harris Trust's Reply Points & Authorities in Support of its Motion for Summary Judgment	10/31/2022	RA 557-564	8
The Thomas J. Harris Trust's Supplemental Brief to its Motion for Summary Judgment Addressing Fugitive Affidavits Filed by Petitioner Todd Robben	11/4/2022	RA 585-590	8
Thomas A. Harris's Response to Petition for Appointment of Successor Executor, Etc.	7/22/2021	RA 75-97	1
Transcript of January 6, 2023 Hearing	1/6/2023	RA 777-799	11
Verified Petition for Letters of Special Administration (NRS 140.010) and for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary (NRS 136.090)	3/10/2021	RA 43-57	1

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BOBBIE R. WILLIAMS

BY A DEPUTY

(209)540-7713

Robben.ty@gmail.com

IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

TODD ROBBEN,

Todd Robben

PO Box 4251 Sonora, CA 95370

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Petitioner

CASE NO.: 2022-PB-00119

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PETITIONER'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO STRIKE RESPONDENTS UNLAWFUL SURREPLY

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH

HARRIS; THOMAS J. HARRIS TRUST,
Deceased,

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Respondent.

Petitioner, Todd Robben was correct to move to strike the Respondents surreply because it was a sur-reply to their Motion for Summary Judgment.

The Petitioner did not file memorandum of points and authorities, or a sur-reply, he had simply filed a notice and affidavits and requested direction from the court as to any hearing in person or zoom to verify the affidavits in person with each witness. Or, the court can order the Petitioner to provide notarized affidavits from both California for Stephen James Robben and Todd Robben and Nevada for Mike Weston. The

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court can order all three notarized affidavits from Nevada and the court can accept what has been provided with are three witnesses that Todd Robben was indeed a beneficiary in the Olga and Thomas J. Harris Living Trust.

The Respondent is the one who has overreacted and filed an unlawful sur-reply without requesting leave from the court. The Respondent is desperate because it knows this Petitioner has, without counsel and in pro se, won this case and proven he has standing, in an "interested person" and, indeed, he is a beneficiary and the Respondent conceded by not arguing anything about the <u>Barefoot v. Jennings</u>, 456 P. 3d 447 - 2020 - Cal: Supreme Court, case.

After case number 2021 PB00034 was decided and an order issued denying this Petitioner counsel on the grounds he is not an interested person pursuant to NRS § 132.185 this Petitioner filed a motion to reconsider and notice of appeal and to request the stay. Both were denied without reaching the merits of what an "interested person" is and is not pursuant to NRS 132.185 which states "Interested person" defined as "Interested person means a person whose right or interest under an estate or trust may be materially affected by a decision of a fiduciary or a decision of the court. The fiduciary or court shall determine who is an interested person according to the particular purposes of, and matter involved in, a proceeding." Based on this definition, the Petitioner is indeed an Interested person pursuant to NRS 132.185.

Although not named in the trust or will as a beneficiary, as a matter of law, this Petitioner is legally a "Beneficiary" based "contingent" on his "present interest" and "future interest" which are both vested and contingent and he would be the owner of an interest by assignment or other transfer from the Thomas

 J. Harris Trust ...or from the Thomas J. and Olga Harris Living Trust. See <u>Barefoot v.</u> <u>Jennings</u>, supra.

NRS 132.050 states "Beneficiary" defined. "Beneficiary," as it relates to: 1. "A trust, includes a person who has a *present or future interest*, *vested* or *contingent*, and the owner of an interest by assignment or other transfer".

Compare NRS 132.050 with the California equivalent Section 17200, subdivision (b)(3) contemplates the court's determination of "the validity of a trust provision. "Plainly, the term "trust provision" incorporates any amendments to a trust. Section 24, subdivision (c) defines a "beneficiary" for trust purposes, as "a person who has any present or <u>future interest</u>, vested or <u>contingent</u>." Assuming plaintiff's allegations are true, *she has a present or future interest*, making her a beneficiary permitted to petition the probate court under section 17200." See <u>Barefoot v. Jennings</u>, *supra*.

The Nevada Supreme Court summarily dismissed the appeal because they claim this Petitioner lacks standing and is not a party to the action i.e. not named in the lawsuit/petition as a respondent/defendant or petitioner/plaintiff. The Nevada Supreme Court failed to even consider the facts before they were filed that shows the Petitioner is, in fact, named in the will/trust as being disinherited.

The Petitioner styled is argument in case number 2021 PB00034 as the same argument in *Barefoot v. Jennings, infra.* 

If this ruling stands, nobody in Nevada can petition the court for probate or presumed undue influence or fraud or lack of capacity if they are presumably not already a beneficiary. This Petitioner was undisputedly "disinherited" albeit by way of presumed undue influence and undue influence.

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A similar situation occurred in California in <u>Barefoot v. Jennings</u>, 456 P. 3d 447

- Cal: Supreme Court 2020.1

In early November 2019, the California Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the <u>Barefoot</u> case, and in late January 2020, the California Supreme Court issued its opinion reversing the Court of Appeal decision. The California Supreme Court held as follows: "We disagree with the Court of Appeal, and hold today that the Probate Code grants standing in Probate Court to individuals who claim that trust amendments eliminating their beneficiary status arose from incompetence, undue influence or fraud."

California probate Section 17200, subdivision (b)(3) contemplates the court's determination of "the validity of a trust provision." Plainly, the term "trust provision" incorporates any amendments to a trust. Section 24, subdivision (c) defines a "beneficiary" for trust purposes, as "a person who has any present or *future* interest, vested or *contingent*." Assuming plaintiff's allegations are true, she has a present or future interest, making her a beneficiary permitted to petition the probate court under section 17200.[vii] (Emphasis added).

The California Supreme Court held that with this interpretation, when a plaintiff claims to be a rightful beneficiary of a trust, if the challenged amendments are deemed invalid, then the plaintiff has standing to petition the Probate Court under Section 17200.

The Court added that this expansive reading of the standing requirement afforded to trust contests under Section 17200 "not only makes sense as a matter of judicial economy, but it also recognizes the probate court's inherent power to decide all incidental issues necessary to carry out its express powers to supervise the administration of the trust."

Section 17200, subdivision (b)(3) contemplates the court's determination of "the validity of a trust provision." Plainly, the term "trust provision" incorporates any amendments to a trust. Section 24, subdivision (c) defines a "beneficiary" for trust purposes, as "a person who has any present or <u>future interest</u>, vested or <u>contingent</u>." Assuming plaintiff's allegations are true, *she has a present or future interest*, making her a beneficiary permitted to petition the probate court under section 17200.[vii] (Emphasis added).."

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<sup>1</sup> Source: https://keystone-law.com/legal-standing-trust-contests/

trust

The Court cautioned, however, that its ruling in Barefoot did have certain limitations in its applicability, stating: "Our holding does not allow individuals with no interest in a trust to bring a claim against the trust. Instead, we permit those whose well-pleaded allegations show that they have an interest in a trust — because the amendments purporting to disinherit them are invalid — to petition the probate court."

Thus, by so holding, the Supreme Court's ruling could potentially exclude a Decedent's heirs (who were not named as beneficiaries in any prior version of the Decedent's estate plan, but who would otherwise have a beneficial interest through intestate succession in the event the Decedent did not have a valid estate plan) from filing a Section 17200 contest in Probate Court. Thus, any such contests currently pending by such heirs in Probate Court may be subject to attack based on the heirs' lack of standing.

Accordingly, the effect of the California Supreme Court's decision was not to limitlessly expand the universe of potential litigants who can bring trust contest claims in the future, but rather, to confirm that Section 17200 can be used by disinherited beneficiaries as it had been in the past, while leaving open this unresolved issue concerning a Decedent's heirs.

# Cal. Prob. Code § 17200 Current through the 2022 Legislative

Session is the equivalent of NRS 164.015. Cal. Prob. Code § Section 17200

- Petition concerning internal affairs or determine existence; internal affairs of

(a) Except as provided in Section 15800, a trustee or beneficiary of a trust may petition the court under this chapter concerning the internal affairs of the trust or to determine the existence of the trust.

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There was no argument by the Respondent about the evidence being 
"hearsay" as was the case in the other probate case 2021-pb00034 (In re: The 
Estate of Thomas J. Harris).

There was no argument by the Respondent as to the presumed undue influence and/or undue influence and the facts supporting these claims. The Respondent has conceded to those arguments.

The Respondent has, in a last ditch effort, grasping at the last thing it has left, the witnesses and affidavits to which the Petitioner discussed in the original petitioner under penalty of perjury and has only reinforced said witnesses and affidavits with proof of such facts and evidence.

The Respondent could have, but did not proved any affidavits or proof or even suggest that the Petitioner's claims can be rebutted by opposing witnesses or evidence. The Respondent has indeed conceded here and not urged any points to counter the Petitioner's facts and points of authorities. After all - "[a] point not urged in the trial court, unless it goes to the jurisdiction of that court, is deemed to have been waived and will not be considered on appeal." Old Aztec Mine, Inc. v. Brown, 97 Nev. 49, 52, 623 P.2d 981, 983 (1981.)

Respectfully signed under penalty of perjury,

/s/ Todd Robben

November 21, 2022

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Stephen James Robben, declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the following is true and correct copy of the filed document. That on November 21, 2022, service of the document was made pursuant to NRCP 5(b) by depositing a email to: F. McClure Wallace, counsel for Respondent, mcclure@wallacemillsap.com

DATED this 21 day of November, 2022

Submitted By: /s/ Stephen James Robben

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IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL	DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
IN AND F	OR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS
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TODD ROBBEN,	
Petitioner,	
vs.	ORDER SETTING HEARING
THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSE HARRIS; THOMAS J. HARRIS	
Respondent.	7
The above-entitled matter	
Dismiss; and Petitioner To Invalidate the Thomas J. H Request for Appointment of	ion for Summary Judgment; Motion to odd Robben's Verified Petition to Harris Will and Trust; Petitioner's f Counsel Pursuant to NRS 136.200; y of Final Distribution; Peremptory Tod Young
TO COMMENCE on Friday, Jan	nuary 6, 2023 at the hour of 9:00 a.m.
L. L.	of November, 2022.
	/s/ Robert E. Estes
	ROBERT E. ESTES SENIOR JUDGE
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1	Copies served by mail on November 3, 2022, addressed to:	
2	Todd Robben	
3	P.O. Box 4251	
4	Sonora, California 95370	1
5	F. McClure Wallace, Esq. 510 West Plumb Lane	
6	Reno, Nevada 89509	
7	Reno, Nevada 89509  Erin C. Plante	
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Todd Robben In Pro per PO Box 4251 Sonora, CA 95370 Robben.ty@gmail.com

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CASE NO.: 2022-PB-00119

**ORAL ARGUMENT** 

PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR A **DECISION ON THE PLEADINGS;** 

PETITIONER'S MOTION DECLINING

2022 DEC -8 PM 3: 48

IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

Petitioner

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS; THOMAS J. HARRIS TRUST,

Deceased,

Respondent.

Petitioner, Todd Robben, is in receipt of the November 30th, 2022 order setting a hearing for oral arguments on January 06, 2023 at 9:00am in this instant case.

# **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES**

This Petitioner nor the Respondent has requested oral arguments pursuant to Ninth Judicial District Court Rule (NJDCR) 6(e) "Ninth Judicial District Court Rule (NJDCR) 6(e) states that decisions on all motions will be rendered

without oral argument unless oral argument is requested by the court or the parties. Moreover, District Court Rule 13(1) requires that all motions include a notice of the motion setting the matter on the court law and motion calendar. "

Garrettson v. State, 967 P. 2d 428 - Nev: Supreme Court 1998.

The Petitioner has made his best arguments on the pleadings and he is without counsel to present oral argument against the Respondent who is represented by counsel. The oral argument puts the Petitioner at a disadvantage since the court has not appointed counsel to the Petitioner pursuant to NRS 136.200.

With no tentative ruling this Petitioner is not clear on what if any issue needs to be narrowed down. The law and the facts are presenting in writing. Any issues with the Petitioner's witnesses or their affidavits can be resolved if the judge needs notarized affidavits.

It appears the order allows for a telephonic hearing pursuant to SCR Rule IX which appears to address criminal remote telephonic hearings, not civil or probate.

The Petitioner did request the Respondent to stipulate to a decision on the pleadings and they refused. At the hearing in the other case 2021 PB00034 the Respondent needed to judge to assist its losing argument with the judge interjecting that the Petitioner's proof/evidence was "hearsay". This was made by the judge, not the Respondent and thus the judge acted as a advocate amd lawyer for the Respondent and violated the Petitioner's due-process in doing so

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 since there was no prior argument asserted by the Respondent that the evidence was hearsay. In fact, the Respondent has conceded and not even argued that in this instant case knowing the Petitioner prevails on the merits.

The Nevada Judicial Code of Conduct does state a judge must provide a reasonable accommodations for self-represented litigants. The Oral argument is causing a delay and driving up the costs for both parties with the Respondent paying lawyers fees and Petitioner having to take time and his two witnesses having to also take time to attend a hearing which can be avoided because everything is written in the pleadings. There is not bench or jury trial to decide facts so the hearing and oral argument are not needed. The Petitioner would only recite his pleadings as will the Respondent.

**Nevada Judicial Code of Conduct Canon Rule 2.2**. Impartiality and Fairness. A judge shall uphold and apply the law, and shall perform all duties of judicial office fairly and impartially.

#### COMMENT

- [1] To ensure impartiality and fairness to all parties, a judge must be objective and open-minded.
- [2] Although each judge comes to the bench with a unique background and personal philosophy, a judge must interpret and apply the law without regard to whether the judge approves or disapproves of the law in question.
- [3] When applying and interpreting the law, a judge sometimes may make good-faith errors of fact or law. Errors of this kind do not violate this Rule.
- [4] It is not a violation of this Rule for a judge to make reasonable accommodations to ensure <u>self-represented</u> litigants the opportunity to have their matters fairly heard.

## Rule 2.5. Competence, Diligence, and Cooperation.

- (A) A judge shall perform judicial and administrative duties competently and diligently.
- (B) A judge shall cooperate with other judges and court officials in the administration of court business.

#### COMMENT

- [1] Competence in the performance of judicial duties requires the legal knowledge, skill, thoroughness, and preparation reasonably necessary to perform a judge's responsibilities of judicial office.
- [2] A judge should seek the necessary docket time, court staff, expertise, and resources to discharge all adjudicative and administrative responsibilities.
- [3] Prompt disposition of the court's business requires a judge to devote adequate time to judicial duties, to be punctual in attending court and expeditious in determining matters under submission, and to take reasonable measures to ensure that court officials, litigants, and their lawyers cooperate with the judge to that end.
- [4] In disposing of matters promptly and efficiently, a judge must demonstrate due regard for the rights of parties to be heard and to have issues resolved without unnecessary cost or delay. A judge should monitor and supervise cases in ways that reduce or eliminate dilatory practices, avoidable delays, and unnecessary costs.

# III. RELIEF REQUEST

The Petitioner requests a reasonable accommodation<sup>1</sup> decision on the pleadings. Alternatively, the Petitioner requests a of at least a tentative order narrowing down the issues, if any.

Respectfully signed under penalty of perjury,

/s/ Todd Robben

December 08, 2022

<sup>1</sup> Nevada Judicial Code of Conduct Canon Rule 2.2

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Stephen James Robben, declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the following is true and correct copy of the filed document. That on December 08, 2022, service of the document was made pursuant to NRCP 5(b) by depositing a email to: F. McClure Wallace, counsel for Respondent, mcclure@wallacemillsap.com

DATED December 08, 2022

Submitted By: /s/ Stephen James Robben

510 W Plumb Ln., Reno, Nevada / (775) 683-9599 Wallace 4 Millsap



Douglas County

BBBBIE A. WILLIAMS

BYE.A. WILLIAMSUTY

The undersigned affirms this document does not contain the social security number District Court Clerk The undersigned affirms this document or legally private information of any person.

22-PB-00119

# IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

TODD ROBBEN,

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Case No .:

Dept. No.: II

Petitioner;

VS.

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS J. HARRIS and THE THOMAS J. HARRIS TRUST.

Respondents.

LIMITED OPPOSITION TO PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR A DECISION ON THE PLEADINGS: PETITIONER'S MOTION DECLINING ORAL ARGUMENT

The Honorable Tara Flanagan, in her capacity as Successor Trustee of the Thomas J. Harris Trust dated June 19, 2019 (the "Trust"), and as the Court-appointed Successor Executor of the Estate of Thomas Joseph Harris (the "Estate"),1 by and through her attorneys of record, Wallace & Millsap LLC, respectfully presents this Limited Opposition to Petitioner's Motion for a Decision on the Pleadings; Petitioner's Motion Declining Oral Argument (the "Motion"). This Opposition is based on the following Points & Authorities, any exhibits attached thereto, any oral argument this Court wishes to entertain, and the papers and pleadings on file before the Court of utility in deciding Petitioner's Motion.

The Trust and the Estate may be collectively referred to herein as the "Respondents."

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# POINTS & AUTHORITIES

# RELEVANT HISTORY

- 1. On or about July 20, 2022, Petitioner Todd Robben (the "Petitioner") filed his Verified Petition to Invalidate the Thomas J. Harris Will and Trust, Petitioner's Request for Appointment of Counsel Pursuant to NRS § 136.200, Emergency Request for Stay of Final Distribution, Preemptory Challenge to Judge Nathan Todd Young, Related Case Number: 2021 PB00034 (the "Petition"). The Court assigned this matter to the Honorable Robert Estes by and through Department II of this Honorable Court. See generally Court Docket.
- 2. On October 6, 2022, the Estate filed its Motion to Dismiss the Petition.

  The Estate's Motion to Dismiss the Petition has been fully briefed and has been submitted to the Court for decision. *Id*.
- 3. On October 6, 2022, the Trust filed a separate Motion for Summary Judgment. The Parties have fully briefed the Trust's Motion for Summary Judgment and have submitted that Motion to the Court for decision. *Id*.
- 4. Thereafter, on November 30, 2022, the Court issued an Order Setting Hearing, wherein the Court scheduled oral argument for January 6, 2023 on the Estate's Motion to Dismiss and the Trust's Motion for Summary Judgment. *Id*.
- 5. Most recently, on December 8, 2022, Petitioner filed his Motion requesting the Court rule on the briefing when deciding the Estate's Motion to Dismiss and the Trust's Motion for Summary Judgment. *Id*.
- 6. To date, the Court has not set an evidentiary hearing to consider the Petition. *Id.* Similarly, the Petitioner has not noticed an evidentiary hearing to consider his Petition.

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# ORAL ARGUMENT ON THE TRUST'S AND ESTATE'S PENDING DISPOSITIVE MOTIONS

The Respondents do not oppose Petitioner's Motion to the extent it requests the Court rule on the Trust's Motion for Summary Judgment, as well as the Estate's Motion to Dismiss, without conducting oral argument. The Respondents' identified Motions have been fully briefed and are ripe for decision.

With that said, the Respondents recognize the Court's ability to order oral argument, and if the Court maintains the current January 6, 2023, hearing for the purpose of receiving oral argument on the Trust's Motion for Summary Judgment and the Estate's Motion to Dismiss, the Respondents will abide the Court's Order. See NJDCR 6(e).

# THE PETITIONER'S REQUEST FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS MUST BE DENIED

The Respondents oppose Petitioner's Motion to the extent it requests a judgment on the pleadings regarding the initial Petition filed in this matter. Specifically, if the Respondents' meritorious dispositive motions, or either of them, are not granted by the Court, an evidentiary hearing must be properly noticed and held on the Petition before any ruling on the Petition can be made. See NRS 164.005, 164.015, 155.010 & 155.160. Stated otherwise, the Court cannot, as a matter of procedure or as a matter of law, rule on the Petition absent an evidentiary hearing as Petitioner seemingly requests.

Specifically, the initial Petition attempts to contest the validity of the Trust. As such, if the Trust's Motion for Summary Judgment is not granted an evidentiary hearing must be scheduled, and the Trust must receive proper notice of the hearing. See NRS 164.005, 164.015, 155.010. Moreover, any interested party may object to the Petition and the relief it requests in writing at or before a properly noticed hearing on the Petition, or may appear and object to the Petition orally at a properly noticed hearing on the Petition. See NRS 155.160. Thus, should the Court not grant the Trust's dispositive motion, the Petition cannot be ruled on before an evidentiary

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hearing is properly noticed and held or else it would improperly eliminate the Respondents' right to object in writing, or orally at the hearing, to the Petition pursuant to NRS 155.160.

Similarly, the initial Petition attempts to contest the validity of the Last Will and Testament of Thomas J. Harris. As such, if the Estate's Motion to Dismiss is not granted an initial hearing must be scheduled, and the Petitioner must provide proper notice of the hearing to the Estate. See NRS 137, NRS 155.010. Likewise, and again, any interested party may object to the Petition and the relief it requests in writing ator before an evidentiary hearing on the Petition, or may appear and object to the Petition or ally at a hearing on the Petition. See NRS 155.160. Thus, should the Court not grant the Estate's dispositive motion, the Petition cannot be ruled on before an 12 ||initial hearing is properly noticed and held, as doing so would deny the Estate its right to object to the Petition at or before any such hearing. Id.

The Respondents' respective dispositive motions are meritorious, and if granted, will conclude this matter. However, in an abundance of caution the Respondents each confirm they do fully object to the Petition, and will provide their respective objections to the Petition in writing in advance of any initial hearing noticed on the Petition. See NRS 155.160. In this vein, the Petitioner's Motion states "[t]here is not bench or jury trial to decide facts so the hearing and oral argument are not needed." See Motion, pg. 3, ln. 11-12. The Petitioner's position is incorrect, as should the Respondents' dispositive motions not be granted, they will timely object to the Petition, this will become a contested matter where an evidentiary hearing will be scheduled, and the Petitioner will bear a significant burden of proof.

Therefore, the Respondents fully oppose any ruling on the pleadings by this Court on the initial Petition itself, as such a ruling cannot be made as a matter of law because it would violate the governing procedural statutes, and deny the Respondents of their statutorily protected right to object to the Petition at any point prior to, or at, an initial hearing in this matter on the Petition itself. See NRS 155.160.

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# CONCLUSION

The Respondents do not oppose Petitioner's Motion to the extent it seeks a ruling on the pending Motion to Dismiss, as well as the pending Motion for Summary Judgment, without oral argument. However, the Respondents both fully oppose any request for a ruling on the pleadings regarding the initial Petition in this matter, as such a ruling would be on violation of the statutorily required procedure for this case, and would deny the Respondents their statutory right to object to the Petition.

DATED this 15th day of December 2022.

B37

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# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies the foregoing Opposition was served upon Petitioner Todd Robben via United States Mail at the address of P.O. Box 4251 Sonora, California 95370. The foregoing Opposition was placed in the mail for service on the date shown below.

Dated this 15th day of December 2022.

(By: \_

Caroline Carter, Paralegal

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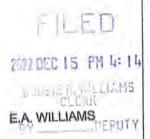
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Case No. 2022-PB-00119 Dept. No. 1 2 3 F. McClure Wallace, Esq. Nevada Bar No.: 10264 RECEIVED Patrick R. Millsap, Esq. Nevada Bar No.: 12043 DEC 1 5 2022 Wallace & Millsap 510 W Plumb Ln., Ste. A Douglas County District Court Clark Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 683-9599 mcclure@wallacemillsap.com patrick@wallacemillsap.com Attorneys for Tara M. Flanagan in her capacity Personal Representative 10 of the Estate of Thomas Harris



# IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT, STATE OF NEVADA

### IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

TODD ROBBEN,

Petitioner,

VS

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS; THOMAS J. HARRIS TRUST,

Respondents.

OBJECTION TO PETITIONER
TODD ROBBEN'S VERIFIED
PETITION TO INVALIDATE THE
THOAMS J. HARRIS WILL AND
TRUST; PETITOINER'S REQUEST
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
COUNSEL PURSUANT TO NRS §
136.200; EMERGENCY REQUEST
FOR STAY OF FINAL
DISTRIBUTION; PERMPTORY
CHALLENGE TO JUDGE NATHAN
TOD YOUNG

The Estate of Thomas J. Harris (the "Estate"), by and through its duly appointed Successor Executor, Tara M. Flanagan, presents its Objection to Petitioner Todd Robben's Verified Petition to Invalidate the Thomas J. Harris Will and Trust; Petitioner's Request for Appointment of Counsel Pursuant to NRS 136.200; Emergency Request for Stay of Final Distribution; Preemptory Challenge to Judge Nathan Todd Young (the "Petition"). Specifically, the Estate objects to the Petition

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1 in full, and timely presents its objection in writing in advance of any initial hearing 2 on the Petition in accordance with NRS 155.160.

### INTRODUCTION / STATEMENT OF THE ISSUE

The Petition is properly dismissed against the Estate with prejudice, as fully set forth in the Estate's separate Motion to Dismiss filed in this matter on October 6, 2022.

Without undermining the merit of the Estate's Motion to Dismiss, the Estate files this objection to the Petition stating its full and complete objection to the contents of the Petition, and fully objecting to and opposing any and all relief requested by the Petition in this matter.

# STATEMENT OF RELEVANT PROCEDURE CONCERNING THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS

- Thomas Joseph Harris (the "Decedent") died on December 30, 2019, as a resident of Douglas County, Nevada.
- 2. The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Joseph Harris was duly lodged with this Court on April 6, 2021.
- 3. The Decedent's Last Will and Testament (the "Decedent's Will" or the "Will") is a pour over will, identifying the Decedent's Trust as the beneficiary of his Will. The Decedent's Trust is The Declaration of Trust Known as the Thomas J. Harris Trust, dated June 12, 2019 (the "Decedent's Trust" or the "Trust").
- 4. The Decedent's Last Will and Testament nominated the following line of Executors: Jeff Robben, Scott Barton, and Tara Flanagan. *Id*.
- 5. On March 10, 2021, Scott Barton filed his Verified Petition for Letters of Special Administration and for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary before Department 1 of the Ninth Judicial District Court. Mr. Barton was the appropriate individual to seek appointment as the Personal Representative of the Estate because the first nominated executor, Jeff Robben, had passed away on November 11, 2020. Mr. Barton's initial petition seeking to administer the Estate

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- Admitting Will to Probate and Issuing Letters Testamentary appointing Scott Barton to serve as the Personal Representative of the Estate, and resultingly, Letters Testamentary were issued to Scott Barton on April 22, 2021, after which Mr. Barton began administering the Estate. See Exhibit 1.
- 7. Several months thereafter, Mr. Barton notified The Honorable Tara Flanagan he was resigning as both the Personal Representative of the Decedent's Estate and as Trustee of the Decedent's Trust. Consistent with her nomination as the next named Executor of the Estate by the Decedent's Will, Ms. Flanagan filed her Petition for Appointment of Successor Executor and for Issuance of Letters Testamentary on June 25, 2021, in the Estate Case.
- 8. On July 27, 2021, the Court entered its Order Appointing Successor Executor and Issuing Successor Letters Testamentary, and on August 17, 2021 Letters Testamentary were issued to Tara M. Flanagan. See Exhibit 2.
- 9. Pursuant to her appointment as the Successor Executor of the Estate, Ms. Flanagan (hereinafter the "Successor Executor" or the "Petitioner") continued the Estate's administration and worked to diligently conclude the administration of the Estate.
- 10. On April 14, 2022, the Successor Executor filed her Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs (the "First and Final Petition") in the Estate Case. A hearing was scheduled on the Successor Executor's First and Final Petition for May 24, 2022.
- 11. On May 23, 2022, Todd Robben appeared for the first time in the Estate Case through the filing of his Notice of Motion for Continuance and Motion for

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Continuance. Mr. Robben's request for a continuance was based on allegations concerning the validity of the Decedent's Will. See Exhibit 3.

- 12. A hearing was conducted in the Estate Case regarding the First and Final Petition on May 24, 2022. The Court heard the presentation of Mr. Robben, as well as multiple arguments from Counsel for the Estate, including but not limited to presentation of the fact Mr. Robben was not an "interested person" in the Estate as defined by Nevada law, and had no standing upon which to appear, to contest the validity to the Decedent's Will, or otherwise state any objection in the Estate Case. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Court granted Mr. Robben a brief continuance out of an "abundance of caution" to present any basis upon which he could be identified as an interested person in the Estate Case, continuing the hearing on the First and Final Petition to June 21, 2022.
- 13. Thereafter, on June 15, 2022 Mr. Robben filed a Request for Appointment of Counsel in advance of the June 21, 2022 continued hearing. See Exhibit 4.
- 14. A continued hearing was conducted on the First and Final Petition in the Estate Case on June 21, 2022. At the conclusion of the hearing, having heard arguments from Mr. Robben and Counsel for the Estate, the Court granted the Successor Executor's First and Final Petition in full and without exception. Moreover, the Court in the Estate Case ruled Mr. Robben was not an interested person to the proceeding, had produced no evidence upon which he could be found to be an interested person in the Estate Case, and as such had no basis to be appointed Counsel. As a result of the Court's ruling in the Estate case, Mr. Robben has no standing to appear in the Estate Case, and as such has no standing to contest the validity of the Last Will and Testament of Thomas J. Harris. See Exhibit 5.
- 20. The Court codified its ruling through entry of its written Order Granting the First and Final Petition in the Estate Case on June 22, 2022, wherein it specifically found as follows:

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Finally, upon thorough review by the court, including review of Mr. Robben's written filings and hearing Mr. Robben's oral presentation at both the May 24, 2022 hearing as well as the June 21, 2022 continued hearing, the Court determines Mr. Robben is not an "interested person" in this Estate as defined by NRS 132.185, and as such has no standing to object to the [First and Final] Petition, be appointed Counsel, or otherwise appear in this proceeding. Specifically, the Court heard from Mr. Robben, and after giving him additional time, Mr. Robben was unable to present any legal basis or admissible evidence to potentially allow a determination he is an interested person Therefore, Mr. Todd Robben is not an in this Estate. interested person to this Estate, and as such has no standing to oppose or object to the Petition, or otherwise appear in these proceedings. Id. at p. 5-6,  $\P$  32.

- 18. Thereafter, on June 22, 2022, Mr. Robben filed an Emergency Stay Request – Emergency Verified Motion to Reconsider seeking reconsideration of the Court's Order granting the Estate's First and Final Petition and concluding Mr. Robben was not an interested person and had no standing in the Estate Case. Mr. Robben also filed separate Supplemental Points and Authorities in Support of his Motion to Reconsider on June 23, 2022, and filed a Motion to Expedite Stay Request Pending Reconsideration on June 24, 2022 (these papers are collectively referred to hereafter as Mr. Robben's "Motion to Reconsider").
- 19. On July 1, 2022, the Estate filed its Opposition to Mr. Robben's Motion to Reconsider, to which Mr. Robben filed a Reply brief on July 5, 2022.
- 20. Separately, Mr. Robben sought to appeal the Court's July 22, 2022 Order in the Estate Case, filing a Notice of Appeal with the Nevada Supreme Court on June 27, 2022. The Appeal was assigned Appeal No.: 84948. See Exhibit 6.

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- 21. Thereafter, on July 8, 2022, the Nevada Supreme Court filed its Order Dismissing Appeal, dismissing in its entirety Mr. Robben's appeal in the Estate Case. See Exhibit 7.
- 22. Additionally, on July 13, 2022, the District Court entered its Order denying Mr. Robben's Motion to Reconsider and all filings associated with Mr. Robben's Motion to Reconsider. As a result, Mr. Robben's efforts to, in any way, oppose or object to any aspect of the administration of the Decedent's Estate, including any contest of the Decedent's Will, was forever foreclosed and concluded. See Exhibit 8.
- 23. Now, by and through his initial Petition in this matter, filed in or around July 20, 2022, Mr. Robben identifies the Estate of Thomas J. Harris as a Respondent for purposes of contesting the validity of the Decedent's Will.
- The Estate filed its Motion to Dismiss the Petition in this matter against the Estate, with prejudice on October 6, 2022. The Motion to Dismiss is fully briefed and pending before the Court.
- Separately, the Trust filed a Motion for Summary Judgment seeking dismissal of the Petition with prejudice on October 6, 2022. The Motion for Summary Judgment is fully briefed and pending before the Court.
  - 26. The Estate now files its Objection to the Petition.

### NARRATIVE RESPONSE & OBJECTION TO THE

### RELIEF REQUESTED BY THE PETITION

The Estate presents this full and general Objection to the entirety of the Petition, as well as its objection to all relief requested by the Petition. See NRS 155.160. This Objection is presented in accordance with the meritorious legal arguments presented in the Estate's separately filed Motion to Dismiss, the relevant factual history presented above, and the legal presentation presented below.

In filing this Objection, the Estate will endeavor to follow the order of the presentation of the Petition's allegations pertinent to the Estate.

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### I. OBJECTION TO THE BEGINNING PORTION OF THE PETITION

The Petition begins by making broad, unsupported allegations regarding the validity of the Decedent's Will, all of which are objected to and denied by the Estate.

See generally Petition, pgs. 2-5.

Namely, the Estate objects to any and all allegations contesting the validity of the Will, which has already been conclusively determined to be valid in the Estate Case. See Exhibits 1, 5 & 7. In as much, the Estate denies and objects to any allegations of undue influence related to the Decedent's Will or the Decedent's Estate, as well as to the application of any statutory burden shifting based on wholly unsubstantiated allegations unrelated to the Decedent's Will or the Decedent's Estate.

## II. OBJECTION TO THE "INTRODUCTION" OF THE PETITION

The "Introduction" of the Petition does not specifically reference the Decedent's Will or Estate. *See generally* Petition, pgs. 5-7. However, the Estate maintains its general objection to the Petition, including the "Introduction" section of the Petition in an abundance of caution.

By and through the "Introduction" section of the Petition, the Estate notes Petitioner alleges his Petition is timely. The Estate denies and opposes this statement, and identifies the Petition is not only untimely, but time-barred, as presented in detail in the Estate's separately filed Motion to Dismiss. See generally Estate's Motion to Dismiss; see also NRS 137.080.

The "Introduction" section of the Petition also references the Estate Case, noting this Court's ability to review the proceedings in the Estate Case in full wherein the Court ruled the Petitioner is not an "interested person in the Estate, with no standing to make any allegations regarding the validity of the Decedent's Will." See Exhibit 5. The Estate notes it has no opposition to this Court accessing, considering, and reviewing the proceedings in the Estate Case.

# III. PETITIONERS REQUEST TO DISQUALIFY JUDGE YOUNG

The Petition next seeks to disqualify Judge Nathan Young from presiding over this matter. The Petition's request to disqualify Judge Young is now moot, as this matter was assigned to Department II of the Ninth Judicial District Court and is being presided over by the Honorable Robert Estes.

However, the Estate maintains its general objection to the Petition, and denies and opposes all allegations and comments in the Petition contending Judge Young acted with any bias or unfairness in presiding over the Estate Case. To the contrary, Judge Young reviewed multiple filings and heard multiple presentations by the Petitioner, after careful consideration of which Judge Young determined the Petitioner has no interest in the Estate and no standing to appear in the Estate Case. See generally Docket in Estate Case; see also Exhibit 5. Judge Young's ruling was sustained by the Nevada Supreme Court, which dismissed the Petitioner's appeal of Judge Young's final Order. See Exhibit 7.

# IV. THE PETITIONER IS NOT AN INTERESTED PERSON TO THE DECEDENT'S ESTATE

The Petition goes on to make arguments about the Petitioner's status as an interested person. As set forth above, the Petitioner was conclusively found to <u>not</u> be an interested person in the Estate by final orders issued in the Estate Case. See Exhibits 5 & 7. The preclusive effects of the Orders issued in the Estate Case bar the Petitioner from attempting to relitigate this adjudicated issue before this Court. Moreover, the rulings in the Estate Case correctly applied governing Nevada law – the Petitioner is not an "interested person" in the Estate, and as such cannot contest the validity of the Decedent's Will in this matter. See Exhibit 5.

NRS 132.185 defines an "interested person" as a "person whose right or interest under an estate or trust may be materially affected by a decision of the court. The fiduciary or court shall determine who is an interested person according to the particular purpose of, and matter involved in, a proceeding." NRS 132.390 goes onto

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establish "a person may <u>not</u> claim to have a right or interest under an estate after the entry of an order of the court declaring the right or interest invalid."

Here, the Petitioner is disinherited from the Decedent's valid Will, and as the Decedent's step-son is not an intestate heir of the Decedent's Estate. See generally NRS Ch. 134. Thus, the Petitioner is neither a beneficiary nor an heir of the Estate, and has no interest of any kind in the Estate which could be affected by a decision of this or any Court. Id.; see also Exhibit 5. As such, and although this section of the Petition again refers almost exclusively to the Trust, the Decedent's Estate objects to, denies, and opposes any allegation the Petitioner is an "interested person" in the Estate, and again identifies the Petitioner is barred from bringing any such allegations in this proceeding. Stated otherwise, the Petitioner has been determined to have no interest in the Estate, and as such cannot attempt to relitigate the validity of the Decedent's Will in this matter. See Exhibits 5 & 7.

Next, as it relates to this section of his Petition, the Petitioner alleges "[t]he NRS 132.185 issue was never decided on the merits in any court and does not preclude adjudication in this case on the grounds of res judicata." This statement is factually and legally incorrect. At the risk of being duplicitous to the Estate's separately filed Motion to Dismiss, the Estate identifies the Petitioner was determined to not be an "interested person" in the Estate Case by final orders with a preclusive effect barring him from making such allegations and claims in this matter. Specifically, a valid final judgement was entered in the Estate Case regarding Mr. Robben's attempt to contest the Decedent's Will. In the Estate Case, the Court issued its Order Granting the First and Final Petition on June 22, 2022. See Exhibit 5. NRCP 41(b) states "any dismissal not under this rule — except one for lack of jurisdiction, improper venue, or failure to join a party under Rule 19 — operates as an adjudication on the merits." (emphasis added). The Court's June 22, 2022 Order was entered after multiple hearings where the Court considered Mr. Robben's attempt to contest the validity of the Decedent's Will, and is a final order regarding Mr. Robben's ability to

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contest the Decedent's Will or otherwise object to the administration of the Decedent's Estate. Specifically, the Court's June 22, 2022 Order in the Estate Case dismissing Mr. Robben from the Estate Case was not a dismissal for lack of jurisdiction, improper venue, or failure to join a party under Rule 19 and as such is an "adjudication on the merits" under NRCP 41(b). See Exhibit 5, p. 5-6, ¶ 32. Moreover, the Court's June 22, 2022 Order in the Estate Case was upheld after Mr. Robben's subsequent Motion to Reconsider was denied, and Mr. Robben's appeal of the Court's June 22, 2022 Order was dismissed by the Nevada Supreme Court. See NRCP 41(b); see also Exhibits 7 & 8. Furthermore, the United States Supreme Court has interpreted the phrase "adjudication on the merits" to preclude the refiling of the same claim in the same court. Five Star Capital Corp. v. Rudy, 124 Nev. 1048, 1058, 194 P.3d 709, 715 (2008) citing to Semtek Int'l Inc. v. Lockheed Martin Corp., 531 U.S. 497, 506, 121 S.Ct 1020 (2001). As both the Estate Case and this matter were filed in the Ninth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, it is "clearly proper to give preclusive effect" to the Orders issued in the Estate Case. Id. Consequently, "the NRS 132.185" issue was decided on the merits, enacting a preclusive effect barring the Petitioner from his current efforts to relitigate the validity of the Decedent's Will before this Court. Id.; see also Alcantara ex rel. Alcantara v. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., 130 Nev. at 257; see also NRCP 41(b). Therefore, the Petitioner "may not claim to have a right or interest in the [Estate]" because final orders were entered in the Estate Case "declaring [his alleged right or interest invalid." See 132.390.

In presenting this flawed argument, the Petitioner goes on to reference NRS 30.040. NRS 30.040 allows a person "interested" in certain written instruments to seek declaratory relief regarding the construction or validity of the instrument. Consistent with prior analysis, this statue is inapplicable. Specifically, NRS 30.040 requires a person to be "interested" in the instrument at issue. With regard to the Estate, the instrument would be the Decedent's Will. Mr. Robben has already been held to not be an interested person to the Decedent's Estate, and to lack standing to

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question the validity of the Decedent's Will. See Exhibits 5 & 7; see also NRS 132.390. Stated plainly, Mr. Robben has no legal interest in the Decedent's Estate or the Decedent's Will upon which he could request any relief regarding the construction or validity of the Decedent's Will. As such, and for additional reasons set forth in this objection, NRS 30.040 is inapplicable to the Decedent's Estate in this matter.

Despite Mr. Robben's efforts to relitigate this previously decided issue, the fact remains he is not an "interested person" in the Decedent's Estate under NRS 132.185, and as such, has no basis upon which to obtain any audience with, or relief from, this Court

#### V. NRS 134 IS INAPPLICABLE TO THIS MATTER

Moving forward, the Petition cites to NRS 134.210. NRS 134.210 sets forth one of Nevada's laws of intestate succession. The reason for this reference in the Petition is unclear since the Petitioner only refers to the Trust in reference to this statute. Still, regardless of the purpose behind the Petitioner's reference to NRS 134.210 – it is wholly inapplicable to this matter.

Step-children are not intestate heirs of a decedent under Nevada's laws of intestate succession. See NRS Ch. 134. Similarly, NRS 134.210 only allows for distribution under intestacy when a surviving spouse dies intestate and without leaving any heirs. Here, the Decedent died testate, having had his valid Will admitted to probate in the Estate Case, where the Decedent's Estate was fully administered by and through the terms of his valid Will. See Exhibits 1 & 5. As such, NRS 134.210 is inapplicable to the Decedent's Estate because the Decedent did not die intestate.

### VI. PETITIONER CANNOT BE APPOINTED COUNSEL

The Petition goes onto request the Court appoint him Counsel pursuant to NRS 136.200. NRS 136.200(1) states "[i]f a will is offered for probate and it appears there are minors or unborn members of a class who are interested, or if it appears there are other interested persons who reside out of the county and are unrepresented, the

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1 | court may, whether there is a contest or not, appoint an attorney for them." Here, 2 | Mr. Robben is unable to be appointed Counsel pursuant to NRS 136.200 because 1) there is no will being admitted to probate in this matter, and 2) Mr. Robben has been determined to not be an interested person in the Decedent's Estate.

First, appointment of Counsel under NRS 136.200 requires the matter to involve a will being admitted to probate. See NRS 136.200(1). In this matter no will is being admitted to probate. The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Harris was previously admitted to probate and administered in a separate proceeding before Department 1 of the Ninth Judicial District Court in Case No. 2021-PB-00034. Resultingly, NRS 136.200 is wholly inapplicable to this matter.

Second, by final order of the Court in the Estate Case, Mr. Robben has been ruled to not be an "interested person" regarding the Decedent's Estate or the Decedent's Will, again making him unable to receive an appointment of Counsel under NRS 136.200.

For these reasons, Mr. Robben's request for the immediate appointment of Counsel is unlawful and cannot be granted.

### VII. THE PETITION PRESENTS NO ADMISSIBLE EVIDENCE AND IS BASED ON INCORRECT LEGAL ANALYSIS

The Petition concludes with several pages of unsupported, hearsay allegations almost exclusively related to the Trust. Most notably, throughout the Petition Petitioner alleges the Decedent's Trust is invalid due to the Decedent being unduly influenced. Relying on this bald and unsupported allegation, the Petitioner argues the Trust is to be presumed invalid under NRS 155.096(2), shifting the burden to the Trustee of the Trust to prove its validity. The Petitioner's argument is incorrect. While NRS 155.097 does allow a transfer instrument to be presumed invalid upon the fulfillment of certain criteria, the application of this presumption and the associated burden shifting provided for in NRS 155.097 can only be made by a ruling 28 of the Court after a demonstration of admissible evidence subject to argument and

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opposition. The Petitioner cannot simply assert bald allegations of undue influence without the presentation of any admissible evidence in hopes of escaping his burden of proof in this matter.

Therefore, although the Petition's allegation of undue influence and arguments related to NRS 155.097 appear aimed at the Trust, the Estate makes clear its denial of, and objection to, these bald unsupported allegations contained in the Petition. Moreover, the Estate identifies the Petitioner's legal arguments are incorrect, as any burden shifting allowed under NRS 155.097 can only be made by the Court after a proper evidentiary presentation by the Petitioner. In this matter, consistent with his deficient efforts in the Estate Case, the Petitioner has made nothing more than unsupported allegations absent any admissible evidentiary support.

Moreover, the only possible evidence the Petitioner even refers to is inadmissible hearsay and does not provide any legal or factual credibility to the baseless assertions in the Petition, which he is barred from even bringing in this case.

#### VIII. SUMMARY

Therefore, the Estate states the following in summary of its general objection to the Petition:

- 1. The Estate denes and objects to the Petitioner's claims he is an interested person in the Estate.
- 2. The Estate denies and objects to any and all allegations of undue influence regarding the Will or the Estate.
- 3. The Estate denies and objects to any and all allegations contesting the validity of the Will.
- 4. The Estate objects to the Court taking judicial notice of Exhibit A to the Petition because the request does not comport with NRS 47.130-47.140.
- 5. Petitioner's request for a peremptory challenge against the Honorable Nathan Tod Young is moot as Judge Young no longer presides over this matter.

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- 6. The Estate denies and objects to Petitioner's allegation that Judge Young's orders are null and void. The Executor further denies and objects to any statement regarding bias or impropriety alleged against Judge Young.
- 7. The Estate denies Petitioner has a right to appointment of Counsel under NRS 136.200.
- 8. To the extent any allegation of theft in the Petition related to the Estate, the Estate denies any assets were stolen from the Estate and, therefore, Petitioner's request for an accounting of alleged stolen assets should be denied.
- 9. The Successor Executor denies she, or her legal counsel, have committed theft or fraud from the Estate and asserts this statement is made in violation of NRCP 11, meriting sanctions against the Petitioner as deemed appropriate by the Court.
- 10. The Estate denies Petitioner has a prima facie case of undue influence regarding the Will of the Estate.
  - 11. The Estate denies the Petition is timely filed.
- 12. The Estate denies Petitioner is entitled to notice of any Estate proceeding because he is not an interested person in the Estate.
- 13. The Estate denies any transfer of the Settlor's assets were the product of fraud or theft. The Estate re-iterates Petitioner has no standing to pursue said claims regardless because even if he prevailed, he would receive nothing from the Estate as he is not an intestate beneficiary of the Estate, rendering this entire proceeding nothing more than advisory without any benefit or damage inuring to Petitioner.
- 14. The Estate denies Petitioner is an interested person in the Estate because he is not a beneficiary of the Will, nor is he an intestate beneficiary of the Estate of Thomas J. Harris, which the Court has already determined in Case No. 2021-PB-00034.
- 15. The Estate denies Petitioner may seek Declaratory Relief under NRS 34.040 related to the Will.

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- 16. The Estate denies any step-child of Thomas J. Harris would be an intestate beneficiary of his Estate.17. The Estate denies the Petitioner is entitled to an accounting of the Estate
- because he is not a beneficiary or interested person of the Estate.
- 18. The Estate denies the Trust or Will of Thomas J. Harris is the product of undue influence perpetrated on the Decedent by any person.
- 19. The Estate lacks knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief about the statements made in the Petition related to the personal life, medical history and career of Jeff D. Robben, and based upon this lack of knowledge denies the same in and abundance of caution.
- 20. The Estate denies any and all allegations of conspiracy to defraud Petitioner from Trust or Estate Assets.
- 21. The Successor Executor of the Estate denies any unlawful conduct alleged against her personally, or any violation of judicial ethics.
- 22. The Estate denies any statements of wrongdoing alleged in the prior Estate Case and further posits Petitioner is barred from making such allegations in this Case as all probate related issues alleged by Petitioner were litigated in a separate matter 2021-PB-00034.
- 23. The Estate denies all factual allegations in the Petition not specifically and expressly admitted herein. The Estate denies and objects to all forms of relief requested in the Petition. The Estate posits the Petition must be summarily adjudicated against Petitioner for reasons addressed separately in motion practice before the Court.

WHEREFORE, the Estate objects to the Petition in this matter in full, and respectfully request the following relief from this Court:

A. Dismissal of the Petition with prejudice and/or judgment in favor of the Estate and against Todd Robben on all claims, theories, or requests for relief in the Petition;

Page 15 of 19

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- Reimbursement of attorney's fees as allowed by law, statute, rule, common law, equity, and/or the inherent powers of the Court;
- Reimbursement of costs as allowed by law, statute, rule, common law, equity, and/or inherent powers of the Court;
- For any other relief this Court deems appropriate or just.

#### AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES

- Petitioner lacks standing to bring his claims, causes of action and requests for relief alleged in his July 20, 2022 Petition.
  - Petitioner is not an interested person or beneficiary of the Estate. 2.
  - 3. Petitioner is estopped from seeking the relief demanded in the Petition.
- 4. The Petition is barred by the doctrine of issue preclusion, claim preclusion, and/or res judicata.
  - The Petition is barred by estoppel.
  - 6. The Petition is barred by the applicable statute of limitations.
  - 7. There is no subject-matter jurisdiction over this matter by this Court.
- 8. Petitioner cannot obtain the relief he requests because it is unlawful and/or illegal.
  - Petitioner's claims are barred by the statute of frauds.
  - 10. Petitioner's claims are barred by laches and/or unclean hands.
- 11. The Estate reserves the right to include additional affirmative defenses at any point in this litigation as evidence becomes available for review and inspection giving rise to additional affirmative defenses.
- 12. The Estate reserves the right to amend this document and assert additional affirmative defenses at trial to conform to the evidence presented at trial, which is not fully known at this preliminary phase of litigation.
- 13. The Estate asserts any affirmative defense listed in NRCP 8 to the extent applicable in this proceeding, and does not intend to waive any affirmative defenses

Page 16 of 19

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1 by electing not to assert said defense in this preliminary response and objection to the Petition.

### **AFFIRMATION**

The undersigned affirms this document does not contain the social security number or legally private information of any person.

DATED this 15th day of December, 2022.

By:

F. McClure Wallace, Esq. Nevada Bar No.: 10264 Wallace & Millsap 510 W Plumb Ln., Ste. A Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 683-9599 mcclure@wallacemillsap.com

Attorneys for Tara M. Flanagan in her capacity as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Thomas Harris

Page 17 of 19

# *Uallace + Millaap* 510 W Plumb Ln., Reno, Nevada / (775) 683-9599

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies the foregoing document was served upon Petitioner Todd Robben via United States Mail at the address of P.O. Box 4251 Sonora, California 95370. The foregoing Motion was placed in the mail for service on the date shown below.

Dated this 15th day of December, 2022

Caroline Carter, Paralegal

Page 18 of 19

### LIST OF EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1 -	Order Admitting Will to Probate and Issuing Letters Testamentary;
	Letters Testamentary issued to Scott Barton

Exhibit 2 -	Order Appointing Successor Executor, and Issuing Successor Letters
	Testaments; Letters Testamentary issued to Tara M. Flanagan

Evhibit 3 -	Motica	of Motion	for	Continuance	& Motion	ı for	Continuanc
EXIIIDIL 9 -	rvouce	OF MIONOU	IOL	Continuance	or intomor	1 10r	Continuant

I	Exhibit 4 -	Petitioner's Request for Appointment of Cour	rsel
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Exhibit 5 -	Order Granting Petition to Confirm First & Final Accounting
	Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of
	Professional Fees and Costs

Exhibit 6 -	Notice of Appeal
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11		Order Dismissing Appeal
	Exhibit 7 -	Order Dismissing Appeal
12		

Page **19** of **19** 

### Exhibit 1

### Exhibit 1

RECEIVED Case No :: 2021-PB00034 APR 0 2 2021 Dept. No.: Douglas County District Court Clerk 2021 APR -6 PM 4:23 IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE S IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS IN RE: THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS, PROBATE AND ISSUING LETTERS Deceased. TESTAMENTARY The Petitioner, Scott Barton, having proved to the satisfaction of the Court that the time for hearing the verified Petition for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary (the "Petition") was, by the Clerk, set for April 6, 2021, and that notice of said hearing has been duly given as required by law, and the Court having reviewed the evidence finds that the facts alleged in said Petition are true and correct, and that said Petition for the Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary should be granted. The Court finds as follows: Thomas Joseph Harris died on December 30, 2019, in the County of Washoe, 1. State of Nevada, and at the time of his death was a resident of the County of Douglas, State of Nevada. Said Decedent left personal property located within the state of Nevada at a value in excess of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000). Decedent left a Last Will and Testament dated June 12, 2019 and such Will has been filed with the Clerk of this Court, as provided by law. Decedent's Will dated June 12, 2019, was duly executed in all particulars as required by law, and at the time of the execution of this Will, the Decedent was of sound mind,

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Case No. 2021-PB00034

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Order

over the age of eighteen (18) and was not acting under undue influence or duress.

- Decedent's Will appoints Scott Barton as Executor thereof, and Scott Barton has consented to act as Executor. The Will provides that no bond shall be required of Scott Barton. Scott Barton is qualified for and entitled to Letters Testamentary pursuant to the laws of the State of Nevada.
- 6. IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, the Will of the Decedent dated June 12, 2019, is admitted to probate as the Last Will and Testament of said Decedent.
- 7. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Scott Barton be appointed Executor of said estate, to serve without bond, and that Letters Testamentary shall issue to him upon his taking the oath required by law.

Submitted by:

Abigail G. Stephenson (NV Bar 13593) BLANCHARD, KRASNER & FRENCH

5470 Kietzke Lanc, Suite 200

Reno, Nevada 89511

(775) 384-0022

Attorneys for Petitioner

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aZP5 lindiba

Case No. 2021-PB00034

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9	1	E OF THOMAS JOS	•				
10	HARRIS,		LETTERS	LETTERS TESTAMENTARY			
11	Dece	ased.					
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14	The 1	Last Will and Testan	nent of Thomas Joseph Ha	arris, deceased, having been duly			
15	admitted to p	probate in our Court,	Scott Barton who is named	therein, was, by our Court on the			
16	6th day of A	pril, 2021 duly appoir	ted Personal Representative	, who, having qualified as such, is			
17	hereby autho	orized to act by virtue	thereof. In testimony when	eof, I have officially signed these			
18	letters and af	ffixed hereto the Seal	of said Court this 22	_ day of April,			
19	2021.						
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21			Bobbie R.	Williams, CCE, CMP, Clerk			
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	Case No. 2021-	PB00034		Letters Testamentary			

1	OFFICIAL OATH
2	STATE OF WASHINGTON ) ss.
3	COUNTY OF CLARK )
4	V. G. (1. D. (1. L. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1. 1.
5	I, Scott Barton, whose mailing address is 12505 NE 246th Court, Brush Prairie, WA 98606, solemnly affirm that I will faithfully perform according to the law the duties of the office
6	of Executor of the Estate of Thomas Joseph Harris, deceased, and that all matters stated in any
7	petition or paper filed with the Court by me are true of my own knowledge, or if any matters are
8	stated on information and belief, I believe them to be true.
9	$\int \mathcal{A} \mathcal{A} \mathcal{A} \mathcal{A} \mathcal{A}$
0	Scott Barton
1	SCOIL BARTON
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4	SUBSCRIBED AND AFFIRMED before me
.5	on <u>April 9th</u> , , , 2021.
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7	L Knem
8	NOTARY PUBLIC
9	KSHANER
20	Notary Public State of Washington License Number 139142
21	My Commission Expires October 15, 2024
22	(SEAL)
23	
ļ	CERTIFIED COPY
2.5	The document to which this certificate is attached is a full, true and correct copy of the original in file and of
26	record in my office.  DATE: CH 22 1702
27	BOBBIE R. WILLIAMS Clark of Court of the State of Newscart for the County of Douglas,
28	By Cl Dala Deputy
	2
	Coop No. 2001 PR00034

### Exhibit 2

### Exhibit 2

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CASE NO.: 2021 PB00034

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District Court Clark CLERK

BA PONCE PUTY

IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

IN RE:

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS,

Deceased

PROPOSEDI

Tara M. Flanagan, by and through her counsel of record, F. McClure Wallace and Patrick R. Millsap of Wallace & Millsap, petitioned this Court for appointment of Tara M. Flanagan as Successor Executor of the Estate of Thomas Joseph Harris ("Decedent").

The Court finds as follows:

The Decedent's Last Will and Testament was admitted to probate and Letters Testamentary were issue to Scott Barton on April 6, 2021.

Scott Barton, was appointed and qualified, but has resigned prior to completing the administration of the Estate.

There is a need to appoint a Successor Executor to complete the administration of the Estate.

Attorneys for Petitioner

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### RECEIVED

AUG 17 2021

Douglas County District Court Clerk CASE NO.: 2021 PB00034 DEPT NO.: I 2021 AUG 17 PM 3: 56 BOBBIE R. WILLIAMS CLERK BY A. PONOE UTY 5 IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA 6 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS 7 8 IN RE: 9 THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS, 10 Deceased. 11 12 LETTERS TESTAMENTARY 13 14 On the July 27, 2021, the Court entered its Order Appointing Successor 15 Executor and Issuing Successor Letters Testamentary appointing TARA M. 16 FLANAGAN, as Successor Executor of the Estate of THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS. 17 Tara M. Flanagan, who having duly qualified is hereby authorized to act and 18 has the authority and shall perform the duties of Executor of the Estate of Thomas 19 Joseph Harris, including the authority vested by the Court's Order of July 27, 2021. 20 In testimony of which I have this date signed these Letters and affixed the seal 21 of the Court. 22 Dated this 17 day of August 2021. 23 24 25

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26 27 28 Deputy Clerk

### **OATH**

I, TARA M. FLANAGAN as Successor Executor of the Estate of THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS whose mailing address is in care of Wallace & Millsap LLC, 510 W. Plumb Lane, Suite A, Reno, Nevada 89509 solemnly affirms that I will faithfully perform according to law, the duties of Successor Executor.

Tara M. Flanagan

State of California ) ss County of Alameda )

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of August 2021.

NOTARY PUBLIC



### Exhibit 3

### Exhibit 3

Todd Robben
In Pro per
PO Box 4251
Sonora, CA 95370
Robben.ty@gmail.com
(209)540-7713

IN THE NINTH JU
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IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS,

CASE NO.: 2021 pb00034

**DEPARTMENT: 1** 

Deceased

NOTICE OF MOTION FOR CONTINUANCE AND MOTION FOR

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CONTINUANCE

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This notice and motion for continuance is made by Todd C. Robben, the stepson of Thomas J. Harris. Todd C. Robben only recently learned of the death of Thomas J. Harris and Jeff D. Robben. This motion will be filed and made orally at the petition hearing on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm in Department 1. This motion is made on the following points and authority.

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#### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITY

232425

Todd C. Robben was not notified of the death of Thomas J. Harris or Jeff D. Robben or any wills or trusts until the beginning on May 2022. Pursuant to local rule DCR 9 and NRS 155.160, Todd C. Robben objects to any final distribution and

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requests a continuance to obtain counsel and file legal arguments and affidavits showing Jeff D. Robben had undue influence over Thomas J. Harris to which let to the disinheritance of Todd C. Robben in the last will and testament of Thomas J. Harris and Thomas J. Harris trust.

There appears to be no affidavit and reason as to why Todd C. Robben was disinherited. Nevada also mandate mandatory mediation pursuant to NRS 164.930.

In addition to undue influence, there appears to be fraud, embezzlement, misappropriation and theft of assets and they manner of how the trust was managed. See NRS 155.007 and NRCP Rule 60.

#### **RELIEF REQUEST**

Todd C. Robben objects to the final distribution and requests a continuance of up to six months to obtain legal counsel and evidence.

Respectfully signed under penalty of perjury,

/s/ Todd Robben 05/23/2022

### Exhibit 4

## Exhibit 4

1 Todd Robben In Proper 2 PO Box 4251 Sonora, CA 95370 3 Robben.ty@gmail.com 4 (209)540-7713 5 6 IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA 7 8 9 IN RE: THE ESTATE OF THOMAS CASE NO.: 2021 PB00034 10 JOSEPH HARRIS, 11 **DEPARTMENT: 1** 12 PETITIONER'S REQUEST FOR Deceased 13 APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL PURSUANT TO NRS § 136.200 14 15 16 Petitioner, Todd Robben, respectfully requests the Court to appoint counsel 17 pursuant to NRS § 136.200 since the Petitioner is an interested person pursuant to 18 NRS § 132.185 and a non resident of Douglas County, Nevada. 19 The Petitioner is indigent and this Court has granted indigent status to file this 20 motion without any filing fee. This petition is based on the following points and 21 authority. 22 23 **MEMORANDUM OF POINTS & AUTHORITY** 24 25 26 Petitioner, Todd Robben, requests the Court to appoint counsel in this 27 civil/probate matter for good cause and pursuant to NRS § 136.200 since the

 Petitioner is an interested person who resides outside the county. The Petitioner, a "non-resident" of Douglas County, Nevada, Petitioner resides in Tuolumne County, California. "being non-residents — Judge Waters appointed appellant Flangas as their counsel pursuant to NRS 136.200." <u>Matter of Estate of Herrmann</u>, 677 P. 2d 594 - Nev: Supreme Court 1984

NRS136.200 Appointment of attorney to represent minors, unborn members of interested class or nonresidents; retention of other counsel.

If a will is offered for probate and it appears there are minors or unborn members of a class who are interested, <u>or if it appears there are other interested persons who reside out of the county and are unrepresented, the court may, whether there is a contest or not, appoint an attorney for them.</u>

Petitioner, Todd Robben, the step-son of Thomas J. Harris and son of Olga Harris is an "interested person" pursuant to NRS 132.185 "Interested person" defined. "Interested person" means a person whose right or interest under an estate or trust may be materially affected by a decision of a fiduciary or a decision of the court. The fiduciary or court shall determine who is an interested person according to the particular purposes of, and matter involved in, a proceeding.

The Petitioner is indigent, the Court has granted Petitioner indigent status. At the hearing on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in this instant case, the Court granted the Petitioner's request for a continuance, "in an abundance of caution", and gave the Petitioner to June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022 to obtain counsel.

The Petitioner being indigent and the short notice on top of holiday schedules for lawyers and COVID-19 and a long list of various "conflicts" of interests the Petitioner has been unable to secure legal counsel and counsel willing to work Pro Bono or on contingency.

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The Nevada Supreme Court has identified NRS 136.200 as a "statutory right" to appointment of counsel in other types of civil cases. "there is no statutory right to appointment of counsel for appellate review in this type of civil case as there is in criminal cases and other types of civil cases. ... NRS 136.200" Casper v. Huber, 456 P. 2d 436 - Nev: Supreme Court 1969

This Petitioner requests the Court to grant the request and appoint a reputable and conflict free attorney "in an abundance of caution"... The Petitioner has a prima facie case of undue influence based on the undisputed facts that Jeff D. Robben, the brother of the Petitioner, was 1: The caretaker of Thomas J. Harris; 2: The Financial advisor for Thomas J. Harris; 3: Helped create the current Thomas J. Harris trust; 4. Had "undue influence" and "presumed undue influence" of Thomas J. Harris; 5: Jeff D. Robben influenced Thomas J. Harris to disinherit based on the animus and vexation of Jeff D. Robben.

"A rebuttable presumption of undue influence is raised if the testator and the beneficiary shared a fiduciary relationship, but undue influence may also be proved without raising this presumption." In re Estate of Bethurem, 313 P. 3d 237, 241 (2013), at 329. "The essence of a fiduciary or confidential relationship is that the parties do not deal on equal terms, since the person in whom trust and confidence is reposed and who accepts that trust and confidence is in a superior position to exert unique influence over the dependent party." Hoopes v. Hammargren, 725 P. 2d 238, 242 (1986) quoting Barbara A. v. John G., 145 Cal.App.3d 369, 193 Cal.Rptr. 422, 432 (1983).

"Once raised, a beneficiary may rebut such a presumption by clear and convincing evidence." Betherum, at 241. The highest standard of proof, "beyond a reasonable doubt," exists only in criminal litigation. In civil litigation, "clear and convincing evidence" is the highest evidentiary standard. "Clear and convincing evidence" is "evidence establishing every factual element to be highly probable, or as

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evidence [which] must be so clear as to leave no substantial doubt." <u>In re Discipline of Drakulich</u>, 908 P. 2d 709, 715 (1995)(internal quotations and citations omitted).

Thus, the Defendants' must meet a difficult, nearly impossible burden, after the burden shift. The burden shift occurs when the contesting party establishes the existence of a fiduciary of confidential relationship.

Under NRS 155.097(2), estate planning documents and other beneficiary designations are presumptively invalid as a result of undue influence, fraud or duress under the following circumstances, where the beneficiary:

- is the person who drafted the document or instrument.
- is the caregiver of the person executing the document or instrument.
- "materially participated in formulating the dispositive provisions" of the instrument or document.

In addition to the fact Jeff D. Robben was the caretaker, financial advisor and helped draft the Thomas J. Harris trust, the Petitioner has at least three affidavits to support facts proving Jeff D. Robben influenced Thomas J. Harris to disinherit based on the animus and vexation of Jeff D. Robben. Petitioner indents to include all beneficiaries, administrators and lawyers of the Thomas J. Harris Trust and Thomas J. Harris and Olga Harris Trust. Additionally, the pleading/filings in a federal lawsuit 2:13-cv-00238-MCE-DAD UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA describe the animus and vexation of Jeff D. Robben against his brother, Todd Robben, the Petitioner. The complaint named Jeff D. Robben as one of the defendants and the following facts:

On or about October 18, 2012 Plaintiff Todd Robben was out on bail, which was bonded and insured by defendant Bail Bonds Inc (BBI) of Fallon, Nevada, a Nevada Corporation dba Justin Brothers Bail Bonds, herein "Justin Bros." Defendants Richard Justin is the President and Treasurer, and employee of said Nevada Corporation, Dennis Justin is the employee and agent of Justin Bros. and co-participant in the events complained of herein.

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27 28 On or about the same said date the brother of plaintiff Jeff Robben acting as an officious intermeddler implored and insisted to his mother (also the mother of plaintiff) who was assuring the bond to withdraw her assurance out of a black heart and with the vile intent to vex, annoy, inflict emotional distress, and injure plaintiff (his own brother) as much as possible; Defendant Jeff Robben knowingly and falsely asserted that plaintiff was both suicidal and homicidal to their mother and to defendants Justin Bros. and Richard and Dennis Justin. This caused plaintiff to lose his bail bond when his mother withdrew her assurance, at the insistence of officious intermeddler Defendant Jeff Robben. The said withdrawal off assurance started a chain reaction where tortfeasors Justin Bros. and their owner/actors Richard Justin and Dennis Justin, employees and agents of (BB1)/ Justin Bros. crossed the state line from Carson City, Nevada where their office is located and entered the state of California, City of South Lake Tahoe ,went to plaintiff's residence without any legal authority, or warrant pursuant to California Penal Code Section 847.5, but under color of state law(either California or Nevada or both) went to plaintiff's home, broke down his home's front door with brute force, assaulted and battered plaintiff with a taser gun, shooting him no less than three times with said device, and beating him. Plaintiff was further brutalized under color of law. He was handcuffed and brutally taken from his home into unlawful custody under color of law. Plaintiff never consented to this touching which was both painful and injurious both physically and mentally to plaintiff.

Untimely, the federal civil case was dismissed with the Plaintiff settling with the various defendants including Jeff D. Robben with an understanding/contract that the Petitioner was not to be disinherited.

The Petitioner has the right to challenge the validity of the trust pursuant to NRS 30.040 Questions of construction or validity of instruments, contracts and statutes:

1. Any person interested under a deed, written contract or other writings constituting a contract, or whose rights, status or other legal relations are affected by a statute, municipal ordinance, contract or franchise, may have determined any question of construction or validity arising under the instrument, statute, ordinance, contract or franchise and obtain a declaration of rights, status or other legal relations thereunder.

The Petitioner also alleges fraud and the failure of the Thomas J. Harris trust to notify the Petitioner of any disinheritance or even the death of Thomas J. Harris and anything related to the will, trust, instruments and probate of the Thomas J. Harris trust.

Since NRCP Rule 60 includes provisions for fraud and other things like surprises, there is no limiting Petitioner's ability to challenge the validity of the Thomas J. Harris trust. The Petitioner can successfully render the current Thomas J. Harris trust null and void to which the original Thomas J. Harris and Olga Harris Trust would be controlling and to which the Petitioner is a beneficiary.

The Petitioner is interested in pursuing an amicable resolution to this matter using the court/legal system. The Petitioner feels there is settlement potential since the facts, and as a matter of law, create a presumption of undue influence by Jeff D. Robben over Thomas J. Harris to disinherit the Petitioner and also transfer asserts including the home of Thomas J. Harris in Minden, Nevada into the name and/or trust/instrument of Jeff D. Robben. The entire contents of a Wells Fargo safe deposit box in the name of Thomas J. Harris and may include Olga Harris is missing. Said safe deposit box contained various assets including stock certificates, property, and other legal documents.

This Petitioner demands a full accounting and paper trails of all assets of Thomas J. Harris, Olga Harris and Jeff Robben and any and all trusts and sustrusts, shell trusts or corporations, etc.

. 

 This Petitioner's intent is not to have the current beneficiaries of the Thomas J. Harris trust lose anything. The lawyer for the trust, F. McClure Wallace, has the authority to encourage the trust manager/trustee to settle the matter in an amicable fashion.

The lawyer, F. McClure Wallace has been unethical in his conduct before this very court when he denied existence of the Thomas J. Harris and Olga Harris trust.

Since there appears to be evidence and eyewitnesses to these facts, the Petitioner is starting the process of working with the proper authorities in various jurisdictions to pursue any and all criminal matters. This includes the Douglas Co. Sheriff and D.A. Mark Jackson who remembers Todd Robben from a set of previous false charges:

Source: http://www.nevadaappeal.com/news/crime/10985994-113/robben-charges-jackson-carson

and

https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/da-protester-charged-with-trying-to-solicit-murder/comment-page-2/

and here

https://www.mtdemocrat.com/news/charges-dropped-da-protester-out-of-prison/

All charges against South Tahoe resident Ty Robben have now been dropped in jailhouse HIT MAN to kill corrupt Carson City Judge Tatro and

Slander/Libel/Internet Stalking by Geoff Dornan gdornan@nevadaappeal.com

Douglas County District Attorney Mark Jackson, the special prosecutor named to handle the cases, previously dismissed libel and harassment charges.

He served notice Thursday that he was dropping the charge Ty Robben AKA "Top Ramen" (new 'jail name' obtained at the Carson City jailhouse since it sounds like his name) tried to hire a hit man to kill Justice of the Peace John Tatro.

Mark Jackson was brought in after the Carson City DA's office was disqualified from handling the case.

"Based on a full and complete review of all the evidence and the existing constitutional, statutory and case law, I filed a notice of dismissal today in the Carson Township Justice Court," Jackson said in a statement.

He said that means Robben's \$50,000 bail has been lifted, and all pending charges against him have been dismissed. "It is my understanding that Mr. Robben is in the process of being released from the Carson City Jail," Jackson said. Robben stopped by the Tahoe Daily Tribune Friday and said he was hoping to restore his life and family. He thanked his attorneys for their work to get him released.

"Thank you to Mark Jackson for standing up and supporting the U.S. Constitution," Robben said.

Two weeks ago, Jackson dismissed the other case against Robben, which accused him of libel and stalking and two counts of attempting to intimidate Tatro and his family. He did so stating that Nevada's libel law was "unconstitutionally vague." The stalking charge, he said, simply didn't have enough evidence to support it.

Robben has been battling the state and criminal justice system since he was terminated by the Taxation Department.

He was angry with Tatro for his conviction on charges of disorderly conduct centered on his attempt to — allegedly — serve papers on behalf of a friend on then-NDOT Director Susan Martinovich. Robben said Judge Tatro and Assistant DA Mark "Freddie" Krueger must resign and criminal charges must be filed against Judge Tatro for filing a

false report against me. Thank you Douglas County DA Mark Jackson for respecting the US Constitution and my 1st & 14th Amendment rights in these matters and the honor to respect the law(s) and look at the facts unbiased.

Robben also posted a story and photos of an alleged requirement for Judge Tatro to take a breathalyzer test prior to taking the bench everyday. Special thanks Attorney Jarrod Hickman and to the entire State of Nevada Public Defenders office including the folks behind the scenes answering my numerous phone calls from jail.

Are you aware of the ruling in <u>Times v. Sullivan</u> (1964) which states this, in part:

As Americans we have a profound national commitment to the principle that debate on Public Issues should be uninhibited, robust, and wide open. And that it may well include vehement, caustic, and sometimes unpleasantly sharp attacks on government and public officials.

The Petitioner has been subject to vexation by the Thomas J. Harris trust administrator, Tara M. Flanagan who has abuse her position as a California Superior Court Judge in volition the state judicial ethics & canons to have the Alameda County authorities attempt to intimate this Petitioner from his legal rights to pursue his claims and expose the corruption. According to Cal. Judicial Canon 2: A Judge Shall Avoid Impropriety and the Appearance of Impropriety in All of the Judge's Activities A. Promoting Public Confidence B. Use of the Prestige of Judicial Office.

ccording to Cal. Judicial Canon 4: A Judge Shall So Conduct the Judge's Quasi-Judicial and Extrajudicial Activities as to Minimize the Risk of Conflict with Judicial Obligations

- A. Extrajudicial Activities in General
- B. Quasi-judicial and Avocational Activities
- C. Governmental, Civic, or Charitable Activities

D. Financial Activities

E. Fiduciary Activities

F. Service as Arbitrator or Mediator

G. Practice of Law

H. Compensation and Reimbursement

There has been a total break-down and failure to communicate by Tara M. Flanagan, F. McClure Wallace and Scott Barton. Tara M. Flanagan knows of the fraud and theft conducted by Scott William Barton Cal. State BAR # 160262, a California lawyer. Pursuant to California Judicial Canon III, D II: (2) Whenever a judge has personal knowledge that a lawyer has violated any provision of the Rules of Professional Conduct, the judge shall take appropriate corrective action.

"Silence can only be equated with fraud where there is a legal or moral duty to speak or where an inquiry left unanswered would be intentionally misleading." <u>United States v. Prudden</u>, 424 F.2d 1021 p. 1032.(5th Cir. 1970), cert. denied, 400 U.S. 831, 91 S.Ct. 62, 27 L.Ed.2d 62 (1970).

In an effort to carry out any litigation in this case, a court appointed lawyer is requested to act as an intermediary and legal counsel. The Petitioner cannot be subjected to false claims of harassment or threats to harm anyone. An honest lawyer will be able to work with the opposing counsel to obtain an amicable solution and justice for any criminal wrongdoings.

In an abundance of caution, and in the interests and furtherance of justice, the Petitioner has a "statutory right" to counsel in this matter and the Court has an opportunity to remedy the situation simply by appointing counsel to which any

costs, fees, etc can be paid back by the Petitioner upon a successful resolution and the inclusion of attorneys fees and costs.

In good faith, this Petition is holding back evidence, facts and the names of certain individuals to preserve confidentiality upon the Courts decision on appointing counsel. Once counsel is appointed, the evidence can be disclosed to the Defendants' counsel and/or the court.

If the Court decides against appointing counsel, the Petitioner will pursue this case in pre per. The Petitioner reserves all rights including using extra-judicial remedies, common law liens, salvage liens and any and all other tolls and resources to accomplish justice and a fair remedy

Respectfully signed under penalty of perjury,

/s/ Todd Robben

June 15, 2022

### **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I, Stephen James Robben, declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the following is true and correct copy of the filed document. That on (month) June (day) 15th, 2022, service of the document was made pursuant to NRCP 5(b) by depositing a email to: F. McClure Wallace, counsel for Respondent, mcclure@wallacemillsap.com

DATED this 15th day of June, 2022

Submitted By: /s/ Stephen James Robben

# Exhibit 5

# Exhibit 5

510 W Plumb Ln., Reno, Nevada / (775) 683-9599

CASE NO.: 2021 PB00034

DEPT NO.: I

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## RECEIVED

JUN 2 2 2022

**Douglas County** District Court Clerk

M, CARNEY TY

## IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

IN RE:

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS,

Deceased

### ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO CONFIRM FIRST AND FINAL ACCOUNTING, REQUEST FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION, AND REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL'S FEES AND COSTS

Tara M. Flanagan, in her capacity as the Court appointed Personal Representative (aka "Successor Executor") of the Estate of Thomas Joseph Harris (the "Estate"), by and through her counsel of record, F. McClure Wallace and Patrick R. Millsap of Wallace & Millsap, has presented her Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution and Request for Payment of Professional Fees and Costs (the "Petition").

The Court conducted a properly noticed hearing on the Petition on May 24, 2022. The Court received no objections to the Petition. However, also on or about 23 May 24, 2022, Mr. Todd Robben filed a Notice of Motion for Continuance and Motion for Continuance requesting up to a six-month continuance of the matter. Based on the presentations of Mr. Robben and Counsel for the Estate at the hearing, the Court granted Mr. Robben a short extension to demonstrate a basis upon which he could assert any standing in this matter, continuing the hearing on the Petition to June 21, 2022. Thereafter, Mr. Robben filed a Request for Appointment of Counsel on June 15,

Page 1 of 8

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2022. The Court then conducted a continued hearing for approval of the Petition on June 21, 2022. Again, the Court received no objections to the Petition beyond the filings and presentation of Mr. Robben. Counsel for the Estate argued in favor of granting the Petition and presented legal arguments in opposition to Mr. Robben's filings and oral presentation, namely that Mr. Robben is not an interested person in this matter as defined by NRS 132.185, and as such lacks standing to object to the Petition or be appointed counsel by the Court pursuant to NRS 136.200.

Having considered the Personal Representative's Petition, Mr. Todd Robben's filings, and having heard the presentation of the Personal Representative by and through her Counsel, as well as the presentation of Mr. Todd Robben, appearing in proper, the Court finds as follows:

#### FINDINGS AND ORDER

- 1. Thomas Joseph Harris (the "Decedent") died on December 30, 2019, as a resident of Douglas County, Nevada.
- 2. The Decedent's death was caused by a motor vehicle accident in Washoe County, Nevada on or about December 19, 2019. The Decedent was not at fault for the motor vehicle accident.
- 3. The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Joseph Harris was duly lodged with this Court on April 6, 2021.
- 4. The Decedent's Last Will and Testament is a pour over will, identifying the Decedent's Trust as the beneficiary of his Will. The Decedent's Trust is The Declaration of Trust Known as the Thomas J. Harris Trust, Dated June 12, 2019 (the "Decedent's Trust" or the "Trust").
- The Decedent's Last Will and Testament identified the following line of Executors: Jeff Robben, Scott Barton, and Tara Flanagan.
- 6. On March 10, 2021, Scott Barton filed his Verified Petition for Letters of Special Administration (NRS 140.010) and for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary (NRS 136.090). Mr. Barton was the appropriate individual to seek

Page 2 of 8

510 W Plumb Ln., Reno, Nevada / (775) 683-9599

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appointment as the Personal Representative of the Estate because the first nominated executor, Mr. Robben, had passed away on November 11, 2020.

- On April 6, 2021, this Court entered its Order Admitting Will to Probate and Issuing Letters Testamentary appointing Scott Barton to serve as the Personal Representative of the Estate. Consistent with the Court's Order, Letters Testamentary were issued to Scott Barton on April 22, 2021.
- 8. Upon information and belief, pursuant to his appointment as the Estate's Personal Representative, Scott Barton began his efforts to administer the Decedent's Estate. Namely for purposes of this Petition, Mr. Barton continued Mr. Robben's previously initiated efforts to prosecute the wrongful death claims related to the Decedent's death, including retaining Ms. Julie Throop, Esq. to represent the Estate regarding the wrongful death of the Decedent.
- By and through its retained litigation Counsel, the Estate was able to reach a pre-litigation resolution of all claims regarding the wrongful death of the Decedent, as discussed in greater detail below.
- Thereafter, and before completing the negotiated settlement or gaining Court approval of the settlement on behalf of the Estate, Scott Barton notified Tara Flanagan he was resigning as the Personal Representative of the Estate.
- 11. Consistent with her nomination as the next named executor of the Estate by the Decedent's Will, Ms. Flanagan filed her Petition for Appointment of Successor Executor and for Issuance of Letters Testamentary on June 25, 2021.
- On July 27, 2021, the Court entered its Order Appointing Successor Executor and Issuing Successor Letters Testamentary, and on August 17, 2021, the Court issued Letters Testamentary to Tara M. Flanagan,
- Pursuant to her appointment as the Personal Representative of the Estate, on August 30, 2021, Ms. Flanagan filed her Petition to Approve Settlement (the "Petition"), seeking this Court's confirmation of the settlement negotiated by Mr. Barton and Ms. Throop on behalf of the Estate regarding the Decedent's death, as

Page 3 of 8

well as authorizing Ms. Flanagan, in her capacity as the Estate's Personal Representative, to complete all remaining steps necessary to effectuate the settlement for the benefit of the Estate.

14. Thereafter, the Court held a hearing on September 9, 2021 on the Personal Representative's Petition. The hearing was attended by Thomas A. Harris, Counsel for Mr. Thomas A. Harris, the Personal Representative, Counsel for the Personal Representative, and the Estate's wrongful death Counsel, Julie Throop, Esq. At the hearing the Judge heard from all Counsel regarding the issue of Ms. Throop's attorney fees as raised by Mr. Thomas A. Harris by and through his Counsel. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr. Harris withdrew any objection he had previously presented to Ms. Throop's fees incurred as wrongful death Counsel for the Estate. As a result, there is no objection before the Court to the Petition to Approve the Settlement filed by the Personal Representative, nor any objection to the settlement placed before the Court for confirmation.

- 15. On September 9, 2021 the Court entered its Order Granting Petition to Approve Settlement.
- 16. Pursuant to the Court's Order Granting Petition to Approve Settlement Tara M. Flanagan, in her capacity as the Estate's Personal Representative, finalized the settlement for the benefit of the Estate and deposited all settlement proceeds in the Estate's bank account. The Court finds Ms. Flanagan's efforts in this regard to have been dutifully and properly fulfilled.
- 17. On April 15, 2022, the Personal Representative filed the subject Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs.
- 18. Shortly thereafter, the Estate's Inventory and Record of Value was appropriately filed.
- 19. As reported in the Personal Representative's Petition, Notice to Creditors was properly filed on April 22, 2021, and published in the Record Courier

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on April 29, May 6, and May 13, 2021. Proof of Publication of the Notice to Creditors was filed with the Court on May 20, 2021. No creditor's claims were filed against the Estate.

- 20. All tax returns appropriately required of the Decedent have been filed. A final estate tax return will be filed. There is no known liability due on this return
- 21. The Administrator has received no other communication or inquiry from any other taxing authority or any other claimant.
- The acts of the Tara Flanagan, in her capacity as the Successor 22.Executor, are ordinary, necessary, and reasonable without exception.
- After all administrative expenses, legal expenses, and claims have been paid, all remaining assets, including any after discovered assets, will be distributed to the Estate's sole beneficiary, the Thomas J. Harris Trust, dated June 12, 2019.
- The time necessary for the Successor Executor to complete the tasks required of her has been ordinary, necessary, and reasonable.
- The gross value of the Estate for computing the Petitioner's Commission 25.is \$620,000.00.
- Pursuant to NRS 150.020, the Petitioner is entitled to \$13,550.00 in 26. ordinary compensation.
  - Counsel has rendered valuable services to the Petitioner. 27.
- 28. The rates charged by Wallace & Millsap LLC are ordinary, necessary, and reasonable.
- The services performed by Wallace & Millsap LLC are appropriate, 29. necessary, and reasonable without exception.
- Wallace & Millsap LLC has requested the sum \$20,638.00 in attorney's 30. fees.
- Wallace & Millsap LLC has requested the sum of \$994.78 for costs 31. advanced.
  - 32. Finally, upon thorough review by this court, including review of Mr. Page 5 of 8

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Robben's written filings and hearing Mr. Robben's oral presentation at both the May 24, 2022 hearing as well as the June 21, 2022 continued hearing, the Court determines Mr. Robben is not an "interested person" in this Estate as defined by NRS 132.185, and as such has no standing to object to the Petition, be appointed Counsel, or otherwise appear in this proceeding. Specifically, the Court heard from Mr. Robben, and after giving him additional time, Mr. Robben was unable to present any legal basis or admissible evidence to potentially allow a determination he is an interested person in this Estate. Therefore, Mr. Todd Robben is not an interest person to this Estate, and as such has no standing to oppose or object to the Petition, or to otherwise appear in these proceedings.

WHEREFORE, as a result of the foregoing, considering the Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs filed by the Personal Representative, considering Mr. Todd Robben's Notice of Motion for Continuance and Motion for Continuance, and hearing the presentation of Counsel and Mr. Robben, the Court having good cause ORDERS as follows:

- A. The First and Final Accounting of the Estate is approved without exception.
- B. The acts of the Personal Representative with respect to the administration of the Estate are confirmed without exception
- C. It was proper to generally administer this Estate.
- D. There were no known prior distributions.
- E. The Personal Representative's requested ordinary fees and costs are necessary and reasonable in all respects.
- F. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to pay herself \$13,550.00 in ordinary fees.

Page 6 of 8

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- G. All actions and services rendered by Counsel for the Personal Representative were reasonable and appropriate.
- H. Counsel for the Personal Representative's requested fees and costs were necessary and reasonable in all respects.
- I. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to pay the law firm of Wallace & Millsap LLC, the sum of \$20,638.00 as compensation for legal services rendered, and to be rendered by said attorney and paralegal for the benefit of the Estate.
- J. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to pay the law firm of Wallace & Millsap LLC, the sum of \$994.78 for costs advanced and to be advanced in this Estate, for a total payment of fees and costs in the amount of \$21,632.78.
- K. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to holdback \$5,000.00 for completion of all the Estate's tax needs, including paying the final accounting fees of the Estate.
- L. After all administrative expenses and professional fees are paid, the Personal Representative is authorized and directed to distribute the Estate's remaining assets, including any after discovered assets to The Declaration of Trust Known as the Thomas J. Harris Trust, Dated June 12, 2019, by and through Tara Flanagan as Successor Trustee.

Page 7 of 8

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- M. The Personal Representative shall complete any and all remaining task necessary to complete the administration of this Estate, at which time the Executor shall request her discharge from this Court.
- N. Mr. Todd Robben is not an interested person in this matter, has no standing in the proceedings, and as such his Request for Appointment of Counsel is denied.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 27 day of June 2022.

District Court Judge

Submitted by:

### WALLACE & MILLSAP

### s / F. McClure Wallace

F. MCCLURE WALLACE, ESQ. State Bar No. 10264 PATRICK R. MILLSAP, ESQ. State Bar No. 12043

WALLACE & MILLSAP LLC 510 West Plumb Lane, Suite A

21 Reno, Nevada 89509 (775) 683-9599 Telephone

22 (775) 683-9597 Fax

Attorneys for Petitioner

Page 8 of 8

## Exhibit 6

# Exhibit 6

	FILED	
1	Todd Robbon	
2	In Pro per 1011 27 2020 1011 27 PM 3: 42	
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4	Sonora, CA 95370  Robben ty@gmail.com  (209)540-7713  Douglas County B08BIER, WILLIAMS  Douglas County B08BIER, WILLIAMS  CLERK Electronically File	d
5	(209)540-7713  BY DEPUTY 29 2022 04:0  Elizabeth A. Brow	∌p.m √n
6	Clerk of Supreme	
7	IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA	
ė.		
9	)	
10	IN RE: THE ESTATE OF THOMAS CASE NO.: 2021 PB00034	
11	JOSEPH HARRIS,	
12	NOTIGE OF APPEAL	
13	Deceased DEPARTMENT: 1	
14	JUDGE: Nathan Tod Young	
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17	Petitioner, Todd C. Robben appeals the decision, order and judgment pursuant	
18	to NRS §§ 155.190 from Judge Nathan Tod Young on June 21, 2022 <sup>1</sup> denying	
19	Petitioner counsel and granting the final accounting and final distribution in the above	
20	titled case.	
21	Respectfully,	
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24	/s/ Todd Robben	
25	06/27/2022	
26	,	
27	The order appears to be dated June 22, 2022.	
28	1	
·	-	

Docket 84948 Document 2022-20590

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Stephen James Robben, declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the following is true and correct copy of the filed document. That on June 27, 2022, service of the document was made pursuant to NRCP 5(b) by depositing a email to: F. McClure Wallace, counsel for Respondent, mcclure@wallacemillsap.com

DATED this 27 day of June, 2022

Submitted By: /s/ Stephen James Robben

#### Form 2. Case Appeal Statement JUN 2 8 2022 Douglas County Dept. No. I District Court Clerk No. 2021-PB-00034 2022 JUN 28 AH 10: 06 3 IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF TI OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUG 5 IN RE: THE ESTATE OF .6 THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS, Deceased' 8 CASE APPEAL STATEMENT 9 1. Name of appellant filing this case appeal statement: 10 Todd Robben. 2. Identify the judge issuing the decision, judgment, or order appealed from: 11 Nathan Tod Young. 3. Identify each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each appellant: 12 Todd Robben - P.O. Box 4251, Sonora CA 95370, 13. 4. Identify each respondent and the name and address of appellate counsel, if known, for each respondent (if the name of a respondent's appellate counsel is unknown, indicate as much 14 and provide the name and address of that respondent's trial counsel): N/A 15 5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4 is not licensed 16 to practice law in Nevada and, if so, whether the district court granted that attorney permission to appear under SCR 42 (attach a copy of any district court order granting such 17 permission): N/A. 18 6. Indicate whether appellant was represented by appointed or retained counsel in the district 19 court: N/A 7. Indicate whether appellant is represented by appointed or retained counsel on appeal: 20 Proper Person. 8. Indicate whether appellant was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and the date of 21 entry of the district court order granting such leave: Appellant was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis filed May 23, 2022. 22 9. Indicate the date the proceedings commenced in the district court (e.g., date complaint, 23 indictment, information, or petition was filed); Order granting Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final 24 Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs filed June 22, 2022. 10. Provide a brief description of the nature of the action and result in the district court, 25 including the type of judgment or order being appealed and the relief granted by the 26 court: This is a probate matter in which the appellant is appealing the Order granting Petition to 27 Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution; and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs filed June 22, 2022. 28

11. Indicate whether the case has previously been the subject of an appeal to or original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court and, if so, the caption and Supreme Court docket number of the prior proceeding: N/A. 2; 12. Indicate whether this appeal involves child custody or visitation: 13. If this is a civil case, indicate whether this appeal involves the possibility of settlement. Dated this 28th day of June, 2022 Deputy Cler P.O. Box 218 Minden, Weyada 89423 775-782-9820 EQ. 

Ulallace & Milliago 5<u>1</u>0 W Plumb Ln., Reno, Nevada / (775) 683:9599 CASE NO.: 2021 PB00034

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## RECEIVED

JUN 22 2022

Douglas County District Court Clerk FILED

2022 JUN 22 AM II: 04

BOBBIE R. WILLIAMS

IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

IN RE:

THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS,

Deceased

## ORDER GRANTING PETITION TO CONFIRM FIRST AND FINAL ACCOUNTING, REQUEST FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION, AND REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL'S FEES AND COSTS

Tara M. Flanagan, in her capacity as the Court appointed Personal Representative (aka "Successor Executor") of the Estate of Thomas Joseph Harris (the "Estate"), by and through her counsel of record, F. McClure Wallace and Patrick R. Millsap of Wallace & Millsap, has presented her Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution and Request for Payment of Professional Fees and Costs (the "Petition").

The Court conducted a properly noticed hearing on the Petition on May 24, 2022. The Court received no objections to the Petition. However, also on or about May 24, 2022, Mr. Todd Robben filed a Notice of Motion for Continuance and Motion for Continuance requesting up to a six-month continuance of the matter. Based on the presentations of Mr. Robben and Counsel for the Estate at the hearing, the Court granted Mr. Robben a short extension to demonstrate a basis upon which he could assert any standing in this matter, continuing the hearing on the Petition to June 21, 2022. Thereafter, Mr. Robben filed a Request for Appointment of Counsel on June 15,

Page 1 of 8

110 W Plumb Ln., Reno, Nevada / (775) 683-9599

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2022. The Court then conducted a continued hearing for approval of the Petition on 2 June 21, 2022. Again, the Court received no objections to the Petition beyond the filings and presentation of Mr. Robben. Counsel for the Estate argued in favor of granting the Petition and presented legal arguments in opposition to Mr. Robben's filings and oral presentation, namely that Mr. Robben is not an interested person in this matter as defined by NRS 132.185, and as such lacks standing to object to the Petition or be appointed counsel by the Court pursuant to NRS 136.200.

Having considered the Personal Representative's Petition, Mr. Todd Robben's filings, and having heard the presentation of the Personal Representative by and through her Counsel, as well as the presentation of Mr. Todd Robben, appearing in pro per, the Court finds as follows:

### FINDINGS AND ORDER

- Thomas Joseph Harris (the "Decedent") died on December 30, 2019, as 1. a resident of Douglas County, Nevada.
- The Decedent's death was caused by a motor vehicle accident in Washoe County, Nevada on or about December 19, 2019. The Decedent was not at fault for the motor vehicle accident.
- The Last Will and Testament of Thomas Joseph Harris was duly lodged with this Court on April 6, 2021.
- The Decedent's Last Will and Testament is a pour over will, identifying the Decedent's Trust as the beneficiary of his Will. The Decedent's Trust is The Declaration of Trust Known as the Thomas J. Harris Trust, Dated June 12, 2019 (the "Decedent's Trust" or the "Trust").
- 5. The Decedent's Last Will and Testament identified the following line of Executors: Jeff Robben, Scott Barton, and Tara Flanagan.
- On March 10, 2021, Scott Barton filed his Verified Petition for Letters of 6. Special Administration (NRS 140.010) and for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary (NRS 136.090). Mr. Barton was the appropriate individual to seek

Page 2 of 8

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I appointment as the Personal Representative of the Estate because the first nominated executor, Mr. Robben, had passed away on November 11, 2020.

- 7. On April 6, 2021, this Court entered its Order Admitting Will to Probate and Issuing Letters Testamentary appointing Scott Barton to serve as the Personal Representative of the Estate. Consistent with the Court's Order, Letters Testamentary were issued to Scott Barton on April 22, 2021.
- 8. Upon information and belief, pursuant to his appointment as the Estate's Personal Representative, Scott Barton began his efforts to administer the Decedent's Estate. Namely for purposes of this Petition, Mr. Barton continued Mr. Robben's previously initiated efforts to prosecute the wrongful death claims related to the Decedent's death, including retaining Ms. Julie Throop, Esq. to represent the Estate regarding the wrongful death of the Decedent.
- By and through its retained litigation Counsel, the Estate was able to 9'. reach a pre-litigation resolution of all claims regarding the wrongful death of the Decedent, as discussed in greater detail below.
- Thereafter, and before completing the negotiated settlement or gaining Court approval of the settlement on behalf of the Estate, Scott Barton notified Tara Flanagan he was resigning as the Personal Representative of the Estate.
- Consistent with her nomination as the next named executor of the 11. Estate by the Decedent's Will, Ms. Flanagan filed her Petition for Appointment of Successor Executor and for Issuance of Letters Testamentary on June 25, 2021.
- On July 27, 2021, the Court entered its Order Appointing Successor 12. Executor and Issuing Successor Letters Testamentary, and on August 17, 2021, the Court issued Letters Testamentary to Tara M. Flanagan.
- 13. Pursuant to her appointment as the Personal Representative of the Estate, on August 30, 2021, Ms. Flanagan filed her Petition to Approve Settlement (the "Petition"), seeking this Court's confirmation of the settlement negotiated by Mr. Barton and Ms. Throop on behalf of the Estate regarding the Decedent's death, as

Page 3 of 8

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- 14. Thereafter, the Court held a hearing on September 9, 2021 on the Personal Representative's Petition. The hearing was attended by Thomas A. Harris, Counsel for Mr. Thomas A. Harris, the Personal Representative, Counsel for the Personal Representative, and the Estate's wrongful death Counsel, Julie Throop, Esq. At the hearing the Judge heard from all Counsel regarding the issue of Ms. Throop's attorney fees as raised by Mr. Thomas A. Harris by and through his Counsel. At the conclusion of the hearing, Mr. Harris withdrew any objection he had previously presented to Ms. Throop's fees incurred as wrongful death Counsel for the Estate. As a result, there is no objection before the Court to the Petition to Approve the Settlement filed by the Personal Representative, nor any objection to the settlement placed before the Court for confirmation.
- 15. On September 9, 2021 the Court entered its Order Granting Petition to
  Approve Settlement.
- 16. Pursuant to the Court's Order Granting Petition to Approve Settlement Tara M. Flanagan, in her capacity as the Estate's Personal Representative, finalized the settlement for the benefit of the Estate and deposited all settlement proceeds in the Estate's bank account. The Court finds Ms. Flanagan's efforts in this regard to have been dutifully and properly fulfilled.
- 17. On April 15, 2022, the Personal Representative filed the subject Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs.
- 18. Shortly thereafter, the Estate's Inventory and Record of Value was appropriately filed.
  - 19. As reported in the Personal Representative's Petition, Notice to Creditors was properly filed on April 22, 2021, and published in the Record Courier Page 4 of 8.

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- 20. All tax returns appropriately required of the Decedent have been filed. A final estate tax return will be filed. There is no known liability due on this return.
- 21. The Administrator has received no other communication or inquiry from any other taxing authority or any other claimant...
- 22. The acts of the Tara Flanagan, in her capacity as the Successor Executor, are ordinary, necessary, and reasonable without exception.
- After all administrative expenses, legal expenses, and claims have been 23. paid, all remaining assets, including any after discovered assets, will be distributed to the Estate's sole beneficiary, the Thomas J. Harris Trust, dated June 12, 2019.
- The time necessary for the Successor Executor to complete the tasks required of her has been ordinary, necessary, and reasonable.
- The gross value of the Estate for computing the Petitioner's Commission is \$620,000.00.
- Pursuant to NRS 150.020, the Petitioner is entitled to \$13,550.00 in 26. ordinary compensation.
  - 27. Counsel has rendered valuable services to the Petitioner.
- The rates charged by Wallace & Millsap LLC are ordinary, necessary, 28. and reasonable.
- The services performed by Wallace & Millsap LLC are appropriate, 29. necessary, and reasonable without exception.
- .24 30. Wallace & Millsap LLC has requested the sum \$20,638.00 in attorney's 25 fees.
  - Wallace & Millsap LLC has requested the sum of \$994.78 for costs 31. advanced.
    - Finally, upon thorough review by this court, including review of Mr. 32. Page 5 of 8

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Robben's written filings and hearing Mr. Robben's oral presentation at both the May 24, 2022 hearing as well as the June 21, 2022 continued hearing, the Court determines Mr. Robben is not an "interested person" in this Estate as defined by NRS 132.185, and as such has no standing to object to the Petition, be appointed Counsel, or otherwise appear in this proceeding. Specifically, the Court heard from Mr. Robben, and after giving him additional time, Mr. Robben was unable to present any legal basis or admissible evidence to potentially allow a determination he is ar interested person in this Estate. Therefore, Mr. Todd Robben is not an interest person to this Estate, and as such has no standing to oppose or object to the Petition, or to otherwise appear in these proceedings.

WHEREFORE, as a result of the foregoing, considering the Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Rees and Costs filed by the Personal Representative, considering Mr. Todd Robben's Notice of Motion for Continuance and Motion for Continuance, and hearing the presentation of Counsel and Mr. Robben, the Court having good cause ORDERS as follows:

- A. The First and Final Accounting of the Estate is approved without exception.
- B. The acts of the Personal Representative with respect to the administration of the Estate are confirmed without exception
- C. It was proper to generally administer this Estate.
- D. There were no known prior distributions.
- E. The Personal Representative's requested ordinary fees and costs are necessary and reasonable in all respects.
- F. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to pay herself \$13,550:00 in ordinary fees.

Page 6 of 8

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- G. All actions and services rendered by Counsel for the Personal Representative were reasonable and appropriate,
- H. Counsel for the Personal Representative's requested fees and costs were necessary and reasonable in all respects.
- I. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to pay the law firm of Wallace & Millsap LLC, the sum of \$20,638.00 as compensation for legal services rendered, and to be rendered by said attorney and paralegal for the benefit of the Estate.
- J. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to pay the law firm of Wallace & Millsap LLC, the sum of \$994.78 for costs advanced and to be advanced in this Estate, for a total payment of fees and costs in the amount of \$21,632.78.
- K. The Personal Representative is authorized and directed to holdback \$5,000.00 for completion of all the Estate's tax needs, including paying the final accounting fees of the Estate.
- L. After all administrative expenses and professional fees are paid, the Personal Representative is authorized and directed to distribute the Estate's remaining assets, including any after discovered assets to The Declaration of Trust Known as the Thomas J. Harris Trust, Dated June 12, 2019, by and through Tara Flanagan as Successor Trustee.

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(775) 683-9597 Fax

Attorneys for Petitioner

Page 8 of 8

## Douglas County District Court Case Summary Report

Case #: 2021-PB-00034

Case Title: In the Matter of the Estate of Harris; Thomas Joseph

Filed: 03/10/2021

Cause: Probate: Special Administration

DV: N

Case Status: Reopened

Date: 06/24/2022

Archived: 06/24/2022, 06/21/2022, 06/17/2022, 06/01/2022, 05/24/2022, 05/20/2022, 05/18/2022,

Parties Party Petitioner Petitioner Other Decedent	<u>Name</u> Barton, S Flanagan Robben, ' Harris, Tr	, Tara M		<u>Status</u>	
<u>Party</u> Attorney Attorney Attorney Attorney			<u>Bar #</u> 13593 10264 12043 2716	Status Current Current Current Current Substituted Out	Representing
Events <u>Date/Time</u> 04/06/2021 07/27/2021 09/07/2021 09/21/2021 05/24/2022 06/21/2022	Pe Pe Pe	pe tition Hearing tition Hearing tition Hearing tition Hearing tition Hearing tition Hearing		Result Concluded Concluded Concluded Vacated Concluded Concluded	<u>Reason</u>
Documents <u>Date</u>	Code MINS MINS MINS MINS MINS	<u>Description</u> Minutes Minutes Minutes Minutes Minutes			
03/11/2021 03/15/2021 03/15/2021 03/15/2021 03/31/2021 04/02/2021 04/02/2021 04/06/2021 04/06/2021 04/22/2021 04/22/2021	DOAP NHRG DCOS DCOS DN DPOP DNAC DWIL DORD DPLT DSNA DNTC DINP	Verified - Petition for Letters of Special Administration and for Probate of Will and Issuance of Letters Testamentary Order Appointing - Special Administrator Notice of Hearing Certificate of Service Certificate of Service Notice of - Remote Appearance Proof of Publication - Proof and Statement o Publication Notice of Appearance of Counsel - and Request for remote appearance Last Will and Testament Order - Admitting Will to Probate and Issuing Letters Testamentary Letters Testamentary Statement of Name and Address - of Personal Representative in Accordance With NRS 143.190 Notice to Creditors Instructions for Personal Representative Proof of Publication - Proof and Statement of Publication			
05/21/2021 06/25/2021	DPOP DPSA		oointment of -	Successor Executor ar	

06/28/2022 9:40 AM Page 1 of 2

<u>Date</u> 06/25/2021	<u>Code</u> . DNAC	<u>Description</u> Notice of Appearance of Counsel - Notice of Appearance; Request for
		Special Notice
06/29/2021	NHRG	Notice of Hearing
06/29/2021	COM	Certificate of Mailing
07/01/2021	DREQ	Request - for Special Notice
07/21/2021	DN	Notice of - Notice and Request of Tara M. Flanagan to Appear Remotely
07/22/2021	DMIS	Via Zoom at the July 27, 2021 Hearing Misc, Document - Nature of Response
07/27/2021	DORD	Order - Appointing Successor Executor and Issuing Successor Letters
		Testamentary
08/17/2021	DPLT	Letters Testamentary
08/30/2021	DIPT	Petition - to Approve Settlement
08/30/2021	NĤRG	Notice of Hearing
08/31/2021	MMOT	Motion - Emergency Motion to Dispense of Notice of Hearing, for a
		Telephonic Hearing at the Courts very Earliest Convenience and
		Response to the Petition
09/01/2021	DVER	Verification - of Petition to Confirm Settlement
09/03/2021	DOSH	Order Setting Hearing
09/03/2021	DOSH	Order Setting Hearing
09/08/2021	DINP	Instructions for Personal Representative
09/09/2021	DORD	Order - Granting Petition to Approve Settlement
09/16/2021	DNEO	Notice of Entry of Order
04/15/2022	DIPT	Petition - to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for Final
		Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs
04/15/2022	NHRG	Notice of Hearing
04/21/2022	DGIA	Inventory and Appraisement
04/25/2022	DSOA	Substitution of Attorneys
05/12/2022	DREQ	Request - to Appear via Zoom for Hearing
05/16/2022	DORD	Order - Granting Request for Remote Appearance
05/23/2022	DATP	Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis
05/23/2022	DOPA	Order to Proceed in Forma Pauperis
05/23/2022	MMOT	Motion - Notice of Motion for Continuance and Motion for Continuance
06/15/2022	DREQ	Request - to Appear Remotely Via Zoom for Court Appearance/Hearing
06/16/2022	DREQ	Request - for Appointment of Counsel Pursuant to NRS 136.200
06/16/2022	DORD	Order - Granting Request
06/22/2022	DEXM	Ex Parte Motion - Emergency Stay Request Emergency Verified Motion to
		Reconsider; Request for Calcification; Notice on Non Hearsay Proof of the
1		Thomas Joseph and Olga Harris Living Trust
06/22/2022	DORD	Order - Granting Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request
		for Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and
		Costs
06/23/2022	DSUP	Supplement - Supplemental Points & Authority
06/24/2022	MMOT	Motion - to Expedite Stay Request Pending Reconsideration Request for
		Submission

06/28/2022 9:40 AM Page 2 of 2

DEPT NO. I

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Thomas Joseph Harris,

DATE: 06/21/2022

JUDGE: Nathan Tod Young

CLERK: Courtni Walker

COURT REPORTER: Not Reported

PETITIONER'S COUNSEL: F. McClure Wallace

LAW CLERK: John Seddon

BAILIFFS: George Schramm/Les Vido

OTHERS PRESENT:

Todd Robben - Step-son of the decedent (via Zoom)

Thomas A. Harris - Beneficiary (via Zoom)

The above-entitled matter was before the Court this being the time set for CONTINUED PETITION TO CONFIRM FIRST AND FINAL ACCOUNTING, REQUEST FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION, AND REQUEST FOR PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL'S FEES AND COSTS. The petitioner was present in court and represented by counsel.

The verified Petition is on file with the Court and due notice was given as required by law.

The Court is in receipt of Mr. Robben's Request for Appointment of Counsel.

Mr. Wallace opposed the request for appointment of counsel.

The Court finds that Mr. Robben has failed to demonstrate that he is an interested party in this case and the request for appointment of counsel is denied and the petition is granted.

Mr. McClure Wallace will prepare the order.

DEPT NO. I

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Thomas Joseph Harris,

DATE: 05/24/2022

JUDGE: Nathan Tod Young

CLERK: Courtni Walker

COURT REPORTER: Not Reported

PETITIONER'S COUNSEL: F. McClure Wallace

LAW CLERK: John Seddon

BAILIFFS: George Schramm/Eric Lindsay

OTHERS PRESENT: Tara Flanagan - Petitioner Todd Robben - Stepson of the Decendant

The above-entitled matter was before the Court this being the time set for PETITION TO CONFIRM FIRST AND FINAL ACCOUNTING, REQUEST FOR FINAL DISTRIBUTION, AND REQUEST FOR PAYMNET OF PROFESSIONAL'S FEES AND COSTS. The petitioner was present in court (via Zoom) and represented by counsel.

The verified Petition is on file with the Court and due notice was given as required by law.

Mr. Robben requested a continuance.

Mr. Wallace presented argument regarding Mr. Robben's interest in this matter.

The Court continued this matter to June 21, 2022 at 1:30 p.m.

DEPT NO. I

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Thomas Joseph Harris,

DATE: 09/07/2021

JUDGE: Nathan Tod Young

CLERK: Marilyn Carney

COURT REPORTER: Not Reported

PETITIONER'S COUNSEL; Abigail G. Stephenson

LAW CLERK: John Seddon

BAILIFFS: Les Vido

OTHERS PRESENT:

Preston Mathews (via Zoom) - Counsel for Thomas Harris Julie Throop (via Zoom) - Counsel for Scott Barton Tara Flanagan (via Zoom) - Petitioner F. McClure Wallace - Counsel for Tara Flanagan

The above-entitled matter was before the Court this being the time set for Petition to Approve Settlement. The petitioner was present in court and represented by counsel.

The Petition is on file with the Court and due notice was given as required by law.

Hearing no objection, the Court entered an order granting the prayer of the petition.

Mr. McClure will prepare the Order.

DEPT NO. I

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Thomas Joseph Harris,

DATE: 07/27/2021

JUDGE: Nathan Tod Young

CLERK: Marilyn Carney

COURT REPORTER: Not Reported

PETITIONER'S COUNSEL: Abigail G. Stephenson

LAW CLERK: Not Present

BAILIFFS: Les Vido/George Schramm

OTHERS PRESENT:

Steven Silva - Counsel for Scott Barton Tara Flanagan (via Zoom) James Hales - Counsel for Protected Person F. McClure Wallace - Counsel for Tara Flanagan

The above-entitled matter was before the Court this being the time set for Petition for Appointment of Successor Executor and for Issuance of Successor Letters Testamentary. The petitioner was present in court via Zoom and represented by counsel.

Mr. Wallace presented statements.

The Petition is on file with the Court and due notice was given as required by law.

Hearing no objection, the Court entered an order granting the prayer of the petition.

DEPT NO. I

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

Thomas Joseph Harris,

DATE: 04/06/2021

JUDGE: Nathan Tod Young

CLERK: Delores Goelz

COURT REPORTER: Not Reported

PETITIONER'S COUNSEL: Abigail G. Stephenson

LAW CLERK: John Seddon

BAILIFFS: William Addington

OTHERS PRESENT: James Hales (Zoom) - Counsel for Thomas Haris

The above-entitled matter was before the Court this being the time set for VERIFIED PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN. The petitioner was not present in court but was represented by counsel.

The verified Petition is on file with the Court and due notice was given as required by law.

Hearing no objection, the Court entered an order granting the prayer of the petition.

## RECEIVED

MAY 2 3 2022

Douglas County District Court Clerk

Your Name: Todd Robben
Address: P.O. Box 4251
City, State, Zip Sonera, CA 95,370
City, State, Zip Sonera, CA 95,370
Eimail-Address: Tobben T, P. mon. con
Self-Represented

FILED

2022 HAY 23 PM 1: 57:

BOBBIE R. WILLIAMS CLERK

BY CADOLLOFPHTY

	CÓUNTY, NEYĄDĄ
THOMAS J. HARRIS	CASE NO.: 2021 PB00034
Plaintiff,	DEPT: 1:
TODD C. ROBBEN	
Defendant,	

DISTRICT COURT

### Application to Proceed in Forms Pauperls

Pursuant to NRS 12.015, and based upon the information contained in this Application and Affidavit, I request permission from this Court to proceed without paying filing fees, or other costs and fees as provided in NRS 12.015 because I lack sufficient financial ability.

I understand that if approved, the order allowing me to proceed in forma pauperis will be valid for one year. I will be required to file a new Application to Proceed in Forma-Pauperis if I need further filing fees and court costs and fees waived after one year.

EMPLOYMENT: ( check one)

☐ I am unemployed.

I'um employed. My employer is Waste Monegovinent and my job title is Scale house Affendon

1 1 am self-employed. The name of my business is

O 2017 Nevada Supreme Court

Page 1 of 3 Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis

4.2.77.2	Personal Income (wille: 0): 67 any income was do not ha	
<i>n</i> -	Monthly Wages from Employment (before taxes)	s 2,722
B,	Monthly Tip Income	2.0
C.,	Monthly Unemployment Benefits.	s.0
D	Public Benefits/Assistance received each month  TANF - SSD - SSI as food slamps - other: IVIEUICEI	\$
E	Social Security	\$ 0
F	Reticement / Pension	\$-0
Ġ.	Monthly Child Support received	ż O
H	Other;	20
	TOTAL INCOME (add lines A-H)	\$ 2,722.00

Inviscibil Information			
A How many adults (18 and up) live in the home (include yoursel	Ŋ7 O		
B How many children (under 18) live with you?	. Ó		
TOTAL HOUSEHOLD SIZE (add A+B)	Ó		

	Household Income had all	
List the names of the	adults you live with and their estimated mo	nthly earnings:
Name:	Relaționship;	0,2
Name:	Relationship:	2.0
Name:	Relationship:	\$ 0

	Monthly Expenses (Write-0) for any expense you lion	orhayo) #11 16
٨	Rent / Mortgage	s.750.00;
В	Utilities (electricity, gas, phone, other utilities)	\$ 200.00
C.	Food	\$ 400.00°
D.	Child Care	20
E	Medical Expenses (including health insurance)	(s <sub>.</sub> 0.
F	Transportation (insurance, gus, bus fore, etc.)	\$350.00
G	Other: UEPt PAYDACK	\$ 1000.00
1.	TOTAL EXPENSES (add lines A-G)	\$ 2700.00

Page 2 of 3 - Application to Proceed in Forma Painperis

Assets (write that and 20% for a		orth   What you Owe
Checking Account	s 0	n/o
Savings Account	\$ 0	, u/a
Car (year/make/model): 2002 Subaru	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	\$0
House / Real Estate You Own (address:	_) \$0	20
Other: NONE	s <sub>O</sub>	so

### Declaration in Support of Request to Proceed in Forma Pauperis

Briefly explain your current financial situation and why you are unable to pay the filing-fee, For example, if you are unemployed explain why, for how long, and what efforts you are making to obtain employment. If you are temporarily living with a friend or relative explain for how long and how they help you financially.

I was released from Cal. State prison in April 2020 on false charges. I had no employment during COVID19 lockdown and only started working in October 2021 for\$16.75. I receive food stamps and state Medical healthcare. I can't afford a \$200+ filing fee and I have due process rights to challenge probate. If any money is obtained in my efforts, I can reimburse the court.

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

05/23/2022

Todd Robb

Signature

Page 3 of 3 - Application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis

## RECEIVED

MAY 2 3 2022

Douglas County District:Court Clerk

Your Name: Todd Robben

Address: P.O. Box 4251

City, State, Zip Sonora, CR 95370

Telephone: 209.540-7713

Email Address: Fobben Ty Pamail. Com
Sell-Represented

FILED

2022 HAY 23 PH 2: 17

BOBBIE R. WILLIAMS CLERK

BYCHOLDEPUTY

DISTRI	CT COURT
DOUGLAS"	COUNTY, NEVADA

THOMAS J. HARRIS	CASE NO. 2021 PB00034		
Plaintiff,	DEPT: 1		
TODD ROBBEN			
Defendant,			
Order to Proceed	in Forma Pauperis		
Upon consideration of the movant's A	application to Proceed in Forma Pauperis Gudge		
will chuck one box).	•		
☐ Denied. The Court finds that the applicant is not indigent, therefore, IT IS HEREBY			
ORDERED that the applicant's request	to proceed in Formit Pauperis is DENIED.		
Granted. The Court finds that there is not sufficient income, property, or resources			
with which to maintain the action, and good cause appearing therefore,			
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant's request to proceed in Forma Pauperls is			
GRANTED and (your name)	shall 'be		
permitted to proceed with this action pu	usuant to the terms of this Order.		

O 2017 Nevada Supreme Court

Page 1 of 2 Order to Proceed in Forms Pauperis

TTIS FURTHER ORDERED that if the above-named party prevails in this action, the Court shall enter an order pursuant to NRS 12:015 requiring the opposing party to pay the Court, within five (5) days, the costs which would have been incurred, by the prevailing party; and those costs must then be paid as provided by law.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the above-named party shall be permitted; to commence of defend the action without costs. The Clerk of Court shall file or issue any necessary writ, process, pleading, or paper without charge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Sheriff or other appropriate officer within this State shall make personal service of any necessary writ, pleading, or paper without charge.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that this Order shall not apply to costs for transcripts or recordings of court proceedings. A separate application and order shall be required to waive any such fees:

IT'S FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall expire one year from the delegible Order is filed. The party shall be required to reapply for any flirther waiver after this Order expires.

DATED this day of May 207

DISTRICT COURT POE

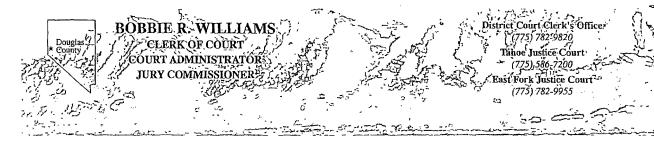
Respectfully Submitted:

(Signature)

(Printed Name) Todd Robben

In ProperPerson

Page 2 of 2 - Order to Proceed in Forma Pauperly



### Transmittal to the Supreme Court

To: Nevada Supreme Court 210 South Carson Street Carson City, Nevada 89710 Date: June 28, 2022

Re: District Court Case #: 2021-PB-00034 District Court Case Name: IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS

The following documents are transmitted to the Supreme Court pursuant to the July 22, 1996 revisions to the Nevada Rules of Appellate Procedure. Checked items are NOT included in this appeal:

Ц	Notice of Appeal
	Case Appeal Statement
✓	Certificate That No Transcript Is Being Requested
✓	Defendant's Request for Transcript of Proceedings
<b>/</b>	Notice of Posting of Appeal Bond
	District Court Docket entries
	Judgment(s) or order(s) appealed from
1	Order (NRAP FORM 4)
✓	Notice of entry of the judgment(s) or order(s) appealed from
<b>√</b>	Certification order directing entry of judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)
□ ·	District Court Minutes
1	Exhibit Lists
$\checkmark$	Supreme Court filing fee (\$250.00), if applicable
Ï	Application and Order to Proceed in Forma Pauperis
Pagne	ectfully,
10000	······································

By: Deputy Court Clerk

BOBBIE WILLIAMS

P.O. Box 218 • Minden, Nevada 89423

STATE OF NEVADA )

COUNTY OF DOUGLAS )

I, Alondra Ponce, Deputy Clerk Douglas County, State of Nevada; said Court being a Court of Record, having common law jurisdiction, and a Clerk and a Seal, do hereby certify that the foregoing are true copies of the following originals in Case No. 2021-PB-00034 - IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS; Notice of Appeal; Case Appeal Statement; District Court Docket Entries; Judgment(s) or Order(s) appealed from; District Court Minutes; Application and Order to Proceed in Forma Pauperis.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my Official Seal at Minden, in said County and State this 28th day of June, A.D., 2022.

Clerk of the Court

Deputy Court Clerk

RA - 701

# Exhibit 7

# Exhibit 7

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS, DECEASED.

TODD ROBBEN,

Appellant,

vs.
TARA FLANAGAN, IN HER CAPACITY
AS THE COURT APPOINTED
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE,
Respondent.

No. 84948

FILED

JUL 08 2022

CLERK OF SUPREME COURT
BY DEPUTY CLERK

### ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL

This is a pro se appeal from a district court order entered in a probate matter. Ninth Judicial District Court, Douglas County; Nathan Tod Young, Judge.

Review of the notice of appeal and documents before this court reveals a jurisdictional defect. NRAP 3A(a) allows only an aggrieved party to appeal. Generally, a party is a person who has been named as a party to the lawsuit and who has been served with process or appeared. Valley Bank of Nev. v. Ginsburg, 110 Nev. 440, 447, 874 P.2d 729, 734 (1994). It does not appear that appellant was named as a party in the proceedings below. And while any "interested person" may participate in probate actions, an "interested person" is defined as someone "whose right or interest under an estate or trust may be materially affected by a decision of a fiduciary or a decision of the court. The fiduciary or court shall determine who is an interested person according to the particular purposes of, and matter involved in, a proceeding." NRS 132.185; see also NRS 132.390.

22-21520

COURT

Here, the district court determined that appellant was not an interested person in the underlying matter under NRS 132.185 and thus lacked standing to object to the probate petition or otherwise appear in the proceedings. Under these circumstances, it appears appellant lacks standing to appeal under NRAP 3A(a). Accordingly, this court lacks jurisdiction and

ORDERS this appeal DISMISSED.

Gilner

Silver

Colyn J

Pickering

cc;

Hon. Nathan Tod Young, District Judge

Todd Robben

Wallace & Millsap LLC Douglas County Clerk

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA

(O) 1947A -

# Exhibit 8

# Exhibit 8

## RECEIVED

JUL 13 2022

Douglas County District Court Clerk

Case No. 2021-PB-00034

Dept. No. I

FILED

2022 JUL 13 AM 10: 59

BOBBIE R. WILLIAMS CLERK

C. WALKER DEPUTY

IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF DOUGLAS

In Re:

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The Estate of

11 THOMAS JOSEPH HARRIS,

Trust" filed on July 5, 2022.

Deceased.

ORDER

THIS MATTER comes before the court upon the following filings: "Emergency Stay Request[;] Emergency Verified Motion to Reconsider; Request for Calcification; Notice of Non Hearsay Proof of The Thomas Joseph and Olga Harris Living Trust" filed on June 22, 2022; Supplemental Points and Authorities filed on June 23, 2022; "Motion to Expedite Stay Request Pending Reconsideration[;] Request for Submission" filed on June 24, 2022; an opposition filed on July 1, 2022; and "Petitioner's Reply in Support of Emergency Stay Request & Emergency Verified Motion to Reconsider; Request for Clarification; Notice of Non Hearsay Proof of The Thomas Joseph and Olga Harris Living

Having examined all relevant pleadings and papers on file herein, the court now enters the following order, good cause appearing:

THAT the requests set forth above are DENIED.

An "Order Granting Petition to Confirm First and Final Accounting, Request for

HON. NATHAN TOD YOUNG
9" JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
DOUGLAS COUNTY
P.O. BOX 218
MINDEN, NV 89423

HON. NATHAN TOD YOUNG
9<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
DOUGLAS COUNTY
P.O. BOX 218
MINDEN. NY 89423

Final Distribution, and Request for Payment of Professional's Fees and Costs" was entered in writing on June 22, 2022. A Notice of Appeal was filed on June 27, 2022, by Todd Robben, with a Case Appeal Statement filed on June 28, 2022. An Order Dismissing Appeal issued on July 8, 2022, by the Supreme Court of the State of Nevada.

Separate from the appeal, Todd Robben requests this court reconsider the ruling set forth within the Order dated June 22, 2022. "A district court may reconsider a previously decided issue if substantially different evidence is subsequently introduced or the decision is clearly erroneous." Masonry and Tile Contractors Ass'n of S. Nev. v. Jolley, Urga & Wirth, Ltd., 113 Nev. 737, 741, 941 P.2d 486, 489 (1997). Reviewing the filings entered after the written order issued on June 22, 2022, the court does not find substantially different evidence subsequently introduced or that the court's decision is clearly erroneous. Therefore, the motion to reconsider is denied.

Tod Robben also requests this court's order dated June 22<sup>nd</sup> be stayed. The Supreme Court of the State of Nevada considers the following factors in deciding whether to issue a stay:

- (1) whether the object of the appeal will be defeated if the stay is denied;
- (2) whether appellant will suffer irreparable or serious injury if the stay is denied;
- (3) whether respondent will suffer irreparable or serious injury if the stay is granted; and
- (4) whether appellant is likely to prevail on the merits in the appeal.

Mikohn Gaming Corp. v. McCrea, 120 Nev. 248, 251, 89 P.3d 36, 38 (2004) (citing NRAP 8(c)); see also Fritz Hansen A/S, Petitioner v. Eighth Jud. Dist. Ct., 116 Nev. 650, 657, 6 P.3d 982, 986 (2000). "We have not indicated that any one factor carries more weight than the others, although Fritz Hansen A/S v District Court recognizes that if one or two factors are especially strong, they may counterbalance other weak factors." Mikohn

Gaming Corp., 120 Nev. at 251, 89 P.3d at 38.

Considering the appeal has now been dismissed, it does not appear likely that appellant is to prevail on the merits given that the object of the appeal has already been defeated. The court finds this to be an especially strong factor. Balancing the relevant considerations, the court finds insufficient reason to grant the requested stay.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 13 day of July, 2022.

NATHAN TOD/YOUNG

District Judge

Copies served by mail this 13 day of July, 2022, to:

Wallace & Millsap 510 W. Plumb Lane, Suite A Reno, NV 89509

Todd Robben P.O. Box 4251 Sonora, CA 95370

Kelly Wagstaff

Department I Judicial Executive Assistant

HON. NATHAN TOD YOUNG
9" JUDICIAL DISTRICT JUDGE
DOUGLAS COUNTY
P.O. BOX 218
MINDEN, NY 89423