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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

7 DISTRICT OF NEVADA

8 ELLAMAE MYERS-DESCO, an individual,

Case No: 2:10-cv-01746-RLH-PAL

9 Plaintiff,

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

10 vs.

11 LOWE'S HIW, INC., a Washington Foreign
 Corporation, d/b/a LOWE'S

12 Defendant.

13
 14 **PROTECTIVE ORDER REGARDING LOWE'S HIW, INC. CONFIDENTIAL
 DOCUMENTS AND CERTAIN PERSONNEL FILES**

15 Plaintiff, Ellamae Myers-Desco ("Plaintiff"), seeks to obtain, inspect and copy
 16 documents and/or things which Lowe's HIW, Inc. ("Defendant") contends contains private and
 17 sensitive information, confidential information of Defendant, its business operations and
 18 employees, its internal investigative and administrative actions, and other confidential
 19 information. Pursuant to an agreement by the Parties, the Court hereby enters the following
 20 Order for Protection ("Protective Order"):

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1 **TERMS OF PROTECTIVE ORDER**

2 **I. DEFINITIONS**

3 The following definitions apply to the Protective Order:

4 1. Party. Any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,
5 consultants, experts, and outside counsel. Party, as used in this Protective Order, shall also refer
6 to the Defendant and its agents and employees.

7 2. Disclosure or Discovery Material. All items or information, regardless of the
8 medium or manner generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony,
9 transcripts, or tangible things) that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to
10 discovery in this matter.

11 3. "Confidential" Information or Items. Information (regardless of how generated,
12 stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under the law or that contain
13 Criminal History Information, personal information regarding individuals including Social
14 Security Numbers, dates of birth and information to which a person would have a reasonable
15 expectation of privacy. Confidential information shall also include employee information,
16 employee medical information, and employee disciplinary action, including any internal
17 investigation concerning employee actions.

18 4. Receiving Party. A Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material or
19 Confidential Information from a Producing Party.

20 5. Producing Party. A Party or third-party that produces Disclosure or Discovery
21 Material or Confidential Information in this action.
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1 6. Designating Party. A Party or third-party that designates information or items
2 that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “Confidential.”

3 7. Protected Material. Any Disclosure or Discovery Material or Confidential
4 Information that is designated as “Confidential.”

5 8. Outside Counsel. Attorneys who are not employees of a Party but who are
6 retained to represent or advise a Party in this action.

7 9. House Counsel. Attorneys who are employees of a Party.

8 10. Counsel. (without qualifier). Outside Counsel and House Counsel (as well as
9 their support staffs).
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11 11. Expert. A person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent
12 to the litigation retained by a Party or its Counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a consultant
13 in this action. This definition includes, but is not limited to, a professional jury or trial consultant
14 retained in connection with this litigation.

15 12. Professional Vendor. Person or entity that provides litigation support services
16 (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, organizing,
17 storing, retrieving data in any form or medium; etc.) and its employees and subcontractors.

18 13. The use of the singular form of any word includes the plural, and vice versa.
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20 **II. SCOPE**

21 The protection conferred by this Protective Order covers not only Protected Material, but
22 also any information copied or extracted therefrom, as well as all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
23 compilations thereof, testimony, conversations, or presentations by parties or counsel to or in
24 court or in other settings that might reveal Protected Material.

1 **III. DURATION**

2 Even after the termination of this action, the confidentiality obligations imposed by this
3 Protective Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a
4 court order otherwise directs.

5 **IV. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

6 1. Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided herein, or as
7 otherwise ordered, material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly
8 designated. Designations in conformity with this Order require:

9 2. For information in documentary form. That the Producing Party shall affix the
10 legend "Confidential" on each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or
11 portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
12 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate makings in the margins or redacting
13 protected portions). A Producing Party that makes original documents or materials available for
14 inspection need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
15 which material it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and before the
16 designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be deemed "Confidential."
17 After the inspecting Party has identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the
18 Producing Party must determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection
19 under this Order, and, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix
20 the appropriate legend on each page that contains Protected Material. If only a portion or
21 portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party also must clearly
22 identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriated markings in the margins or by
23 redacting protected portions).

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1 3. For testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings. That
2 before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, the Party or non-party offering or
3 sponsoring the testimony shall identify on the record all protected testimony and further specify
4 any portions of the testimony that qualify as “Confidential.” When it is impractical to identify
5 separately each portion of testimony that is entitled to protection, the Party or non-party that
6 sponsors, offers, or gives the testimony may invoke on the record (before the deposition or
7 proceeding is concluded) a right to have up to thirty (30) days to identify the specific portions of
8 the testimony as to which protection is sought. Only those portions of the testimony that are
9 appropriately designated for protection under the standards set forth herein within the thirty (30)
10 days shall be covered by the provisions of this Protective Order. Upon request of a Designating
11 Party, transcript pages containing Protected Material must be separately bound by the court
12 reporter, who must affix to the top of each such page the legend “Confidential” as instructed by
13 the Party or non-party offering or sponsoring the witness or presenting the testimony.

14 4. For information produced in some form other than documentary, and for any
15 other tangible items. That the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the
16 container or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “Confidential.” If
17 only portions of the information or item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent
18 practicable, shall identify the protected portions.

19 5. Inadvertent Failure to Designate. Inadvertent failure to identify documents or
20 things as “Confidential” pursuant to this Protective Order shall not constitute a waiver of any
21 otherwise valid claim for protection, provided that the provisions of this paragraph are satisfied.
22 If the Designating Party discovers that information should have been but was not designated
23 “Confidential” or if the Designating Party receives notice that would enable the Designating
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1 Party to learn that it has disclosed such information, the Designating Party must immediately
2 notify all other parties. In such event, within thirty (30) days of notifying all other Parties, the
3 Designating Party must also provide copies of the "Confidential" information designated in
4 accordance with this Protective Order. After receipt of such re-designated information, the
5 "Confidential" information shall be treated as required by this Protective Order, and the
6 Receiving Party shall promptly, but in no event more than fourteen (14) calendar days from the
7 receipt of the re-designated information, return to the Designating Party all previously produced
8 copies of the same unlegended documents or things. The Designating Party and the Parties may
9 agree to alternative means. The Receiving Party shall have no liability, under this Protective
10 Order or otherwise, for any disclosure of information contained in unlegended documents or
11 things occurring before the Receiving Party was placed on notice of the Designating Party's
12 claims of confidentiality.

13 **V. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

14 1. Meet and Confer. A Party that elects to initiate a challenge to a Designating
15 Party's confidentiality designation must do so in good faith and must begin the process by
16 conferring with counsel for the Designating Party. The challenging Party must give the
17 Designating Party an opportunity of not less than ten (10) calendar days to review the designated
18 material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in the designations is offered, to
19 explain in writing the basis for the confidentiality designation.

20 2. Judicial Intervention. A Party that elects to press a challenge to a confidentiality
21 designation after considering the justification offered by the Designating Party may file and
22 serve a motion that identifies the challenged material and sets forth in detail the basis for the
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1 challenge. Until the Court rules on the challenge, all parties shall continue to afford the material
2 in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation.

3 **VI. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

4 1. Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed
5 or produced by another Party or by a third-party in connection with this case solely for the
6 limited purposes of prosecuting, defending, attempting to settle, or settling this action. Such
7 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions
8 described in the Protective Order. Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a
9 Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the
10 persons authorized under this Protective Order.

11 2. Disclosure of "Confidential" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by
12 the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any
13 information or item designated Confidential only to:

14 3. The Parties to this action and the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of record in
15 this action, as well as employees of said Counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose
16 the information for this litigation. Counsel of Record shall be responsible for advising all of
17 their staff of the existence of, and their confidentiality obligations under, the Protective Order,
18 and shall be responsible for any non-compliance with the Protective Order by members of their
19 staff that have not signed an agreement to be bound by the Protective Order;

20 4. The officers, directors, and employees of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure
21 is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed or have agreed under oath and on
22 the record to be bound by the "Agreement to Be Bound by Protective Order" (Exhibit A);

23 Experts of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for
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1 this litigation and who have signed or have agreed under oath and on the record to be bound by
2 the "Agreement to Be Bound by Protective Order" (Exhibit A);

3 The Court and its personnel;

4 Court reporters, their staffs, and Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is
5 reasonably necessary for this litigation;

6 During their depositions or at trial, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
7 reasonably necessary. Witnesses will not be permitted to retain copies of Protected Material
8 unless they have signed or agreed under oath and on the record to be bound by the "Agreement
9 to Be Bound by Protective Order" (Exhibit A). Upon request of a Designating Party, pages of
10 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be
11 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
12 under this Protective Order; and

13 5. The author of the document or the original source of the information and
14 recipients or addressees in the normal course of business.

15 Notwithstanding the preceding paragraph, a Party that has produced its, his or her own
16 Protected Material may disclose such Protected Material to any persons, with or without any
17 conditions placed upon such disclosure, as the Party deems appropriate.

18 Protected Material can be used in any judicial proceeding between any two of the parties,
19 except that the disclosing party must state that it must be kept under seal and pursuant to
20 paragraph X, the document will be sealed, subject to the Court's orders or instructions.

21 6. Disclosure of Possession of Confidential Information. All persons shall not under
22 any circumstances sell, offer for sale, advertise, or publicize either the Confidential Information
23 or the fact that such persons have obtained Confidential Information.

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VI. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Receiving Party is served with a subpoena or an order issued in other litigation that would compel disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "Confidential", the Receiving Party must so notify the Designating Party, in writing (by fax or email if possible) immediately and in no event more than seven (7) calendar days after receiving the subpoena or order. Such notification must include a copy of the subpoena or court order. The Receiving Party also must within ten (10) calendar days inform in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all the material covered by the subpoena or order is the subject of this Protective Order and deliver to such party a copy of this Protective Order. The Designating Party shall bear the burdens and the expenses of seeking protection in that court of its Confidential material – and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court. Once notice is given, and five business days have elapsed, the Receiving Party shall have no further liability for disclosure pursuant to a subpoena or its equivalent.

VIII. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately and within not more than seven (7) calendar days: (a) notify in writing (using best efforts to use email or fax) the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of the Protective Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement

1 to Be Bound” (Exhibit A). The Receiving Party shall promptly notify the Designating Party of
2 the results of its efforts with regards to (b), (c), and (d) herein. After a good faith meet and
3 confer effort to resolve any remaining disputes concerning compliance with this paragraph, any
4 Party, Receiving Party or Designating Party may seek relief from this Court for non-compliance
5 with this provision. Said relief may include, but is not limited to, preclusion of the Receiving
6 Party’s use in this litigation of the Protected Material that was disclosed contrary to this
7 Protective Order, or any other sanction deemed appropriate by the Court.

8 **IX. PUBLICLY AVAILABLE OR PREVIOUSLY POSSESSED INFORMATION**

9 The restrictions in the preceding paragraphs regarding disclosure of Protected Material do
10 not and shall not apply to information or material that: was, is, or becomes public knowledge in a
11 manner other than by violation of the Protective Order, is acquired by the non-designating party
12 from a third-party having the right to disclose such information or material; or was lawfully
13 possessed by the non-designating party before the date of this Protective Order. The Designating
14 Party shall act in good faith to notify the Receiving Party of any change in circumstances that
15 renders Confidential Information or Items no longer Confidential within a reasonable time period
16 after the change becomes known to the Designating Party.

17 **X. FILING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

18 In the event that any Protected Material or information derived therefrom is included
19 with, or the contents of such a document are disclosed in, any documents filed with the Clerk or
20 this Court or any other court, the filing Party shall file said document under seal. Unless
21 otherwise agreed by the Parties to permit service by some other means such as by email or
22 facsimile, copies of any pleading, brief or other document containing Protected Material that is
23 served on opposing counsel shall be delivered in a sealed envelope stamped:
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1 CONFIDENTIAL PURSUANT TO PROTECTIVE ORDER

2 and shall be treated in accordance with the provisions of this Protective Order. Subject to the
3 Court's convenience and needs, all material files in this fashion will be kept under seal by the
4 Clerk until further order from the Court.

5 **XI. FINAL DISPOSITION**

6 Unless otherwise ordered or agreed in writing by the Producing Party, within sixty (60)
7 calendar days of a written request, after the final termination of this action, each Receiving Party
8 must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party. As used in this subdivision, "all
9 Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other form of
10 reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. With permission in writing from the
11 Designating Party, the Receiving Party may destroy some or all of the Protected Material instead
12 of returning it. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party
13 must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity,
14 to the Designating Party) by the thirty (30) calendar day deadline that identifies (by category,
15 where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and that affirms that
16 the Receiving Party has not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or other
17 forms of reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision,
18 Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, transcripts, legal
19 memoranda, correspondence or attorney work product, even if such materials contain Protected
20 Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject
21 to this Protective Order as set forth herein. In the event of an appeal, "Final Disposition" shall
22 not occur until the conclusion of all appeals.

23 **XII. ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

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1 1. Modification. The Parties may modify this Protective Order by written
2 agreement, subject to approval by the Court. The Court may modify this Protective Order.

3 2. Right to Assert Other Objections. This Protective Order does not affect or waive
4 any right that any Party otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any
5 information or item on any ground not addressed in this Protective Order. Similarly, this
6 Protective Order does not affect or waive any Party's right to object on any ground to use in
7 evidence any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

8 3. Privileges Not Waived. This Protective Order does not affect or waive any
9 applicable privilege or work product protection, or affect the ability of a Producing Party to seek
10 relief for an inadvertent disclosure of material protected by privilege or work product protection.

11 4. Third Party Protections. Any witness or other person, firm, or entity from which
12 discovery is sought may be informed of and may obtain the protection of this Protective Order by
13 written notice to the Parties' respective counsel or by oral notice at the time of any deposition or
14 similar proceeding.


15 5. Obligations to Third Parties. Nothing herein shall operate to relieve any Party or
16 non-party from any pre-existing confidentiality obligations currently owed by any Party or non-
17 party to any other Party or non-party.

18 6. Retention of Completed "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" Forms
19 (Exhibit A). Completed "Acknowledgement and Agreement to Be Bound" Forms (Exhibit A)
20 ("form") shall be maintained by the Party that obtained the completed form pursuant to this
21 Protective Order. The Party retaining the completed form shall produce the form to resolve any
22 good faith challenge by a Party or Designating Party or dispute concerning whether a person who
23 is obligated under this Protective Order to complete the form did so properly and complied with
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1 the representations in the form and this Protective Order. If the parties are unable to resolve any
2 such disputes or challenges through a good faith meet and confer process, the challenging Party
3 or Designating Party may seek appropriate relief from this Court.

4 7. Privilege Log. The parties shall prepare and serve a privilege log of all items not
5 produced to the Parties under this Protective Order, including any redacted documents.

6 IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 24th day of September, 2012.

7 
8 United States Magistrate Judge
9 Peggy A. Leen

10 Dated this 19th day of September 2012.

Dated this 13th day of September 2012.

11 **NELSON LAW**

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1 **EXHIBIT A**

2 **ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

3 I, _____, have read in its entirety and understand the
4 Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court, for the District of Nevada
5 on _____, 2012 in the above referenced case. I agree to comply with and to be bound
6 by all terms of this Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply
7 could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that
8 I will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Protective Order
9 to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order. Further, I
10 solemnly promise that I will not offer to sell, advertise or publicize that I have obtained any
11 Protected Material subject to this Protective Order.

12 At the conclusion of this matter, I will return all Protected Material which came into my
13 possession to counsel for the party from whom I received the Protected Material, or I will
14 destroy those materials. I understand that any Confidential Information contained within any
15 summaries of Protected Material shall remain protected pursuant to the terms of this Order.

16 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court, for the
17 District of Nevada, for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Protective Order, even if such
18 enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

19 I certify under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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21 Date: _____

22 City and State where signed: _____

23 Printed name: _____

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1 Address: _____

2 Signature: _____

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