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9 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**

10 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA**

11 DELANIE BUTLER and JOHN ROBINSON,  
 12 individually and on behalf of all similarly  
 situated class and collective action members,

13 Plaintiffs,

14 vs.

15 PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES,  
 16 LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company;  
 DOES I through X, inclusive; ROE  
 17 CORPORATIONS I through X inclusive,

18 Defendants.

Case No.: 2:20-cv-00861-JCM-EJY

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

19 In order to protect the confidentiality of confidential, private, and personal information  
 20 obtained by the Parties in connection with this case, the Parties hereby agree to the entry of this  
 21 Stipulated Protective Order submitted by Plaintiffs DELANIE BUTLER and JOHN ROBINSON,  
 22 individually and on behalf of all similarly situated class and collective action members (“Plaintiffs”)  
 23 and Defendant PORTFOLIO RECOVERY ASSOCIATES, LLC (“Defendant”) (hereinafter  
 24 collectively referred to as “Parties”), by which the Parties agree, and the Court finds, pursuant to  
 25 FRCP 26(c), that good cause exists to support the entry of a protective order over the discovery and  
 26 dissemination of certain information deemed confidential by one of the Parties. This Stipulated  
 27 Protective Order will expedite the disclosure of information and production of documents protected  
 28 by privilege or statutes, preserve the confidentiality of such information, protect privacy interests

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1 of the Parties and non-parties, and help to avoid potential discovery disputes related to information  
2 that is designated confidential. The Court, being fully advised, hereby ORDERS as follows:

3 **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

4 1. In this action, at least one of the Parties has sought and/or is seeking discovery of  
5 Confidential Material (as defined in paragraph 5 below). This Protective Order shall apply to all  
6 documents, materials, and information that is sought by a party either from other parties to this  
7 litigation or from any third party with possession or custody of Confidential Material during  
8 discovery, including without limitation, documents produced, answers to interrogatories, responses  
9 to requests for admission, deposition testimony, and other information disclosed pursuant to the  
10 disclosure or discovery duties created by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. The Parties assert  
11 the disclosure of Confidential Material outside the scope of this litigation could result in significant  
12 injury to one or more of the Parties' business or personal privacy interests, and/or could result in  
13 significant injury to a third party's privacy interests, as well as potentially impacting or resulting in  
14 the inadvertent waiver of the attorney-client privilege. The Parties have entered into this Stipulation  
15 and request the Court enter this Protective Order for the purpose of preventing the disclosure and  
16 use of Confidential Material except as set forth herein, and to prevent the inadvertent waiver of any  
17 applicable privilege.

18 2. As used in this Protective Order, "document" is defined as designated in FRCP  
19 34(a)(1)(A). A draft or non-identical copy is a separate document within the meaning of this term.

20 3. This Protective Order may be modified by the Court at any time for good cause  
21 shown following notice to all Parties and an opportunity for them to be heard.

22 4. Nothing in this Protective Order shall prevent any party or other person from seeking  
23 modification of this Order, from objecting to discovery that the party or other person believes to be  
24 improper, or from filing a motion with respect to the manner in which Confidential Material shall  
25 be treated at trial. Moreover, nothing in this Protective Order shall prejudice the right of any party  
26 to contest the alleged relevancy, admissibility, or discoverability of information designated as  
27 Confidential Material or information sought in discovery.  
28

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**CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL**

1  
2 5. “Confidential Material” means those documents, personal information, trade secrets,  
3 or sensitive commercial information that the designating party believes to be protected by law,  
4 including FRCP 26, and is designated by one of the Parties in the manner provided in paragraph 15  
5 below, the disclosure of which the designating party believes may implicate the privacy interests of  
6 Plaintiffs, Defendant, third parties and/or information contained in confidential business records  
7 and communications by the designating party or a third party with possession or custody of such  
8 information. Any information designated by a party as confidential will first be reviewed by  
9 counsel, and designation will be based on a good faith belief that the information is confidential and  
10 entitled to protection under the law, including Rule 26. The documents or information so designated  
11 shall be deemed “Confidential Material” subject to this Protective Order. Confidential Material  
12 does not include (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a  
13 Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a  
14 result of publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public  
15 record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to the  
16 disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained the  
17 information lawfully and was not under any obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party.

18 6. Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party  
19 or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to  
20 limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The  
21 Designating Party must designate for protection only those pages of a document which qualify as  
22 Confidential Material, in order to avoid sweeping an entire document unjustifiably within the ambit  
23 of this Order, where only some pages contain Confidential Material. Nevertheless, where the  
24 burden of designating individual pages of a document would outweigh the benefit to full and open  
25 proceedings, the entire document may be designated confidential. Indiscriminate designations of  
26 confidentiality, however, are inconsistent with this Order. If it comes to a Designating Party’s  
27 attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection,  
28 that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken

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1 designation.

2 7. Confidential Material shall not be disclosed to any person or entity not a party to this  
3 lawsuit except as expressly provided herein. Confidential Material shall only be used by the Parties  
4 in this lawsuit, including any appeal. Confidential Material shall not be disclosed to any person or  
5 entity other than the Parties to this suit, counsel who have entered an appearance in this case and  
6 their staff, judges, magistrates, law clerks and other clerical personnel of the Court before which the  
7 action is pending, and other individuals as designated in paragraph 11 of this Protective Order.

8 8. Any Confidential Material produced during the course of this action shall be used  
9 solely for the purposes of this action between the Parties in this suit only, and shall not be disclosed  
10 or used for any other purpose including, but not limited to, any business, commercial, competitive,  
11 or publicity purpose. All obligations and duties arising under this Protective Order shall survive the  
12 conclusion of this action.

13 9. Nothing herein shall prevent disclosure beyond the terms of this Order if this Court,  
14 after notice to all affected Parties, orders such disclosure.

15 10. It shall be the responsibility of counsel to take reasonable and proper steps to ensure  
16 that this Protective Order and all provisions hereof are made known to any person who shall  
17 examine Confidential Material as provided herein. Counsel to the Parties are required to advise,  
18 instruct, and supervise all associates, staff, experts and employees to keep designated Confidential  
19 Material confidential in the strictest possible fashion. Counsel and the Parties also agree to the same  
20 treatment of the information by themselves, and counsel will appropriately instruct their clients as  
21 to the protected nature of the information produced pursuant to this Protective Order, including the  
22 limitations on its use and disclosure.

23 11. Given its confidential status, all Confidential Material, including any and all copies  
24 thereof, shall be kept by counsel, and any person to whom it is provided, in an appropriately safe  
25 place. Except as otherwise provided, access to any Confidential Material shall be limited solely to  
26 the following persons:

27 a. Counsel for the Parties and their staff, including associates, legal assistants,  
28 and paralegals other support employees who have a demonstrable need for such Confidential

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1 Material for purposes of this litigation;

2 b. Outside vendors retained by counsel for the Parties, including experts,  
3 messenger, copy, coding, and other clerical services, including document processing and  
4 conversion, archiving and database services, electronic data processing firms and personnel,  
5 translators, and interpreters;

6 c. Plaintiff, Defendant, whether third party or otherwise, and any officers,  
7 directors, agents, or employees of Plaintiff and Defendant who have a need for such  
8 Confidential Material disclosure for purposes of this litigation;

9 d. The author or recipient of a document containing the Confidential Material,  
10 or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

11 e. The Court and persons employed by the Court, including jury personnel and  
12 stenographers transcribing the testimony or argument at a hearing, trial, or deposition in this  
13 action, or any appeal therefrom;

14 f. With the exception of witnesses while testifying at trial, or persons who  
15 either authored or previously received Confidential Material, such information may be  
16 disclosed to other persons not authorized by this Protective Order only with the mutual  
17 agreement in writing between and among counsel for the Parties, or on the record in  
18 deposition or hearing, in advance of any disclosure to such person.

19 12. All copies, excerpts, or summaries made, shown or given to those authorized hereby  
20 and according to the provisions hereof shall be stamped to indicate the protected and confidential  
21 nature of the disclosed information. Review of Confidential Material by counsel, experts, or  
22 consultants for the litigation will not constitute any waiver of the confidentiality of the document or  
23 of any objections to production. The inadvertent, unintentional, or in camera disclosure of  
24 Confidential Material shall not, under any circumstances, be deemed a waiver, in whole or in part,  
25 of any claims of confidentiality.

26 13. All documents submitted to the Court which attach, quote from, or refer to  
27 Confidential Materials shall be electronically filed under seal with reference to this Protective Order  
28 to ensure that the documents are protected as set forth in this Protective Order. Unless otherwise

1 permitted by statute, rule, or prior court order, Documents filed with the Court under seal shall be  
 2 accompanied by a contemporaneous motion for leave to file those documents under seal, and shall  
 3 be filed consistent with the Court's electronic filing procedures in accordance with Local Rule IA  
 4 10-5. Notwithstanding any agreement among the parties, the party seeking to file a paper under  
 5 seal bears the burden of overcoming the presumption in favor of public access to papers filed in  
 6 court. See *Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.2d 1172 (9th Cir. 2006); *Pintos v. Pac.*  
 7 *Creditors Ass'n*, 605 F.3d 665, 677-78 (9th Cir. 2010); *Center for Auto Safety c. Chrysler Group,*  
 8 *LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092 (2016). In the event the Court refuses to allow the filing under seal of such  
 9 information designated as Confidential Material, a party shall still be permitted to file such  
 10 information, but it will continue to be treated as confidential in all other respects. The Court's ruling  
 11 shall not preclude the filing of the document, or otherwise affect the confidentiality designation.

12 14. If, through inadvertence, a party provides any documents or information containing  
 13 Confidential Material without designating the material as such, the party may subsequently inform  
 14 the other parties in writing of the Confidential Material status of the documents or information. The  
 15 parties in receipt of that inadvertently disclosed Confidential Material shall thereafter treat the  
 16 disclosed material as Confidential Material in accordance with the written notification of the  
 17 inadvertent disclosure. The Parties in receipt of the inadvertently disclosed Confidential Material  
 18 shall take reasonable steps to advise persons to whom disclosure was made prior to receipt of a  
 19 Confidential Material designation and of this Protective Order, but shall not otherwise be required  
 20 to retrieve or take any action to protect the confidentiality of information or copies of documents  
 21 disclosed prior to the receipt of the Confidential Material designation. If a party produces any  
 22 documents or information that is not designated as Confidential Material and which another party  
 23 believes is subject to designation as Confidential Material, the receiving party may designate the  
 24 material as Confidential Material by notifying the other Parties of the designation, and if any other  
 25 party disagrees with the designation, it may follow the procedures set forth in Paragraph 15. If a  
 26 party inadvertently produces documents which are subject to the attorney-client privilege or work  
 27 product protection, the Parties shall follow the procedures set forth in Fed. R. Evid. 502 and FRCP  
 28 26(b)(5)(B).

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1           15.     Where Confidential Material is produced, provided, or otherwise disclosed by a  
2 party in response to any discovery request, it will be designated in one of the following manners:

3           a.     By imprinting the word “Confidential” on each confidential page of any  
4 document produced (in a manner that will not interfere with their legibility);

5           b.     By imprinting the word “Confidential” next to or above any response to a  
6 discovery request; and

7           c.     With respect to transcribed testimony, whenever a deposition involves the  
8 disclosure of Confidential Material, the confidential portions thereof shall be designated as  
9 Confidential and subject to this Protective Order. Such designation may be made on the  
10 record during the deposition, but must also be made by giving written notice to opposing  
11 counsel designating by page and line number which portions are “Confidential” no later than  
12 21 calendar days after receipt of the transcribed testimony. During the 21-day period,  
13 counsel for the Parties shall treat the entire transcript as if it had been designated as  
14 “Confidential.”

15           16.     A party may object to the designation of particular documents as Confidential  
16 Material by giving written notice to the party designating the disputed information. The written  
17 notice shall identify the information to which the objection is made. The objection to a designation  
18 as Confidential Material may be raised at any time; a party does not waive its right to challenge a  
19 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge immediately after the original  
20 designation is disclosed.

21           All counsel shall then make a reasonable, good-faith effort to resolve any e discovery dispute  
22 without the need for judicial intervention in accordance with FRCP 26(c)(1) and FRCP 37(a)(1). If  
23 those discussions are not fruitful, it will be the obligation of the party designating the information  
24 as Confidential to arrange a telephone conference with the Court in accordance with the Court’s  
25 Civil Practice Standards. At the conclusion of the Court-supervised conference, if the dispute over  
26 confidentiality has not been resolved, it will be the obligation of the party designating the  
27 information as Confidential to file an appropriate motion within ten additional days after the date  
28 of the conference, requesting that the Court determine whether the disputed information should be

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1 subject to the terms of this Protective Order. If such a motion is timely filed, the disputed  
2 information shall be treated as Confidential under the terms of this Protective Order until the Court  
3 rules on the motion. In connection with any motion filed under this provision, the party designating  
4 the information as confidential shall bear the burden of establishing that good cause exists for the  
5 disputed information to be treated as confidential.

6 17. The termination of this action shall not relieve counsel or other persons obligated  
7 hereunder from their responsibility to maintain the confidentiality of designated Confidential  
8 Material or pursuant to this Protective Order.

9 18. Three years from termination of this litigation, including any appeals, or at the  
10 expiration of any longer time required by counsel’s insurance or ethical obligations, counsel for any  
11 party that has received Confidential Material shall destroy the Confidential Material.  
12 Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings,  
13 motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence,  
14 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work  
15 product, even if such materials contain Confidential Material. Any such archival copies that contain  
16 or constitute Confidential Material remain subject to this Protective Order

17 19. This Protective Order is not intended to address the admissibility of evidence at trial.  
18 If a party seeks to limit the publication of Confidential Material at the trial or any hearing in this  
19 matter, the burden shall be on the party seeking to limit the use of such information to obtain relief  
20 from the Court in advance of the trial or hearing.

21 20. If documents or information designated as Confidential Material in accordance with  
22 the terms of this Protective Order are made exhibits to briefs or pleadings, or if Confidential Material  
23 is quoted in a pleading, any such exhibit or pleading shall be filed under seal.

24 ///  
25 ///  
26 ///  
27 ///  
28 ///



21. This Protective Order shall not prevent any party from asserting that the confidential nature of any material bars production of any such material, notwithstanding this agreement. In such circumstances, the material will not be required to be produced absent a properly filed motion to compel, granted by the Court. If the Court grants such a motion to compel, any material disclosed will be subject to the protection of this Protective Order, in addition to any other protection provided in the Court's order.

DATED this 28th day of December 2020.

DATED this 28th day of December, 2020.

HUTCHINGS LAW GROUP, LLC

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**ORDER**

**IT IS SO ORDERED.**

  
DAYNA J. ZOUCHAK  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

DATED: December 28, 2020

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