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Petitioner Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc., dba Choice Home Warranty ("HWAN"), by and through its counsel of record, Holland & Hart LLP, hereby files its Notice of Appeal of the First Judicial District Court Order Affirming in Part, and Modifying in Part, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of the Hearing Officer, and Final Order of the Commissioner in Cause No. 17.0050 in the Matter of Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc., dba Choice Home Warranty (the "Order") entered on November 25, 2019. The Order affirmed in part and modified in part the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry –

¹ Exhibit 1. The Notice of Entry was served on November 26, 2019 and filed on November 27, 2019.

HOLLAND & HART LLP 9555 HILLWOOD DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR LAS VEGAS, NV 89134

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 6th day of December, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **NOTICE OF APPEAL** was served by the following method(s):

U.S. Mail: by depositing same in the United States mail, first class postage fully prepaid to the persons and addresses listed below:

Richard Yien
Deputy Attorney General
STATE OF NEVADA
Office of Attorney General
100 N. Carson St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701
ryien@ag.nv.gov

Attorneys for State of Nevada, Department Of Business and Industry – Division of Joanna Grigoriev
Senior Deputy Attorney General
STATE OF NEVADA
Office of Attorney General
555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
jgrigoriev@ag.nv.gov

Attorneys for State of Nevada, Department Of Business and Industry – Division of Insurance

Email: by electronically delivering a copy via email to the following e-mail address:

jgrigoriev@ag.nv.gov ryien@ag.nv.gov

Insurance

An Employee of Holland & Hart LLP

13910694_v2 104645.0001

HOLLAND & HART LLP 9555 HILLWOOD DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR LAS VEGAS, NV 89134

INDEX OF EXHIBITS

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EXHIBIT 2	Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of Hearing Officer and Final Order of Commissioner	Pages 11 - 40

EXHIBIT 1

Order and Notice of Entry

EXHIBIT 1

Order and Notice of Entry

1	AARON D. FORD	2 511 ED			
2	Attorney General RICHARD PAILI YIEN, Bar No. 13035	REC'D & FILED			
_	Deputy Attorney General	2019 NOV 27 AM 10: 43			
3	State of Nevada Business and Taxation Division	AUBREY ROWLATT			
4	100 N. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701	P.O'KEEE			
5	P: (775) 684-1129	BYDEPUTY			
6	F: (775) 684-1156 Email: <u>ryien@ag.nv.gov</u>				
7	Attorney for the Division of Insurance				
8	IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DI THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AN	STRICT COURT OF ID FOR CARSON CITY			
9	THE STATE OF WEARDIT IN 11112 I OF				
10	HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC., DBA CHOICE HOME	Case No. 17-OC-00269-1B			
11	WARRANTY, a Nevada Corporation	Dept. No. I			
12	Petitioner,				
13	vs.				
14	STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY-DIVISION OF				
15	INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative agency,				
16	Respondent.	·			
17	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER				
18	Please take notice that the ORDER AFFIRMING IN PART, AND MODIFYING IN				
19	ART, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER OF THE HEARING				
20	OFFICER, AND FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER IN CAUSE NO. 17.0050 IN				
21	THE MATTER OF HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC DBA				
22	OICE HOME WARRANTY was signed by Judge James T. Russell on November 25,				
23	2019, a conformed copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.				
24	DATED November 26, 2019				
25	AARON D. Attorney G				
26	Ву:	28			
27	RIC	HARD PAILI YIEN			
	Dep	uty Attorney General rney for the Division of Insurance			
28	Atto	They for the Division of Insurance			

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of the Office of the Attorney General, State of Nevada, and that on November 26, 2019, I deposited for mailing in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid, at Carson City, Nevada a true and correct copy of the NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER, addressed to the following:

Constance L. Akridge, Esq. Sydney R. Gambee, Esq. Brittany L. Walker, Esq. Holland & Hart, LLP 9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor Las Vegas, NV 89134

DATED November 26, 2019

Susan Messina, An Employee of the Office of the Attorney General

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EXHIBIT INDEX

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	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF PAGES (Excluding tabs)		
THE RESIDENCE AND THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY	1	Order Affirming In Part, And Modifying In Part, Findings Of Fact, Conclusions Of Law, Order Of The Hearing Officer, And Final Order Of The Commissioner In Cause No. 17.0050 In The Matter Of Home Warranty Administrator Of Nevada, Inc Dba Choice Home Warranty	4		

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EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

Page 4 of 4

AARON D. FORD 1 Attorney General JOANNA N. GRIGORIEV Senior Deputy Attorney General Nevada Bar No.5649 555 E. Washington Ave. #3900 Las Vegas, NV 89101 E-mail: jgrigoriev@ag.nv.gov RICHARD PAILI YIEN Deputy Attorney General Nevada Bar No. 13035 6 Office of the Attorney General 100 N. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701 E-mail: ryien@ag.nv.gov Attorneys for Respondent Nevada Division of Insurance 9 10 11 12

REC'D& FILEL 2019 NOY 25 AM 7: 47

BY OFFICE OF THE STATE OF THE S

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, a Nevada corporation, Petitioner,

Dept. No.: 1

Case No.: 17 OC 00269 1B

VS.

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STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, DIVISION OF INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative agency,

Respondents.

ORDER AFFIRMING IN PART, AND MODIFYING IN PART, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER OF THE HEARING OFFICER, AND FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER IN CAUSE NO. 17.0050 IN THE MATTER OF HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY

This matter came on for hearing on November 7, 2019 on Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty's ("Petitioner") Petition for Judicial Review of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of the Hearing Officer, and Final Order of the Commissioner in Administrative Cause 17.0050 ("Administrative Order 17.0050"), filed by the Petitioner on December 22, 2017.

Page 1 of 4

A. Standard of Review

The standard of review of an administrative decision is codified in NRS 233B.135. It provides in pertinent parts:

2. The final decision of the agency shall be deemed reasonable and lawful until reversed or set aside in whole or in part by the court. The burden of proof is on the party attacking or resisting the decision to show that the final decision is invalid pursuant to subsection 3.

3. The court shall not substitute its judgment for that of the agency as to the weight of evidence on a question of fact. The court may remand or affirm the final decision or set it aside in whole or in part if substantial rights of the petitioner have been prejudiced because the final decision of the agency is:

(a) In violation of constitutional or statutory provisions;

(b) In excess of the statutory authority of the agency;

(c) Made upon unlawful procedure;

(d) Affected by other error of law;

(e) Clearly erroneous in view of the reliable, probative and substantial evidence on the whole record; or

(f) Arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion.

4. As used in this section, "substantial evidence" means evidence which a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.

Id.

When an administrative decision is challenged, the role of the reviewing court is "to review the evidence presented to the [hearing officer] and ascertain whether [the hearing officer] acted arbitrarily or capriciously, thus abusing [his or her] discretion." O'Keefe v. State, Dep't of Motor Vehicles, 134 Nev. Adv. Op. 92, at *5, 431 P.3d 350, 353 (2018). "[F]actual findings will only be overturned if they are not supported by substantial evidence, which, we have explained, is evidence that a reasonable mind could accept as adequately supporting the agency's conclusions. Nassiri v Chiropractic Physicians' Bd., 130 Nev.245, 248, 327 P.3d 487, 489 (2014). (citations omitted). "We review issues pertaining to statutory construction de novo. We nonetheless defer to an agency's interpretation of its governing statutes or regulations if the interpretation is within the language of the statute." Dutchess Bus. Servs. v. State, Bd. of Pharm., 124 Nev. 701, 709, 191 P.3d 1159, 1165 (2008) (internal citations omitted).

The Court, having considered the pleadings, record, and other documents in the matter, the law applicable to the issues and the arguments of counsel at the hearing, and being fully advised finds as follows:

- B. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law
- 1. The Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Administrative Order 17.0050 are hereby AFFIRMED in part, and MODIFIED in part as follows:
 - a. The Hearing Officer's finding of six (6) violations by the Petitioner of NRS 686A.070 for making false entries of material fact in record or statement is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The total fine of \$30,000, at \$5,000 per violation, as allowed under NRS 686A_183(1)(a), is AFFIRMED.

b. The Hearing Officer's finding of one violation by the Petitioner of NRS 690C.320(2) for failure to make its records available to the Commissioner upon request is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The fine of \$500, as authorized pursuant to NRS 690C.325(1) is AFFIRMED,

c. The Hearing Officer's finding of 23,889 instances of conducting business in an unsuitable manner, in violation of NRS 690C.325(1)(b) and NRS 679B.125(2), by allowing an unregistered entity to issue, sell and offer for sale service contracts in Nevada is hereby AFFIRMED. The Court finds that NRS 690C.150 requires anyone, including a service contract administrator, who wishes to issue, sell, or offer for sale service contracts in Nevada, to possess a certificate of registration under Chapter 690C of the NRS.

The fine of \$50 for each of the 23,889 violations, is AFFIRMED; however, the Court finds that the aggregate cap of \$10,000 for violations of a similar

nature, codified in NRS 690C.330, applies. The Court hereby MODIFIES the fine of \$1,194,450 to be capped at \$10,000 total.

- 2. Petitioner interpleaded \$1,224,950 with the County Clerk's Trust Fund pending final decision of this Court on Petitioner's Petition for Judicial Review pursuant to the Stipulation and Order for interpleading of Fines Pending Final Decision filed herein on March 15, 2018. The Clerk of the Court will distribute the total fine of \$40,500 from Petitioner's interpleaded funds to the Respondent, and refund the remaining balance to Petitioner.
- 3. The Court finds that the doctrine of estoppel does not apply in this case. The Court finds in favor of the Respondent on this issue.
- 4. The Court finds that Petitioner was not denied due process. Petitioner had received sufficient notice and opportunity to prepare, and there was no unfair surprise. The Court finds in favor of the Respondent on this issue.
- 5. The Court further orders that contingent upon Petitioner's compliance with NRS 690C.150 and other requirements of chapter 690C of the NRS, Petitioner's Certificate of Registration be reinstated. In particular, Petitioner is prohibited from using an administrator to perform the duties of selling, issuing, or offering for sale service contracts in Nevada, unless said administrator has been granted a certificate of registration pursuant to NRS 690C and consistent with this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED

DATED this 25 day of Molling 2019.

ASTRICT COURT JUDGE

Respectfully submitted by:

AAROND. FORD Attorney General

By: Richard P. Yien (Bar No. 13035)

Deputy Attorney General Joanna N. Grigoriev (Bar No. 5649) Senior Deputy Attorney General

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EXHIBIT 2

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of Hearing Officer and Final Order of Commissioner

EXHIBIT 2

Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of Hearing Officer and Final Order of Commissioner STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY DIVISION OF INSURANCE DEC 18 207.

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IN THE MATTER OF

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME WARRANTY,

Respondent.

CAUSE NO. 17.0050

FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER OF HEARING OFFICER, AND FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER

This matter is before the Nevada Division of Insurance ("Division") on an Order to Show Cause issued by the Commissioner of Insurance ("Commissioner") on May 11, 2017, against Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty. The Commissioner, as head of the Division, is charged with regulating the business of insurance in Nevada. NRS 232.820, -.825.2; NRS 679B.120. The Division alleges that Respondent violated various provisions of the Nevada Revised Statutes ("NRS") title 57 ("Insurance Code") and of insurance regulations found under the Nevada Administrative Code ("NAC"). A hearing was scheduled for August 1, 2017, and continued to September 12, 2017. A prehearing conference was held on September 8, 2017, at the office of the Division in Carson City. The hearing was held on September 12, 13, and 14, 2017, at the office of the Division in Carson City. At the close of the hearing, the Parties were ordered to file briefs on a legal issue due on October 30, 2017, and written closing arguments due on November 15, 2017. On November 7, 2017, Respondent filed a motion to strike portions of the Division's brief. The motion was denied, but the Parties were granted five extra pages for their written closing arguments to address any issues from the briefs, and the due date for the written closings was extended to November 17, 2017.

See NRS 679B.360.2—3 (explaining that "the Commissioner shall make an order on hearing covering matters involved in such hearing" and enumerating what is required in the order); NRS 679B.330.1 (authorizing the Commissioner to appoint a person as a hearing officer for a hearing); and NAC 679B.411 ("The hearing officer shall file a copy of his or her order with the Division" and "[i]f

I. FINDINGS OF FACT²

A. HWAN Applications

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- CHW Group, Inc. ("CHW Group") was incorporated in the State of New Jersey in May 1. 2009. Victor Mandalawi ("Mandalawi") and Victor Hakim ("Hakim") set up the company to provide service contracts. Both Hakim and Mandalawi are officers for CHW Group: Hakim is the chief executive officer and Mandalawi is the president. The company operates under the name "Choice Home Warranty," which is registered as a fictitious name in New Jersey. CHW Group uses the brand Choice Home Warranty, to include the website www.ChoiceHomeWarranty.com. CHW Group owns the website, through which all service contracts are sold and administered. Hakim has final say or approval on all content on the website. CHW Group's employees handle sales, marketing, claims, finance. CHW Group's sales, marketing, and finance occur at its office located at 1090 King Georges Post Road in Edison, New Jersey; CHW Group's operations, or claims handling, occurs at 2 Executive Drive in Somerset, New Jersey. CHW Group is not registered to do business in Nevada. (Ex. A; Test. Mandalawi; Test. Hakim; Test. Ramirez.)
- Under the name Choice Home Warranty, CHW Group sold service contracts online, so 2. sales reached consumers nationally, and consumers were purchasing the service contract in states where CHW Group was not licensed. Mandalawi and Hakim were not aware that other states required a license in order to sell this type of product. Choice Home Warranty was named in administrative actions in different states. As a result, Mandalawi created the Home Warranty Administrators name for states that require licensure. Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. ("HWAN") was incorporated in Nevada on July 23, 2010. Mandalawi is the only employee for each of the Home Warranty Administrators companies. HWAN's address is 90 Washington Valley Road in Bedminster, New Jersey. (Test. Mandalawi.)
 - On or about July 29, 2010, Mandalawi signed a service contract provider application on 3.

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the hearing officer is not the Commissioner, the Commissioner will indicate on the order his or her concurrence or disagreement with the order of the hearing officer"). ² The hearing transcripts are distinguished by day, not volume number or consecutively numbered pages. Accordingly, the transcripts are distinguished in the citations as "Tr.1" for the hearing transcript

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behalf of Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc., which was received by the Division on or about September 2, 2010. (Ex. 22; Ex. P.) Mandalawi is noted on the application as president of HWAN. (Ex. 22; Ex. P at 12-14; Ex. C; Test. Mandalawi.)

- On July 29, 2010, HWAN entered into an independent service provider agreement 4. ("Agreement") with CHW Group. Through the Agreement, CHW Group handles sales, marketing, operations (claims), and advertising for HWAN service contracts, while HWAN handles regulatory compliance. CHW Group maintains the service contracts sold to Nevada consumers. According to the Agreement, CHW Group is responsible for providing the following services:
 - Communicating with potential clients (the "Clients") seeking Warranties and negotiating the signing of contracts, the form of which shall be previously approved by HWA[N], between Clients and HWA[N].
 - Collecting any and all amounts paid by the Clients for the Warranties and distributing same to HW[AN] pursuant to the terms of Article 2 hereof;
 - Keeping records of all Warranties
 - Providing customer service to Clients; and
 - Inspecting any claims made by Clients regarding goods under a Warranty and, if possible, repairing same or causing same to be replaced.
- (Ex. E.) CHW Group sells service contracts on behalf of HWAN per the Agreement. When CHW Group sells a contract, CHW Group collects the payment from the consumer, and that money is eventually paid to HWAN. (Test. Mandalawi; Test. Hakim.)
- According to the 2010 application, an administrator was not designated to be responsible 5. for the administration of Nevada contracts. (Ex. 22; Ex. P at 1.)
- According to the application's Section II, neither the applicant nor any of the officers 6. listed in Section I had ever been refused a license or registration or had an existing license suspended or revoked by any state, nor had the applicant or any of the officers listed in Section I been fined by any state or governmental agency or authority in any matter regarding service contracts. (Ex. 22; Ex. P at 2; Test. Mandalawi.)
 - As part of the application, HWAN submitted its proposed contract. (Test. Mandalawi.) 7.
- On November 30, 2010, the Division issued HWAN a letter, along with a certificate of 8. registration ("COR") with Company ID No. 113194 and with an anniversary date of November 18 of

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each year. (Ex. U; Ex. 22; Test. Mandalawi.) In the letter, the Division noted that it had reviewed the service contract #HWAADMIN-8/2/10 that was submitted with the application, and that it was approved for use. (Ex. U at I.)

- 9. In 2011, HWAN submitted another service contract for approval. The Division approved the service contract under the form number HWA-NV-0711. (Test. Mandalawi; Test. Ghan.)
- The service contract shows the Home Warranty Administrators' logo at the top right of 10. the first page. Under it is the name Choice Home Warranty followed by the text "America's Choice in Home Warranty Protection," and under the text in finer print it says "Obligor: Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc." This first page is a sample letter to the consumer. The first two lines of the letter says, "Welcome to Choice Home Warranty! You made a wise decision when you chose to protect your home with a home warranty." The consumer is asked to read the coverage. The letter includes a toll-free number, (888)-531-5403, and a website, www.ChoiceHomeWarranty.com. Under the letter in finer print, it states that the contract explains the coverage, limitations, and exclusions. Then there are two boxes: the box on the left identifies the contract number, contract term, covered property, property type, rate, and service call fee; the box on the right identifies the coverage plan, included items, and optional coverage. Under the two boxes is the name Choice Home Warranty and the address, 510 Thornall Street, Edison, NY 08837, along with the toll-free number (888) 531-5403. The bottom right of the page contains "HWA-NV-0711" in a finer print, which indicates approval by the Division in July 2011, and is applied to each page. (Ex. 35; Ex. EE; Test. Ghan; Test. Jain; Test. Mandalawi.)
- 11. According to Mandalawi, there are no contracts sold to Nevada consumers other than the Nevada contract authorized in 2011. (Test. Mandalawi.)
- 12. For the registration years 2011 through 2016, HWAN filed renewal applications. (Ex. 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 21; Ex. 1; Test. Mandalawi.)
- 13. The renewal applications asked the applicant to identify the pre-approved service contract form name and form numbers that applicant sells in Nevada. On each application, HWAN identified form HWA-NV-0711. (Ex. 2, 4, 5, 7, 12, 21; Ex. I.)

- 14. The renewal applications for the years 2011, 2012, and 2013 asked the following questions:
 - "Have there been any changes in the executive officers or in the officers responsible for service contract business since your last application?"

"Have you made any changes in the administrator or designated a new administrator since your last application? Current administrator is listed as:"

"Since the last application, has applicant or any of the officers listed in question I ever...(c) Been refused a license or registration...or had an existing one suspended or revoked by any state... [or] (d) Been fined by any state or governmental agency or authority in any matter regarding service contracts?"

On behalf of HWAN, Mandalawi answered "No" to each of the questions. For the current administrator, Mandalawi wrote "Self." (Ex. 2, 4, 5; Ex. I; Test. Dennis; Test. Mandalawi.)

- 15. The renewal applications for years 2011, 2012, and 2013 were approved. (Ex. Y, Z, AA; Test. Mandalawi.)
- 16. The renewal applications also ask how many service contracts were sold to Nevada residents, other information related to revenue, claims paid, and customer complaints, and information about how complaints are handled. Mandalawi responded to these questions for the renewal applications for years 2011, 2012, and 2013. (Ex. 2, 4, 5; Ex. I.)
- 17. In 2013, the Division initiated an investigation into Choice Home Warranty, and began monitoring complaints. The Division also discovered that a company called Choice Home Warranty had administrative actions against it in several states. (Test. Jain.)
- Ahrens, then-Chief of the Property and Casualty Section, indicated that she wanted to work with Mandalawi "regarding having an official dba of Choice Home Warranty." She said that she had stopped the issuance of a cease and desist, and wanted to remedy the situation from occurring in the future. (Ex. T at 1.) The Division asked HWAN to register the dba Choice Home Warranty because the Division "thought it was confusing for consumers having just the name Home Warranty of Nevada." (Test. Mandalawi.) Mandalawi registered the dba "Choice Home Warranty" under HWAN. (Ex. T at 7-11; Ex. B; Ex. 30-32; Test. Mandalawi.)
- 19. The Division issued a memo to then-Commissioner Scott J. Kipper from Derick Dennis, Management Analyst, indicating that Mandalawi notified the Division that HWAN filed the dba name,

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"Choice Home Warranty," in Carson City and Washoe County. A handwritten note on the memo states, "7/8/14 This was at the request of the Division, recommend approval" with Ahrens' initials "ea." (Ex. 23 at 3; Ex. Q.) The Division issued a new Certificate of Registration dated July 14, 2014, under HWAN's same Company ID No. 113194, for Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty. (Ex. 23; Ex. T at 39, 51–53; Test. Mandalawi.)

- 20. For the registration years beginning 2014, 2015, and 2016, HWAN filed renewal applications. The applicant was listed as "Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty." (Ex. 7, 12, 21; Ex. I; Test. Mandalawi.)
- 21. The renewal applications for the years 2014, 2015, and 2016 asked the same following questions:
 - "Have there been any changes in the executive officers or in the officers responsible for service contract business since your last application?"
 - "Have you made any changes in the administrator or designated a new administrator since your last application? Current administrator is listed as:"
 - "Since the last application, has applicant or any of the officers listed in question 1 ever...(c) Been refused a license or registration...or had an existing one suspended or revoked by any state... [or] (d) Been fined by any state or governmental agency or authority in any matter regarding service contracts?"

On behalf of HWAN, Mandalawi answered "No" to each of the questions. (Ex. 7, 12, 21; Test. Mandalawi.) For the current administrator, Mandalawi wrote "Self." (Ex. 21)

- 22. The renewal application for 2014, 2015, and 2016 added a request that the applicant "List all aliases or names under which the company conducts business (Doing Business As). Provide supporting documentation." On behalf of HWAN, Mandalawi answered "NA" because he believed the question related to additional fictitious names. (Ex. 7, 12, 21; Ex. I at 12, 16, 20; Test. Mandalawi.)
- 23. The renewal applications for 2014, 2015, and 2016 also ask how many service contracts were sold to Nevada residents, other information related to revenue, claims paid, and customer complaints, and information about how complaints are handled. For years 2014, 2015, and 2016, Mandalawi responded to some of these questions, but left blank the number of customer complaints by Nevada residents and the question asking how complaints are handled. (Ex. 7, 12, 21; Ex. I at 14, 18, 23.)

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- 24. The renewal applications for years 2014 and 2015 were approved. (Ex. BB, CC; Test. Mandalawi.)
- 25. At the time the Division received HWAN's 2016 renewal application, the Division requested additional information because the application was deemed incomplete. Specifically, the statutory security deposit was not sufficient and questions on the application were left blank. The Division's requests for information were ignored. As of the date of the hearing, the Division had not received all of the information requested. (Ex. 33; Ex. L; Ex. DD; Test. Jain.)
- 26. As a result of this matter, Mandalawi learned that HWAN's COR was inactive. Mary Strong, Management Analyst III, emailed HWAN on July 21, 2017, explaining that HWAN's COR had expired and that the 2016 renewal application was denied. No additional explanation was provided. A printout of HWAN's licensing status with the Division shows that HWAN dba Choice Home Warranty is inactive as of 11/18/2016. (Ex. O, DD; Test. Mandalawi.)

B. Complaints

- 27. In 2009, the Division began receiving complaints about Choice Home Warranty, which was not registered to sell service contracts in Nevada. (Ex. 28 at 2; Ex. J at 2.)
- 28. On January 4, 2014, the Division received a complaint from a technician who provided services to a consumer on behalf of Choice Home Warranty, but "CHW (CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, CHW GROUP)" refused to pay them the \$20,000 alleged to be owed. The Division worked out a settlement between Choice Home Warranty and the technician for \$7,296. (Ex. 25; Test. Kuhlman.)
- Warranty alleging that Choice Home Warranty failed to pay a valid claim for a broken air conditioning ("A/C") unit under the service contract (policy number 628975268). The consumer was forced to pay \$1,025 for an A/C compressor that the consumer believed should have been covered by the service contract. The consumer requested the claim denial in writing, but was told by the Choice Home Warranty employee claimed that it was against company policy to issue a denial in writing. (Ex. 11; Test. Kuhlman.)

- 30. On November 19, 2014, the Division received a consumer complaint against Choice Home Warranty alleging Choice Home Warranty improperly denied a claim when the consumer's pipe broke the same day he had purchased the service contract (policy number 465308123). The consumer paid \$826 for repair of a broken pipe. The consumer also complained because he felt Choice Home Warranty's advertisement was deceitful and misleading by claiming that the consumer could get coverage "today," when the contract requires a thirty-day waiting period. The Division worked out a settlement between Choice Home Warranty and the consumer for \$500. (Ex. 11; Test. Kuhlman.)
- Warranty alleging Choice Home Warranty improperly denied a claim for a broken A/C unit. The consumer filed a claim with Choice Home Warranty on June 27, 2016, and Choice Home Warranty sent a technician, who replaced the capacitor. The A/C unit failed again within a few hours. The technician returned to look at the unit three times and provided all the information Choice had requested. The A/C unit still had not been fixed. The consumer called Choice Home Warranty numerous times and was put on hold on every call for extensive periods and, after 45 minutes, the call would fail. The consumer was told that the claim was rejected because the consumer did not maintain the unit. The consumer sent Choice Home Warranty proof that he did maintain the unit. The consumer explained that the situation was a "life or death situation" because his significant other, who is disabled, suffered from heatstroke because she and their little dog have been left in the house with temperatures exceeding 100-plus degrees. On or about July 25, 2016, the Division worked out a settlement between Choice Home Warranty and the consumer for \$1,500. (Ex. 38; Test. Kuhlman.)
 - Warranty alleging Choice Home Warranty improperly denied a claim for a broken A/C unit. The consumer filed a claim with Choice Home Warranty on June 8, 2016, and Choice Home Warranty sent eight technicians and four A/C companies, and all agreed that the A/C compressor and coil needed to be replaced. Choice Home Warranty denied the claim explaining that it had a photo of the unit from August 17, 2016 showing that no maintenance had been done on the unit. The consumer asked for a copy of the photo, but Choice Home Warranty did not provide the photo. The consumer faxed her maintenance records for the A/C unit, but was told that Choice Home Warranty could not read the

 records. At the time of the complaint, the consumer was alleged to have endured ten weeks without A/C in Las Vegas. (Ex. 24; Test. Kuhlman.)

- Warranty. Eliminating duplicates, the total was 62. At the time the Complaint, only 2 complaints were open. All other complaints had been closed. The Division's concern was that Choice Home Warranty had a higher ratio of complaints than any other of the 170-plus service contract providers licensed in Nevada. (Ex. 28; Ex. J, W; Test. Jain.)
- 34. The Division conducted a general search on Choice Home Warranty online, and discovered numerous complaints by consumers on different websites. (Test. Jain.)
- 35. The Business Consumer Alliance rated Choice Home Warranty with an "F". It notes the company's website as www.choicehomewarranty, DBAs are CHW Group, Inc., Victor Mandalawi as president, and Victor Hakim as principal. (Ex. 9.)
- 36. On October 31, 2016, Mike from Henderson, Nevada posted a complaint on the Ripoff Report claiming Choice Home Warranty in Edison, New Jersey, was attempting to withdraw money from the consumer's bank account after the contract period ended. (Ex. 14.)
- 37. On July 7, 2016, Stardust from Henderson, Nevada posted a complaint on the Ripoff Report claiming Choice Home Warranty refused to replace a pool pump because it was not correctly installed. (Ex. 15.)
- 38. On April 20, 2016, Ira B. from Las Vegas, Nevada, a technician, posted a complaint on Ripoff Report advising people to stay away from Choice Home Warranty because Choice Home Warranty does not pay its vendors, and requires vendors to use repair parts according to their terms. (Ex. 16.)
- 39. On January 14, 2016, laappliance from Las Vegas, Nevada posted a complaint on Ripoff Report that Choice Home Warranty is a huge scam among contractors. The company had completed 200 jobs for Choice Home Warranty, but Choice Home Warranty had not yet paid them. (Ex. 17.)
- 40. On October 12, 2016, David N. of Las Vegas, Nevada posted a complaint on Yelp.com that Choice Home Warranty improperly denied his claims on two occasions. The second claim denial was after a technician came and inspected the microwave and took photos. The consumer included in

his complaint the he received an email from Choice Home Warranty that said, "CHW strives to be rated #1 in the home warranty industry. Help us succeed with your positive feedback and you will receive 1 FREE month of coverage." (Ex. 18 at 2.)

- 41. Choice Home Warranty has been the subject of complaints in other cities—Houston, Texas, Chicago, Illinois, Overland Park, Kansas, and Titusville, Florida. According to the reports, Choice Home Warranty in New Jersey denies claims on the basis that the consumers did not maintain their units, even after consumers provide proof of maintenance. (Ex. 19, 19a, 20, 20a, 39, 40, and 40a.)
- 42. In reviewing complaints, Mandalawi has CHW Group employees participate in the resolution. Mandalawi distinguishes claims as problems with a system or appliance, and a complaint as a consumer who is dissatisfied with the claim or outcome. When complaints are received, they are handled by CHW Group employees. If they are escalated, Mandalawi gets involved. Mandalawi has final authority on complaints and "want[s] to be sure that CHW Group is adhering to the terms and conditions of the policy and make[s] sure they are in compliance." Complaint resolution activity is done at Executive Drive, CHW Group's Somerset location; sales and marketing is done at the King Georges Post Road in Edison. Mandalawi spends most of his time at the Somerset location. (Test. Mandalawi; Test. Ramirez.)
- 43. At a meeting of the Parties pending this proceeding, Mandalawi and Hakim reviewed the records of HWAN to determine how many complaints they have received from the Division since HWAN's inception. (Test. Mandalawi; Test. Hakim.)
- 44. CHW Group handled the claims for the consumer complaints filed with the Division. CHW Group documents its communications with the consumers. CHW Group concluded that the consumers' claims were not covered by the service contracts. (Test. Ramirez.)
- 45. HWAN presented what it named "Customer Testimonials NV DOI Status of HWAN," which is 867 pages of positive testimonials of Choice Home Warranty consumers from around the country, including Nevada. (Ex. M.)

C. Regulatory Actions

46. On July 23, 2010, California issued a cease and desist order against Choice Home Warranty and its officers, along with notices related to a monetary penalty and right to hearing for

acting as a provider of home protection contracts without a license. (Ex. 1 at 1–4 of 16.) A final order was entered on August 19, 2010. On October 12, 2010, the California Insurance Commissioner found that Choice Home Warranty acted as a home protection company without a license from October 25, 2008 through October 1, 2010, and fined Choice Home Warranty \$3,530,000. In December 2010, Mandalawi, as president of Choice Home Warranty, entered into an agreement with California agreeing to take certain actions with regard to their business, and pay a \$10,000 fine. The agreement was adopted by the California Commissioner on January 6, 2011. (Ex. 1; Ex. G.)

- 47. On July 29, 2010, Oklahoma issued a cease and desist against Choice Home Warranty for engaging in service warranty contracts without authorization. Despite the order, Choice Home Warranty continued to engage in the business. The matter was settled on January 2, 2012, with a fine of \$15,000, and Choice Home Warranty was permitted to continue servicing existing contracts. (Ex. 3; Ex. H.)
- 48. On February 7, 2014, the Oklahoma Commissioner issued an order alleging that Choice Home Warranty continued to engage in the business "in a course of unfair and deceptive conduct while circumventing regulatory authority." (Ex. 3 at 2.) Choice Home Warranty was fined \$10,000. (Ex. 3.) On October 21, 2010, the Insurance Commissioner of the State of Washington issued an Order to Cease and Desist against CHW Group, Inc. doing business as Choice Home Warranty and www.ChoiceHomeWarranty.com, Victor Mandalawi, President of CHW Group, Inc. (incorporated in both New York and New Jersey), and others. The Order demanded that all named parties, who are unlicensed in Washington, cease transacting in the unauthorized business of insurance in Washington, seeking business in Washington, and soliciting Washington residents to buy unauthorized products based on the sale of at least 92 service contracts. On January 27, 2011, the Washington Commissioner issued a Final Order Terminating Proceeding after the named parties filed a stipulation withdrawing their hearing demand. The Final Order indicated that the Order to Cease and Desist would remain in effect indefinitely. (Ex. 8 at 3 of 32.)
 - 49. On June 9, 2015, CHW Group, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty, Victor Mandalawi, and Victor Hakim agreed to a Final Consent Judgment with the New Jersey Attorney General's Office for allegations of using deceptive means to deny claims after the New Jersey Division of Consumer Affairs

received 1,085 complaints about Choice Home Warranty. The Judgment requires Choice Home Warranty, Mandalawi, and Hakim to address issues related to improper advertisements, sales representatives' misrepresentations, terms and conditions of the contract, properly licensed technicians, fair review of claims, timely payment to technicians, payment in lieu of replacement, refunds, training of employees handling sales and claims, and future consumer complaints. Choice Home Warranty, Mandalawi, and Hakim were required to pay a \$779,913.93 fine including consumer restitution, revise their business practices, pay for an independent compliance monitor to oversee compliance with the terms of the Judgment, and execute confessions of judgment in the event of a default on the Judgment. (Ex. 6; Ex. F, X.)

D. Other Evidence Presented at Hearing

- 50. In 2016, Home Warranty Administrator of Florida, Inc. and Choice Home Warranty were named defendants in a civil action in New Jersey. That same year, CHW Group, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty and Victor Mandalawi were named defendants in a civil complaint in South Carolina. (Ex. 9, 29; Test. Mandalawi.)
- Administrator of South Carolina, Inc.'s application with the State of South Carolina submitted by Mandalawi. The application included a biographical affidavit, which requested information about Mandalawi's background. To the question, "Are you operating, acting, or have acted as a controlling person for any other service contract provider or service contract related company?", Mandalawi responded yes. To the question, "Have you or a service contract provider or service contract related company in which you were, or are a controlling person, ever been disciplined by a state regulatory body?", Mandalawi responded yes. To the question, "Have you or a service contract provider or service contract related company for which you were, or are a controlling person, ever been subject to a cease and desist letter or order, or enjoined, either temporarily or permanently, in any judicial, administrative, regulatory or disciplinary action?", Mandalawi responded yes.

Attached to the biographical affidavit is Mandalawi's résumé. According to it, Mandalawi is the President of Home Warranty Administrators, which "is currently licensed / registered in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, New York, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Texas." Mandalawi has held this position since

Mandalawi presented a letter to the South Carolina Department of Insurance explaining his "Yes" responses to the questions on the biographical affidavit. In the letter, Mandalawi introduces himself as president of Home Warranty Administrator of South Carolina, Inc., and all of its affiliates, which includes HWAN, and president of Choice Home Warranty. Through the letter, Mandalawi explains that

Choice Home Warranty (CHW) was the subject of a cease and desist letter in California, Oklahoma, and Washington. In California, CHW entered into a consent order, in Oklahoma, Home Warranty Administrator of Oklahoma, Inc. is [sic] now holds a Service Warranty License, and in Washington CHW is complying with all terms of the cease and desist.

CHW has been doing business for roughly two years and our home state of New Jersey does not require companies, such as ours, to be licensed. During the course of its activities, CHW discovered that all states are not created equal when it came to licensing requirements for service contracts. In fact, the very definition of the words "service contracts" changes from state to state. To address this newly discovered issue, CHW developed the Home Warranty administrators ("HWA") brand. That is, in order to address every state's particular requirements, a separate HWA was created for that state.

(Ex. 41 at 15-16; Test. Mandalawi.)

Proper

- 52. Choice Home Warranty has a landing page, which is a webpage that consumers land on when they click a particular email or internet link to Choice Home Warranty. The landing page is part of Choice Home Warranty's internet advertising. A potential consumer would enter his/her zip code. Choice Home Warranty provides some general information and invites people to call them at (888) 531-5403. The advertisement is copyrighted 2017 Choice Home Warranty, and includes its address, 1090 King Georges Post Rd. Edison, NJ 08837, and phone number (888) 531-5403. In finer print at the bottom of the advertisement are links to Choice Home Warranty's limits of liability and exclusions, other terms, and the privacy policy. (Ex. 26; Test. Jain; Test. Hakim.)
- 53. On August 21, 2017, Felecia Casci, Supervising Legal Secretary at the Division, received an email from 'CHOICE Warranty (enews@choicehomewarranty.com)" with the subject, "VIP Offer: \$50 Off & 1 Month Free" in her personal email account. Choice Home Warranty, identified at the top of the email, invites Casci to "Never Pay for Covered Home Repairs Again," offering \$50 off and one month free. According to the email, Choice Home Warranty plans are subject

to terms and conditions. Choice Home Warranty identifies its address as 1090 King Georges Post Rd, Edison, NJ 08837, and phone number as 800-814-4206. The advertisement is copyrighted to Choice Home Warranty in 2017. Nothing in the solicitation identified HWAN as the party selling the service contract. (Ex. 27; Test. Casci.)

- 54. On August 16, 2017, Casci received another email from "CHOICE Warranty (enews@choicehomewarranty.com)" with the subject, "We Appreciate You Felecia" in her personal email account. Choice Home Warranty, identified at the top of the email, invites Casci to "Never Pay for Covered Home Repairs Again," offering \$75 off and one month free. According to the email, Choice Home Warranty plans are subject to terms and conditions. Choice Home Warranty identifies its address as 1090 King Georges Post Rd, Edison, NJ 08837, and phone number as 800-814-4206. The advertisement is copyrighted to Choice Home Warranty in 2017. (Ex. 27; Test. Casci.)
- 55. The Division discovered that some service contracts issued by HWAN were not approved for use. In the unapproved service contract's letter to the consumer, the first two lines of the letter says, "Welcome to Choice Home Warranty! You made a wise decision when you chose to protect your home with a CHW Warranty." Again in the second paragraph, there is a reference to CHW Warranty. Under the two boxes is the name Choice Home Warranty and the address, 1090 King Georges Post Road, Edison, NJ 08837, along with the toll-free number (888) 531-5403. There is no service contract form number on the bottom of the page indicating approval by the Division. The font of the contract is reduced such that the contract is 4 pages long instead of the 5 ½ pages in the approved service contract. (Ex. 37; Test. Ghan.)
 - 56. When Hakim acknowledged that CHW Group is not licensed to sell, solicit, or offer for sale service contracts in Nevada, he explained that "Pursuant to section 690C.120.2, administrators are not required to be licensed to sell service contracts in Nevada." (Test. Hakim.)
 - The setup for HWAN in Nevada is the same setup Mandalawi uses for all of the Home Warranty Administrators companies. All of these entities have a contract with CHW Group, and all of the entities use the website www.choicehomewarranty.com to sell their service contracts. All of the entities use substantially the same contract and terms of service. All of the businesses use CHW Group's services as provided in agreements similar to the Agreement HWAN has with CHW Group.

This creates efficiencies in managing the product being sold across the country, with the nuances of different states' requirements identified in the service contract sent to consumers. (Test. Mandalawi.)

- 58. Since HWAN became licensed in Nevada, CHW Group has continually provided services to HWAN through the Agreement. CHW Group has tracked its claims statistics. According to its claims statistics, 23,889 customers have purchased a service contract through Choice Home Warranty in Nevada since 2011. (Ex. K; Test. Hakim.)
- 59. In some years, the Division communicated with Mandalawi by telephone or email when items were not provided with HWAN's applications. (Test. Mandalawi.)

II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

In its Amended Complaint, the Division seeks administrative action against Respondent for (1) falsifying material facts in its applications; (2) engaging in unfair practices in settling claims; (3) conducting business in an unsuitable manner; and (4) failing to make records available to the Commissioner upon request. The Division also seeks a cease and desist order because the Commissioner refused to renew Respondent's 2016 COR. The Division bears the burden of showing, by a preponderance of the evidence, that Respondent violated these provisions of the Insurance Code. In hearings for the Division, "The hearing officer shall liberally construe the pleadings and disregard any defects which do not affect the substantial rights of any party." NAC 679B.245.

A. Jurisdiction

The Commissioner is charged with regulating the business of service contracts, which includes but is not limited to promulgating regulations, reviewing provider records, investigating complaints and alleged violations of law, and conducting examinations. NRS 679B.120.3 & -.5, 690C.300, -.310 & -.320. Service contracts are regulated under the Insurance Code pursuant to chapter 690C.

B. Statement of Law

In Nevada, "A provider shall not issue, sell or offer for sale service contracts in this state unless the provider has been issued a certificate of registration pursuant to the provisions of [NRS chapter 690C]." NRS 690C.150. A provider "means a person who is obligated to a holder pursuant to the terms of a service contract to repair, replace or perform maintenance on, or to indemnify the holder for the costs of repairing, replacing or performing maintenance on, goods." NRS 690C.070. A holder is a Nevada resident who may enforce the rights under a service contract. NRS 690C.060. An administrator "means a person who is responsible for administering a service contract that is issued, sold or offered for sale by a provider." NRS 690C.020.

Generally, no other provision of the Insurance Code applies except as otherwise provided in NRS chapter 690C. NRS 690C.120. Provisions that specifically apply to service contracts include advertising. prohibitions, process, certain hearings, examinations, practices, trade NRS 690C.120.1. Also, "[a] provider, person who sells service contracts, administrator or any other person is not required to obtain a certificate of authority from the Commissioner pursuant to chapter 680A of NRS to issue, sell, offer for sale or administer service contracts." NRS 690C.120.2.

The Commissioner is authorized to observe the conduct of a service contract provider to ensure that "business is not conducted in an unsuitable manner." NRS 679B.125.2.

"[U]nsuitable manner" means conducting [] business in a manner which:

- 1. Results in a violation of any statute or regulation of this State relating to insurance;
- 2. Results in an intentional violation of any other statute or regulation of this State; or
- 3. Causes injury to the general public,
- with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice.

NAC 679B.0385.

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C. Respondent

In order to address the Division's allegations, the Hearing Officer must make a determination about the parties involved in this matter because many of the issues presented in this hearing hang on who the service contract provider is. Relying on the use of the different names by Respondent's witnesses, who interact with or on behalf of Respondent through a contract, and who would most be familiar with the entities, the Hearing Officer relies on the names used in the hearing as follows:

- Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. is HWAN
- Choice Home Warranty is CHW Group, Inc., CHW, and Choice Home Warranty
- Home Warranty Administrators is an affiliate of companies with the name Home Warranty Administrator of [State]

In this case, HWAN is the legal entity that has been authorized to be a service contract provider in Nevada. HWAN contracted with CHW Group, or Choice Home Warranty, as administrator of HWAN's service contracts. In 2014, the Division requested HWAN to register the fictitious name, Choice Home Warranty.

The evidence is clear that Choice Home Warranty is CHW Group. Respondents have argued this throughout the case. (Resp't's Prehr'g Stmt 3-4.) During the hearing, Mandalawi, Hakim, and Ramirez referred to CHW Group as Choice Home Warranty. Mandalawi and Hakim both testified that

HWAN's administrator is CHW Group, and that HWAN and CHW Group engaged in a contract for such services. Choice Home Warranty is owned and controlled by CHW Group. CHW Group owns the website www.ChoiceHomeWarranty.com, through which various service contracts are sold and administered, and the employees handling sales, marketing, claims, finance, etc. are all CHW Group employees. Finally, according to Mandalawi's résumé submitted to the State of South Carolina in 2011, Mandalawi was the president of Home Warranty Administrators and the president of Choice Home Warranty. The names are listed in his résumé as two separate companies. At the time the South Carolina application was filed, which included Mandalawi's résumé, Choice Home Warranty was not registered as a dba for HWAN. This leads to the conclusion that Choice Home Warranty is CHW Group, Inc.

When an entity registers a dba, or fictitious name, the entity creates a name under which it will operate. This does not create a new company or change the entity's legal status. Registering a dba cannot make one company liable for the acts of another company, even if the two companies share the same name—it is a legal impossibility. Further, NRS 690C.200.1(b) prohibits a provider from using a name that is the name of another provider. Choice Home Warranty, under CHW Group, is another provider even if it is not a Nevada-registered provider. Why the Division requested HWAN to register the dba Choice Home Warranty is unknown, as it makes the arrangement of these businesses confusing at best. Registering Choice Home Warranty as HWAN's dba did not make HWAN and CHW Group one legal entity for purposes of regulation. Accordingly, it is the Hearing Officer's position that Choice Home Warranty as discussed in this matter should not be treated as a fictitious name of HWAN, but instead as a separate company under CHW Group. For purposes of this Order, the Hearing Officer relies on this distinction between HWAN and Choice Home Warranty: HWAN is one legal entity, and Choice Home Warranty is CHW Group, an incorporated entity that is separate from HWAN.

D. The Division Claims Respondent Made False Entries of Material Facts in Its Applications

1. Administrative Actions Against Choice Home Warranty

The Division claims that by failing to disclose other states' administrative actions against Choice Home Warranty on its Nevada renewal applications, Respondent engaged in acts that constitute the unlawful making of false entry of material fact in violation of NRS 686A.070. The Hearing Officer

disagrees.

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Respondent argues that it is legally and factually impossible for HWAN to have made false misrepresentations in its renewal applications because the *renewal* applications do not ask for regulatory information about any of the officers of the applicant, and the Hearing Officer agrees. The Division's questions in each of the renewal applications do not ask whether any of the applicant's officers have had actions taken against them; rather, the questions ask whether any of the *new* officers identified in the renewal application have had actions taken against them. If the Division wanted to know whether any of applicant's officers had administrative actions taken against them in other states, the Division should have asked that question. The Division's intent regarding the questions on its own renewal application is not clear, and it would be improper to hold applicants responsible for failing to disclose information about which the Division never asked.

For the renewal applications submitted for 2011, 2012, and 2013, the service contract provider that submitted the applications with the Division is Home Warranty Administrators of Nevada, Inc. HWAN is incorporated in Nevada, creating an independent legal entity. As its own legal entity, HWAN is responsible for the acts of its business. At no time during this period was HWAN named in any administrative action in any other state. Therefore, it cannot be said that HWAN made a false entry on the renewal applications for these years by not reporting administrative actions against Choice Home Warranty.

For the renewal applications submitted for 2014 and 2015, the service contract provider that submitted the applications with the Division is Home Warranty Administrators of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty. As explained in Section C above, however, Choice Home Warranty is CHW Group. It is a legal impossibility for HWAN to also be CHW Group even if HWAN registered a dba called Choice Home Warranty. HWAN did not violate Nevada law by failing to disclose administrative actions taken against CHW Group in other states. CHW Group is HWAN's administrator, and none of the applications asked whether the administrator or its officers have been the subject of administrative actions in other states. To that end, HWAN was not required to report administrative actions against Choice Home Warranty in its 2014 and 2015 renewal applications.

2. Applications Filed with the Division

With the Hearing Officer's determination that HWAN and Choice Home Warranty are separate entities, the evidence shows that Respondent did make a false entry of material fact in its applications. All the applications presented at the hearing ask the applicant to disclose the name of the administrator. For all of the renewal applications Mandalawi submitted on behalf of HWAN, the administrator is noted as "self," and this was not true. "Self" means that the service contract provider-HWAN in this case—was administering all of the claims. According to the testimony of Mandalawi, Hakim, and Ramirez, Choice Home Warranty (which is CHW Group) is the administrator for HWAN. Respondent argues that this fact was disclosed in HWAN contract HWA-NV-0711, which was provided to the Division in 2011. Even if the disclosure is sufficient to say the Division was on notice in 2011 (when the HWAN contract was approved) that Choice Home Warranty was the administrator, every renewal application submitted indicated the contrary. When asked on the renewal applications whether there were any changes to the administrator or a newly designated administrator, in each renewal application, Mandalawi responded that there was no change—the administrator was "self," which is HWAN. If CHW Group was the administrator, then "self" was not an accurate response to the question on the applications. Claims administration is a material part of service contracts and, therefore, a material fact, required by NRS 690C.160.3. As such, HWAN misstated a material fact in its application. For each application year starting in 2011 that HWAN reported "self" as the administrator, is one violation of NRS 686A.070. (Five counts.)

Additionally, HWAN indicated in its applications filed starting in 2011 that it was using the service contract HWA-NV-0711 that was approved by the Division. On at least one occasion, there is evidence that HWAN used a service contract that, in fact, was not approved by the Division. Service contracts must comply with certain provisions of the Insurance Code and, therefore, must be approved before they are used. The application year 2015 did not disclose the use of an unapproved form. The service contract is a material part of the service contract provider application and, therefore, a material fact of the application. As such, HWAN misstated another material fact in its 2015 renewal application, in violation of NRS 686A.070. (One count.)

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E. The Division Claims Respondent Has Engaged in Unfair Practices in Settling Claims

The Division alleges that the number of complaints against Respondent show that Respondent has engaged in unfair practices in settling claims in violation of NRS 686A.310 and had, thereby, acted in an unsuitable manner. NRS 679B.125.2. Respondent argues that the number of complaints does not amount to unfair practices in settling claims, and that it believes it provides Nevada customers sterling service.

In this case, the evidence shows that the Division received at least 63 individual consumer complaints about HWAN, and 25 consumer complaints against Choice Home Warranty. Of the complaints, five were presented at the hearing: three complaints from 2014 and two complaints from 2016. The complaints allege that Choice Home Warranty did not cover appliances that consumers believed were covered, or that Choice Home Warranty did not pay the technician who provided services on the appliance. When the Division got involved, HWAN agreed to cover or settle the complaints. The Division's evidence says the claims were covered; Respondent's evidence says the claims were not covered. Respondent's agreeing to pay the claims as a result of the Division's involvement does not mean that Respondent admitted that the claims were covered. As presented, the Division's evidence was insufficient to show that Respondent engaged in unfair practices in settling claims.

F. The Division Claims Respondent Has Failed to Make Its Records Available

The Division claims that Respondent failed to make available information requested by the Commissioner in violation of NRS 690C.320.2. The Division sought information about HWAN's claims and open contracts in Nevada. Respondent argues that the Division presented no evidence to support this claim.

The evidence shows that the Division made several requests of Respondent through Mandalawi, including to Mandalawi's email address of record. Respondent acknowledges having communicated with the Division via email or telephone on other occasions, as evident through the testimony and exhibits. The parties both state that the requested information was produced, but only after a subpoena was issued, which was at least six months after the renewal application was received. Moreover, this information relating to how many open contracts and claims Respondent had in Nevada was requested

fictitious name, the Division released the legal right to initiate an adversarial action that HWAN and CHW Group are the same entity. How a fictitious name registration amounts to detrimental reliance is unclear. The Commissioner's obligation under the Insurance Code is to protect Nevadans in the business of service contracts. The Commissioner cannot ignore her charge under the law—when an entity is violating a law that harms Nevadans, the Commissioner must act.

Respondent claims that the Division is estopped from taking action against Respondent because the Division made express representations to HWAN relative to HWAN's relationship with CHW Group, and that HWAN relied on these in conducting its operations. There is no evidence in the record that HWAN had to or did change its operations as a result of the dba registered in Nevada. More importantly, there is no evidence that the Division knew that Choice Home Warranty was CHW Group or of the contract between HWAN and CHW Group. Even if in 2011 the Division approved a contract in 2011 that indicated that Choice Home Warranty was administering the contract, contract administration is not approval to issue, sell, or offer for sale service contracts. Moreover, after that contract was approved in 2011, Respondent indicated that it was itself administering its service contracts, which was not true.

Based on the presentation of Mandalawi and Hakim, CHW Group, Inc. is the legal entity that controls and operates all the content, data, contracts, information, processing, management, claims, marketing, advertising, and sales of all products sold through HWAN, while HWAN manages regulatory compliance. Respondent claims this creates efficiencies in managing the product being sold across the country, with the nuances of different states' requirements identified in the service contract issued to consumers. According to Hakim, an administrator is permitted to issue, sell, and offer for sale or administer service contracts without a certificate of registration pursuant to NRS 690C.120.2. Hakim is incorrect.

Nevada law clearly prohibits the issuance, sale, or offering for sale service contracts unless the provider has been issued a certificate of <u>registration</u>. NRS 690C.150. The provision Hakim incorrectly relies on, NRS chapter 690C section 120 subsection 2, involves a certificate of <u>authority</u> issued pursuant to NRS chapter 680A, which is a certificate issued to *insurance companies* to operate in Nevada. A certificate of registration and a certificate of authority are two different things. What NRS

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690C.120.2 says is that a certificate of authority is not required in the business of service contracts and, so, anyone involved in service contracts is not required to obtain a certificate of authority. It most certainly does not say that an administrator may issue, sell, or offer to sell service contracts without proper registration pursuant to NRS 690C.150. Such a reading would make the entirety of NRS chapter 690C a nullity.

By definition, an administrator should not be engaged in issuing, selling, or offering to sell service contracts. Hakim, Mandalawi, and Ramirez all testified that Choice Home Warranty handles all sales, advertising, and marketing for HWAN. As Hakim stated, his interest in HWAN is that HWAN continue to operate, "because if [HWAN is] not operating in the State of Nevada, then Choice Home Warranty is not operating in the State of Nevada." (Tr3. 98:9-16.) This is a reflection of CHW Group's intent to operate in Nevada using HWAN for "regulatory compliance." This intent is further reflected in the service contract that was sold in Nevada that identified CHW Warranty as the company—a service contract that was not approved for use in Nevada.

Based on the evidence, it is clear that "regulatory compliance" as stated by Mandalawi means that HWAN holds the certificate of registration in Nevada, and nothing more. Since receiving its COR, HWAN has been merely a figurehead, enabling an unlicensed entity to engage in the business of service contracts in Nevada under HWAN's license. CHW Group has engaged in the business of service contracts without a license, which is a violation of NRS 690C.150, and skirted regulation by the Division, which is a danger to the public. This activity has been occurring since at least 2010, when HWAN was first licensed. With the sale of over 69,000 service contracts, it is undeniable that it is Respondent's practice to allow CHW Group to issue, sell, and offer for sale service contracts in Nevada, thereby avoiding regulation for each contract sold in Nevada. HWAN's practice has occurred with such frequency as to indicate a general business practice, which amounts to conducting business in an unsuitable manner, in violation of NRS 690C.325 and 679B.125.

H. The Division Requests a Cease and Desist Order to Prevent Respondent from Engaging in the Business of Service Contracts Without a Certificate of Registration

In the Amended Complaint, the Division indicates that Respondent filed a renewal application for 2016, and that the Commissioner is authorized to refuse to renew a provider's certificate of

registration ("COR"). The Division requested a cease and desist be issued. In arguing that Respondent's 2016 COR was properly denied the Division appears to be claiming that Respondent is improperly engaging in the business of service contracts. Respondent argues that it had no notice of the facts underlying the Division's position that it did not appropriately renew its COR in 2016. Mandalawi believed that the issue of the 2016 renewal application would be considered in this hearing and that, until then, HWAN could continue operating in Nevada. (Test. Mandalawi.) The Hearing Officer finds that the Division did not properly notify Respondent that the 2016 renewal application was denied.

In Nevada, certificates of registration for service contract providers expire one year after the COR is issued. NRS 690C.160.3. Nothing in Nevada law grants the Division authority to allow a provider to continue operating after the expiration of a COR, but a provider may submit a renewal application to receive a new COR to continue operating. It is unclear how the automatic expiration of a COR after one year would require notice to the provider for due process purposes when the law clearly makes the COR available for one year and no longer. However, when a provider timely submits a renewal application that is denied, then the Division must issue a notice to the provider about the denial, providing an explanation for the denial and an opportunity for the provider to request a hearing on the propriety of the denial. A hearing on such denials are heard within 30 days.

In this case, Respondent timely filed a renewal application on or about November 7, 2016, to obtain a new COR. When the Division found the renewal application to be incomplete, the Division should have promptly notified Respondent that the renewal application was not complete and, therefore, denied so that Respondent would know that it was not approved to continue operating in Nevada. Notice of the denial was finally provided on or about July 21, 2017, almost eight months after HWAN submitted the application. The denial also provided no information as to why the renewal application was denied, nor did it notify Respondent that it could appeal the decision through a hearing request. Thus, the Hearing Officer finds that for the service contracts sold up until the date of this Order, Respondent cannot be found to have sold without a valid COR in violation of Nevada law since the Division did not properly notify Respondent of the denial with an explanation of the denial or of the opportunity for a hearing on the denial, which would have been adjudicated within 30 days of a hearing

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served the FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER OF HEARING OFFICER, AND FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER, in CAUSE NO. 17.0050, via electronic mail and by mailing a true and correct copy thereof, properly addressed with postage prepaid, certified mail return receipt requested, to the following:

> Kirk B. Lenhard, Esq. Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106 E-MAIL: klenhard@bhfs.com CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7017 1070 0000 8962 9357

> Travis F. Chance, Esq. Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP 100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600 Las Vegas, NV 89106 E-MAIL: tchance@bhfs.com CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7017 1070 0000 8962 9364

> Lori Grifa, Esq. Archer & Greiner, P.C. Court Plaza South, West Wing 21 Main Street, Suite 353 Hackensack, NJ 07601 E-MAIL: lgrifa@archerlaw.com CERTIFIED MAIL NO. 7017 1070 0000 8962 9371

and copies of the foregoing were sent via electronic mail to:

Richard Yien, Deputy Attorney General Nevada Attorney General's Office E-MAIL: ryien@ag.nv.gov

DATED this 18th day of December, 2017.

Employee of the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry

Division of Insurance

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I		and the same
1	Constance L. Akridge	REC'D&FILED _
2	Nevada Bar No. 3353	2000 DEC -6 PH 最 36
	Sydney R. Gambee Nevada Bar No. 14201	
3	Brittany L. Walker Nevada Bar No. 14641	ALESEA MENT WILL WITH
4	HOLLAND & HART LLP	X
. 5	9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor Las Vegas, NV 89134	THE PUTTY
6	Phone: 702.669.4600 Fax: 702.669.4650	
	clakridge@hollandhart.com	•
7	srgambee@hollandhart.com blwalker@hollandhart.com	
8	Attorneys for Home Warranty Administrator of	Nevada Inc
9	dba Choice Home Warranty	11074444, 1707
10	IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT	COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
11	IN AND FOR	CARSON CITY
12		
13	HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME	Case No. 17 OC 00269 1B Dept. No. I
14	WARRANTY, a Nevada corporation,	CASE APPEAL STATEMENT
	Petitioner,	CASE ALL STATEMENT
15	v.	
16		
17		
18	INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative agency,	
19		
	Respondent.	
20		
21	1. Name of appellant filing this c	ase appeal statement:
22	Home Warranty Administrator of Nev	ada, Inc., dba Choice Home Warranty, a Nevada
23	corporation.	
24	2. Identify the judge issuing the	decision, judgment, or order appealed from:
25	The Honorable James T Russell, First J	udicial District Court of the State of Nevada in and
26	for Carson City.	
27	3. Identify each appellant and	the name and address of counsel for each
28	appellant:	

1	Appellant: Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc., dba Choice Home Warranty, a
2	Nevada corporation.
3	Counsel for Appellant:
4	
5	Constance L. Akridge Sydney R. Gambee
6	Brittany L. Walker
7	Holland & Hart LLP 9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor
8	Las Vegas, NV 89134
9	4. Identify each respondent and the name and address of appellate counsel, if
10	known, for each respondent (if the name of a respondent's appellate counsel is unknown,
11	indicate as much and provide the name and address of that respondent's trial counsel).
12	Respondent: State of Nevada, Department of Business and Industry Division of Insurance,
13	a Nevada administrative agency.
14	Counsel for Respondents:
15	Richard Yien Deputy Attorney General
16	State of Nevada
17	Office of Attorney General 100 N. Carson St.
18	Carson City, Nevada 89701
19	Joanna Grigoriev
20	Senior Deputy Attorney General State of Nevada
21	Office of Attorney General 555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
22	Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
23	5. Indicate whether any attorney identified above in response to question 3 or 4
24	is not licensed to practice law in Nevada and, if so, whether the district court granted that
25	attorney permission to appear under SCR 42 (attach a copy of any district court order
26	granting such permission):
27	All attorneys identified in questions 3 and 4 are licensed to practice law in Nevada.

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

Appellant was represented by retained counsel in the district court.

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

Appellant is represented by retained counsel on appeal.

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

Appellant was not granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.

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

The petition for judicial review was filed on December 22, 2017.

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

Petitioner filed this petition seeking judicial review of the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry - Division of Insurance's (the "Division") Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of the Hearing Officer, and Final Order of the Commissioner filed on December 18, 2017, in Cause No. 17.0050 in the Matter of Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc., DBA Choice Home Warranty Order (the "Final Decision"). The Final Decision ordered:

- 1. Respondent be fined \$30,000, the maximum fine of \$5,000 allowed under NRS 686A.183.1(a), for each of six violations of making a false entry of material fact in a record or statement in violation of NRS 686A.070;
- 2. Respondent be fined \$500, an administrative fine authorized pursuant to NRS 690C.325.1 in lieu of a revocation, for failing to make its records available to the Commissioner upon request;
- 3. Respondent be fined \$50 for each act or violation, for conducting business in an unsuitable manner by allowing an unregistered entity to issue and offer service contracts in Nevada, and to sell 23,889

service contracts in Nevada through Respondent's certificate of registration, for a total of \$1,194,450.1

Final Decision at 27.

The district court entered an order Affirming in Part, and Modifying in Part, Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of the Hearing Officer, and Final Order of the Commissioner in Cause No. 17.0050 in the Matter of Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc., dba Choice Home Warranty (the "Order") on November 25, 2019.²

The district court granted relief by granting the petition for judicial review and affirming in part and modifying the Final Decision as follows:

a. The Hearing Offer's finding of six (6) violations by the Petitioner of NRS 686A.070 for making false entries of material fact in record or statement is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The total fine of \$30,000 at \$5,000 per violation, as allowed under NRS 686A.183(1)(a), is AFFIRMED.

b. The Hearing Officer's finding of one violation by the Petitioner of NRS 690C.320(2) for failure to make its records available to the Commissioner upon request is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The fine of \$500, as authorized pursuant to NRS 690C.325(1) is AFFIRMED.

c. The Hearing Officer's finding of 23,889 instances of conducting business in an unsuitable manner, in violation of NRS 690C.325(1)(b) and NRS 679B.125(2), by allowing an unregistered entity to issue, sell and offer for sale service contracts in Nevada is hereby AFFIRMED. The Court finds that NRS 690C.150 requires anyone, including a service contract administrator, who wishes to issue, sell, or offer for sale service contracts in Nevada, to possess a certificate of registration under Chapter 690C of the NRS.

The fine of \$50 for each of the 23,889 violations, is AFFIRMED; however the Court finds that the aggregate cap of \$10,000 for violations of a similar nature, codified in NRS 690C.330, applies. The Court hereby MODIFIES the fine of \$1,194,450 to be capped at \$10,000 total.

Order at 3-4.

The Hearing Officer specified in a footnote that the \$50 fines for each act or violation, totaling \$1,194,450, was pursuant to NRS 690C.325.1, which allows a maximum administrative fine of \$1,000 per act or violation.

² Notice of Entry was served on November 26, 2019 and filed on November 27, 2019.

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

This case has not previously been the subject of an appeal to or original writ proceeding in the Supreme Court.

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

No.

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

Settlement of this case is not possible.

DATED this 6th day of December, 2019.

HOLLAND & HART LLP

Constance L. Akridge Nevada Bar No. 3353

Sydney R. Gambee

Nevada Bar No. 14201

Brittany L. Walker

Nevada Bar No. 14641

9555 HILLWOOD DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR

LAS VEGAS, NV 89134

Attorneys for Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc.

dba Choice Home Warranty

HOLLAND & HART LLP 9555 HILLWOOD DRIVE, 2ND FLOOR LAS VEGAS, NV 89134

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on the 6th day of December, 2019, a true and correct copy of the foregoing CASE APPEAL STATEMENT was served by the following method(s):

U.S. Mail: by depositing same in the United States mail, first class postage fully prepaid to the persons and addresses listed below:

Richard Yien
Deputy Attorney General
STATE OF NEVADA
Office of Attorney General
100 N. Carson St.
Carson City, Nevada 89701
ryien@ag.nv.gov

Attorneys for State of Nevada, Department Of Business and Industry – Division of Insurance Joanna Grigoriev
Senior Deputy Attorney General
STATE OF NEVADA
Office of Attorney General
555 E. Washington Avenue, Suite 3900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
igrigoriev@ag.nv.gov

Attorneys for State of Nevada, Department Of Business and Industry – Division of Insurance

Email: by electronically delivering a copy via email to the following e-mail address:

jgrigoriev@ag.nv.gov ryien@ag.nv.gov

An Employee of Holland & Hart LLP

13911021_v3 104645.0001

Date: 12/11/2019 14:20:44.9 MIJR5925

Docket Sheet

By:

Page: 1

Judge: RUSSELL, JUDGE JAMES

TODD

Case No. 17 OC 00269 1B

Ticket No.

CTN:

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC.

-vs-

DEPT. OF BUSINESS & INDUSTRY DIVISION OF

INSURANCE

DRSPND

By: LAXALT, ADAM PAUL

100 NORTH CARSON STREET CARSON CITY, NV 89701

Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid:

STATE OF NEVADA DRSPND By: LAXALT, ADAM PAUL

100 NORTH CARSON STREET CARSON CITY, NV 89701

Dob: Sex: Lic: Sid:

Plate#:

Make: Year:

Accident:

Type: Venue: Location:

PLNTPET

HOME WARRANTY

Bond:

Set:

ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA,

INC.

Type: Posted:

Charges:

Ct.

Offense Dt: Arrest Dt: Comments:

Cvr:

Ct.

Offense Dt: Arrest Dt: Comments:

Cvr:

Sentencing:

No.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
1	12/10/19	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
2	12/10/19	REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME FOR BRIEFING AND DECISION OF MOTION FOR STAY PENDING APPEAL PURSUANT TO NRCP 62(D)	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
3	12/10/19	NOTICE OF DEFICIENCY IN NOTICE OF APPEAL	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
4	12/09/19	OPPOSITION TO PETITIONERS MOTION FOR ORDER SHORTENING TIME FOR BREIFING AND DECISION ON MOTION FOR STAY PENDING APPEAL PURSUANT TO NRCP 62 (D)	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
5	12/09/19	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
6	12/09/19	ORDER DENYING PETITIONERS MOTION FOR LEAVE OF COURT FOR LIMITED RECONSIDERATION OF COURTS FINDINGS ON HWANS PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
7	12/06/19	MOTION FOR ORDER SHOTENING TIME FOR BRIEFING AND DECISION OF MOTION FOR STAY PENDING APPEAL PURSUANT TO NRCP 62(D)	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
8	12/06/19	MOTION FOR STAY PENDING APPEAL PURSUANT TO NRCP 62(D)	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
9	12/06/19	CASE APPEAL STATEMENT	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
10	12/06/19	NOTICE OF APPEAL Receipt: 63278 Date: 12/11/2019	1BCCOOPER	24.00	0.00

No.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
11	12/06/19	RECEIPT	1BPOKEEFE	0.00	0.00
12	12/06/19	COURT ORDER REFUND Check Issued: 12/06/19 Check #6528 \$1,184,450.00 Payable to: HOLLAND & HART.	1BPOKEEFE	1,184,450.00	0.00
13	12/04/19	RECEIPT	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
14	12/04/19	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
15	12/04/19	REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE OF COURT PURSUANT TO FJDCR 15(10) AND DCR 13(7) FOR LIMITED RECONSIDERATION OF FINDINGS PERTAINING TO HWAN'S PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
16	12/03/19	COURT ORDER REFUND Check Issued: 12/03/19 Check #6525 \$1,184,450.00 Payable to: BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK, LLP. Voided on 12/04/2019.	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
17	12/03/19	COURT ORDER REFUND Check Issued: 12/03/19 Check #6524 \$40,500.00 Payable to: STATE OF NEVADA.	1BJULIEH	40,500.00	0.00
18	11/27/19	RESPONDENT'S OPPOSITION TO PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR LEAVE OF COURT FOR LIMITED RECONSIDERATION OF COURT'S FINDINGS ON HWAN'S PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
19	11/27/19	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
20	11/25/19	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
21	11/25/19	ORDER AFFIRMING IN PART, AND MODIFYING IN PART, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER OF THE HEARING OFFICER, AND FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER IN CAUSE NO. 17.0050 IN THE MATTER OF HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
22	11/22/19	NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF COMPETING PROPOSED ORDER	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
23	11/15/19	MOTION FOR LEAVE OF COURT PURSUANT TO FJDCR 15(10) AND DCR 13(7) FOR LIMITED RECONSIDERATION OF FINDINGS PERTAINING TO HWAN'S PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
24	11/07/19	HEARING HELD: The following event: PETITION HEARING scheduled for 11/07/2019 at 1:30 pm has been resulted as follows:	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
		Result: HEARING HELD Judge: RUSSELL, JUDGE JAMES TODD Location: DEPT I			
25	11/06/19	LEGISLATIVE HISTORY STATEMENT REGARDING NRS 690C.325(1) AND NRS 690C.330	1BPOKEEFE	0.00	0.00
26	11/06/19	RESPONDENTS STATEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE HISOTRY OF NRS 690C.325	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
27	08/28/19	TRIAL DATE MEMO	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00

Page: 3

Date: 12/11/2019 14:20:44.9 Docket Sheet

	e: 12/11/20 R5925	019 14:20:44.9 Docket	Sheet	Page: 3	
vo.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
	08/15/19	NOTICE TO SET	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	08/15/19	REQUEST FOR HEARING ON PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133(4)	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	08/15/19	PETITIONERS REPLY IN SUPPORT OF ITS SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	08/08/19	RESPONDENTS' RESPONSE TO PETITIONER'S SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
	07/10/19	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING PETITIONERS MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
3	06/18/19	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	06/18/19	ORDER GRANTING PETITIONERS MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	06/06/19	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER ON JOINT MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION AND/OR RECONSIDERATION OF THE MAY 8, 2019 ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
	06/05/19	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	06/05/19	ORDER ON JOINT MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION AND/OR RECONSIDERATION FO THE MAY 8, 2019 ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	05/31/19	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	05/30/19	JOINT MOTION FOR CLARIFICATION AND/OR RECONSIDERATION OF THE MAY 8, 2019 ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	05/28/19	PETITIONERS SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	05/28/19	NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO RECORD ON APPEAL	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
	05/21/19	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION		0.00	0.00
	05/21/19	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER GRANTING PETITONERS MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL	1BCCOOPER		0.00
4	05/08/19	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
>	05/08/19	ORDER DENYING REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION (STRICKEN PER ORDER DATED JUNE 9, 2019)	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00

No.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
4 6	05/06/19	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
47	04/15/19	REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
18	04/01/19	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER FOR WITHDRAWING NOTICE OF NON OPPOSITION AND REQUEST OR SUBMISSION OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL AND EXTENDING THE TIME FOR OPPOSITION TO AND REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
19	03/25/19	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
50	03/25/19	STIPULATION AND ORDER (1) WITHDRAWING NOTICE OF NON OPPOSITION AND REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B. 133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL AND (2) EXTENDING THE TIME FOR OPPOSITION TO AND REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B. 133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
1	03/13/19	ORDER GRANTING PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PUSUANT TO NRS 233B.13 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL (STRICKEN PER ORDER DATED JUNE 5, 2019)	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
2	03/12/19	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
3	03/12/19	NOTICE OF NON-OPPOSITION TO PETITONERS MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUAN TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL AND NOTICE OF SUBMISSION OF PROPOSED ORDER	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
4	02/22/19	MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE SUPPLEMENTAL MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.133 AND AMEND THE RECORD ON APPEAL	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
5	02/01/19	NOTICE OF AMENDMENT TO RECORD ON APPEAL	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
6	01/28/19	NOTICE OF FILING HEARING OFFICER'S ADMINSTRATIVE ORDER	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
7	01/25/19	SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
8	01/24/19	COVER LETTER	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00

No.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
59	09/06/18	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	lBJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
50	09/06/18	ORDER GRANTING PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
1	08/06/18	HEARING HELD: The following event: MOTION HEARING - FAMILY scheduled for 08/06/2018 at 2:30 pm has been resulted as follows:	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
		Result: HEARING HELD Judge: RUSSELL, JUDGE JAMES TODD Location: DEPT I			
52	06/06/18	TRIAL DATE MEMO	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
53	05/22/18	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
34	05/16/18	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
55	05/16/18	ORDER TO SET FOR HEARING	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
56	05/14/18	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE AND PETITIONER'S REQUEST FOR HEARING ON ITS MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
57	05/14/18	REPLY IN SUPPORT OF PETITIONER'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
8	05/04/18	OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
69	04/19/18	MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE	1BCFRANZ	0.00	0.00
70	04/11/18	REPLY BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
1	03/28/18	RECEIPT	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
72	03/28/18	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE OF STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR INTERPLEADING OF FINES PENDING FINAL DECISION	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
73	03/28/18	COURT ORDER DEPOSIT (RECEIVED FROM BROWNSTEIN HYATT FARBER SCHRECK ON BEHALF OF CHOICE HOME WARRANTY) Receipt: 54384 Date: 03/28/2018	1BCTORRES	1,224,950.00	0.00
7 4	03/19/18	RESPONDENT'S ANSWERING BRIEF	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
75	03/15/18	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
76	03/15/18	STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR INTERPLEADING OF FINES PENDING FINAL DECISION	1BJULIEH	0.00	0.00
77	02/16/18	PETITIONER'S OPENING BRIEF IN SUPPORT OF PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
78	02/16/18	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
9	02/16/18	NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR STAY	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
30	02/14/18	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00

No.	Filed	Action	Operator	Fine/Cost	Due
81	02/14/18	ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
82	02/14/18	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
83	02/14/18	ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR STAY	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
84	02/08/18	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
85	02/08/18	REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF MOTION FOR STAY OF FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.140	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
36	02/08/18	REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR STAY OF FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.140	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
37	01/31/18	SUPPLEMENT TO DIVISIONS OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR STAY OF FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.140	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
38	01/30/18	DIVISION'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR STAY OF FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION FURSUANT TO NRS 233B. 140	1 BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
3 9	01/19/18	STATEMENT OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
90	01/18/18	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - NO ACTION TAKEN	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
91	01/16/18	MOTION FOR STAY OF FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION PURSUANT TO NRS 233B.140	1BCTORRES	0.00	0.00
92	01/12/18	RECORD ON APPEAL - VOLUME 1 THROUGH 10	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
3	01/12/18	ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD	1BCCOOPER	0.00	0.00
94	01/09/18	MOTION TO ASSOCIATE COUNSEL	1BJHIGGINS	0.00	0.00
35	12/26/17	FILE RETURNED AFTER SUBMISSION - ORDER ENTERED	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
96	12/26/17	ORDER FOR BRIEFING SCHEDULE	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
97	12/22/17	PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S INITIAL APPEARANCE AFFIRMATION PURSUANT TO NRS 239.030	1BVANESSA	0.00	0.00
8	12/22/17	PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW (EXEMPT FROM ARBITRATION-JUDICIAL REVIEW) Receipt: 52963 Date: 12/26/2017	1BVANESSA	265.00	0.00
			Total:	2,450,189.00	0.00
		Totals By: COST HOLDIN HOLDIN INFORM *** End of Repor	G REFUND ATION	289.00 1,224,950.00 1,224,950.00 0.00	0.00 0.00 0.00 0.00

AARON D. FORD 1 Attorney General JOANNA N. GRIGORIEV 2 Senior Deputy Attorney General Nevada Bar No.5649 3 555 E. Washington Ave. #3900 Las Vegas, NV 89101 4 E-mail: jgrigoriev@ag.nv.gov RICHAŘĎ PAILI YIEN 5 Deputy Attorney General Nevada Bar No. 13035 6 Office of the Attorney General 100 N. Carson Street 7 Carson City, NV 89701 E-mail: ryien@ag.nv.gov 8 Attorneys for Respondent Nevada Division of Insurance

ACCUAFA 2019 NOV 25 AM 7: 47

AUGREY NOWLATT

IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, a Nevada corporation, Petitioner,

Case No.: 17 OC 00269 1B

Dept. No.: 1

VS.

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STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, DIVISION OF INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative agency,

Respondents.

ORDER AFFIRMING IN PART, AND MODIFYING IN PART, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER OF THE HEARING OFFICER, AND FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER IN CAUSE NO. 17.0050 IN THE MATTER OF HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY

This matter came on for hearing on November 7, 2019 on Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty's ("Petitioner") Petition for Judicial Review of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of the Hearing Officer, and Final Order of the Commissioner in Administrative Cause 17.0050 ("Administrative Order 17.0050"), filed by the Petitioner on December 22, 2017.

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Id.

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Standard of Review

The standard of review of an administrative decision is codified in NRS 233B.135. It provides in pertinent parts:

- The final decision of the agency shall be deemed reasonable and 2. lawful until reversed or set aside in whole or in part by the court. The burden of proof is on the party attacking or resisting the decision to show that the final decision is invalid pursuant to subsection 3.
- The court shall not substitute its judgment for that of the agency as to the weight of evidence on a question of fact. The court may remand or affirm the final decision or set it aside in whole or in part if substantial rights of the petitioner have been prejudiced because the final decision of the agency is:
 - (a) In violation of constitutional or statutory provisions;
 - (b) In excess of the statutory authority of the agency;
 - (c) Made upon unlawful procedure;
 - (d) Affected by other error of law;
- (e) Clearly erroneous in view of the reliable, probative and substantial evidence on the whole record; or
 - (f) Arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion.
- 4. As used in this section, "substantial evidence" means evidence which a reasonable mind might accept as adequate to support a conclusion.

When an administrative decision is challenged, the role of the reviewing court is "to review the evidence presented to the [hearing officer] and ascertain whether [the hearing officer] acted arbitrarily or capriciously, thus abusing [his or her] discretion." O'Keefe v. State, Dep't of Motor Vehicles, 134 Nev. Adv. Op. 92, at *5, 431 P.3d 350, 353 (2018). "[F]actual findings will only be overturned if they are not supported by substantial evidence, which, we have explained, is evidence that a reasonable mind could accept as adequately supporting the agency's conclusions. Nassiri v Chiropractic Physicians' Bd., 130 Nev.245, 248, 327 P.3d 487, 489 (2014). (citations omitted). "We review issues pertaining to statutory construction de novo. We nonetheless defer to an agency's interpretation of its governing statutes or regulations if the interpretation is within the language of the statute." <u>Dutchess Bus. Servs.</u> v. State, Bd. of Pharm., 124 Nev. 701, 709, 191 P.3d 1159, 1165 (2008) (internal citations omitted).

The Court, having considered the pleadings, record, and other documents in the matter, the law applicable to the issues and the arguments of counsel at the hearing, and being fully advised finds as follows:

B. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- 1. The Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Administrative Order 17.0050 are hereby AFFIRMED in part, and MODIFIED in part as follows:
 - a. The Hearing Officer's finding of six (6) violations by the Petitioner of NRS 686A.070 for making false entries of material fact in record or statement is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The total fine of \$30,000, at \$5,000 per violation, as allowed under NRS 686A.183(1)(a), is AFFIRMED.

b. The Hearing Officer's finding of one violation by the Petitioner of NRS 690C.320(2) for failure to make its records available to the Commissioner upon request is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The fine of \$500, as authorized pursuant to NRS 690C.325(1) is AFFIRMED,

c. The Hearing Officer's finding of 23,889 instances of conducting business in an unsuitable manner, in violation of NRS 690C.325(1)(b) and NRS 679B.125(2), by allowing an unregistered entity to issue, sell and offer for sale service contracts in Nevada is hereby AFFIRMED. The Court finds that NRS 690C.150 requires anyone, including a service contract administrator, who wishes to issue, sell, or offer for sale service contracts in Nevada, to possess a certificate of registration under Chapter 690C of the NRS.

The fine of \$50 for each of the 23,889 violations, is AFFIRMED; however, the Court finds that the aggregate cap of \$10,000 for violations of a similar

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Deputy Attorney General

Joanna N. Grigoriev (Bar No. 5649)

Senior Deputy Attorney General

using an

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District
Court, and that on this 25 day of November, 2019, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at
Carson City, Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows:

Joanna N. Grigoriev, Esq.
Senior Deputy Attorney General
555 E. Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Richard P. Yien, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Constance L. Akridge, Esq.

Constance L. Akridge, Esq. Sydney R. Gambee, Esq. Brittany L. Walker, Esq. Holland & Hart, LLP 9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor Las Vegas, NV 89134

Chloe McClintick, Esq. Law Clerk, Dept. 1

1	AARON D. FORD	/			
2	Attorney General RICHARD PAILI YIEN, Bar No. 13035	REC'D & FILED			
	Deputy Attorney General State of Nevada	2019 NOV 27 AM 10: 43			
3	Business and Taxation Division	AUDREY ROWLATT			
4	100 N. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701	O Meode			
5	P: (775) 684-1129 F: (775) 684-1156	BY L. LIMITERUTY			
6	Email: <u>ryien@ag.nv.gov</u>				
7	Attorney for the Division of Insurance				
8	IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DI				
9	THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AN	ND FOR CARSON CITY			
10	HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF	Case No. 17-OC-00269-1B			
11	NEVADA, INC., DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, a Nevada Corporation	Dept. No. I			
12	Petitioner,	Dept. 140. 1			
13	vs.				
14	STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF				
15	BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY-DIVISION OF INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative agency,				
16	Respondent.				
17	NOTICE OF ENTRY	OF ORDER			
18	Please take notice that the ORDER AFFIRM	MING IN PART, AND MODIFYING IN			
19	PART, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS O	F LAW, ORDER OF THE HEARING			
20	OFFICER, AND FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER IN CAUSE NO. 17.0050 IN				
21	THE MATTER OF HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC DBA				
22	CHOICE HOME WARRANTY was signed by Judg	ge James T. Russell on November 25,			
23	2019, a conformed copy of which is attached heret	o as Exhibit 1.			
24	DATED November 26, 2019				
25	AARON D. Attorney G				
26		<u> </u>			
27	By: RICI	HARD PAILI YIEN			
28	1	uty Attorney General rney for the Division of Insurance			
	Attor	ney for the Division of Insurance			

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of the Office of the Attorney General, State of Nevada, and that on November 26, 2019, I deposited for mailing in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid, at Carson City, Nevada a true and correct copy of the NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER, addressed to the following:

Constance L. Akridge, Esq. Sydney R. Gambee, Esq. Brittany L. Walker, Esq. Holland & Hart, LLP 9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor Las Vegas, NV 89134

DATED November 26, 2019

Susan Messina, An Employee of the Office of the Attorney General

EXHIBIT INDEX

	EXHIBIT NO.	DESCRIPTION	NO. OF PAGES (Excluding tabs)
**************************************	1	Order Affirming In Part, And Modifying In Part, Findings Of Fact, Conclusions Of Law, Order Of The Hearing Officer, And Final Order Of The Commissioner In Cause No. 17.0050 In The Matter Of Home Warranty Administrator Of Nevada, Inc Dba Choice Home Warranty	4

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1

AARON D. FORD 1 RECT & FILES Attorney General JOANNA N. GRIGORIEV 2019 NOV 25 AH 7: 47 Senior Deputy Attorney General 3 Nevada Bar No.5649 AUGREY ROWLATE 555 E. Washington Ave. #3900 4 Las Vegas, NV 89101 E-mail: jgrigoriev@ag.nv.gov RICHAŘĎ PAILI YIEN 5 Deputy Attorney General Nevada Bar No. 13035 6 Office of the Attorney General 100 N. Carson Street Carson City, NV 89701 E-mail: ryien@ag.nv.gov 8 Attorneys for Respondent Nevada Division of Insurance 9 10 IN THE FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR CARSON CITY 11 HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF Case No.: 17 OC 00269 1B 12 NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, a Nevada corporation, 13 Dept. No.: 1 Petitioner. 14 VS. 15 STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF 16 BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY, DIVISION OF INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative 17 agency, 18 Respondents. 19 20 ORDER AFFIRMING IN PART, AND MODIFYING IN PART, FINDINGS OF FACT, CONCLUSIONS OF LAW, ORDER OF THE HEARING OFFICER, AND 21 FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSIONER IN CAUSE NO. 17.0050 IN THE MATTER OF HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR OF NEVADA, INC DBA 22 CHOICE HOME WARRANTY 23 This matter came on for hearing on November 7, 2019 on Home Warranty 24 Administrator of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty's ("Petitioner") Petition for Judicial 25

Page 1 of 4

17.0050"), filed by the Petitioner on December 22, 2017.

Review of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, Order of the Hearing Officer, and Final

Order of the Commissioner in Administrative Cause 17.0050 ("Administrative Order

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||Id.

A. Standard of Review

The standard of review of an administrative decision is codified in NRS 233B.135. It provides in pertinent parts:

- 2. The final decision of the agency shall be deemed reasonable and lawful until reversed or set aside in whole or in part by the court. The burden of proof is on the party attacking or resisting the decision to show that the final decision is invalid pursuant to subsection 3.
- 3. The court shall not substitute its judgment for that of the agency as to the weight of evidence on a question of fact. The court may remand or affirm the final decision or set it aside in whole or in part if substantial rights of the petitioner have been prejudiced because the final decision of the agency is:
 - (a) In violation of constitutional or statutory provisions;
 - (b) In excess of the statutory authority of the agency;
 - (c) Made upon unlawful procedure;
 - (d) Affected by other error of law;
- (e) Clearly erroneous in view of the reliable, probative and substantial evidence on the whole record; or
 - (f) Arbitrary or capricious or characterized by abuse of discretion.
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When an administrative decision is challenged, the role of the reviewing court is "to review the evidence presented to the [hearing officer] and ascertain whether [the hearing officer] acted arbitrarily or capriciously, thus abusing [his or her] discretion." O'Keefe v. State, Dep't of Motor Vehicles, 134 Nev. Adv. Op. 92, at *5, 431 P.3d 350, 353 (2018). "[F]actual findings will only be overturned if they are not supported by substantial evidence, which, we have explained, is evidence that a reasonable mind could accept as adequately supporting the agency's conclusions. Nassiri v Chiropractic Physicians' Bd., 130 Nev.245, 248, 327 P.3d 487, 489 (2014). (citations omitted). "We review issues pertaining to statutory construction de novo. We nonetheless defer to an agency's interpretation of its governing statutes or regulations if the interpretation is within the language of the statute." <u>Dutchess Bus. Servs. v. State. Bd. of Pharm.</u>, 124 Nev. 701, 709, 191 P.3d 1159, 1165 (2008) (internal citations omitted).

The Court, having considered the pleadings, record, and other documents in the matter, the law applicable to the issues and the arguments of counsel at the hearing, and being fully advised finds as follows:

B. Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

- 1. The Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law in the Administrative Order 17.0050 are hereby AFFIRMED in part, and MODIFIED in part as follows:
 - a. The Hearing Officer's finding of six (6) violations by the Petitioner of NRS 686A.070 for making false entries of material fact in record or statement is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The total fine of \$30,000, at \$5,000 per violation, as allowed under NRS 686A.183(1)(a), is AFFIRMED.

b. The Hearing Officer's finding of one violation by the Petitioner of NRS 690C.320(2) for failure to make its records available to the Commissioner upon request is supported by substantial evidence and is hereby AFFIRMED.

The fine of \$500, as authorized pursuant to NRS 690C.325(1) is AFFIRMED,

c. The Hearing Officer's finding of 23,889 instances of conducting business in an unsuitable manner, in violation of NRS 690C.325(1)(b) and NRS 679B.125(2), by allowing an unregistered entity to issue, sell and offer for sale service contracts in Nevada is hereby AFFIRMED. The Court finds that NRS 690C.150 requires anyone, including a service contract administrator, who wishes to issue, sell, or offer for sale service contracts in Nevada, to possess a certificate of registration under Chapter 690C of the NRS.

The fine of \$50 for each of the 23,889 violations, is AFFIRMED; however, the Court finds that the aggregate cap of \$10,000 for violations of a similar

nature, codified in NRS 690C.330, applies. The Court hereby MODIFIES the fine of \$1,194,450 to be capped at \$10,000 total.

- 2. Petitioner interpleaded \$1,224,950 with the County Clerk's Trust Fund pending final decision of this Court on Petitioner's Petition for Judicial Review pursuant to the Stipulation and Order for interpleading of Fines Pending Final Decision filed herein on March 15, 2018. The Clerk of the Court will distribute the total fine of \$40,500 from Petitioner's interpleaded funds to the Respondent, and refund the remaining balance to Petitioner.
- 3. The Court finds that the doctrine of estoppel does not apply in this case. The Court finds in favor of the Respondent on this issue.
- 4. The Court finds that Petitioner was not denied due process. Petitioner had received sufficient notice and opportunity to prepare, and there was no unfair surprise. The Court finds in favor of the Respondent on this issue.
- 5. The Court further orders that contingent upon Petitioner's compliance with NRS 690C.150 and other requirements of chapter 690C of the NRS, Petitioner's Certificate of Registration be reinstated. In particular, Petitioner is prohibited from using an administrator to perform the duties of selling, issuing, or offering for sale service contracts in Nevada, unless said administrator has been granted a certificate of registration pursuant to NRS 690C and consistent with this Order.

IT IS SO ORDERED

DATED this 25 day of November 2019.

Respectfully submitted by:

AARON D. FORD Attorney General

Richard P. Yien (Bar No. 13035) Deputy Attorney General

Joanna N. Grigoriev (Bar No. 5649) Senior Deputy Attorney General

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Pursuant to NRCP 5(b), I certify that I am an employee of the First Judicial District Court, and that on this 25 day of November, 2019, I deposited for mailing, postage paid, at Carson City, Nevada, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Order addressed as follows:

Joanna N. Grigoriev, Esq.
Senior Deputy Attorney General
555 E. Washington Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Richard P. Yien, Esq.
Deputy Attorney General
100 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

Constance L. Akridge, Esq. Sydney R. Gambee, Esq. Brittany L. Walker, Esq. Holland & Hart, LLP 9555 Hillwood Drive, 2nd Floor Las Vegas, NV 89134

Chloe McClintick, Esq. Law Clerk, Dept. 1

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT MINUTES

CASE NO. <u>17 OC 00269 1B</u>

TITLE:

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATOR

OF NEVADA, INC. DBA CHOICE HOME WARRANT, A NEVADA CORPORATION VS STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT

OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY,

DIVISION OF INSURANCE, A NEVADA

ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY

12/04/19 – DEPT. I – HONORABLE JAMES T. RUSSELL J. Harkleroad, Clerk - Not Reported

MINUTE ORDER

COURT ORDERED: Pursuant to the attached e-mail, the Clerk is directed to return the fine monies received by Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP directly to the Petitioner or its current counsel of record.

Julie Harkleroad

From:

Chance, Travis F. <tchance@bhfs.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, December 3, 2019 4:18 PM

To: Cc: Julie Harkleroad Lenhard, Kirk B.

Subject:

In re Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. dba Choice Home Warranty - Return

of Fines

This message originated outside of Carson City's email system. Use caution if this message contains attachments, links, or requests for information.

Ms. Harkleroad,

I have confirmed that the fine monies were received by us directly from the client. Thus, we consent to the monies being disbursed either to the client directly or to its current counsel of record, instead of our firm.

Please feel free to contact me with any further questions.

Thanks,

Travis F. Chance
Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP
100 North City Parkway, Suite 1600
Las Vegas, NV 89106
702.464.7096 tel
tchance@bhfs.com

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY & DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this email message is attorney privileged and confidential, intended only for the use of the individual or entity named above. If the reader of this message is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copy of this email is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please notify us immediately by calling (303) 223-1300 and delete the message. Thank you.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT MINUTES

CASE NO. <u>17 OC 00269 1B</u>

TITLE:

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATION

OF NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, a Nevada corporation VS STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY-DIVISION OF INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative

agency

11/07/19 – DEPT. I – HONORABLE JAMES T. RUSSELL C. Franz, Clerk – Not Reported

ORAL ARGUMENT ON PETITION FOR JUDICIAL REVIEW

Present: Constance Akridge and Sydney Gambee, counsel for Petitioner; Richard Yien Deputy Attorney General, counsel for Respondent.

Statements were made by Court. Counsel stated arguments.

COURT ORDERED: It affirms in part and modifies in part in accordance with order to be filed herein.

Yein to prepare order.

Further statements were made by Court and counsel.

The Court minutes as stated above are a summary of the proceeding and are not a verbatim record. The hearing held on the above date was recorded on the Court's recording system.

FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT MINUTES

CASE NO. <u>17 OC 00269 1B</u>

TITLE:

HOME WARRANTY ADMINISTRATION OF NEVADA, INC. dba CHOICE HOME WARRANTY, a Nevada corporation VS STATE OF NEVADA, DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY-DIVISION OF INSURANCE, a Nevada administrative

agency

08/06/18 – DEPT. I – HONORABLE JAMES T. RUSSELL J. Higgins, Clerk - Not Reported

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO PRESENT ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE

Present: Kirk Lenhard, counsel for Petitioner; Richard Yien, Deputy A.G.

Statements were made by Court.

COURT ORDERED: It grants the motion on the following basis. On the limited basis for the hearing officer to review those documents, KK, LL and MM. It wants the hearing officer to review those documents and determine whether or not they would have had any impact of any nature or kind in respect to the decision being rendered by the hearing officer and have the ability to review and alter or amend the decision rendered based upon that, or supply this court an indication that they had no bearing and made no impact at all in the decision.

The Court minutes as stated above are a summary of the proceeding and are not a verbatim record. The hearing held on the above date was recorded on the Court's recording system.

DISTRICT COURT CIVIL COVER SHEET

Carson City

County Nevada FC'D&FLED Case No. / Jac Gase N I. Party Information (provide both home and mailing addresses if different) Defendant(s) (https://address/phone) Plaintiff(s) (name/address/phone): CLERK Home Warranty Administrator of Nevada, Inc. State of Nevada Department of Business and dba Choice Home Warranty, a Nevada corporation, Industry - Division of Insurance, a Nevada administrative agency Attorney (name/address/phone): Attorney (name/address/phone): Kirk B. Lenhard, Esq., Travis F. Chance, Esq., Mackenzie Warren, Esq. Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP - 100 N. City Parkway Suite 1600, Las Vegas, NV 89106 (702) 382-2101 II. Nature of Controversy (please select the one most applicable filing type below) Civil Case Filing Types Real Property Torts Other Torts Landlord/Tenant Negligence Unlawful Detainer Product Liability Auto Premises Liability Other Landlord/Tenant Intentional Misconduct Other Negligence Employment Tort Title to Property Judicial Foreclosure Malpractice Insurance Tort Medical/Dental Other Tort Foreclosure Mediation Assistance Legal Other Title to Property Other Real Property Accounting Other Malpractice Condemnation/Eminent Domain Other Real Property Construction Defect & Contract Judicial Review/Appeal Probate Probate (select case type and estate value) Construction Defect Judicial Review Summary Administration Chapter 40 Petition to Seal Records Mental Competency General Administration Other Construction Defect Contract Case Nevada State Agency Appeal Special Administration Set Aside Surviving Spouse Uniform Commercial Code Department of Motor Vehicle Building and Construction Worker's Compensation Trust/Conservatoship Other Nevada State Agency Other Probate Insurance Carrier Commercial Instrument Appeal Other Estate Value Greater than \$300,000 Collection of Accounts Appeal from Lower Court \$200,000-\$300,000 Other Judicial Review/Appeal Employment Contract \$100,001-\$199,999 Other Contract \$25,001-\$100,000 \$20,001-\$25,00 0 \$2,501-20,000 \$2,500 or less Other Civil Filing Civil Writ Other Civil Filing Civil Writ Writ of Habeas Corpus Writ of Prohibition Compromise of Minor's Claim Writ of Mandamus Other Civil Writ Foreign Judgment Other Civil Matters Writ of Ouo Warrant Business Court filings should be filed using the Business Court civil coversheet.

Signature of initiating party or representative