

September 16th, 2020

VIA E-MAIL ONLY

Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of the Supreme Court
201 South Carson St.
Carson City, NV 89701
nvscclerk@nvcourts.nv.gov

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CLERK OF SPREME COURT

BY

HIEF DEPUTY CLERK

RE: ADK 0567- In the Matter of Residential Summary Eviction Actions and Notices During Covid-19

Dear Ms, Brown:

My name is Leo Murrieta, executive director of Make the Road Nevada, we are a member led, non-profit organization fighting to improve the quality of life of all immigrants and working families in Nevada. As our state and the world is currently grappling with a pandemic, Make the Road Nevada has worked aggressively to serve as a resource for our members and also members of the community at-large in Las Vegas. Nevada is facing an unprecedented crisis in which over 200 thousand families are at risk of eviction should the eviction moratorium expire. This is why we urge you to adopt exhibit A to allow equal access for all tenants facing eviction so they are able to stay safe in their homes during the covid-19 pandemic.

General Comments:

Our membership of over 8,000 Southern Nevadans is largely made up of working-class, Latinx, immigrants who have been hit the hardest during this health crisis. According to a study done by the Kenny Guinn Center for Policy Priorities, Latinos (16.4 percent) and African Americans (24.6 percent) make up a disproportionate percentage of Nevadans in poverty, while 37.7 percent of single mothers with children under the age of five years old are below the poverty line. The COVID-19 virus does not discriminate on income, immigration status, or age. We are all at risk and Nevada must do everything possible to ensure families are able to stay in their homes.

With the end of the eviction moratorium looming, thousands of vibrant and beautiful working families are at risk of eviction and desperately need decisive action that will offer them dignity and the ability to care for themselves and their families. Allowing tenants access to legal aid under exhibit A will serve everyone's interests, help connect landlords with settlements and rental assistance. Exhibit A is a better path forward for Nevada's working families.

Please review our recommendations to ensure Nevada's working families have access to a strong mediation program, we appreciate your consideration:

- Make Mediation mandatory for Landlords to participate
- Make Mediation happen before the Eviction Filing occurs
- Keep the Mediation separate from the court process

Mandate "Know your Rights" information with eviction filings

Mandate that Mediation has to produce a reasonable outcome, such as no evictions until the economy recovers, etc.

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We know the burden on your shoulders to care for the citizens of Nevada is a heavy one, and in this moment when we need you to lead, we are calling on your leadership to do what's right and stand with working-class Nevadans who are trying to survive. We urge you to adopt exhibit A because Nevadans deserve equal access to justice and assistance during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely, Leo Murrieta, Executive Director Make the Road Nevada