

**MICHAEL N. FEDER**

Nevada Bar No. 7332  
DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC  
3883 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 800  
Las Vegas, NV 89169  
Telephone: 702-550-4440  
Facsimile: 844-670-6009  
Email: [mfeder@dickinson-wright.com](mailto:mfeder@dickinson-wright.com)

**MARTIN D. HOLMES** (*Pro Hac Vice*)

Tennessee Bar No. 012122  
**PETER F. KLETT** (*Pro Hac Vice*)  
Tennessee Bar No. 012688  
**AUTUMN N. GENTRY** (*Pro Hac Vice*)  
Tennessee Bar No. 020766  
DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC  
Fifth Third Center, Suite 800  
424 Church Street  
Nashville, TN 37219  
Telephone: 615-244-6538  
Facsimile: 844-670-6009  
Email: [mdholmes@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:mdholmes@dickinsonwright.com)  
[pklett@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:pklett@dickinsonwright.com)  
[agentry@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:agentry@dickinsonwright.com)

**TREVOR W. HOWELL** (*Pro Hac Vice*)

Tennessee Bar No. 009496  
HOWELL LAW, PLLC  
P.O. Box 158511  
Nashville, TN, 37216  
Telephone: 615-406-1417  
Email: [trevor@howelllawfirmllc.com](mailto:trevor@howelllawfirmllc.com)

*Attorneys for Plaintiff, Opt-in Plaintiffs  
and Putative Opt-in Plaintiffs*

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

ALBERTO DELARA, on behalf of himself and  
others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

v.

DIAMOND RESORTS INTERNATIONAL  
MARKETING, INC.,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:19-cv-00022-APG-NJK

STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR  
A STAY OF PROCEEDINGS UNTIL  
DECEMBER 7, 2020, FOR THE  
PARTIES TO PREPARE FOR AND  
ATTEND MEDIATION

Plaintiff and Defendant HEREBY STIPULATE AND AGREE, by and through their  
respective counsel, as to the following:

1           1.       The parties and their counsel have agreed to mediate the case subject to the terms  
2 set forth herein and in that regard, have scheduled a mediation on December 7, 2020, with Steve  
3 Rottman, a mediator who is nationally recognized in mediating large class and collective actions.  
4 Given the high demand for Mr. Rottman’s mediation services and his limited availability, and for  
5 the reasons discussed below regarding additional supplementation of previously served written  
6 discovery, the parties request a stay of proceedings through December 7, 2020, including the  
7 August 13, 2020 Rule 30(b)(6) deposition deadline, the September 14, 2020 dispositive motion  
8 deadline and the October 14, 2020 Joint Pretrial Order deadline.<sup>1</sup> The parties believe the proposed  
9 stay is in the parties’ and the Court’s interests in costs and efficiency.

10           2.       On July 8, 2019, Plaintiff filed his Motion for Conditional Certification of the  
11 Matter as a Collective Action and Approval of 29 U.S.C. §216(b) Notice. [ECF No. 31]. The  
12 matter was fully briefed, and briefing concluded on July 29, 2019. [ECF Nos. 32 & 33].

13           3.       During the pendency of Plaintiff’s Motion for Conditional Certification, the parties  
14 continued with their written discovery as it related to Defendant and named Plaintiff Delara, and  
15 Opt-in Plaintiffs Chiapponi, Moratelli and Gennari, who had opted-in prior to the filing of  
16 Plaintiff’s Motion for Conditional Certification.

17           4.       Defendant deposed Plaintiff and Opt-in Plaintiffs Chiapponi, Moratelli and Gennari  
18 on February 11 – 14, 2020.

19           5.       On February 10, 2020, Plaintiff served Defendant with a Notice of Deposition  
20 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b)(6), requiring Defendant to designate and produce a person or  
21 persons qualified to testify on 21 topics. The deposition was noticed for February 27, 2020, in the  
22 Las Vegas, Nevada offices of Plaintiff’s counsel. Ten days later, on February 20, 2020, Defendant  
23 advised Plaintiff that neither defense counsel nor Defendant’s designees were available for  
24 deposition on February 27, 2020, and requested that the deposition be rescheduled.

25  
26  
27 <sup>1</sup> The stay would not include the current opt-in process or the filing of additional consents to join the action by  
28 Plaintiff’s counsel, any supplementation of written discovery requests previously propounded and continued meet and  
confer thereon. Plaintiff specifically reserves the right to seek relief from the Court in the event the parties reach an  
impasse on discovery issues related to written discovery requests previously propounded.

1           6. Defendant also served written objections as to all 21 topics of Plaintiff's Notice.  
2 The parties worked diligently together to resolve them, with Defendant reserving the right to object  
3 to specific questions in the depositions, including specifically on the basis of attorney/client  
4 privilege, and Plaintiff reserving the right to argue that Defendant waived the attorney/client  
5 privilege and/or that said information is discoverable. With this understanding, Defendant  
6 designated four designees to cover the Rule 30(b)(6) topics: 2 designees who would be deposed  
7 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and 2 designees who would be deposed in Orlando, Florida. Based on the  
8 parties' schedules, the parties agreed that the Florida depositions would take place on March 19,  
9 2020, and the Las Vegas depositions would take place on March 24, 2020.

10           7. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rule 30(b)(6) depositions were temporarily  
11 postponed.

12           8. The country is still affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and there are recent  
13 reports of a rise in the number of COVID-19 cases.

14           9. Given the number of documents and logistical issues involved, Plaintiff's position  
15 is that remote depositions are impracticable, especially given that Defendant and Defendant's  
16 counsel and, in some cases, witnesses, as well as Plaintiff's counsel, are located in different states.  
17 Based on the foregoing, the parties have agreed to postpone these depositions pursuant to the  
18 stipulation to stay proceedings subject to the Court's approval.

19           10. Since March 2020, the parties have continued to meet and confer in good faith  
20 regarding supplementation of written discovery, exchanging numerous letters and engaging in two  
21 extensive meet and confer conference calls lasting 2 ½ and 3 hours respectively. As a result, the  
22 parties have exchanged numerous supplemental discovery responses and this process is still  
23 ongoing.

24           11. On April 30, 2020, the Court granted Plaintiff's Motion for Conditional  
25 Certification. [ECF No. 64]. As part of the relief sought, the Court approved the notice and  
26 consent form (ECF No. 79), which were sent to putative opt-in plaintiffs on June 11, 2020. Per  
27  
28

1 the Court's April 30, 2020 Order, putative opt-in Plaintiffs have until September 9, 2020, to file  
2 consents and join the lawsuit.

3 12. At this juncture, 186 individuals have filed consents to join this action.<sup>2</sup> Plaintiff  
4 anticipates that the number of opt-in plaintiffs will exceed 200 individuals by the time the period  
5 to join the lawsuit ends on September 9, 2020.

6 13. On January 27, 2020, Plaintiff served his Request for Admission, First Set of  
7 Interrogatories and Second Requests for Production of Documents to Defendant. As part of the  
8 discovery, Plaintiff sought information and documents regarding putative opt-in plaintiffs,  
9 including but not limited to their personnel files, time records and pay records. Given that the  
10 Court still had Plaintiff's Motion for Conditional Certification under advisement, Defendant  
11 objected to producing information and documents as to putative opt-in plaintiffs on a variety of  
12 grounds, in part, taking the position that the production of such information or documents was  
13 premature before any granting of conditional certification.

14 14. While the meet and confer process has continued since March 2020, once the opt-  
15 in period ends on September 9, 2020, the parties will have further discussions regarding  
16 supplementation of written discovery, including, but not limited to opt-in plaintiffs, including  
17 production of time and pay records which are relevant to the issues of liability and damages  
18 necessary for the forthcoming mediation. Given the large number of opt-in plaintiffs and the  
19 volume of documents and information related to these individuals, this will be a time-consuming  
20 process requiring significant additional meet and confers between the parties.

21 15. Based on the foregoing, the parties are of the belief that December 7, 2020, is an  
22 appropriate date for mediation.

23 16. The parties recognize that substantial time and costs will be expended to review the  
24 considerable amount of information produced to date and to be produced as discovery progresses.  
25 The parties agree that it is in the best interest of all parties to wait until the mediation process is  
26

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27 <sup>2</sup> Defendant hereby specifically reserves its continued rights to challenge, by motion after the stay period, opt-in class  
28 members' standing and/or the Court's jurisdiction over claims asserted by certain individuals and nothing herein is  
intended to waive any of those rights.

1 complete prior to incurring the time and expense of depositions and motion practice, as the  
2 mediation could resolve this matter in its entirety, thereby relieving the parties of further costs and  
3 expenses and relieving the Court of taxes upon its resources.

4 17. It would be counterproductive to the parties' settlement efforts to have the parties  
5 incur the expense of time-consuming and costly depositions and motion practice because the  
6 parties have agreed to stay such proceedings in favor of attempting to achieve a resolution to this  
7 matter. Rule 1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that the federal rules of practice  
8 should be "construed and administered to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination  
9 of every action and proceeding." (Emphasis added). If the Court does not grant a stay, the parties  
10 will be required to engage in and incur the costs of depositions and motion practice that may not  
11 be necessary.

12 18. In order to conserve the parties' and the Court's resources, to promote judicial  
13 economy, and to increase the likelihood of a successful mediation, the parties have agreed, subject  
14 to the Court's approval, and subject to the exceptions noted, to stay this matter in order for the  
15 parties to complete the agreed upon mediation.

16 19. In the event that the parties are unable to reach a resolution at the mediation, the  
17 parties agree to file a joint status report informing the Court of the same by Friday, December 11,  
18 2020. The parties further agree to file an amended proposed discovery plan and scheduling order  
19 by Friday, December 18, 2020.

20 20. In addition, information obtained during the opt-in process through its completion,  
21 as well as supplementation of written discovery, will have a bearing on questions posed in  
22 conjunction with various topics during the Rule 30(b)(6) deposition of Defendant's four designees  
23 in Florida and Nevada, should the parties not resolve the matter at the mediation and those  
24 depositions become necessary.

25 21. Based on the foregoing, the parties stipulate to a stay of proceedings through  
26 December 7, 2020. The stay specifically excludes the continuation of the opt-in process and the  
27 filing of consent forms by Plaintiff's counsel. In addition, the stay excludes the parties' ongoing  
28

1 meet and confers and/or any supplementation of previously served discovery, which will also  
2 encompass any further supplementation as it relates to current and future opt-ins plaintiffs. The  
3 parties have agreed to continue to meet and confer and produce information necessary to enable  
4 the parties to properly evaluate liability and damages and conduct a meaningful mediation in good  
5 faith. In addition, Plaintiff specifically reserves the right to seek relief from the Court in the event  
6 the parties reach an impasse on discovery issues related to discovery requests previously  
7 propounded.

8 IT IS SO STIPULATED this 7th day of August, 2020.

9  
10 DICKINSON WRIGHT PLLC

LEWIS ROCA ROTHGERBER CHRISTIE LLP

11 /s/ Martin D. Holmes

/s/ Kirstin E. Muller

12 MICHAEL N. FEDER

HOWARD E. COLE

13 Nevada Bar No. 7332

Nevada Bar No. 4950

3883 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 800

JENNIFER K. HOSTETLER

Las Vegas, NV 89169

Nevada Bar No. 11994

14 MARTIN D. HOLMES

BRIAN D. BLAKELY

(Admitted Pro Hac Vice)

Nevada Bar No. 13074

15 Tennessee Bar No. 012122

3993 Howard Hughes Pkwy, Suite 600

PETER F. KLETT

Las Vegas, NV 89169-5996

16 (Admitted Pro Hac Vice)

KIRSTIN E. MULLER

Tennessee Bar No. 012688

(Admitted Pro Hac Vice)

17 AUTUMN L. GENTRY

California Bar No. 186373

(Admitted Pro Hac Vice)

ALISON M. HAMER

18 Tennessee Bar No. 020766

(Admitted Pro Hac Vice)

Fifth Third Center, Suite 800

California Bar No. 258281

19 424 Church Street

BENJAMIN J. TREGER

Nashville, TN 37219

(Admitted Pro Hac Vice)

20 TREVOR W. HOWELL

California Bar No. 285283

(Admitted Pro Hac Vice)

Hirschfeld Kramer LLP

21 HOWELL LAW, PLLC

233 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 600

22 Tennessee Bar No. 009496

Santa Monica, California 90401

P.O. Box 158511

*Attorneys for Defendant*

23 Nashville, TN 37215

24 *Attorneys for Plaintiff,*

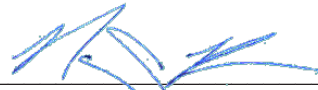
*Opt-in Plaintiffs and*

25 *and Putative Collective Class Members*

**ORDER**

Based on the parties' stipulations, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that the proceedings in this matter are stayed until December 7, 2020. In the event that the parties are unable to reach a resolution at the mediation, the parties agree to file a joint status report informing the Court of the same by Friday, December 11, 2020. The parties further agree to file an amended proposed discovery plan and scheduling order by Friday, December 18, 2020. The stay, however, specifically excludes the continuation of the opt-in process and the filing of consent forms by Plaintiff's counsel. In addition, the stay excludes the parties' ongoing meet and confers and/or supplementation of previously served discovery. Finally, the stay excludes the parties' right to seek relief from the Court in the event the parties reach an impasse on issues related to written discovery requests previously propounded.

IT IS SO ORDERED:



\_\_\_\_\_  
NANCY J. KORPE  
United States Magistrate Judge

DATED: August 10, 2020