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14	UNITED STATES
15	DISTRICT
16	SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
17	COMMISSION,
17	Plaintiff,
18	·
19	VS.
20	MATTHEW WADE BEASLEY et al.
21	Defendants;
41	THE JUDD IRREVOCABLE TRUST <i>et al</i> .
22	
23	Relief Defendants.
23	
24	

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DISTRICT COURT

OF NEVADA

COURT-APPOINTED RECEIVER GEOFF WINKLER'S RESPONSE TO KAMILLE DEAN'S APPEAL FROM AND OBJECTION TO **MAGISTRATE'S 11-17-22 ORDER** AND REQUEST FOR DE NOVO REVIEW UNDER FEDERAL RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, RULE 72.3 (ECF NO. 380).

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Comes now, Geoff Winkler, the Court-appointed Receiver (the "Receiver"), by and through his counsel of record the law firm of Greenberg Traurig, LLP, and hereby submits this Response to Non-Party Kamille Dean's Appeal From and Objection to Magistrate's 11-17-22 Order and Request for De Novo Review Under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 72.3 (ECF No. 380) (the "Objection").

This Response is based upon the following Memorandum of Points and Authorities, attached hereto, the pleadings and papers on file herein, and such other and further arguments and evidence as may be presented to the Court in connection with the Motion.

DATED this 15th day of December 2022.

GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP

By: /s/ Kara B. Hendricks

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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

Not only does Ms. Dean's Appeal From and Objection to Magistrate's 11-17-22 Order and Request for De Novo Review Under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 72.3 (ECF No. 380) (the "Objection") rehash old arguments and cite to the wrong legal standard while misconstruing the scope of the underlying Order, but **Ms. Dean has provided this Court with no authority**

or legal basis to demonstrate the Magistrate's Order was clearly erroneous and thus there are no grounds to grant the relief requested.

Notably, the underlying Motion to Compel¹ was necessitated due to delays and gamesmanship by Ms. Dean. Indeed, following his appointment, the Receiver began communicating with attorney Kamille Dean seeking the turnover of \$250,000 Ms. Dean had received from Defendant Jeffrey Judd. After a prolonged period of communications through which the Receiver sought to recover the funds at issue without judicial intervention, Ms. Dean made multiple representations that she would file a motion with the Court regarding her request to retain the funds she had received. However, Ms. Dean did not follow through. Instead, the Receiver was forced to file a Motion to Compel seeking an order from this Court directing Ms. Dean's compliance with the Appointment Order (ECF No. 88). Rather than filing a response to the Motion to Compel, Ms. Dean submitted four (4) separate filings, unnecessarily burdening the Court and the Receiver. On November 17, 2022, the Magistrate issued its order granting the Receiver's Motion to Compel through which Ms. Dean was directed to turn over the funds she had received to the Receiver within 30 days.² Additionally, the Magistrate issued an award of attorneys' fees incurred by the Receiver in moving to compel Ms. Dean's compliance.

By filing the Objection, Ms. Dean has wasted additional receivership assets by forcing the Receiver to respond to yet another frivolous filing. As demonstrated herein, the Objection misses the mark. Not only should the reconsideration request be denied, but the attorneys' fees and costs incurred in connection with responding to the same should be awarded to the Receiver.

II. SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS PROCEEDINGS

The Objection arises from the Receiver's August 1, 2022 Motion to Compel. ECF No. 210. The Motion to Compel was necessitated by Ms. Dean's failure and/or refusal to turn over funds she had received belonging to Defendant Jeffrey Judd.³ After months of communications and

¹ Motion to Compel or Alternative Motion for Order to Show Cause Why Kamille Dean Should Not be Held in Contempt for Failure to Comply With This Court's Order (ECF No. 210) (the "Motion to Compel").

² Ms. Dean transferred \$201, 060 to the Receiver the day after the Order was issued.

³ ECF No. 210 at p. 5-6. The Motion to Compel contains a detailed description of the facts preceding the filing of the Motion to Compel. For the sake of brevity, the Receiver incorporates by reference those facts as if fully set forth herein.

attempts by the Receiver to resolve the dispute amicably and without judicial intervention, it became apparent Ms. Dean was not going to comply with the turnover provision established by this Court. As a result, the Receiver moved the Court for an order compelling Ms. Dean's compliance, or in the alternative, the Receiver requested an order to show cause why Ms. Dean should not be held in contempt for her failure to comply. ECF No. 210.

Rather than filing a response to the Motion to Compel, Ms. Dean filed four (4) separate pleadings attacking the Receiver and/or his counsel in various respects. The Receiver filed an Omnibus Response.⁴ ECF No. 275. Ms. Dean thereafter submitted three (3) reply briefs. ECF Nos. 295, 296, 297. Despite flooding this Court with filings, each of Ms. Dean's submissions proved to be meritless. On November 17, 2022, U.S. Magistrate Judge Elayna Youchah entered an Order granting the Motion to Compel and denying each of Ms. Dean's four (4) filings relating to the same (the "Order"). ECF No. 368.

Spanning twenty pages, the Order goes into great detail of each of the Receiver's arguments and Ms. Dean's positions in response. Additionally, the Order evaluated the applicable authority and applied the facts of this matter to the same prior to reaching its conclusion. Ultimately, the Court found, among other things, the funds held by Ms. Dean were Receivership Property and ordered Ms. Dean to turn over the same within 30 days. ECF No. 368 at p. 20. Additionally, the Court awarded the Receiver his attorneys' fees and costs incurred in bringing the Motion to Compel. *Id.* Notably, the Order does not make a finding of contempt nor does it issue an order to show cause as to why Ms. Dean should not be held in contempt. Rather, the Order simply directs Ms. Dean to comply with the Appointment Order, to turn over the funds at issue and to reimburse the receivership estate for the fees incurred in moving to compel Ms. Dean's compliance. *Id.*

Two weeks later, Ms. Dean submitted the instant Objection asserting the same arguments previously made and espousing a general dissatisfaction with the Court's findings.

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⁴ ECF No. 368, at n. 1.

III. ARGUMENT

Although framed as an "Appeal and Objection" to the Magistrate's Order, Ms. Dean's Objection is nothing more than a regurgitation of the arguments already presented to the Court. Given the duplicity of the arguments in the Objection, in the interest of brevity, the Receiver hereby incorporates by reference the arguments made in the Motion to Compel (ECF No. 210) and the Receiver's Omnibus Response to Ms. Dean's filings (ECF No. 275). In order to aid judicial efficiency, summaries of such arguments are referenced herein where necessary and appropriate.

a. Applicable Standard

At the outset, it is not entirely clear what legal standard Ms. Dean is attempting to utilize to support the Objection. Her filing is titled as an "Appeal From and Objection to Magistrate's 11-17-22 Order and Request for De Novo Review Under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 72.3". ECF No. 380. Given that "Rule 72.3" does not exist within the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, it is presumed that Ms. Dean intends to proceed under FRCP 72. Rule 72 contemplates two categories of pretrial orders issued by Magistrate Judges, those involving nondispositive matter and those involving dispositive motions and prisoner petitions. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72. Given that Ms. Dean's Objection requests "de novo review," it appears she is trying to lodge an objection under Rule 72(b)(3). However, FRCP 72(b)(3) is only applicable to dispositive motions and provides:

The district judge must determine de novo any part of the magistrate judge's disposition that has been properly objected to. The district judge may accept, reject, or modify the recommended disposition; receiver further evidence; or return the matter to the magistrate judge with instructions.

Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b)(3).

Here, Dean has not demonstrated for the Court that the Order falls within the purview of Rule 72(b)(3) as a dispositive motion, thereby warranting de novo review. Indeed, relevant authority from the Ninth Circuit demonstrates that matters such as motions to compel are non-dispositive and therefore subject to a "clearly erroneous" standard of review. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a); *see also* LR IB 3-1 ("A district judge may reconsider any pretrial matter referred to a magistrate judge in a civil or criminal case under LR IB 1-3, when it has been shown the magistrate

judge's order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law."); *see also* LR 59-1 (setting forth generally applicable "clear error" standard for motions for reconsideration and noting such motions are "disfavored").

Courts generally look to the "effect of the motion to determine whether it is characterized as 'dispositive or non-dispositive of a claim or defense of a party." Flam v. Flam, 788 F.3d 1043, 1046 (9th Cir. 2015). Considering the text of Rule 72, court have regularly found matters akin to this dispute non-dispositive. See e.g. Bailey v. Gatan, Inc., 783 F. App'x 692, 694 (9th Cir. 2019) (finding a Motion to compel discovery non-dispositive); Cadence Design Sys. v. Syntronic Ab, No. 21-cv-03610-SI, 2022 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 164135, at *5-6 (N.D. Cal. Sep. 12, 2022) (applying a clearly erroneous standard to a review of a magistrate order on a motion to compel). What is more, Courts have found only those matters excepted from the jurisdiction of a magistrate judge under 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A)⁵ to be dispositive. See Gomez v. United States, 490 U.S. 858, 867-69, 109 S. Ct. 2237, 2243-44 (1989); Maisonville v. F2 Am., Inc., 902 F.2d 746, 747-48 (9th Cir. 1990) ("any motion not listed, nor analogous to a motion listed in this category, falls within the non-dispositive group of matters which a magistrate may determine.").

Under Local Rule LR IB 3-1, a magistrate judge's ruling on non-dispositive matters such as those addressed in Magistrate Judge Youchah's Order, is subject to reconsideration on where it "has been shown [that] the magistrate judge's order is clearly erroneous or is contrary to law." Local Rule LR IB 3-1(a); Fed. R. Civ. Proc. 72(a); 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); *Heyman v. Nevada ex rel. Bd. of Regents of Nevada Sys. of Higher Educ.*, 2019 WL 7602241, at *2 (D. Nev. Feb. 28, 2019). "This standard is extremely deferential and should be considered the final decisions of the district court." *Wi-Lan, Inc. v. LG Elecs., Inc.*, No. C 10-80254-JF PSG, 2011 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 29400, 2011 WL 841271, at *1 (N.D. Cal. Mar. 8, 2011) (*citing EEOC v. Lexus of Serramonte*, No. C 05-0962 SBA, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 67895, 2006 WL 2619367, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Sept. 5, 2006).

⁵ Section 636 provides a magistrate may "hear and determine any pretrial matter pending before the court, except a motion for injunctive relief, for judgment on the pleadings, for summary judgment, to dismiss or quash an indictment or information may by the defendant, to suppress evidence in a criminal case, to dismiss or to permit maintenance of a class action, to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, and to involuntarily dismiss an action." 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(A).

Likewise, a magistrate judge's order will be found "contrary to law" only where "it fails to apply or misapplies relevant statutes, case law, or rules of procedure." *United States v. Desage*, 229 F. Supp. 3d 1209, 1213 (D. Nev. 2017) (citing *Jadwin v. County of Kern*, 767 F. Supp. 2d 1069, 1110-11 (E.D. Cal. 2011)). "The 'contrary to law' standard allows independent, plenary review of purely legal determinations by the Magistrate Judge." *Jadwin*, 767 F. Supp. 2d at 1110. Ultimately, "the text of the Magistrates Act suggests that the magistrate judge's decision in such nondispositive matters is entitled to great deference by the district court." *United States v. Abonce-Barrera*, 257 F.3d 959, 969 (9th Cir. 2001); *see also Mayorga v. Ronaldo*, 491 F. Supp. 3d 840, 846 (D. Nev. 2020) (quoting *Concrete Pipe & Prods. of Cal., Inc. v. Constr. Laborers Pension Tr. for S. Cal.*, 508 U.S. 602, 623 (1993)).

Here, Ms. Dean asserted a number of positions in objecting to the Motion to Compel, however the dispute before this Court is not dispositive as contemplated by Rule 72.⁶ As such, the Court's Order is not subject to de novo review as Ms. Dean has requested but is instead, subject to a clearly erroneous standard not addressed in the Objection. Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(a). Indeed, Ms. Dean's Objection contains little more than an expression of her frustration that the Court ruled against her and a regurgitation of the arguments already made and ruled upon. As discussed more fully herein, Ms. Dean has failed to reach the high bar imposed upon a litigant in her shoes. Ms. Dean has not demonstrated the Order was clearly erroneous in any respect, but instead has

⁶ Ms. Dean filed (1) a Motion to Strike; (2) a Motion for Leave to File Interpleader; (3) a Motion to Quash Jurisdiction; and (4) an Objection to the Declarations submitted by the Receiver. *See* ECF Nos. 257-260.

opted to re-argue the positions already disposed of by the Magistrate. As such, Ms. Dean's Objection should be overruled and the Court's Order likewise affirmed.

b. Summary of Ms. Dean's Arguments

Ms. Dean's Objection is difficult to follow. The body of the filing is repetitive, jumbled, and contradicts itself. In an effort to streamline this Court's consideration, Ms. Dean's arguments can be summarized as follows:

- (1) Ms. Dean argues she has purged any claim of contempt and as a result, the dispute in this matter is moot. Ms. Dean compounds this position by arguing that following her "purge," there is no final contempt order and an award of attorneys' fees is therefore improper. Ms. Dean makes additional arguments that the Court erred in granting the motion to compel because a contempt proceeding cannot be based on affidavits alone.
- (2) Ms. Dean next takes issue with the Court's finding that the Receiver complied with 28 U.S.C. § 754. The Court found that the Amended Appointment Order restarted the ten-day clock within which timeframe, the Receiver satisfied Section 754's notice requirements. Ms. Dean bases her position on the argument that an amended appointment order is distinct from a reappointment order and therefore, Section 754 has not been met.
- (3) Ms. Dean asserts numerous arguments regarding purported claims to the funds she held in her account. Specifically, Ms. Dean complains that she was subjected to "conflicting demands" in that her purported clients and contract attorneys have demanded that she not disburse the funds she received from Defendant Judd. Ms. Dean utilizes this argument to assert that she has been placed in a "legal vice" in which she could not comply with the Court's order and simultaneously satisfy her duties under the rules of professional conduct. Based upon this position, Ms. Dean argues the proper method for determining the ownership of the funds is through an interpleader proceeding.
- (4) Ms. Dean repeatedly claims that her due process rights have been violated through the instant proceedings. More specifically, she alleges that a summary proceeding was inappropriate and that she should have been given a plenary hearing with a complaint, discovery, and jury trial to parse out her arguments that she is entitled to keep the funds.

(5) Ms. Dean also asserts that she should be entitled to retain the funds at issu
because she was a "bona fide purchaser and seller of services without notice." In making this
argument, Ms. Dean alleges that she earned the totality of the fees before becoming aware of thi
proceeding or the Receivership.

(6) Ms. Dean disagrees that she bears the burden to establish the funds she held were untainted. Instead, Ms. Dean posits the onus is upon the Receiver to demonstrate the funds were tainted.

Each of these arguments is addressed below and nothing presented in the Objection demonstrates the findings in the Order were clearly erroneous.

c. Ms. Dean Has Not Demonstrated The Order Was Clearly Erroneous

Ms. Dean has failed to present this Court with any grounds upon with the Order should be amended or reconsidered. Although repetitive, jumbled, and difficult to follow, Ms. Dean's Objection centers on her argument that the Magistrate Judge erred by (1) finding the Receiver complied with Section 754; (2) Ms. Dean's other "clients" did not receive notice of these proceeding despite their purported interest in the funds at issue; (3) Ms. Dean was subjected to conflicting demands; (4) there was no evidence Ms. Dean held Receivership Property; (5) the Magistrate Judge utilized an improper standard in holding Ms. Dean had the burden of proof to show the funds in her account were not receivership property; (6) the Magistrate never ruled on whether Ms. Dean was a bona fide purchaser; and (7) the Magistrate granted the motion to compel thereby depriving her of a trial and due process of law. *See generally*, ECF No. 380 at p. 1. Additionally, Ms. Dean devotes a considerable amount of time arguing that she has "purged" any contempt and as a result, this matter is moot. ECF No. 380 at pp. 1-2. Building upon this argument, Ms. Dean asserts, in the absence of a finding of contempt, the award of attorneys' fees is improper. *Id.*

Despite the considerable ink spilled on these issues, Ms. Dean has presented this Court with nothing to demonstrate the Magistrate Judge's ruling was clearly erroneous or that the Order need be modified in any respect.

i. Ms. Dean's Arguments Regarding Contempt Lack Merit

Littered throughout the Objection are references to findings of contempt, the requirements therefor, and the Court's inability to impose sanctions, including attorneys' fees, following the conclusion of a contempt proceeding. However, the Order does not make findings of contempt against Ms. Dean and the arguments in this regard should be summarily discarded.

As this Court is certainly aware, Ms. Dean was not found to be in contempt nor did any contempt proceedings occur. The Receiver's Motion sought an order compelling Ms. Dean's compliance with court mandates or, <u>alternatively</u>, an order to show cause why she should not be held in contempt. ECF No. 210. However, the Court never reached the issue of contempt as the Order simply directed Ms. Dean to comply with the Appointment Order and turn over the funds she had received from Defendant Judd. ECF No. 368 at p. 20. In other words, there was no finding of contempt and Ms. Dean's arguments relating thereto have no place in this proceeding.

ii. The Order Clearly Establishes That the Receiver Complied With 28 USC § 754 and Ms. Dean Has Not Demonstrated the Court's Finding Was Clearly Erroneous.

Ms. Dean's arguments that this Court was divested of jurisdiction because the Receiver failed to comply with the filing requirements found in 28 U.S.C. § 754 are likewise without merit. Ms. Dean based her arguments in both the underlying briefs and the Objection on the fact that the Receiver filed the requisite notice in Arizona on August 5, 2022, approximately two (2) months after his appointment. However, Ms. Dean fails to counter the irrefutable authority demonstrating (a) the Receiver's ten-day clock restarted upon the issuance of the Amended Appointment Order; and (b) the terms of Section 754 are subject to numerous exceptions and policies permitting a court to retain jurisdiction over out-of-state assets in light of the purpose of an equity receivership.

Through the Order, the Magistrate Judge considered (1) whether the Amended Receivership order filed on July 28, 2022, reset the ten-day clock set by § 754; and (2) if the clock was not reset, whether there were exceptions or bases upon which the Court could find the Receiver was not divested of jurisdiction over the funds. ECF No. 368 at p. 15. Ultimately, the Magistrate

⁷ Once again, this matter was fully briefed, and the Receiver incorporates the arguments set forth in the Receiver's Omnibus Response as if set forth fully herein.

Judge found that the Amended Appointment Order (ECF No. 207) reset the ten-day clock and therefore, the Receiver's filing in Arizona was timely.⁸ The analysis in the Order and underlying briefs filed by the Receiver demonstrate this determination was not clearly erroneous.

The Objection also objects to the Order on the ground that the Amended Receivership Order (ECF No. 207), did not "reappoint" the Receiver and therefore, the 10-day clock under Section 754 did not restart. ECF No. 380 at 3-5. Although Ms. Dean's arguments on this point are strewn and repeated in multiple places in the Objection, the arguments are all premised on the same authority and Ms. Dean's disagreement with the conclusions reached in the Order. Indeed, Ms. Dean goes so far as to call the Order an "illegitimate attempt to save the Receiver from his jurisdictional error." ECF No. 380 at p. 20. Despite the unjustified attack, Ms. Dean has once again failed to demonstrate that the Receiver failed to comply with Section 754 and ignores ample authority demonstrating an amended order of appointment restarts the 10-day clock. This includes specific reference in the Order to the court's examination of relevant case law. See ECF No. 368 at p. 16 ("the Court's examination of the holding in Ashmore and the subsequent cases cited by Ms. Dean confirms Ms. Dean has not cited any case that makes a definitive distinction between an order the 'reappoints' a Receiver and an order that 'amends' an existing receivership order."). The Order also provides relevant analysis demonstrating the Amended Appointment Order, like the reappointment order in Ashmore, superseded the original appointment

⁸ Ms. Dean's arguments rested on her position that the 10-day clock would only reset upon the entry of a **reappointment** order—as opposed to an amended appointment order. However, the Court found that Ms. Dean had failed to present any authority distinguishing a reappointment order from the amended order in this case. ECF No. 368 at p. 15-16. As such, the Court ruled "[b]ased on the foregoing, the Court finds that the Amended Receivership Order resets the ten-day clock under § 754 rendering Receiver's August 5, 2022 Arizona filing timely." ECF No. 368 at p. 16.

⁹ The Magistrate's Order clearly and unequivocally considered the arguments in the briefs, evaluated the applicable authority, and found that the Receiver had complied with the notice requirements of Section 754. Indeed, in reaching its conclusion, the Court cited *Ashmore v. Barber*, Case No. 8:15-cv-04487-JMC, 2016 WL 4555340 (D.S.C. Sept. 1, 2016) as instructive authority, demonstrating an amended order of appointment restarts the 10-day clock. ECF No. 368 at p. 15. *Ashmore* involved a consideration of the purpose of a receivership and its role in determining whether to enforce jurisdiction under Section 754—something Ms. Dean has failed to comprehend. "[I]t seems most consistent with that purpose to permit a receiver who has failed to file within the ten-day period to reassume jurisdiction by a later filing, as long as the rights of others have not been prejudiced during the intervening period." *S.E.C. v. Equity Serv. Corp.*, 632 F.2d 1092, 1096 (3rd Cir. 1980).

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Order, thereby necessitating a new ten-day period for the Receiver to comply. ECF No. 368 at p. 16.

Ms. Dean appears to have a fundamental misunderstanding of an equity receivership. Indeed, the primary purpose of a receiver is to "promote orderly and efficient administration of the estate by the district Court for the benefit of the creditors." *SEC v. Hardy*, 803 F.2d 1034, 1038 (9th Cir. 1986). The Court appointed the Receiver in this case to preserve the status quo and to gather and recover receivership assets for the benefit of the Receivership Estate. ECF Nos. 88, 207. Despite being aware of the purpose of the Receivership and the Ponzi-scheme giving rise thereto, Ms. Dean has continued to assert that she is somehow immune from the orders that control countless other parties, including counsel who have previously taken the same position as Ms. Dean. Indeed, Ms. Dean asserts she cannot be "bound by orders which have nothing to do with her." ECF No. 380 at p. 12. Ms. Dean's unwarranted refusal to acknowledge the Receiver's role in this case and the scope of the orders entered in this matter has, in turn, diminished the value of the Receivership Estate, and provides ample grounds for the award of fees entered by the Magistrate Judge.

In sum, Ms. Dean has provided this Court with no evidence or authority to support any finding other than that which was reached in the Order. The Amended Appointment Order was issued on July 28, 2022, and within the time frame permitted under Section 754, the Receiver filed the requisite notice in Arizona. In the absence of any such authority demonstrating that an amended appointment order differs from a reappointment order and does not restart the ten-day clock under Section 754, Ms. Dean cannot establish that the Court's ruling was in error and her objection to the findings should be overruled.

iii. This Court Expressly Found Ms. Dean's Arguments of "Conflicting Demands" Unavailing

The underlying briefing in this matter demonstrates an attempt by Ms. Dean to utilize the Arizona rules of Professional Conduct as a shield from this Court's order. Indeed, in response to the Motion to Compel, Ms. Dean argued that an interpleader action was necessary to resolve a purported dispute over the funds she held in her trust account. More specifically, Ms. Dean averred

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that the funds she had received were paid by each of her six (6) clients (consisting of the Judd family) and that her other five (5) clients had staked a claim in the funds she held. See e.g. ECF No. 258, at 7:21-26. Through her Objection, Ms. Dean raises no new arguments on this front and instead simply reargues what is in her prior briefs and concludes that the Court was incorrect in reaching its finding.

However, through the Motion to Compel and the Omnibus Response, the Receiver demonstrated the source of the funds, clearly establishing the same as Receivership Property. ECF No. 275 at p. 6-7. Ms. Dean opposed this demonstration with nothing more than her own assertion that the funds were not receivership property and that there were existing claims to the funds preventing her from transferring the funds to any party. ECF No. 258 at p. 7. The Court considered Ms. Dean's position and swiftly disposed of the same citing Ms. Dean's failure to produce any evidence in support. ECF No. 368 at p. 13. Key to the Magistrate Judge's decision was that Ms. Dean did not demonstrate any actual evidence that any member of the Judd family was disputing the ownership of the funds at issue. ECF No. 368 at p. 18. The Objection is much of the same.

In an attempt to cure this deficiency included in the Objecting is a letter from the "Law Office of Maureen Jaroscak" (the "Jaroscak Letter"). 10 ECF No. 381 at p. 103. The Jaroscak letter, dated November 7, 2022 (approximately two months after Ms. Dean filed her Reply briefs (ECF Nos. 295-297) purports show there is a dispute because Ms. Jaroscak demanded that Ms. Dean not distribute the funds at issue. *Id.* However, Ms. Jaroscak's belated demand and her opinion regarding what is and is not prohibited are contradicted by prior orders issued by this Court.

Setting aside the questionable timing and veracity of the Jaroscak Letter, such correspondence does nothing to overcome the Court's finding that an interpleader is not appropriate in this case. Indeed, a self-serving letter dated months after the conclusion of the

¹⁰ Notably, Ms. Jaroscak has been undeniably aware of these proceedings and has been at least tangentially involved in the same. On August 15, 2022, Ms. Jaroscak emailed Kara B. Hendricks, counsel for the Receiver providing copies of Ms. Dean's filing in response to the Motion to Compel. Thus, to feign surprise as to the Receiver's demands and the Motion to Compel proceedings is disingenuous and the letter submitted in conjunction with the Objection should be given no weight.

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briefing on this issue, by an attorney apparently involved in some respect, who has previously been disciplined by the California State Bar for her lack of candor does not subvert the Receiver's right to the funds at issue.¹¹ However, even assuming, *arguendo*, this Court were to entertain the Jaroscak letter for what is proposes, there is no evidence to support the contentions therein.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Objection asserts the "conflicting demands" position for a number of arguments including (a) that an interpleader action was necessary; and (b) that Ms. Dean was placed in an "untenable position" wherein she could not comply with Arizona law and avoid being found in contempt. ECF No. 380 at p. 8-9. However, despite her efforts to flood this Court with information and argument, Ms. Dean has still failed to demonstrate that a valid dispute over the funds at issue exists.

"Although Ms. Dean provided certain documents indicating there was an agreement reached between herself and six members of the Judd family regarding legal services, there is no evidence—other than statements made in Ms. Dean's filing—that members of the Judd family are disputing the ownership of these funds. Ms. Dean's arguments in her pleadings are not evidence."

ECF No. 380 at p. 18 (citing *United States v. Zermeno*, 66 F.3d 1058, 1062 (9th Cir, 1995)).

Ms. Dean's displeasure with being compelled to turn over the funds and the self-serving letter drafted months after Ms. Dean and Ms. Jarosack were made aware of the Appointment Order and months after the briefing on the Motion to Compel was completed do not provide a basis for a ruling to be issued contrary to the Magistrate Judge's findings.

Likewise, Ms. Dean's repeated arguments that only 1/6th of the funds she received should be subject to turn over as the remaining 5/6ths represent the funds allocated to the other five Judd family members was squarely addressed in the Order. Indeed, the Magistrate Judge's findings specify that Ms. Dean had failed to provide, and the Court was unaware of, any authority supporting the proposed segregation of the funds at issue. ECF No. 368 at p. 14. Notably, the

¹¹ Ms. Jaroscak has previously been suspended and disciplined by the State Bar of California for her violations of (1) section 6106 (moral turpitude-breach of fiduciary duty); (2) section 6068, subdivision (i) failure to cooperate with a State Bar investigation [two counts]; (3) rule 4-100(A) (commingling personal funds in a client trust account); and (5) Section 6106 (moral turpitude – dishonesty). *See In the Matter of Maureen Patricia Jaroscak*, State Bar Court of California, Case Nos. 07-O-11968-DFM (Mar. 3, 2011).

Objection contains no legal authority and simply asserts that the Order is wrong. Displeasure with the Court's ruling is not grounds for relief requested. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 72, LR IB 3-1.

iv. The Funds Previously Held by Ms. Dean Are Receivership Property and the Burden is on Ms. Dean to Demonstrate Otherwise

As noted herein, the underlying dispute stems from Ms. Dean's receipt of \$250,000 from Defendant Jeffrey Judd. ¹² Through the instant Objection, Ms. Dean disagrees with the Court's finding that the funds at issue were Receivership Property. The primary focus of Ms. Dean's argument is that the Magistrate Judge applied an improper standard in finding that Ms. Dean shoulders the burden of establishing the funds she seeks to keep are untainted—as opposed to the Receiver's obligation to demonstrate the funds at issue are tainted. This question has been previously addressed by this Court in this case on numerous occasions. Each time the Court has consistently found that the burden is on the party seeking to retain the funds held on behalf of a defendant. Ms. Dean cannot stick her head in the sand and pretend the issue has not been appropriately addressed.

Importantly, Ms. Dean has provided this Court with no basis upon which it could find the Magistrate's Order clearly erroneous. Rather, Ms. Dean simply argues "neither the Magistrate nor the Receiver have established that Ms. Dean has the burden of showing her retainer is not tainted." ECF No. 380 at p. 14. This is simply not accurate. Ms. Dean's position willfully overlooks this Court's express finding that the SEC established a prima facie showing that Jeffrey Judd "directly and indirectly engaged in the violations alleged in the Complaint and, as a result, the burden is on the party seeking to retain funds to establish any such funds are untainted." ECF No. 235 at p. 8 (citing SEC v. Santillo, No. 18-cv-5491 (JGK), 2018 WL 3392881, at * 4 (S.D.N.Y. July 11, 2018) and SEC v. Private Equity Mgmt. Group, Inc., 2009 WL 2058247, at *2-3 (C.D. Cal. July 9, 2009)). Given that the record in this case clearly demonstrates the burden is on Ms. Dean to establish the funds at issue are untainted, Ms. Dean's objection regarding a purported lack of evidence that the funds are receivership property is meritless.

¹² The path the funds took to reach Ms. Dean is discussed in detail in the Receiver's Omnibus Response, ECF No. 275 at p. 6-7.

v. Ms. Dean's Claimed Status as a Bona Fide Purchaser is of no Consequence

Ms. Dean objects to the Magistrate Judge's Order arguing she was a bona fide purchaser and seller of services without notice and that the Magistrate ignored her status as such. ECF No. 380 at p. 11-12. Ms. Dean goes on to allege "[t]he SEC and Receiver cannot pretend Ms. Dean is bound by orders which have nothing to do with her, and the SEC and Receiver have not presented one scrap of evidence to assume their burden of proof by showing clear and convincing evidence that the Receiver is entitled to the funds in Ms. Dean's account." ECF No. 380 at p. 12. It is not entirely clear what Ms. Dean intends to accomplish through the foregoing passage. As an experienced attorney, Ms. Dean should be cognizant of the fact that this Court took exclusive jurisdiction over the Receivership Assets, which in this case, includes the funds previously held by Ms. Dean. ECF Nos. 3, 56, 88, and 207. Thus, to the extent Ms. Dean has argued this Court cannot enforce the TRO, Preliminary Injunction, or the Appointment Order, Ms. Dean's foundation for such an argument is lacking.

Moreover, Ms. Dean has not demonstrated that she is a bona fide purchaser sufficient to immunize the funds at issue from the reach of the Receivership. In support of her claimed BFP status, Ms. Dean cites to *United States v. McCorkle*, 321 F.3d 1292, 1295 (11th Cir. 2003) for the apparent position that she is entitled to keep the funds she received from Mr. Judd. ECF No. 380 at p. 12. Ms. Dean cherry picks a portion of footnote 4 of the *McCorkle* decision which contemplates a scenario in which the court would pro rate the value of services that have been rendered by the attorney, immunizing from forfeiture only those fees earned while meeting the BFP test. ECF No. 380 at p. 12. However, upon review, *McCorkle* does not stand for what Ms. Dean proposes instead, the court herein in applied a clearly erroneous standard, affirmed the district court's denial of Bailey's petition to retain the funds he had received from the McCorkles. *United States v. McCorkle*, 321 F.3d 1292, 1298. 13

In *McCorkle*, William and Chantal McCorkle were found guilty of laundering the proceeds of a fraudulent telemarketing scheme. *United States v. McCorkle*, 321 F.3d 1292, 1294-95 (11th Cir. 2003). Following the guilty verdict, the jury returned a special verdict forfeiting the McCorkle's interest in certain assets to the United States. Included in the forfeited assets were funds that were transferred to a trust in the Cayman Islands and then to F. Lee Bailey, counsel for William McCorkle. Bailey petitioned the Court to

Ms. Dean's reliance on *McCorkle* is curious because (a) the holding does not support her position that she is entitled to retain the funds she was paid; (b) the Court expressly found that payment for future services cannot support a finding of BFP status. *McCorkle*, 321 F.3d 1295 n.4 ("This means the only assets that are potentially immunized from forfeiture are those for which *value has been given*. The 'value' given by an attorney is the performance of legal services that have already been rendered when the attorney receives payment."). Reliance on this provision contradicts Ms. Dean's prior position—that the funds she held were fully earned upon receipt. *See e.g.* ECF No. 258 at p. 18 ("The Receiver has ignored that Ms. Dean earned the \$201,060 before she ever received notice of the Receivership Order.").

Notwithstanding Ms. Dean's apparent course reversal, there is no evidence supporting her contention that she is a bona fide purchaser. A finding of bona fide purchaser status cannot be based upon mere conclusory arguments made by counsel. *See* 21 USC § 853(n)(6)(B) (requiring a demonstration that by a preponderance of the evidence, that the petitioner is a bona fide purchaser for value of the right, title, or interest in the property and was at the time of purchase reasonably without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture.") Here, no such evidence was presented.

Moreover, the Ninth Circuit has considered this scenario and found an exacting burden to be placed upon attorneys in determining the source of the funds used to pay their fees. "An attorney is an 'officer of the court' who, by virtue of his or her professional position, undertakes certain 'special duties...to avoid conduct that undermines the integrity of the adjudicative process.'

[] These special duties apply with full force to the manner by which an attorney may collect his or her fee." FTC v. Network Servs. Depot, Inc., 617 F.3d 1127, 1143 (9th Cir. 2010) (citing Commodity Futures Trading Comm'n v. Petro Marketing Group, 700 F.2d 1279, 1285 (9th Cir. 1983) for the finding that "[a]s an officer of the court, [attorney] was under a duty to inquire as to the exact terms of the district court's decision before depositing [his fee] check [in violation of a

retain the funds arguing he was a bona fide purchaser and seller of services and further asserting that the government had induced him to render the services by advising Bailey the government would not seek forfeiture. The Court, applying a clearly erroneous standard, affirmed the district court's denial of Bailey's petition to retain the funds he had received from the McCorkles.

contemporaneous injunction]."). Under this heightened standard, attorneys are not permitted to turn a blind eye to the source of their funds nor are they permitted to be willfully ignorant of how their fees are paid. *Id.* (citing *In re Bell & Beckwith*, 838 F.2d 844 (6th Cir. 1988) (attorney not entitled to bona fide purchaser status where the circumstances surrounding the payment of his fees were sufficient to place him on notice that his client's funds were obtained by fraud."). Thus, when an attorney is objectively on notice that their funds may be derived from a pool of frozen assets, the attorney has a duty of inquiry and to demonstrate that he conducted an inquiry sufficient to allow him to be "reasonably without cause to believe that the property was subject to forfeiture." *Assail*, 410 F.3d at 265.

Here, Ms. Dean did not make the requisite showing. Moreover, given that the very nature of Ms. Dean's retention centered on the allegations against Judd and involved discovery and disclosure of his role in the Ponzi-scheme giving rise to this case, Ms. Dean was on notice that the funds she was provided may be subject to an asset freeze. As such, Ms. Dean was required to demonstrate, at a minimum, an investigation into the source of the funds sufficient that she could possess a reasonable belief that the funds were clean. Ms. Dean has not done so. ¹⁴ Given that Ms. Dean was undeniably aware of the allegations in this case and Mr. Judd's role therein, Ms. Dean would be hard-pressed to establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that she was reasonably without cause to believe the funds would be subject to forfeiture. As a result, Ms. Dean cannot meet the requirements necessary to establish BFP status. *Assail*, 410 F.3d at 265.

What is more, under this theory, Ms. Dean appears to claim an interest in 100% of the funds she received. Assuming, *arguendo*, this were the case, there would be no funds in which Ms. Jaroscak or any other third party could assert a claim, nor could Ms. Jaroscak or the Judd family members control Ms. Dean's hypothetical disposition of the funds. In other words, Ms. Dean has argued that she cannot disburse the funds pursuant to demands from her purported clients while simultaneously arguing that she has earned 100% of the fees. This begs the question:

¹⁴ Given the initial scope of her retention, Ms. Dean cannot candidly assert to the Court that she had no idea that the funds she was receiving would be subject to court proceedings, including the Receivership.

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²⁰ ECF No. 380 at p. 23.

which is it? Does Ms. Dean claim to have earned 100% of the fees prior to learning of the Receivership? Or, are the fees subject to claims and interests of third parties.

The Court's decision to withhold analysis of the bona fide purchaser arguments has no bearing on this matter as Ms. Dean has not even made a preliminary showing that she is entitled to a finding that she is a bona fide purchaser.

vi. Ms. Dean Was Not Deprived of Due Process

Ms. Dean's Objection asserts multiple times that she was "deprived" of due process through the instant proceedings. Indeed, Ms. Dean claims to have been deprived of her due process rights (a) through the award of attorneys' fees 15; (b) by not being awarded a trial and/or evidentiary hearing on these matters¹⁶; (c) through the use of summary proceedings¹⁷; (d) through the denial of her request for interpleader¹⁸; (e) through the Court's finding that Ms. Dean bore the burden of proof in this matter¹⁹; and (f) by finding that the Receiver complied with Section 754.²⁰ Indeed, it appears Ms. Dean believes that any ruling from the Court that is not in her favor is a deprivation of her due process rights. This is simply not the case.

To quash Ms. Dean's arguments in this respect, this Court need only consider the nature and purpose of the Receiver's Motion to Compel. As this Court is aware, the Receiver's role is to marshal and preserve the assets of the Receivership Estate. To facilitate this purpose, the Receiver has been tasked with protecting assets necessary to reimburse the victims of the fraud to the greatest extent possible. Included within this arsenal is the Asset Freeze and the Turnover Provision. ECF No. 88.

At the time the Motion to Compel was drafted and filed, this Court had already addressed the issue of whether funds transferred from defendants to attorneys are subject to the Asset Freeze and Turnover provision. In each instance, the Court ruled in favor of the Receiver and compelled

¹⁵ ECF No. 380 at p. 7.

¹⁶ *Id.* at p. 12, 15.

¹⁷ *Id.* at p. 13.

¹⁸ *Id.* at p. 18. ¹⁹ *Id.* at p. 20.

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the turnover of any and all funds in the possession of the respective counsel. With that background, the Receiver worked diligently to recover the Receivership funds held by Ms. Dean without judicial intervention, albeit to no avail. As a result, the Receiver filed the Motion to Compel seeking an order directing Ms. Dean to comply with the terms of the Appointment Order, including the turnover provision.

In making an argument that Ms. Dean was deprived of her due process rights or her right to trial, Ms. Dean is actually arguing (as she did in her previous filings²¹) that a summary proceeding is inappropriate in this context. Ms. Dean even asserts that she has been denied a trial on this matter. However, as noted in the Order, the case law on this issue is clear—summary proceedings are appropriate to administer assets under the administrative control of the Receiver. ECF No. 368 at p. 18; United States v. Arizona Fuels Corp., 739 F.2d 455, 460-61 (9th Cir. 1984) ("[T]he traditional rule is that summary proceedings are appropriate and proper to protect equity receivership assets"); S.E.C. v. American Capital Investments, Inc., 98 F.3d 1133, 1146 (9th Cir. 1996) ("For the claims of nonparties to property claimed by receivers, summary proceedings satisfy due process so long as there is adequate notice and opportunity to be heard."). Thus, Ms. Dean's due process rights were satisfied when she was served with the Motion to Compel and afforded an opportunity to file responsive pleadings, which she did. ECF No. 368 at p. 18.

Glaringly absent from the Objection is any authority to counter the Court's express finding that Ms. Dean was not deprived of her due process rights through the Motion to Compel. There was no error by the Magistrate Judge in this regard.

vii. The Award of Attorneys' Fees is Appropriate and Warranted in This Case

Fees were awarded to the Receiver because of Ms. Dean's delays and gamesmanship that came at a significant expense to the estate. The Magistrate's Order provides "[h]aving considered the facts and positions of the parties, the Court agrees that fees and costs are warranted." ECF No. 368 at p. 19. The Court relies upon Federal Trade Commission v. Consumer Defense LLC, Case No. 2:18-cv-0030-JCM-PAL, 2019 WL 861385, at **2-3 (D. Nev. Feb. 22, 2019) for

²¹ ECF No. 259 at p. 7.

the finding that attorney's fees are warranted to replenish the receivership estate following the filing of unnecessary motions. Through her Objection, Ms. Dean argues that the Court erred in relying upon the *Consumer Defense* case because "Ms. Dean was placed in a legal vice where her five (5) Clients and two (2) contract Attorneys with Attorney's Liens demanded she not part with the funds in her Trust account." ECF No. 380 at p. 18. Ms. Dean further argues "[f]or the Magistrate to suggest that Ms. Dean was frivolous or wasting judicial resources by complaining of the improper legal vice the Receiver knowingly created without any evidence to meet his burden of proof lacks foundation." *Id.*

The basis of Ms. Dean's objection to the award of attorneys' fees is incorrect. First, Ms. Dean misinterprets the *Consumer Defense* case. Contrary to Ms. Dean's assertion, the Court did not award sanctions and attorneys' fees, but instead cautioned of such future ramifications should the litigant continue any further vexation litigation. What is more, Ms. Dean improperly asserts that she was placed in a "legal vice" wherein she could not comply with the Receiver and comply with her clients' purported demands. However, as noted in the Magistrate's Order, the record in this case is devoid of any credible evidence demonstrating any such purported demand. The "new" letter by an attorney previously discipled for her lack of candor and manipulation of client funds does not change the analysis even if it was properly presented. Additionally, any claimed "legal vice" was the result of Ms. Dean's own actions and/or inactions. As noted in the Motion to Compel, the Receiver spent months working to obtain Ms. Dean's compliance and despite her representations, Ms. Dean never filed a motion with the Court seeking to retain the funds at issue. The Magistrate took note of this, stating:

"Ms. Dean has not adhered to the process two other attorneys in this case followed when moving for an order allowing them to retain attorneys' fees they argued were lawfully received. ECF No. 164 at 3. Instead, Ms. Dean asserts that there is a distinction between herself and these attorneys because the burden is on the Receiver to demonstrate that the \$201,060 at issue are in fact receivership property. ECF No. 259 at 11. Ms. Dean is incorrect, and the Court against rejects Ms. Dean's argument."

ECF No. 368 at p. 19.

///

Thus, based on the undisputed background of this dispute, Ms. Dean caused substantial delays and her refusal to comply with this Court's orders or, at a minimum, file a motion to retain fees, necessitated the Motion to Compel proceedings. That is to say, to the extent there was a "legal vice" (if any such scenario exists) it was created by Ms. Dean—not the Receiver.

Certainly, blatant and unjustified refusal to cooperate with the Receiver and the applicable Court mandates runs afoul of the purpose of a Receivership—to marshal and preserve the assets for the benefit of the victims. That is, in this case, Ms. Dean's dilatory and unwarranted behavior and her vexatious litigation tactics have diminished the amount of funds available to make the victims whole. For that reason, the Order provides for an award of all fees and costs incurred in bringing the Motion to Compel.

The award of attorneys' fees in this case comes down to Ms. Dean's failure to following valid orders from this Court and her subsequent gamesmanship regarding the same. For months, the Receiver attempted to work with Ms. Dean while she presented numerous excuses and misrepresentations regarding her intended actions. This served to thwart the Receiver's efforts to recover the Receivership funds she possessed. In creating such a roadblock, Ms. Dean caused the Receiver to unnecessarily expend Receivership resources in moving this Court for Ms. Dean's compliance which should have occurred from the outset.

viii. An Additional Award of Attorneys' Fees is Warranted With Respect to Ms. Dean's Objection

Despite being faced with an award of attorneys' fees and costs incurred as a result of her failure to comply with Court orders, Ms. Dean submitted the instant Objection, seeking to take a second bite at the apple. As noted herein, this Objection provides this Court with no new authority nor does this Objection demonstrate that the Magistrate's Order was clearly erroneous. The local rules specifically warn litigants that:

Motions for reconsideration are *disfavored*. A movant must not repeat arguments already presented unless (and only to the extent) necessary to explain controlling, intervening law or to argue new facts. A movant who repeats arguments will be subject to appropriate sanctions.

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LR 59-1(b) (emphasis added). In filing the instant Objection, which presents no new facts, fails
to identify any clear error committed by the Court, and does not address controlling, intervening
law, cf. LR 59-1(a), and instead merely "repeats arguments," Ms. Dean has further wasted
Receivership Assets by way of the attorneys' fees incurred in connection with this response. That
being the case, a second award of attorneys' fees incurred by the Receiver in defending against
Ms. Dean's Objection is an appropriate sanction and warranted under LR 59-1(b).

IV. CONCLUSION

The Magistrate Judge's decision was not clearly erroneous and there is no legal basis for the relief requested. Accordingly, based on the foregoing, the Receiver respectfully requests this Court enter an order overruling Ms. Dean's Objection and affirming the Magistrate's November 17, 2022 Order (ECF No. 368). Additionally, the Receiver requests this Court enter an order awarding the Receiver the fees incurred in responding to Ms. Dean's Objection, to be established via a separate filing following Court approval of the same.

DATED this 15TH day of December, 2022.

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on the **15**TH **day of December, 2022**, a true and correct copy of the foregoing was filed electronically via the Court's CM/ECF system. Notice of filing will be served on all parties by operation of the Court's CM/ECF system, and parties may access this filing through the Court's CM./ECF system and by serving via email by United States first class mail, postage pre-paid on the parties listed below:

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