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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

SHIRLEY STONE and JOHN STONE, et)
al.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZONA;) CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA; DAVID) LEONARDO, individually and as the) former Chief of Police for the City of) Peoria Police Department; STEVE KEMP,) individually and as the former City) Attorney for the City of Peoria; JOHN) KEEGAN, individually and as the former) mayor of the City of Peoria; THOMAS) STEWART, individually and as a) detective in Criminal Investigations) Bureau with the City of Peoria Police) Department; MICHAEL SELF,) individually and as detective for Terrorist) Division of the Criminal Investigations) Bureau with the City of Peoria Police) Department; THE HONORABLE LEX) ANDERSON, individually and as the) former Peoria Justice Court Judge; RON) MEYER, individually and as Maricopa) County Constable; KENT HARDING;) KRISTINA HARDING; SCOTT M.) CLARK; LAW OFFICES OF SCOTT M.) CLARK; PAUL K. HENDERSON; BILL) HOWARD, dba, Two Men and a Truck) Moving Company; THE HONORABLE) ROBERT C. HOUSER; JOHN DOE) CONSTABLES, I-V; JOSEPH M.) BOYLE; JANE DOES, I-L; JANE DOES,) government employees, VI-L,

Defendants.

No. CV 07-1801-PHX-MHM

ORDER

1 Currently before the Court are: **(1)** Peoria Defendant's Motion to Dismiss (Dkt.# 6);
2 **(2)** Maricopa County, The Honorable Lex Anderson, and Ron Meyer's Motion to Dimiss
3 (Dkt # 11); **(3)** Stones' Motion to Vacate Writ of Restitution (Dkt.# 13); **(4)** Kent Harding,
4 Kristina Harding, Scott M. Clark, Law Offices of Scott M. Clark, Paul K Henderson, Joseph
5 M. Boyle's Motion to Dismiss (Dkt.# 16); **(5)** Michael Self's Motion to Dismiss and Motion
6 for Joinder by the City of Peoria, Steve Kemp, John Keegan, Thomas Stewart, Michael Self
7 (Dkt.# 21); **(6)** Stones' Motion to Vacate Judge Marlar's 9/6/05 Order Lifting Automatic Stay
8 (Dkt.# 24); **(7)** Stones' Motion for Sanctions (Dkt.# 25); **(8)** Clark, Henderson, Harding,
9 Boyle's Motion to Reaffirm the Vexatious Litigant Order of Judge Bury (Dkt.# 28); **(9)**
10 Stones' Motion to Adjudge Defendants in Contempt (Dkt.# 33); **(10)** Stones' Motion for
11 Reconsideration of Court's Order dated 12/11/07 (Dkt.# 47); **(11)** Stones' Motion Requesting
12 Court to Take Judicial Notice of the Orders and Adjudicated Facts in Federal Case CV
13 05-2626 (Dkt.# 50); **(12)** Stones' Emergency Motion for Leave to File Supplemental
14 Pleading for 9/10/07 (Dkt.# 55); **(13)** Stones' Motion Requesting Court to Take Judicial
15 Notice (Dkt.# 59);**(14)** Stones' Motion Requesting Court to take Judicial Notice of
16 Defendant's Bankruptcy Court Filing (Dkt.# 61); and **(15)** Stones' Motion for Status. (Dkt.#
17 62).

18 Plaintiffs John and Shirley Stone appear before the Court in what is now their tenth
19 filing in the United Stated District Court for the District of Arizona on claims that are related
20 to events and occurrences arising out of their numerous bankruptcy filings.¹ See Stone, et al.
21 v. v. Jackson, et al., CV 98-1087-PHX-ROS; Stone, et al. v. v. Mason, CV 99-1738-PHX-
22 PGR; Stone, et al. v. Albertson's Inc.,CV 99-1897-PHX-MS; Stone, et al. v. Mason, et al.,
23 CV 02-0784-PHX-PGR; Stone, et al. v. Mason, et al., CV 02-1389- PHX-PGR; Stone, et al.
24 v. Fanfare Media Works, et al.,CV 03-0562-PHX-SRB; Stone, et al. v. Curley, et al., CV 03-
25 _____

26 ¹Plaintiffs have filed at least five bankruptcies in the District of Arizona since 1998.
27 See 05-BK-13837 at 2. In fact, Plaintiffs' bankruptcy filings are so prolific that Bankruptcy
28 Judge Marlar has Ordered that any future filings by the Stones be assigned directly to his
court. See CV-05-2626, Dkt.# 101, p.4 n.2.

1 1585-PHX-SRB; Stone, et al. v. Baum, et al., CV 05-2626-PHX-DCB; Stone v. Thomas, et
2 al., CV 06-1324-PHX-NVW (ECV).

3 These previous cases have repeatedly resulted in decisions against the Plaintiffs on
4 grounds ranging from the application of the preclusion doctrines of res judicata and collateral
5 estoppel, to principles of absolute immunity for judicial officers performing their official
6 duties, to failure to state a claim upon which relief could be granted. After each successive
7 court defeat, Plaintiffs have attempted to re-litigate the same factual underpinnings by bringing
8 new suits that name or remove several defendants, but are otherwise identical to the previous
9 ones. Throughout the course of their prodigious litigation efforts the Stones have been given
10 innumerable warnings by the federal district court and others that continuing to file and re-
11 file frivolous claims against state and federal judges, opposing counsel, and certain common
12 defendants would result in both sanctions under Rule 11 Fed. R. Civ. P. and the issuance of
13 a vexatious litigant order, which would prevent Plaintiffs from commencing an action in
14 federal court without first seeking the Court's permission and pre-filing review. Yet Plaintiffs
15 remained undeterred.

16 Given the multiplicity of lawsuits and the voluminous number of motions filed by the
17 Stones in this and other cases, the record before the Court is somewhat confusing. The Court
18 will, however, provide a brief overview of the historical facts and procedural posture of this
19 action.²

20 **I. Background**

21 The heart of the Stones' court filings focus on two incidents which more or less
22 intersect with their numerous bankruptcy petitions. The first incident concerns a running feud
23 between the Stones and Albertsons, Inc. The second involves a dispute over a residential
24 lease agreement between the Stones and the Harding family. The latter dispute forms the
25 basis of the instant suit before this Court.

26
27 ²The Background section of this Order is drawn primarily from Judge McNamee's
28 Dec. 1, 2005 Order in CV 05-2626 and Judge Bury's dispositive Order dated Dec. 22, 2005
in that same case. See CV 05-2626, Dkt. ## 101,113.

1 **A. Albertsons Litigation**

2 The Stones first sued Albertsons, Inc., in 1998 in Arizona Superior Court, alleging
3 Albertsons breached a settlement agreement concerning use of the Stones’ bulletin board
4 advertising business. See CV 05-2626, Dkt. 113, p. 4 (citing Stone v. Albertsons, Inc., CV
5 98-1889). Albertsons counter-claimed against the Stones for \$400,000-\$500,000 in back
6 rent. Id. The case was ultimately dismissed as a sanction against the Stones for violating a
7 court order. Id. The Stones then filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, where the two pending
8 lawsuits became property of the bankruptcy estate. Id. (citing Memorandum Decision, BAP
9 No. AZ 01-1498, filed Sept. 9, 2002, at 2-4). The bankruptcy was eventually converted into
10 a Chapter 7 filing and the court appointed a trustee who attempted to resolve the Albertsons-
11 Stone litigation—after concluding that the Stones’ claims were meritless. Id. at 5. To this
12 end, Albertsons offered to purchase both suits from the bankruptcy estate in return for
13 \$14,000 and a waiver of any proof of claim for the value of its state court counterclaim. Id.
14 The cases were then placed on public auction, for which no bids were submitted. Id. The
15 bankruptcy trustee later approved sale of the Stones’ lawsuits to Albertsons. Id. The Stones
16 filed objections to the bankruptcy sale order that were denied by the bankruptcy judge as
17 moot. Id. The sale order was appealed to the Bankruptcy Appellate Panel (BAP), and was
18 again dismissed as moot. The Ninth Circuit later affirmed these decisions in Stone v.
19 Albertsons, Inc., 51 Fed. Appx. 753 (9th Cir. 2002).

20 The Stones then filed four adversary actions in bankruptcy court. Id. at 5-6. These
21 actions were dismissed after the bankruptcy court repeatedly rejected the claims on res
22 judicata grounds. Id.

23 Following the events in Bankruptcy Court, the Stones brought numerous other
24 lawsuits in federal district court against Albertsons, its lawyers, various judges who had ruled
25 against them, the bankruptcy trustee, and any other individuals or entities who were
26 perceived as being somehow complicit in effectuating the trustee’s sale order. Each lawsuit
27 attempted to re-hash the initial determination made by the bankruptcy court regarding the
28 sale order. These lawsuits were styled as either federal civil rights actions, federal RICO

1 actions, supplemental state tort claims, requests for declaratory relief, or other less
2 understandable causes of action. All of these suits were dismissed.

3 **B. The Harding Litigation**

4 The Hardings, who are Defendants in the instant suit, were parties to a residential
5 lease agreement with the Stones. See CV 05-2626, Dkt.# 101, p. 2. The Hardings hired the
6 law firm of Scott M. Clark (consisting of Clark and Paul Henderson), both of whom are
7 Defendants here, to represent them in a forcible detainer action brought against the Stones
8 for non-payment of rent. (Amended Complaint, Dkt.# 1 Document 4, p. 3, 4). On June 28,
9 2005, the Hardings through their counsel petitioned the Arizona Justice Court, Peoria
10 Division, for a forcible detainer. The petition was scheduled to be heard by the Honorable
11 Lex Anderson on August 4, 2005.

12 In order to procedurally deadlock the Hardings' action, on July 5, 2005, the Stones
13 filed a Chapter 13 bankruptcy petition. This petition had the desired effect of staying the
14 forcible detainer action. (BK-05-12104, Dkt.# 1). However, on July 26, 2005, Bankruptcy
15 Judge Marlar granted the Hardings motion for relief from the automatic stay to pursue their
16 remedies in Arizona state court to reclaim possession of their property. CV 05-2626, Dkt.#
17 101, p. 2. That same day, the Hardings Chapter 13 bankruptcy petition was voluntarily
18 dismissed. Id.

19 On August 2, 2005, two days before the scheduled forcible detainer action was to be
20 heard in Arizona Justice Court, the Stones again petitioned for bankruptcy before Judge
21 Marlar, this time under Chapter 11. Id. Thereafter, according to Plaintiffs, they delivered
22 a copy of the bankruptcy filings to Judge Anderson's clerk and faxed a copy to opposing
23 counsel. Id. at 2. Nevertheless, on August 4, 2005, Judge Anderson held the hearing on the
24 forcible detainer as scheduled, and the Stones did not attend. Id. Judge Anderson entered
25 judgment for a forcible detainer in the amount of \$8,276. Id. at 3 (citing 05-BK-13837, Dkt.#
26 3, Exhibit 4A, 6A, 7A). The judgment also provided for a writ of restitution if the Stones did
27 not vacate the property. Id.

28

1 On August 11, 2005, after Constable Ron Meyers, another Defendant here, posted an
2 eviction notice on the property in question, the Stones provided Judge Anderson with a copy
3 of the Chapter 11 petition, at which time Anderson vacated the writ of restitution but not the
4 underlying judgment. Id. at 2-3. In response, the Hardings filed a motion for emergency
5 relief in bankruptcy court before Judge Marlar—who ordered that a hearing be held to
6 determine whether it was appropriate to lift the automatic stay on the forcible detainer. Id.
7 (citing 05-BK-12104, Dkt.# 14, 34). The hearing was set for August 31, 2005. Id. (citing
8 05-BK-12104, Dkt.# 26).

9 On August 30, 2005, the Stones filed a motion to dismiss their Chapter 11 filing. The
10 Stones then declined to attend the August 31st hearing, after which, Judge Marlar issued a
11 minute order immediately lifting the automatic stay, thereby allowing the Hardings to return
12 to state court to reclaim their property. Id.

13 On September 7, 2005, the Hardings returned to Arizona Justice Court where they
14 obtained a newly issued writ of restitution from Judge Anderson. Id. The writ was executed
15 on September 8, 2005, resulting in the Stones' eviction. Id. at 5. After the eviction,
16 pursuant to Arizona state law, the Hardings removed certain personal property belonging to
17 the Stones from the rental unit. Id.; see A.R.Z. § 33-1368(E). The Stones' Chapter 11
18 bankruptcy petition was then dismissed on October 5, 2005. On November 17, 2005, the
19 Hardings filed a notice for a public sale of personal property belonging to the Stones that had
20 been removed from the vacated premises and placed into storage. This sale was to have
21 taken place on December 2, 2005. Id.

22 **C. CV 05-2626-PHX-DCB**

23 On August 30, 2005, the Stones filed a complaint in federal court in the case CV 05-
24 2626, seeking to name all parties involved in both the Albertsons and Harding litigation as
25 defendants in a single suit. Named were Kent Harding, Scott M. Clark, Paul K. Henderson,
26 Lex Anderson, all of whom are Defendants in the instant case. See CV 05-2626, Dkt.# 1).
27 The Stones also named Albertsons, Inc., and its lawyers, various state and federal district
28 court judges, federal bankruptcy judges, FBI Director Robert Mueller, President George W.

1 Bush, Attorney General John Ashcroft, and a host of others whom the Stones believed were
2 involved in wrongdoing related to Albertsons' purchase of its 1998 state court case, as well
3 as the forcible detainer action and writ of restitution that allowed the Hardings to evict the
4 Stones. Id.

5 On December 1, 2005, United States District Court Judge for the District of Arizona,
6 Stephen M. McNamee, ruled on the merits of the Stones' claims regarding the forcible
7 detainer and writ of restitution. See CV 05-2626, Dkt.# 101, p. 5-6. Judge McNamee found
8 that the writ of restitution issued by Justice of the Peace Anderson allowed the Hardings,
9 pursuant to Arizona state law, to both evict the Stones from the rental property and hold their
10 personal property for a later sale. Specifically, the Court found that, contrary to the Stones'
11 assertions, the rental property was not subject to the Chapter 11 estate. Id. at 5. Second,
12 the Court found that the Stones' right to pursue a remedy for any alleged violations by the
13 Hardings of the automatic stay had already expired. Lastly, the Court held that the Stones
14 had waived their right to challenge Judge Marlar's Order lifting the automatic stay since they
15 had failed to lodge a timely appeal, and attempting to collaterally attack that Order before the
16 district court was not permissible. Id. at 6-7.

17 On December 20, 2005, Judge Bury issued a dispositive ruling in the case. See CV
18 05-2626, Dkt.# 113. The Court's order referred the Stones back to previous orders where the
19 Court had explained how principles of res judicata barred subsequent litigation between the
20 same parties on the same cause of action, where there had been a final judgment on the
21 merits. Id. at 8. With respect to these repeat defendants, Judge Bury wrote, the "Court will
22 not, in an exercise of futility, attempt to restate what these other courts have so completely
23 explained to the Plaintiffs. Even given the repeated explanations, it appears that Plaintiffs
24 cannot be persuaded that res judicata bars them from re-litigating" against Albertsons. Id.
25 The Court went on to find that, "[u]nder the circumstances Plaintiffs have been so thoroughly
26 informed regarding the lack of any procedural and/or legal merit to their claims as to
27 eliminate any possible confusion or questions that might have otherwise existed due to
28 Plaintiffs' *pro se* status." Id. With respect to Plaintiffs motive to file suit, the Court found

1 that, “because Plaintiffs have been repeatedly informed that such repetitive suits are barred
2 by res judicata, there can be no conclusion except that Plaintiffs filed this case for an
3 improper purpose, such as to harass Albertsons and/or cause Albertsons undue litigation
4 costs.” Id.

5 The Court went on to impose sanctions on the Stones under Rule 11 Fed. R. Civ. P.
6 for \$27,044, an amount equaling Albertsons’ costs and attorney fees. See CV 05-2626, Dkt.#
7 121. The Court also considered whether a blanket vexatious litigant order was warranted,
8 one that would prevent the Stones from filing **any** lawsuits in federal court, regardless of the
9 subject matter, absent pre-filing review by the Court. See CV 06-2626, Dkt.# 113, p. 9-10.
10 Judge Bury wrote that the Stones’ practice of relitigating previously determined issues, and
11 then later filing suit against the very judges who dismissed their cases, along with opposing
12 counsel, amounted to a “a huge waste of judicial effort and time.” Id. at 10. The “Court
13 [was] convinced, based on Plaintiffs’ litigious record, that unless enjoined they [would]
14 continue their practice and pattern of vexatious and harassing attempts to relitigate cases
15 resolved against them.” Id. Nevertheless, while Judge Bury noted that there was “adequate
16 justification” to impose a permanent injunction against the Stones from filing suits in the
17 District of Arizona, the Court was inclined to “give Plaintiffs one last chance to self monitor
18 and regulate their use of the federal courts.” Id. at 11.

19 The case was thereafter dismissed with leave to amend, so long as an amended
20 complaint did not include “any claims which have been adjudicated by other courts,”
21 including:

22 **claims addressed in the Order issued by Judge McNamee, filed on December 1,**
23 **2005**, which arise from the eviction proceedings against Plaintiffs and related justice
24 court rulings and the bankruptcy court rulings lifting the bankruptcy stays to allow the
25 eviction proceedings to go forward against the Plaintiffs, resulting in the eviction of
26 Plaintiffs and ultimate sale of alleged business and personal property. As Judge
27 McNamee noted, the propriety of these courts’ rulings is not before this Court because
28 Plaintiffs failed to timely appeal them.

26 Id. at 20, n.1 (emphasis added). The Court further held that should the Stones attempt to re-
27 litigate the Albertsons and Harding claims in federal court, a blanket vexatious litigant order
28 would be issued against them.

1 **D. CV 06-1324-PHX-NVW (ECV)**

2 Directly contravening Judge Bury’s order, on May 15, 2006, John Stone filed suit in
3 federal district court against Kent Harding, Kristina Harding, Scott M. Clark, Paul K.
4 Henderson, Thomas Stewart, Lex Anderson, Steve Kemp, and Ron Meyer—all Defendants
5 in the instant case—for various claims related to the forcible detainer and writ of restitution.
6 See CV 06-1324, Dkt.# 1. The claims contained therein were virtually identical to those
7 addressed by Judge McNamee in the December 1, 2005 Order. Id. at 8-10.

8 On October 23, 2006, Judge Wake denied Stone’s request to proceed *In Forma*
9 *Pauperis* on the grounds that Stone, although representing to the Court that he was “subject
10 to house arrest . . . [and had] no other source of income since his incarceration and [was]
11 unable to pay the filing fees,” had also recently posted a secured appearance bond for \$2,500.
12 CV 06-1324, Dkt.# 6, p. 2. The Court further ordered that if Plaintiff chose to pay the filing
13 fee and proceed with his claim, he must “show good cause why this action should not be
14 summarily dismissed for failure to comply with the vexatious litigant order against him.” Id.
15 at. 6. Thereafter, Plaintiff missed the deadline to file an amended complaint and did not
16 appeal the Court’s Order.

17 **E. State Court Litigation**

18 On March 2, 2006, the Stones filed a state court action against Kent Harding, Kristina
19 Harding, the Law Offices of Scott M. Clark, Paul K. Henderson, Jane and/or John Does 1-
20 100, in Maricopa County Superior Court, CV2006-050748. The claims brought against the
21 defendants involved the same events adjudicated in federal district court in CV
22 05-2626-PHX-DCB. (Dkt.# 11 Exhibit 1). The case unsurprisingly ended when the
23 Maricopa Superior Court granted summary judgment against the Stones on September 27,
24 2007. (Dkt.# 16 Exhibit 1.) The legal argument presented by the defendants in their motion
25 for summary judgment was res judicata, predicated on the previous federal court ruling.
26 (Dkt.# 11 Exhibit 1).

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1 **II. The Instant Case**

2 Following the grant of summary judgment by Maricopa County Superior Court, the
3 Stones filed this current suit, CV 07-1801-PHX-MHM. An Amended Complaint was lodged
4 in Arizona state court on September 10, 2007 and Defendants removed the case to federal
5 court, where it currently sits. (Dkt.# 1). The Amended Complaint includes more or less all
6 of the same defendants named throughout the Harding litigation, plus the Honorable Robert
7 C. Houser, who granted summary judgment against the Stones in the above mentioned state
8 suit, and Joseph M. Boyle, who represented Harding, Henderson and Clark in that same
9 action. Moreover, the factual underpinnings of the suit concern the forcible detainer and the
10 writ of restitution—again, these claims arise from the same cause of action dealt with by the
11 bankruptcy court, this Court in CV 05-2626 and CV 06-1324, and Maricopa County Superior
12 Court in CV2006-050748.

13 As for specific allegations made against the Defendants, the Amended Complaint
14 reads as follows: **(1)** Kent and Kristina Harding are being sued for acts related to their rental
15 agreement with the Stones and subsequent forcible detainer and writ of restitution; **(2)** Scott
16 M. Clark and the Law Offices of Scott M. Clark are being sued for participating in the writ
17 of restitution order issued against the Stones; **(3)** Paul Henderson has been named for the
18 same reasons; **(4)** Bill Howard, bda, Two Men in a Truck Moving Company, is being sued
19 for transporting stolen property, by aiding the Harding’s in moving the Stones’ personal
20 property; **(5)** Maricopa County and the City of Peoria are being sued for failing to investigate
21 various contentions made by the Stones relating to the forcible detainer and writ of restitution
22 actions; **(6)** Lex Anderson for issuing the writ of restitution; **(7)** Ron Meyer, who as constable
23 executed the writ of restitution against the Stones; **(8)** John Keegan for failing to act upon
24 alleged wrongdoing concerning the writ of restitution while Mayor of Peoria; **(9)** David
25 Leonardo for actions that were similarly not taken while Chief of Police; **(10)** Michael Self
26 and Thomas Steward on similar grounds, while working as Detectives for the Peoria Police
27 Department. (Amended Complaint, Dkt.# 1, Exhibit Set 2).

28

1 In light of the background surrounding Plaintiff's instant litigation, the named
2 Defendants have filed motions to dismiss based on res judicata, collateral estoppel, absolute
3 judicial immunity, qualified immunity and failure to state a claim. (Dkt.# 6, 11, 16, 21).
4 Rather than re-hash to Plaintiffs in yet another written Order why each of the claims
5 contained in their Amended Complaint should be properly dismissed, this Court will refer
6 Plaintiffs back to Judge Bury's Order in CV 05-2626, dated December 20, 2005, and Judge
7 McNamee's Order in the same case, dated December 1, 2005. The Court will not waste any
8 more of its energy or time repeating itself. All claims contained in Plaintiff's Amended
9 Complaint, raised against each and every Defendant, are barred on the grounds of either res
10 judicata or collateral estoppel. Montana v. United States, 440 U.S. 147, 153 (1979)
11 (discussing res judicata); Hinkle Northwest, Inc. v. S.E.C., 641 F.2d 1304, 1308 (9th Cir.
12 1981) (discussing collateral estoppel).

13 As to Defendants Hardings, Anderson, Clark, Law Offices of Scott M. Clark, and
14 Henderson, the doctrine of res judicata forces dismissal, since there have been final
15 judgements on the merits against the Stones in lawsuits involving the same transactions and
16 occurrences with these same Defendants in state and federal court. In re Enewally, 368 F.3d
17 1165, 1172 (9th Cir. 2004). The rules of claim preclusion under both Arizona and federal law
18 prevent re-litigation here. Id.; In re General Adjudication of All Rights to Use Water in
19 Gila River, 127 P.3d. 882 (Ariz. 2006). For the remaining Defendants, the doctrine of non-
20 mutual defensive collateral estoppel precludes the Stones from raising issues that they
21 previously have had a full and fair opportunity to present in both state and federal court, and
22 that were actually litigated, necessarily determined and final in the cases CV 05-2626 (D.
23 Ariz.) and CV2006-050748 (Maricopa County Superior Court). Masson v. New Yorker
24 Magazine, Inc., 85 F.3d 1394, 1400 (9th Cir. 1996) ("Defensive collateral estoppel applies
25 when a defendant seeks to prevent a plaintiff from asserting a claim the plaintiff has
26 previously litigated and lost against another defendant.").

27 Because recovery in the instant case is precluded under any construction of law or
28 fact, the Stone's Amended Complaint does not state a claim upon which relief can be

1 granted, and the Court finds their claims both legally and factually frivolous. See Neitzke
2 v. Williams, 490 U.S. 319, 325 (1989); 12(b)(6) Fed. R. Civ. P. Given the Stones' history
3 of filing and re-filing the same claims against the same defendants involving the same two
4 fact patterns, and their continued use in bad faith of federal bankruptcy court to foil the
5 enforcement of otherwise valid state court judgments, the Court will now consider the
6 appropriateness of a vexatious litigant order. Such an order would permanently enjoin
7 Plaintiffs from filing future similar cases in the United States District Court for the District
8 of Arizona absent pre-filing review.

9 **A. Motion to Declare Stones Vexatious Litigants**

10 On November 13, 2007, Defendant's Clark, the Hardings, Henderson, Boyle, Law
11 Offices of Scott M. Clark moved the Court to re-affirm the vexatious litigant Order that had
12 been threatened should the Plaintiffs attempt to re-file claims related to the forcible detainer
13 and writ of restitution in federal court. (Dkt.# 28).

14 This Court may, under the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), utilize its inherent
15 authority to issue an order enjoining litigants from filing any further actions or papers in the
16 district court without first obtaining leave to do so. Molski v. Evergreen Dynasty Corp., 500
17 F.3d 1047,1057 (9th Cir. 2007); United States v. New York Tel. Co., 434 U.S.159, 171-73
18 (1977); Parker v. Kitzhaber, 2000 WL 776646 at *6 (Ore. April 21, 2000). The Ninth Circuit
19 has instructed lower courts to avoid "undue haste" when issuing such orders, since litigants
20 have a due process right of access to use the courts. Molski, 500 F.3d at 1057 (quoting
21 Logan v. Zimmerman, 455 U.S. 422, 429 (1982) ("the Supreme Court traditionally has held
22 that the Due Process Clauses protect civil litigants who seek recourse in the courts, either as
23 defendants hoping to protect property or as plaintiffs attempting to redress grievances.")
24 (internal quotations omitted)). Yet, when litigants flagrantly abuse the judicial process by
25 "preempting the use of judicial time that properly could be used to consider the meritorious
26 claims of other litigants," such action "cannot be tolerated." Id. (quoting DeLong v.
27 Hennessey, 912 F.2d 1144, 1146-49 (9th Cir. 1990) (internal quotations omitted)).

1 To this end, the Ninth Circuit has adopted four factors that are to be used when a court
2 considers the appropriateness of a pre-filing injunction against a vexatious litigant. DeLong,
3 920 F.2d at 1147-48. First, a litigant must be given notice and a chance to be heard before
4 the order is entered. Id. Second, the district must “compile an adequate record for review.”
5 Id. Third, the district court must make substantive findings regarding the frivolous or
6 harassing nature of the parties litigation. Fourth, any vexatious litigant order issued must be
7 “narrowly tailored to closely fit the specific vice encountered.” Id. In addition, the court has
8 instructed that pre-filing orders should rarely be imposed on *pro se* litigants. Id. (citing
9 Pavilonis v. King, 626 F.2d 1075, 1079 (1st Cir. 1980)).

10 After considering the relevant DeLong factors, the Court finds that a vexatious litigant
11 order is appropriate under the circumstances of the instant case. As discussed in the
12 background section of this Order, the Stones have a long history of filing abusive and
13 harassing lawsuits against these defendants. The suits have ended with judgments against
14 Plaintiffs on the merits, and multiple courts have explained to Plaintiffs why principals of
15 claim and issue preclusion and judicial immunity prevent any further litigation. Yet, the
16 Stones only respond to these courtroom defeats with more lawsuits. When, in turn, the next
17 lawsuit has been thrown out of court, Plaintiffs file suit again hoping that the newest lawsuit
18 will finally bring relief that the others have denied. This is a cycle of litigation that must
19 come to an end.

20 Plaintiffs have been repeatedly warned by this and other Courts regarding the potential
21 consequences of filing any more frivolous lawsuits in federal court. Indeed, in CV 05-2625,
22 Plaintiffs were subject to sanctions by this Court under Rule 11 Fed. R. Civ. P. for bringing
23 these and other related harassing claims. In that case, Judge Bury warned the Stones that a
24 vexatious litigant order would issue if they could not self- regulate their use of the federal
25 courts. The Court also ordered the Stones to forebear from bringing any more lawsuits that
26 are factually related to the underlying merits, or the prosecution of, the Albertsons or Harding
27 disputes. Yet, by filing CV 06-1324, the Stones flagrantly disregarded Judge Bury’s order.
28 After previous federal district court— in CV 06-1324— threatened John Stone with an order

1 to show cause why he was not in violation of the December 2005 Order, he took a voluntary
2 dismissal to go litigate in Arizona state court, where the Stones, filing as joint plaintiffs, lost
3 at summary judgement. Even after the latest defeat, Plaintiffs filed the instant suit in state
4 court. The instant case essentially differs from CV 05-2626, CV 06-1324, and the state filing
5 in CV CV2006-050748, only in that it names the Harding's latest attorney and the presiding
6 judge, as defendants. The claims are otherwise identical. In fact, this Court's docket is
7 replete with filings by the Stones that essentially ask this Court to re-litigate the merits of the
8 forcible detainer, the writ of restitution and the bankruptcy order issued on September 6,
9 2005 that lifted the automatic stay. Furthermore, because Plaintiffs chose to take a voluntary
10 dismissal in CV 06-1324 only after the Court raised the specter of a vexatious litigant order,
11 and then litigated those same issues two more times, this Court is left with no other
12 conclusion than that the instant case was brought in bad faith and with the sole purpose of
13 harassing Defendants.

14 The fact that the instant case arrived at federal court by virtue of the Defendant's
15 removing the case from state court is unavailing. It is not relevant that Plaintiffs did not
16 chose the federal forum in which to litigate. Plaintiffs have been provided more than
17 adequate notice that filing this suit in any forum was vexatious and unjustified. Judge Bury
18 so warned them in the December 2005 Order. Plaintiffs refusal to abide by court orders and
19 their obvious lack of respect for final judgments has left this Court with no alternative but
20 to prevent the Stones from pursuing similar claims in this District.

21 **III. Conclusion**

22 Plaintiffs are vexatious litigants. They have placed a undue burden on this Court's
23 resources by continuing to force it to address claims that were previously and conclusively
24 decided by other courts. Under the guise of vindicating their federal rights, Plaintiffs have
25 repeatedly harassed Kent and Kristina Harding, their counsel, and all those who have
26 stumbled into this protracted litigation. Although there exists adequate cause to issue a
27 **blanket** vexatious litigant order to prevent the Stones from bringing any additional lawsuits
28 without pre-filing review, the Court is hesitant to pursue such a drastic course of action. At

1 the same time, all those who have been the targets of Plaintiffs' bad faith prosecutions must
2 be free from future action.

3 **Accordingly,**

4 **IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** dismissing with prejudice Plaintiffs' Amended
5 Complaint as violating this Court's Order, dated December 20, 2005 in the case Stone, et al.
6 v. Baum, et al., CV 05-2626-PHX-DC. (Dkt.#1),

7 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** granting Defendant's Motions to Dismiss and
8 dismissing every named Defendant from this suit. (Dkt.# 6);(Dkt # 11); (Dkt.# 16); (Dkt.#
9 21). The Court finds that each claim raised by Plaintiffs in their Amended Complaint is
10 barred on the grounds of res judicata or collateral estoppel.

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** granting Defendants Clark, Henderson, Harding,
12 Boyle's Motion to Reaffirm the Vexatious Litigant Order of Judge Bury. (Dkt.# 28).

13 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** denying all Motions filed by Plaintiffs. (Dkt.## 13,
14 24, 25, 33, 47, 50, 55, 59, 61, 62).

15 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that Plaintiffs John Stone and Shirley Stone are
16 hereby declared vexatious litigants.

17 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that John and Shirley Stone are enjoined from filing
18 any further actions or lawsuits in this District without first obtaining leave of the Court,
19 including cases originally filed in Arizona State Court that have been properly removed to
20 federal court. This pre-filing injunction is limited to claims or allegations based upon
21 Plaintiffs' dispute with Kent and Kristina Harding over a residential lease agreement,
22 forcible detainer action, and writ of restitution order. This pre-filing injunction also extends
23 to claims related to Plaintiffs' subsequent and unsuccessful lawsuits before Maricopa County
24 Superior Court, United States District Court of Arizona and United States Bankruptcy Court.

25 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that this pre-filing injunction also prevents John and
26 Shirley Stone from brining suit against Kent Harding, Kristina Harding, Lex Anderson, Scott
27 M. Clark, Paul K. Henderson, Joseph M. Boyle, and Law Offices of Scott M. Clark, on any
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1 cause of action in the District of Arizona, including cases originally filed in Arizona State
2 Court that have been properly removed to federal court, without leave of the Court.

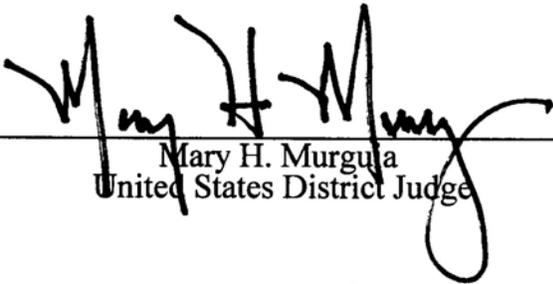
3 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that in order to obtain leave of the Court, Plaintiffs
4 shall submit with their moving papers, a copy of this Order and an affidavit stating that the
5 claims have not been previously addressed and are not frivolous or lacking merit. Failure to
6 comply with the Court's Order will constitute sufficient grounds to deny Plaintiffs' request
7 for leave and to dismiss Plaintiffs' suit.

8 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk provide a copy of this Order to the
9 judges of the United States District Court for the District of Arizona and the Honorable
10 James M. Marlar, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Arizona.

11 **IT IS FURTHER ORDERED** that the Clerk enter judgment accordingly.

12 DATED this 29th day of September, 2008.

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Mary H. Murgula
United States District Judge