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 8 Attorneys for Defendants  
 9 Xcentric Ventures, LLC and  
 10 Edward Magedson

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 12 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
 13 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

14 **ASIA ECONOMIC INSTITUTE, LLC, et al.,**

Case No: 2:10-cv-01360-SVW-PJW

15 **Plaintiffs,**

**DEFENDANTS' INITIAL RULE 26  
 DISCLOSURES**

16 **vs.**

17 **XCENTRIC VENTURES, LLC, et al.,**

18 **Defendants.**

19 Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A), Defendants Xcentric Ventures, LLC and  
 20 Edward Magedson submit the following initial disclosures:

21 **I. WITNESSES**

- 22 • Edward Magedson; c/o Gingras Law Office, PLLC, 4072 E. Mountain Vista  
 23 Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85048; (480) 668-3623. Mr. Magedson will testify regarding  
 24 communications with Plaintiffs. Mr. Magedson will also testify regarding the  
 25 Ripoff Report Corporate Advocacy Program.
- 26 • Amy Thompson; c/o Gingras Law Office, PLLC, 4072 E. Mountain Vista Dr.,  
 27 Phoenix, AZ 85048; (480) 668-3623. Ms. Thompson is a content monitor  
 28 employed by Xcentric. Ms. Thompson will testify regarding the reports at  
 issue in this case.

**DEFENDANTS' INITIAL DISCLOSURES**

CV10-01360 SVW

GINGRAS LAW OFFICE, PLLC  
 4072 E. MOUNTAIN VISTA DRIVE  
 PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85048

- Ben Smith; c/o Gingras Law Office, PLLC, 4072 E. Mountain Vista Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85048; (480) 668-3623. Mr. Smith is an information technology consultant to Xcentric. Mr. Smith will testify regarding the design and operation of the Ripoff Report website, the creation and use of meta tags, and the manner in which individual reports are created.
- Raymond Mobrez; c/o Asia Economic Institute, LLC, 11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 260, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Mr. Mobrez will testify regarding communications with Defendants. Mr. Mobrez is also expected to testify regarding the Ripoff Report Corporate Advocacy Program.
- Any witness(es) listed or called by Plaintiffs

## II. DOCUMENTS

- All documents attached to Plaintiffs' Complaint
- Affidavit of Raymond Mobrez dated March 29, 2010
- All documents attached to Affidavit of Ed Magedson dated March 22, 2010
- Additional documents to be determined

## III. DAMAGES

N/A

## IV. INSURANCE

None.

DATED this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2010.

**GINGRAS LAW OFFICE, PLLC**  
/S/ David S. Gingras  
David S. Gingras  
Attorneys for Edward Magedson and  
Xcentric Ventures, LLC

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on April 21, 2010 I emailed the original of the foregoing to:

Mr. Daniel F. Blackert, Esq.  
Asia Economic Institute  
11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 260  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

/s/David S. Gingras

GINGRAS LAW OFFICE, PLLC  
4072 EAST MOUNTAIN VISTA DRIVE  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85048



Lisa Borodkin &lt;lborodkin@gmail.com&gt;

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## Important =Meet and Confer - AEI v. Xcentric

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Raymond &lt;raymond@asiaecon.org&gt;

Wed, Apr 21, 2010 at 3:11 PM

Reply-To: raymond@asiaecon.org

To: Lisa Borodkin &lt;lborodkin@gmail.com&gt;, Lisa Borodkin &lt;lisa\_borodkin@post.harvard.edu&gt;

**FYI****Important****From:** "David Gingras" <david@ripoffreport.com>**Date:** Wed, 21 Apr 2010 14:43:38 -0700**To:** 'Daniel Blackert' <blackertesq@yahoo.com>**Cc:** 'Maria Crimi Speth' <mcs@jaburgwilk.com>**Subject:** RE: Meet and Confer - AEI v. Xcentric

Dan,

Thanks, but we don't need to meet and confer re: Rule 26(a) disclosures; these are simply done by both sides as a matter of course without any need to meet and confer. Our initial disclosures are attached and we will supplement them as time goes by.

We do, however, need to meet and confer re: a Rule 26(f)(3) discovery plan. Since you represent the plaintiff, it is customary for you to create the first draft of the plan, but since I already had some notes on this, I went ahead and added my comments. Below are the areas that need to be covered (this comes right out of Rule 26(f)(3)).

Why don't you review this stuff and add your clients' position where appropriate and then we can meet and confer on the phone to discuss anything that needs discussion. April 27<sup>th</sup> is actually no good for me unless you want to meet and confer before 11am or after 3pm. Also, my suggestion is that we meet and confer sooner – even later today, tomorrow, or Friday. This process shouldn't take very long, so there's no reason to put it off for a week or longer.

Also, FYI – as noted in my comments to the plan, I would like to propose that given the expedited schedule, we agree to answer discovery faster than the usual 30 days. For my part, I can probably turn around any number of reasonable roogs or RFPs within about 5 business days or less, though I am okay with agreeing to use 10 calendar days for both sides. Of course, if any requests are particularly lengthy, we could agree to a reasonable extension of time (maybe 5 additional calendar days) when appropriate, but allowing 30 full days for responses to simple requests makes no sense given the short time available.

Finally, please let me know what dates your clients are available for deposition. In that regard, I think we need to discuss how much time will be needed for each depo and whether we should agree to bifurcate the depositions in the same manner as the trial. FYI – in Arizona, depositions are normally limited by rule to no more than 4 hours. Although we get 7 hours in federal cases, I normally like to go very, very quickly and complete my depositions in as little time as possible. In this case, however, I don't think it makes sense to require me to complete the depo of every possible issue since the trial won't cover a substantial number of issues. Thus, I suggest that we simply agree that both sides can divide the 7 hour time between two dates if they want to do so. This would help me to conduct a quick depo of your clients as needed for the issues to be tried in August, and then if the case continues beyond then, I would complete their depositions on other issues at a later time.

Anyway, talk to your clients about these points and let me know what you think.

**(A) what changes should be made in the timing, form, or requirement for disclosures under Rule 26(a), including a statement of when initial disclosures were made or will be made;**

Plaintiffs' Position:

Defendants' Position:

Defendants served their initial disclosures on April 21, 2010. Defendants will supplement as necessary.

**(B) the subjects on which discovery may be needed, when discovery should be completed, and whether discovery should be conducted in phases or be limited to or focused on particular issues;**

Plaintiffs' Position:

Defendants' Position:

Based on the court's order bifurcating this matter, Defendants believe that discovery should be initially focused on the matters set for trial in August. However, unless the court enters an order staying discovery as to any other matters or unless Plaintiffs agree to a stay, Defendants intend to pursue discovery as to each issue in the case.

Based on experience and assuming no stay, Defendants intend to pursue discovery as to each of the following areas:

- Any facts giving rise to Plaintiffs' claims;
- Any facts relating to Plaintiffs' damages;
- Evidence relating to the truth or substantial truth of the statements at issue;
- Evidence relating to Plaintiffs' credibility.

**(C) any issues about disclosure or discovery of electronically stored information, including the form or forms in which it should be produced;**

Plaintiffs' Position:

Defendants' Position:

N/A

**(D) any issues about claims of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation materials, including — if the parties agree on a procedure to assert these claims after production — whether to ask the court to include their agreement in an order;**

Plaintiffs' Position:

Defendants' Position:

In the event Plaintiffs wish to obtain discovery of information that may lead to the identity of the author(s) of the postings at issue in this case, Defendants note this information is subject to First Amendment privilege. See *Mobilisa v. Doe*, 217 Ariz. 103 (App. 2007); *UMG Recordings, Inc. v. Does 1–4*, 2006 WL 1343597, \*2 (N.D.Cal. 2006). As such, Defendants will not produce any such privileged information absent compliance with the standards set forth in *Mobilisa v. Doe* and related cases.

**(E) what changes should be made in the limitations on discovery imposed under these rules or by local rule, and what other limitations should be imposed; and**

Plaintiffs' Position:

Defendants' Position:

Defendants request that the parties agree to expedited discovery responses (10 days from date of service with short reasonable extensions if necessary) for all requests under Rules 33, 34 and/or 36.

**(F) any other orders that the court should issue under Rule 26(c) or under [Rule 16\(b\)](#) and [\(c\)](#).**

Plaintiffs' Position:

Defendants' Position:

To the extent Plaintiffs intend to seek discovery relating to Defendants' financial condition, such information is subject to the protections of Cal. Civ. Code § 3295(c); *see also Jabro v. Superior Court*, 95 Cal.App.4<sup>th</sup> 754, 115 Cal.Rptr.2d 843 (4<sup>th</sup> DCA 2002) (providing plaintiff who seeks punitive damages is prohibited from seeking discovery of defendant's financial condition absent showing of substantial probability that plaintiff will prevail on claim); *see also Larriva v. Montiel*, 143 Ariz. 23 (App. 1984) (setting even higher standard under Arizona law). As such, although a protective order is not strictly required under Rule 26(c) (because § 3295(c) expressly prohibits such discovery without an order granting leave), Defendants may nevertheless move for an order under Rule 26(c) in the event plaintiffs request discovery of financial evidence without leave of court.

David Gingras, Esq.

General Counsel

Xcentric Ventures, LLC

<http://www.ripoffreport.com/>

[David@RipoffReport.com](mailto:David@RipoffReport.com)

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**From:** Daniel Blackert [<mailto:blackertesq@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 21, 2010 11:07 AM

**To:** david gingras

**Cc:** [KRISTI.JAHNKE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KRISTI.JAHNKE@GMAIL.COM); alex z

**Subject:** Meet and Confer

David,

Per the Court's ORDER on the record at the Hearing on April 19, 2010, are you available at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday April 27, 2010, to meet and confer regarding initial disclosures on the topics covered in FRCP 26(a)(1)(a)? We can do this via telephone.

Here is a copy of the Rule:

**(a) Required Disclosures.**

(1) Initial Disclosures.

(A) *In General*. Except as exempted by Rule 26(a)(1)(B) or as otherwise stipulated or ordered by the court, a party must, without awaiting a discovery request, provide to the other parties:

(i) the name and, if known, the address and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information — along with the subjects of that information — that the disclosing party may use to support its claims or defenses, unless the use would be solely for impeachment;

(ii) a copy — or a description by category and location — of all documents, electronically stored information, and tangible things that the disclosing party has in its possession, custody, or control and may use to support its claims or defenses, unless the use would be solely for impeachment;

(iii) a computation of each category of damages claimed by the disclosing party — who must also make available for inspection and copying as under [Rule 34](#) the documents or other evidentiary material, unless privileged or protected from disclosure, on which each computation is based, including materials bearing on the nature and extent of injuries suffered; and

(iv) for inspection and copying as under [Rule 34](#), any insurance agreement under which an insurance business may be liable to satisfy all or part of a possible judgment in the action or to indemnify or reimburse for payments made to satisfy the judgment.

If this works for you, then please confirm it. If this does not work, then please propose an alternate time and date within the next 3 days.

Thank you.

DANIEL F. BLACKERT, ESQ.,

**Asia Economic Institute**

11766 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 260

Los Angeles, CA 90025

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Facsimile (310) 826-4448

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[Blackertesq@yahoo.com](mailto:Blackertesq@yahoo.com)

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 **AEI v. Xcentric - Defendants' Initial Disclosures.pdf**  
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