Case No. 87237

In the Supreme Court of Nevada

TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of THE LYTLE TRUST,

Appellants,

vs.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as trustees of the GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, as Trustees of the RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, Husband and wife, as joint tenants,

Respondents.

Electronically Filed Apr 08 2024 03:44 PM Elizabeth A. Brown Clerk of Supreme Court

APPEAL

from the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County The Honorable TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS, District Judge District Court Case Nos. A-16-747800-C, consolidated with A-17-765372-C

APPELLANTS' APPENDIX VOLUME 6 PAGES 1251-1500

DANIEL F. POLSENBERG (SBN 2376)
DAN R. WAITE (SBN 4078)
ABRAHAM G. SMITH (SBN 13,250)
LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP
3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169
(702) 949-8200

Attorneys for Appellants

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|----|---|----------|----|-----------|
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on April 8, 2024, I submitted the foregoing "Appellants' Appendix" for filing *via* the Court's eFlex electronic filing system. Electronic notification will be sent to the following:

Kevin B. Christensen Wesley J. Smith Laura J. Wolff Christensen James & Martin 7740 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

Attorneys for Respondents

/s/ Jessie M. Helm An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO .: 54-0967784

Atty

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 4389-2 |
|--------|--------|
| Number | |
| REH | |

Date

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association

Professional Services Rendered

6/01/15 228262-001 Page

Hours

| 5/29/15 REH | telephone conference with Trudi Ly | tle re status of appeal | | | .2 |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| | Summary of Services | | Hours | Effective Rate | Fees |
| | Richard Haskin | Partner Total | .2 .2 | 330.00 | 66.00 66.00 |

| - | 4 - 1 | _ | |
|-----|-------|---|-----|
| I വ | tai | н | ees |

66.00

| Description of Disbursements | Amount |
|---|--------|
| E-filing City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center errata to complaint | 3.50 |

| Total Fees | 66.00 |
|---------------------|----------|
| Total Disbursements | 3.50 |
| INVOICE TOTAL | \$ 69.50 |

Claim No.

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117

July 1, 2015 Invoice No.

228897

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 06/30/15

INVOICE TOTAL

363.00

363.00

| Matter Summary | | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|--------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 363.00 | .00 | 363.00 |
| | | 363.00 | .00 | 363.00 |

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 4389-2 |
|--------|--------|
| Number | |
| REH | |

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association

7/01/15 228897-001 Page

| Date | Atty | Professional Service | es Rendered | | | Hours |
|---------|------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 6/05/15 | REH | telephone conference with Trudi Lyt | tle re finalizing reply brief | | | .3 |
| 6/11/15 | REH | review Supreme Court website re s | tatus of 60b reply brief and motio | ns for extension | 1 | .3 |
| 6/17/15 | REH | telephone conference with Trudi Lyl | te re status of all appeals | | | .3 |
| 6/19/15 | REH | telephone conference with Beau Ste | erling re appeal brief | | | .2 |
| | | Summary of Services | | Hours | Effective Rate | Fees |
| | | Richard Haskin | Partner Total | 1.1 1.1 | 330.00 | 363.00 363.00 |

| Total Fees |
|---------------|
| INVOICE TOTAL |

363.00 363.00

Claim No.

01254

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117 August 1, 2015 Invoice No. 229272

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 07/31/15

INVOICE TOTAL

99.00

| Matter Summary | | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|-------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 99.00 | .00 | 99.00 |
| | | 99.00 | .00 | 99.00 |

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 4389-2 |
|--------|--------|
| Number | |
| REH | |

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association

8/01/15 229272-001

| Numbe REH | r |
|--------------|------|
| Date | Δttv |

Professional Services Rendered

Page

7/17/15 REH telephone conference with Trudi Lytle re status

Hours .3

| | | | Effective | |
|---------------------|---------|--------|-----------|-------|
| Summary of Services | Hours | Rate _ | Fees | |
| Richard Haskin | Partner | .3 | 330.00 | 99.00 |
| | Total | .3 | | 99.00 |

Total Fees INVOICE TOTAL 99.00 99.00

Claim No.

001256

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117 January 1, 2016 Invoice No. 231247

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 12/31/15

INVOICE TOTAL

924.00 \$ 924.00

| Matter Summary | | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|--------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 924.00 | .00 | 924.00 |
| | | 924.00 | .00 | 924.00 |

01257

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File Number REH | 4389 | 9-2 Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners A | ssociation | | 1/01/16 231247-001 Page 1 |
|-----------------------|---|---|------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Date | Atty | Professional Services Rendered | | | Hours |
| 12/21/15 | REH | telephone conference with Trudi Lytle re Supreme Court ru | ling | | .5 |
| 12/22/15 | REH | review appeal rulings; email to T. Lytle re same | | .3 | |
| 12/23/15 | REH | review prior pleadings | | .5 | |
| 12/23/15 | 5 REH meeting with clients to discuss status and strategy | | | 1.5 | |
| | | Summary of Services | Hours | Effective Rate | Fees |
| | | Richard Haskin Partner | 2.8 otal 2.8 | 330.00 | 924.00 924.00 |

Total Fees
INVOICE TOTAL

924.00

Claim No.

)01258

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBROOT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117 March 1, 2016

Invoice No. 231829

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 02/29/16

INVOICE TOTAL

3,060.00 \$ 3,060.00

| Matter Sum | mary | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|------------|--|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 3,060.00 | .00. | 3,060.00 |
| | | 3,060.00 | .00 | 3,060.00 |

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 4389-2 |
|--------|--------|
| Number | |
| REH | |

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association 3/01/16 231829-001 Page 1

| Date | Atty | Professional Services Rendered | Hours |
|---------|------|--|-------|
| 2/05/16 | REH | draft ex parte motion and proposed order re return of bond | .7 |
| 2/09/16 | REH | draft first amended complaint | 4.3 |
| 2/10/16 | REH | telephone conference with Trudi Lytle re revisions to first amended complaint | 1.3 |
| 2/11/16 | REH | further revisions to amended complaint | .7 |
| 2/12/16 | REH | finish drafting amended complaint with prayers for relief; draft motion for leave to amend | 1.5 |
| 2/23/16 | REH | telephone conference with Trudi Lytle re revisions to first amended complaint | .5 |

| | | Effective | | |
|---------------------|---------|-----------|--------|----------|
| Summary of Services | | Hours | Rate | Fees |
| Richard Haskin | Partner | 9.0 | 340.00 | 3,060.00 |
| | Total | 9.0 | | 3,060.00 |

Total Fees
INVOICE TOTAL

3,060.00 \$ 3,060.00

Claim No.

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117

April 1, 2016

Invoice No. 232142

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 03/31/16 Current Disbursements Through 03/31/16 293.00

40.73 333.73

INVOICE TOTAL

| Matter Sum | mary | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|------------|--|--------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 293.00 | 40.73 | 333.73 |
| | | 293.00 | 40.73 | 333.73 |

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

Atty

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 4389-2 |
|--------|--------|
| Number | |
| REH | |

Date

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association

Professional Services Rendered

4/01/16 232142-001 Page 1

Hours

| | Summary of Services | | Hours | Rate | Fees |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|-----------|------|
| | Summary of Services | | Hours | | Fees |
| | | _ _ | | Effective | |
| 3/08/16 TPE | review, finalize, and execute motion | n for leave to file amended compla | int | | .2 |
| 3/07/16 REH | finalize motion to leave to amend o | omplaint | | | .7 |
| | | | | | |

Total Fees

293.00

| Description of Disbursements | | Amount |
|---|------------|-----------------|
| Reproduction Costs | | 4.65 |
| Shipping Costs | | 2.08 |
| Nationwide Legal, Inc. Nationwide Legal Nevada, LLC deliver courtesy copy of order release bond - Clark County DC - nw 2/29 | J | 10.00 |
| Nationwide Legal, Inc. Nationwide Legal Nevada, LLC deliver order releasing cash bond fo Clark County DC - nw 2/15 | • | 10.00 |
| E-Serve Litigation Documents City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center notice of order releasing cash bond | - | 3.50 |
| E-Serve Litigation Documents City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center order rele bond | • | 3.50 |
| E-Serve Litigation Documents City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center notice of motion for release of bond | errata re | 3.50 |
| E-Serve Litigation Documents City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center ex parte r release of bond | notion for | 3.50 |
| Total Fees Total Disbursements | | 293.00 40.73 |
| | _ | |
| INVOICE TOTAL | \$ | 333.73 |

Claim No.

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO .: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117

May 1, 2016 Invoice No.

232694

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 04/30/16 Current Disbursements Through 04/30/16 **INVOICE TOTAL**

68.00

3.50 71.50 \$

Total Billed **Matter Summary Disbursements** Fees 71.50 4389-2 Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association 68.00 3.50 68.00 3.50 71.50

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File Number | 4389- |
|----------------|-------|
| REH | |

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association

Professional Services Rendered

5/01/16 232694-001

| Numbe REH | er |
|--------------|------|
| Date | Atty |

Page

| 1/25/16 DEH | draft notice of non-opposition to motion for leave to amend |
|-------------|---|

Hours

.2

| | | | Effective | |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-----------|-------|
| Summary of Services | | Hours | Rate | Fees |
| Richard Haskin | Partner | .2 | 340.00 | 68.00 |
| | Total | .2 | | 68.00 |

Total Fees

68.00

| Description of Disbursements | Amount |
|--|--------|
| E-Serve Litigation Documents City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center motion for leave to file first amended complaint | 3.50 |
| Total Fees | 68.00 |

Total Disbursements

3.50

INVOICE TOTAL

71.50

Claim No.

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117 June 1, 2016

Invoice No. 233134

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 05/31/16
Current Disbursements Through 05/31/16
INVOICE TOTAL

102.00

10.00 112.00

 Matter Summary
 Fees
 Disbursements
 Total Billed

 4389-2
 Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association
 102.00
 10.00
 112.00

 102.00
 10.00
 112.00

01265

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 4389-2 |
|--------|--------|
| Number | |
| REH | |

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association

6/01/16 233134-001 Page 1

| _DateAtty_ | Professional Services Rendered | Hours |
|-------------|--|-------|
| | | |
| 5/25/16 REH | review minute order granting leave to amend; draft order | .3 |

| | | | Effective | |
|---------------------|---------|-------|-----------|--------|
| Summary of Services | | Hours | Rate | Fees |
| Richard Haskin | Partner | .3 | 340.00 | 102.00 |
| | Total | .3 | | 102.00 |

| Tatal | Fees |
|-------|------|
| Intai | Fees |

102.00

| Description of Dispursements | Amount |
|---|-----------------|
| Nationwide Legal, Inc. Nationwide Legal Nevada, LLC deliver courtesy copy of motion for leave to file first amended complaint - Clark County DC - nw 3/15 | 10.00 |
| Total Fees Total Disbursements | 102.00 10.00 |

INVOICE TOTAL

112.00

Claim No.

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO .: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117

July 1, 2016 Invoice No.

233634

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 06/30/16

1,190.00

Current Disbursements Through 06/30/16

57.30

INVOICE TOTAL

1,247.30

| Matter Summary | | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 1,190.00 | 57.30 | 1,247.30 |
| | | 1,190.00 | 57.30 | 1,247.30 |

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

4389-2

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | |
|--------|--|
| Number | |
| REH | |

LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association 7/01/16 233634-001

| KEH | | | | | | Page | 1 |
|---------|------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------|----------------------|
| Date | Atty | Professional Service | es Rendered | | | | Hours |
| 6/11/16 | REH | begin drafting motion for summary | judgment; legal research | | | | 2.0 |
| 6/30/16 | REH | further drafting to motion for summ | ary judgment | | | | 1.5 |
| | | Summary of Services | | Hours | Effective Rate | | Fees |
| | | Richard Haskin | Partner Total | 3.5 3.5 | 340.00 | | 1,190.00 1,190.00 |

Total Fees

1,190.00

| Description of Disbursements | Amount |
|--|-------------------|
| On-line Research Charges | 43.80 |
| Nationwide Legal, Inc. Nationwide Legal Nevada, LLC deliver order granting motion for leave to file first amended complaint - Clark County DC - nw 5/31 E-Serve Litigation Documents City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center order granting motion | 10.00 |
| for leave to file first amended complaint | 3.50 |
| Total Fees Total Disbursements | 1,190.00 57.30 |
| INVOICE TOTAL | \$ 1,247.30 |

Claim No.

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117

August 1, 2016 Invoice No. 233733

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 07/31/16 Current Disbursements Through 07/31/16 2,618.00

3.50

INVOICE TOTAL

2,621.50

| Matter Summary | | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 2,618.00 | 3.50 | 2,621.50 |
| | | 2,618.00 | 3.50 | 2,621.50 |

3.50

3.50

2,618.00

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO .: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File 43 Number REH | 89-2 Lytle, Trudi & Jo Rosemere Estat | ohn (Lytle Trust) es Property Owners Associatio | าก | | 8/01/16 233733-001 Page 1 |
|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| Date Atty | Professional Serv | ices Rendered | | | Hours |
| 7/01/16 REH | I draft motion for summary judgme | nt | | | 3.2 |
| 7/14/16 REH | draft Lytle declaration in support | of motion for summary judgment | | | 1.5 |
| 7/14/16 REH | meeting with Allen and Trudi Lytle | e re MSJ | | | 1.5 |
| 7/29/16 REH | draft motion for summary judgme | nt | | | 1.5 |
| | Summary of Services | | Hours | Effective Rate | Fees |
| | Richard Haskin | Partner Total | 7.7 7.7 | 340.00 | 2,618.00 2,618.00 |
| | То | otal Fees | | | 2,618.00 |
| | Description of Disbursements | | | | Amount |
| E-Se | erve Litigation Documents City Natio | nal Bank Credit Card Processing C | enter notice of e | entry of | |

Total Disbursements INVOICE TOTAL 2,621.50

Claim No.

A-10-6311355-1

order granting motion for leave to file first amended complaint

Total Fees

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117 September 1, 2016 Invoice No. 234317

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 08/31/16
Current Disbursements Through 08/31/16

1,530.00

20.70

INVOICE TOTAL

\$ 1,550.70

| Matter Summary | | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|----------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 1,530.00 | 20.70 | 1,550.70 |
| | | 1,530.00 | 20.70 | 1,550.70 |

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 4389-2 |
|--------|--------|
| Number | |
| REH | |

Lytle, Trudi & John (Lytle Trust) Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association 9/01/16 234317-001 Page 1

| | | | | | | 9- |
|-------------|------|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Date | Atty | Professional Service | ces Rendered | | | Hours |
| 8/11/16 | REH | draft to motion for summary judgm | ent | | | 1.0 |
| 8/12/16 | REH | finalize draft of motion for summary judgment | | | 1.5 | |
| 8/15/16 | REH | meeting with Allen and Trudi re motion for summary judgment | | | 1.0 | |
| 8/29/16 REH | REH | finalize motion for summary judgm | ent; add section requesting puniti | ve damages | | 1.0 |
| | | Summary of Services | | Hours | Effective Rate | Fees |
| | | Richard Haskin | Partner Total | 4.5 4.5 | 340.00 | 1,530.00 1,530.00 |
| | | | | | | |

1,530.00

| Description of Disbursements | Amount |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Reproduction Costs | 7.20 |
| On-line Research Charges | 13.50 |

| Total | Fees |
|-------|---------------|
| Total | Disbursements |

1,530.00 20.70

INVOICE TOTAL

1,550.70

Claim No.

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117 October 1, 2016 Invoice No. 234453

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 09/30/16

Current Disbursements Through 09/30/16

INVOICE TOTAL

1,190.00 32.00

1,222.00

| Matter Summary | | Fees Disbursemen | | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|------------------|-------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 1,190.00 | 32.00 | 1,222.00 |
| | | 1,190.00 | 32.00 | 1,222.00 |

01273

GIBBS GIDEN ATTORNEYS AT LAW

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.:

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

1,190.00

1,222.00

32.00

| | 54-0967 | 784 | LOS ANGELES, CA 90067 | | | (310) 552-3400 |
|----------------------|-----------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| File Numbe REH | 438 er | 9-2 Lytle, Trud Rosemere | i & John (Lytle Trust) Estates Property Owners Association | 1 | | 10/01/16 234453-001 Page 1 |
| Date | Atty | Professiona | I Services Rendered | | | Hours |
| 9/07/16 | REH | telephone conference with | Trudi Lytle re revisions to motion for summa | ary judgment | | 1.5 |
| 9/13/16 | REH | revise Lytle declaration; co | nference with T. Lytle re same | | | .5 |
| 9/13/16 | REH | finalize motion for summar | y judgment; package exhibits; prepare for fi | ling | | 1.5 |
| | | Summary of Services | | Hours | Effective Rate | Fees |
| | | Richard Haskin | Partner Total | 3.5 3.5 | 340.00 | 1,190.00 1,190.00 |
| | | | Total Fees | | | 1,190.00 |
| | | Description of Disbursen | nents | | | Amount |
| _ | | oduction Costs bing Costs | | | | 25.20 6.80 |
| | | | | | | |

Claim No.

A-10-6311355-1

Total Fees

INVOICE TOTAL

Total Disbursements

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO.: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

Trudi and John Lytle (Lytle Trust) 1600 River Birch Street Las Vegas, NV 89117 November 1, 2016 Invoice No. 234887

Client No:

4389

Current Fees Through 10/31/16
Current Disbursements Through 10/31/16
INVOICE TOTAL

238.00 209.50

\$ 447.50

| Matter Summary | | Fees | Disbursements | Total Billed |
|----------------|--|--------|---------------|--------------|
| 4389-2 | Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | 238.00 | 209.50 | 447.50 |
| | | 238.00 | 209.50 | 447.50 |

447.50

LOCHER TURNER SENET & WITTBRODT LLP

FEDERAL TAX I.D. NO .: 54-0967784

1880 CENTURY PARK EAST 12TH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90067

TELEPHONE (310) 552-3400

| File | 438 |
|--------|-----|
| Number | |
| REH | |

| File Number REH | Number Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association | | | 11/01/16 234887-002 Page 1 | | |
|---|---|--|---|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Date | Atty | Professional | Services Rendered | | | Hours |
| 10/05/16 | REH | telephone conference with T hearing | rudi Lytle re strategy for motion for sum | nmary judgment a | nd prove up | .5 |
| 10/07/16 | REH | prepare notice of non-oppos | ition | | , | .2 |
| | | Summary of Services | | Hours | Effective Rate | Fees |
| | | Richard Haskin | Partner Total | .7 | 340.00 | 238.00 238.00 |
| | | | Total Fees | | | 238.00 |
| | | Description of Disburseme | ents | | | Amount |
| Summary Judgment Motion City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center E-Serve Litigation Documents City National Bank Credit Card Processing Center motion for summary | | | | 200.00 | | |
| | judgm | - | National Bank Cleuit Card Processing | center motion for | Summary | 9.50 |
| | | | Total Fees Total Disbursements | | | 238.00 209.50 |

Claim No.

A-10-6311355-1

INVOICE TOTAL

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Electronically Filed

7/6/2020 5:02 PM

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Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT 1 **NWM** CHRISTINA H. WANG, ESQ. 2 Nevada Bar No. 9713 FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 3 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Tel: (702) 667-3000 4 Fax: (702) 938-8721 5 Email: christina.wang@fnf.com Attorneys for Counter-Defendants/Cross-Claimants Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman 6 7 8 9 DISTRICT COURT 10 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 11 MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF Case No.: A-16-747800-C THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, 12 LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES Dept. No.: XVI LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACQUES 13 & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST, 14 Plaintiffs, NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF ROBERT Z. DISMAN AND YVONNE 15 A. DISMAN'S MOTION FOR VS. ATTORNEY'S FEES 16 TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and 17 ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, 18 Defendants. 19 AND ALL RELATED MATTERS 20 Notice is hereby given that Counter-Defendants/Cross-Claimants ROBERT Z. DISMAN 21 22 and YVONNE A. DISMAN (collectively referred to herein as, the "Dismans") hereby withdraw 23 their Motion for Attorney's Fees ("Motion"), filed on June 11, 2020. This withdrawal is with prejudice to the amounts requested in the Motion. Further, the Dismans respectfully request the 24 25 /// 26 /// 27 /// 28 Fidelity National Law Group 363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 (702) 667-3000

Page 1 of 3

| 1 | Court to vacate the hearing on the Motion, currently scheduled for July 16, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. |
|----|--|
| 2 | DATED this 6 th day of July, 2020. |
| 3 | FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP |
| 4 | |
| 5 | /s/ Christina H. Wang |
| 6 | CHRISTINA H. WANG, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 9713 |
| 7 | 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 |
| 8 | Attorneys for Counter-Defendants/ Cross-Claimants Robert Z. Disman |
| 9 | and Yvonne A. Disman |
| 10 | |
| 11 | |
| 12 | |
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Fidelity National Law Group 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 (702) 667-3000

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Fidelity National Law Group 363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 (702) 667-3000

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned employee of Fidelity National Law Group, hereby certifies that she served a copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF ROBERT Z. DISMAN AND YVONNE A. DISMAN'S MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES upon the following parties on the date below entered (unless otherwise noted), at the fax numbers and/or addresses indicated below by: [] (i) placing said copy in an envelope, first class postage prepaid, in the United States Mail at Las Vegas, Nevada, [] (ii) via facsimile, [] (iii) via courier/hand delivery, [] (iv) via overnight mail, [] (v) via electronic delivery (email), and/or [X] (vi) via electronic service through the Court's Electronic File/Service Program.

Dan R. Waite, Esq. Kevin B. Christensen, Esq. LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER Wesley J. Smith, Esq. CHRISTIE LLP Laura J. Wolff, Esq. 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Suite 600

Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Attorneys for Defendants/Counter-Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist

Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Claimants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, Trustees of The Lytle Trust Gegen

Daniel T. Foley, Esq. Foley & Oakes, PC 626 S. 8th Street Las Vegas, Nevada 89101 Attorneys for Plaintiffs Marjorie B. Boulden, Trustee of The Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, amended and restated dated July 17, 1996; and Linda Lamothe and Jacques Lamothe, Trustees of the Jacques and Linda Lamothe Living Trust

DATED: 07/06/2020

An employee of Fidelity National Law Group

/s/ Lace Engelman

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CLERK OF THE COURT
   CASE NO. A-16-747800-C
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 2
   DOCKET U
   DEPT. 16
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                          DISTRICT COURT
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 7
                      CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
 8
   MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST,
 9
10
               Plaintiff,
11
          vs.
   LYTLE TRUST,
12
13
               Defendant.
14
15
                     REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
16
                                OF
                             HEARING
17
18
        BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS
19
                      DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
20
21
                  DATED TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020
22
23
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   REPORTED BY: PEGGY ISOM, RMR, NV CCR #541
```

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APPEARANCES:
 1
 2
   FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
 3
 4
 5
           CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN
           BY: WESLEY SMITH, ESQ.
 6
 7
           7440 W. SAHARA AVENUE
 8
          LAS VEGAS, NV 89117
 9
           (702) 255-1718
10
           (702) 255-0871
11
           WES@CJMLV.COM
12
13
14
   FOR THE DEFENDANT:
15
16
           LEWIS ROCA ROTHBERGER CHRISTIE
17
               DAN WAITE, ESQ.
           BY:
18
           3993 HOWARD HUGHES PARKWAY
19
           SUITE 600
20
           LAS VEGAS, NV 89169
           (702) 949-8200
21
22
           (702) 949-8398 Fax
23
           DWAITE@LRRC.COM
24
25
```

```
APPEARANCES CONTINUED:
 1
 2
   FOR THE DISMANS:
 3
 4
           FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP
 5
           BY: CHRISTINA WANG, ESQ.
           8363 W. SUNSET
 6
 7
           SUITE #120
 8
           LAS VEGAS, NV 89113
           (702) 667-3000
 9
10
           (702) 697-2020 Fax
11
           CHRISTINA.WANG@FNF.COM
12
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1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA; TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020 2 9:36 A.M.

P R O C E E D I N G S

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09:36:10 **10**

09:36:26 **15**

09:36:40 **20**

09:36:58 **25**

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THE COURT: Okay. We're going to move on.

Next up page 9. We'll go back to the Marjorie B.

Boulden Trust versus Trudi Lytle matter. Let's go

ahead and place our appearances on the record. We'll

MR. SMITH: Wesley Smith for the plaintiffs.

THE COURT: Who else?

THE COURT CLERK: We have Mr. Dan Waite.

start first with the plaintiff and move to the defense.

MS. WANG: Christina Wang on behalf of Robert and Yvonne Disman.

MR. WAITE: Good morning, your Honor. Your Honor. Dan Waite on behalf of the defendants Lytle Trust. I do have one matter before we get started, your Honor, that I'd like to place on the record that arises because of something that occurred at last Thursday's hearing when I tried to make an objection that because of the limitations of the BlueJeans systems, I don't think I was ever heard and it was never ruled upon. And in anticipation if the issue comes up today, I'd like to make sure that my objection

09:37:00 **1** is on the record.

This is Mr. Smith's motion for attorney's

3 fees. He filed the motion. I opposed it. No one else

4 joined in that motion. No one else filed anything.

And so my objection, your Honor, would be that only

6 Mr. Smith and I be allowed to argue today. Anyone else

7 arguing would be essentially a double teaming, double

8 teaming me joining in on his motion. That's my

9 objection that I tried to make the other day but that

was not heard.

11 THE COURT: I understand, sir. We will

12 respect that.

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And my next question would be this: Do we

want to have this matter reported?

MR. WAITE: Yes. I previously when we checked

16 in asked that it be reported.

17 | THE COURT: And that's Mr. Waite. Did you get

18 | that?

19 THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.

THE COURT: Did you get his objection too?

THE COURT REPORTER: Yes.

22 THE COURT: All right. We got the objection

23 on the record too, sir.

All right.

MR. WAITE: Thank you, your Honor.

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THE COURT: You're welcome.

And okay. So we'll go ahead and hear plaintiff's motion for fees and costs.

And, sir, you have the floor.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, your Honor. This Wesley Smith on behalf of the plaintiffs. Thank you for allowing us to be heard this morning.

Obviously, we have before you our motion for attorney's fees and costs. The motion explains that we have both statutory and contractual basis for the request. I can certainly go through each of those for you, but just in summary, if you remember, you entered a contempt order. And so we would be entitled to fees and costs under NRS 22.100(3) as a result of that contempt. And the defendants have not questioned our award of fees and costs on that ground.

We also have another statutory basis that's under NRS 18.010(2). And during the short time that Judge Bayliss had this case, he entered a fee award for the plaintiffs in 2018 on the basis of that statute. And he ultimately concluded based upon the April 2015 order that the Lytle Trust had notice of that order and had -- could have avoided all litigation with the plaintiffs in this matter.

But because they chose not to take that

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reasonable opportunity, then their defense was maintained without reasonable grounds. And so Judge Bayliss awarded fees and costs to the plaintiffs on that ground.

The third basis would be the CC&Rs. And you probably recall that last year the Court awarded fees and costs to other homeowners in this case, that would be Boulden, Lamothe, and Dismans and under Section 25 of the CC&Rs.

And the Lytle Trust has argued that the plaintiffs are somehow different than the other homeowners in this case, that they are not enforcing or restrained the violation of the CC&Rs.

But the Court already heard argument on that and it ordered fees and costs for the other homeowners and rejected that argument.

So we don't think that there was any reason to distinguish between the various homeowners. If Boulden, Lamothe, and Disman were entitled to fees and costs under the CC&Rs so are the plaintiffs.

And certainly the Lytle Trust is the losing party in this matter. They have lost at every stage of this case. And the plaintiffs have prevailed. And so we would be entitled to an award of fees and costs under Section 25 of the original CC&Rs.

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So as you can see, your Honor, there are several grounds on which the Court may award fees to the plaintiffs. Obviously, the amount of the award, as the Court knows, is governed by Brunzell vs. Golden Gate National Bank.

The Court looked at quality of the advocate, character of the work to be done, work actually performed, and the result. So I've addressed each of these factors in my moving papers and declaration. I believe that the amount requested is reasonable in light of those factors.

I'm sure that the Lytle Trust is going to have an argument about how our fees are unreasonable for various reasons. We've addressed those in our reply brief.

And I certainly would be willing to answer any questions the Court may have on any of those issues.

But we think this has been adequately briefed, and we would submit it for decision.

THE COURT: I just have one question. Are any of the fees being requested, were any of those incurred as a result of the companion case in front of Judge Kishner?

MR. SMITH: Yes, your Honor. Some of the fees requested are for work that was done to -- in the case

09:41:55 1 before Judge Kishner, sorry.

THE COURT: Yeah.

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MR. SMITH: The reason why we requested them here is because the Lytle Trust was held in contempt for initiating that action. And at the time when we got involved in that case, we did not have a contempt order here. And we felt we needed to in order to protect the plaintiff's rights.

So we moved to intervene in that case, and we filed a motion to set aside or amend the receivership order so it would be consistent with this Court's orders. So we feel like it's part and parcel to this case. It wasn't an attempt to multiply the proceedings.

Certainly the plaintiff did not choose to litigate in multiple forums. That was the result of the Lytle Trust action. We think it all goes back to the contempt, and that's why we've asked for them in this case.

THE COURT: Okay. I understand, sir.

Okay. And Mr. Waite, sir.

And Ms. Wang. I don't want to ever overlook you, ma'am, but I don't think your client filed a joinder; is that correct?

MS. WANG: Your Honor, I'm simply attending

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the hearing --

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THE COURT: Okay.

MS. WANG: -- to listen to the Court's order
and observe the hearing. I'm not here to add any
arguments.

THE COURT: I understand. I just didn't want to overlook you, ma'am. That's all.

MS. WANG: Thank you so much, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right.

Okay. Mr. Waite.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, your Honor. Dan Waite.

And I also appreciate the opportunity to appear

telephonically today.

Let me start with what the Lytle Trust does not dispute. Mr. Smith is correct. You're -- we're not disputing some entitlement to a fee associated with the contempt motion that was filed. In context, your Honor, your Honor, of course, recently granted the plaintiff's contempt motion. And when I refer to the plaintiffs, I'm just referring to Mr. Smiths' four clients. You granted that motion and in the process invited the plaintiffs to file a motion for their associated fees.

But instead, your Honor, what we got was a motion for fees that goes back for several years

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o9:44:17 1 including an appeal and including fees, as Mr. Smith

just indicated, incurred in the separate receivership

action in front of Judge Kishner, and a host of other

things amounting to a request in excess of \$155,000.

All post judgment in this -- in this case.

The issues have been briefed. I would like to just highlight, your Honor, three general issues.

BOULDEN TRUST V LYTLE TRUST

I'm not going to touch upon anything. So, for example, although, I guess, I am at this moment, I don't intend to spend any time addressing the last request, which seems really strange to me that they have a standing order going into the future for fees not yet incurred that they somehow have an order in perpetuity for the fees. That's been briefed. I'm going to leave that in the briefs.

But I would like to highlight three general issues, your Honor. Those three issues are: The receivership action, the fees that are requested associated with the receivership action. Two, the fees requested associated with the appeal. And then three, some just general billing problems such as block billing, clerical tasks, those types of things.

So turning to the first issue, your Honor, the receivership action. There are several problems with that. Again, I'm not going to hit all of the problems,

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but I want to address the contractual problems
associated with awarding fees in the receivership
action. The fees are sought in the receivership action
based on the original CC&Rs, attorney's fees provision
Section 25 which says, in any legal or equitable
proceeding the losing party or parties shall pay in
such amount as may be fixed by the Court in such
proceeding.

There are two separate and independently fatal issues with the plaintiff's request. First of all, your Honor, the Lytle Trust is not the losing party in the receivership action. It filed its motion for the appointment of a receiver and prevailed. The Court, Judge Kishner, appointed a receiver.

While the plaintiffs here filed a motion there to set aside that receivership order, Judge Kishner has not yet fully ruled on that motion. And I emphasize she hasn't fully ruled on that motion yet because she has made some preliminary rulings.

For example, one of the big issues that showed up there was the plaintiffs here, as intervenors there, asserted that the Lytle Trust committed fraud on Judge Kishner, committed fraud on the Court by not alerting her to several things including this Court's preliminary injunction. That was a big issue there.

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One of the preliminary rulings that

Judge Kishner has issued in her minute order that is on

the docket is she has not found any fraud on the court.

And so the Lytles prevailed in that issue.

Also on two separate occasions the receiver, represented by Patty Lee from Hutchinson Steffen, the receiver asked while this is going on in Judge Williams' Court is the receiver to carry on or not carry on. And on two occasions Judge Kishner said, My order is my order until it's not my order, so the receiver is to carry on.

Now, I do want to make an important distinction here, your Honor, that I don't think really factors in today, but I think it's important for context. The Lytle Trust brought the appointment of a receiver in two different capacities, only one of which is really at issue here.

The Lytle Trust of course is a judgment creditor with the association being a judgment debtor, its judgment debtor. And so the Lytle Trust brought the appointment of a receiver to facilitate the satisfaction of its judgment against the association. That's the issue that's involved here. That's the issue that this Court found the Lytle Trust in contempt for.

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But the Lytle Trust is also a member of the Rosemere Estates property Homeowners Association, now a member of the association. And as a member of the association, they sought the appointment of the receiver to facilitate some administrative functions such as getting the association back in good standing with the Secretary of State. Getting the association back in good standing with the Nevada Real Estate Division, and a few other administrative types of things. That is not at issue here.

As far as I know and understand, the receiver has not proceeded with any -- anything to collect the judgment.

And, quite honestly, I'm not sure if the receiver has done anything as it relates to the administrative functions. But my point here is simply, your Honor, that the -- if there is anyone who has prevailed thus far in the receivership action, it is the Lytle Trust. So the other contractual issue is is that the contract Section 25 says that the fees will be paid by the losing party fixed by the Court in such proceeding.

The plaintiffs have argued that that attorney's fees provision is clear and unambiguous, and it is certainly in that respect. But what it says is

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I think.

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receivership action.

09:50:14 that if fees are going to be awarded, they must be 1 2 fixed by the Court in such proceeding. And 3 Judge Kishner is the judge in the receivership action. She's the one to issue any fees in that case. 09:50:31 So, your Honor, there are some other arguments 6 I'm going to skip. Ask you if you were inclined to 7 award fees here --THE COURT: And Mr. --8 9 (Unreportable cross-talk) 09:50:41 **10** MR. WAITE: -- contrary to a receivership 11 action you shouldn't award them at all. 12 THE COURT: Mr. -- I don't want to cut you off, but --13 14 MR. WAITE: I'm sorry? 09:50:50 **15** THE COURT: I don't want to cut you off, and I 16 do really and truly appreciate everybody has a right to 17 make a record. But I'm looking at this more from a legal logic perspective. Because if you look at 18 NRS 18.010 and/or you look at the contractual language 19 09:51:06 **20** at issue in this case, I don't see as a matter of law

how I can award any fees and costs as it relates to the

going to tell you what I think. I tell everybody what

I'm looking at the statute; right?

I don't mind, because you've been in front of me.

That's not a case in front of me.

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And, for example --

MR. WAITE: Yes.

THE COURT: The award of fees under 18.010,

and it -- and this is paragraph (b). Or.

"Without regard to recovery sought, when the Court finds that the claim, counter-claimant, cross-claim, or third-party complaint or the offense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party."

And so my point is this: I think my thrust, focus, and examination would be limited solely to what's in Department 16 and not what's going on in another department.

And I realize we've had this discussion. But I think it's actually very simple, even with the contractual language. Whatever fee determination -- award I make in this case or award of costs, it has to be in a Department 16 case and not in a case regarding any litigation that occurs in front of Judge Kishner.

It would be her determination to decide whether, for example, there should be an award of fees and costs in her Department as it relates to the receivership action. And that's my point. I was just making it -- I see it so clearly.

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And I don't mind telling everybody this. If
you agree or disagree with me, that's okay. You can
just tell me why you agree or why you disagree for the
record. because like I indicated in the prior matter -prior discussions last week, I realize there is a writ
in this case, maybe fees will be part of it. But the
bottom line is I know the Supreme Court, they review
these transcripts. I just know they do.

And one thing I'll do is this: I will let you know what I'm considering and thinking about because I think it's important to make a clear record. Because from time to time it's been my experience and I've seen this where from an appellate perspective, unless I let the appellate court, or the reviewing court, the Supreme Court, know exactly what I'm considering, sometimes they might not appreciate what's going on at the trial court level. And that's all I want to say.

But before you move on, you can respond to that. And then when the plaintiff, they'll get a chance to respond to that, but I think I see it as a very simple issue, Mr. Waite.

Go ahead, sir.

MR. SMITH: Well, your Honor, I've-
(telephonic audio drop) - I don't mean to be quiet, and
so let me -- let me not add any additional argument to

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that receivership, but instead just conclude that section of my argument by putting the numbers on it.

If you look to the Lytle's Trust in going through the billing statements that something just under \$40,000 was incurred there in the receivership action (indiscernible). In the reply, in plaintiff's reply they acknowledge, they say the number is \$36,259.

Okay. Not sure how anyone can tell for certain giving the block billing entries, but plaintiffs admit that \$36,259 was incurred in the receivership action. And, therefore, the request here must be reduced by that amount right off the bat. Of course, that's without prejudice. If, ultimately, they prevail in front of Judge Kishner, they can bring the request in front of her.

So let me go on to the second of my three issues to highlight, your Honor. And that is the request by plaintiffs for the fees on appeal.

They did win the appeal. But winning an appeal, of course, does not automatically entitle the prevailing party to their fees on the appeal. There still must be a contract, statute, or rule that allows the fees to be shifted to their opponent. Plaintiff's importantly acknowledge and correctly acknowledged in their briefs that they cannot recovery their fees on

appeal under NRS 18.

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So they are forced to argue that they are entitled to fees on appeal under the attorney's fees provision of the original CC&R Section 25. However, that provision applies only to proceedings where the plaintiff seeks to enforce the CC&Rs or to restrain a violation of the CC&Rs.

As Mr. Smith correctly noted, the plaintiffs were previously awarded fees in this case during this time with Judge Bayliss.

However, Judge Bayliss -- and Mr. Smith

mentioned this but I want to emphasize it.

Judge Bayliss even though the plaintiffs requested fees under NRS 18 and the original CC&Rs, Judge Bayliss declined to award them fees on the basis of the original CC&Rs. Instead he awarded these very plaintiffs fees only on the basis of NRS 18, which is unavailable here to award fees on appeal. I'm not talking about fees in other areas. I'm talking about just the fees on appeal.

So if there's any law of the case, your Honor, they want to point to what your Honor has awarded in the consolidated but different case of the Lamothe-- (telephonic audio drop). If there is any controlling authority, your Honor, it's what -- it's what

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previously occurred to the plaintiffs through

Mr. Smith's client in the award by Judge Bayliss in

this very case.

know, prior to this action, I know that your Honor has mentioned this several tames, Judge Leavitt ruled that the association was a limited -- is a limited purpose association, an LPA. That determination was made and was made by Judge Leavitt, both collateral estoppel here. Here the issue is whether an LPA could record its abstract of judgments against -- or excuse me. Whether the Lytle Trust could record its abstract of judgments against the homeowner's properties pursuant to statute particularly NRS 116.3117 even though those homeowners weren't parties to the judgment actions.

The controlling authority and rules of decision here came from NRS 116, a constitutional due process, not the CC&Rs.

And I note that before this action was pending, there was no mothballed action that was pending. The Court granted summary judgment in favor of the Lamothe Boulden parties, which caused these plaintiffs to file a demand upon the Lytle Trust. They made big, big points about that. But nowhere in that pre-lawsuit demand do they mention these original

CC&Rs.

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The complaint that was filed here by these plaintiffs mentions the original CC&Rs only a couple of times and only in context or pathway, not as a force of decision. When the Lamothe Boulden appeal was favorable to the Lamothe Boulden parties, the plaintiffs here filed -- or not filed, but sent a second demand letter to the Lytle Trust. And nowhere in the second demand letter do they mention these provisional CC&Rs.

When the appeal in this matter from the plaintiffs in this case, the order of affirmance that was issued just this last March, nowhere in the order of affirmance is there a mention of the original CC&Rs. The only -- the only CC&Rs that were mentioned there are the amended CC&Rs.

This case was about the application of statute NRS 116 and due process rights. You can't record your judgment against someone who wasn't a party to the judgment action.

Ironically, it's now the plaintiffs who want to deprive the Lytle Trust of its due process rights by asking this Court to require the Lytle Trust to pay more than \$150,000 in fees for an alleged restraint of the CC&Rs where the plaintiffs failed to identify a

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single provision of the CC&Rs that the Lytle Trust violated that had to be restrained.

They just had never pointed out and can't point out because this action was not about the original CC&Rs. But that's what they have to argue in order for get the award of fees for appeal.

Judge Bayliss awarded them fees under Section NRS 18, but NRS 18 is unavailable to award fees on appeal.

The best that I can tell your Honor in going through the billing statements, Mr. Smith could address this if he agrees, but the best I can tell approximately \$12,577.50 is attributed to the billing -- in the billing statements to the appeal matter.

Now, I would add the caveat which takes me to the third area, and it is difficult, very candidly, to tell. And this is -- this gets us into the third area with the block billing. It is difficult to tell with precision how much was spent on various things because of the plaintiff's block billing. Third problem here.

There was at least two problems with the block billing. The most commonly known and referred to problem with block billing is that it, of course, hinders evaluation of whether time expended on each

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block billed task was reasonable or not. Identifying that problem assumes that everything within the block billed entry is compensable. And the only question is whether the amount of time expended is reasonable.

But what if, as the Lytle Trust contends here, the block billing includes time that is compensable and time not compensable? Even a reasonable amount of time on non-compensable work is not compensable. When block billing is employed, you can't distinguish between work that is compensable and work in the same block billed entry that is not compensable.

So plaintiffs submitted time entries that it viewed also \$120,000 in block billings. \$120,000 out of the \$155,000 request represents block billed entries.

In the reply that plaintiffs attempt to justify that block billing on the basis of an unpublished Nevada Supreme Court decision that predates 2016. And the plaintiffs are, therefore, not even allowed to cite that case, but they did. And they even some of that unpublished case supports the Lytle Trust position.

In our brief we submitted California Bar Study and other cases indicating that it is customary to reduce block billed entries by 10 to 30 percent. That

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that is appropriate. The unpublished decision relied upon by the plaintiff's interestingly cites a Ninth Circuit case:

"Suggesting that a 10 to 30 percent reduction might be reasonable for block billed fees."

This is exactly what the Lytle Trust has suggested. Therefore, because almost \$120,000 was block billed, the reduction for block billing should be \$12- to \$36,000.

Clerical tasks, your Honor, I -- plaintiffs don't dispute that their motion includes an award for clerical tasks such as calendaring, internal filing, preparing tables of contents, rather they surprisingly try to justify such. The reply actually includes a heading of the section that I find shocking, but it's entitled, "clerical task to be compensable in this case."

Plaintiffs never do address the time entries for things like internal filing and several other tasks, clerical tasks. They do address the clerical task of calendaring which shows that multiple times in the billing statement including multiple attorneys calendaring the exact same deadline. Plaintiffs offer three reasons why the Lytle Trust should be forced to

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pay up to, like, 520 bucks an hour combined rate for plaintiff's counsel to perform these clerical tasks.

The first is they suggest that because they're -- it's appropriate because the plaintiff's law firm is small.

They only have six attorneys, no paralegals, one law clerk.

They essentially presumably argue for a novel, what I'll call, a small law firm exception to perform clerical tasks. And, of course, there is no such small law firm exception for attorneys to perform clerical tasks. The task is non-compensable not because of the size of the law firm but because of the nature of the task.

No one sharpens pencils these days, but sharpen the pencil is just as non-compensable by attorneys in small law firms as by secretaries in large law firms. Clerical tasks are not compensable no matter who performs them. They are not compensable at any rate.

The second reason they give for being awarded their clerical tasks function is that the malpractice carrier requires all calendaring to be done by at least two attorneys. So I've been doing this for 30 years.

And, quite honestly, your Honor, I've never heard of a malpractice carrier requiring calendaring to be

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1 performed by the attorney.

I suppose the plaintiff's counsel was able to get a reduced law practice rate by agreeing that at least two attorneys will calendar all deadlines. But that is an overhead item just like rent. That must be absorbed by counsel.

If counsel is able to convince its clients to pay their clerical tasks of calendaring, good for them.

More power to them. But they cannot shift that cost to the Lytle Trust.

The Lytle Trust is not required to subsidize counsel's malpractice premiums. A clerical task is a clerical task no matter who performs it. And calendaring is a clerical tasks.

Plaintiffs have not cited a single case suggesting that any court has ever found calendaring to be anything other than a non-compensable clerical task.

The third reason they suggest for compensating them for clerical task is that their rates of \$260 an hour is lower than most attorneys of equal experience. However, what plaintiffs fail to appreciate and argue with that is that clerical tasks are not compensable at any rate. It's not an issue of performing the task at a reasonable rate. It's that performing a clerical task is not compensable at any billing rate. Not \$26

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an hour, certainly not \$260 an hour.

Duplicative efforts. I'm almost done here.

Your effort, the rule essential conferences, the attorneys within the same law firm not just working on different parts of pieces parts of a motion or something like that, but performing the exact same task, that kind of duplication is not compensable either.

So, your Honor, in form, kind of put the numbers together. The fee request must be reduced by the \$36,259 admitted, which the admitted amount in the receivership action \$12,577 for the appeal. Something in the neighbor to \$12- to \$36,000 for block billing.

And some additional amount for the calendaring or other clerical tasks, the duplicative work, the interoffice conferences, the attorneys performing the same task, I put a number at \$10,000 on that. That would reduce the award, your Honor, to something in the range of \$61- to \$85,000 that we suggest that that is the amount that that -- the range that this Court should consider.

One final housekeeping matter. Your Honor knows from the hearing the other day, and I know that you've been doing this long enough, you don't get hot or bothered by an appeal from your decision. That's just part of what we do as representing clients. And

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you know that there is an appeal from the contempt order.

I would ask that in any order that is fashioned that it be allocated to the amount that is being awarded for the contempt-associated task. And it doesn't sound like you're going to award any fees for the receiver action. If you changed your mind, I believe that is specified. Because, of course, if we are -- if we prevail in the appeal on the contempt, then any fees associated with the contempt would fall by the wayside as well. So those amounts need to be identified. And then as well as if any amounts are awarded for the appeal, we would like that amount written off as well, so it can be identified.

And with that lengthy argument, your Honor, I appreciate your patience. Otherwise, if you have any other questions, I'm done. Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, sir.

Okay. Mr. Smith.

MR. SMITH: Thank you, your Honor. I just have a couple of points that I want to make in response, and then I'll yield the floor.

I'm going to go back to your comments that you made about the natural view on NRS 8.010 and that the fees that you can award in this case are limited to

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what is in Department 16. The contempt order would be under NRS 22.100. And that statute says that the Court may require the person to pay the party seeking to enforce the writ, or the rule, or process the reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees incurred by the party as a result of the contempt.

Your Honor, if the receivership action itself, if the process that the Lytles went through of seeking a receiver in order to enforce the Rosemere judgments against the homeowners to get them to pay that, if that ends the contempt, then the attorney's fees incurred by the plaintiffs to stop that process are a result of that contempt. That's what we would base our request for fees and costs incurred in the receivership action.

If the Court is not inclined to award those, then we would stand with what the number is in our reply brief, that \$36,000 number. That's the amount that we incurred there. And that the order would be without prejudice to be able to seek those in the other department.

The other point I want to make is that

Judge Bayliss did not rule on the CC&Rs as far as -
(telephonic audio drop). The Lytle Trust argues that

there was some kind of order issued declining to award

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1 fees on that basis. There was actually no order on
2 that.

The only thing he ordered, we argued it in our motion. The Court did not reach the issue and did not address it in its order.

And going back to what this Court said in May 2019 in hearing on the fees and costs award for the other homeowners, the Court said that what they are --what they were doing here was essentially they were restraining your client, meaning the Lytle Trust, from filing the abstract because they had no right pursuant to the CC&Rs to do such a thing. I'll tell you, your Honor, the plaintiffs were doing the same exact thing here.

And finally, in that same hearing, the Court said additionally the thrust, focus, and essence of all this litigation stems from the original CC&Rs.

Your Honor, the plaintiffs are in the exact same position as the other homeowners. It would be entirely inconsistent to not award them fees and costs under the CC&Rs when the other homeowners have been awarded under that provision.

Finally, your Honor, the Lytle Trust's arguments for reduction, I certainly understand them.

They're the same arguments that I would make, that I do

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make, in opposing fees and costs awards. But it's quite shocking to come from this particular defendant considering the Rosemere judgments which contain over \$500,000 worth of attorney's fees. Look at those fee statements. They have all of the same aspects which the Lytle Trust is describing as non-compensable tasks.

All of those same aspects were found in the billing statement. So it's a little bit of the pot calling the kettle black here. It's -- certainly, I understand their concerns they raised, but I said it before, I said it in my declaration, and I'll say it again here on the record: I reviewed the billing statements in this case. I have reviewed the work that has been done. And all of the work that was done in this case was entirely reasonable and necessary in order to achieve the result that was obtained. And so on that basis we ask that our fees and costs be awarded.

Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: All right. And I just have a couple comments regarding this matter. And I think this is something that wasn't really addressed in the prior hearing, but when it comes to issuing a contempt order, I've been very tempered from a historical perspective in making that ultimate determination.

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And I think you can look to this case as a really good example. And understand, this case was with me for some time, but I haven't looked at it in great detail until -- in some detail until recently.

And I remember going back to, I guess it would have been sometime in 2017. I was called upon to issue a contempt order at that time. And from a factual perspective, I think it's really set forth on page 4 of the motion itself. And I remember this. And I remember reviewing the points and authorities. And this crystallized it for me.

Because at line 18, there's references to the findings of fact conclusions of law and order granting the Boulden and Lamothe Trust's motion for partial summary judgment entered on April 26, 2017.

And I remember -- I remember after I entered that order, which was somewhat amazing to me, counsel that was representing the adverse party, notwithstanding me granting a motion for partial summary judgment, filed a lis pendens on the properties.

And I can remember Mr. Foley and someone else coming into court. And there was a motion filed to cancel the lis pendens and also to hold defendants and their counsel in contempt of court. Right? And so I

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thought about it. And at the end of the day,

ultimately, I did not grant the contempt request at

that time. And that's all part of the history of this

case. And those are some of the things I also

considered. And I think it's really important to point

that out. Because I just don't pull the trigger when

it comes to contempt issues.

Because I do understand, and I do believe in creative lawyering. But at some point you just have to make a decision and live by it. And that's what I did as far as contempt is concerned in this matter.

Next, as it relates to the request for fees,

I'm going to grant the request for fees. I'm going to

deny it in part too.

I just from a legal perspective I don't see how I can award fees and costs in a case regarding litigation where some of the fees and costs have been incurred in another department. I just can't do that.

I did take a look at, I think it was -- and we discussed Chapter 18. But I think there was also a reference made to Chapter 22. And I looked at that too. But understand, it's my understanding when it comes to penalties for contempt and under subsection (3) it says:

"In addition to the penalties provided in

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subsection (2), if a person is found guilty of contempt pursuant to subsection (3) of NRS 22.010, the court may require the person to pay the party seeking to enforce the writ, order, rule, or process the reasonable attorney's fees, including, without limitation, attorney's fees incurred by the parties as a result of the contempt."

And I look at it this way. And maybe I'm narrowly construing that specific rule. But we do have in notes to the decisions, there is a case cited. And it's an old case. It's an 1883 case. Ex parte Sweeney. 18 Nev. 74. 1 Pacific, 379. It's a 1883 case, but it -- but, you know what, I look at old cases in this regard. They're kind of like fine wines. They've been there for a long time, and they haven't been disturbed, so they have significant value.

And this is what the note reflects. It reflects strict construction of those statutes as it relates to contempt.

And it says, quote, this is the note, it says:

"This statute relating to contempt and
punishments, like other statutes relating to
proceedings criminal in nature, is to be
strictly construed and no interpretation shall

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be given beyond its obvious meaning."

Well, I realize the law has changed a lot in over 100 years. But at the end of the day, it sets forth two points as far as the application of the statute is concerned.

First, if you read the plain meaning of the language of the statute it says "may". That indicates it's discretionary.

Just looking at that case it appears to me it should be strictly construed.

And when I -- at the end of the day, it appeared to me that the enforcement of my prior decision occurred in Department 16 when the motion for contempt was filed in this department. And so I feel very much constrained that the only matters I can consider would be the motions, the motion and/or results of that motion based upon my contempt decision in this case.

And so any decision I make, I'm not going to consider. I just want to make sure the record is real clear why I'm not going to consider the actions that occurred in front of Judge Kishner in her department. It's going to be up to her to decide whether there will be an award of fees and costs at the end of the day.

And that will be her sole decision. And I'm not going

to get involved in any way or regard. I'm only going to make one decision, and that's regarding the fees in this case.

And so what that leaves me with really two issues. Because I'm not going to award fees as it relates to the companion case.

Secondly, as far as fees are concerned, I will award fees as it relates to the contempt motion that was filed in this department. However, I'm going to go back and take a look at those. It becomes very difficult for me to do because I'm not a forensic accountant. But at the end of the day I have to make a determination I feel that's reasonable under the facts of this case. And I'll look at that.

As far as the appeal itself, I guess, there's two issues there. I don't see how I can award it under Chapter 18. I guess at the end of the day it comes down to the application of the provision under the CC&Rs. I'm going to take one last quick look at it.

And so I am going to award fees. It's going to be very limited. I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the appeal. I'm going to take one last look at it. I understand what my constraints are. But we'll get you out a decision on that relatively quick.

All right. Anything else?

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| 10:21:32 | 1 | MR. SMITH: Thank you. |
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| | 2 | THE COURT: Anything else? |
| | 3 | MR. WAITE: Thank you, your Honor. |
| | 4 | THE COURT: All right. You're welcome. |
| 10:21:38 | 5 | MR. SMITH: Thank you. |
| | 6 | MS. WANG: Thank you, your Honor. |
| | 7 | THE COURT: Everyone enjoy your day. |
| | 8 | You're welcome, ma'am. Enjoy your day. |
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| | 10 | |
| | 11 | (Proceedings were concluded.) |
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| 1 | REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE |
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| 2 | STATE OF NEVADA) |
| 3 | :SS COUNTY OF CLARK) |
| 4 | I, PEGGY ISOM, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER DO |
| 5 | HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I TOOK DOWN IN STENOTYPE ALL OF THE |
| 6 | TELEPHONIC PROCEEDINGS HAD IN THE BEFORE-ENTITLED |
| 7 | MATTER AT THE TIME AND PLACE INDICATED, AND THAT |
| 8 | THEREAFTER SAID STENOTYPE NOTES WERE TRANSCRIBED INTO |
| 9 | TYPEWRITING AT AND UNDER MY DIRECTION AND SUPERVISION |
| 10 | AND THE FOREGOING TRANSCRIPT CONSTITUTES A FULL, TRUE |
| 11 | AND ACCURATE RECORD TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY OF THE |
| 12 | PROCEEDINGS HAD. |
| 13 | IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I HAVE HEREUNTO SUBSCRIBED |
| 14 | MY NAME IN MY OFFICE IN THE COUNTY OF CLARK, STATE OF |
| 15 | NEVADA. |
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| 17 | /s/ Peggy Isom |
| 18 | PEGGY ISOM, RMR, CCR 541 |
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Peggy Isom, CCR 541, RMR (1) MR. SMITH: - appropriate (702)671-4402 - CROERT48@GMAIL.COM Pursuant to NRS 239.053, illegal to copy without payment.

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

2 KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.

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and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et

al.,

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al.,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER **GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS**

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23,

1972, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST, et al.,

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Defendants.

CONSOLIDATED

Dept. No.: XVI

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs was entered in the above-captioned matter on

August 11, 2020. A copy of the Order is attached hereto.

DATED this 11th day of August 2020.

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: <u>/s/ Wesley J. Smith</u> Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On August 11, 2020, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order to Release Cash Supersedeas Bond, to be served in the following manner:

ELECTRONIC SERVICE: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

Liz Gould (liz@foleyoakes.com)

Daniel Foley (Dan@foleyoakes.com)

Maren Foley (maren@foleyoakes.com)

Jennifer Martinez (jennifer.martinez@fnf.com)

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Joel D. Henriod (JHenriod@LRRC.com)

Daniel F. Polsenberg (DPolsenberg@LRRC.com)

Dan R. Waite (DWaite@LRRC.com)

| Ш | <u>UNITED STATES MAIL</u> : | depositing a true and co | orrect copy of the | above-referenced |
|----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| docum | ent into the United States Mail | with prepaid first-class | s postage, addresse | ed to the parties at |
| their la | st-known mailing address(es): | | | |

FACSIMILE: By sending the above-referenced document via facsimile as follows:

| <u>E-MAIL</u> : electronic transmission by email to the following address | (es | s) |): | |
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/s/ Natalie Saville Natalie Saville

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8/11/2020 11:09 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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1 **ORDR CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN** KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 175 WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 11871 4 LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718 Facsimile: (702) 255-0871 Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Gegen 9 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 10 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** PH: (702) 255-1718 § FAX: (702) 255-087 11 MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF Case No.: A-16-747800-C THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, Dept. No.: XVI 12 LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE 13 JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND TRUST, <u>DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS'</u> 14 MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES Plaintiffs, AND COSTS 15 VS. 16 TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN Date: July 7, 2020 17 LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I Time: 9:00 a.m. through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I 18 through X, 19 Defendants. 20 SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, Case No.: A-17-765372-C 21 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. Dept. No.: XVI ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY 22 R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST CONSOLIDATED FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. 23 SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF 24 THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND 25 26 27 28

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 WEST SAHARA AVE., LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89117 DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

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TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Motion"), Defendant's Opposition, and Plaintiffs' Reply, as well as the Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements ("Memorandum"), which came on for hearing on July 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVI of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. of Christensen James & Martin appeared on behalf of September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegens") (September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegens, collectively, the "Plaintiffs"). Christina H. Wang, Esq. of Fidelity National Law Group appeared on behalf of Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman ("Dismans"). Dan R. Waite, Esq. of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust ("Lytle Trust").

The Court having considered the Motion and filings related thereto, having heard the arguments of counsel, and with good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby grants the Motion in part and denies the Motion in part and enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

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FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On May 24, 2018, this Court entered its Order Granting Motion for Summary Judgment or, in the Alternative, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and Denying Countermotion for Summary Judgment ("May 2018 Order") in favor of the September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Gegens and against the Lytle Trust. The May 2018 Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 2. On September 11, 2018, this Court signed an Order in favor of the Plaintiffs and against the Lytle Trust for attorney's fees, litigation costs and expenses incurred through May 22, 2018 pursuant to NRS 18.010(2) ("First Fees Order").
- 3. The Original CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery. More specifically, section 25 of the Original CC&Rs provides: "In any legal or equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the [CC&Rs] or any provision thereof, the losing party or parties shall pay in such amount as may be fixed by the court in such proceeding."
- The Court has also awarded attorney's fees and costs to other parties in these consolidated Cases, including the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Granting Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A Disman's Motion for Attorney's Fees entered on September 6, 2019 ("Disman Fees Order") in favor of the Dismans and the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and order Denying Defendants' Motion to Retax and Settle Costs entered on September 20, 2019 ("Boulden Lamothe Fees Order") in favor of Boulden and Lamothe. There, this Court awarded attorney's fees and costs to the other parties under Section 25 of the Original CC&Rs.
- 5. Since May 23, 2018, the Plaintiffs have incurred additional attorney's fees and costs in this action, including briefing and argument on the Lytle Trust's Motion to Stay and Motion for Reconsideration, status hearings, and motions related to the other parties to the consolidated case.
- 6. On October 24, 2019, the Lytle Trust filed its Renewed Application for Appointment of Receiver in Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as trustees of the Lytle Trust v. Rosemere Estates Property Owners' Association, Case No. A-18-775843-C, Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, which case was assigned to Judge J. Kishner (the "Receivership Action").

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- 7. On December 18, 2019, Judge Kishner entered her Order Appointing a Receiver of Defendant Rosemere Property Owners Association (the "Order Appointing Receiver"). Among other rights, powers, and duties, the Order Appointing Receiver instructed the receiver to "[i]ssue and collect a special assessment upon all owners within the Association to satisfy the Lytle Trust's judgments against the Association." (Order Appointing Receiver at 2:19-20).
- 8. Upon learning of the Lytle Trust's actions related to the Receivership Action, the Plaintiffs incurred additional attorney's fees and costs both in this consolidated case and in the Receivership Action, including filing a Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Motion") on March 4, 2020 in this Case. The Lytle Trust opposed the Contempt Motion and the Plaintiffs incurred additional fees and costs to respond to the Lytle Trust's arguments, present oral argument, and prepare proposed orders.
- On May 22, 2020, this Court entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Order") against the Lytle Trust. The Contempt Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 10. In the Contempt Order, the Court relevantly ruled that a party may be held in contempt for violating its orders, and that the Court may impose fines and award "reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred by the party as a result of the contempt." Contempt Order at 11:9-23 (quoting NRS 22.100(3)). The Court Ordered that the Lytle Trust violated the May 2018 Order, is in contempt of the May 2018 Order, shall pay a fine of \$500 to each movant, and that the Plaintiffs may file applications for their reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred as a result of the contempt. The Court now finds that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of their reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, incurred as a result of obtaining the Contempt Order.
- 11. Plaintiffs also seek additional attorney's fees and costs related to the Lytle Trust's appeals of the May 2018 Order and First Fees Order, which were affirmed by the Nevada Supreme Court, as well as attorney's fees and costs related to the Receivership Action.

12. The Plaintiffs filed the instant Motion requesting an award of all attorney's fees in the total amount of \$149,403.20 and costs in the total amount of \$4,145.08 that they have incurred from May 23, 2018 to the present date pursuant to the Original CC&Rs, NRS 18.020, 18.050 and 18.010(2)(b) and NRAP 39(e).

13. Plaintiffs have attached billing statements and a Declaration from their counsel to the Motion to support the request.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. NRS 18.010(1) provides that, "[t]he compensation of an attorney and counselor for his services is governed by agreement, express or implied, which is not restrained by law."
- 2. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is a mandatory provision regarding the award of attorney's fees and costs being paid by the losing party in any legal equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the CC&Rs or any provision thereof.
- 3. The legal disputes in this case were based on the parties' rights under the Original CC&Rs and whether the CC&Rs created a Limited Purpose Association which excluded most of NRS 116, especially NRS 116.3117, from having any application to the Rosemere Subdivision.
- 4. Throughout this litigation, the Plaintiffs sought to restrain the Lytle Trust from recording abstracts of judgment against their properties and collecting judgments by alternative means because the Lytle Trust had no right pursuant to the CC&Rs to do so
- 5. Applying the language of the CC&Rs, the Court concludes that the Plaintiffs are the winning or prevailing parties in this litigation, the Lytle Trust was the losing party in this litigation, and the assessment of attorney's fees against the losing party is mandatory under Section 25.
- 6. NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that, "the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party: . . . (b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim . . . or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party." This Court based the First Fees Award on NRS 18.010(2) and does so again now as a basis for awarding additional fees.

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- 7. NRS 22.100(3) provides a basis for awarding fees associated with the contempt proceedings in this case.
- 8. The Court analyzed the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees utilizing the factors identified in *Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat'I Bank*, 85 Nev. 345, 349, 455 P.2d 31, 33 (1969), including the qualities of the advocate, the character of the work to be done, the work actually performed by the lawyer, and the result obtained.
- 9. The Plaintiffs have satisfied the *Brunzell* factors. More specifically, based on the record and the Declaration of the Plaintiffs' counsel in support of the Motion, the Court finds that the qualities of counsel, character of the work to be done and its difficulty, the work actually performed by Plaintiffs' counsel, and the result obtained establish the reasonableness of the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees to the extent awarded in this Order.
- 10. However, the Court finds that certain time and amounts billed are not compensable in this matter and will reduce the award accordingly.
- 11. The Court has reviewed the Plaintiffs' submitted billing statements, which the fees charged total \$149,403.20.
- 12. The Plaintiffs' fee statements include entries that are commonly defined as block billing that make it difficult for the Court to determine the exact amount billed for each individual task and the reasonableness of the request.
- 13. The Court denies an award of fees incurred in the Receivership Action before Judge Kishner. Plaintiffs' counsel represented this amount was \$36,259.00, which the Court accepts. The denial of fees incurred in the Receivership Action is without prejudice to either party's right to seek an award of fees from Judge Kishner in the Receivership Action.
- 14. The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal and will not award fees for work described in the briefing as clerical work, which the Court has determined total \$23,374.00.
- 15. In light of the findings above, the \$149,403.20 is reduced by \$36,259.00 and \$23,374.00, which leaves a difference of \$89,770.20.

16. Further, as suggested by the Defendant, the Court will apply a 15% discount to the \$89,770.20 to further account for the block billing in the fee statements. The difference after the discount is \$76,304.67.

- 17. Consequently, the Court grants Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs, but with modifications, resulting in a total fee award of \$76,304.67.
 - 18. Additionally, the Court grants costs in the sum of \$4,145.08.

ORDER

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Findings of Fact shall be treated as Conclusions of Law and the Conclusions of Law shall be treated as Findings of Fact to any extent necessary to effectuate the intent of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that attorney's fees are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$76,304.67 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that costs are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint

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Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$4,145.08 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust is ordered to pay the attorney's fees and costs as ordered herein by certified check made payable to Christensen James & Martin Special Client Trust Account in the amount of \$80,449.75 and delivered to Christensen James & Martin within ten (10) days of the Notice of Entry of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2020.

Submitted by:

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

/s/ Wesley J. Smith Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 Laura J. Wolff, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis & Julie Gegen

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| 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 | NOAS JOEL D. HENRIOD Nevada Bar No. 8492 DANIEL F. POLSENBERG Nevada Bar No. 2376 DAN R. WAITE Nevada Bar No. 4078 LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 60 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200 JHenriod@LRRC.com DPolsenberg@LRRC.com DPolsenberg@LRRC.com DWaite@LRRC.com | e and |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| 9 10 | John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust DISTRICT COURT | |
| 11 | CLARK COUN | TTY, NEVADA |
| 12 | MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust; LINDA LAMOTHE; and JACQUES LAMOTHE, | Case No. A-16-747800-C Dep't No. 16 |
| 13 14 | Trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust, | |
| | Plaintiffs, | NOTICE OF APPEAL |
| 15 | | |
| 16 | V. TRIIDI LEE LYTLE: and JOHN ALLEN | |
| | v. TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, | |
| 16 17 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. | |
| 16 17 18 19 20 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. | Consolidated with: |
| 16 17 18 19 20 21 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family | Case No. A-17-765372-C |
| 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, As Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and | |
| 16 17 18 19 20 21 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, As Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992; | Case No. A-17-765372-C |
| 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, As Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and | Case No. A-17-765372-C |
| 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, As Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN and JULIE S. GEGEN, husband and wife, as joint | Case No. A-17-765372-C |
| 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X, Defendants. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, As Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN and JULIE S. GEGEN, husband and wife, as joint tenants, | Case No. A-17-765372-C |

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LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, JOHN DOES I through V, inclusive, and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Please take notice that defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust hereby appeal to the Supreme Court of Nevada from:

- 1. "Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs," filed August 11, 2020, notice of entry of which was served electronically on August 11, 2020 (Exhibit A); and
- 2. All judgments, rulings and interlocutory orders made appealable by the foregoing.

Dated this 21st day of August, 2020.

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: /s/Joel D. Henriod JOEL D. HENRIOD (SBN 8492) DANIEL F. POLSENBERG (SBN 2376) DAN R. WAITE (SBN 4078) 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200

Attorneys for Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

| I hereby certify that on the 21st day of August, 2020, I served the |
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| foregoing "Notice of Appeal" on counsel by the Court's electronic filing system |
| to the persons and addresses listed below: |

| 5 | KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN |
|---|---|
| 6 | Wesley J. Smith |
| b | CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN |
| 7 | 7440 W. Sahara Avenue |
| _ | Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 <u>KBC@CJMLV.com</u> |
| 8 | KBC@CJMLV.com |
| | Wes@CJMLV.com |

Christina H. Wang FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Christina.Wang@FNF.com

Attorneys for Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman

Daniel T. Foley
FOLEY & OAKES, PC
1210 South Valley View Boulevard
Suite 208
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Dan@FoleyOakes.com

An Employee of LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

Attorneys for Marjorie B. Boulden, trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, and Linda Lamothe and Jacques Lamothe, trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust

Attorneys for September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, husband and wife, as joint tenants

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Lewis Roca ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE /s/Lisa M. Noltie

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

Electronically Filed 8/11/2020 2:16 PM Steven D. Grierson

CLERK OF THE COURT

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NEOJ CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 175

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WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ.

LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ.

7440 W. Sahara Avenue

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

Facsimile: (702) 255-0871

Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust,

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Plaintiffs,

GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS'

MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER

FEES AND COSTS

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Plaintiffs,

CONSOLIDATED

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE

Defendants.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part

Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs was entered in the above-captioned matter on

August 11, 2020. A copy of the Order is attached hereto.

DATED this 11th day of August 2020.

By: <u>/s/ Wesley J. Smith</u> Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On August 11, 2020, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order to Release Cash Supersedeas Bond, to be served in the following manner:

ELECTRONIC SERVICE: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

Liz Gould (liz@foleyoakes.com)

Daniel Foley (Dan@foleyoakes.com)

Maren Foley (maren@foleyoakes.com)

Jennifer Martinez (jennifer.martinez@fnf.com)

Christina Wang (christina.wang@fnf.com)

Mia Hurtado (mia.hurtado@fnf.com)

Richard E. Haskin, Esq. (rhaskin@gibbsgiden.com)

Robin Jackson (rjackson@gibbsgiden.com)

Shara Berry (sberry@gibbsgiden.com)

Daniel Hansen (dhansen@gibbsgiden.com)

Joel D. Henriod (JHenriod@LRRC.com)

Daniel F. Polsenberg (DPolsenberg@LRRC.com)

Dan R. Waite (DWaite@LRRC.com)

| Ш | <u>UNITED STATES MAIL</u> : | depositing a true and of | correct copy of t | the above-ref | ferenced |
|-----------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|----------------|-----------|
| docume | ent into the United States Mai | 1 with prepaid first-clas | ss postage, addre | essed to the p | parties a |
| their las | st-known mailing address(es): | : | | | |

- FACSIMILE: By sending the above-referenced document via facsimile as follows:
- <u>E-MAIL</u>: electronic transmission by email to the following address(es):

/s/ Natalie Saville Natalie Saville

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Electronically Filed

8/11/2020 11:09 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 175 WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 11871 4 LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718 Facsimile: (702) 255-0871 Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Gegen 9 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 10 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** PH: (702) 255-1718 § FAX: (702) 255-087 11 MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF Case No.: A-16-747800-C THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, Dept. No.: XVI 12 LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE 13 JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND TRUST, <u>DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS'</u> 14 MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES Plaintiffs, AND COSTS 15 VS. 16 TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN Date: July 7, 2020 17 LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I Time: 9:00 a.m. through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I 18 through X, 19 Defendants. 20 SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, Case No.: A-17-765372-C 21 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. Dept. No.: XVI ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY 22 R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST CONSOLIDATED FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. 23 SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF 24 THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND 25 26 27 28

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 WEST SAHARA AVE., LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89117 **ORDR**

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Motion"), Defendant's Opposition, and Plaintiffs' Reply, as well as the Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements ("Memorandum"), which came on for hearing on July 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVI of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. of Christensen James & Martin appeared on behalf of September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegens") (September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegens, collectively, the "Plaintiffs"). Christina H. Wang, Esq. of Fidelity National Law Group appeared on behalf of Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman ("Dismans"). Dan R. Waite, Esq. of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust ("Lytle Trust").

The Court having considered the Motion and filings related thereto, having heard the arguments of counsel, and with good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby grants the Motion in part and denies the Motion in part and enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

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FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On May 24, 2018, this Court entered its Order Granting Motion for Summary Judgment or, in the Alternative, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and Denying Countermotion for Summary Judgment ("May 2018 Order") in favor of the September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Gegens and against the Lytle Trust. The May 2018 Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 2. On September 11, 2018, this Court signed an Order in favor of the Plaintiffs and against the Lytle Trust for attorney's fees, litigation costs and expenses incurred through May 22, 2018 pursuant to NRS 18.010(2) ("First Fees Order").
- 3. The Original CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery. More specifically, section 25 of the Original CC&Rs provides: "In any legal or equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the [CC&Rs] or any provision thereof, the losing party or parties shall pay in such amount as may be fixed by the court in such proceeding."
- The Court has also awarded attorney's fees and costs to other parties in these consolidated Cases, including the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Granting Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A Disman's Motion for Attorney's Fees entered on September 6, 2019 ("Disman Fees Order") in favor of the Dismans and the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and order Denying Defendants' Motion to Retax and Settle Costs entered on September 20, 2019 ("Boulden Lamothe Fees Order") in favor of Boulden and Lamothe. There, this Court awarded attorney's fees and costs to the other parties under Section 25 of the Original CC&Rs.
- 5. Since May 23, 2018, the Plaintiffs have incurred additional attorney's fees and costs in this action, including briefing and argument on the Lytle Trust's Motion to Stay and Motion for Reconsideration, status hearings, and motions related to the other parties to the consolidated case.
- 6. On October 24, 2019, the Lytle Trust filed its Renewed Application for Appointment of Receiver in Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as trustees of the Lytle Trust v. Rosemere Estates Property Owners' Association, Case No. A-18-775843-C, Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, which case was assigned to Judge J. Kishner (the "Receivership Action").

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- 7. On December 18, 2019, Judge Kishner entered her Order Appointing a Receiver of Defendant Rosemere Property Owners Association (the "Order Appointing Receiver"). Among other rights, powers, and duties, the Order Appointing Receiver instructed the receiver to "[i]ssue and collect a special assessment upon all owners within the Association to satisfy the Lytle Trust's judgments against the Association." (Order Appointing Receiver at 2:19-20).
- 8. Upon learning of the Lytle Trust's actions related to the Receivership Action, the Plaintiffs incurred additional attorney's fees and costs both in this consolidated case and in the Receivership Action, including filing a Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Motion") on March 4, 2020 in this Case. The Lytle Trust opposed the Contempt Motion and the Plaintiffs incurred additional fees and costs to respond to the Lytle Trust's arguments, present oral argument, and prepare proposed orders.
- On May 22, 2020, this Court entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Order") against the Lytle Trust. The Contempt Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 10. In the Contempt Order, the Court relevantly ruled that a party may be held in contempt for violating its orders, and that the Court may impose fines and award "reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred by the party as a result of the contempt." Contempt Order at 11:9-23 (quoting NRS 22.100(3)). The Court Ordered that the Lytle Trust violated the May 2018 Order, is in contempt of the May 2018 Order, shall pay a fine of \$500 to each movant, and that the Plaintiffs may file applications for their reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred as a result of the contempt. The Court now finds that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of their reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, incurred as a result of obtaining the Contempt Order.
- 11. Plaintiffs also seek additional attorney's fees and costs related to the Lytle Trust's appeals of the May 2018 Order and First Fees Order, which were affirmed by the Nevada Supreme Court, as well as attorney's fees and costs related to the Receivership Action.

12. The Plaintiffs filed the instant Motion requesting an award of all attorney's fees in the total amount of \$149,403.20 and costs in the total amount of \$4,145.08 that they have incurred from May 23, 2018 to the present date pursuant to the Original CC&Rs, NRS 18.020, 18.050 and 18.010(2)(b) and NRAP 39(e).

13. Plaintiffs have attached billing statements and a Declaration from their counsel to the Motion to support the request.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. NRS 18.010(1) provides that, "[t]he compensation of an attorney and counselor for his services is governed by agreement, express or implied, which is not restrained by law."
- 2. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is a mandatory provision regarding the award of attorney's fees and costs being paid by the losing party in any legal equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the CC&Rs or any provision thereof.
- 3. The legal disputes in this case were based on the parties' rights under the Original CC&Rs and whether the CC&Rs created a Limited Purpose Association which excluded most of NRS 116, especially NRS 116.3117, from having any application to the Rosemere Subdivision.
- 4. Throughout this litigation, the Plaintiffs sought to restrain the Lytle Trust from recording abstracts of judgment against their properties and collecting judgments by alternative means because the Lytle Trust had no right pursuant to the CC&Rs to do so
- 5. Applying the language of the CC&Rs, the Court concludes that the Plaintiffs are the winning or prevailing parties in this litigation, the Lytle Trust was the losing party in this litigation, and the assessment of attorney's fees against the losing party is mandatory under Section 25.
- 6. NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that, "the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party: . . . (b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim . . . or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party." This Court based the First Fees Award on NRS 18.010(2) and does so again now as a basis for awarding additional fees.

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- 7. NRS 22.100(3) provides a basis for awarding fees associated with the contempt proceedings in this case.
- 8. The Court analyzed the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees utilizing the factors identified in Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat'I Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 349, 455 P.2d 31, 33 (1969), including the qualities of the advocate, the character of the work to be done, the work actually performed by the lawyer, and the result obtained.
- 9. The Plaintiffs have satisfied the *Brunzell* factors. More specifically, based on the record and the Declaration of the Plaintiffs' counsel in support of the Motion, the Court finds that the qualities of counsel, character of the work to be done and its difficulty, the work actually performed by Plaintiffs' counsel, and the result obtained establish the reasonableness of the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees to the extent awarded in this Order.
- However, the Court finds that certain time and amounts billed are not compensable in this 10. matter and will reduce the award accordingly.
- 11. The Court has reviewed the Plaintiffs' submitted billing statements, which the fees charged total \$149,403.20.
- 12. The Plaintiffs' fee statements include entries that are commonly defined as block billing that make it difficult for the Court to determine the exact amount billed for each individual task and the reasonableness of the request.
- 13. The Court denies an award of fees incurred in the Receivership Action before Judge Kishner. Plaintiffs' counsel represented this amount was \$36,259.00, which the Court accepts. The denial of fees incurred in the Receivership Action is without prejudice to either party's right to seek an award of fees from Judge Kishner in the Receivership Action.
- 14. The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal and will not award fees for work described in the briefing as clerical work, which the Court has determined total \$23,374.00.
- 15. In light of the findings above, the \$149,403.20 is reduced by \$36,259.00 and \$23,374.00, which leaves a difference of \$89,770.20.

16. Further, as suggested by the Defendant, the Court will apply a 15% discount to the \$89,770.20 to further account for the block billing in the fee statements. The difference after the discount is \$76,304.67.

- 17. Consequently, the Court grants Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs, but with modifications, resulting in a total fee award of \$76,304.67.
 - 18. Additionally, the Court grants costs in the sum of \$4,145.08.

ORDER

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Findings of Fact shall be treated as Conclusions of Law and the Conclusions of Law shall be treated as Findings of Fact to any extent necessary to effectuate the intent of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that attorney's fees are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$76,304.67 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that costs are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 WEST SAHARA AVE., LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89117 PH: (702) 255-1718 § FAX: (702) 255-0871 Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$4,145.08 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust is ordered to pay the attorney's fees and costs as ordered herein by certified check made payable to Christensen James & Martin Special Client Trust Account in the amount of \$80,449.75 and delivered to Christensen James & Martin within ten (10) days of the Notice of Entry of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2020.

DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

Submitted by:

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

/s/ Wesley J. Smith
Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11871
Laura J. Wolff, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 6869
7440 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89117
Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust,
Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and
Dennis & Julie Gegen

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|-----------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | ASTA JOEL D. HENRIOD | Den S. Strum | | |
| 2 | Nevada Bar No. 8492 DANIEL F. POLSENBERG | | | |
| 3 | Nevada Bar No. 2376 DAN R. WAITE | | | |
| $4 \mid$ | Nevada Bar No. 4078 LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP | | | |
| 5 | 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 | | | |
| 6 | (702) 949-8200 <u>JHenriod@LRRC.com</u> | | | |
| 7 | DPolsenberg@LRRC.com DWaite@LRRC.com | | | |
| 8 | Attorneys for Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and | | | |
| 9 | John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle | John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA | | | |
| 12 | MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, trustee of the | Case No. A-16-747800-C | | |
| 13 | Marjorie B. Boulden Trust; LINDA LAMOTHE; and JACQUES LAMOTHE, | Dep't No. 16 | | |
| 14 | Trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust, | | | |
| 15 | Plaintiffs, | CASE APPEAL STATEMENT | | |
| 16 | V. | | | |
| 17 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN | | | |
| 18 | LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE | | | |
| 19 | CORPORATIONS I through X, | | | |
| 20 | Defendants. | | | |
| 21 | SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, | Consolidated with: | | |
| 22 | 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. | Case No. A-17-765372-C | | |
| 23 | Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and | Dep't No. 16 | | |
| 24 | JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, As Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and | | | |
| 25 | Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992; | | | |
| 26 | and DENNIS A. GEGEN and JULIE S. GEGEN, husband and wife, as joint | | | |
| 27 | tenants, | | | |
| 28 | Plaintiffs, | | | |
| Lewis Roca ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE | 1 | | | |

Case Number: A-16-747800-C

| 1 | v. | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| 2 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN | | | |
| 3 | LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, JOHN DOES I through V, inclusive, and | | | |
| $_4$ | JOHN DOES I through V, inclusive, and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive, | | | |
| | Defendants. | | | |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | 1. Name of appellants filing this case appeal statement: | | | |
| 7 8 | Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as trustees of the Lytle Trust | | | |
| | 2. Identify the judge issuing the decision, judgment, or order appealed from: | | | |
| 9 | The Honorable Timothy C. Williams | | | |
| 10 11 | 3. Identify each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each appellant: | | | |
| | | | | |
| 12 | Attorneys for Appellants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust | | | |
| 13 | | | | |
| 14 | JOEL D. HENRIOD DANIEL F. POLSENBERG | | | |
| 15 | DAN R. WAITE LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP | | | |
| 16 | 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 | | | |
| 17 | Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200 | | | |
| 18 | 4. Identify each respondent and the name and address of appellate counsel, | | | |
| 19 | if known, for each respondent (if the name of a respondent's appellate counsel is unknown, indicate as much and provide the name and address | | | |
| 20 | of that respondent's trial counsel): | | | |
| 21 | Attorneys for Respondents September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as trustees of the Gerry R. | | | |
| 22 | Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as trustees of the Raynaldo G. and | | | |
| 23 | Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May | | | |
| $\begin{bmatrix} 26 \\ 24 \end{bmatrix}$ | 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, husband and wife, as joint tenants | | | |
| | KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN | | | |
| 25 | WESLEY J. SMITH | | | |
| 26 | CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 W. Sahara Avenue | | | |
| 27 | Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 | | | |
| 28 | (702) 255-1718 | | | |
| Lewis Roca ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE | | | | |

5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4 is not licensed 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 permission):

N/A

6. Indicate whether appellant was represented by appointed or retained counsel in the district court:

Retained counsel

7. Indicate whether appellant is represented by appointed or retained counsel on appeal:

Retained counsel

8. Indicate whether appellant was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and the date of entry of the district court order granting such leave:

N/A

9. Indicate the date the proceedings commenced in the district court, *e.g.*, date complaint, indictment, information, or petition was filed:

"Complaint," filed December 8, 2016 in case no. A-16-7476800-C.

"Complaint," filed November 30, 2017 in case no. A-17-765372-C.

Case no. A-17-765372-C was consolidated with case no. A-16-7476800-C on February 28, 2018.

10. Provide a brief description of the nature of the action and result in the district court, including the type of judgment or order being appealed and the relief granted by the district court:

In other lawsuits, the defendant Lytle Trust obtained three judgments (totaling approx. \$1.8 million) against the Rosemere Estate Property Owners Association ("Association"). The Lytle Trust is a member of the Association. This action stems from a dispute over the validity and legal effect of abstracts of judgments the Lytle Trust recorded against certain residential property owned by other Association members. The district court (Judge T. Williams) granted summary judgment in favor of plaintiffs and entered a permanent injunction against the Lytle Trust precluding action to enforce their judgments directly against the other Association members (the "May 2018 order"). The Dismans were added as parties to the litigation when they purchased the Boulden property. The district court awarded fees and costs to plaintiffs on September 20, 2019.

Following affirmance of the May 2018 order by this Court on July 15, 2020, Plaintiffs moved the district for an additional award

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of fees incurred post-judgment. The district court granted the majority of fees requested. Defendants now appeal from that order granting fees.

11. Indicate whether the case has previously been the subject of an appeal or an original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court and, if so, the caption and Supreme Court docket number of the prior proceeding.

Lytle v. Boulden, Case No. 73039

Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Case No. 76198

Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Case No. 77007

Lytle v. Disman, Case No. 79753

Lytle v. Boulden, Case No. 79776

12. Indicate whether this appeal involves child custody or visitation:

This case does not involve child custody or visitation.

13. If this is a civil case, indicate whether this appeal involves the possibility of settlement:

No. The related appeal already has been removed from the Court's settlement program.

Dated this 21st day of August, 2020.

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: <u>/s/Joel D. Henriod</u> JOEL D. HENRIOD (SBN 8492)

DANIEL F. POLSENBERG (SBN 2376)

DAN R. WAITE (SBN 4078)

3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169

(702) 949-8200

Attorneys for Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust

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Lewis Roca ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 21st day of August, 2020, I served the foregoing "Case Appeal Statement" on counsel by the Court's electronic filing system to the persons and addresses listed below:

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN
WESLEY J. SMITH
CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN
7440 W. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89117
KBC@CJMLV.com
Wes@CJMLV.com

Attorneys for September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, husband and wife, as joint tenants

Christina H. Wang FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Christina.Wang@FNF.com

Attorneys for Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman

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FOLEY & OAKES, PC
1210 South Valley View Boulevard
Suite 208
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Dan@FoleyOakes.com

Attorneys for Marjorie B. Boulden, trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, and Linda Lamothe and Jacques Lamothe, trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust

/s/Lisa M. Noltie

An Employee of LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

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9/8/2020 3:37 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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MAMJ 1 **CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN** 2 KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. (175) WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. (11871) 3 LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. (6869) 7440 W. Sahara Avenue 4 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718 5 Facsimile: (702) 255-0871 Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com 6 Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis & Julie Gegen 7 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 8 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** 9 MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF Case No.: A-16-747800-C 10 THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et Dept. No.: XVI PH: (702) 255-1718 § FAX: (702) 255-087 11 PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO Plaintiffs, AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN 12 PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR 13 VS. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS 14 TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al., **PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B)** 15 Defendants. **Hearing Requested** 16 17 SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, Case No.: A-17-765372-C 1972, et al., Dept. No.: XVI 18 Plaintiffs, 19 Consolidated VS. 20

7440 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

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TRUST, et al.,

892100 Christensen James & Martin

Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN

LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE

Defendants.

("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegen") (collectively the "Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys, Christensen James & Martin, hereby move this Court to Amend the Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs pursuant to NRCP 52(b)("Motion"). This Motion is based upon the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, Declaration and Exhibits filed herewith and the pleadings and papers on file.

DATED this 8th day of September, 2020. CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: <u>/s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq.</u>
Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11871
Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist
Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

NOTICE OF MOTION

You will please take Notice that September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen shall bring the above and foregoing Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b) before Department XVI on the date and time to be set by the Court. Plaintiffs have requested a hearing. Should a hearing be set by the Court, the parties registered for service will receive notice through the "Clerk's Notice of Hearing."

DATED this 8th day of September, 2020. CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: /s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11871
Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist
Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I.

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs seek the Court's Order amending the Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Second Fees Order"), 1 entered on August 11, 2020, in one of two ways. First, the Plaintiffs request that the Court amend the Second Fees Order to state that "The Court also grants an award of fees and costs related to the appeal..." instead of "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal...." *See* Second Fees Order at 6, ¶ 14. Second, and alternatively, the Plaintiffs request that the Court make additional findings of fact and conclusions of law as to why the Court denied an award of fees and costs incurred by the Plaintiffs related to the previous appeals. If the Court is inclined to grant the relief requested herein, the Court may so certify under the procedures outlined in *Foster v. Dingwall*, 126 Nev. 49, 52–53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010). *See* discussion *infra* Part III.B.

II.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On May 26, 2020, Plaintiffs filed their Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs. The Motion was opposed by the Lytle Trust on June 9, 2020 and Plaintiffs filed a Reply in support on June 29, 2020. In the Motion, Plaintiffs requested an award of attorney's fees and costs for, among other things, amounts incurred by the Plaintiffs successfully defending this Court's Orders on appeal in Nevada Supreme Court case nos. 76198 and 77007, consolidated, *Trudi Lee Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972. See* Motion at 16:24-17:25. The basis for this request was the fee shifting provision of the Original CC&Rs. *Id.* at 17:11-25.

¹ This Order is denoted as the "Second" Order to avoid confusion with the previous Fees Order entered in favor of Plaintiffs on September 11, 2018.

A hearing was held on the Motion and Court Minutes were entered on July 7, 2020 wherein the Court stated "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal." Court Minutes at 1. Consistent with this express conclusion in the Minute Order, Plaintiffs drafted the Second Order with the following Conclusion of Law: "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal..." *See* Second Fees Order at 6, ¶ 14. The Second Fees Order, and Notice of Entry of the Order, were entered on August 11, 2020. On August 21, 2020, ten (10) day later, the Defendants filed their Case Appeal Statement and their Notice of Appeal of the Second Fees Order ("Appeal"). *Id*.

III.

ARGUMENT

The Plaintiffs bring the instant Motion pursuant to NRCP 52(b), requesting that the court amend its findings or make additional findings in its Second Fees Order with regard to the appeal fees. NRCP 52(b) provides that "on a party's motion filed no later than 28 days after service of written notice of entry of judgment, the court may amend its findings – or make additional findings – and may amend the judgment accordingly." Plaintiffs served the Notice of Entry of the Second Fees Order on August 11, 2020 and this Motion is being filed no later than 28 days later on September 8, 2020, so the Motion is timely.

A. The Court should amend or make additional findings.

The Second Fees Order granted attorney's fees and costs to the Plaintiffs pursuant to, among other bases, Section 25 of the CC&Rs. Second Fees Order at 5, ¶¶ 1-5. Plaintiffs have brought this Motion to request that the Court grant instead of deny fees and costs incurred on appeal or, in the alternative, to provide findings of fact and conclusions of law to support the

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² Plaintiffs acknowledge that they drafted the Second Fees Order, with revisions and input from Defendants' counsel. However, anything the Plaintiffs could have added about the fees and costs on appeal would have been based on assumptions or would have directly contradicted what was in the Minutes. Therefore, Plaintiffs submitted the Second Fees Order consistent with the Minutes.

denial of the appeal fees so that Plaintiffs may preserve their rights on appeal. *See Solar, Inc. v. Electric Smith Const. & Equipment Co.*, 88 Nev. 457, 459, 499 P.2d 649, 650 (1972) ("Appellant failed to move to amend the findings or judgment (NRCP 52(b)) regarding privity. Therefore, the question was not preserved for appellate consideration."). To be clear, Plaintiffs are requesting that either the Second Fees Order be amended to state that the attorney's fees on appeal are granted, or to give some detailed reasons behind the denial so that the Plaintiffs have a clear record on appeal.

In its Minute Order, the only direction the Court gave with regard to the appeal fees was that, "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal." *See* Minute Order at 1, \P 2. The Second Fees Order mimics this statement in the Conclusions of Law section: "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal . . ." Second Fees Order at 6, \P 14.

The Second Fees Order contains the following Findings of Fact:

- 3. The Original CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery. More specifically, section 25 of the Original CC&Rs provides: "In any legal or equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the [CC&Rs] or any provision thereof, the losing party or parties shall pay in such amount as may be fixed by the court in such proceeding."
- 4. The Court has also awarded attorney's fees and costs to other parties in these consolidated Cases, including the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Granting Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A Disman's Motion for Attorney's Fees entered on September 6, 2019 ("Disman Fees Order") in favor of the Dismans and the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and order Denying Defendants' Motion to Retax and Settle Costs entered on September 20, 2019 ("Boulden Lamothe Fees Order") in favor of Boulden and Lamothe. There, this Court awarded attorney's fees and costs to the other parties under Section 25 of the Original CC&Rs.

Id. at 3, ¶¶ 3-4. It also contains these Conclusions of Law:

- 1. NRS 18.010(1) provides that, "[t]he compensation of an attorney and counselor for his services is governed by agreement, express or implied, which is not restrained by law."
- 2. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is a mandatory provision regarding the award of attorney's fees and costs being paid by the losing party in any legal equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the CC&Rs or any provision thereof.

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- 3. The legal disputes in this case were based on the parties' rights under the Original CC&Rs and whether the CC&Rs created a Limited Purpose Association which excluded most of NRS 116, especially NRS 116.3117, from having any application to the Rosemere Subdivision.
- 4. Throughout this litigation, the Plaintiffs sought to restrain the Lytle Trust from recording abstracts of judgment against their properties and collecting judgments by alternative means because the Lytle Trust had no right pursuant to the CC&Rs to do so.
- 5. Applying the language of the CC&Rs, the Court concludes that the Plaintiffs are the winning or prevailing parties in this litigation, the Lytle Trust was the losing party in this litigation, and the assessment of attorney's fees against the losing party is mandatory under Section 25....

Id. at 5-6, $\P\P$ 1-5, 14.

Additionally, case law supported an award of fees and costs incurred on appeal. The long-standing rule in Nevada is that attorney fees should be awarded when authorized by statute, rule, or agreement. *Elwardt v. Elwardt*, No. 69638, 2017 WL 2591349 *2 (Nev. Ct. App. June 9, 2017) (unpublished disposition) (citing First Interstate Bank of Nev. v. Green, 101 Nev. 113, 116, 694 P.2d 496, 498 (1985). Contract provisions for attorney's fees include an award of fees for successfully bringing or defending an appeal. See Musso v. Binick, 104 Nev. 613, 614–15, 764 P.2d 477, 477 (1988) (holding that a contractual provision awarding attorney fees to a prevailing party in the event of litigation included appellate attorney fees); See also WMCV Phase 3, LLC v. Shushok & McCoy, Inc., 2015 WL 1000373, (D. Nev. * 2) ("In Musso v. Binick, the Nevada Supreme Court unequivocally held that a respondent was entitled to attorneys' fees, pursuant to a contractual provision, for costs incurred in defending an appeal and filing postappeal motions" (citations omitted)). "Parties are free to provide for attorney fees by express contractual provisions." Davis v. Beling, 278 P.3d 501, 515 (Nev. 2012) (citing Musso v. Binick, 764 P.2d at 477.) "The Nevada Supreme Court has acknowledged that attorney fees award made pursuant to contract includes fees incurred on appeal." In re Estate & Living Trust of Miller, 216 P.3d 239, 243 (Nev. 2009) (citing Musso, 764 P.2d at 477–78); see also Mann v. Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, LLC, 2016 WL 1254242 (D. Nev. * 2)(citing Miller, 216 P.3d at 243 and Musso,

764 P.2d at 477–78)("The Nevada Supreme Court has acknowledged that attorney fees award made pursuant to contract includes fees incurred on appeal").

Consistent with this case law, this Court awarded Boulden, Lamothe and the Dismans their attorney's fees and costs, including their fees and costs on appeal, pursuant to Paragraph 25 of the Original CC&Rs. *See Id.* at 3, ¶ 4. It is unclear from either the Court Minutes or Second Fees Order why the Court would change course and deny the Plaintiffs fees and costs incurred on appeal. Given the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and case law set forth above, it is unclear how or why the Court came to the conclusion that "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal . . ." *Id.* at 6, ¶ 14.

Thus, this Motion is necessary to either change the conclusion or provide the basis for the Court's ruling. In order to make the Second Fees Order internally consistent and to harmonize it with controlling case law and this Court's prior Orders, the Second Fees Order should be amended to state that "The Court also grants an award of fees and costs related to the appeal..." In the alternative, Plaintiffs request additional findings regarding why the attorney's fees incurred for appellate work were denied.

B. The Appeal was filed prematurely and this Court may hear this Motion.

Motions to amend or make additional findings of fact under NRCP 52(b) are considered a tolling motion. *In re Duong*, 118 Nev. 920, 923, 59 P.3d 1210 (2002). NRAP 4(a)(4)(B) provides that if a party timely files in the district court a motion under Rule 52(b), "the time to file a notice of appeal runs for all parties from entry of an order disposing of the last such remaining motion, and the notice of appeal must be filed no later than 30 days from the date of service of written notice of entry of that order." Timely motions filed pursuant to NRCP 52(b) toll the running of the appeal period and "render ineffective all the notices of appeal which were filed before the formal disposition of the timely post-judgment motions." *Chapman Industries v. United Ins. Co. of America*, 110 Nev. 454, 457, 874 P.2d 739 (1994). NRAP 4(a)(6) provides that a premature notice of appeal does not divest the district court of jurisdiction and the "court

may dismiss as premature a notice of appeal filed before entry of the written disposition of the last-remaining timely motion listed in Rule 4(a)(4)."

The Nevada Supreme Court clarified the procedure when a notice of appeal is filed before a timely Rule 52(b) motion in Foster v. Dingwall, 126 Nev. 49, 52–53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010). There, the Court held that "In considering such motions, the district court has jurisdiction to direct briefing on the motion, hold a hearing regarding the motion, and enter an order denying the motion, but lacks jurisdiction to enter an order granting such a motion." Id. If the Court is inclined to grant the 52(b) Motion, the Court may "certify its intent to do so." 126 Nev. at 53, 228 P.3d at 455. "At that point, it would be appropriate for the moving party to file a motion (to which the district court's certification of its intent to grant relief is attached) with [the Nevada Supreme Court] seeking a remand to the district court for entry of an order granting the requested relief." Id.; see, e.g., Cottonwood Homeowners Ass'n, Inc. v. Holland, 128 Nev. 890, 381 P.3d 604 (2012) (Table).

Even though the Lytle Trust already filed a Notice of Appeal of the Second Fees Order, Plaintiffs have timely filed this Rule 52(b) Motion. The Notice of Appeal cannot be used to circumvent the Plaintiffs' rights to seek such relief. This Court is not divested of jurisdiction. The Court may direct briefing, hold a hearing, and enter an order denying the motion or certify to the Nevada Supreme Court that it would grant the motion should the Second Fees Order be remanded. Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court do so.

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99E100 Christensen James & Martin 7440 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Ph: (702) 255-1718 § Fax: (702) 255-0871

IV.

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, the Second Fees Order should be amended to state that the attorney's fees on appeal are granted, or, in the alternative, additional findings of fact and conclusions of law should be provided regarding the denial so that the Plaintiffs have a clear record on appeal. If the Court is inclined to grant this relief, it may so certify in accordance with *Foster v. Dingwall*, 126 Nev. 49, 52–53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010).

DATED this 8th day of September, 2020.

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: <u>/s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq.</u>
Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11871
Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist
Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On September 8, 2020, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B), to be served in the following manner:

ELECTRONIC SERVICE: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

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/s/ Natalie Saville

Natalie Saville

Electronically Filed

9/22/2020 4:15 PM

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112358985.2

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

INTRODUCTION

I.

Plaintiffs' Motion asks this Court to change its mind—i.e., instead of denying Plaintiffs' request for fees incurred on appeal, Plaintiffs ask the Court to reconsider and grant those fees on top of the \$76,304.67 the Court already granted. Such is just a disguised and untimely motion for reconsideration regarding what Plaintiffs' defined as the Second Fees Order.

Alternatively, Plaintiffs ask the Court to explain its ruling more carefully even though competing orders were submitted and the Court signed the exact order submitted by Plaintiffs. In other words, Plaintiffs want the Court to clarify the order that Plaintiffs themselves drafted.

This Court's Second Fees Order is already on appeal. The Court no longer has jurisdiction over the matter. As such, the only thing the Court can and should do with Plaintiffs' Motion (under NRCP 62.1 and *Dingwall*) is deny it.

II.

LEGAL ARGUMENT

A. Plaintiffs Rely On The Dissent In An Unpublished Opinion That Cannot Be Cited "For Any Purpose" and, in Any Event, Misconstrue What The Unpublished Dissent Says

Plaintiffs' counsel is very competent and ethical. He just got this one wrong and he'll likely be the first to acknowledge such in Plaintiffs' reply brief. In that case, the undersigned does not wish to make a bigger deal of this issue than to ensure the Court is not misled.

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In a trifecta of error, Plaintiffs:

Plaintiffs cite Elwardt v. Elwardt, No. 69638, 2017 WL 2591349, *2 (Nev. Ct. App. June 9, 2017) and, to their credit, Plaintiffs identify it as an "(unpublished opinion)." (Mtn. at 6:11-12). Plaintiffs suggest *Elwardt* held that "[t]he long-standing rule in Nevada is that attorney fees *should* be awarded when authorized by statute, rule, or agreement." (Id. at 6:9-11, emphases added).

- **(1)** Cite to an unpublished disposition of the Nevada Court of Appeals even though NRAP 36(c)(3) provides that, except in very limited circumstances not present here, "unpublished dispositions issued by the Court of Appeals may not be cited in any Nevada court for any purpose,"
- Cite to the *dissenting* opinion in the unpublished disposition and do so without (2) noting such, and
- (3) Misstate what the dissenting opinion in the unpublished disposition said. More particularly, citing *Elwardt*, Plaintiffs assert that the "long-standing rule in Nevada" is that fees "should be awarded" when authorized by contract, statute, or rule; however, what the dissenting opinion in the unpublished disposition actually and correctly said was that "[t]he long-standing rule in Nevada is that attorney fees cannot be awarded" unless authorized by contract, statute, or rule.

Again, the undersigned believes Plaintiffs' counsel will acknowledge the foregoing errors and the Lytle Trust does not seek anything other than to ensure the Court is not misled.

Plaintiffs' Motion To Amend Is A Disguised, Untimely Motion for Reconsideration В.

Plaintiffs filed "a motion for reconsideration disguised as a motion to amend a non-existent judgment." Rosen v. Cross, 2013 WL 12130007, at *2 (C.D. Cal. 2013). "It is well established that a party may not avoid both the filing deadlines of a motion for reconsideration and the legal requirements of such a motion by disguising such [as] . . . another motion." State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Mallela, 2002 WL 31946762, at *14 (E.D.N.Y. 2002).

The label a party places on its motion does not control. "A motion must be interpreted by its substance rather than by its style or form; that is, the court is required to look at the motion's nature, or substance or the relief sought, not the motion's title, label, or caption." 56 Am. Jur. 2d

Here, Plaintiffs clearly seek reconsideration of the Court's ruling because they make the same arguments and cite the same cases as in their underlying motion for fees, apparently hoping that Judge Williams will find them more convincing the second time around:

Motions, Rules, and Orders § 3; see also, Nevada Power v. Eighth Judicial Dist. Ct., 120 Nev.

From the Underlying Motion for Fees

"[C]ontract provisions for attorney's fees include an award of fees for successfully bringing or defending an appeal. See Musso v. Binick, 104 Nev. 613, 614–15, 764 P.2d 477, 477 (1988) (holding that a contractual provision awarding attorney fees to a prevailing party in the event of litigation included appellate attorney fees); See also WMCV Phase 3, LLC v. Shushok & McCov, Inc., 2015 WL 1000373, (D. Nev. * 2) ("In Musso v. Binick, the Nevada Supreme Court unequivocally held that a respondent was entitled to attorneys' fees, pursuant to a contractual provision, for costs incurred in defending an appeal and filing post-appeal motions" (citations omitted)). "Parties are free to provide for attorney fees by express contractual provisions." Davis v. Beling, 278 P.3d 501, 515 (Nev. 2012) (citing Musso v. Binick, 764 P.2d at 477.) "The Nevada Supreme Court has acknowledged that attorney fees award made pursuant to contract includes fees incurred on appeal." In re Estate & Living Trust of Miller, 216 P.3d 239, 243 (Nev. 2009) (citing Musso, 764 P.2d at 477–78)."

Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs (filed 5/26/20) at 17:4-15.

From the Instant Motion to "Amend"

"Contract provisions for attorney's fees include an award of fees for successfully bringing or defending an appeal. See Musso v. Binick, 104 Nev. 613, 614-15, 764 P.2d 477, 477 (1988) (holding that a contractual provision awarding attorney fees to a prevailing party in the event of litigation included appellate attorney fees); See also WMCV Phase 3, LLC v. Shushok & McCov, Inc., 2015 WL 1000373, (D. Nev. *2) ("In Musso v. Binick, the Nevada Supreme Court unequivocally held that a respondent was entitled to attorneys' fees, pursuant to a contractual provision, for costs incurred in defending an appeal and filing post-appeal motions" (citations omitted)). "Parties are free to provide for attorney fees by express contractual provisions." Davis v. Beling, 278 P.3d 501, 515 (Nev. 2012) (citing Musso v. Binick, 764 P.2d at 477.) "The Nevada Supreme Court has acknowledged that attorney fees award made pursuant to contract includes fees incurred on appeal." In re Estate & Living Trust of Miller, 216 P.3d 239, 243 (Nev. 2009) (citing Musso, 764 P.2d at 477-78)."

Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting In Part and Denying In Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) (filed 9/8/20) at 6:13-25.

Additionally, Plaintiffs also offered the following argument then and now:

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| From the Underlying Motion for Fees | From the Instant Motion to "Amend" |
|---|--|
| "This Court also awarded fees and costs to the Dismans, Boulden, and Lamothe in the Disman Fees Order and Boulden Lamothe Fees Order. There, this Court awarded attorney's fees and costs under Section 25 of the Original CC&Rs." | "[T]his Court awarded Boulden, Lamothe and the Dismans their attorney's fees and costs, including their fees and costs on appeal, pursuant to Paragraph 25 of the Original CC&Rs." |
| <i>Id.</i> at 6:20-22. | <i>Id.</i> at 7:3-5. |

"Only in very rare instances in which new issues of fact or law are raised supporting a ruling contrary to the ruling already reached should a motion for rehearing be granted." *Moore v*. City of Las Vegas, 92 Nev. 402, 405, 551 P.2d 244, 246 (1976). This is not such a case.

Here, Plaintiffs admit they brought their Motion "to request that the Court grant instead of <u>deny</u> fees and costs incurred on appeal." (Mtn. at 4:21-22, emphases added). Indeed, Plaintiffs further admit that the order they drafted and the Court signed was "consistent with the [Court's] Minutes" and that the relief they seek now "would have directly contradicted what was in the Minutes." (Mtn. at n.2). In short, Plaintiffs' don't like this Court's ruling and want the Court to reconsider the ruling and reverse itself, i.e., "grant instead of deny" the requested fees on appeal.

Plaintiffs' remedy, if they didn't like the ruling, was to appeal, not to ask the Court to reconsider under the guise of a Rule 52(b) motion to amend. However, Plaintiffs are no doubt forced to creatively characterize their Motion as one under Rule 52(b) because the mandatory 14day deadline for a motion for reconsideration expired long ago. See EDCR 2.24(b). More specifically, Plaintiffs correctly note that they served the Notice of Entry of Order regarding the Second Fees Order on August 11. Thus, the deadline to file a motion for reconsideration expired on August 25. See NRCP 6(a)(1). Yet, Plaintiffs did not file their instant Motion until September 8—two weeks too late for a motion for reconsideration.

C. Plaintiffs' Motion Is Not A Rule 52(b) Motion To Amend

The corollary to the conclusion that Plaintiffs' Motion IS a motion for reconsideration is that it IS NOT a Rule 52(b) Motion to Amend. Case law construing the federal counterpart to NRCP 52(b) is clear.

"Rule 52(b) is not a vehicle for relitigating losing arguments" Villalobos v. New York Div. of Parole, 2012 WL 4040218, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. 2012); accord, Borgwarner Diversified Transmission Prod., Inc. v. United Auto., Aerospace, & Agric. Implement Workers of Am., Local No. 287, 2008 WL 4724283, at *1 (S.D. Ind. 2008) ("Rule 52(b) is not a vehicle to obtain a rehearing or to relitigate old matters."); Wound Care Centers, Inc. v. Catalane, 2011 WL 3476612, at *2 (W.D. Pa. 2011) ("A Rule 52(b) motion is not a vehicle for relitigation of issues previously adjudicated.").

Here, Plaintiffs offer the same arguments and the same authorities that the Court already heard and rejected. Changing now would be arbitrary and reward Plaintiffs' "second bite at the apple." Again, if Plaintiffs were not happy with this Court's ruling, they could have filed a timely motion for reconsideration; but they didn't—or, appeal; but they haven't. What they cannot do, however, is file a fatally late motion asking this Court to reconsider and reverse itself under the guise of a Rule 52(b) motion.

D. The Lytle Trust's Notice of Appeal Was Not Premature

Pursuant to NRAP 4(a)(1), a Notice of Appeal ("NOA") "must be filed . . . no later than 30 days after the date that written notice of entry of the . . order appealed from is served." Plaintiffs provided Notice of Entry of this Court's Order granting attorney fees and costs on August 11, 2020. Therefore, the Lytle Trust could file its NOA any time in the 30-day period between August 11 and September 10. The Lytle Trust filed its NOA on August 21, which is squarely within the authorized range, i.e., it was neither premature nor late.

E. The Court Has Very Limited Jurisdiction Under *Dingwall*

Plaintiffs rely on *Foster v. Dingwall*, 126 Nev. 49, 52-53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010) for the unique procedure that must be followed when a NOA is filed before a timely Rule 52(b) motion. Coincidentally, the undersigned represented Terry Dingwall in that case. Under *Dingwall*, the timely filing of a NOA divests the district court of jurisdiction regarding most matters, including *all* matters related to the subject of the appeal:

[W]hen an appeal is perfected, the district court is divested of jurisdiction to revisit issues that are pending before this court, [but] the district court retains jurisdiction to enter orders on matters that are collateral to and independent from the appealed order, *i.e.*, matters that in no way affect the appeal's merits.

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126 Nev. at 52, 228 P.3d at 455 (quoting *Mack-Manley v. Manley*, 122 Nev. 849, 855, 138 P.3d 525, 529-30 (2006)).

Here, there is no doubt that (1) the Lytle Trust timely perfected its appeal from the Second Fees Order, and (2) the current Motion asks this Court to "revisit issues that are pending before" the Nevada Supreme Court. Accordingly, under the *Dingwall* procedure, which the Nevada Supreme Court subsequently codified in NRCP 62.1, this Court has three options: "(1) defer considering the motion; (2) deny the motion; or (3) state either that it would grant the motion if the appellate court remands for that purpose or that the motion raises a substantial issue." *See* NRCP 62.1(a). Note, the Court has no jurisdiction to grant the Motion. And, if the Court states an intent under (3) above, then "[t]he movant must promptly notify the clerk of the supreme court under NRAP 12A if the district court states that it would grant the motion or that the motion raises a substantial issue." *See* NRCP 62.1(b).

For the reasons set forth above, the Court should deny the Motion. The purpose for the unique procedure set forth in *Dingwall* (and NRCP 62.1) is presumably to eliminate an appeal by allowing the district court to correct its alleged error. Here, the Lytle Trust has already appealed the Second Fees Order—if this Court now changes its mind and awards *more* fees, such won't eliminate the existing appeal, it will instead *expand* the existing appeal. The Motion should be denied.

F. Plaintiffs' Alleged Internal Inconsistency Within the Second Fees Order Is Reconcilable

Although the Lytle Trust is willing to give Plaintiffs a "pass" on their citation to and reliance upon the dissenting opinion in the unpublished disposition of *Elwardt v. Elwardt*, the Lytle Trust is not willing to overlook Plaintiffs' intentional effort to dupe this Court into signing the Order it signed. And, Plaintiffs did so for the very purpose of trying to now plateau bargain the Court into awarding Plaintiffs more fees than the \$76,304.67 already awarded. The very issues raised in Plaintiffs' Motion were previously discussed by counsel before competing orders were submitted.

Plaintiffs' counsel and the undersigned worked to narrow the areas of disagreement on the proposed order and, ultimately, the only remaining area of dispute was whether to include

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Conclusions of Law 3-5. Plaintiffs insisted they be included. The undersigned suggested they were not necessary and that adding those Conclusions, in conjunction with the agreed-upon Conclusions, only served to insert confusion and ambiguity into the proposed order. Indeed, by way of email to Plaintiffs' counsel dated July 24, 2020, the undersigned suggested removing Conclusions 3-5:

Removing Conclusions 3-5 don't eliminate your ability to make any of your arguments [on appeal]. But it seems that your Conclusions 3-5 are an artful attempt to undermine Judge William' express denial of appellate fees and to set him up for reversal on that issue. I believe that judges trust drafting counsel to do otherwise. I respectfully believe your remedy lies in an appeal or reconsideration.

(See Email (7/24/20) from Dan R. Waite to Wesley Smith, attached hereto as Ex. A).

Even though Plaintiffs insisted that Conclusions 3-5 be included in their proposed Order (and these Conclusions were NOT included in the Lytle Trust's competing Order), the Plaintiffs now suggest the very Order they drafted and submitted (and induced Judge Williams to sign) is internally inconsistent. See Mtn. at 7:10-15. The Court should soak this in for a moment— Plaintiffs draft and submit a proposed order they believe is internally inconsistent (i.e., subject to reversal on appeal) and don't bring it to the Court's attention until after he signs it. That's a sandbag of the judge.1

As predicted by the Lytle Trust's undersigned counsel, including Conclusions 3-5 interjects potential confusion, ambiguity, and even potential inconsistency into the Second Fees Order. These were some of the very reasons the Lytle Trust suggested to Plaintiffs that Conclusions 3-5 should not be included in the Order, and were the reasons the Lytle Trust submitted a competing Order without Conclusions 3-5.

First, if the Court does anything in response to the Motion, it should amend the Second Fees Order to eliminate Conclusions 3-5 (or, under *Dingwall*/NRCP 62.1, certify its intent to do so

See Pearson v. Pearson, 110 Nev. 293, 297, 871 P.2d 343, 345 (1994): "The doctrine of 'invited error' embodies the principle that a party will not be heard to complain on appeal of errors which he himself induced or provoked the court or the opposite party to commit. It has been held that for the doctrine of invited error to apply it is sufficient that the party who on appeal complains of the error has contributed to it. In most cases application of the doctrine has been based on affirmative conduct inducing the action complained of, but occasionally a failure to act has been referred to."

if the case were remanded). Second, however, the alleged inconsistencies within the Second Fees Order are reconcilable.

Although it is undisputed that "[t]he Original CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery" (Finding of Fact No. 3 in Second Fees Order), such does not mean the Original CC&Rs were the basis for awarding fees here. Indeed, the Second Fees Order includes the following:

<u>Conclusion of Law #6</u>: "NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that [the statute is then quoted]. This Court based the First Fees Award on NRS 18.010(2) and *does so again now as a basis for awarding additional fees.*" (Emphasis added).

<u>Conclusion of Law #7</u>: "NRS 22.100(3) provides a basis for awarding fees associated with the contempt proceedings *in this case*." (Emphasis added).

In short, even though the Original CC&Rs contain an attorney fee provision and, thus, the Court correctly found (Finding #3) that such provides a basis for an award of fees in the proper case (like when the Court awarded fees to the Lamothe/Boulden and Disman parties in their respective cases), this is not such a case. The Lytle Trust has previously detailed how this case differs from the Lamothe/Boulden and Disman cases and such will not be repeated here, except to note that those differences explain why an award of fees to them under the Original CC&Rs was appropriate but that awarding fees under that same provision on the separate facts, separate claims, and separate issues involved in this case is not appropriate. *See* Defendant Lytle Trust's Opp. to Plaintiffs' Mtn for Attorney's Fees & Costs (filed 6/9/20) at 8:1-12:13. It is also worth repeating that when this Court (Judge Bailus) awarded fees to these Plaintiffs in 2018 (First Fees Order), *he did so only on the basis of NRS 18.010(2) and not on the basis of the Original CC&Rs, even though Plaintiffs argued then, as now, that they should recover fees under the Original CC&Rs.*

If this Court awarded fees in the Second Fees Award on the basis of NRS 18.010(2) and NRS 22.100(3), as this Court expressly stated in the Second Fees Award at Conclusions Nos. 6 and 7, then such completely reconciles this Court's award of fees to Plaintiffs in the total amount of \$76,304.67, while contemporaneously "den[ying] any charges related to the appeal" See Second Fees Award at Conclusion #14. More specifically, if the Court did <u>not</u> award fees on the basis of the Original CC&Rs but instead awarded them on the basis of NRS 18.010(2), consistent with Judge Bailus's First Fee Award, then the denial of fees to Plaintiffs for the appeal was not

just proper, it was required. Indeed, the following argument from Plaintiffs' motion for fees (that resulted in the Second Fees Award) is revealing:

The decision to award attorneys' fees is left to the sound discretion of the district court. Flamingo Realty, Inc. v. Midwest Dev., Inc., 879 P.2d 69, 73–74 (Nev. 1994). However, NRS 18.010(2) does not authorize an award of appellate attorney fees. Bd. of Gallery of History, Inc. v. Datecs Corp., 116 Nev. 286, 288, 994 P.2d 1149, 1150 (2000) (holding that NRS 18.010(2) does not provide for an award of attorney fees on appeal); Bobby Berosini, 114 Nev. at 1356–57, 971 P.2d at 388 (same).

See Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs (filed 5/26/20) at 16:25-17:4, emphasis added.

Based on the foregoing, there is no internal inconsistency within the Second Fees Order if the Court (1) awarded the contempt fees on the basis of the contempt statute (NRS 22.100(3)), as it undoubtedly did, and (2) awarded all other fees on the basis of NRS 18.010(2), and, not under the Original CC&Rs.

III.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, the Court should DENY the Motion.

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2020.

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: /s/ Dan R. Waite

DAN R. WAITE (SBN 4078)
3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169
(702) 949-8200

Attorneys for Defendant Lytle Trust

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

| Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that on this day, I caused a true and correct copy of the |
|--|
| following "DEFENDANT LYTLE TRUST'S OPPOSITION TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO |
| AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION |
| FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B)" to be e-filed and |
| served via the Court's E-Filing System. |
| |

Kevin B. Christensen Wesley J. Smith Laura J. Wolff

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Attorneys for Intervenors September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Gegen

Christina H. Wang

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8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120

Las Vegas, NV 89113 christina.wang@fnf.com

Attorneys for Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman

Dated this 22nd day of September, 2020

<u>/s/ Luz Horvath</u>

An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

EXHIBIT A

From: Waite, Dan R. <DWaite@Irrc.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 9:28 AM

To: Wesley Smith
Cc: Laura Wolff

Subject: RE: A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Order Granting/Denying Plaintiffs'

Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs

Wes,

I too appreciate the effort and mutual attempt to resolve Judge Williams' Minute Order. The fact is that the Minute Order may be ambiguous or, at worst, inconsistent. As between those two choices, the law requires an interpretation that reconciles ambiguities and avoids an inconsistent result. Judge Williams made a general statement that "the Court finds the CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery" and made a specific statement that "[t]he Court also denies any charges related to the appeal." I reconcile these statements in at least two ways. First, the Minute Order may have an omission and perhaps was intended to provide that "the Court finds the CC&Rs do not provide a basis for attorney fee recovery." You argued for an award under NRS 18 and the contempt statute and the fees you were awarded may have been awarded on those bases. I realize that you could say that, if there's a typo, the typo was in the Court's denial of your appellate fees, but the Court's math suggests otherwise, i.e., the Court's math is additional evidence that Judge Williams intended not to award fees for the appeal. Second, it is undisputed that the CC&RS do provide a basis for an attorney's fee recovery in the appropriate case, this just isn't one of them. Either of these interpretations remove the ambiguity and avoid an inconsistent ruling. Otherwise, the foregoing two statements from the Minute Order are at odds. Lastly, if ambiguity or inconsistency exists, I'm sure you're familiar with the rule that the specific controls over the general.

Let me turnabout and ask how you reconcile the Minute Order, i.e., how do you explain Judge Williams' clear denial of your appellate fees with his finding that the CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery? And, for the CC&R fee provision to be applicable, what CC&R provision did this action seek to enforce or restrain a violation of? Indeed, the inability for anyone (you, me, or Judge Williams—three pretty smart fellows) to identify any CC&R provision that this action sought to enforce or restrain a violation of is itself a compelling argument that it wasn't. I believe Judge Williams recognized that and either misspoke in the Minute Order or stated a general proposition that cannot be denied.

Wes, I'm sure you were very disappointed and perhaps even surprised that Judge Williams denied your appellate fees (trust me, I was there following the contempt hearing). And, if you are disappointed enough and feel the ruling is erroneous enough (as we felt about the contempt order) then no one will fault you for filing an appeal where you can make all your arguments. Removing Conclusions 3-5 don't eliminate your ability to make any of your arguments. But it seems that your Conclusions 3-5 are an artful attempt to undermine Judge Williams' express denial of appellate fees and to set him up for reversal on that issue. I believe that judges trust drafting counsel to do otherwise. I respectfully believe your remedy lies in an appeal or reconsideration. Please reconsider. Thank Wes,

Dan

Dan R. Waite

Partner 702.474.2638 office 702.949.8398 fax dwaite@Irrc.com



Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Irrc.com

From: Wesley Smith <wes@cjmlv.com>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Waite, Dan R. <DWaite@Irrc.com>
Cc: Laura Wolff <ljw@cjmlv.com>

Subject: Re: A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Order Granting/Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees

and Costs

[EXTERNAL]

Dan,

I appreciate the effort here. Regarding the lengthy comment and Conclusions 3-5, you must agree that the Court expressly stated in its minute order that "As noted at the July 7, 2020 hearing, the Court finds the CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery." How do you reconcile your comments with the Court's legal conclusion? In other words, if the Court did not determine that the CC&Rs were applicable to the fees question (and by extension, did not determine that this case involved enforcement or restraint of violation of the CC&Rs), and did not determine that the Lytle Trust was the losing party under the CC&Rs, then how could it reach the conclusion that the CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery? Indeed, that is the only basis for fee recovery stated in the minute order. So you can't be saying that the Court is not awarding fees and costs under the CC&Rs. Declining to award fees for the appeal does not change this...that decision is not explained in any way, in the minute order or at the hearing, so it is impossible to infer the Court's reason for that decision.

Wes Smith

Christensen James & Martin 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Tel. (702) 255-1718 Fax (702) 255-0871 wes@cjmlv.com

Disclaimer - This email and any files transmitted are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

From: Waite, Dan R. < <u>DWaite@Irrc.com</u>>
Sent: Friday, July 24, 2020 6:15 AM
To: Wesley Smith < <u>wes@cjmlv.com</u>>
Cc: Laura Wolff < <u>ljw@cjmlv.com</u>>

^{*} Licensed in Nevada, Washington & Utah

Subject: RE: A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Order Granting/Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs

Good morning Wes,

Attached are my further comments. I agreed to all your revised Findings and some of your revised Conclusions. I'll apologize in advance for a very long comment associated with Conclusions 3-5, which I think is the only remaining area of disagreement (but I hope you'll agree with the rationale of my comment and we can submit this order to the court as a jointly proposed order). Thanks,

Dan

Dan R. Waite

Partner 702.474.2638 office 702.949.8398 fax dwaite@Irrc.com

Lewis Roca

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Irrc.com

From: Wesley Smith < wes@cjmlv.com > Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Waite, Dan R. < DWaite@Irrc.com > Cc: Laura Wolff < ljw@cjmlv.com >

Subject: Re: A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Order Granting/Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees

and Costs

[EXTERNAL]

Dan,

Attached are my responses to your revisions. If you no longer see your revision, it means I accepted the change. Otherwise, I've made further edits or provided an explanation.

Wes Smith

Christensen James & Martin 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Tel. (702) 255-1718 Fax (702) 255-0871 wes@cjmlv.com

^{*} Licensed in Nevada, Washington & Utah

Disclaimer - This email and any files transmitted are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

From: Waite, Dan R. < <u>DWaite@Irrc.com</u>>
Sent: Wednesday, July 22, 2020 1:20 PM
To: Wesley Smith < <u>wes@cjmlv.com</u>>
Cc: Laura Wolff < <u>ljw@cjmlv.com</u>>

Subject: RE: A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Order Granting/Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees

and Costs

Hey Wes,

Attached is a redline with my proposed changes and comments. Please let me know if you want to jump on the phone to discuss anything. Thanks again,

Dan

Dan R. Waite

Partner 702.474.2638 office 702.949.8398 fax dwaite@Irrc.com

Lewis Roca

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 <u>Irrc.com</u>

From: Waite, Dan R.

Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:37 PM **To:** Wesley Smith < wes@cjmlv.com > **Cc:** Laura Wolff < ljw@cjmlv.com >

Subject: RE: A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Order Granting/Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees

and Costs

Thanks Wes and will do.

Dan

Dan R. Waite

Partner 702.474.2638 office 702.949.8398 fax dwaite@Irrc.com



Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 From: Wesley Smith < wes@cjmlv.com > Sent: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:25 PM
To: Waite, Dan R. < DWaite@Irrc.com > Cc: Laura Wolff < ljw@cjmlv.com >

Subject: A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Order Granting/Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and

Costs

[EXTERNAL]

Dan,

Attached is a draft proposed order on Plaintiffs' Motion for Fees and Costs. Please let me know if you approve or have proposed changes.

Wes Smith

Christensen James & Martin 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Tel. (702) 255-1718 Fax (702) 255-0871 wes@cjmlv.com

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^{*} Licensed in Nevada, Washington & Utah

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001385

3993 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Suite 600

as Vegas, NV 89169-5996

112404054.2

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

After the Lytle Trust filed its Opposition to Plaintiffs' pending Motion to Amend, et al., on September 22, 2020, it received a copy of the transcript from the July 7, 2020, hearing where the Court resolved Plaintiffs' motion for fees. It is the Court's order resulting from that hearing that Plaintiffs now seek to amend. Based on that transcript, the Lytle Trust supplements Section II(F) of its previously filed Opposition. For continuity, Section F is reproduced below in its entirety, with the supplemented information reflected in *bold italics*:

. . . .

F. Plaintiffs' Alleged Internal Inconsistency Within the Second Fees Order Is Reconcilable

Although the Lytle Trust is willing to give Plaintiffs a "pass" on their citation to and reliance upon the dissenting opinion in the unpublished disposition of *Elwardt v. Elwardt*, the Lytle Trust is not willing to overlook Plaintiffs' intentional effort to dupe this Court into signing the Order it signed. And, Plaintiffs did so for the very purpose of trying to now plateau bargain the Court into awarding Plaintiffs more fees than the \$76,304.67 already awarded. The very issues raised in Plaintiffs' Motion were previously discussed by counsel before competing orders were submitted.

Plaintiffs' counsel and the undersigned worked to narrow the areas of disagreement on the proposed order and, ultimately, the only remaining area of dispute was whether to include Conclusions of Law 3-5. <u>Plaintiffs insisted they be included</u>. The undersigned suggested they

were not necessary and that adding those Conclusions, in conjunction with the agreed-upon Conclusions, only served to insert confusion and ambiguity into the proposed order. Indeed, by way of email to Plaintiffs' counsel dated July 24, 2020, the undersigned suggested removing Conclusions 3-5:

Removing Conclusions 3-5 don't eliminate your ability to make any of your arguments [on appeal]. But it seems that your Conclusions 3-5 are an artful attempt to undermine Judge William' express denial of appellate fees and to set him up for reversal on that issue. I believe that judges trust drafting counsel to do otherwise. I respectfully believe your remedy lies in an appeal or reconsideration.

(See Email (7/24/20) from Dan R. Waite to Wesley Smith, attached hereto as Ex. A).

Even though Plaintiffs insisted that Conclusions 3-5 be included in their proposed Order (and these Conclusions were NOT included in the Lytle Trust's competing Order), the Plaintiffs now suggest the very Order they drafted and submitted (and induced Judge Williams to sign) is internally inconsistent. *See* Mtn. at 7:10-15. The Court should soak this in for a moment—Plaintiffs draft and submit a proposed order they believe is internally inconsistent (i.e., subject to reversal on appeal) and don't bring it to the Court's attention until after he signs it. That's a sandbag of the judge.¹

As predicted by the Lytle Trust's undersigned counsel, including Conclusions 3-5 interjects potential confusion, ambiguity, and even *potential* inconsistency into the Second Fees Order. These were some of the very reasons the Lytle Trust suggested to Plaintiffs that Conclusions 3-5 should not be included in the Order, and were the reasons the Lytle Trust submitted a competing Order without Conclusions 3-5.

First, if the Court does anything in response to the Motion, it should amend the Second Fees Order to eliminate Conclusions 3-5 (or, under *Dingwall*/NRCP 62.1, certify its intent to do so if the case were remanded). Second, however, the alleged inconsistencies within the Second Fees Order are reconcilable.

See Pearson v. Pearson, 110 Nev. 293, 297, 871 P.2d 343, 345 (1994): "The doctrine of 'invited error' embodies the principle that a party will not be heard to complain on appeal of errors which he himself induced or provoked the court or the opposite party to commit. It has been held that for the doctrine of invited error to apply it is sufficient that the party who on appeal complains of the error has contributed to it. In most cases application of the doctrine has been based on affirmative conduct inducing the action complained of, but occasionally a failure to act has been referred to."

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Conclusion of Law #6: "NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that [the statute is then quoted]. This Court based the First Fees Award on NRS 18.010(2) and does so again now as a basis for awarding additional fees." (Emphasis added).

Conclusion of Law #7: "NRS 22.100(3) provides a basis for awarding fees associated with the contempt proceedings in this case." (Emphasis added).

In short, even though the Original CC&Rs contain an attorney fee provision and, thus, the Court correctly found (Finding #3) that such provides a basis for an award of fees in the proper case (like when the Court awarded fees to the Lamothe/Boulden and Disman parties in their respective cases), this is not such a case. The Lytle Trust has previously detailed how this case differs from the Lamothe/Boulden and Disman cases and such will not be repeated here, except to note that those differences explain why an award of fees to them under the Original CC&Rs was appropriate but that awarding fees under that same provision on the separate facts, separate claims, and separate issues involved in this case is not appropriate. See Defendant Lytle Trust's Opp. to Plaintiffs' Mtn for Attorney's Fees & Costs (filed 6/9/20) at 8:1-12:13. It is also worth repeating that when this Court (Judge Bailus) awarded fees to these Plaintiffs in 2018 (First Fees Order), he did so only on the basis of NRS 18.010(2) and not on the basis of the Original CC&Rs, even though Plaintiffs argued then, as now, that they should recover fees under the Original CC&Rs.

If this Court awarded fees in the Second Fees Award on the basis of NRS 18.010(2) and NRS 22.100(3), as this Court expressly stated in the Second Fees Award at Conclusions Nos. 6 and 7, then such completely reconciles this Court's award of fees to Plaintiffs in the total amount of \$76,304.67, while contemporaneously "den[ying] any charges related to the appeal " See Second Fees Award at Conclusion #14. More specifically, if the Court did *not* award fees on the basis of the Original CC&Rs but instead awarded them on the basis of NRS 18.010(2), consistent with Judge Bailus's First Fee Award, then the denial of fees to Plaintiffs for the appeal was not just proper, it was required. Indeed, the following argument from Plaintiffs' motion for fees (that resulted in the Second Fees Award) is revealing:

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The decision to award attorneys' fees is left to the sound discretion of the district court. Flamingo Realty, Inc. v. Midwest Dev., Inc., 879 P.2d 69, 73-74 (Nev. 1994). However, NRS 18.010(2) does not authorize an award of appellate attorney fees. Bd. of Gallery of History, Inc. v. Datecs Corp., 116 Nev. 286, 288, 994 P.2d 1149, 1150 (2000) (holding that NRS 18.010(2) does not provide for an award of attorney fees on appeal); *Bobby Berosini*, 114 Nev. at 1356–57, 971 P.2d at 388 (same).

See Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs (filed 5/26/20) at 16:25-17:4, emphasis added.

Finally, there can be no doubt that this Court did NOT award fees on the basis of the original CC&Rs, as evidenced by the Court's comments at the end of the July 7, 2020, hearing. There, the Court heard Plaintiffs' underlying motion for fees, which its current Motion seeks to amend. More specifically, the Court stated:

As far as the appeal itself, I guess, there's two issues there. I don't see how I can award it under [NRS] Chapter 18. I guess at the end of the day it comes down to the application of the provision under the CC&Rs. I'm going to take one last quick look at it. . . . I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the

awarded under the CC&Rs. So, the Court took the matter under advisement. Later that same day, the Court issued its Minute Order denying the Plaintiffs' request for fees on appeal. Presumably, the Court did exactly what it said it was going to do—i.e., look at the issue in light of the original CC&Rs—and determined that it could not award (or, would not award) fees under the original CC&Rs because the Minute Order stated: "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal." Thus, even though the original CC&Rs could be the basis for awarding fees in a particular case, they were not the basis for the Court's award of fees here.

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Based on the foregoing, there is no internal inconsistency within the Second Fees Order if the Court (1) awarded the contempt fees on the basis of the contempt statute (NRS 22.100(3)), as it undoubtedly did, and (2) awarded all other fees on the basis of NRS 18.010(2), and, not under the Original CC&Rs.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2020.

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: /s/ Dan R. Waite

DAN R. WAITE (SBN 4078)
3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600
Las Vegas, Nevada 89169
(702) 949-8200

Attorneys for Defendant Lytle Trust

| | | CERT | IFICATE C | OF SERVICE | | | |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|--------|-------------------|-------------|
| Pur | rsuant to NRCP 5(| b), I certif | y that on thi | s day, I caused a tr | rue ar | nd correct copy o | f the |
| following | "DEFENDANT | LYTLE | TRUST'S | <u>SUPPLEMENT</u> | TO | <i>OPPOSITION</i> | TO |
| PLAINTII | FFS' MOTION T | O AMENI | D ORDER | GRANTING IN P | ART | AND DENYING | i IN |
| PART PL | AINTIFFS' MOT | ION FOR | R ATTORNA | EY'S FEES AND | cos | TS PURSUANT | ' <i>TO</i> |
| NRCP 52(| (B) " to be e-filed ar | nd served v | via the Court | 's E-Filing System. | | | |
| | Christensen | | | | | | |
| Wesley J. S | | | | | | | |
| Laura J. W | oiti isen James & Mai | TINI | | | | | |
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| _ | for Intervenors Sep | tember Tri | ust. | | | | |
| | ust, Sandoval Trust | | | egen | | | |
| Christina H | H. Wang | | | | | | |
| FIDELITY 1 | NATIONAL LAW G | ROUP | | | | | |
| 8363 W. S | unset Road, Suite 1 | 20 | | | | | |
| _ | , NV 89113 | | | | | | |
| | ang@fnf.com | | | | | | |
| Attorneys f | for Robert Z. Dismo | an and Yvo | onne A. Dism | nan | | | |
| Dat | ted this 28 th day of | September | r, 2020 | | | | |

/s/ Luz Horvath
An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

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CASE NO. A-16-747800-C
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  DEPT. 16
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                         DISTRICT COURT
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                      CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
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   MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST,
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              Plaintiff,
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         vs.
   LYTLE TRUST,
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               Defendant.
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                     REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT
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                               OF
                             HEARING
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        BEFORE THE HONORABLE JUDGE TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS
                     DISTRICT COURT JUDGE
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                  DATED TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020
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   REPORTED BY: PEGGY ISOM, RMR, NV CCR #541
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   APPEARANCES:
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   FOR THE PLAINTIFF:
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           CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN
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           WES@CJMLV.COM
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   FOR THE DEFENDANT:
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           BY: DAN WAITE, ESQ.
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1 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA; TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2020 2 9:36 A.M.

PROCEEDINGS

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THE COURT: Okay. We're going to move on.

Next up page 9. We'll go back to the Marjorie B.

Boulden Trust versus Trudi Lytle matter. Let's go

ahead and place our appearances on the record. We'll

MR. SMITH: Wesley Smith for the plaintiffs.

THE COURT: Who else?

THE COURT CLERK: We have Mr. Dan Waite.

start first with the plaintiff and move to the defense.

MS. WANG: Christina Wang on behalf of Robert and Yvonne Disman.

MR. WAITE: Good morning, your Honor. Your Honor. Dan Waite on behalf of the defendants Lytle Trust. I do have one matter before we get started, your Honor, that I'd like to place on the record that arises because of something that occurred at last Thursday's hearing when I tried to make an objection that because of the limitations of the BlueJeans systems, I don't think I was ever heard and it was never ruled upon. And in anticipation if the issue comes up today, I'd like to make sure that my objection

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10:20:05 1 to get involved in any way or regard. I'm only going
2 to make one decision, and that's regarding the fees in
3 this case.

And so what that leaves me with really two issues. Because I'm not going to award fees as it relates to the companion case.

Secondly, as far as fees are concerned, I will award fees as it relates to the contempt motion that was filed in this department. However, I'm going to go back and take a look at those. It becomes very difficult for me to do because I'm not a forensic accountant. But at the end of the day I have to make a determination I feel that's reasonable under the facts of this case. And I'll look at that.

As far as the appeal itself, I guess, there's two issues there. I don't see how I can award it under Chapter 18. I guess at the end of the day it comes down to the application of the provision under the CC&Rs. I'm going to take one last quick look at it.

And so I am going to award fees. It's going to be very limited. I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the appeal. I'm going to take one last look at it. I understand what my constraints are. But we'll get you out a decision on that relatively quick.

All right. Anything else?

Peggy Isom, CCR 541, RMR (702)671-4402 - CROERT48@GMAIL.COM

| 10:21:32 | 1 | MR. SMITH: Thank you. |
|----------|----|--|
| | 2 | THE COURT: Anything else? |
| | 3 | MR. WAITE: Thank you, your Honor. |
| | 4 | THE COURT: All right. You're welcome. |
| 10:21:38 | 5 | MR. SMITH: Thank you. |
| | 6 | MS. WANG: Thank you, your Honor. |
| | 7 | THE COURT: Everyone enjoy your day. |
| | 8 | You're welcome, ma'am. Enjoy your day. |
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| | 11 | (Proceedings were concluded.) |
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
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   STATE OF NEVADA)
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   COUNTY OF CLARK)
             I, PEGGY ISOM, CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER DO
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                              /s/ Peggy Isom
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                              PEGGY ISOM, RMR, CCR 541
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Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust,

Defendants.

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF Case No.: A-16-747800-C THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et Dept. No.: XVI PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN Plaintiffs, SUPPORT OF THEIR MOTION TO AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART VS. PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al., ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS **PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B)** Defendants. DATE: October 13, 2020 TIME: 9:00 a.m. SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, Case No.: A-17-765372-C 1972, et al., Dept. No.: XVI Plaintiffs, Consolidated VS. TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST, et al.,

Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the

Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegen") (collectively the "Plaintiffs"), by and through their attorneys, Christensen James & Martin, hereby submit this Reply in Support of their Motion to Amend Order Granting In Part and Denying In Part Plaintiffs' Motion For Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B).

A. Plaintiffs Requested the Court to Amend, Not Reconsider, its Order

The Lytle Trust's Opposition highlights why amendment of the Order is appropriate and necessary here. The Lytle Trust acknowledges that there is at least room for different interpretation, if not inconsistencies, which the Lytle Trust argues can be resolved by removing certain conclusions of law. While we disagree on the Court's intent and the appropriate amendment, there is at least agreement that some amendment would go a long way to resolving remaining disputes between the parties.

The purpose of the Motion was to request that the Court amend its Order Granting In Part and Denying In Part Plaintiffs' Motion For Attorney's Fees and Costs in one of two possible ways: 1) explain the reasons why the Court denied an award of fees and costs incurred by the Plaintiffs on appeal; or 2) change the Order to "grant" instead of "deny" fees and costs incurred on appeal. While Plaintiffs believe that granting fees and costs incurred on appeal is the more appropriate result in light of the remainder of the Order, they are not asking the Court to reconsider its prior decision.

NRCP 52(b) expressly authorizes the Court to "amend its findings – or make additional findings." That is exactly what the Plaintiffs have requested the Court to do here. As explained in the Motion, the Order does not contain any findings explaining or supporting the express denial of fees and costs related to the appeal. Naturally, as the Order is now on appeal, every word will be scrutinized. An amendment explaining the Court's conclusion will promote judicial economy. Further, there is case law stating that failing to move to amend in these circumstances would

have prejudiced the Plaintiffs right to appeal the denial. *See Solar, Inc. v. Electric Smith Const.* & Equipment Co., 88 Nev. 457, 459, 499 P.2d 649, 650 (1972) ("Appellant failed to move to amend the findings or judgment (NRCP 52(b)) regarding privity. Therefore, the question was not preserved for appellate consideration.").

The Lytle Trust argues that amendment should not be necessary because the Plaintiffs drafted the Order. However, there was nothing in the Minutes that would allow the Plaintiffs to draft any findings on this issue. Plaintiffs' counsel was unwilling to take liberties or make assumptions about the Court's intent. Plaintiffs' counsel knows its role, and it is certainly not the finder of fact or the arbiter of law. Counsel for the Lytle Trust obviously did not disagree. Between the two competing orders, neither contained any findings or conclusions explaining the Court's reasoning.

Rather, the primary dispute between the parties while negotiating the contents of the Order was whether the Court granted fees and costs under the CC&Rs *at all*. The impetus of this dispute arose from the Minutes, which stated, "As noted at the July 7, 2020 hearing, the Court finds the CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery." Since the Court did not end the statement by stating "here" or "in this case," the Lytle Trust argued that the Court must have *denied* an award of fees and costs under the CC&Rs. There was no such express denial from the Court during the hearing or in the Minutes.

Further, the Minutes do not expressly state any other basis for recovery of attorney's fees or costs. How then were Plaintiffs awarded fees and costs if not under the CC&Rs? The Defendants argued while negotiating the Order and do so again in their Opposition that the statement regarding the CC&Rs at the beginning of the minutes was a general statement of law, only. *See* Opposition at 9:3-10:12. In other words, according to the Defendants, in the Minutes the Court made a completely superfluous statement of law that had no bearing on its fees award, did not provide any other legal basis for its award, and then awarded fees and costs to the Plaintiffs. It is as unbelievable as it sounds.

This fundamental disagreement with the meaning of the Minutes shows that the issues presented by the Motion predated the drafting of the Order and are not the result of any nefarious scheme to sandbag the Court, as imagined by the Lytle Trust. As explained below, the Plaintiffs did their best to reconcile the issues and navigate competing views of how the Court actually decided the fees motion. There was no intent to mislead the Court.

The transcript of the hearing does nothing to resolve the issue. In its only statement about the fees on appeal, the Court stated at the end of the hearing:

As far as the appeal itself, I guess, there's two issues there. I don't see how I can award it under Chapter 18. I guess at the end of the day it comes down to the application of the provision under the CC&Rs. I'm going to take one last quick look at it. And so I am going to award fees. It's going to be very limited. I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the appeal. I'm going to take one last look at it. I understand what my constraints are. But we'll get you out a decision on that relatively quick.

See Defendant's Supplement, Exhibit A, Transcript of July 7, 2020 Hearing at 36:15-24 (emphasis added). The Lytle Trust argues that this statement creates "no doubt that this Court did NOT award fees on the basis of the original CC&Rs." Supplement at 5:7-8. It is not clear how the Lytle Trust goes from the uncertainty from the Court's statement "I'm not sure what I'm going to do with the appeal" all the way to *their* conclusion that "no doubt the Court did NOT award fees on the basis of the original CC&Rs." Indeed, the reference by the Court to NRS Chapter 18 was likely to NRS 18.010(2), which has limitations on appeal fees that are separate from an award under the CC&Rs. As explained below, fees and costs incurred on appeal may be awarded under a contractual fee provision.

The Lytle Trust argues that the Court *only* awarded fees and costs under NRS 18.010(2)(b) and NRS 22.100(3). In fact, Conclusions of Law 6-7 (awarding fees under NRS 18.010(2)(b) and NRS 22.100(3)) were drafted by the Lytle Trust and included in the Order at their request, but there was no express statement in the Minutes or during the hearing in this regard. However, the Plaintiffs refused to remove Conclusions 3-5 because the Minutes directly referenced the CC&Rs and the Plaintiffs could see no basis for the Lytle Trust's argument that

the Court had denied fees and costs under the CC&Rs. The Plaintiffs could see no reason why the Court's express and only statement of the basis for the fee award should be ignored by the parties. The competing orders highlighted this dispute *and the Court resolved it* by entering the Order with Conclusions of Law 3-5 stating that it was awarding fees and costs under the CC&Rs. The Lytle Trust's arguments undermine the Court's clear selection of the competing Order that the Court believed best reflected its ruling.

In any event, whether the Court decides that amendment is necessary to add findings to explain the denial of fees and costs incurred on appeal, to deny fees and costs under the CC&Rs as Defendants suggest, or to award fees and costs incurred on appeal, there is no question that an amendment is necessary.

The Lytle Trust cannot convert the Plaintiffs' Motion simply by arguing that it is not a Rule 52(b) motion. According to the Lytle Trust's own cases: "[t]he purpose of amendment under Rule 52(b) is not to upset the finality of judgments but to ensure an adequate factual record for appellate review." *Villalobos v. New York Div. of Parole*, No. 09-CV-8431-WHP, 2012 WL 4040218, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Sept. 13, 2012). Further, one of the purposes of Rule 52(b) is to correct manifest errors of law. *Borgwarner Diversified Transmission Prod., Inc. v. United Auto., Aerospace, & Agric. Implement Workers of Am., Local No. 287*, No. 1:06-CV-058-LJM-TAB, 2008 WL 4724283, at *1 (S.D. Ind. Oct. 24, 2008). "It is said that the motion must raise questions of substance by seeking reconsideration of material findings of fact or conclusions of law to prevent manifest injustice..." *Wound Care Centers, Inc. v. Catalane*, No. CIV. 10-336, 2011 WL 3476612, at *3 (W.D. Pa. Aug. 9, 2011). There is no doubt that the Order is going to be reviewed on appeal. The purpose of the Motion is to ensure there is an adequate record for the appellate court, particularly as to why fees incurred on appeal were denied. Without such findings, there is no record to review that decision. In the alternative, Plaintiffs provided case law showing why they believe it was a manifest error to deny fees and costs incurred on appeal. Both

of these options provided to the Court are consistent with the purpose of Rule 52(b), as confirmed by the very cases cited by the Lytle Trust.

B. Fees and Costs Were Appropriate Under the CC&Rs

The Lytle Trust argues that it was improper for Plaintiffs to cite *Elwardt v. Elwardt*, No. 69638, 2017 WL 2591349 *2 (Nev. Ct. App. June 9, 2017), because it is an unpublished opinion. The Lytle Trust is correct that *Elwardt* is an unpublished opinion, as clearly noted by the Plaintiffs in the Motion, and the undersigned counsel hereby withdraws the citation because it is entirely unnecessary to support the point of law. The legal arguments remain the same and are supported by the other binding case law that was cited immediately following *Elwardt*, which the Defendants have not disputed. These citations include the following Nevada Supreme Court opinions: *Musso v. Binick*, 104 Nev. 613, 764 P.2d 477 (1988) (per curiam); *Davis v. Beling*, 128 Nev. 301, 278 P.3d 501 (2012). These published Nevada Supreme Court cases are important because they counsel against the solution offered by the Lytle Trust to expressly deny an award of fees and costs under the CC&Rs. The Court made the correct decision when it awarded fees and costs under the CC&Rs and the Plaintiffs do not advocate an amendment changing those findings or conclusions because it is supported by these controlling precedents.

Nevada allows parties to freely provide for attorney's fees "by express contractual provisions." *Davis*, 128 Nev. at 321, 278 P.3d at 515; *Musso*, 104 Nev. at 614, 764 P.2d at 477. If the attorney fee provision in a contract "is clear and unambiguous [then it] will be enforced as written." *Davis*, 128 Nev. at 321, 278 P.3d at 515. The fee provision of the CC&Rs is such an express contractual provision that the Court has previously found it to be clear in awarding fees and costs to the other homeowners, including fees and costs incurred on appeal.

If fees were awarded under the CC&Rs, they should have included an award of fees and costs incurred on appeal. In *Musso*, pursuant to the attorney's fees provision of a sales agreement, the respondent filed a motion for "an award of fees for services performed on appeal and for services performed in the district court in pursuing post-appeal motions to enforce the

judgment." 104 Nev. at 614-15, 764 P.2d at 477-78. In a per curiam opinion, the Nevada Supreme Court held that an award of fees under a contract should include fees incurred on appeal, stating:

Although some courts have construed general provisions for attorney's fees in contracts as not including an award of attorney's fees on appeal, the majority of states now recognize that a contract provision for attorney's fees includes an award of fees for successfully bringing or defending an appeal. The purpose of such contractual provisions, to indemnify the prevailing party for the full amount of the obligation, is defeated and a party's contract rights are diminished if the party is forced to defend its rights on appeal at its own expense. We therefore conclude that respondents are entitled to an award of attorney's fees pursuant to the contractual agreement of the parties.

Id. (citations omitted) (emphasis added). The Court went on to explain that the district court is the appropriate forum for seeking such fees. Id., 104 Nev. at 615, n.1, 764 P.2d at 478 ("This court did not hold, however, that a litigant cannot seek by motion in the district court an award of attorney's fees on appeal based on a contractual provision for such fees after prevailing in the appeal. To the extent that Cowgill would appear to preclude the filing of such a motion in the district court following the issuance of this court's remittitur, it is expressly disapproved."). Thus, an award of fees under a contract should include an award of fees incurred on appeal, subject to the district court's determinations of amount and reasonableness. Id., 104 Nev. at 615, 764 P.2d at 478.

C. The Plaintiffs Do Not Request An Increase to the Fee Award

The Motion does not include any request to increase the monetary amount of the Plaintiffs' fee award. Even if the Court amends the Order to state that fees and costs incurred on appeal are included, the Plaintiffs are not requesting that the Court perform any additional analysis, calculations, or adjustments to the amount of fees. This limited issue is important to the Plaintiffs because the Court's decision will a) immediately direct whether the Plaintiffs need to file a cross-appeal of the Order and b) impact future fee applications in this case which are likely to occur following resolution of the current appeals. This is an issue that must be addressed now to avoid future litigation on the issue.

Christensen James & Martin 7440 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Dit. (700) 255 1718 & Exx. (700) 255 0971

CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing, the Second Fees Order should be amended to state that the attorney's fees on appeal are granted, or, in the alternative, additional findings of fact and conclusions of law should be provided regarding the denial so that the Plaintiffs have a clear record on appeal. If the Court is inclined to grant this relief, it may so certify in accordance with *Foster v. Dingwall*, 126 Nev. 49, 52–53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010).

DATED this 6th day of October, 2020.

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: <u>/s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq.</u>
Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11871
Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist
Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

Christensen James & Martin 7440 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Ph: (702) 255-1718 § Fax: (702) 255-0871

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On October 6, 2020, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing PLAINTIFFS' REPLY IN SUPPORT OF THEIR MOTION TO AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B), to be served in the following manner:

ELECTRONIC SERVICE: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

Liz Gould (liz@foleyoakes.com) Daniel Foley (Dan@foleyoakes.com) Jennifer Martinez (jennifer.martinez@fnf.com) Christina Wang (christina.wang@fnf.com) Mia Hurtado (mia.hurtado@fnf.com) Joel D. Henriod (JHenriod@LRRC.com)

Daniel F. Polsenberg (DPolsenberg@LRRC.com) Dan R. Waite (DWaite@LRRC.com)

/s/ Natalie Saville Natalie Saville

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Electronically Filed 001409 1/15/2021 2:09 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

2 KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 175

WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ.

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Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER CERTIFYING TO THE SUPREME COURT PURSUANT TO NRAP 12(A) AND NRCP 62.1 THAT THE DISTRICT COURT WOULD **GRANT PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO** AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN <u>PART AND DENYING IN PART</u> PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B)

Date: October 13, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

CONSOLIDATED

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs.

VS.

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TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on January 14, 2021, an Order Certifying to the Supreme Court Pursuant to NRAP 12(A) and NRCP 62.1 That the District Court Would Grant Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) was entered by the Court, a copy of which is attached hereto.

DATED this 15th day of January, 2021.

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: /s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 Laura J. Wolff, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis & Julie Gegen

| CERTIF | ICATE | OF S | SERV | /ICE |
|---------------|--------------|------|------|------|
| | | | | |

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On January 15, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Order Certifying to the Supreme Court Pursuant to NRAP 12(A) and NRCP 62.1 That the District Court Would Grant Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B), to be served in the following manner:

⊠ <u>ELECTRONIC SERVICE</u>: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

-3-

Joel Henriod (JHenriod@LRRC.com)

Daniel Polsenberg (DPolsenberg@LRRC.com)

Dan Waite (DWaite@LRRC.com)

Luz Horvath (lhorvath@lrrc.com)

Lisa Noltie (lnoltie@lrrc.com)

Christina Wang (christina.wang@fnf.com)

FNLG Court Filings (FNLG-Court-Filings-NV@fnf.com)

<u>/s/ Natalie Saville</u>
Natalie Saville

Electronically Filed

1/14/2021 11:09 AM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

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1 **ORDR CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN** KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 175 WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 11871 4 LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718 Facsimile: (702) 255-0871 Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Gegen 9 EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT 10 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA** PH: (702) 255-1718 § FAX: (702) 255-0871 11 MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF Case No.: A-16-747800-C THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST. Dept. No.: XVI 12 LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE 13 JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING ORDER CERTIFYING TO THE SUPREME COURT PURSUANT TO TRUST, 14 NRAP 12(A) AND NRCP 62.1 THAT Plaintiffs, THE DISTRICT COURT WOULD 15 GRANT PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN VS. 16 PART AND DENYING IN PART TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR 17 LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B) 18 through X, 19 Defendants. Date: October 13, 2020 20 Time: 9:00 a.m. 21 SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, Case No.: A-17-765372-C 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. Dept. No.: XVI 22 ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST CONSOLIDATED 23 FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE 24 SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. 25 SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND 26 27 28

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 WEST SAHARA AVE., LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89117

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) ("Motion to Amend"), Defendant's Opposition, and Plaintiffs' Reply, which came on for hearing on October 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVI of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. of Christensen James & Martin appeared on behalf of September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegens") (September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegens, collectively, the "Plaintiffs"). Christina H. Wang, Esq. of Fidelity National Law Group appeared on behalf of Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman ("Dismans"). Dan R. Waite, Esq. of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust ("Lytle Trust").

The Court acknowledges that it does not currently have jurisdiction to grant the Motion to Amend because the underlying Order has been appealed. *See* NRAP 12A; NRCP 62.1; *Foster v. Dingwall*, 126 Nev. 49, 52-53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010). The Court finds that good cause exists and would grant the Motion to Amend to award attorney's fees stemming from appeals under paragraph 25 of the CC&Rs. Therefore, the Court hereby enters its Order as follows:

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that this Court certifies that it intends to grant the Motion to Amend if the Nevada Supreme Court remands the pending appeal for the purpose of doing so pursuant to NRAP 12A and NRCP 62.1.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 14 day of January , 2021

District COURT JUDGE 21

Submitted by:

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

/s/ Wesley J. Smith

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 7440 W. Sahara Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89117

Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and

Dennis & Julie Gegen

Approved by:

LEWIS ROCA ROTHBERGER CHRISTIE LLP

/s/ Joel D. Henriod

Joel D. Henriod, Esq. Nevada Bar 8492

3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600

Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Attorneys for Lytle Trust

RE: Case No. A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Proposed Order Certifying to the Supreme Court Pursuant to NRAP 12(A) and NRCP 62.1

Waite, Dan R. < DWaite@Irrc.com >

Thu 1/7/2021 5:38 AM

To: Wesley Smith <wes@cjmlv.com>; Henriod, Joel D. <JHenriod@lrrc.com>

Cc: Laura Wolff < ljw@cjmlv.com>

Good morning Wes,

The proposed Order and cover letter are acceptable. You are authorized to include Joel or my e-signature on the proposed Order and submit the documents to the Court. Thanks,

Dan

Dan R. Waite

Partner 702.474.2638 office 702.949.8398 fax dwaite@Irrc.com

Lewis Roca ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE

Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Irrc.com

From: Wesley Smith <wes@cjmlv.com>

Sent: Wednesday, December 30, 2020 9:29 AM **To:** Henriod, Joel D. <JHenriod@Irrc.com>

Cc: Waite, Dan R. <DWaite@Irrc.com>; Laura Wolff <ljw@cjmlv.com>

Subject: Case No. A-16-747800-C - September v. Lytle - ORDR - Proposed Order Certifying to the Supreme Court

Pursuant to NRAP 12(A) and NRCP 62.1

[EXTERNAL]

Joel,

Per our discussion yesterday, attached is a proposed Order titled ORDER CERTIFYING TO THE SUPREME COURT PURSUANT TO NRAP 12(A) AND NRCP 62.1 THAT THE DISTRICT COURT WOULD GRANT PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B). I've also attached a cover letter that I intend to submit with the proposed order. Please indicate whether you approve of the proposed Order and if I have your permission to use your e-signature.

Wes Smith

Christensen James & Martin 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Tel. (702) 255-1718 Fax (702) 255-0871 wes@cjmlv.com

Disclaimer - This email and any files transmitted are confidential and are intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed.

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^{*} Licensed in Nevada, Washington & Utah

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| | CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN |
| 2 | KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. |
| | Nevada Bar No. 175 |
| 3 | WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. |
| | Nevada Bar No. 11871 |
| 4 | LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. |
| ا ہ | Nevada Bar No. 6869 |
| 2 | 7440 W. Sahara Avenue |
| | Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 |

Tel.: (702) 255-1718 Facsimile: (702) 255-0871

Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

| MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF |
|---------------------------------|
| THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, |
| LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES |
| LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE |
| JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING |
| TRUST, |
| |

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-16-747800-C Dept. No.: XVI

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' <u>MOTION TO AMEND ORDER</u> GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B)

Date: October 13, 2020 Time: 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND

Case No.: A-17-765372-C Dept. No.: XVI

CONSOLIDATED

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 30, 2021, an Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b) was filed with the Court, a copy of which is attached hereto.

DATED this 4th day of May, 2021.

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: /s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11871
Laura J. Wolff, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 6869
7440 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89117
Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust,
Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and
Dennis & Julie Gegen

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On May 4, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b), to be served in the following manner:

- \boxtimes <u>ELECTRONIC SERVICE</u>: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.
- Joel Henriod (JHenriod@LRRC.com)
 - Daniel Polsenberg (DPolsenberg@LRRC.com) Dan Waite (DWaite@LRRC.com)
- - Luz Horvath (lhorvath@lrrc.com)
 - Lisa Noltie (lnoltie@lrrc.com)
 - Christina Wang (christina.wang@fnf.com)
 - FNLG Court Filings (FNLG-Court-Filings-NV@fnf.com)

/s/ Natalie Saville Natalie Saville

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 WEST SAHARA AVE., LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89117 PH: (702) 255-1718 § FAX: (702) 255-087 11 12 13 14 15

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| CHRISTENSEN | JAMES | & | MA | RTIN |

2 KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 175

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WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 11871

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Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO AMEND ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND **DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS'** MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B)

Date: October 13, 2020

Time: 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

CONSOLIDATED

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) ("Motion to Amend"), Defendant's Opposition, and Plaintiffs' Reply, which came on for hearing on October 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVI of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. of Christensen James & Martin appeared on behalf of September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegens") (September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegens, collectively, the "Plaintiffs"). Christina H. Wang, Esq. of Fidelity National Law Group appeared on behalf of Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman ("Dismans"). Dan R. Waite, Esq. of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust ("Lytle Trust").

The Court having considered the Motion to Amend and filings related thereto, having heard the arguments of counsel, and with good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby grants the Motion to Amend. This Order shall amend and replace the Second Fees Order, defined below, and the Court hereby enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On May 24, 2018, this Court entered its Order Granting Motion for Summary Judgment or, in the Alternative, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and Denying Countermotion for Summary Judgment ("May 2018 Order") in favor of the September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Gegens and against the Lytle Trust. The May 2018 Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 2. On September 11, 2018, this Court signed an Order in favor of the Plaintiffs and against the Lytle Trust for attorney's fees, litigation costs and expenses incurred through May 22, 2018 pursuant to NRS 18.010(2) ("First Fees Order").
- 3. The Original CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery. More specifically, section 25 of the Original CC&Rs provides: "In any legal or equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the [CC&Rs] or any provision thereof, the losing party or parties shall pay in such amount as may be fixed by the court in such proceeding."
- 4. The Court has also awarded attorney's fees and costs to other parties in these consolidated Cases, including the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Granting Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A Disman's Motion for Attorney's Fees entered on September 6, 2019 ("Disman Fees Order") in favor of the Dismans and the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and order Denying Defendants' Motion to Retax and Settle Costs entered on September 20, 2019 ("Boulden Lamothe Fees Order") in favor of Boulden and Lamothe. There, this Court awarded attorney's fees and costs to the other parties under Section 25 of the Original CC&Rs.
- 5. Since May 23, 2018, the Plaintiffs have incurred additional attorney's fees and costs in this action, including briefing and argument on the Lytle Trust's Motion to Stay and Motion for Reconsideration, status hearings, and motions related to the other parties to the consolidated case.
- 6. On October 24, 2019, the Lytle Trust filed its Renewed Application for Appointment of Receiver in *Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as trustees of the Lytle Trust v. Rosemere Estates Property Owners' Association*, Case No. A-18-775843-C, Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, which case was assigned to Judge J. Kishner (the "Receivership Action").

- 7. On December 18, 2019, Judge Kishner entered her Order Appointing a Receiver of Defendant Rosemere Property Owners Association (the "Order Appointing Receiver"). Among other rights, powers, and duties, the Order Appointing Receiver instructed the receiver to "[i]ssue and collect a special assessment upon all owners within the Association to satisfy the Lytle Trust's judgments against the Association." (Order Appointing Receiver at 2:19-20).
- 8. Upon learning of the Lytle Trust's actions related to the Receivership Action, the Plaintiffs incurred additional attorney's fees and costs both in this consolidated case and in the Receivership Action, including filing a Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Motion") on March 4, 2020 in this Case. The Lytle Trust opposed the Contempt Motion and the Plaintiffs incurred additional fees and costs to respond to the Lytle Trust's arguments, present oral argument, and prepare proposed orders.
- 9. On May 22, 2020, this Court entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Order") against the Lytle Trust. The Contempt Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 10. In the Contempt Order, the Court relevantly ruled that a party may be held in contempt for violating its orders, and that the Court may impose fines and award "reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred by the party as a result of the contempt." Contempt Order at 11:9-23 (quoting NRS 22.100(3)). The Court Ordered that the Lytle Trust violated the May 2018 Order, is in contempt of the May 2018 Order, shall pay a fine of \$500 to each movant, and that the Plaintiffs may file applications for their reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred as a result of the contempt.
- 11. On May 26, 2020, Plaintiffs filed their Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Attorney's Fees Motion"). The Motion was opposed by the Lytle Trust on June 9, 2020 and Plaintiffs filed a Reply in support on June 29, 2020.
- 12. In the Attorney's Fees Motion, Plaintiffs requested an award of their reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, incurred as a result of obtaining the Contempt Order.

- 13. Plaintiffs also sought additional attorney's fees and costs related to the Lytle Trust's appeals of the May 2018 Order and First Fees Order, which were affirmed by the Nevada Supreme Court, as well as attorney's fees and costs related to the Receivership Action.

 14. The Attorney's Fees Motion requested an award of all attorney's fees in the total amount.
- 14. The Attorney's Fees Motion requested an award of all attorney's fees in the total amount of \$149,403.20 and costs in the total amount of \$4,145.08 that they incurred from May 23, 2018 to the present date pursuant to the Original CC&Rs, NRS 18.020, 18.050 and 18.010(2)(b) and NRAP 39(e).
- 15. Plaintiffs attached billing statements and a Declaration from their counsel to the Attorney's Fees Motion to support the request.
- 16. On August 11, 2020, this Court entered its Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Second Fees Order"). ¹
- 17. Consistent with the Court's express conclusion in the Court Minutes entered on July 7, 2020, the Second Fees Order contained the following Conclusion of Law: "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal..." *See* Second Fees Order at 6, ¶ 14.
- 18. On August 21, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed its Notice of Appeal of the Second Fees Order with the Supreme Court of Nevada, Case No. 81689 ("Appeal").
- 19. On September 8, 2020, the Plaintiffs filed their Motion to Amend, requesting that the Court grant instead of deny fees and costs incurred on appeal or, in the alternative, to provide findings of fact and conclusions of law to support the denial of the appeal fees.
- 20. The Motion to Amend was filed within 28 days of service of Notice of Entry of the Second Fees Order. NRCP 52(b).
- 21. The Court found that good cause existed and would grant the Motion to Amend to award attorney's fees stemming from appeals under paragraph 25 of the CC&Rs.
- 22. The Court acknowledged that it did not have jurisdiction to grant the Motion to Amend because the underlying Order had been appealed. *See* NRAP 12A; NRCP 62.1; *Foster v. Dingwall*, 126 Nev. 49, 52-53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010).

¹ This Order is denoted as the "Second" Order to avoid confusion with the previous Fees Order entered in favor of Plaintiffs on September 11, 2018.

- 23. On January 14, 2021, the Court entered its Order Certifying to the Supreme Court Pursuant to NRAP 12(A) and NRCP 62.1 That the District Court Would Grant Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) ("Certification Order"). The Certification Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- Order") remanding the Appeal "to the district court for the limited purpose of resolving respondents' motion to amend the August 11, 2020, attorney fees and costs award." Remand Order at 1-2. The Remand Order is hereby incorporated by reference.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend was timely filed pursuant to NRCP 52(b).
- 2. Following entry of the Remand Order, the Court now has jurisdiction to grant the Motion to Amend, and consistent with its Certification Order hereby amends the Second Fees Order.
- 3. NRS 18.010(1) provides that, "[t]he compensation of an attorney and counselor for his services is governed by agreement, express or implied, which is not restrained by law."
- 4. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is a mandatory provision regarding the award of attorney's fees and costs being paid by the losing party in any legal equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the CC&Rs or any provision thereof.
- 5. Nevada allows parties to freely provide for attorney's fees "by express contractual provisions." *Davis v. Beling*, 128 Nev. 301, 321, 278 P.3d 501, 515 (2012); *Musso v. Binick*, 104 Nev. 613, 614, 764 P.2d 477(1988) (per curiam). If the attorney fee provision in a contract "is clear and unambiguous [then it] will be enforced as written." *Davis*, 128 Nev. at 321, 278 P.3d at 515. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is such an express contractual provision that the Court has previously found it to be clear in awarding fees and costs to the other property owners, including fees and costs incurred on appeal.
- 6. The legal disputes in this case were based on the parties' rights under the Original CC&Rs and whether the CC&Rs created a Limited Purpose Association which excluded most of NRS 116, especially NRS 116.3117, from having any application to the Rosemere Subdivision.

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- 7. Throughout this litigation, the Plaintiffs sought to restrain the Lytle Trust from recording abstracts of judgment against their properties and collecting judgments by alternative means because the Lytle Trust had no right pursuant to the CC&Rs to do so.
- 8. Applying the language of the CC&Rs, the Court concludes that the Plaintiffs are the winning or prevailing parties in this litigation, the Lytle Trust was the losing party in this litigation, and the assessment of attorney's fees against the losing party is mandatory under Section 25.
- 9. NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that, "the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party: . . . (b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim . . . or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party." This Court based the First Fees Award on NRS 18.010(2) and does so again now as a basis for awarding additional fees.
- NRS 22.100(3) provides a basis for awarding fees associated with the contempt 10. proceedings in this case.
- Section 25 of the CC&Rs provides a basis for awarding fees to Plaintiffs, including fees 11. and costs incurred for appeals.
- 12. The Court analyzed the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees utilizing the factors identified in *Brunzell* v. Golden Gate Nat'I Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 349, 455 P.2d 31, 33 (1969), including the qualities of the advocate, the character of the work to be done, the work actually performed by the lawyer, and the result obtained.
- 13. The Plaintiffs have satisfied the *Brunzell* factors. More specifically, based on the record and the Declaration of the Plaintiffs' counsel in support of the Motion, the Court finds that the qualities of counsel, character of the work to be done and its difficulty, the work actually performed by Plaintiffs' counsel, and the result obtained establish the reasonableness of the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees to the extent awarded in this Order.
- 14. However, the Court finds that certain time and amounts billed are not compensable in this matter and will reduce the award accordingly.

- 15. The Court has reviewed the Plaintiffs' submitted billing statements, which the fees charged total \$149,403.20.
- 16. The Plaintiffs' fee statements include entries that are commonly defined as block billing that make it difficult for the Court to determine the exact amount billed for each individual task and the reasonableness of the request.
- 17. The Court denies an award of fees incurred in the Receivership Action before Judge Kishner. Plaintiffs' counsel represented this amount was \$36,259.00, which the Court accepts. The denial of fees incurred in the Receivership Action is without prejudice to either party's right to seek an award of fees from Judge Kishner in the Receivership Action.
- 18. The Court will not award fees for work described in the briefing as clerical work, which the Court has determined total \$23,374.00.
- 19. In light of the findings above, the \$149,403.20 is reduced by \$36,259.00 and \$23,374.00, which leaves a difference of \$89,770.20.
- 20. Further, as suggested by the Defendant, the Court will apply a 15% discount to the \$89,770.20 to further account for the block billing in the fee statements. The difference after the discount is \$76,304.67.
- 21. Consequently, the Court grants Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs, but with modifications, resulting in a total fee award of \$76,304.67.
 - 22. Additionally, the Court grants costs in the sum of \$4,145.08.

<u>ORDER</u>

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that this Order shall amend and replace the Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs entered on August 11, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Findings of Fact shall be treated as Conclusions of Law and the Conclusions of Law shall be treated as Findings of Fact to any extent necessary to effectuate the intent of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that attorney's fees are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$76,304.67 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that costs are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$4,145.08 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust is ordered to pay the attorney's fees and costs as ordered herein by certified check made payable to Christensen James & Martin Special Client Trust Account in the amount of \$80,449.75 and delivered to Christensen James & Martin, or deposited with the Clerk of the Court pending resolution of the appeal from the Second Fee Order, within ten (10) days of the Notice of Entry of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this day of , 2021.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2021

C9B 99D 318B E6BC

Timothy C. Williams

District Court Judge

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Submitted by:

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

/s/ Wesley J. Smith

Wesley J. Smith, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 11871

Laura J. Wolff, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89117

Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and

Dennis & Julie Gegen

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| 2 3 | DISTRICT COURT | | | |
| 4 | CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA | | | |
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| 6 | Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, | CASE NO: A-16-747800-C | | |
| 7 | Plaintiff(s) | DEPT. NO. Department 16 | | |
| 8 | VS. | | | |
| 9 | Trudi Lytle, Defendant(s) | | | |
| 10 | | | | |
| 11 | AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE | | | |
| 12 | This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District | | | |
| 13 | Court. The foregoing Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: | | | |
| 14 | Service Date: 4/30/2021 | | | |
| 15 | "Daniel T. Foley, Esq." . | dan@foleyoakes.com | | |
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| 19 | Daniel Foley | Dan@foleyoakes.com | | |
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Nevada Bar No. 8492 DANIEL F. POLSENBERG

Nevada Bar No. 2376

3 DAN R. WAITE

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DWaite@LewisRoca.com

Attorneys for Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust; LINDA LAMOTHE; and JACQUES LAMOTHE, Trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust,

Case No. A-16-747800-C

Dep't No. 16

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Plaintiffs,

TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

AMENDED NOTICE OF APPEAL

Defendants.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN and JULIE S. GEGEN, husband and wife, as joint tenants,

Consolidated with:

Case No. A-17-765372-C

Dep't No. 16

Plaintiffs,

v.

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LEWIS ROCA

TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, JOHN DOES I through V, inclusive, and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Please take notice that defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust hereby appeal to the Supreme Court of Nevada from:

- 1. "Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs," filed August 11, 2020, notice of entry of which was served electronically on August 11, 2020 (Exhibit A);
- 2. "Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b)," filed April 30, 2021, notice of entry of which was served electronically on May 4, 2021 (Exhibit B); and
- 3. All judgments, rulings and interlocutory orders made appealable by the foregoing.

Dated this 3rd day of June, 2021.

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: /s/Joel D. Henriod

JOEL D. HENRIOD (SBN 8492) DANIEL F. POLSENBERG (SBN 2376) DAN R. WAITE (SBN 4078) 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200

Attorneys for Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust

LEWIS ROCA

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 3rd day of June, 2021, I served the foregoing "Amended Notice of Appeal" on counsel by the Court's electronic filing system to the persons and addresses listed below:

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN Wesley J. Smith CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 KBC@CJMLV.com Wes@CJMLV.com

Christina H. Wang FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 8363 W. Sunset Road. Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Christina.Wang@FNF.com

Attorneys for Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman

Attorneys for September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry Ŕ. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, husband and wife, as joint tenants

Daniel T. Foley FOLEY & OAKES, PC 1210 South Valley View Boulevard Suite 208 Las Vegas, Nevada 89102 Dan@FolevOakes.com

Attorneys for Marjorie B. Boulden, trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, and Linda Lamothe and Jacques Lamothe, trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust

/s/ Emily D. Kapolnai

An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP

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LEWIS ROCA

EXHIBIT A

EXHIBIT A

Electronically Filed 8/11/2020 2:16 PM Steven D. Grierson CLERK OF THE COURT

7440 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Ph: (702) 255-1718 § Fax: (702) 255-0871 CHRIST BROKEH GOMES & MARTIN

NEOJ CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.

2 Nevada Bar No. 175

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Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust,

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et al.,

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Plaintiffs,

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER **GRANTING IN PART AND DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS'**

MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S **FEES AND COSTS**

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al.,

VS.

Defendants.

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

CONSOLIDATED

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE

TRUST, et al.,

Defendants.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that an Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part

Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs was entered in the above-captioned matter on

August 11, 2020. A copy of the Order is attached hereto.

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: <u>/s/ Wesley J. Smith</u> Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On August 11, 2020, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Stipulation and Order to Release Cash Supersedeas Bond, to be served in the following manner:

ELECTRONIC SERVICE: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

Liz Gould (liz@foleyoakes.com)

Daniel Foley (Dan@foleyoakes.com)

Maren Foley (maren@foleyoakes.com)

Jennifer Martinez (jennifer.martinez@fnf.com)

Christina Wang (christina.wang@fnf.com)

Mia Hurtado (mia.hurtado@fnf.com)

Richard E. Haskin, Esq. (rhaskin@gibbsgiden.com)

Robin Jackson (rjackson@gibbsgiden.com)

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Daniel Hansen (dhansen@gibbsgiden.com)

Joel D. Henriod (JHenriod@LRRC.com)

Daniel F. Polsenberg (DPolsenberg@LRRC.com)

Dan R. Waite (DWaite@LRRC.com)

| Ш | <u>UNITED STATES MAIL</u> : | depositing a true and of | correct copy of the | ne above-refei | renced |
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| docume | ent into the United States Mai | 1 with prepaid first-clas | ss postage, addre | ssed to the pa | rties a |
| their las | st-known mailing address(es): | : | | | |

- FACSIMILE: By sending the above-referenced document via facsimile as follows:
- <u>E-MAIL</u>: electronic transmission by email to the following address(es):

/s/ Natalie Saville Natalie Saville

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ORDR CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 175

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WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 11871

4 LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ.

Nevada Bar No. 6869

7440 W. Sahara Avenue

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Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST. LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST,

Case No.: A-16-747800-C Dept. No.: XVI

ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND

MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES

<u>DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS'</u>

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

Date: July 7, 2020

AND COSTS

Defendants.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Time: 9:00 a.m.

CONSOLIDATED

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Motion"), Defendant's Opposition, and Plaintiffs' Reply, as well as the Plaintiffs' Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements ("Memorandum"), which came on for hearing on July 7, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVI of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. of Christensen James & Martin appeared on behalf of September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegens") (September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegens, collectively, the "Plaintiffs"). Christina H. Wang, Esq. of Fidelity National Law Group appeared on behalf of Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman ("Dismans"). Dan R. Waite, Esq. of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust ("Lytle Trust").

The Court having considered the Motion and filings related thereto, having heard the arguments of counsel, and with good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby grants the Motion in part and denies the Motion in part and enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On May 24, 2018, this Court entered its Order Granting Motion for Summary Judgment or, in the Alternative, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and Denying Countermotion for Summary Judgment ("May 2018 Order") in favor of the September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Gegens and against the Lytle Trust. The May 2018 Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 2. On September 11, 2018, this Court signed an Order in favor of the Plaintiffs and against the Lytle Trust for attorney's fees, litigation costs and expenses incurred through May 22, 2018 pursuant to NRS 18.010(2) ("First Fees Order").
- 3. The Original CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery. More specifically, section 25 of the Original CC&Rs provides: "In any legal or equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the [CC&Rs] or any provision thereof, the losing party or parties shall pay in such amount as may be fixed by the court in such proceeding."
- 4. The Court has also awarded attorney's fees and costs to other parties in these consolidated Cases, including the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Granting Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A Disman's Motion for Attorney's Fees entered on September 6, 2019 ("Disman Fees Order") in favor of the Dismans and the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and order Denying Defendants' Motion to Retax and Settle Costs entered on September 20, 2019 ("Boulden Lamothe Fees Order") in favor of Boulden and Lamothe. There, this Court awarded attorney's fees and costs to the other parties under Section 25 of the Original CC&Rs.
- 5. Since May 23, 2018, the Plaintiffs have incurred additional attorney's fees and costs in this action, including briefing and argument on the Lytle Trust's Motion to Stay and Motion for Reconsideration, status hearings, and motions related to the other parties to the consolidated case.
- 6. On October 24, 2019, the Lytle Trust filed its Renewed Application for Appointment of Receiver in *Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as trustees of the Lytle Trust v. Rosemere Estates Property Owners' Association*, Case No. A-18-775843-C, Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, which case was assigned to Judge J. Kishner (the "Receivership Action").

- 8. Upon learning of the Lytle Trust's actions related to the Receivership Action, the Plaintiffs incurred additional attorney's fees and costs both in this consolidated case and in the Receivership Action, including filing a Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Motion") on March 4, 2020 in this Case. The Lytle Trust opposed the Contempt Motion and the Plaintiffs incurred additional fees and costs to respond to the Lytle Trust's arguments, present oral argument, and prepare proposed orders.
- 9. On May 22, 2020, this Court entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Order") against the Lytle Trust. The Contempt Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 10. In the Contempt Order, the Court relevantly ruled that a party may be held in contempt for violating its orders, and that the Court may impose fines and award "reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred by the party as a result of the contempt." Contempt Order at 11:9-23 (quoting NRS 22.100(3)). The Court Ordered that the Lytle Trust violated the May 2018 Order, is in contempt of the May 2018 Order, shall pay a fine of \$500 to each movant, and that the Plaintiffs may file applications for their reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred as a result of the contempt. The Court now finds that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of their reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, incurred as a result of obtaining the Contempt Order.
- 11. Plaintiffs also seek additional attorney's fees and costs related to the Lytle Trust's appeals of the May 2018 Order and First Fees Order, which were affirmed by the Nevada Supreme Court, as well as attorney's fees and costs related to the Receivership Action.

12. The Plaintiffs filed the instant Motion requesting an award of all attorney's fees in the total amount of \$149,403.20 and costs in the total amount of \$4,145.08 that they have incurred from May 23, 2018 to the present date pursuant to the Original CC&Rs, NRS 18.020, 18.050 and 18.010(2)(b) and NRAP 39(e).

13. Plaintiffs have attached billing statements and a Declaration from their counsel to the Motion to support the request.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. NRS 18.010(1) provides that, "[t]he compensation of an attorney and counselor for his services is governed by agreement, express or implied, which is not restrained by law."
- 2. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is a mandatory provision regarding the award of attorney's fees and costs being paid by the losing party in any legal equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the CC&Rs or any provision thereof.
- 3. The legal disputes in this case were based on the parties' rights under the Original CC&Rs and whether the CC&Rs created a Limited Purpose Association which excluded most of NRS 116, especially NRS 116.3117, from having any application to the Rosemere Subdivision.
- 4. Throughout this litigation, the Plaintiffs sought to restrain the Lytle Trust from recording abstracts of judgment against their properties and collecting judgments by alternative means because the Lytle Trust had no right pursuant to the CC&Rs to do so
- 5. Applying the language of the CC&Rs, the Court concludes that the Plaintiffs are the winning or prevailing parties in this litigation, the Lytle Trust was the losing party in this litigation, and the assessment of attorney's fees against the losing party is mandatory under Section 25.
- 6. NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that, "the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party: . . . (b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim . . . or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party." This Court based the First Fees Award on NRS 18.010(2) and does so again now as a basis for awarding additional fees.

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- 7. NRS 22.100(3) provides a basis for awarding fees associated with the contempt proceedings in this case.
- 8. The Court analyzed the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees utilizing the factors identified in Brunzell v. Golden Gate Nat'I Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 349, 455 P.2d 31, 33 (1969), including the qualities of the advocate, the character of the work to be done, the work actually performed by the lawyer, and the result obtained.
- 9. The Plaintiffs have satisfied the *Brunzell* factors. More specifically, based on the record and the Declaration of the Plaintiffs' counsel in support of the Motion, the Court finds that the qualities of counsel, character of the work to be done and its difficulty, the work actually performed by Plaintiffs' counsel, and the result obtained establish the reasonableness of the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees to the extent awarded in this Order.
- However, the Court finds that certain time and amounts billed are not compensable in this 10. matter and will reduce the award accordingly.
- The Court has reviewed the Plaintiffs' submitted billing statements, which the fees 11. charged total \$149,403.20.
- 12. The Plaintiffs' fee statements include entries that are commonly defined as block billing that make it difficult for the Court to determine the exact amount billed for each individual task and the reasonableness of the request.
- 13. The Court denies an award of fees incurred in the Receivership Action before Judge Kishner. Plaintiffs' counsel represented this amount was \$36,259.00, which the Court accepts. The denial of fees incurred in the Receivership Action is without prejudice to either party's right to seek an award of fees from Judge Kishner in the Receivership Action.
- 14. The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal and will not award fees for work described in the briefing as clerical work, which the Court has determined total \$23,374.00.
- 15. In light of the findings above, the \$149,403.20 is reduced by \$36,259.00 and \$23,374.00, which leaves a difference of \$89,770.20.

- 16. Further, as suggested by the Defendant, the Court will apply a 15% discount to the \$89,770.20 to further account for the block billing in the fee statements. The difference after the discount is \$76,304.67.
- 17. Consequently, the Court grants Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs, but with modifications, resulting in a total fee award of \$76,304.67.
 - 18. Additionally, the Court grants costs in the sum of \$4,145.08.

ORDER

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Findings of Fact shall be treated as Conclusions of Law and the Conclusions of Law shall be treated as Findings of Fact to any extent necessary to effectuate the intent of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART.

awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$76,304.67 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that costs are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint

Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$4,145.08 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust is ordered to pay the attorney's fees and costs as ordered herein by certified check made payable to Christensen James & Martin Special Client Trust Account in the amount of \$80,449.75 and delivered to Christensen James & Martin within ten (10) days of the Notice of Entry of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2020.



Submitted by:

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

/s/ Wesley J. Smith Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 Laura J. Wolff, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EXHIBIT B

EXHIBIT B

NEOJ CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 175

WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 11871

LAURA J. WOLFF, ESO.

Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Avenue

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Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718

Facsimile: (702) 255-0871

Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS' MOTION TO AMEND ORDER **GRANTING IN PART AND** DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP 52(B)

Date: October 13, 2020 Time: 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

CONSOLIDATED

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS, Plaintiffs.

VS.

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TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on April 30, 2021, an Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b) was filed with the Court, a copy of which is attached hereto.

DATED this 4th day of May, 2021.

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: /s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 Laura J. Wolff, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 6869 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Dennis & Julie Gegen

-2-

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On May 4, 2021, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b), to be served in the following manner:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

 \boxtimes <u>ELECTRONIC SERVICE</u>: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

Joel Henriod (JHenriod@LRRC.com)

Daniel Polsenberg (DPolsenberg@LRRC.com)
Dan Waite (DWaite@LRRC.com)

Luz Horvath (lhorvath@lrrc.com)

Lisa Noltie (lnoltie@lrrc.com)

Christina Wang (christina.wang@fnf.com)

FNLG Court Filings (FNLG-Court-Filings-NV@fnf.com)

/s/ Natalie Saville

Natalie Saville

ELECTRONICALLY SERVED 4/30/2021 4:31 PM

Electronically File 001451 04/30/2021 4:30 PM CLERK OF THE COURT

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Nevada Bar No. 11871

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Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com

Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, LINDA LAMOTHE AND JACQUES LAMOTHE, TRUSTEES OF THE JACQUES & LINDA LAMOTHE LIVING TRUST,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, THE LYTLE TRUST, DOES I through X, and ROE CORPORATIONS I through X,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION TO AMEND ORDER
GRANTING IN PART AND
DENYING IN PART PLAINTIFFS'
MOTION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES
AND COSTS PURSUANT TO NRCP
52(B)

Date: October 13, 2020 Time: 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

CONSOLIDATED

DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST; JOHN DOES I through V; and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

Presently before the Court is Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) ("Motion to Amend"), Defendant's Opposition, and Plaintiffs' Reply, which came on for hearing on October 13, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Department XVI of the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada.

Wesley J. Smith, Esq. of Christensen James & Martin appeared on behalf of September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants ("Gegens") (September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegens, collectively, the "Plaintiffs"). Christina H. Wang, Esq. of Fidelity National Law Group appeared on behalf of Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman ("Dismans"). Dan R. Waite, Esq. of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP appeared on behalf of Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust ("Lytle Trust").

The Court having considered the Motion to Amend and filings related thereto, having heard the arguments of counsel, and with good cause appearing therefore, the Court hereby grants the Motion to Amend. This Order shall amend and replace the Second Fees Order, defined below, and the Court hereby enters the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. On May 24, 2018, this Court entered its Order Granting Motion for Summary Judgment or, in the Alternative, Motion for Judgment on the Pleadings and Denying Countermotion for Summary Judgment ("May 2018 Order") in favor of the September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and Gegens and against the Lytle Trust. The May 2018 Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 2. On September 11, 2018, this Court signed an Order in favor of the Plaintiffs and against the Lytle Trust for attorney's fees, litigation costs and expenses incurred through May 22, 2018 pursuant to NRS 18.010(2) ("First Fees Order").
- 3. The Original CC&Rs provide a basis for attorney fee recovery. More specifically, section 25 of the Original CC&Rs provides: "In any legal or equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the [CC&Rs] or any provision thereof, the losing party or parties shall pay in such amount as may be fixed by the court in such proceeding."
- 4. The Court has also awarded attorney's fees and costs to other parties in these consolidated Cases, including the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order Granting Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A Disman's Motion for Attorney's Fees entered on September 6, 2019 ("Disman Fees Order") in favor of the Dismans and the Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorneys' Fees and Costs and order Denying Defendants' Motion to Retax and Settle Costs entered on September 20, 2019 ("Boulden Lamothe Fees Order") in favor of Boulden and Lamothe. There, this Court awarded attorney's fees and costs to the other parties under Section 25 of the Original CC&Rs.
- 5. Since May 23, 2018, the Plaintiffs have incurred additional attorney's fees and costs in this action, including briefing and argument on the Lytle Trust's Motion to Stay and Motion for Reconsideration, status hearings, and motions related to the other parties to the consolidated case.
- 6. On October 24, 2019, the Lytle Trust filed its Renewed Application for Appointment of Receiver in *Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as trustees of the Lytle Trust v. Rosemere Estates Property Owners' Association*, Case No. A-18-775843-C, Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada, which case was assigned to Judge J. Kishner (the "Receivership Action").

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- 7. On December 18, 2019, Judge Kishner entered her Order Appointing a Receiver of Defendant Rosemere Property Owners Association (the "Order Appointing Receiver"). Among other rights, powers, and duties, the Order Appointing Receiver instructed the receiver to "[i]ssue and collect a special assessment upon all owners within the Association to satisfy the Lytle Trust's judgments against the Association." (Order Appointing Receiver at 2:19-20).
- 8. Upon learning of the Lytle Trust's actions related to the Receivership Action, the Plaintiffs incurred additional attorney's fees and costs both in this consolidated case and in the Receivership Action, including filing a Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Motion") on March 4, 2020 in this Case. The Lytle Trust opposed the Contempt Motion and the Plaintiffs incurred additional fees and costs to respond to the Lytle Trust's arguments, present oral argument, and prepare proposed orders.
- 9. On May 22, 2020, this Court entered its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Order") against the Lytle Trust. The Contempt Order is hereby incorporated by reference.
- 10. In the Contempt Order, the Court relevantly ruled that a party may be held in contempt for violating its orders, and that the Court may impose fines and award "reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred by the party as a result of the contempt." Contempt Order at 11:9-23 (quoting NRS 22.100(3)). The Court Ordered that the Lytle Trust violated the May 2018 Order, is in contempt of the May 2018 Order, shall pay a fine of \$500 to each movant, and that the Plaintiffs may file applications for their reasonable expenses, including, without limitation, attorney's fees, incurred as a result of the contempt.
- 11. On May 26, 2020, Plaintiffs filed their Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Attorney's Fees Motion"). The Motion was opposed by the Lytle Trust on June 9, 2020 and Plaintiffs filed a Reply in support on June 29, 2020.
- 12. In the Attorney's Fees Motion, Plaintiffs requested an award of their reasonable expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees and costs, incurred as a result of obtaining the Contempt Order.

- 13. Plaintiffs also sought additional attorney's fees and costs related to the Lytle Trust's appeals of the May 2018 Order and First Fees Order, which were affirmed by the Nevada Supreme Court, as well as attorney's fees and costs related to the Receivership Action.
- 14. The Attorney's Fees Motion requested an award of all attorney's fees in the total amount of \$149,403.20 and costs in the total amount of \$4,145.08 that they incurred from May 23, 2018 to the present date pursuant to the Original CC&Rs, NRS 18.020, 18.050 and 18.010(2)(b) and NRAP 39(e).
- 15. Plaintiffs attached billing statements and a Declaration from their counsel to the Attorney's Fees Motion to support the request.
- 16. On August 11, 2020, this Court entered its Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs ("Second Fees Order"). 1
- 17. Consistent with the Court's express conclusion in the Court Minutes entered on July 7, 2020, the Second Fees Order contained the following Conclusion of Law: "The Court also denies any charges related to the appeal..." *See* Second Fees Order at 6, ¶ 14.
- 18. On August 21, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed its Notice of Appeal of the Second Fees Order with the Supreme Court of Nevada, Case No. 81689 ("Appeal").
- 19. On September 8, 2020, the Plaintiffs filed their Motion to Amend, requesting that the Court grant instead of deny fees and costs incurred on appeal or, in the alternative, to provide findings of fact and conclusions of law to support the denial of the appeal fees.
- 20. The Motion to Amend was filed within 28 days of service of Notice of Entry of the Second Fees Order. NRCP 52(b).
- 21. The Court found that good cause existed and would grant the Motion to Amend to award attorney's fees stemming from appeals under paragraph 25 of the CC&Rs.
- 22. The Court acknowledged that it did not have jurisdiction to grant the Motion to Amend because the underlying Order had been appealed. *See* NRAP 12A; NRCP 62.1; *Foster v. Dingwall*, 126 Nev. 49, 52-53, 228 P.3d 453, 455 (2010).

¹ This Order is denoted as the "Second" Order to avoid confusion with the previous Fees Order entered in favor of Plaintiffs on September 11, 2018.

23. On January 14, 2021, the Court entered its Order Certifying to the Supreme Court Pursuant to NRAP 12(A) and NRCP 62.1 That the District Court Would Grant Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) ("Certification Order"). The Certification Order is hereby incorporated by reference.

Order") remanding the Appeal "to the district court for the limited purpose of resolving respondents' motion to amend the August 11, 2020, attorney fees and costs award." Remand Order at 1-2. The Remand Order is hereby incorporated by reference.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 1. Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend was timely filed pursuant to NRCP 52(b).
- 2. Following entry of the Remand Order, the Court now has jurisdiction to grant the Motion to Amend, and consistent with its Certification Order hereby amends the Second Fees Order.
- 3. NRS 18.010(1) provides that, "[t]he compensation of an attorney and counselor for his services is governed by agreement, express or implied, which is not restrained by law."
- 4. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is a mandatory provision regarding the award of attorney's fees and costs being paid by the losing party in any legal equitable proceeding for the enforcement of or to restrain the violation of the CC&Rs or any provision thereof.
- 5. Nevada allows parties to freely provide for attorney's fees "by express contractual provisions." *Davis v. Beling*, 128 Nev. 301, 321, 278 P.3d 501, 515 (2012); *Musso v. Binick*, 104 Nev. 613, 614, 764 P.2d 477(1988) (per curiam). If the attorney fee provision in a contract "is clear and unambiguous [then it] will be enforced as written." *Davis*, 128 Nev. at 321, 278 P.3d at 515. Section 25 of the CC&Rs is such an express contractual provision that the Court has previously found it to be clear in awarding fees and costs to the other property owners, including fees and costs incurred on appeal.
- 6. The legal disputes in this case were based on the parties' rights under the Original CC&Rs and whether the CC&Rs created a Limited Purpose Association which excluded most of NRS 116, especially NRS 116.3117, from having any application to the Rosemere Subdivision.

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- 7. Throughout this litigation, the Plaintiffs sought to restrain the Lytle Trust from recording abstracts of judgment against their properties and collecting judgments by alternative means because the Lytle Trust had no right pursuant to the CC&Rs to do so.
- 8. Applying the language of the CC&Rs, the Court concludes that the Plaintiffs are the winning or prevailing parties in this litigation, the Lytle Trust was the losing party in this litigation, and the assessment of attorney's fees against the losing party is mandatory under Section 25.
- 9. NRS 18.010(2)(b) provides that, "the court may make an allowance of attorney's fees to a prevailing party: . . . (b) Without regard to the recovery sought, when the court finds that the claim . . . or defense of the opposing party was brought or maintained without reasonable ground or to harass the prevailing party." This Court based the First Fees Award on NRS 18.010(2) and does so again now as a basis for awarding additional fees.
- 10. NRS 22.100(3) provides a basis for awarding fees associated with the contempt proceedings in this case.
- Section 25 of the CC&Rs provides a basis for awarding fees to Plaintiffs, including fees 11. and costs incurred for appeals.
- 12. The Court analyzed the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees utilizing the factors identified in *Brunzell* v. Golden Gate Nat'I Bank, 85 Nev. 345, 349, 455 P.2d 31, 33 (1969), including the qualities of the advocate, the character of the work to be done, the work actually performed by the lawyer, and the result obtained.
- 13. The Plaintiffs have satisfied the *Brunzell* factors. More specifically, based on the record and the Declaration of the Plaintiffs' counsel in support of the Motion, the Court finds that the qualities of counsel, character of the work to be done and its difficulty, the work actually performed by Plaintiffs' counsel, and the result obtained establish the reasonableness of the Plaintiffs' attorney's fees to the extent awarded in this Order.
- 14. However, the Court finds that certain time and amounts billed are not compensable in this matter and will reduce the award accordingly.

- 15. The Court has reviewed the Plaintiffs' submitted billing statements, which the fees charged total \$149,403.20.
- 16. The Plaintiffs' fee statements include entries that are commonly defined as block billing that make it difficult for the Court to determine the exact amount billed for each individual task and the reasonableness of the request.
- 17. The Court denies an award of fees incurred in the Receivership Action before Judge Kishner. Plaintiffs' counsel represented this amount was \$36,259.00, which the Court accepts. The denial of fees incurred in the Receivership Action is without prejudice to either party's right to seek an award of fees from Judge Kishner in the Receivership Action.
- 18. The Court will not award fees for work described in the briefing as clerical work, which the Court has determined total \$23,374.00.
- 19. In light of the findings above, the \$149,403.20 is reduced by \$36,259.00 and \$23,374.00, which leaves a difference of \$89,770.20.
- 20. Further, as suggested by the Defendant, the Court will apply a 15% discount to the \$89,770.20 to further account for the block billing in the fee statements. The difference after the discount is \$76,304.67.
- 21. Consequently, the Court grants Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs, but with modifications, resulting in a total fee award of \$76,304.67.
 - 22. Additionally, the Court grants costs in the sum of \$4,145.08.

<u>ORDER</u>

Based upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law above, and good cause appearing therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(B) is GRANTED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that this Order shall amend and replace the Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs entered on August 11, 2020.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Findings of Fact shall be treated as Conclusions of Law and the Conclusions of Law shall be treated as Findings of Fact to any extent necessary to effectuate the intent of this Order.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs is GRANTED IN PART AND DENIED IN PART.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that attorney's fees are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$76,304.67 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that costs are awarded in favor of Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint Tenants, in the total aggregate amount of \$4,145.08 against Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust.

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IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Lytle Trust is ordered to pay the attorney's fees and costs as ordered herein by certified check made payable to Christensen James & Martin Special Client Trust Account in the amount of \$80,449.75 and delivered to Christensen James & Martin, or deposited with the Clerk of the Court pending resolution of the appeal from the Second Fee Order, within ten (10) days of the Notice of Entry of this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated this day of , 2021.

Dated this 30th day of April, 2021

C9B 99D 318B E6BC **Timothy C. Williams District Court Judge**

Submitted by:

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

/s/ Wesley J. Smith

Wesley J. Smith, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 11871

Laura J. Wolff, Esq.

Nevada Bar No. 6869

7440 W. Sahara Ave.

Las Vegas, NV 89117

Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust, and

Dennis & Julie Gegen

1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, CASE NO: A-16-747800-C 6 Plaintiff(s) DEPT. NO. Department 16 7 VS. 8 Trudi Lytle, Defendant(s) 9 10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 12 Court. The foregoing Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system to all 13 recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 4/30/2021 15 "Daniel T. Foley, Esq.". dan@foleyoakes.com 16 Maren Foley. maren@foleyoakes.com 17

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JOEL D. HENRIOD

Nevada Bar No. 8492 DANIEL F. POLSENBERG

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DWaite@LewisRoca.com

Attorneys for Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust

DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust; LINDA LAMOTHE; and JACQUES LAMOTHE, Trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust,

Case No. A-16-747800-C

AMENDED CASE

APPEAL STATEMENT

Dep't No. 16

Plaintiffs,

TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN

LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, 17 DOES I through X, inclusive, and ROE

CORPORATIONS I through X,

Defendants.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST and JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL and JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992; and DENNIS A. GEGEN and JULIE S. GEGEN, husband and wife, as joint tenants,

Consolidated with:

Case No. A-17-765372-C

Dep't No. 16

Plaintiffs,

v.

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TRUDI LEE LYTLE; and JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, as trustees of the Lytle Trust, JOHN DOES I through V, inclusive, and ROE ENTITIES I through V, inclusive,

Defendants.

1. Name of appellants filing this case appeal statement:

Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as trustees of the Lytle Trust

2. Identify the judge issuing the decision, judgment, or order appealed from:

The Honorable Timothy C. Williams

3. Identify each appellant and the name and address of counsel for each appellant:

Attorneys for Appellants Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust

JOEL D. HENRIOD DANIEL F. POLSENBERG DAN R. WAITE LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200

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 and provide the name and address of that respondent's trial counsel):

Attorneys for Respondents September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, husband and wife, as joint tenants

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN WESLEY J. SMITH CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 (702) 255-1718

5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4 is not licensed 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 permission):

N/A

6. Indicate whether appellant was represented by appointed or retained counsel in the district court:

Retained counsel

7. Indicate whether appellant is represented by appointed or retained counsel on appeal:

Retained counsel

8. Indicate whether appellant was granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis, and the date of entry of the district court order granting such leave:

N/A

9. Indicate the date the proceedings commenced in the district court, *e.g.*, date complaint, indictment, information, or petition was filed:

"Complaint," filed December 8, 2016 in case no. A-16-7476800-C.

"Complaint," filed November 30, 2017 in case no. A-17-765372-C.

Case no. A-17-765372-C was consolidated with case no. A-16-7476800-C on February 28, 2018.

10. Provide a brief description of the nature of the action and result in the district court, including the type of judgment or order being appealed and the relief granted by the district court:

In other lawsuits, the defendant Lytle Trust obtained three judgments (totaling approx. \$1.8 million) against the Rosemere Estate Property Owners Association ("Association"). The Lytle Trust is a member of the Association. This action stems from a dispute over the validity and legal effect of abstracts of judgments the Lytle Trust recorded against certain residential property owned by other Association members. The district court (Judge T. Williams) granted summary judgment in favor of plaintiffs and entered a permanent injunction against the Lytle Trust precluding action to enforce their judgments directly against the other Association members (the "May 2018 order"). The Dismans were added as parties to the litigation when they purchased the Boulden property. The district court awarded fees and costs to plaintiffs on September 20, 2019.

Following affirmance of the May 2018 order by this Court on July 15, 2020, Plaintiffs moved the district court for an additional

| $\frac{1}{2}$ | award of fees incurred post-judgment. The district court granted the majority of fees requested on August 11, 2020. Defendants timely appealed. |
|---------------|---|
| 3 | Defendants now formally amend the scope of that appeal to |
| 4 | include the subsequent "Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b)," |
| 5 | filed April 30, 2021, notice of entry of which was served electronically on May 4, 2021. |
| 6 7 | 11. Indicate whether the case has previously been the subject of an appeal or an original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court and, if so, the caption and Supreme Court docket number of the prior proceeding. |
| 8 | |
| 9 | Lytle v. Boulden, Case No. 73039 Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Case No. 76198 |
| 10 | Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Case No. 77007 Lytle v. Disman, Case No. 79753 |
| 11 | Lytle v. Boulden, Case No. 79776 |
| 12 | Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Case No. 81390 Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Case No. 81689 |
| 13 | 12. Indicate whether this appeal involves child custody or visitation: |
| 14 | This case does not involve child custody or visitation. |
| 15 | |
| 16 | 13. If this is a civil case, indicate whether this appeal involves the possibility of settlement: |
| 17 | No. The related appeal already has been removed from the |
| 18 | Court's settlement program. |
| 19 | Dated this 3rd day of June, 2021. |
| 20 | LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP |
| 21 | |
| 22 | By: /s/Joel D. Henriod |
| 23 | |
| 24 | JOEL D. HENRIOD (SBN 8492) DANIEL F. POLSENBERG (SBN 2376) DAN R. WAITE (SBN 4078) |
| 25 | 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200 |
| 26 | Attorneys for Defendants Trudi Lee Lytle and |
| 27 | John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust |
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 3rd day of June, 2021, I served the foregoing "Amended Case Appeal Statement" on counsel by the Court's electronic filing system to the persons and addresses listed below:

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN
WESLEY J. SMITH
CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN
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Wes@CJMLV.com

Christina H. Wang FIDELITY NATIONAL LAW GROUP 8363 W. Sunset Road, Suite 120 Las Vegas, Nevada 89113 Christina.Wang@FNF.com

Attorneys for Robert Z. Disman and Yvonne A. Disman

Attorneys for September Trust, dated March 23, 1972, Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust, Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust dated May 27, 1992, and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, husband and wife, as joint tenants

Daniel T. Foley
FOLEY & OAKES, PC
1210 South Valley View Boulevard
Suite 208
Las Vegas, Nevada 89102
Dan@FoleyOakes.com

Attorneys for Marjorie B. Boulden, trustee of the Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, and Linda Lamothe and Jacques Lamothe, trustees of the Jacques & Linda Lamothe Living Trust

/s/ Emily D. Kapolnai

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An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie Llp

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LEWIS ROCA

Electronically Filed

| 1 2 3 | NTSO DAN R. WAITE, ESQ. Nevada Bar No. 4078 DWaite@lewisroca.com JOEL D. HENRIOD, ESQ. | CLERK OF THE COURT | |
|--|---|---|--|
| 4 5 6 7 | Nevada Bar No. 8492 JHenriod@lewisroca.com LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE I 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 Telephone: 702-949-8200 Facsimile: 702-949-8398 Attorneys for Defendants | LLP | |
| 8 | | T COURT | |
| 9 | DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA | | |
| 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 | MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et al., Plaintiff, v. TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al., Defendants, SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972, et al., Plaintiffs, v. | Case No.: A-16-747800-C Dept. No.: 16 Consolidated: Case No.: A-17-765372-C Dept. No.: 16 NOTICE OF ENTRY OF STIPULATION AND ORDER TO PARTIALLY RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTE CASH BOND | |
| 20 21 22 23 24 25 | TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST, et al., Defendants. Defendants. | | |
| | | | |

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Stipulation and Order to Partially Release and Distribute Case Bond was entered in the above-captioned matter on June 8, 2022. A copy of said Stipulation and Order is attached hereto.

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LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

By: /s/ Dan R. Waite
Dan R. Waite (SBN 4078)
Joel D. Henriod (SBN 8492) 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200

Attorneys for Defendants, Trudi Lee Lytle, John Allen Lytle as Trustees of the Lytle Trust

- 2 -

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 2 Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that on this day, I caused a true and correct copy of the following "NOTICE OF ENTRY OF STIPULATION AND ORDER TO PARTIALLY 3 4 **RELEASE AND DISTRIBUTE CASH BOND**" to be e-filed and served via the Court's E-Filing 5 System. 6 Wesley J. Smith Laura J. Wolff 7 CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN 7440 W. Sahara Ave. 8 Las Vegas, NV 89117 9 Attorneys for Intervenors September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Gegen 10 Daniel T. Foley 11 FOLEY & OAKES, PC 12 1210 S. Valley View Blvd., #208 Las Vegas, NV 89102 13 dan@foleyoakes.com Attorneys for Marjorie Boulden Trust and Linda 14 and Jacques Lamothe Trust 15 16 Dated this 8th day of June, 2022 17 18 /s/ Luz Horvath An Employee of Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600

Las Vegas, NV 89169

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STIPULATION

Tenants ("Gegens") (September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegens, collectively,

- 1. On or about May 22, 2020, this Court entered its "Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders" (the "Contempt Order").
- 2. On or about June 22, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed its Notice of Appeal from the Contempt Order.
- 3. On or about August 11, 2020, this Court entered its "Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs" (the "August 2020 Fee Order").
- 4. On or about August 21, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed its Notice of Appeal from the August 2020 Fee Order.
- 5. On or about April 30, 2021, this Court entered its "Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b)" (the "April 2021 Amended Fee Order"). Pursuant to the April 2021 Amended Fee Order, the Lytle Trust (a) was ordered to pay Plaintiffs a total of \$80,449.75 in fees and costs, but (b) could deposit the \$80,449.75 with the Clerk of the Court pending the appeal from the August 2020 Fee Order. The April 2021 Amended Fee Order awarded fees and costs to the Plaintiffs in three general areas: (a) Plaintiffs' fees and costs incurred obtaining the Contempt Order ("Contempt Proceeding Fees"), (b) Plaintiffs' fees and costs incurred since May 23, 2018 whereby the Plaintiffs successfully defended prior appeals brought by the Lytle Trust ("Appeal Fees"), and (c) Plaintiffs' fees and costs related to miscellaneous matters ("Miscellaneous Fees").
- 6. On or about May 14, 2021, the Lytle Trust posted a cash bond with the Clerk of the Court in the amount of \$80,449.75 ("Cash Bond") to secure payment of the Contempt

| Proceeding Fees, the Appeal Fees, and the Miscellaneous Fees, as set forth in the April 20 |)2 |
|--|----|
| Amended Fee Order | |

- 7. On or about June 3, 2021, the Lytle Trust filed its Amended Notice of Appeal from the August 2020 Fee Order and the April 2021 Amended Fee Order.
- 8. Plaintiffs and the Lytle Trust have partially resolved some of the issues on appeal (namely, the Appeal Fees and the Miscellaneous Fees, but not the Contempt Proceeding Fees) and have accordingly agreed to a partial release and distribution of the Cash Bond.
- 9. Accordingly, Plaintiffs and the Lytle Trust stipulate and respectfully request the Court to enter an order directing the Clerk of the Court, Court Administrator, or the Director of Finance for the Eighth Judicial District Court (whichever the case may be) to partially release the Cash Bond by issuing checks as follows:
- In the amount of \$39,715.95 made payable to "Christensen James & a. Martin Special Client Trust Account" and delivered to the attention of Wesley J. Smith, Esq., Christensen James & Martin, 7440 W. Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89117.
- b. In the amount of \$19,805.45 made payable to "John Allen Lytle or Trudi Lee Lytle" and delivered to the attention of Dan R. Waite, Esq., Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600, Las Vegas, NV 89169.

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| c. | The balance of the Cash Born | nd—i.e., \$20,928.36—v | vill remain on deposit |
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| with the Clerk of the | Court as the cash bond to secu | are the Contempt Proce | eding Fees, pending |
| resolution of the appeal/writ petition from the Contempt Order and the April 2021 Amended Fee | | | |
| Order. | | | |
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| Dated this 2^{nd} day of | June, 2022. | Dated this 2^{nd} day of | June, 2022. |
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| Dated this $2^{n\alpha}$ day of June, 2022. | Dated this 2 nd day of June, 2022. |
|--|--|
| CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN | LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP |
| By: /s/ Wesley J. Smith Wesley J. Smith, Nevada Bar No. 11871 7440 W. Sahara Ave. Las Vegas, NV 89117 (702) 255-1718 | By:/s/ Dan R. Waite Dan R. Waite (SBN 4078) 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 (702) 949-8200 |
| Attorneys for Plaintiffs September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Dennis & Julie Gegen | Attorneys for Defendants, Trudi Lee Lytle and John Allen Lytle, as Trustees of the Lytle Trust |

ORDER

Based upon the foregoing Stipulation and good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the Clerk of the Court, Court Administrator, or the Director of Finance for the Eighth Judicial District Court (whichever the case may be) is directed to partially release the Cash Bond as follows:

- 1. The amount of \$39,715.95 made payable to "Christensen James & Martin Special Client Trust Account" and delivered to the attention of Wesley J. Smith, Esq., Christensen James & Martin, 7440 W. Sahara Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89117.
- 2. The amount of \$19,805.45 made payable to "John Allen Lytle or Trudi Lee Lytle" and delivered to the attention of Dan R. Waite, Esq., Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP, 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600, Las Vegas, NV 89169.
- 3. The balance of the Cash Bond—i.e., \$20,928.36—will remain on deposit with the

MH

1 Clerk of the Court as the cash bond to secure the Contempt Proceeding Fees, 2 pending resolution of the appeal/writ petition from the Contempt Order and the 3 April 2021 Amended Fee Order. Dated this 8th day of June, 2022 motte. Wa 4 5 78B CAE 21B2 294A 6 **Timothy C. Williams District Court Judge** 7 Submitted by: 8 LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP 9 10 By: /s/ Dan R. Waite Dan R. Waite (SBN 4078) 11 3993 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 600 Las Vegas, Nevada 89169 12 (702) 949-8200 Attorneys for Defendants, Trudi Lee Lytle, John Allen Lytle, 13 as Trustees of the Lytle Trust 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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Thu 6/2/2022 6:33 AM Wesley Smith <wes@cjmlv.com> Re: Case No. A-16-747800-C: Stip and Order to Partially Release and Distribute Cash Bond Waite, Dan R. Cc ☐ Henriod, Joel D.; ■ Horvath, Luz Retention Policy LRRC All Mail Items (365) (1 year) Expires 6/2/2023 Action Items

Dan, this looks good. You have my permission to file.

Joel, could you let me know about the stip for the appeal? I have tomorrow calendared as the deadline for the response brief.

I am boarding a plane to Seattle and will have meetings today, but may be able to find a moment if you want to discuss.

Christensen James & Martin

Get Outlook for Android

From: Waite, Dan R. < DWaite@lewisroca.com >

Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 6:06:41 AM

To: Wesley Smith < wes@cjmlv.com >

Cc: Henriod, Joel D. <
JHenriod@lewisroca.com; Horvath, Luz <
LHorvath@lewisroca.com

Subject: Case No. A-16-747800-C: Stip and Order to Partially Release and Distribute Cash Bond

Thank you for your redline changes. I accepted them all, as reflected on the attached finalized Stip and Order. Please advise if we are authorized to affix your e-signature and submit to the Court. Thanks,

dwaite@lewisroca.com

Dan Waite

Luz Horvath

Christina Wang

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1 **CSERV** 2 DISTRICT COURT 3 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA 4 5 Marjorie B. Boulden Trust, CASE NO: A-16-747800-C 6 Plaintiff(s) DEPT. NO. Department 16 7 VS. 8 Trudi Lytle, Defendant(s) 9 10 **AUTOMATED CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 11 This automated certificate of service was generated by the Eighth Judicial District 12 Court. The foregoing Stipulation and Order was served via the court's electronic eFile system 13 to all recipients registered for e-Service on the above entitled case as listed below: 14 Service Date: 6/8/2022 15 "Daniel T. Foley, Esq.". dan@foleyoakes.com 16 Maren Foley. maren@foleyoakes.com 17 Natalie Saville nat@cjmlv.com 18 Wesley Smith wes@cjmlv.com 19 20 Laura Wolff ljw@cjmlv.com 21 Jessie Helm jhelm@lewisroca.com 22 Joel Henriod JHenriod@LRRC.com 23 Daniel Polsenberg DPolsenberg@LRRC.com 24

DWaite@LRRC.com

lhorvath@lewisroca.com

christina.wang@fnf.com

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| | FNLG Court Filings | FNLG-Court-Filings-NV@fnf.com | |
|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|--------|
| | Cynthia Kelley | ckelley@lewisroca.com | |
| | Emily Kapolnai | ekapolnai@lewisroca.com | |
| | Jennifer Martinez | jennifer.martinez@fnf.com | |
| | Mia Hurtado | mia.hurtado@fnf.com | |
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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. (175) WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. (11871) LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. (6869)

7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718

Facsimile: (702) 255-0871 Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust,

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al.,

Defendants.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST, et al.,

Defendants.

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

PLAINTIFFS' STATUS REPORT

Date of Hearing: October 13, 2022 Time of Hearing: 9:00 A.M.

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Consolidated

Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint

Tenants ("Gegen") (collectively the "Plaintiffs"), hereby provide the following Status Report for the "Status Check: Supreme Court Finality" currently scheduled for hearing on October 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.:

- 1) On June 22, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed a Notice of Appeal of the Court's "Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders" (the "Contempt Order") entered on May 22, 2020.
- 2) The appeal of the Contempt Order was docketed with the Nevada Supreme Court as Case No. 81390 ("Contempt Appeal").
- 3) On July 31, 2020, the Lytle Trust amended the Contempt Appeal through an Amended Notice of Appeal filed in this case, adding an appeal of the Court's "Order Denying Defendant Lytle Trust's Motion for Clarification and Ex Parte Request for Order Shortening Time" entered on July 15, 2020.
- 4) Following briefing on the merits, the Contempt Appeal was dismissed on February 18, 2022 (*See* Order Dismissing Appeal, Case No. 81390, Doc. No. 22-05423).
- 5) Following dismissal of the Contempt Appeal, the Lytle Trust filed a "Petition for Writ of Mandamus or, Alternatively, Prohibition" concerning the Contempt Order on April 11, 2022 ("Writ Petition").
- 6) The Writ Petition was docketed at the Nevada Supreme Court as Case No. 84538. Briefing was completed on the Writ Petition on July 7, 2022. Current status is "Screening Completed." The Writ Petition is awaiting either a decision or an order setting oral argument.
- 7) On August 21, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed a Notice of Appeal of the Court's "Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs" entered on August 11, 2020 ("Fees Order").
- 8) The appeal of the Fees Order was docketed with the Nevada Supreme Court as Case No. 81689 ("Fees Appeal").

| 9) O | on June 3, 2021, the Lytle Trust amended the Fees Appeal by filing an Amended |
|-------------------|---|
| Notice of Appea | l in this Case to add an appeal of the Court's "Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion |
| to Amend Order | Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and |
| Costs Pursuant to | o NRCP 52(b)" entered on April 30, 2021. |

- 10) Briefing was completed on the Fees Appeal on September 1, 2022. Current status is "Briefing Completed/To Screening." The Fees Appeal is awaiting either a decision or an order setting oral argument.
- Whereas the Writ Petition and the Fees Appeal remain pending before the Nevada Supreme Court, there is no action currently necessary from the District Court.

DATED this 7th day of October, 2022. CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

By: /s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Wesley J. Smith, Esq.
Nevada Bar No. 11871
7440 W. Sahara Avenue
Las Vegas, NV 89117
Tel.: (702) 255-1718
Fax: (702) 255-0871
Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist
Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On October 7, 2022, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Plaintiffs' Status Report, to be served in the following manner:

<u>ELECTRONIC SERVICE</u>: electronic transmission (E-Service) through the Court's electronic filing system pursuant to Rule 8.05 of the Rules of Practice for the Eighth Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada.

/s/ Wesley Smith
Wesley Smith

7440 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

VS.

TRUST, et al.,

SR **CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN**

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. (175) WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. (11871)

LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. (6869) 7440 W. Sahara Avenue

Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718

Facsimile: (702) 255-0871

Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust,

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et

Plaintiffs,

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al.,

Defendants.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE

Defendants.

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

PLAINTIFFS' STATUS REPORT

Date of Hearing: February 9, 2023 Time of Hearing: 9:00 A.M.

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Consolidated

Plaintiffs September Trust, dated March 23, 1972 ("September Trust"), Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist, as Trustees of the Gerry R. Zobrist and Jolin G. Zobrist Family Trust ("Zobrist Trust"), Raynaldo G. Sandoval and Julie Marie Sandoval Gegen, as Trustees of the Raynaldo G. and Evelyn A. Sandoval Joint Living and Devolution Trust Dated May 27, 1992 ("Sandoval Trust"), and Dennis A. Gegen and Julie S. Gegen, Husband and Wife, as Joint

Tenants ("Gegen") (collectively the "Plaintiffs"), hereby provide the following Status Report for the continued hearing "Status Check: Supreme Court Finality" currently scheduled for February 9, 2023 at 9:00 a.m.:

- 1) On May 22, 2020, the Court entered an Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why the Lytle Trust Should Not Be Held in Contempt for Violation of Court Orders ("Contempt Order").
- 2) On June 22, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed a Notice of Appeal of the Contempt Order entered on May 22, 2020, which was docketed with the Nevada Supreme Court as Case No. 81390 ("Contempt Appeal").
- 3) On July 31, 2020, the Lytle Trust amended the Contempt Appeal through an Amended Notice of Appeal filed in this case, adding an appeal of the Court's "Order Denying Defendant Lytle Trust's Motion for Clarification and Ex Parte Request for Order Shortening Time" entered on July 15, 2020.
- 4) Following briefing on the merits, the Contempt Appeal was dismissed on February 18, 2022 (*See* Order Dismissing Appeal, Case No. 81390, Doc. No. 22-05423).
- 5) Following dismissal of the Contempt Appeal, the Lytle Trust filed a "Petition for Writ of Mandamus or, Alternatively, Prohibition" concerning the Contempt Order on April 11, 2022 ("Writ Petition").
 - 6) The Writ Petition was docketed at the Nevada Supreme Court as Case No. 84538.
- 7) On August 21, 2020, the Lytle Trust filed a Notice of Appeal of the Court's "Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs" entered on August 11, 2020 ("Fees Order").
- 8) The appeal of the Fees Order was docketed with the Nevada Supreme Court as Case No. 81689 ("Fees Appeal").
- 9) On June 3, 2021, the Lytle Trust amended the Fees Appeal by filing an Amended Notice of Appeal in this Case to add an appeal of the Court's "Order Granting Plaintiffs' Motion

to Amend Order Granting in Part and Denying in Part Plaintiffs' Motion for Attorney's Fees and Costs Pursuant to NRCP 52(b)" entered on April 30, 2021.

- 10) Oral argument was held on December 6, 2022 before the Nevada Supreme Court on the Lytle Trust's Writ Petition and Fees Appeal.
- On December 29, 2022, the Nevada Supreme Court issued an "Order Affirming in Docket No. 81689 and Denying Petition for Writ of Mandamus in Docket No. 84538" (Document 2022-40891) (the "Writ Order"), attached hereto as Exhibit 1. In the Order, the Supreme Court held as follows:

We further conclude that the Lytles disobeyed the order of the district court in the resident actions when applying for the receiver in the receivership action by arguing that under the Amended CC&Rs, "the Association has the power and authority to assess each lot' or unit for the total amount of any judgments against the Association in proportion to ownership within the Association." A district court may hold a party in contempt for their "[d]isobedience or resistance to any lawful... order . . . issued by the court." NRS 22.010(3). In holding the Lytles in contempt, the district court relied, in part, on their having argued that the Association, through the receiver, could make special assessments on the Property Owners for the purpose of paying the judgments when the Association had no power to do so under the original CC&Rs. Discerning no manifest abuse of discretion in the district court's ruling, we deny the Lytles' petition for a writ of mandamus.

- Exhibit 1, Writ Order at 5-6. Because the Court denied the Writ Petition, it also necessarily affirmed the attorney fees awarded as a result of the Contempt Order. *Id.* at 6.
- On January 31, 2023, the Lytle Trust filed a Petition for Rehearing (Document 2023-03069) with the Nevada Supreme Court in Docket Nos. 81689 and 84538. The Supreme Court has not requested a response from the Plaintiffs. *See* NRAP 40(d) ("No answer to a petition for rehearing or reply to an answer shall be filed unless requested by the court.... A petition for rehearing will ordinarily not be granted in the absence of a request for an answer.").
- 13) Plaintiffs anticipate issuance of a Remittitur following a decision on the Petition for Rehearing. See NRAP 41(b)(1) (The timely filing of a petition for rehearing stays the remittitur until disposition of the petition).

| 14) | Assuming that the Writ Order stand | ds, Plaintiffs anticipate filing a renewed motion | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| for fees and costs with the District Court following issuance of the Remittitur. 15) Until such time, there is no action currently necessary from the District Court. | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| DAT | ED this 8th day of February, 2023. | CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN By: /s/ Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Wesley J. Smith, Esq. Nevada Bar No. 11871 7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, NV 89117 Tel.: (702) 255-1718 Fax: (702) 255-0871 Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust and Gegen | | | | |

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On February 8, 2023, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Plaintiffs' Status Report, to be served in the following manner:

/s/ Wesley Smith
Wesley Smith

Exhibit 1

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

TRUDI LEE LYTLE; AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST, Appellants,

VS.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS,

Respondents.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE; AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST,

Petitioners,

VS.

THE EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF CLARK; AND THE HONORABLE TIMOTHY C. WILLIAMS, DISTRICT JUDGE,

Respondents,

and

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23, 1972; GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND No. 81689

FILED

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No. 84538

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA



JOLIN G. ZOBRIST, AS TRUSTEES OF THE GERRY R. ZOBRIST AND JOLIN G. ZOBRIST FAMILY TRUST; RAYNALDO G. SANDOVAL AND JULIE MARIE SANDOVAL GEGEN, AS TRUSTEES OF THE RAYNALDO G. AND EVELYN A. SANDOVAL JOINT LIVING AND DEVOLUTION TRUST DATED MAY 27, 1992; DENNIS A. GEGEN AND JULIE S. GEGEN, HUSBAND AND WIFE, AS JOINT TENANTS; ROBERT Z. DISMAN; AND YVONNE A. DISMAN, Real Parties in Interest.

ORDER AFFIRMING IN DOCKET NO. 81689 AND DENYING PETITION FOR A WRIT OF MANDAMUS IN DOCKET NO. 84538

Docket No. 84538 is an original petition for a writ of mandamus or, alternatively, prohibition challenging a contempt order in a real property action. It is consolidated with Docket No. 81689, an appeal challenging an award of attorney fees and costs relating to the contempt order. Petitioners/appellants, Trudi and John Lytle as trustees of the Lytle Trust ("the Lytles"), and real parties in interest/respondents ("Property Owners") own homes that are part of non-party Rosemere Estates Property Owners Association ("Association"). After extensive litigation against the Association over assessments recorded against the Lytles' property under an amended version of the CC&Rs, the Amended CC&Rs were declared *void ab initio* and the Lytles were awarded judgments totaling more than \$1.4 million.¹ Importantly, the original CC&Rs do not allow for the Association to impose assessments on property owners. The Lytles' attempts to collect

¹The Property Owners were not parties to the cases awarding judgments against the Association.

led them to record abstracts of judgments and *lis pendens* against the Property Owners' homes. The Property Owners brought separate cases, which were later consolidated, seeking to strike the recorded judgments and enjoin future collection attempts against them (the "resident actions"). In May 2018, the district court in the resident actions permanently enjoined the Lytles from "recording or enforcing" judgments obtained against the Association against the Property Owners' homes or "taking any action in the future directly against" the Property Owners or their homes in relation to the judgments ("May 2018 Order").²

The Lytles then commenced a new action (the "receivership action") seeking the appointment of a receiver over the Association to facilitate payment of the prior judgments. The receivership action was randomly assigned to a different district court department than the one handling the resident actions. In the receivership action, the Lytles specifically requested that the receiver have the power to "[i]ssue a special assessment upon all owners within the Association, except the Lytle Trust, to satisfy (or, at least, partially satisfy) the Lytle Trust's judgments against the Association." The Lytles informed the district court in the receivership action that the Amended CC&Rs had been declared *void ab initio* in earlier litigation but nonetheless argued the Association had the authority to make assessments against individual homeowners under the Amended CC&Rs. The Lytles also did not inform the district court in the receivership action of the injunctions issued in the resident actions. Ultimately, the district

²This court affirmed that order on appeal. Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Nos. 76198, 77007, 2020 WL 1033050 (Nev. Mar. 2, 2020) (Order of Affirmance).

court in the receivership action appointed the receiver as requested and empowered the receiver to impose assessments on the Property Owners.

After learning of the receiver's appointment, the Property Owners filed a motion for an order to show cause in the resident actions why the Lytles should not be held in contempt for violating the May 2018 Order entered in those cases. The district court in the resident actions granted the motion, holding the Lytles in contempt and ordering the Lytles to pay attorney fees and costs to the Property Owners.

Because the district court did not manifestly abuse its discretion by holding the Lytles in contempt, we deny the requested writ relief.³ See Pengilly v. Rancho Santa Fe Homeowners Ass'n, 116 Nev. 646, 650, 5 P.3d 569, 571 (2000) (providing that contempt orders may be challenged through a writ petition, but mandamus is typically only available to control a "manifest abuse of discretion" and "[w]hether a person is guilty of contempt is generally within the particular knowledge of the district court, and the district court's order should not lightly be overturned"). We conclude the May 2018 Order clearly and unambiguously prohibited the Lytles' future reliance on the Association's powers under the Amended CC&Rs.⁴ See Mack-Manley v. Manley, 122 Nev. 849, 858, 138

³While the Lytles alternatively seek a writ of prohibition, we conclude mandamus relief is proper because they do not assert that the district court exceeded its jurisdiction by entering the contempt order. See NRS 34.320.

⁴While we conclude that the Lytles were prohibited from enforcing the powers in the Amended CC&Rs, nothing in the plain text of the May 2018 Order prohibited them from seeking the appointment of a receiver over the Association. See U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n v. Palmilla Dev. Co., 131 Nev. 72, 77, 343 P.3d 603, 606 (2015) (explaining that an appointed receiver is merely an officer of the court, with "no powers other than those conferred"

P.3d 525, 532 (2006) ("An order on which a judgment of contempt is based must be clear and unambiguous."). The May 2018 order enjoined the Lytles "from taking any action in the future directly against" the Property Owners or their homes, and included findings of fact noting that the Amended CC&Rs had no force and effect. Further, at various stages of the Lytles' litigation, the district courts and this court issued orders that the Amended CC&Rs were void ab initio and the Association had no power through the original CC&Rs or NRS Chapter 116 to make assessments against the unit owners. See Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972, Nos. 76198, 77007, 2020 WL 1033050, at *2 (Nev. Mar. 2, 2020). That constitutes law of the case here. See Dictor v. Creative Mgmt. Servs., LLC, 126 Nev. 41, 44, 223 P.3d 332, 334 (2010) (stating that under the law-of-the-case doctrine when an appellate court decides a principle or rule of law either expressly or by necessary implication, "that decision governs the same issues in subsequent proceedings in that case"); LoBue v. State ex rel. Dep't of Highways, 92 Nev. 529, 532, 554 P.2d 258, 260 (1976) ("The law of the first appeal is the law of the case on all subsequent appeals in which the facts are substantially the same." (internal quotation marks omitted)).

We further conclude that the Lytles disobeyed the order of the district court in the resident actions when applying for the receiver in the receivership action by arguing that under the Amended CC&Rs, "the Association has the power and authority to assess each 'Lot' or unit for the total amount of any judgments against the Association in proportion to ownership within the Association." A district court may hold a party in contempt for their "[d]isobedience or resistance to any

upon him by the order of his appointment" (internal quotation marks omitted).

lawful...order...issued by the court." NRS 22.010(3). In holding the Lytles in contempt, the district court relied, in part, on their having argued that the Association, through the receiver, could make special assessments on the Property Owners for the purpose of paying the judgments when the Association had no power to do so under the original CC&Rs. Discerning no manifest abuse of discretion in the district court's ruling, we deny the Lytles' petition for a writ of mandamus.

Additionally, the Lytles appeal of the attorney fee award was premised solely only on their argument that the fee award must be reversed if their petition was granted. Because we deny the petition, we necessarily affirm the attorney fees awarded as a result of the contempt order. See, e.g., Bower v. Harrah's Laughlin, Inc., 125 Nev. 470, 494-95, 215 P.3d 709, 726 (2009) ("[I]f we reverse the underlying decision of the district court that made the recipient of the costs the prevailing party, we will also reverse the costs award."). Accordingly, we

DENY the petition in Docket No. 84538 and AFFIRM the district court order challenged in Docket No. 81689.

Hardesty, J.

<u>stielil</u>, J.

Herndon, J.

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA



cc: Hon. Timothy C. Williams, District Judge Lewis Roca Rothgerber Christie LLP/Las Vegas Christensen James & Martin Fidelity National Law Group/Las Vegas Eighth District Court Clerk

SUPREME COURT OF NEVADA



MEMO

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CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

KEVIN B. CHRISTENSEN, ESQ. (175) WESLEY J. SMITH, ESQ. (11871)

LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ. (6869)

7440 W. Sahara Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 89117

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Facsimile: (702) 255-0871

Email: kbc@cjmlv.com; wes@cjmlv.com; ljw@cjmlv.com Attorneys for September Trust, Zobrist Trust, Sandoval Trust,

and Dennis & Julie Gegen

EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARJORIE B. BOULDEN, TRUSTEE OF THE MARJORIE B. BOULDEN TRUST, et al.,

Case No.: A-16-747800-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Plaintiffs.

MEMORANDUM OF COSTS AND **DISBURSEMENTS**

VS.

TRUDI LEE LYTLE, et al.,

Defendants.

SEPTEMBER TRUST, DATED MARCH 23,

1972, et al.,

Case No.: A-17-765372-C

Dept. No.: XVI

Plaintiffs,

Consolidated

TRUDI LEE LYTLE AND JOHN ALLEN LYTLE, AS TRUSTEES OF THE LYTLE TRUST, et al.,

Defendants.

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Plaintiffs submit their verified memorandum of costs and disbursements pursuant to NRS 18.005 and NRS 18.110. The total amount of costs and disbursements sought to be taxed against the defendant is \$3,896.51, plus pre-judgment interest on allowed costs and disbursements at the

legal rate from the date incurred up to and including the date the judgment in this action was

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entered on April 24, 2023¹, and post judgment interest, pursuant to NRS 17.130, from that date forward until paid.

MEMORANDUM OF COSTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

| Total |
|------------------------------------|
| Runner Fees |
| Computer Research Fees. \$3,071.01 |
| Court Filing Fees |
| Copy Fees |

STATE OF NEVADA)

COUNTY OF CLARK)

LAURA J. WOLFF, ESQ., being duly sworn, states:

- 1. That affiant is the attorney for Plaintiffs and has personal knowledge of the above costs and disbursements expended; that the items contained in the above memorandum are true and correct to the best of this affiant's knowledge and belief; and that the said disbursements have been actually, reasonably and necessarily incurred in this action.
- That said Plaintiffs are submitting this Verified Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements for the time period of May 1, 2020 through March 31, 2023.
- 3. CJ&M has maintained a record of all costs for this case. The Plaintiffs' Verified Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements has been prepared from CJ&M's records and from invoices received from third-party vendors.
- 4. Attached as Exhibit 1 is the CJ&M Account Report showing that 3876 copies were made on December 6, 2022 in this case and particularly for oral argument at the

¹ The Supreme Court's Certificate of Judgment filed on April 24, 2024 is attached hereto as Exhibit 5.

7440 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 PH: (702) 255-1718 § FAX: (702) 255-0871 CHRISTENSEN JAMES & MARTIN

Supreme Court in Case No. 81689, Trudi Lee Lytle v. September Trust, Dated March 23, 1972.

- 5. Attached as Exhibit 2 are four (4) receipts totaling \$14.00 for District Court filing fees in this case.
- 6. Attached as Exhibit 3 is a Runner Invoice dated February 10, 2023 from Junes Legal Service, Inc. for taking a courtesy copy of Plaintiffs' Status Report to this court.
- 7. Attached as Exhibit 4 are legal research fee invoices from Westlaw and Lexis Nexus that were billed to the Plaintiffs in this case.
- 8. Further your Affiant sayeth naught. I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of the State of Nevada that the foregoing is true and correct.

By: Laura J. Wolff, Esq.

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this

day of April, 2023



CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am an employee of Christensen James & Martin. On April 28, 2023, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Memorandum of Costs and Disbursements, to be served in the following manner:

/s/ Natalie Saville
Natalie Saville

Exhibit 1

ACCOUNT. REPORT

TASKalfa 500ci 12/06/2022 14:27

| Account ID: COPY | 3300 | Rosem PRINT | ere/Lytle | Case No.: A-16-7478 Dept. No.: XVI SCAN | 00-C |
|---------------------|---------|----------------|-----------|---|---------|
| Total | 0000000 | Total | 00003876 | Total | 0000000 |
| Color | 0000000 | Color | 00000000 | Copies | 0000000 |
| MonoColor | 0000000 | B&W | 00003876 | Fax | 0000000 |
| B &W | 0000000 | | | Other | 0000000 |