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## SUPERIOR COURT OF MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA

LINDA W. SWAIN, an individual; and EILEEN Case No. CV2014-051035 T. BRESLIN, an individual,

Plaintiffs

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TTLC AHWATUKEE LAKES INVESTORS, LLC, an Arizona limited liability company,

Defendant.

## APPLICATION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE RE: CONTEMPT FOR VIOLATING INJUNCTION TO RESTORE GOLF COURSE

(Assigned Hon. Theodore Campagnolo)

Plaintiffs Linda W. Swain and Eileen T. Breslin ("Plaintiffs") request the Court issue an Order to Show Cause requiring ALCR, LLC, the owner of the Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Course, to appear and show cause why it should not be held in contempt for violating the permanent injunction ordering the owner of the Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Course to operate a golf course on that property. In support of this Application, Plaintiffs allege:

1. Following a bench trial, the Court ruled in favor of Plaintiffs, against Defendant TTLC Ahwatukee Lakes Investors, LLC ("TTLC") and entered its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on January 2, 2018.

2. On May 31, 2018, the Court issued a minute entry setting out, among other things, its reasoning in granting injunctive relief in favor of Plaintiffs and against TTLC.

3. On May 31, 2018, the Court entered its Final Judgment and Order for Permanent Injunction ("Judgment and Permanent Injunction") in favor of Plaintiffs and against TTLC, Bixby Village Golf Course, Inc., Hiro Investment, LLC, Nectar Investment, LLC and Kwang Co., LLC and Ahwatukee Golf Properties ("Bixby Village").

4. Regarding the injunctive relief, the Judgment and Permanent Injunction provided, in part:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the owners of the Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Course (legally described on Exhibit A (pages 11-17) to the 1992 Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions) are permanently enjoined to and shall operate a golf course on the subject property, for the benefit of those described in the 1992 Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions as Benefitted Persons, in conformity the 'Declaration of Use Restriction' set forth in paragraph 2 of the 1992 Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions.

5. TTLC, Bixby Village Golf Course, Inc.<sup>1</sup>, Hiro Investment, LLC, Nectar Investment, LLC and Kwang Co., LLC and Ahwatukee Golf Properties, LLC filed Notices of Appeal challenging, among other orders, the Judgment and Permanent Injunction (collectively, "Appellants").

6. As part of the 2015 transaction in which TTLC purchased the Ahwatukee Lakes Golf Course (the "Golf Course") from Bixby Village, TTLC executed a Promissory Note (the "TTLC Promissory Note") in favor of Bixby Village and also executed a Deed of Trust and Assignment of Rents (the "TTLC DOT") against the Golf Course securing the TTLC Promissory Note.

7. TTLC defaulted on the TTLC Promissory Note and on May 14, 2018, Bixby Village recorded a Notice of Trustee's Sale scheduling a trustee's sale for August 21, 2018, which was subsequently postponed to September 20, 2019.

8. In or about July or August 2018, Bixby Village executed an Assignment of Beneficial Interest Under Deed of Trust transferring the TTLC DOT to ALCR, LLC.
The Assignment of Beneficial Interest Under Deed of Trust was recorded on September 17, 2018.

9. On September 20, 2018, ALCR, LLC conducted a trustee's sale and purchased the Golf Course at that trustee's sale.

<sup>1</sup> Bixby Village Golf Course, Inc. is wholly owned by Wilson Gee and his wife. A copy of the Arizona Corporation Commission website report for ALCR, LLC is attached as Exhibit A.

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10. On or about September 21, 2018, ALCR, LLC took title to the Golf Course pursuant to the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale. A certified copy of the Trustee's Deed Upon Sale is attached as Exhibit B.

11. ALCR, LLC is an Arizona limited liability company that was organized on August 1, 2018. ALCR, LLC is comprised of Nectar Investment, LLC and Ahwatukee Golf Properties, LLC as Managers and Hiro Investment, LLC, Nectar Investment, LLC and Kwang Co., LLC as Members. A copy of the Arizona Corporation Commission website report for ALCR, LLC is attached as Exhibit C.

12. ALCR, LLC is not an appealing party in the Arizona Court of Appeals matter along with the Appellants.

13. Ahwatukee Golf Properties, LLC is an Arizona limited liability company.A copy of the Arizona Corporation Commission website report for ALCR, LLC is attached as Exhibit D.

14. Ahwatukee Golf Properties, LLC is wholly owned by Wilson Gee and his wife. *See* Finding of Fact nos. 18 and 19, January 2, 2018, Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

15. In Appellants' Opening Brief Statement of the Case filed in the Arizona Court of Appeals, Appellants stated:

Because the trial court's Judgment is against TTLC and Bixby, those parties remain proper Appellants and they are pursuing the appeal. ALCR, LLC is aware of the trial court's ruling, however, and understands that it would be subject to the trial court's injunction if the injunction is affirmed on appeal.

A copy of page 5 of Appellant's Opening Brief is attached as Exhibit E.

16. On September 19, 2019, the Arizona Court of Appeals issued it opinion affirming the Court's "ruling granting the injunction". A copy of that opinion is attached as Exhibit F.

17. Plaintiffs' filed a Notice of Final Judgment and Order for Permanent Injunction on December 28, 2018 and served a copy of that Notice, along with a certified copy of the Judgment and Permanent Injunction, on ALCR, LLC (as required by A.R.S.

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§ 12-1556<sup>2</sup>). A copy of the Notice of Final Judgment and Order for Permanent Injunction is attached as Exhibit G and a copy of the Certificate of Service by Process Server is attached as Exhibit H.

18. In a September 25, 2019, article in the *Ahwatukee Foothills News*, Wilson Gee, a principal in Bixby Village Golf Course, Inc., Ahwatukee Golf Properties, LLC and ALCR, LLC was quoted as saying,"[the Golf Course] will never be a golf course again". Wilson Gee was further quoted as saying of the Arizona Court of Appeals September 19, 2019, Opinion,

It really doesn't change anything. Obviously, we're not going to do anything and the next guy's not going to do anything because it doesn't make sense to be a golf course. That's wrong. That's the reality. Doesn't matter what the courts rule. It's not going to happen.

The September 25, 2019, *Ahwatukee Foothills News* article is attached as Exhibit I.

19. To date the Golf Course has continued to deteriorate and no apparent steps have been taken to restore the Golf Course so that ALCR, LLC can operate a golf course on the Golf Course. The Declaration of Linda W. Swain attached as Exhibit J.

20. Because the Appellants did not seek a Rule 62(e), Ariz.R.Civ.P., stay of the final Judgment and Permanent Injunction from this Court <sup>3</sup> pending the outcome of their appeal and because ALCR, LLC is not a party to the appeal<sup>4</sup>, this Court is not stayed

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> "When a judgment requires the performance of any act other than is designated in the preceding sections of this article [regarding executions on judgments], a certified copy of the judgment shall be served upon the party against whom the judgment was given, or upon the person required by the judgment or by law to obey it. Obedience thereto may be enforced by the court by the power to punish by contempt."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Likewise, Appellants did not seek a stay from the Arizona Court of Appeals under Rule 7(c), Ariz.R.Civ.App.P. (although that rule requires an appellant must first seek a stay from the trial court in order to request a stay from the court of appeals).

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Trial court's stay pending outcome of appeal erroneous if party before trial court is not a party to the appeal. *State v. Allison*, 296 S.W. 2d 104, 111 (Mo. 1956) (citing *Dey v. McAlister*, 19 Ariz. 306, 169 P. 458 (1918), in which the Arizona Supreme Court held a trial court [*continued*]

 <sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> [Afrz. 506, 169 P. 458 (1918), in which the Arizona Supreme Court held a that court [*continuea*]
 <sup>28</sup> [erred in refusing to proceed to trial before the results of another matter pending in the Arizona Supreme Court). *Cf. Lockwood v. Superior Court*, 31 Ariz. 460, 254 P. 232 (1927) (postponement of sheriff's sale erroneous even if other matters pending).

from its statutory authority under A.R.S. § 12-1556 and Rule 65(f), Ariz.R.Civ.P. to order ALCR, LLC to appear and show cause why it should not be held in contempt for violating the Judgment and Permanent Injunction.

21. A court may issue sanctions for disobedience of an injunction as civil contempt, or for criminal contempt as allowed by law, against a party or person who violates an injunction. Rule 65(f)(1), Ariz.R.Civ.P.; *Green v. Lisa Frank, Inc.*, 22 Ariz. 138, 211 P.3d 16 (App. 2009) (recognizing trial court has inherent authority to punish for contempt when a party fails to obey a lawful judgment of the court).

Wherefore, Plaintiffs respectfully urge the Court:

A. To, in accordance with Rule 65(f)(3), Ariz.R.Civ.P., issue an order to show cause setting a date for and requiring ALCR, LLC to appear and respond to the allegations of this Application and show cause why ALCR, LLC should not be held in contempt for violating the Judgment and Permanent Injunction;

B. If, in accordance with Rule 65(f)(5), Ariz.R.Civ.P., at the order to show cause hearing ALCR, LLC establishes there is a genuine dispute of material fact regarding Plaintiffs' assertion that the Golf Course has continued to deteriorate and no apparent steps have been taken to restore the Golf Course so that ALCR, LLC can operate a golf course on the Golf Course, Plaintiffs request the Court to set an evidentiary hearing pursuant to Rule 43(f), Ariz.R.Civ.P., to consider any evidence regarding the status of ALCR, LLC's efforts to comply with the Judgment and Permanent Injunction; and

C. If at the order to show cause hearing the Court finds that ALCR, LLC violated the injunction, Plaintiff requests the Court set a separate hearing to determine appropriate remedies and sanctions under the law of civil and criminal contempt as provided in Rule 65(f)(6).

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019.

TIMOTHY H. BARNES, P.C.

By <u>/s/ Timothy H. Barnes (SBN 003373)</u> Timothy H. Barnes *Attorney for Plaintiffs* 

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