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# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

WEALTHY INC., and DALE BUCZKOWSKI,

Case No. 2:21-cv-01173-JCM-EJY

Plaintiffs,

v.

SPENCER CORNELIA, CORNELIA MEDIA LLC, and CORNELIA EDUCATION LLC,

Defendants.

DEFENDANTS SPENCER CORNELIA, CORNELIA MEDIA LLC, and CORNELIA EDUCATION LLC'S REPLY IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION TO COMPEL

Defendants Spencer Cornelia, Cornelia Media LLC, and Cornelia Education LLC ("Defendants") file this Reply in support of their Motion to Compel (ECF No. 45) and ask that the Court compel Plaintiff Dale Buczkowski's complete, continued deposition as requested in Defendants' Motion.

# 1.0 The Requested Discovery is Relevant and Discoverable

A principal source of damages claimed by Plaintiffs is a loss of income from their clients, purportedly because of Defendants' actions. It follows quite simply, then, that it is nearly impossible to assess the scope of Plaintiffs' alleged damages without knowing the identity of Plaintiffs' clients and asking them directly whether their business with Plaintiffs was impacted at all by Defendants' actions. Without this crucial information, there only remains the speculation

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that Plaintiffs were harmed by Defendants' conduct, and thus any damages would be completely imaginative.

Plaintiff refused to provide this information in his deposition. He claims that he preserved an objection on this information by lodging boilerplate objections about trade secrets in the relevant set of discovery responses and by claiming to withhold information concerning social media analytics in a completely different set of discovery responses.

First, Plaintiffs' trade secrets objections were not properly lodged. In their opposition, Plaintiffs argue that their assertion of trade secret protection over the information sought concerning Plaintiffs' clients was objected to in a boilerplate objection hidden in one of Plaintiffs' discovery responses. The District of Nevada has long recognized that such objections are impermissible and subject to being stricken from a party's discovery responses. See Reflex Media v. Wallace, No. 2:18-cv-02423-RFB-PAL, 2020 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 96182, at \*10 (D. Nev. June 2, 2020); V5 Techs. v. Switch, Ltd., 334 F.R.D. 297, 301 (D. Nev. 2019) citing F.T.C. v. AMG Servs., Inc., 291 F.R.D. 544, 553 (D. Nev. 2013) ("[t]he party resisting discovery must specifically detail the reasons why each request is [] objectionable, and may not rely on boilerplate, generalized, conclusory, or speculative arguments"); Kristensen v. Credit Payment Servs., Inc., No. 2:12-CV-0528-APG, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 165489, 2014 WL 6675748, at \*4 (D. Nev. Nov. 25, 2014) ("boilerplate objections are improper"); Takiguchi v. MRI Int'l, Inc., No. 2:13-CV-1183-HDM-VCF, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18340, 2016 WL 614393, at \*1 (D. Nev. Feb. 16, 2016), supplemented, No. 2:13-CV-1183-HDM-VCF, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 48976, 2016 WL 1441796 (D. Nev. Apr. 11, 2016) quoting A. Farber & Partners, Inc. v. Garber, 234 F.R.D. 186, 188 (C.D. Cal. 2006) ("[b]oilerplate objections such as 'overly burdensome and harassing' are improper"). Moreover, the Court has held that boilerplate objections are presumptively insufficient are insufficient to assert a privilege. *Takiguchi*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 18340, at \*4.

Second, Nevada's trade secrets privilege is inapplicable. In their opposition, Plaintiffs argue that even if the information is otherwise discoverable, and even if it could be produced under

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attorneys'-eyes-only protections, the information is privileged under Nevada's trade secrets statute, NRS 49.325. While Plaintiffs go to great lengths to argue that the client information is a trade secret, they point to no cases that stand for the proposition that because they might be a trade secret, they are not discoverable whatsoever. This is because no court within this state or district has made that ruling, to the undersigned's knowledge. The statute itself allows courts to order production of that information with appropriate safeguards. See NRS 49.325(b) ("When disclosure is directed, the judge shall take such protective measure as the interests of the holder of the privilege and of the parties and the furtherance of justice may require.") As discussed at length in Defendants' Motion, this Court has held that even trade secrets that are discoverable are subject to production under a protective order.

Plaintiffs also ignore the undeniable fact that they have already provided responses to discovery requests that contained the names and other information about individual customers on an attorneys'-eyes-only basis without making any objection that such documents contained trade secrets or that they were so sensitive they could not be provided even on an AEO basis. (See ECF No. 45-1 at ¶¶ 12-13 (noting that Plaintiffs provided these documents on an AEO basis); see also Plaintiffs' first supplement to responses to second set of requests for production of documents, attached as Exhibit 1 (stating that documents containing customer identities and other information were produced on an AEO basis without objection).

### 2.0 **Defendants' Motion is Timely**

Plaintiffs again attempt to conflate timelines, discovery responses, and depositions in order to paint the incorrect picture that Defendants' Motion to Compel is untimely. As set forth in Defendants' Motion, however, the timeline is clear – at no time prior to Buczkowski's actual deposition did Plaintiffs attempt to assert that any information regarding Plaintiffs' clients would be staunchly withheld from discovery. Instead, Plaintiffs produced documents relating to those same clients without lodging any objection. Plaintiffs themselves waited until the close of discovery, during a party deposition, to spring this new and baseless theory in an attempt to

shortchange Defendants of their due process rights. Defendants' Motion is timely and the Court should grant the requested relief.

To reiterate, Plaintiffs provided documents on an AEO basis, without objection, that contained the names and other identifying information of many of their customers. Defendants also served a separate set of requests for production that asked for documents pertaining to Plaintiff's analytics data, in response to which Plaintiffs provided nothing and claimed such data was too sensitive to provide under any circumstances. Then, when Defendants asked Buczkowski about his *customers*, *not his analytics*, Buczkowski claimed such information was too sensitive to provide. And now Plaintiffs assert that that has always been their position. Plaintiffs' repeated dishonest claim that they stated these objections previously, then citing responses to a completely different set of discovery requests that did not ask for the information at issue, should draw at least an admonition from this Court.

### 3.0 Defendants' Request is Narrowly Tailored

Defendants' Motion to Compel asks the Court to order specific and tailored relief considering the Plaintiffs' obfuscation: a continued deposition under the supervision of a Magistrate. Defendants asked that Buczkowski be ordered to testify as to his clients, but also did not limit their request to matters directly related to those clients. This is not surprising, despite Plaintiffs' protestations. It is clear that the subjects of depositions often interlink. A deponent's answers on one topic frequently influence the other party's questions on other topics. Unexpected answers to deposition questions warrant unexpected questions. This is the nature of a deposition. If it were not, parties would just take depositions by written questions, as provided by Fed. R. Civ. P. 31. There's a reason, however, that Fed. R. Civ. P. 31 is covered in a couple inches of dust – such depositions are ineffective and inflexible, and oral depositions allow a party flexibility in fleshing out its case with factual testimony.

Defendants ask that the deposition be continued, period. After Buczkowski's testimony on his clients is concluded, the deposition may end, or Defendants' counsel may have some limited

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follow-up questions. However, Defendants do not want a situation where Buczkowski answers a few questions and then refuses any further questions, deciding to interpret this Court's ultimate order in the most pedantically narrow fashion possible.

For these reasons, the relief requested in Defendants' Motion to Compel is not only reasonable, but narrowly tailored to the circumstances, and Defendants ask the Court to grant their Motion.

### 4.0 **Defendants Did Not Violate LR 7-2(a)**

Plaintiffs' argue that Defendants' request for attorneys' fees and costs should be denied outright for violation of this Court's local rules. Defendants only note that Plaintiffs have misinterpreted the Court's rule. Defendants did not wish to burden the Court with overcomplicated briefing on a simple issue and maintain that judicial economy supports granting the requested relief. To that end, Defendants submitted a brief memorandum. "The purpose of LR 7-2(a) is to prohibit a motion from being filed separately from a memorandum of points and authorities." Schrader v. Wynn, No. 2:19-CV-2159 JCM (BNW), 2021 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29340, at \*9 (D. Nev. Feb. 17, 2021). The Court is plainly aware of fee shifting in discovery disputes and needs no reminder; accordingly, Defendants kept their motion brief. LR 7-2(a) is no reason to deny their requested relief.

### 5.0 Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Defendants ask that the Court grant their Motion to Compel and order the relief requested therein.

Between this case and the Mulvehill case, this is the third time that Plaintiffs have made this argument, and it never gets any more meritorious.

Respectfully Submitted, Dated: September 20, 2022. /s/ Alex J. Shepard Marc J. Randazza, NV Bar No. 12265 Alex J. Shepard, NV Bar No. 13582 Randazza Legal Group, PLLC 2764 Lake Sahara Drive, Suite 109 Las Vegas, Nevada 89117 Attorneys for Defendants Spencer Cornelia, Cornelia Media LLC, and Cornelia Education LLC

Case No. 2:21-cv-01173-JCM-EJY

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on September 20, 2022, I electronically filed the foregoing document with the Clerk of the Court using CM/ECF. I further certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing document being served via transmission of Notices of Electronic Filing generated by CM/ECF.

/s/ Trey A. Rothell

Trey A. Rothell Randazza Legal Group, PLLC

# EXHIBIT 1

FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO PLAINTIFFS
WEALTHY INC. AND DALE
BUCZKOWSKI'S RESPONSE TO
DEFENDANTS SPENCER CORNELIA,
CORNELIA MEDIA LLC, AND CORNELIA
EDUCATION LLC'S SECOND SET OF
REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF
DOCUMENTS

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11	Attorneys for Plaintiffs Wealthy Inc. and Dale Buczkowski								
12	UNITED STATE	S DISTRICT COURT							
13		Γ OF NEVADA							
14									
15	WEALTHY INC. and DALE BUCZKOWSKI,	Case No.: 2:21-cv-01173-JCM-EJY							
16	Plaintiffs,	FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO PLAINTIFFS WEALTHY INC. AND DALE							
17	V.	BUCZKOWSKI'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS SPENCER CORNELIA,							
18	SPENCER CORNELIA, CORNELIA MEDIA LLC, and CORNELIA	CORNELIA MEDIA LLC, AND CORNELIA EDUCATION LLC'S SECOND							
19	EDUCATION LLC,	SET OF REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS							
20	Defendants.	(Supplemental Information Appears in Bold)							
21	Plaintiffs Wealthy Inc. and Dale Buczk	owski (" <u>Plaintiffs</u> or <u>Wealthy</u> "), by and through their							
22	attorneys, the law firms of Peterson Bake	er, PLLC and Culhane Meadows PLLC, hereby							
23	supplements their responses to "Defendants S <sub>1</sub>	pencer Cornelia, Cornelia Media LLC, and Cornelia							
24	Education LLC's Second Set of Requests for	Production of Documents to Wealthy Inc. and Dale							
25	Buczkowski" as follows:								
26	<u>DEFI</u>	<u>NITIONS</u>							
27	The following definitions apply to Plai	ntiffs' objections:							
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A.	"Non-discoverable/Irrelev	ant" – The	e request in	question	concerns	a matter	that	is
not relevant to	the subject matter of this 1	itigation a	nd is not pro	oportional	to the nee	ds of the	case	

- В. "Unduly burdensome" – The request in question seeks discovery which is unduly burdensome or expensive, taking into account the needs of the case, limitations on the parties' resources, and the importance of the issues at stake in the litigation.
- C. "Vague" – The request in question contains a word or phrase which is not adequately defined, or the overall request is confusing or ambiguous, and Plaintiffs are unable to reasonably ascertain what information or documents Defendants Spencer Cornelia, Cornelia Media LLC, and Cornelia Education LLC's ("Defendants" or "Cornelia") seeks in the request.
- D. "Overly broad" – The request seeks information or documents beyond the scope of, or beyond the time period relevant to, the subject matter of this litigation and, accordingly, seeks information or documents which are non-discoverable/irrelevant and is unduly burdensome.

### **GENERAL OBJECTIONS**

Plaintiffs object to Defendants' Requests on the following grounds:

- A. Plaintiffs object to Defendants' requests to the extent they seek documents or disclosure of information that is protected from disclosure by the attorney-client privilege in accordance with Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and sections 49.035-49.115 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.
- В. Plaintiffs object to Defendants' requests to the extent they seek documents or disclosure of information that is protected from disclosure by the work-product exemption in accordance with Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and applicable case law.
- C. Plaintiffs object to Defendants' requests to the extent they seek documents or information protected from disclosure pursuant to the consultant-expert exemption in accordance with Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and applicable case law.
- Plaintiffs object to Defendants' requests to the extent they seek trade secrets, D. commercially sensitive information, or confidential proprietary data entitled to protection under Rule 26 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and section 49.325 of the Nevada Revised Statutes.

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	Е.	Plaintiffs	object	to	Defendants'	requests	to 1	the	extent	they	purport	to	impose
obliga	itions tl	nat are great	ter than	or	inconsistent	with thos	se se	t for	rth in tl	ne Fe	deral Ru	les	of Civil
Proce	dure an	d the Local	Rules o	f th	ne United Sta	tes Distric	ct Co	ourt	for the	Distr	ict of Ne	vad	la.

- F. Plaintiffs object to Defendants' requests to the extent they are excessively burdensome and that much of the information requested may be obtained by Defendants from other sources more conveniently, less expensively, and with less burden.
- G. Plaintiffs object to Defendants' requests to the extent they purport to require Plaintiffs to produce documents that are in the possession, custody or control of any person or entity other than Plaintiffs.
- H. This response will be made on the basis of information and writings available to and located by Plaintiffs upon reasonable investigation of their records, and inquiry of their present officers and/or employees. There may be other and further information respecting the requests propounded by Defendants of which Plaintiffs, despite their reasonable investigation and inquiry, are currently unaware. Plaintiffs reserve the right to modify or enlarge any response with such pertinent additional information as they may subsequently discover.
- I. No incidental or implied admissions will be made by the responses to requests. The fact that Plaintiffs may respond or object to any request or part thereof shall not be deemed an admission that they accept or admit the existence of any facts set forth or assumed by such request, or that such response constitutes admissible evidence. The fact that Plaintiffs respond to part of any request is not to be deemed a waiver by Plaintiffs of their objections, including privilege, to other parts of such requests.
- J. Each response will be subject to all objections as to competence, relevance, materiality, propriety, and admissibility, and to any and all other objections on any ground which would require the exclusion from evidence of any statement herein if any such statements were made by a witness present and testifying at trial, all of which objections and grounds are expressly reserved and may be interposed at such hearings.
- K. Plaintiffs adopt by reference the above objections and incorporate each objection as if it were fully set forth below in each of their responses.

### RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

### **REQUEST NO. 26:**

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Produce all documents evidencing facts or data that You provided to Ian K. McDonough for use in preparing the Expert Report.

# **RESPONSE TO REQUEST NO. 26:**

Responsive documents will be produced upon entry of a stipulated protective order.

### FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSE TO REQUEST NO. 26:

See WEALTHY000589 - WEALTHY002611, designated HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL- ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY pursuant to the Confidentiality and Protective Order [ECF No. 30] filed March 18, 2022.

### **REQUEST NO. 27:**

Produce all documents evidencing assumptions that You provided to Ian K. McDonough for use in preparing the Expert Report.

## **RESPONSE TO REQUEST NO. 27:**

Responsive documents will be produced upon entry of a stipulated protective order.

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# PETERSON BAKER, PLLC 701 S. 7th Street Las Vegas, NV 89101 702.786.1001

<b>CERTIFICATE</b>	<b>OF SERVICE</b>
--------------------	-------------------

Pursuant to Fed.R.Civ.P.5(b), and Section IV of District of Nevada Electronic Filing
Procedures, I certify that I am an employee of Peterson Baker, PLLC, and that a true and correct
copy of the FIRST SUPPLEMENT TO PLAINTIFFS WEALTHY INC. AND DALE
BUCZKOWSKI'S RESPONSE TO DEFENDANTS SPENCER CORNELIA, CORNELIA
MEDIA LLC, AND CORNELIA EDUCATION LLC'S SECOND SET OF REQUESTS FOR
PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS was served via electronic mail and via U.S. Mail, postage
prepaid, on this 28 <sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022, and to the following:
MARC J. RANDAZZA, ESQ.  mjr@randazza.com  RONALD D. GREEN, JR., ESQ.  rdg@randazza.com  ALEX J. SHEPARD, ESQ.  ajs@randazza.com  RANDAZZA LEGAL GROUP, PLLC  2764 Lake Sahara Drive, Suite 109  Las Vegas, NV 89117  Attorneys for Defendants  Spencer Cornelia, Cornelia Media LLC,  and Cornelia Education LLC

/s/ Erin Parcells
Employee of Peterson Baker, PLLC