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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

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Equal Employment Opportunity
Commission,

No. CV-05-3032-PHX-SMM

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Plaintiff,

ORDER

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v.

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Creative Networks, LLC and Res-Care,
Inc.,

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Defendants.

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Before the Court is Plaintiff's Motion to Strike or in the Alternative Leave to File Surreply Re: Creative Network's LLC Additional Pleadings (Doc. 121). In the Motion to Strike, Plaintiff asks the Court to strike Defendant Creative Networks, LLC's Exhibits to its Reply in Support of its Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Doc. 115-2, Exhibits A-F), Reply to EEOC's Local Rules of Practice 56.1(b) Response to Defendant's Statement of Facts and exhibits (Docs. 116, 116-2) and Response to Plaintiff EEOC's Statement of Facts (Doc. 118) and exhibits (Doc. 118-2, Exhibits 1-4). Additionally, Plaintiff requests that the Court grant it leave to file a surreply addressing any exhibits or documents not stricken. Having considered the Motion to Strike, the Court finds as follows.

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BACKGROUND

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In the present case, Defendant initially filed a Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Doc. 97) and Separate Statement of Undisputed Facts in Support of its Motion for Summary Judgment (Doc. 98). Then, on May 14, 2008, Plaintiff filed a Response to the Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Doc. 106) and Local Rule of Practice 56.1(b) Response to Defendant's

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1 Separate Statement of Facts (Doc. 107). Next, on June 2, 2008, Defendant responded by filing a
2 Reply in Support of its Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Doc. 115), Response to
3 Plaintiff's Statement of Facts (Doc. 118), and Reply to Plaintiff's Local Rule of Practice 56.1(b)
4 Response to Defendants' Separate Statement of Facts (Doc. 116). Plaintiff filed the instant
5 motion on August 12, 2008 (Doc. 121).

6 STANDARD OF REVIEW

7 A. Motion to Strike

8 Under the Local Rules of Civil Procedure, a motion to strike may be filed in only
9 two situations: (1) when the motion to strike is authorized by statute or rule, or (2) when
10 the motion to strike seeks to strike a filing or submission because it is prohibited by
11 statute, rule, or court order. LRCiv. 7.2(m)(1). Furthermore, objections to the admission
12 of evidence submitted in support of or opposition to a motion are not appropriate for a
13 motion to strike.

14 An objection to the admission of evidence offered in support of or
15 opposition to a motion must be presented in the objecting party's responsive
16 or reply memorandum (or, if the underlying motion is a motion for
17 summary judgment, in the party's response to another party's separate
18 statement of material facts) and not in a separate motion to strike or other
19 separate filing.

20 LR Civ. 7.2(m)(2). Similarly, any response to the objection must be included in the reply
21 memorandum for the underlying motion filed by the responding party, rather than in a
22 separate responsive memorandum. Id.

21 B. Motion for Summary Judgment

22 Pursuant to the Local Rules of this Court, a party filing a motion for summary
23 judgment (the moving party) is required to file a statement detailing each material fact
24 that the party relies on to support its motion. LRCiv. 56.1(a). This statement is to be
25 filed separately from the motion and memorandum of law. Id. Likewise, the opposing
26 party must have one statement, filed separate from the memorandum of law, that includes
27 any disputes the nonmoving party has with the moving party's statement of facts,
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1 supporting citations to the record, and any new facts they wish to offer in opposition.

2 LRCiv 56.1(b).

3 Any party opposing a motion for summary judgment shall file a statement,
4 separate from that party's memorandum of law, setting forth: (1) for each
5 paragraph of the moving party's separate statement of facts, a
6 correspondingly numbered paragraph indicating whether the party disputes
7 the statement of fact set forth in that paragraph and a reference to the
8 specific admissible portion of the record supporting the party's position if
9 the fact is disputed; and (2) any additional facts that establish a genuine
10 issue of material fact or otherwise preclude judgment in favor of the moving
11 party.

12 Id. These disputes include any objections the nonmovant has with the moving party's
13 statement of facts. LRCiv. 7.2(m)(2). The non-movant's Response shall not exceed
14 seventeen pages, excluding attachments and the required responsive statement of facts
15 discussed above. LRCiv. 7.2(e).

16 While a Reply memoranda of eleven pages is allowed, the Local Rules do not
17 authorize a separate Statement of Facts in the Reply as they explicitly do for a Response.

18 Id. Should a moving party have any objections or replies to facts or arguments contained
19 in the Response or its accompanying statement of facts, these ". . . must be included in the
20 responding party's reply memorandum for the underlying motion and may not be
21 presented in a separate responsive memorandum." LRCiv. 7.2(m)(2).

22 DISCUSSION

23 First, Plaintiff moves the Court to strike several exhibits attached to Defendant's
24 Reply brief, including excerpts from depositions transcripts of Ginger Call, Kathryn
25 Allen, Edna Faulkner, Ron Cornelison, and Rhonda Encinas-Castro, as well as an
26 affidavit from Ron Cornelison with supporting documentation (Doc. 115, Exhibits A-F).
27 Plaintiff argues that these exhibits should not be considered by the Court because they
28 represent new evidence that Plaintiff has had no opportunity to address (Doc. 121, 2-3).
In making this argument, Plaintiff relies heavily on Provenz v. Miller, where the Court
stated, "Where new evidence is presented in a reply to a motion for summary judgment,
the district court should not consider the new evidence without giving the [non-] movant
an opportunity to respond." 102 F.3d 1478, 1483 (9th Cir. 1996), cert. denied 522 U.S.

1 808 (1997) (quoting Black v. TIC Inv. Corp., 900 F.2d 112, 116 (7th Cir. 1990)).
2 Although Defendant allegedly had this evidence at the time it filed its Motion for
3 Summary Judgment, Plaintiff contends Defendant waited until its Reply motion to offer it
4 in an attempt to preclude Plaintiff from addressing the new exhibits (Doc. 121, 2:19-23).
5 As a result, the exhibits should be stricken, or at the very least, Plaintiff given an chance
6 to respond using a surreply (Id. 3:24-4:11).

7 There is no dispute that a party may not file “new” evidence with a reply and then
8 deprive the opposing party of an opportunity to respond to the new evidence. Provenz,
9 102 F.3d at 1483. The Court has examined the challenged exhibits and concludes that
10 they do not constitute new evidence. Rather, they rebut arguments first raised by Plaintiff
11 in its opposition to Defendant’s Motion for Summary Judgment. Consequently, the
12 submissions were proper and Plaintiff’s Motion to Strike as it pertains to the specified
13 exhibits is denied.

14 Second, Plaintiff moves the Court to strike Defendant’s Response to Plaintiff
15 EEOC’s Statement of Facts and exhibits (Docs. 116, 116-2) as well as Defendant’s Reply
16 to EEOC’s Local Rules of Practice 56.1(b) Response to Defendant’s Statement of Facts
17 (Doc. 118) and exhibits (Doc. 118-2, Exhibits 1-4). Plaintiff contends that these
18 documents are in fact supplemental summary judgment replies, and as such, are
19 prohibited by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure as well as the Local Rules which
20 provide for the filing of a single eleven-page Reply (Doc. 121, 4:14-21). Plaintiff argues
21 that the two documents are attempts by Defendant to make further legal and factual
22 arguments in support of its summary judgment motion (Id. 5:14-21). According to
23 Plaintiff, any such argument must be contained in the Reply filed by Defendant (Id. 5:22-
24 26).

25 Local Rule of Civil Procedure 7.2 specifically prohibits “a separate responsive
26 memorandum” to make “any objections or replies to arguments or facts made in the
27 Response.” LRCiv. 7.2(m)(2). The purpose behind Defendant’s Response to Plaintiff
28 EEOC’s Statement of Facts and Defendant’s Reply to EEOC’s Local Rules of Practice

1 56.1(b) Response to Defendant's Statement of Facts is to dispute statements and
2 arguments made in the Plaintiff's Response. The instant motion does fall within the
3 purview of LRCiv 7.2(m)(2), and thus, these disputes should have been included in
4 Defendant's Reply memorandum.

5 Accordingly,

6 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** granting in part and denying in part Plaintiff's
7 Motion to Strike or in the Alternative Leave to File Surreply Re: Creative Network's LLC
8 Additional Pleadings (Doc. 121).¹

9 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED STRIKING** Response to Plaintiff's EEOC's
10 Statement of Facts (Doc. 118) and exhibits (Doc. 118-2, Exhibits 1-4), as well as Reply to
11 EEOC's Local Rule 56.1(b) Response to Defendant's Statement of Facts and exhibits
12 (Docs. 116, 116-2) without prejudice with leave to refile in accordance with the Federal
13 and Local Rules of Civil Procedure. The amended Reply shall be filed no later than
14 **Friday, January 9, 2009.**

15 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Defendant Creative Networks, LLC's Exhibits
16 to its Reply in Support of its Motion for Partial Summary Judgment (Docs. 115-2,
17 Exhibits A-F) are not stricken.

18 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED DENYING** Plaintiff's Motion for Leave to File a
19 Surreply (Doc. 121).²

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23 ¹ The motion is granted insofar as Defendant Creative Networks LLC's Response to
24 Plaintiff's EEOC's Statement of Facts (Doc. 118) and exhibits (Doc. 118-2, Exhibits 1-4) as
25 well as Reply to EEOC's Local Rule 56.1(b) Response to Defendant's Statement of Facts
26 (Docs. 116, 116-2) will be stricken. The motion is denied insofar as Defendant Creative
27 Networks LLC's Exhibits to its Reply in Support of its Motion for Partial Summary
28 Judgment will not be stricken (Docs. 115-2, Exhibits A-F).

² The parties are advised to review the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Local
Rules for this district, and relevant Ninth Circuit authority regarding setting forth new facts
and arguments in Responses and Replies to summary judgment motions.

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DATED this 12th day of December, 2008.



Stephen M. McNamee
United States District Judge