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EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

CHARLES "RANDY" LAZER,

Plaintiff,

VS.

DAPHNE WILLIAMS,

Defendants.

Case No. A-19-797156-C

Dept. XV

HEARING REQUESTED

DEFENDANT DAPHNE WILLIAMS'S ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS **UNDER NRS 41.660**

Defendant Daphne Williams hereby files her Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Under NRS 41.660.

This Motion is based upon the attached memorandum of points and authorities and attached exhibits, the papers and pleadings on file in this action, and any oral argument permitted by this Court.

- 1 -

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Plaintiff's lawsuit against Ms. Williams is a SLAPP suit. The plaintiff sued the defendant for exercising her First Amendment right to petition the government.

Plaintiff is a real estate agent. This suit is premised on Ms. Williams filing a complaint with the Nevada Department of Business and Industry, Real Estate Division (the "Division") about Plaintiff's conduct during a real estate transaction. Ms. Williams considered Mr. Lazer's interactions with her and her loan officer to be racist, sexist, unprofessional, and unethical. She disclosed the basis for these opinions to the Division in August 2017, approximately one month after the sale of the property with which Plaintiff was involved, including disclosing numerous written communications between her and Plaintiff. While the Department ultimately chose not to take action against Plaintiff, Ms. Williams was entitled to her opinion of his conduct and filing a complaint was absolutely privileged under the law.

Ms. Williams did not make any knowingly false statements to the Division; in fact, Plaintiff either admits to the truth of, or does not dispute, several statements in the Ms. Williams's complaint. Even if some statements were false, her filing of the complaint was absolutely privileged.

Plaintiff cannot prevail on any of his claims, and so the Court should dismiss these claims with prejudice and award Ms. Williams her attorneys' fees and costs incurred in defending herself from these claims.

2.0 FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Plaintiff is a real estate agent. In 2017, he represented Ms. Williams's former landlord, Rosane Krupp, in a transaction for the sale of real estate; Ms. Krupp was the seller, Ms. Williams was the buyer. (See Declaration of Daphne Williams ["Williams Decl."], attached as **Exhibit 1**, at ¶ 4.) Ms. Williams is an African-

American woman. (See id. at ¶ 3.) In May 2017, while taking pictures of the property in question, Plaintiff told Ms. Williams "Daphne, I think you are going to be successful. When you become successful and you want to buy a bigger house and if your brother is retired by then, I'd be glad to be your realtor." (Id. at ¶ 5.) Ms. Williams considered the assumptions inherent in this statement to be sexist, as Plaintiff did not know her. (See id. at ¶ 6.) Plaintiff does not dispute that he said this, instead only disputing whether it was racist, sexist, or unprofessional. (See Complaint at 11.)

Also on May 13, 2017, Plaintiff shared several pieces of personal information about Ms. Krupp with Ms. Williams that she did not previously know, including details about Ms. Krupp's romantic life and the commission Plaintiff was charging for the transaction. (See id. at ¶ 7.) Ms. Williams understood that, as Ms. Krupp's realtor, Plaintiff had a duty to maintain the confidentiality of this information, and that disclosing it to Ms. Williams was unethical or, at the very least, highly unprofessional. (See id.) Plaintiff does not dispute that he told Ms. Williams this information.

At various points in 2017, Plaintiff informed Ms. Williams's loan officer that, in the course of his work as a real estate agent, he had contacted real estate appraisers and given them information to assist with their appraisal of property for which he was acting as a broker prior to these individuals conducting their appraisal. (See id. at ¶ 8; see also emails from Plaintiff, attached as **Exhibit 2**, at pp. 1-4.) Prior to August 23, 2017 and after learning of this, Ms. Williams spoke with employees of the Division regarding this practice, and they informed her real estate agents are not supposed to do this. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 8.) Upon learning this information, Ms. Williams considered Plaintiff's claimed practice of contacting real estate appraisers to be unethical and highly unprofessional. (See id.) Plaintiff does not dispute that he engaged in this practice.

During the course of the sale of Ms. Krupp's property, Ms. Williams allowed multiple individuals to remove furniture from the property at Ms. Krupp's request. (See id. at ¶ 9.) Despite this, Plaintiff falsely claimed that Ms. Williams did not let Ms. Krupp's "movers" remove furniture from the property. (See id.) Plaintiff does not dispute that he made this claim. (See Complaint at 12.) Rather, he asserts that Ms. Williams on one occasion did not allow a mover to take a piece of furniture (which he allegedly did take on a second visit), and refused to allow a mover to take personal property. (See id.) Plaintiff, however, was not involved in, nor did he coordinate, the removal of furniture or personal items from the property, and was thus not in a position to know about Ms. Williams's conduct in allowing people to remove furniture. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 9.)

During the course of the sale of Ms. Krupp's property, Ms. Williams signed a contract for the sale of this property and paid earnest money as required by the contract. (See id. at ¶ 10; Complaint at Exhibit 1.) Plaintiff never provided Ms. Williams with a receipt for this earnest money payment and never provided her with a signed copy of the contract. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 10.) Plaintiff claimed Ms. Williams was negligent in meeting due diligence timeframes noted in the sale contract, even though his failure to provide her with these documents interfered with her ability to do so. (See id.) Ms. Williams only received a receipt and signed copy of the contract after the close of escrow and after requesting these documents from a third party. (See id; see also **Exhibit 2** at p. 6.)¹ Plaintiff does not dispute that he failed to send a signed copy of this contract to Ms. Williams, and instead alleges that she must have been in possession of it prior to the close of escrow. (See Complaint at 20.)

¹ This email shows that a third party, Stacey Griffith, sent Plaintiff the signed real estate contract, and not Plaintiff himself. It also shows Ms. Williams did not receive the signed contract until July 31, 2017, a week after escrow closed.

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At several points during the course of the sale of Ms. Krupp's property, Plaintiff sent Ms. Williams's loan officer communications that she considered unprofessional. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 11; see also **Exhibit 2**.) By June 27, 2017, Ms. Williams had become frustrated with Plaintiff's conduct and the fact that the property had not yet been sold. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 12.) On that day, she sent a text message to Plaintiff telling him to stop his racist, sexist, and unprofessional behavior that was interfering with Ms. Krupp and Ms. Williams closing the real estate sale, and that if he refused to do so she would have no recourse but to file a complaint with the Nevada Board of Realtors and HUD pointing out his unethical and unprofessional behavior. (See id.; see also Complaint Exhibit 2.) On June 27, 2017, Ms. Krupp called Ms. Williams and told Ms. Williams that Plaintiff had instructed Ms. Krupp to tell Ms. Williams to apologize for her text message to Plaintiff. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 13.) Ms. Krupp also said during this call that Plaintiff had ulterior motives in acting as Ms. Krupp's real estate agent and that he was trying to sabotage the transaction. (See id.) Plaintiff does not dispute that this conversation between Ms. Krupp and Ms. Williams occurred, or the contents thereof.

Aside from the above-mentioned conduct, Plaintiff was consistently rude and unprofessional to Ms. Williams throughout 2017. (See id. at ¶ 15.) Ms. Williams sincerely believes she would not have been subjected to this kind of treatment had she not been an African-American woman. (See id.)

On August 23, 2017, Ms. Williams submitted a complaint to the Division. (See id. at \P 16; see also Complaint Exhibit 3.) The complaint contained the above allegations regarding Plaintiff, and Ms. Williams attached to this complaint the emails contained in **Exhibit 2** to this Motion. (See Williams Decl. at \P 16.) Ms. Williams believed at that time, and still believes today, that every statement she

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made in the complaint was either true or an expression of her opinion of Plaintiff and his conduct. (See id. at $\P\P$ 16-17.)

The Division initially determined, based on Ms. Williams's complaint, that Plaintiff had violated Nevada statutes and NAC 645. (See id. at ¶ 19; see also email correspondence between Ms. Williams and the Division, attached as **Exhibit 3.**) However, the Division's legal counsel disagreed with this assessment after Plaintiff challenged this finding, and the Division was left with no choice but to drop the case against Plaintiff. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 19.)

3.0 **LEGAL STANDARDS**

Under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute, NRS 41.635 et seq., if a lawsuit is brought against a defendant based upon the exercise of her First Amendment rights, the defendant may file a special motion to dismiss. Evaluating the Anti-SLAPP motion is a two-step process. The movant bears the burden on the first step, and the nonmoving party bears the burden on the second. See John v. Douglas County Sch. Dist., 125 Nev. 746, 754 (2009).

First, the defendant must show, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the plaintiff's claim is "based upon a good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern." NRS 41.660(3)(a). Two of the statutory categories of protected speech are:

- Communication[s] of information or a complaint to a Legislator, officer or employee of the Federal Government, this state or a political subdivision of this state, regarding a matter reasonably of concern to the respective governmental entity;
- 3. Written or oral statement[s] made in direct connection with an issue under consideration by a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any other official proceeding authorized by law . . .

Which [are] truthful or [are] made without knowledge of its falsehood.

NRS 41.637(2)-(3).

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Second, once the defendant meets his burden on the first prong, the burden then shifts to the plaintiff, who must make a *prima facie* evidentiary showing that he has a probability of prevailing on his claims. See NRS 41.660(3)(b); see also John, 125 Nev. at 754.

Nevada treats an Anti-SLAPP motion as a species of a motion for summary judgment. See Stubbs v. Strickland, 297 P.3d 326, 329 (Nev. 2013); see also Coker v. Sassone, 432 P.3d 746, 748-49 (Nev. 2019). However, it has some additional procedures to avoid the abusive use of discovery, and if the court grants the motion to dismiss, the defendant is entitled to an award of reasonable costs and attorneys' fees, as well as an award of up to \$10,000. See NRS 41.670(1)(a)-(b).

Due to a relative dearth of case law applying Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute, Nevada courts look to case law applying California's Anti-SLAPP statute, Cal. Code Civ. Proc. § 425.16, which shares many similarities with Nevada's law. See John, 125 Nev. at 756 (stating that "we consider California case law because California's anti-SLAPP statute is similar in purpose and language to Nevada's anti-SLAPP statute"); see also Shapiro v. Welt, 389 P.3d 262, 268 (Nev. 2017) (same); Sassone, 432 P.3d at 749 n.3 (finding that "California's and Nevada's statutes share a near-identical structure for anti-SLAPP review ... Given the similarity in structure, language, and the legislative mandate to adopt California's standard for the requisite burden of proof, reliance on California case law is warranted"); and see NRS 41.665(2) (defining the plaintiff's prima facie evidentiary burden in terms of California law).

4.0 ARGUMENT

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4.1 Ms. Williams Satisfies the First Prong of the Anti-SLAPP Analysis

As relevant here, the Anti-SLAPP statute protects

- 2. Communication[s] of information or a complaint to a Legislator, officer or employee of the Federal Government, this state or a political subdivision of this state, regarding a matter reasonably of concern to the respective governmental entity;
- 3. Written or oral statement[s] made in direct connection with an issue under consideration by a legislative, executive or judicial body, or any other official proceeding authorized by law...

Which [are] truthful or [are] made without knowledge of its falsehood.

NRS 41.637(2)-(3). The merits of a plaintiff's claims, and the legality of the defendant's actions, are not the focus of the first prong analysis and, if relevant, should only be considered during the second prong analysis. See Coretronic v. Cozen O'Connor, 192 Cal. App. 4th 1381, 1388 (2d Dist. 2011); see also Taus v. Loftus, 40 Cal. 4th 683, 706-07, 713, 727-299 (2007).

4.1.1 Plaintiff's Claims are Based Upon Protected Conduct

Plaintiff's claims are based primarily upon Ms. Williams's August 2017 complaint to the Division. There is no question that these statements fall under NRS 41.637(2) and (3). It was a communication of information to the Division, which is tasked with regulating the behavior of licensed real estate agents in the State of Nevada, regarding the improper conduct of a licensed real estate agent. In fact, the Division had jurisdiction to initially impose discipline on Plaintiff. (See **Exhibit 3**.) NRS 41.637(2) is thus satisfied. The complaint was also obviously a statement made in direct connection with an issue consideration by an executive body, or any other official proceeding. The complaint initiated the Division's investigation

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of Plaintiff, an official proceeding of an executive body, thus satisfying NRS 41.637(4).

Plaintiff also, however, bases a claim of extortion on a text message Ms. Williams sent to Plaintiff prior to filing this complaint. This is a statement made in anticipation of initiating a complaint with the Division, similar to sending a demand letter prior to filing a lawsuit. Such conduct is protected even though no official proceeding has been started yet. See Digerati Holdings, LLC v. young Money Entertainment, LLC, 194 Cal. App. 4th 873, 887 (2011) (finding that "statements made in anticipation of a court action or other official proceeding may be entitled to protection under the anti-SLAPP statute"); see also Briggs v. Eden Council for Hope & Opportunity, 19 Cal. 4th 1106, 1115 (1999). California courts have recognized that pre-litigation demand letters are protected under California's Anti-SLAPP statute, even when not directed at potential adverse parties. See Neville v. Chudacoff, 160 Cal. App. 4th 1255, 1270 (2008); see also Contemporary Services Corp. v. Staff Pro Inc., 152 Cal. App. 4th 1043, 1055 (2007) (holding that email to customers accusing competitor of litigation-related misconduct was protected). The Nevada Supreme Court recently cited Neville with approval in interpreting the scope of protected conduct under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statute. See Patin v. Ton Vinh Lee, 429 P.3d 1248, 1251 (Nev. 2018).

Ms. Williams's text message to Plaintiff prior to filing a complaint with the Division is comparable to a pre-litigation demand letter. She requested that Plaintiff cease unprofessional behavior which was likely to interfere with her purchasing a piece of real estate. If he did not do so, she would file a complaint with regulatory bodies. Her text message is thus protected as a communication in anticipation of the commencement of an official proceeding with a subdivision of the Nevada state government.

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Even if Ms. Williams's text message is not, by itself, protected under the Anti-SLAPP statute, it is inextricably intertwined with her unquestionably protected complaint to the Division. This makes Plaintiff's extortion claim a "mixed" cause of action for Anti-SLAPP purposes. These "mixed cause[s] of action [are] subject to the Anti-SLAPP statute if at least one of the underlying acts is protected conduct, unless the allegations of protected conduct are merely incidental to the unprotected activity." Lauter v. Anoufrieva, 642 F. Supp. 2d 1060, 1109 (C.D. Cal. 2008) (emphasis added); see also Salma v. Capon, 161 Cal. App. 4th 1275, 1287 (2008) (holding that a cause of action based on both protected and unprotected activity under California's Anti-SLAPP statute is subject to an Anti-SLAPP motion); Peregrine Funding, Inc. v. Sheppard Mullin, 133 Cal. App. 4th 658, 675 (2005) (finding that because plaintiffs' claims "are based in significant part on [defendant's] protected petitioning activity," the first anti-SLAPP prong was satisfied"). Ms. Williams's complaint to the Department is hardly incidental to Plaintiff's extortion claim, and thus this claim is also subject to the Anti-SLAPP statute.

4.1.2 Ms. Williams Made Her Statements in Good Faith

To be protected under the Anti-SLAPP statute, statements must "truthful or ... made without knowledge of [their] falsehood." NRS 41.637. Even if a statement is false, the defendant must have made it with actual knowledge that it was false; neither negligence nor even reckless disregard for the truth can defeat a defendant's showing under prong one. Furthermore, by the Anti-SLAPP statute's plan language, the "good faith" analysis is completely unrelated to a defendant's motivations in making a statement.

Plaintiff's Complaint is not a model of clarity, but it appears that Plaintiff does not allege any specific factual statement in Ms. Williams's text message or complaint to the Division is actionable. Rather, Plaintiff claims Ms. Williams's

statements that Plaintiff engaged in racist, sexist, unprofessional, and unethical behavior are actionable. But these are statements of opinion, not fact. To be false, a statement must include an assertion of fact that can be proven true or false. As explained in Section 4.2.2, *infra*, the statements Plaintiff claims are defamatory are not factual statements. It is thus impossible for her to have made them with knowledge of their falsity.

Plaintiff does not dispute the majority of the factual statements within Ms. Williams's complaint.² He admits the content of the statement he made to Ms. Williams on May 13, 2017 which she considered sexist. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 5; Complaint Exhibit 3 at pg. 1; Complaint at 11.) He does not dispute disclosing private and confidential information of Ms. Krupp, Plaintiff's client, to Ms. Williams. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 7; Complaint Exhibit 3 at pg. 1.) He does not dispute his practice of providing real estate appraisers prior to them conducting their appraisal of property for transactions where he acts as a real estate agent. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 8; Complaint Exhibit 3 at pg. 2). He does not dispute that he claimed Ms. Williams would not allow Ms. Krupp's movers to remove furniture from the property being sold. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 9; Complaint Exhibit 3 at pg. 2; Complaint at 12.) He does not dispute that Ms. Williams allowed individuals to remove furniture from the property at Ms. Krupp's request. (See Williams Decl. at

² The text message contains no arguably factual assertions, and thus good faith is already established as to statements within it.

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¶ 9; Complaint Exhibit 3 at pg. 2.)³ He does not dispute that he did not provide Ms. Williams a signed copy of the sale contract or a receipt for earnest money paid pursuant to the contract. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 10; Complaint Exhibit 3 at pg. 2; **Exhibit 3** at p. 6.)⁴ He does not contest the contents or authenticity of any of the written correspondence Ms. Williams attached to her complaint to the Division. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 16; **Exhibit 3**.) He does not dispute that he instructed Ms. Krupp to demand Ms. Williams to apologize to him for the June 2017 text message, or that Ms. Krupp said Plaintiff had ulterior motives regarding Ms. Krupp and was trying to sabotage the sale of Ms. Krupp's property. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 13; Complaint Exhibit 3 at pg. 2.)

Ms. Williams's factual statements are by and large undisputed, and any dispute Plaintiff may have with them is insignificant. Given this, and the fact that the allegedly actionable core of Ms. Williams's statements are expressions of opinion, Ms. Williams made her statements in good faith. Ms. Williams satisfies her burden under the first prong of the Anti-SLAPP law, and now the burden shifts to Plaintiff to show a probability of prevailing on his claims. He cannot do so.

4.2 Plaintiff Cannot Show a Probability of Prevailing on His Claims

NRS 41.660 defines a plaintiff's burden of proof as "the same burden of proof that a plaintiff has been required to meet pursuant to California's anti-

³ Instead, Plaintiff claims there was one instance where Ms. Williams did not allow a mover to remove a piece of furniture (which the mover did remove on a second visit), and that Ms. Williams kept a few pieces of personal property. First, Plaintiff was not involved in the conduct of any movers and thus he lacks personal knowledge, meaning any declaration from him on this subject would be inadmissible. (See Williams Decl. at ¶ 9.) Even if Plaintiff's statements are credited, however, they amount only to a minor inconsistency with undisputed facts that cannot amount to knowledge of falsity.

⁴ Plaintiff claims Ms. Williams must have received a signed copy of the contract prior to the close of escrow, but provides no support for this contention and does not dispute he failed to provide Ms. Williams with one.

Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation law as of the effective date of this act." NRS 41.665(2). Plaintiff cannot simply make vague accusations or provide a mere scintilla of evidence to defeat Ms. Williams's Motion. Rather, to satisfy his evidentiary burden under the second prong of the Anti-SLAPP statute, Plaintiff must present "substantial evidence that would support a judgment of relief made in the plaintiff's favor." S. Sutter, LLC v. LJ Sutter Partners, L.P., 193 Cal. App. 4th 634, 670 (2011); see also Mendoza v. Wichmann, 194 Cal. App. 4th 1430, 1449 (2011) (holding that "substantial evidence" of lack of probable cause was required to withstand Anti-SLAPP motion on malicious prosecution claim). Plaintiff cannot make this showing as to any of his claims.

4.2.1 Ms. Williams's Statements are Absolutely Privileged

Statements made in quasi-judicial proceedings, such as those before administrative bodies, are absolutely privileged. See Sahara Gaming Corp. v. Culinary Workers Union Local 226, 115 Nev. 212, 217 (1999); see also Lewis v. Benson, 101 Nev. 300, 301 (1985) (applying absolute privilege to citizen complaint to internal affairs bureau against police officer). This privilege completely bars any liability for statements made in the course of these proceedings, even if they are made maliciously and with knowledge of their falsity. See Sahara Gaming, 115 Nev. at 219. The privilege applies not only to statements made during the course of proceedings in progress, but also to letters written in anticipation of litigation. See Sahara Gaming, 217-218 (citing Richards v. Conklin, 94 Nev. 84, 85 (1978)). Though the Nevada Supreme Court apparently has not yet dealt with a case applying the absolute privilege to claims against a realtor, California has extended its similar absolute privilege to such circumstances. See King v. Borges, 28 Cal. App. 3d 27, 34 (1972) (finding that state department's interest in citizens reporting professional misconduct would be undermined if reporting citizens had

to fear defamation suits, and extending absolute privilege to complaint against realtor filed with state division of real estate).

Plaintiff's claims are based on a complaint Ms. Williams filed with the Division and a preceding text message which explicitly contemplates filing this complaint. The complaint is unquestionably absolutely privileged, even if Ms. Williams knew that every statement in it was false.⁵ Similarly, Ms. Williams's June 27, 2017 text message is comparable to a pre-litigation demand letter and is absolutely privileged. All of Plaintiff's claims must fail and he cannot show a probability of prevailing on them. But even if the absolute privilege did not apply, Plaintiff's claims fail on the merits.

4.2.2 Plaintiff's Defamation Claim Fails

To establish a cause of action for defamation, a plaintiff must allege: (1) a false and defamatory statement by the defendant concerning the plaintiff; (2) an unprivileged publication to a third person; (3) fault, amounting to at least negligence; and (4) actual or presumed damages. See Wynn v. Smith, 117 Nev. 6, 10 (Nev. 2001); see also Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 718 (2002). A statement is only defamatory if it contains a factual assertion that can be proven false. See Pope v. Motel 6, 114 P.3d 277, 282 (Nev. 2005).

As an initial matter, there is some ambiguity as to the statements on which Plaintiff bases his defamation claim. He appears to claim Ms. Williams's June 27 text message is defamatory, but he only alleges she sent this message to him. There is thus no publication to a third party and any defamation claim based on this message must fail. The remainder of the analysis in this section refers only to the statements in Ms. Williams's complaint to the Department.

 $^{^5}$ This, of course, is not the case, as Ms. Williams believed every statement in the complaint to be true. (See Williams Decl. at ¶¶ 16-17.)

A statement must include a false assertion of fact to be defamatory. "[M]inor inaccuracies do not amount to falsity unless the inaccuracies 'would have a different effect on the mind of the reader from that which the pleaded truth would have produced.'" *Pegasus*, 118 Nev. at 715 n.17. If the "gist" or "sting" of a story is true, it is not defamatory even if some details are incorrect. *Masson v. New Yorker Magazine*, *Inc.*, 501 U.S. 496, 517 (1991).

A statement of opinion cannot be defamatory, as the First Amendment recognizes that there is no such thing as a "false" idea. See Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 714 (Nev. 2002); see also Gertz v. Robert Welch, Inc., 418 U.S. 323, 339 (1974); Nevada Indep. Broadcasting Corp. v. Allen, 664 P.2d 337, 341 (Nev. 1983) (holding that "statements of opinion as opposed to statements of fact are not actionable"). An "evaluative opinion" cannot be defamatory, either. See People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals v. Bobby Berosini, Ltd., 11 Nev. 615, 624-25 (1995) (finding that claiming depictions of violence towards animals shown in video amounted to "abuse" was protected as opinion) (modified on unrelated grounds in City of Las Vegas Downtown Redevelopment Agency v. Hecht, 113 Nev. 644, 650 (Nev. 1997)). Such an opinion is one that "convey[s] the publisher's judgment as to the quality of another's behavior, and as such, it is not a statement of fact." Id. at 624 (citing Prosser and Keeton on Torts, 814 (W. Page Keeton, ed.; 5th ed 1984)).

To determine whether a statement is one of protected opinion or an actionable factual assertion, the court must ask "whether a reasonable person would be likely to understand the remark as an expression of the source's opinion or as a statement of existing fact." *Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc.*, 118 Nev. 706, 715 (Nev. 2002). Courts look the context of the statement, the language used, and whether the statement can be proven false to determine whether it is

capable of a defamatory meaning. See Flowers v. Carville, 112 F. Supp. 2d 1202, 1211 (D. Nev. 2000).

As explained in Section 4.1.2, *supra*, the statements in the complaint which contain factual assertions are undisputedly true or substantially true, and are not defamatory. This only leaves the statements that Plaintiff's conduct described in the complaint was racist, sexist, unprofessional, and unethical. These are statements of opinion which cannot support a defamation claim.

It hardly requires explaining that "racist," "sexist," and "unprofessional" are extremely vague terms that lack a precise meaning, and which any number of readers could interpret in any different number of ways. Merely accusing someone of being racist or discriminatory "is no more than meaningless name calling" and is not defamatory. See Overhill Farms, Inc. v. Lopez, 190 Cal. App. 4th 1248, 1262 (2010) (citing Stevens v. Tillman, 855 F.2d 394, 402 (7th Cir. 1988)). Calling someone "sexist" is likewise purely a statement of opinion. See Hanson v. County of Kitsap, 2014 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 89036, *15-16 (W.D. Wash. June 30, 2014) (finding statement that plaintiff made a "sexist response" was expression of non-actionable opinion). So too is the term "unprofessional." See Moldea v. New York Times Co., 22 F.3d 310 (D.C. Cir. 1994) (finding that criticisms of a journalist's "sloppy journalism" and unprofessional techniques were not defamatory).

"Unethical" is arguably susceptible to a defamatory meaning if it implies false, undisclosed facts. But that is not what happened here. Ms. Williams's complaint to the Division lays out precisely what conduct she alleged was unethical, and Plaintiff does not dispute any such conduct. Plaintiff may disagree that his conduct was unethical, but Ms. Williams's evaluative opinion of it is non-actionable because she disclosed the facts on which she based her opinion. See Berosini, 11 Nev. at 624-25. The facts here are similar to those in IQTAXX, LLC v. Boling, 44 Med.L.Rptr. 1561 (Nev. Dist. Ct. 2016), where an individual published a

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review of a tax preparation company containing undisputed facts and the concluding that the company's conduct constituted "MALPRACTICE!" The court found that this constituted an opinion based on disclosed facts and was thus not defamatory. See id. at 1565. To the extent "racist," "sexist," or "unprofessional" are not statements of pure opinion, they are also expressions of evaluative opinion based on disclosed facts.

None of Plaintiff's statements are capable of defamatory meaning and are thus protected under the First Amendment. Plaintiff cannot show a probability of prevailing on his defamation claim, and the Court must dismiss it.

4.2.3 Plaintiff's Fraud Claim Fails

Plaintiff premises a claim of common-law fraud on Ms. Williams's complaint to the Division. Plaintiff appears to be confused as to what the elements of fraud are, however, and his claim must fail. The elements of a common law fraud claim are as follows:

- 1. A false representation made by the defendant;
- 2. Defendant's knowledge or belief that the representation is false (or insufficient basis for making the representation);
- 3. Defendant's intention to induce the plaintiff to act or to refrain from acting in reliance upon the misrepresentation;
- 4. Plaintiff's justifiable reliance upon the misrepresentation; and
- 5. Damage to the plaintiff resulting from such reliance.

Lubbe v. Barba, 91 Nev. 596, 599 (1975). There is a clear implication within these elements that the false representation must be made to the plaintiff, not a third party. See Bulbman, Inc. v. Nevada Bell, 108 Nev. 105, 111 (1992).

There are numerous problems with trying to make a fraud claim fit the facts here. First, the allegedly false communication is Ms. Williams's complaint to the

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Division, which she never sent to Plaintiff. Second, the allegedly actionable statements in the complaint are, as explained in Section 4.2.2, supra, statements of opinion which cannot be proven false. Third, as evidenced by the fact that she did not send Plaintiff the complaint, Ms. Williams was trying to induce the Division to impose discipline on Plaintiff for his conduct, rather than induce Plaintiff to do anything. And fourth, Plaintiff does not allege he relied on any misrepresentation by Ms. Williams; to the contrary, he alleges at length that he believed statements in the complaint were false.

Leaving entirely aside the issue of truth or falsity, Plaintiff does not allege a claim of fraud. He alleges that Plaintiff submitted a complaint to the Division containing incorrect conclusions, which is an entirely different species of conduct than what fraud claims are meant to address. Plaintiff cannot show a probability of prevailing on this claim, and the Court must dismiss it.

4.2.4 Plaintiff's Extortion Claim Fails

Plaintiff ends by alleging that Ms. Williams's June 27, 2017 text message constitutes extortion. As an initial matter, it does not appear the Nevada Supreme Court has decided whether a claim for civil extortion even exists, and so Plaintiff likely cannot bring it at all. But even if the claim exists in Nevada, Plaintiff cannot show a probability of prevailing on it.

Ms. Williams's text message is the equivalent of a pre-litigation demand letter: "Stop your improper conduct or I will file a complaint." Such communications do not constitute extortion. See, e.g., Malin v. Singer, 217 Cal. App. 4th 1283, 1289 (2013).

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5.0 CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the Court should dismiss all of Plaintiff's claims with prejudice and award both Ms. Williams's costs and reasonable attorneys' fees, as well as award her \$10,000, to be sought by separate motion.

DATED August 9, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Marc J. Randazza

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, NV 89117

Attorneys for Defendant Daphne Williams

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 9th day of August 2019, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing document via the Eighth Judicial District Court's Odyssey electronic filing system and via U.S. Mail and email upon Plaintiff at:

> Charles "Randy" Lazer Hecker Real Estate and Development 4955 S. Durango Dr., Suite 155 Las Vegas, NV 89113 <ran314@aol.com>

> > /s/ Heather Ebert Employee, Randazza Legal Group

EXHIBIT 1

Declaration of Daphne Williams

- 4. In 2017 my former landlord, Rosane Krupp, asked me if I wanted to purchase property at 1404 Kilimanjaro Lane, Unit 202, Las Vegas, Nevada 89128. Plaintiff represented Ms. Krupp regarding the sale of this property. I did not retain a real estate agent for this transaction.
- 5. On May 13, 2017, Plaintiff came to property I was renting from Ms. Krupp to take pictures of it. He told me on this day "Daphne, I think you are going to be successful. When you become successful and you want to buy a bigger house and if your brother is retired by then, I'd be glad to be your realtor."
- 6. I had never met Plaintiff prior to May 13, 2017 and considered his assumptions that I was not successful and somehow relied on my brother to be sexist.
- 7. Also on May 13, 2017, Plaintiff shared several pieces of personal information about Ms. Krupp with me that I did not previously know, including details about her romantic life and the commission he was charging for the transaction. I understood that, as Ms. Krupp's realtor, Plaintiff had a duty to maintain the confidentiality of this information, and that disclosing it to me was unethical or, at the very least, highly unprofessional.
- 8. At various points in 2017, Plaintiff informed my loan officer, Bryan Jolly (who is African-American), that in the course of his work as a real estate agent, he had contacted real estate appraisers and given them information to assist with their appraisal of property for which he was acting as a broker prior to these individuals conducting their appraisal. Prior to August 23, 2017, Mr. Jolly sent an email from Plaintiff to me in which Plaintiff confirmed this practice of his. Prior to August 23, 2017, I spoke with employees of the State of Nevada Department of Business and Industry, Real Estate Division (the "Division") regarding this practice, and they informed me real estate agents are not supposed to do this. Upon learning this information, I considered Plaintiff's claimed practice of contacting real estate appraisers to be unethical and highly unprofessional.
- 9. During the course of the sale of Ms. Krupp's property, I allowed multiple individuals to remove furniture from the property at Ms. Krupp's request. Despite this, Plaintiff falsely claimed that I did not let Ms. Krupp's "movers" remove furniture from the property. Plaintiff was not involved in, nor did he coordinate, the removal of furniture or personal items

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26 27 from the property and was thus not in a position to know about my conduct in allowing people to remove furniture.

- 10. During the course of the sale of Ms. Krupp's property, I signed a contract for the sale of this property and paid earnest money as required by the contract. Plaintiff never provided me with a receipt for this earnest money payment and never provided me with a signed copy of the contract. Plaintiff claimed I was negligent in meeting due diligence timeframes noted in the sale contract, even though his failure to provide me with these documents interfered with my ability to do so. I only received a receipt and signed copy of the contract after the close of escrow and after requesting these documents from a third party. Exhibit 2 to the Anti-SLAPP Motion at page 6 is a true and correct copy of an email I received from Stacey Griffith at Ticor Title Insurance on July 31, 2017. Ms. Griffith sent this email to me in response to my request for a signed copy of the sale contract. This email was the first time I received a signed copy of the contract from anyone.
- 11. At several points during the course of the sale of Ms. Krupp's property, Plaintiff sent communications to Mr. Jolly that I considered unprofessional, which Mr. Jolly then forwarded to me. A true and correct copy of these emails is attached as **Exhibit 2** to the Anti-SLAPP Motion.
- 12. By June 27, 2017, I had become frustrated with Plaintiff's conduct and the fact that the property had not yet been sold. On that day, I sent a text message to Plaintiff that read "Randy, if this racist sexiest [sic] and unprofessional behavior of yours continues and Rosane and I are unable to close this deal, you will leave me with no other remedy than to file a complaint with the Nevada Board of Realtors and HUD against you and your broker for your unethical and unprofessional behavior as noted in the emails and text messages you have sent during this process. I will use the emails and text you have sent to file a truthful complaint." A true and correct copy of this text message is attached to Plaintiff's Complaint as Exhibit 2, with the exception that the version attached to Plaintiff's Complaint does not include the final sentence of this message.
- 13. On June 27, 2017, Ms. Krupp called me and told me that Plaintiff had instructed her to tell me to apologize for my text message to Plaintiff. She also said during this call that

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Plaintiff had been fined \$2,000 for 3 violations of Nevada statutes and ethics codes, but was then

"Randy keeps telling me if the property doesn't sell and things don't work out for me in Maryland, I can always come back and live with him until I get on my feet." She then said, "He always like me like that, but I don't like him like that. There is always an ulterior motive. I don't know why he is trying to sabotage this deal. If we don't close, you and Randy will be fine, but I will be the one who will not."

- 14. In July 2017, Ms. Krupp and I finally completed the sale of Ms. Krupp's property. Less than 24 hours after the close of escrow, Plaintiff sent me a demand letter requesting that I pay him money and sign a written apology for my June 27, 2017 text message, or he would begin litigation.
- 15. Aside from the unethical and unprofessional conduct mentioned above, Plaintiff was consistently rude and unprofessional to me throughout 2017. I have no doubt in my mind (nor have I ever) that, had I not been an African-American woman, he would have treated me with a greater amount of respect and professionalism.
- 16. On August 23, 2017, I submitted a complaint to the Division. The complaint contained the above allegations regarding Plaintiff. I believed at that time, and still believe today, that every statement I made in the complaint was either true or an expression of my opinion of Plaintiff and his conduct. A true and correct copy of this complaint (excluding exhibits) is attached to Plaintiff's Complaint as Exhibit 3.
- 17. Never at any time have I doubted the truth of the statements I made. They are all either completely true facts or they are my reasoned opinion based upon my experience with Plaintiff.
- 18. I did not file the complaint with the Division to gain any kind of advantage against Plaintiff or in a transaction involving him. Instead, I wanted to inform the Division of his behavior which I observed first-hand and subjectively found to be racist, sexist, unprofessional, and unethical.

After I filed my complaint the Division, I was informed by the Division that

subsequently informed on April 18, 2018 that the case against Plaintiff had been closed. I 2 requested an explanation for the dismissal from the Division, and it responded that, in its initial evaluation of my complaint, it determined Plaintiff had violated Nevada statutes and NAC 645. 3 However, Plaintiff challenged this finding, which caused legal counsel for the Division to get 4 involved. The Division's counsel disagreed that any violation had occurred, which left it with no 5 6 option but to close the case. A true and correct copy of my email correspondence with the Division 7 dated April 24 and April 25, 2018, is attached as **Exhibit 3** to the Anti-SLAPP Motion. 8 Under the laws of the State of Nevada, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing 9 is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. 10 8/9/2019 11 Executed on _ DocuSigned by: 12 13 Daphne Williams

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EXHIBIT 2

Emails from Plaintiff

From: ran314@aol.com [mailto:ran314@aol.com]

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 8:42 AM
To: Bryan A. Jolly

biolly@goalterra.com>
Subject: Re: 1404 Kilamanjaro....appraiser

Bryan..if you could provide me with the appraiser's contact information, that would be great. Usually I email info directly to appraisers at least when I do not represent the buyer, which is the case here. I had requested the appraiser contact me prior to scheduling, and that did not occur. So please provide me with his contact info.

Thank you,

Randy

----Original Message----

From: Bryan A. Jolly < biolly@goalterra.com >

To: ran314 < ran314@aol.com > Sent: Wed, Jun 7, 2017 8:23 am

Subject: Re: 1404 Kilamanjaro, Daphne Williams

Hey Randy,

You can send it to me, however, we're not allowed to have direct contact with the appraiser. All appraisals are ordered through a 3rd party company, but I can pass it along to our processors who may be able to get the info to the appraisal company.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy S8+

Thanks,

Bryan Jolly

Loan Officer

NMLS #273205

Alterra Home Loans

3245 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 102

Las Vegas, NV 89146

Office: 702-405-7021

Fax: 702-968-8666

Cell: 702-462-4513

Email: biolly@goalterra.com

From: ran314@aol.com <ran314@aol.com> Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 8:21:09 AM From: Bryan A. Jolly

Sent: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 10:46 AM To: 'ran314@aol.com' < ran314@aol.com

Cc: Anthony Pien <apien@goalterra.com>; Clara Mestre cmestre@goalterra.com

Subject: RE: 1404 Kilamanjaro....appraiser

Randy,

Unfortunately, I do not have the appraiser's contact information at this time. Since the buyer lives in the residence the appraiser contacted her directly to schedule the appointment. If there is an issue with value, information can be provided as a rebuttal, but I'm not allowed to have the appraiser's contact information beforehand so that I can't influence the value in any way.

Thanks,

Bryan Jolly Loan Officer NMLS #273205 **Alterra Home Loans** 3245 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 102 Las Vegas, NV 89146

Office: 702-405-7021 Fax: 702-968-8666 Cell: 702-462-4513

Email: bjolly@goalterra.com

Website: Alterra Home Loans - Bryan Jolly

Bryan A. Jolly

EXhibit E 1

From:

ran314@aol.com

Sent:

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 1:50 PM

To:

Bryan A. Jolly

Subject:

Re: 1404 Kilamanjaro....appraiser

Bryan....I realize what had occurred, but I did request that I would be contacted by the appraiser to schedule an appointment. Of 4 previous transactions I closed last month, all appraisers had contacted me before going to the properties. Bryan, since my client has paid \$450 for an appraisal, and I am the listing agent, I would suggest you have the appraiser contact me, just like everybody else has. In fact, I had an appraiser call me last night on another property, and gave me his email to send information to. So please Bryan have the appraiser email me about this today. I am leaving on a trip tomorrow, and I want to get him information on this unit and a few others that he likely won't have.

Thank you,

Randy Lazer

----Original Message----

From: Bryan A. Jolly <bjolly@goalterra.com>

To: ran314 <ran314@aol.com>

Cc: Anthony Pien <apien@goalterra.com>; Clara Mestre <cmestre@goalterra.com>

Sent: Wed, Jun 7, 2017 10:48 am

Subject: RE: 1404 Kilamanjaro....appraiser

Randy,

Unfortunately, I do not have the appraiser's contact information at this time. Since the buyer lives in the residence the appraiser contacted her directly to schedule the appointment. If there is an issue with value, information can be provided as a rebuttal, but I'm not allowed to have the appraiser's contact information beforehand so that I can't influence the value in any way.

Thanks,

Bryan Jolly Loan Officer NMLS #273205

Alterra Home Loans

3245 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 102

Las Vegas, NV 89146 Office: 702-405-7021 Fax: 702-968-8666

Cell: 702-462-4513

Email: biolly@goalterra.com

Website: Alterra Home Loans - Bryan Jolly



Bryan A. Jolly

Exhibit E2

From: Sent: ran314 <ran314@aol.com> Friday, June 9, 2017 9:03 PM

To:

Bryan A. Jolly

Subject:

Re: Appraisal Report

Hi Bryan...I am glad the appraisal came in at value. Prior to the appraisal, the appraiser called, and gave me her email address. I provided her with information on specific units, along with units in escrow within proximity but out of the subdivision, and one that sold outside of the subdivision. Had I not done that, I don't know if the appraisal would have been different or not...but it might have been. In representing a seller, I have a fiduciary responsibility, so I always try and put forth my best efforts, and will always communicate with an appraiser. So, I am glad things turned out well. Thank you for putting the appraiser in touch, as that was important to me. Be well, Randy

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

----- Original message ------

From: "Bryan A. Jolly" <bjolly@goalterra.com>

Date: 6/9/17 1:40 PM (GMT-08:00)

To: ran314@aol.com Subject: Appraisal Report

Good Afternoon Randy,

I hope this email finds you well. Attached is a copy of the appraisal report. The value came in at 86k with no conditions. Please advise if anything further is needed at this time?

Thanks,

Bryan Jolly

Loan Officer

NMLS #273205

Alterra Home Loans

3245 S. Rainbow Blvd., Suite 102

From: ran314@aol.com <ran314@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, June 26, 2017 8:22:27 AM

To: Bryan A. Jolly

Subject: Re: Regarding 1404 Kilamanjaro and options for proceeding

Bryan...that verbiage is not going to be added, as per the terms of the contract, the seller has to vacate in a neat and orderly fashion. You also have not explained why you notified me on 5/30 that you were working on obtaining the condo docs that should have been received by June 3, and did not inform me that you had an issue with them, and that despite the association management indicating they would be delivered in 10 days, they somehow did not arrive until a month after you received the contract? Please do share as to why this occurred.

Exhibit

Here is what is going to happen, and this per my conversations with the seiler. The seller will make arrangements for all furnishings to be removed. Based upon your email, the escrow will be extended to close on or before July 15, 2017, at which point should the transaction not close, the seller will request the release of the buyer's earnest money by contract. There will be no credit of \$500.



If Daphne doesn't like that, then there will be no extension of escrow, and the seller will cancel the escrow and call for the release to her of the buyer's earnest money. That is as clear as it gets. That doesn't come from me, that comes from the seller. No more games. The seller will in compliance of the contract have the furnishings removed by the close of escrow.

Also Bryan...if you don't call me and we don't have a good talk about this, the seller will cancel the escrow on July 15. I need to know the specifics of Daphne's loan so I can assess if this transaction is likely to close on or before July 15. I would suggest you call me at 702-271-1295, and I will not be able to answer the phone between 9:00 and 10:30 this morning.

Thank you,

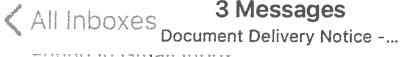
Randy Lazer



Al&I 💝 🕏

6:57 AM





3 Messages

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Exhibit G

From: Stacey Griffith

Document Delivery Notice - Order #17...

To: Daphne Williams

July 31, 2017 at 6:59 AM



DOCUMENT DELIVERY NOTICE

Please click on the attachment(s) above to access your documents.

Here you go! Please let me know if you need anything else.

Stacey Griffith

Escrow Assistant to Jodie Harvey

Ticor Title of Nevada, Inc. 8290 W. Sahara Avenue Suite 275 Las Vegas, NV 89117 702-932-0231 702-952-0456 (fax) Stacey. Griffith@TicorTitle.com



Harvey, Jodie

From:

ran314@aoi.com

Sent:

Tuesday, May 23, 2017 9:47 AM

To:

Harvey, Jodie

Subject:

Re: 1404 Kilamanjaro Lane #202, Las Vegas, NV 89128

Hi Jodie....it was great seeing you yesterday, and I appreciate your work with this. As I basically did a favor for my friend, the seller, the total commission to Hecker Real Estate and Development will be \$1500, and there is no buyer's agent.

For information from the Seller, just give her a call, and her name is Rosane (yes, that is the correct spelling). Rosane just moved to Baltimore, and her cell is

I will order the HOA demand in the next day or two, and hopefully things will be good

Be well,

Randy

---Original Message----

From: Jodie Harvey <jodie.harvey@ticortitle.com>
To: ran314 <ran314@aol.com>
Cc: stacey.griffith <stacey.griffith@ticortitle.com>

Sent: Mon, May 22, 2017 7:23 pm

Subject: 1404 Kilamanjaro Lane #202, Las Vegas, NV 89128



TICOR TITLE INSURANCE

CORRESPONDENCE

A note has been posted to your order.

I wanted to reach out to you and say thank you very much for opening a new escrow with me! For your reference your file number will be: 17130313, I look forward to the opportunity to earn your business. Is there a preference on your means of communication? Please don't hesitate to call me with anything if you should have questions during the transaction. My assistant's name is Stacey Griffith and her email is Stacey-Griffith@Ticortitle.com. She will also reach out to you during your transaction.

In effort to make your transaction as smooth as possible please review the follow:

If you have not done so already please advise how the EMD will be deposited.
 We have couriers who can come pick it up if need be. If you need wiring



From: Daphne Williams dlwilliams123@icloud.com

Subject: Messages from Rosane

Date: Aug 11, 2017, 10:12:26 AM

To: dlwilliams123@gmail.com



10:11 AM









Rosane

any question mark or l didn't send any idem.



Tue, Jun 27, 3:07 PM

Please call me when you have a chance, I need to talk to you. Thanks



Let me go autside

Wed, Jun 28, 6:54 AM

Catarina is going to buy the bed and mirror, she is going to call you to schedule









Sent from my iPhone



To: Ms. Daphne Williams 1404 Kilamanjaro #202 Las Vegas, Nevada 89128

From: Charles "Randy" Lazer
Hecker Real Estate and Development
4955 S. Durango, Ste. 155
Las Vegas, Nevada 89113

Date: July 25, 2017

Subject: Demand letter as requisite for filing litigation with the Las Vegas Justice Court for the knowing commission of fraud, and to

obtain compensatory and punitive damages for those acts, for which this will be sent by certified mail, and included with the filing. Ms. Williams has a record of all texts and emails, and those will be submitted with the certified letter and the complaint.

First, Ms. Williams is advised to seek legal counsel in compliance with my code of ethics, and to share, I am not an attorney.

This constitutes a demand letter for payment from Daphne Williams to Charles "Randy" Lazer of the amount of \$1,351.67, due on or before August 15, 2017, and will be submitted to the court as part of the filing on August 15, 2017 should payment not be received, or the matter is not resolved to the satisfaction of Charles "Randy" Lazer. This amount is to compensate Mr. Lazer for 6 hours and 3 minutes of time he spent defending his 26 year real estate career and the operations of the real estate brokerage that he worked with from knowingly false and terrible accusations of racism, sexism, unethical and unprofessional behavior, threatened by the defendant to be filed with the Nevada Real Estate Division, HUD, and the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors. As everything is writing, the facts below are not of dispute.

The written words of Ms. Williams, stating that Mr. Lazer acted in a racist, sexist, unethical and unprofessional manner with respect to emails and texts, were knowingly fraudulent and malicious. Knowingly fraudulent, as everything is in writing, and it is quite clear that there are no racist, sexist, unethical or unprofessional statements made by Mr. Lazer, as all emails and texts are attached. In fact, Ms. Williams sent 16 text messages to Mr. Lazer thanking him for his replies. Thus, with Ms. Williams referencing filing terrible complaints of racism, sexism, and ethical violations, when she knew no such behavior occurred, constitutes the knowing commission of fraud.

Moreover, Ms. Williams was threatening to destroy Mr. Lazer's 26 year career, future earnings, longstanding exceptional reputation, and the operations of Hecker Real Estate and Development by referencing filing knowingly wrongful complaints with the Nevada Real Estate Division, HUD, and the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors. Again with everything verifiable in writing, that Ms. Williams had 100 percent knowledge that no such racism, sexism, unethical, or unprofessional behavior occurred, these certainly are circumstances that would meet the standards for punitive damages of being malicious. Thus, a request for punitive damages is hereby submitted to the court, for which often a court may find punitive damages to be triple or more of the original damages sought, or in this case, potentially damages totaling \$5,406.68, or more, along with court costs and attorney's fees if allowable.

No facts are in dispute, as everything is in writing. Nor should there be any dispute of the damages suffered by Charles "Randy" Lazer; of the loss of an estimated 6 hours and 3 minutes of time in preparation for the defense of his 26 year real estate career and future income earnings, along with his efforts to also defend the company he works with from a potential suspension of operations, should these knowingly fraudulent claims of racist and sexist behavior, along with knowingly fraudulent claims of violations of his code of ethics be upheld.

Such claims if upheld by the Real Estate Division would likely cause the loss of Mr. Lazer's real estate license and career, his future earnings, and could also result in having the licensing of Hecker Real Estate and Development suspended, causing huge losses of income from property management accounts and real estate commissions, along with fines and expenses of a commission hearing likely totaling \$50,000 or more. So, one can clearly understand the importance of Mr. Lazer taking action to defend against wrongful accusations and threats that could potentially end his long career in real estate, while putting to a stop the operations of the company that he works with, which has been in business for over 40 years.

There is no dispute that Ms. Daphne Williams sent a text to Mr. Lazer from her cell phone number (909) 714-6155, on Tuesday, June 27, at approximately 12:35 pm, PST. The message was exactly as follows, and is noted in the supporting documents, shared from the text to email: "Randy, if this racist seixiest (sic) and unprofessional behavior of yours continues and Rosane and I are unable to close this deal, you will leave me with no other remedy than to file a complaint with the Nevada Board of Realtors and HUD against you and your broker for your unethical and unprofessional behavior as noted in the emails and text messages you have sent during this process."

Again, without dispute of what was sent, as all texts and emails are written, a message from Ms. Williams stated racist, sexist, unethical and unprofessional behavior had occurred, and that this was referenced from all texts and emails. It is clear from reviewing the attached, which constitutes all text and email communications involving Ms. Williams and Mr. Lazer through June 27, 2017, that there is no racist, sexist, or unprofessional behavior from Mr. Lazer. Again, in 16 text messages, Ms. Williams thanked Mr. Lazer in response to the texts he had sent, so there is a huge question of what racist, sexist, unethical and unprofessional behavior Ms. Williams would be thanking Mr. Lazer for?

Ms. Williams had been asked to reference any wrongful behavior on the part of Mr. Lazer in a text sent by Mr. Lazer at 12:49 pm on June 27, 2017. Nearly one month has elapsed, and Ms. Williams still has not indicated one example of what was racist or sexist, unethical or unprofessional regarding the written words or behavior of Mr. Lazer, although her text indicates only the written word.

Ms. Williams sent another threatening text message approximately 13 minutes later, stating "And I will not have a problem following an attorneys advise (sic) to see (sic) remedy to the full extent of the law", even though she had knowledge that no racist, sexist, unethical or unprofessional behavior had occurred. This further reinforced the necessity of Mr. Lazer to immediately prepare a defense for his career and that of the company he works with, Hecker Real Estate and Development, as Ms. Williams was unquestionably and wrongfully threatening Mr. Lazer's career and the operations of the brokerage that he works with.

To demonstrate to the court that the typical 5 elements of a claim of fraud via misrepresentation are present in this case for prevailing in the State of Nevada, please consider the following;

- 1) The defendant made a false representation....again, no texts or emails that were racist, sexist, unethical or unprofessional from Randy Lazer, as noted in the attached.
- 2) The defendant had knowledge and belief that the representation is false, as the defendant had all records of texts and emails in her possession, and again, had thanked Mr. Lazer in 16 different text messages.
- 3) With the intent to induce the plaintiff to act or refrain from acting on the representation.

Here is the first point of substantiation, in that when a real estate agent is confronted with knowingly false charges of racism, sexism, and violations of professional standards and codes of ethics, the charges are so serious that they do require a defense of one's career and a defense of the brokerage they are working with, which caused the action of Mr. Lazer to spend 6 hours and 3 minutes of his time for, with contacts to the real estate division, the client he represented, an attorney, the mortgage lender, and the buyer. Given Ms. Williams career in personnel and human resources, she is well aware of the serious nature of charges of racism, sexism, unethical and unprofessional behavior, and referenced the Regulatory

agencies she threatened to file knowingly wrongful complaints, which could if upheld cause the loss of Mr. Lazer's real estate career, and potentially suspend the operations of the company that he works with. Thus Ms. Williams demonstrated intent to induce the plaintiff, Mr. Lazer to take action, as such damaging charges, no matter that they are false, with the stakes so high merit hours of work to defend.

As a second point, in Ms. Williams' text she referenced behavior on the part of Mr. Lazer that would prevent the transaction from closing...this despite Ms. Williams breach of contract as noted in the two paragraphs below. As one reviews these facts it becomes clear that Ms. Williams was with great evidence trying to have Mr. Lazer not act as the seller's agent and breach his responsibilities by not representing the seller's best interests, but rather to stay out of the way with reference to the consummation of this transaction. That Ms. Williams was likely inferring in this text that Mr. Lazer should back off from behavior that previously occurred, indicating that Ms. Williams was breaching the contract by failing to close on schedule, and that the seller was not guaranteeing that she would extend the escrow.

That Mr. Lazer from the threats Ms. Williams made of making terrible and false reports to the Nevada Real Estate Division, the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, and HUD, of racism, sexism, and unethical behavior, to avoid this should stay out of the way. That is the second part of substantiation of this point of refraining from acting on the representation made by the defendant. The following two paragraphs detail and support this.

What did occur with reference to point 3 of the elements of fraud, is that Ms. Williams entered into a real estate contract to purchase the condo she was occupying, and Charles "Randy" Lazer represented the seller, and not Ms. Williams, which was noted on the real estate purchase agreement, and the "Duties Owed form", both of which are attached.

On June 23, 2017, Mr. Lazer learned from Ms. Williams' lender that the contract was not going to close per the scheduled date of June 30, 2017. Mr. Lazer, per his code of ethics of informing a party to the transaction of material facts, along with the authorization of the seller, informed Ms. Williams that the seller could cancel the transaction, and that there was no guarantee she would sign an addendum extending the escrow, as more than five weeks would have passed from the mortgage company's receipt of the purchase contract, which was more than sufficient time to close this escrow, according to the manager of Alterra Loans, the mortgage company Ms. Williams was working with.

Apparently the reason for the delay (to the best of Mr. Lazer's understanding) was due to Ms. Williams negligence in paying for the condo questionnaire from the association for her lender to review, which was required for her to pay per the contract she signed. Ms. Williams did become agitated in a phone conversation with Mr. Lazer on or around June 23, 2017, in which he calmly informed Ms. Williams of the contract date for closing, and of the circumstances relayed by the lender that this contract date was not going to be met. Mr. Lazer then shared that the seller authorized him to relay the information that there was no guarantee she would extend the escrow. This phone call proceeded the knowingly fraudulent text from Ms. Williams, with terrible and wrongful accusations that threatened Mr. Lazer's career and the operations of Hecker Real Estate and Development.

So, these are the details involved with Ms. Williams' written remarks referencing what might transpire...that knowingly wrongful and terrible complaints of Mr. Lazer would be submitted to regulatory agencies if Ms. Williams and the seller "are unable to close this deal". This is with reference to inducing the plaintiff to refrain from actions involving adhering to his fiduciary responsibilities of representing the seller's best interests, as noted in the above paragraph. Again, this stems from the written and indisputable words of Ms. Williams', per her texts of June 27, 2017, which also included threats of knowingly and wrongfully threatening complaints that could jeopardize the career of Mr. Lazer, and the operations of the business of the brokerage he worked with.

4) Also involved with fraud is representation that the plaintiff justifiably relies upon.

With Ms. Williams text on June 27, 2017,threatening the filing of charges of racism, sexism and unprofessional and unethical conduct (for which none had occurred, and that to Ms. Williams knowledge, thus..fraud) with the Nevada Real Estate Division, Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors, and another text threatening legal action "to the full extent of the law" from Ms. Williams, again without any basis, well, Mr. Lazer was reliant on these statements to immediately give time to prepare a defense for his career, future earnings, and the operation of the brokerage he worked with, and he would have been negligent not to.

5) Reliance of Representations damages the plaintiff.

These knowingly fraudulent and written statements of Ms. Williams damaged Mr. Lazer both with allocating 6 hours and 3 minutes of his time to defend, and terrible duress over the period of nearly one month.

Mr. Lazer had to stop his work involving other clients and the marketing of his business, and take immediate actions to protect his license and the operations of Hecker Real Estate and Development. There should be no dispute of the 6 hours and 3 minutes of Mr. Lazer's time involved, for which he was damaged by the loss of that time from Ms.Williams knowingly fraudulent claims, and her threats.

Mr. Lazer responded to Ms. Williams text, with three messages on June 27, at 1:42 pm, 1:47pm, and 1:50pm, in which he had to carefully frame a response, as not submitting a response could indicate passive acceptance of the wrongful allegations of Ms. Williams.

Mr. Lazer also called the real estate division three times that afternoon, to apprise them of what had transpired, and how best to proceed. Mr. Lazer also had to email every text, print that out, and print out all emails from Ms. Williams for the appropriate documentation to defend. Mr. Lazer also had to write a very detailed email to the lender, as Mr. Lazer by his code of ethics has a duty to inform of material facts, and the lender had been acting as a representative of Ms. Williams, who was not represented by a real estate agent.

But that wasn't all, as Mr. Lazer by his code of ethics had to inform and discuss these circumstances with his client, the seller, Rosane Krupp, for which Ms. Williams' actions were the focal point of multiple conversations. Mr. Lazer also discussed this matter with attorney Steven Stone, and the administrator of Hecker Real Estate and Development. The following is a break down of Mr. Lazer's time that was lost due to the knowingly wrongful and fraudulent allegations of Ms. Williams, as Mr. Lazer had no option but to prepare a defense for his 26 year career and future earnings, along with the operations of the company he was licensed with.

Formulating a response, reviewing all communications, and responding to Ms. William's texts of June 27, 2017: 1 hour 26 minutes.

Writing an email to Ms. Williams Lender, calling him, calling the real estate division

twice. 1 hour 21 minutes

Speaking with the seller and real estate

division 29 minutes

Identifying texts, sharing them by email, and printing out all texts and

emails, approximately 42 minutes

Speaking with the seller on June 28, June 29, July 1, and in person on July 5 and July

6. approximately 50 minutes

Meeting with attorney Steven Stone, approximately 1 hour for driving time and free

consultation 60 minutes

Speaking with office administrator of Hecker Real Estate and Development, with travel

time 55 minutes

Total estimated time expended to defend against knowingly fraudulent statements from Daphne Williams, 6 hours and 3 minutes.

Estimated hourly earnings for the months of May, June, and 24 days of July, of which the transaction comprised....please note this only includes commissions received from closed escrows, \$29,491.

Of significance, I am not requesting estimated hourly earnings from real estate that I worked with during the period of Ms. Williams' transaction, which includes three listed properties for which projected commissions would be approximately \$25,050, an additional property likely to be listed with a projected commission of \$5225, along with commissions from buyers that would be projected at approximately \$40,120, and \$8400 of commissions for working with a property management referral. This also does not include projected revenues from on my upcoming book entitled "Running Beyond Death, Reversing Heart Disease", that is likely to be endorsed by Duke University's Medical School, and on my soon to be released jazz/60's/70's violin cd entitled "Amazing Days".

The closed escrows for which I received payment in the period noted, would result in earnings of approximately \$223.42 per hour, as approximately 132 hours of work occurred to earn the \$29,491 of commissions noted in the closings below, and the check stubs from Hecker Real Estate and Development are attached. Again, this does not include time allocated within the same period of Ms. Williams' transaction of the development of additional business with projected commissions potentially in the vicinity of \$79,000, or any revenues from my upcoming book and cd. During that time frame I also took trips to Florida, Michigan, and Baltimore, and also allocated about 10 hours per week for my book and cd.

Mr. Lazer in many years was in the top 1% of his profession, and likely is with respect to career closing volume, estimated to be in excess of \$110 million. Mr. Lazer's earnings in the time frame with respect to Ms. Williams transaction are as follows with respect to closings of the properties below;

5817 Sunset Downs, North Las Vegas	\$6748.50
4345 Bacara Ridge, North Las Vegas	\$5280
9905 Saint Seasons, Las Vegas	\$5875
619 I Street, Petaluma, California (referral)	\$5312.50
8805 Spinning Wheel, Las Vegas,	\$4950
1404 Kilamanjaro #202, Las Vegas	\$1325

Total \$29,491

Total hours worked in the time frame

for these escrows 132
Earnings per hour \$223.42

Time lost to defend as damages from Ms. Williams

fraudulent statement 6.05 hours

Monetary damages from Ms. Williams fraudulent

statement \$1351.67

This litigation is being filed as a copy of this demand letter was sent to Ms. Williams by certified mail (for which the receipt was also submitted), and no satisfactory resolution has occurred.

The plaintiff requests the court consider punitive damages, as this clearly meets the standards for such, with Ms. Williams acting in a malicious manner that is beyond dispute, as her words were in writing, and she referenced only written communications. The malicious nature is evident by knowingly and wrongfully accusing Mr. Lazer of racist, sexist, unethical and unprofessional behavior that was in his writing, when no such writing exists. It isn't just that such wrongful allegations were made maliciously, but that Ms. Williams threatened Mr. Lazer's real estate career and future earnings and the operations of his brokerage, by alleging knowingly wrongful complaints could be filed with the Nevada Real Estate Division, the local Association of Realtors, and HUD. If making knowingly horrible and false statements about racism and sexism, and the violation of ethical and professional standards, while threatening one's career, their long standing reputation in the community, and the operation of a real estate brokerage doesn't constitute "malicious", then I don't know what does.

The court is hereby requested to award punitive damages in an amount the court determines is appropriate, as the standards of the defendant acting maliciously have clearly been met. The amount may or may not be what occurs in many cases of triple of the actual damages, or punitive damages in the amount of \$4055.01 in addition to the damages of \$1351.67 previously noted. If the court rules in favor of the plaintiff, it would be requested the defendant pay the plaintiff's court costs, which consist of a filing fee and potentially attorneys fees, if allowable

Lastly, I would like to share of the significant level of emotional duress I suffered due to Ms. Williams knowingly wrongful, hurtful, and fraudulent written remarks. Having one's behavior being referenced as racist, is terrible and upsetting for many, including myself. As a teacher at a private school, I gave two years of my life to take the students typically from very wealthy families, to low income neighborhoods in the Detroit area, where we provided food, clothing, and other assistance for many black families. I spoke and wrote to raise consciousness of the importance of providing educational funding for minorities and the economically disenfranchised. I am soon to be releasing a jazz violin cd, as having performed jazz for over 30 years, this music represents to many the very heart and soul of African-American culture in our country, and I am grateful to have performed with so many wonderful people who happened to be black, and to have so many wonderful people in my life, including friends from over 40 years, and valued clients and colleagues who happen to be black. I have such gratitude for truly caring and outstanding people who have helped myself and my family, who took care of my dying mother, who happen to be black. Clearly the court can see how I was so appalled and upset by Ms. Williams words, as would so many be for such a knowingly wrongful accusation of racism.

But, that wasn't all, as Ms. Williams' wrongfully alleged I was writing in a sexist manner. She never responded as to what specifically I wrote that was sexist, but did threaten my career to file a wrongful complaint of such with the Real Estate Division and other agencies. This despite I have a lifelong history of standing up for women's rights, which began when my father actually had Gloria Steinem guest lecture for his class, and from my mother sharing the importance of equal rights for women, and that there shouldn't be limits based upon gender. I have given of my time to paint and fix up homes that were shelters for women who suffered domestic violence, and for women who were in tragic condition from addiction, and to help women who were in crises from abuse. It doesn't make a me a saint, but when I think of Ms. Williams' knowingly terrible and wrongful words, yes, I was upset.

Lastly, as terrible and horrific as racism and sexism can be, it may be even worse to knowingly and wrongfully accuse a person of such. I recognize the court will rule on the legal issues, for which it is clear the five points for prevailing on a claim of misrepresentation in Nevada are met, and that the criteria of having punitive damages awarded for malicious behavior that is in writing and beyond dispute are met.

Additionally, not only did I suffer a loss of time of 6 hours and 3 minutes to defend from Ms. Williams' terrible and knowingly wrongful statements and threats, but, I also had difficulty going to sleep for approximately a week, and I would wake up typically between 3 and 4 am, unable to go back to sleep, upset with the career threatening and wrongful allegations of Ms. Williams, despite acting in good faith, and having an impeccable record with the Nevada Real Estate Division and the Greater Las Vegas Association of Realtors after 26 years of service. Whenever I receive an email or text or phone call pertaining to this transaction, upsetting thoughts do come into my mind, and I have suffered this for approximately one month.

I surely hope the court recognizes how terrible it is for somebody to wrongfully threaten one's career and the operations of the business that they work with, by knowingly making wrongful allegations of racist, sexist, and unethical behavior, particularly when that individual has acted in good faith, and in a highly professional manner. To knowingly and wrongfully accuse another of racism and sexism is for many, including myself, a terrible, terrible act, and something that Ms. Williams should be highly cognizant of, particularly given her years of experience in human resources and personnel and her current position in that field (all of this to the best of my knowledge, as relayed by Ms. Williams and the seller).

Yes, whenever racism or prejudice rears its ugly head we should be diligent and should not fail to object, as passive behavior can lead to acceptance. However, it truly is damning upon a person to wrongfully accuse another of hateful and terrible actions that never occurred, and I surely hope Ms. Williams will never do such again.

Sincerely,

Charles "Randy" Lazer

Ms. Williams....there are two options that are satisfactory to me not to file litigation against you, seeking not only damages of \$1,351.67, but also punitive damages of \$4,055.01, and court costs and attorneys fees if applicable.

- 1) As you knowingly and wrongfully placed in writing that I had committed racist, sexist, unethical and unprofessional acts, you will submit a letter of apology or email with the specific wording that you had knowledge that I never behaved in a racist, sexist, unethical or unprofessional manner, and then apologize for your wrongful conduct. That letter will be signed, or if an email, have your full name at the bottom.
- 2) With a letter of apology, I will work with some forgiveness, but consider this my first, last, and best offer, to only accept \$1000 with a letter of apology. The reality is I lost 6 hours and 3 minutes of my time and went through a lot of stress, when you made fraudulent claims in writing about some of the worst conduct any real estate agent could have, and threatened my career and the operation of my brokerage. If this complaint is filed in court, for which it is ready for efiling as you can clearly see, I will request \$1351.67, in addition to punitive damages that could be beyond \$4055, and attorney fees and court costs if applicable, thus seeking possibly in excess of \$6000 of damages from you.

So....a letter of apology with the above wording and signed by yourself, and \$1000 paid to Charles R. Lazer on or before August 15, 2017, and I will consider things resolved, will forfeit any rights to proceed in any way regarding this matter, and will not inform any other parties beyond whom I have already informed. In short, your confidentiality will be upheld by myself from the date of receipt of the letter of apology that is satisfactory, and a payment of \$1000. If you don't desire to apologize, that is up to you, then a payment of the loss of 6 hours and 3 minutes of my time, of \$1351.67, would be due on or before August 15, 2017. If you desire I do not proceed with litigation, you or your legal representative should contact me.

Otherwise on August 15, 2017, if there is no acceptable resolution to myself (and the above are the only resolutions that I deem acceptable to prevent the filling of litigation against yourself as of this time) I will file the above complaint in court, the matter will be of a public record, and I will consult with an attorney regarding sharing this information with your employer, out of concern for protecting others from wrongful and terrible allegations similar to what has occurred with respect to your texts to myself.

Whether you choose to contact me is up to you. You have my email address, and if I don't hear from you, the above referenced complaint, seeking compensatory and punitive damages, and court costs and attorney's fees will be filed on August 15, 2017.

You may desire to consider that everything is in writing, for which the written words are not of dispute. You may also consider of what exactly you would share with a judge that I wrote that was racist, sexist, and unethical, and for which you were threatening my real estate career and the operations of the company that I work with. Again...what exactly were those written statements? If you want to go through this in court and potentially have your employer notified of what you put into writing, well, you don't have to do anything. This complaint is complete and is ready to be efiled in the Justice Court on August 15th, a court date will be set, and you can obtain legal representation, which likely could cost more than than the terms that you are now offered.

Again, there is no further negotiation at this juncture. You can write a letter of apology and pay me \$1000, or not write the letter and pay me \$1351.67 on or before August 15, 2017. Or, I will file suit, likely seeking approximately \$6000 of damages, for which everything is in writing, and for which I have demonstrated in this demand letter all conditions have been meet for successfully proving the occurrence of fraud in the State of Nevada, and that the criteria for punitive damages have been met. Your choice. I am good either way.

5 1 1 1

If you obtain legal representation, your attorney has my permission to contact me directly, by email or phone (702) 271-1295, and your attorney can do so with the knowledge that I currently am not represented by an attorney, which would be a requirement for contact from your attorney. However, having taught law at college, including the entire Uniform Commercial Code, tax law, real estate law, torts, and contracts, and having served as an expert witness, and providing testimony to the FTC and the Nevada Secretary of State Securities Division that resulted in the convictions of fraud in multiple cases, likely I should have a reasonable level of competency to represent myself in Justice Court, again for which indisputably fraud was committed, is in writing, and the conditions for punitive damages, and of malicious conduct had been met.

GAMAGE & GAMAGE

Amy M. Gamage, Esq. William H. Gamage, Esq.

11460 Parkersburg Avenue Las Vegas, Nevada 891348 Tel: (702) 386-9529 Fax: (702) 382-9529

August 1, 2017

Via First Class Mail & Electronic Mail (ran314@aol.com)

Hecker Real Estate & Devleopment Attn: Mr. Charles Randy Lazer 4955 S. Durango Drive, #155 Las Vegas, NV 89113

> Re: Purchase of Property – 1404 Kilimanjaro Lane, Las Vegas, NV 89128

Dear Mr. Lazer:

Please be advised that this firm has been retained to represent Ms. Daphne Williams regarding the purchase of the above listed property and subsequent contractual elements regarding the closing of this property. Therefore, please forward any future correspondence and communication to attention of this office. In this regard, you should not contact Ms. Daphne Williams directly via telephone, text message, electronic mail, etc from this point forward. Should you continue to contact, harass and/or threaten my client, my client shall take all necessary legal measures to ensure the same will not continue.

With respect to the baseless allegations and threats of litigation outlined in your July 25, 2017 letter to Ms. Daphne Williams, I will address the same under separate correspondence in the next few days. Should you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

GAMAGE & GAMAGE

Counsel to Daphne Williams

AMG/pl

CC: Client

Exhibit A

PRIAN SANDOVAL

PROOF OF Filing

+ Complaint

STATE OF NEVADA



BRUCE H. BRESLOW Director

SHARATH CHANDRA Administrator

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY **REAL ESTATE DIVISION**

www.red.nv.gov

August 24, 2017

Daphne L. Williams 1404 Kilimanjaro Lane, Unit # 202 Las Vegas, NV 89128

RE:

WILLIAMS vs. LAZER CASE NO. 2017-1893

Dear Ms. Williams,

This is to acknowledge receipt of your complaint. A case has been opened and an investigation will be conducted. The investigation of this case has been assigned to me. Please direct all correspondence related to this case to my attention. Ensure you label all correspondence with the case name and number. Thank you for your patience and cooperation during the Division's investigation of this case.

The following are important facts which you should be aware:

- The Division cannot compel cancellation of listing agreements, purchase contracts or refunds of any kind.
- Do not delay any civil action you might be considering regarding this matter.
- If a court judgment has been obtained against a licensee for fraud, misrepresentation or deceit, the Real Estate Education, Research and Recovery fund is available for petition if the judgment has not been satisfied.

You may be called to testify should this matter proceed to hearing. Otherwise, you will be advised of the disposition of this matter when our investigation is completed. Should you have any questions, you may contact me at (702) 486-2423 or dmccloskey@red.nv.gov.

Sincerely,

Daryl McCloskey

Mr. Daryl J. McCloskey Compliance/Audit Investigator Cc; Amy Gamage, Attorney

EXHIBIT 3

Email correspondence between Ms. Williams and the Nevada Department of Business and Industry, Real Estate Division



Alex Shepard <ajs@randazza.com>

Re: Case #2017-1896 - Williams vs Lazar



On Wed, Apr 25, 2018 at 8:29 AM Jan Holle <jholle@red.nv.gov> wrote:

Hello Daphne,

Your email below was forwarded to me for review and response. You are correct the Division did impose discipline for Mr. Lazar in the form of a fine due to what we believed were violations of NRS and NAC 645. Mr. Lazar contested the violations and the fine. When discipline is contested the only option the Division has is to recommend to our legal counsel that the case move forward to a hearing before the Real Estate Commission, which is what we did in this case.

Our legal counsel performed their analysis of the case and did not agree with the Division's finding of violations under NRS or NAC 645. Therefore, the Division had no choice but to close the case. There very well may be violations of other state or federal law, but the Division's authority is limited to the enforcement of NRS and NAC 645.

You may wish to contact your own legal professional to determine what options you may have to further pursue this matter or file a civil action in a court of law on your own.

Thank you for taking the time to contact us regarding the outcome of the Division's investigation of your complaint. Unfortunately, the Division is unable to take any further action in this matter.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jan R. Holle

Chief Compliance/Audit Investigator

Department of Business & Industry

Nevada Real Estate Division

3300 W. Sahara Avenue, Suite 350

Las Vegas, NV 89102

Phone: 702-486-4326

Fax: 702-486-4275

www.red.nv.gov





From: Daphne W [mailto:dlwilliams123@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 8:49 PM

To: Nevada Real Estate Division <realest@red.nv.gov> Subject: Case #2017-1896 - Williams vs Lazar

Can just case // 1000 Williams to Eaca

Attention: Chief Compliance Officer

Re: Case # 2017-1893 Williams vs Lazar

Please provide in writing the reason that my complaint against Randy Lazar was closed. Originally, I was told he was fined 2000.00 for 3 violations related to my compliant. Next, I was told the case was going to a hearing. After that, I received a letter dated April 18, advising me that the case had been closed.

I would like a written explanation regarding all decisions that were made in reviewing my complaint, including the decision to close my complaint.

Thank you,

Daphne Williams