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12 LVNV Funding, LLC, Nations Recovery  
13 Center, Inc., and The Law Offices of Robert  
14 J. Colclough, III

15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
16 CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

17 **MONIR MIRSHAFIEI,**

18 Plaintiff,

19 vs.

20 **LVNV FUNDING, LLC; NATIONS  
21 RECOVERY CENTER, INC.; AND  
22 THE LAW OFFICES OF ROBERT J.  
23 COLCLOUGH, III**

24 Defendants.

Lead Case No.: 8:16-cv-01415-AG-DFM  
Consol with 8:17-cv-00175-AG-DFM

**STIPULATED [~~PROPOSED~~]  
PROTECTIVE ORDER  
GOVERNING CONFIDENTIAL  
TREATMENT OF CERTAIN  
DISCOVERY**

Complaint Filed: July 29, 2016

Honorable Andrew J. Guilford

1 Plaintiff Monir Mirshafiei (“Plaintiff”) and Defendants LVNV Funding, LLC  
2 (“LVNV”); Nations Recovery Center, Inc. (“NRCI”); and The Law Offices of Robert  
3 J. Colclough, III (“Colclough”) (collectively, “Defendants”), by and through their  
4 respective counsel of record in this case, hereby submit this stipulated proposed  
5 protective order and request entry thereof.

6  
7 **I. PURPOSE AND LIMITATIONS**

8 **A. PURPOSE**

9 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential,  
10 proprietary or private information for which special protection from public disclosure  
11 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.  
12 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the  
13 following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does  
14 not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the  
15 protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited  
16 information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable  
17 legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 2.K.3, below,  
18 that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential  
19 information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the procedures that must be  
20 followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from  
21 the court to file material under seal.

22 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

23 This action is likely to involve the production of confidential business or  
24 financial information, including personal financial information regarding an  
25 individual’s financial transactions or financial accounts, and other information which  
26 is otherwise not available to the public, for which special protection from public  
27 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecution of this action is  
28 warranted. Such confidential and proprietary materials and information consist of,

1 among other things, confidential business or financial information, information  
2 regarding confidential business practices, including information implicating the  
3 privacy rights of an individual, information otherwise generally unavailable to the  
4 public, or which may be privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state  
5 or federal statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. Accordingly, to  
6 expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over  
7 confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately protect information the parties are  
8 entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the parties are permitted reasonable  
9 necessary uses of such material in preparation for and in the conduct of trial, to  
10 address their handling at the end of the litigation, and serve the ends of justice, a  
11 protective order for such information is justified in this matter. It is the intent of the  
12 parties that information will not be designated as confidential for tactical reasons and  
13 that nothing be so designated without a good faith belief that it has been maintained in  
14 a confidential, non-public manner, and there is good cause why it should not be part of  
15 the public record of this case.

## 16 **II. TERMS OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

### 17 **A. DEFINITIONS**

18 1. **Action:** the above-captioned lawsuit entitled *Monir Mirshafiei v.*  
19 *LVNV Funding, et al.*, Lead Case No. 8:16-cv-01415-AG-DFM; Consol. With 8:17-  
20 cv-00175-AG-DFM.

21 2. **Challenging Party:** a Party or Non-Party that challenges the  
22 designation of information or items under this Order.

23 3. **“CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items:** Information  
24 (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify  
25 for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in  
26 the Good Cause Statement.

27 4. **Counsel:** Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well  
28 as their support staff).

1           5.     **Designating Party:** a Party or Non-Party that designates  
2 information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as  
3 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

4           6.     **Disclosure or Discovery Material:** all items or information,  
5 regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained  
6 (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are  
7 produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

8           7.     **Expert:** a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a  
9 matter pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to  
10 serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

11          8.     **House Counsel:** attorneys who are employees of a party to this  
12 Action. House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other  
13 outside counsel.

14          9.     **Non-Party:** any natural person, partnership, corporation,  
15 association or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

16          10.    **Outside Counsel of Record:** attorneys who are not employees of  
17 a party to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and  
18 have appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm  
19 that has appeared on behalf of that party, and includes support staff.

20          11.    **Party:** any party to this Action, including all of its officers,  
21 directors, employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record  
22 (and their support staffs).

23          12.    **Producing Party:** a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure  
24 or Discovery Material in this Action.

25          13.    **Professional Vendors:** persons or entities that provide litigation  
26 support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or  
27 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)  
28 and their employees and subcontractors.

1           14.    **Protected Material:** any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is  
2 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

3           15.    **Receiving Party:** a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery  
4 Material from a Producing Party.

5           **B.    SCOPE**

6           The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only  
7 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted  
8 from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of  
9 Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties  
10 or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

11          Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the trial  
12 judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

13          **C.    DURATION**

14          Once a case proceeds to trial, information that was designated as  
15 CONFIDENTIAL or maintained pursuant to this protective order used or introduced  
16 as an exhibit at trial becomes public and will be presumptively available to all  
17 members of the public, including the press, unless compelling reasons supported by  
18 specific factual findings to proceed otherwise are made to the trial judge in advance of  
19 the trial. *See Kamakana v. City & Cty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1180-81 (9th Cir.  
20 2006) (distinguishing “good cause” showing for sealing documents produced in  
21 discovery from “compelling reasons” standard when merits-related documents are part  
22 of court record). Accordingly, the terms of this protective order do not extend beyond  
23 the commencement of the trial, with two exceptions:

24           1.    Any information designated as CONFIDENTIAL that is not used  
25 or introduced as an exhibit at trial shall remain protected under this Order and be  
26 subject to final disposition as set forth under Section II.L.

27           2.    Should resolution be reached prior to a trial, the terms of the  
28 protective order extend up to final disposition of the Action.

1           **D.     DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL**

2           1.     **Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for**  
3 **Protection.** Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for  
4 protection under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific  
5 material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must  
6 designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items or oral or  
7 written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material, documents,  
8 items or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept  
9 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

10           Mass, indiscriminate or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations  
11 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper  
12 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to impose  
13 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Designating Party  
14 to sanctions, including the Court’s striking all confidentiality designations made by  
15 that designator. Designation under this Order is allowed only if the designation is  
16 necessary to protect material that, if disclosed to persons not authorized to view it,  
17 would cause, among other things, competitive or other recognized harm, or harm to an  
18 individual’s privacy interests. Material may not be designated if it has been made  
19 public.

20           If it comes to a Designating Party’s attention that information or items that it  
21 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, and the Designating Party  
22 agrees or the Court orders otherwise, that Designating Party must promptly notify all  
23 other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

1                   2.     **Manner and Timing of Designations.** Except as otherwise  
2 provided in this Order (see, e.g., Section II.D.2(a)(1), below), or as otherwise  
3 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection  
4 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or  
5 produced. Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

6                   a.     for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or  
7 electronic documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial  
8 proceedings), that the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend  
9 “CONFIDENTIAL” (hereinafter “CONFIDENTIAL legend”), to each page that  
10 contains protected material. If only a portion of the material on a page qualifies for  
11 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)  
12 (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

13                   1)     A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents  
14 available for inspection need not designate them for protection until after the  
15 inspecting Party has indicated which documents it would like copied and produced.  
16 During the inspection and before the designation, all of the material made available  
17 for inspection shall be deemed “CONFIDENTIAL.” After the inspecting Party has  
18 identified the documents it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must  
19 determine which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this  
20 Order. Then, before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must  
21 affix the “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If  
22 only a portion of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing Party  
23 also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate  
24 markings in the margins).

25                   b.     for testimony given in depositions that the Designating Party  
26 identifies the Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the  
27 deposition all protected testimony. In the alternative, the Designating Party may  
28 designate the entirety of the testimony given at the deposition, as well as exhibits, as

1 “CONFIDENTIAL” prior to conclusion of the deposition with the right to identify  
2 more specific portions of the testimony as to which protection is sought within 21  
3 days following receipt of the deposition transcript. Where portions of the testimony  
4 are designated for protection, the transcript pages containing Disclosure or Discovery  
5 Material may be separately bound by the court reporter with the legend  
6 “CONFIDENTIAL” at the top of each such page.

7 c. for information produced in some form other than  
8 documentary and for any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a  
9 prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information  
10 is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the  
11 information warrants protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall  
12 identify the protected portion(s).

13 3. **Inadvertent Failures to Designate.** If timely corrected, an  
14 inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing  
15 alone, waive the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for  
16 such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must  
17 make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the  
18 provisions of this Order.

19 **E. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS**

20 1. **Timing of Challenges.** Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a  
21 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s  
22 Scheduling Order.

23 2. **Meet and Confer.** The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute  
24 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 *et seq.*

25 3. **Joint Stipulation.** Any challenge submitted to the Court shall be  
26 via a joint stipulation pursuant to Local Rule 37.2.

27 4. The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall  
28 be on the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper

1 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties)  
2 may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has  
3 waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall continue to  
4 afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the  
5 Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the challenge.

6 **F. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

7 1. **Basic Principles.** A Receiving Party may use Protected Material  
8 that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with  
9 this Action only for prosecuting, defending or attempting to settle this Action.

10 a. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the  
11 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order.

12 b. When the Action has been terminated, a Receiving Party  
13 must comply with the provisions of Section II.L below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

14 c. Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a  
15 Receiving Party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited  
16 to the persons authorized under this Order.

17 2. **Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items.**

18 Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating  
19 Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated  
20 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

21 a. the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this  
22 Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is  
23 reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

24 b. the officers, directors, and employees (including House  
25 Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this  
26 Action;

27 c. Experts (as defined in this Order) of any Party to whom  
28 disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the

1 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

2 d. the court and its personnel;

3 e. court reporters and its personnel;

4 f. professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and

5 Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and  
6 who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

7 g. the author or recipient of a document containing the  
8 information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the  
9 information;

10 h. during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for  
11 witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the  
12 deposing party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto;  
13 and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they  
14 sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless  
15 otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of  
16 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected  
17 Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to  
18 anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

19 i. any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting  
20 personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement  
21 discussions.

22 **G. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED**  
23 **PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION**

24 1. If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other  
25 litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this  
26 Action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

27 a. promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such  
28 notification shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

1                   b.     promptly notify in writing the party who caused the  
2 subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material  
3 covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification  
4 shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

5                   c.     cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to  
6 be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

7                   2.     If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party  
8 served with the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated  
9 in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which  
10 the subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s  
11 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking  
12 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions  
13 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action to  
14 disobey a lawful directive from another court.

15                   **H.     A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE**  
16                   **PRODUCED IN THIS LITIGATION**

17                   1.     The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by  
18 a Non-Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information  
19 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the  
20 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be  
21 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

22                   2.     In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request,  
23 to produce a Non-Party’s confidential information in its possession, and the Party is  
24 subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party’s  
25 confidential information, then the Party shall:

26                   a.     promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the  
27 Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality  
28 agreement with a Non-Party;

1                   b.     promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the  
2 Stipulated Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a  
3 reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

4                   c.     make the information requested available for inspection by  
5 the Non-Party, if requested.

6                   3.     If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court  
7 within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving  
8 Party may produce the Non-Party’s confidential information responsive to the  
9 discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving  
10 Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to  
11 the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court.  
12 Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense  
13 of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

14                   **I.     UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL**

15                   If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed  
16 Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this  
17 Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in  
18 writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts  
19 to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or  
20 persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order,  
21 and (d) request such person or persons to execute the “Acknowledgment and  
22 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

23                   **J.     INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR**  
24                   **OTHERWISE PROTECTED MATERIAL**

25                   When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain  
26 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection,  
27 the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil  
28 Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure

1 may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior  
2 privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the  
3 parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a communication or  
4 information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection, the  
5 parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order submitted to  
6 the court.

7 **K. MISCELLANEOUS**

8 1. **Right to Further Relief.** Nothing in this Order abridges the right  
9 of any person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

10 2. **Right to Assert Other Objections.** By stipulating to the entry of  
11 this Protective Order, no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to  
12 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground. Similarly, no Party  
13 waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material  
14 covered by this Protective Order.

15 3. **Filing Protected Material Under Seal.** A Party that seeks to file  
16 under seal any Protected Material must comply with Local Civil Rule 79-5. Protected  
17 Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing  
18 of the specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected  
19 Material under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the  
20 information in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

21 **L. FINAL DISPOSITION**

22 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in Section II.C, within 60  
23 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must return  
24 all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As used in this  
25 subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,  
26 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected  
27 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving  
28 Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same

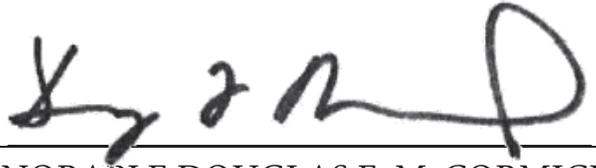


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~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_ May 22, 2017



\_\_\_\_\_  
HONORABLE DOUGLAS F. McCORMICK  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

**EXHIBIT A**

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND**

1  
2  
3 I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of  
4 \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury  
5 under the laws of the United States that I have read in its entirety and understand the  
6 Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the  
7 Central District of California on [date] in the case of *Monir Mirshafiei v. LVNV*  
8 *Funding, et al., Case No. 8:16-cv-01415-AG-DFM*. I agree to comply with and to be  
9 bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and  
10 acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and punishment  
11 in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner  
12 any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any  
13 person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

14 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court  
15 for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this  
16 Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after  
17 termination of this action. I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ [print or  
18 type full name] of \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full  
19 address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in  
20 connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this  
21 Stipulated Protective Order.

22  
23 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

24 City and State where sworn and signed: \_\_\_\_\_

25 Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

26 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

