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11 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
12 **EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 **TERRY GREEN and**
14 **CHARLES WITCHER,**

15 Plaintiffs,

16 vs.

17 **CREDITOR IUSTUS ET REMEDIUM,**
18 **LLP d/b/a CIR, LAW OFFICES, LLP,**

19 Defendant.

20 **CASE NO.: 1:13-cv-01414-LJO-JLT**

21 **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**

22 1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

23 Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of
24 confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public
25 disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted.

26 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following
27 Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket
28 protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from

1 public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to
2 confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as
3 set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file
4 confidential information under seal; Local Rule 141 sets forth the procedures that must be
5 followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to
6 file material under seal.
7

8 2. DEFINITIONS

9 2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of
10 information or items under this Order.
11

12 2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is
13 generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule
14 of Civil Procedure 26(c).
15

16 2.3 Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as
17 well as their support staff).
18

19 2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that
20 it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”
21

22 2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the
23 medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things,
24 testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or
25 responses to discovery in this matter.
26

27 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent
28 to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as
a consultant in this action.

1 2.7 House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House
2 Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

3 2.8 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other
4 legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

5 2.9 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this
6 action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this
7 action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of
8 that party.
9

10 2.10 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees,
11 consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).
12

13 2.11 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery
14 Material in this action.

15 2.12 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services
16 (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and
17 organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and
18 subcontractors.
19

20 2.13 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as
21 “CONFIDENTIAL.”
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23 2.14 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a
24 Producing Party.

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1 3. SCOPE

2 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material
3 (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2)
4 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony,
5 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.
6 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following
7 information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a
8 Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as
9 a result of publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the
10 public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party
11 prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who
12 obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating
13 Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.
14
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16 4. DURATION

17 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations imposed by
18 this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees otherwise in writing or a court
19 order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all
20 claims and defenses in this action, with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after
21 the completion and exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this
22 action, including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
23 pursuant to applicable law.
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1 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party
3 or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care
4 to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards.
5 The Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents,
6 items, or oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material,
7 documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
8 unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.
9

10 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
11 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
12 unnecessarily encumber or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary
13 expenses and burdens on other parties) expose the Designating Party to sanctions.
14 If it comes to a Designating Party’s attention that information or items that it designated for
15 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other
16 Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.
17
18

19 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order
20 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,
21 Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so
22 designated before the material is disclosed or produced.
23

24 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

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

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

24 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other
25 tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the
26 container or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend
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1 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection,
2 the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

3 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
4 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s
5 right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a
6 designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is
7 treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order.
8

9 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

10 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of
11 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party’s confidentiality
12 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
13 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to
14 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
15 original designation is disclosed.
16

17 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution
18 process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis
19 for each challenge. To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written
20 notice must recite that the challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this
21 specific paragraph of the Protective Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in
22 good faith and must begin the process by conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other
23 forms of communication are not sufficient) within 14 days of the date of service of notice. In
24 conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis for its belief that the confidentiality
25 designation was not proper and must give the Designating Party an opportunity to review the
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1 designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in designation is offered,
2 to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed to the next
3 stage of the challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or
4 establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and confer process in
5 a timely manner.

6
7 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
8 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under
9 Local Rules of this Court 7 within 21 days of the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of
10 the parties agreeing that the meet and confer process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is
11 earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the
12 movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in the preceding
13 paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion including the required
14 declaration within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the
15 confidentiality designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party
16 may file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is good cause for
17 doing so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition transcript or any portions
18 thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be accompanied by a competent
19 declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements
20 imposed by the preceding paragraph.
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23
24 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating
25 Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose
26 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to
27 sanctions. Unless the Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to
28

1 file a motion to retain confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the
2 material in question the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's
3 designation until the court rules on the challenge.

4 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

5 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed
6 or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for
7 prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be
8 disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order.
9 When the litigation has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of
10 section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).
11

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

15 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise
16 ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may
17 disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:
18

19 (a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as employees
20 of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information
21 for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that
22 is attached hereto as Exhibit A;

23 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving
24 Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the
25 "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
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1 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is
2 reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and
3 Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

4 (d) the court and its personnel;

5 (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and
6 Professional Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who
7 have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

8 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
9 necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit
10 A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of
11 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be
12 separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
13 under this Stipulated Protective Order;

14 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or
15 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

16 (h) the Parties; and

17 (i) the jury.

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21 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN
22 OTHER LITIGATION

23
24 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
25 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that
26 Party must:

1 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification shall include a
2 copy of the subpoena or court order;

3 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the
4 other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this
5 Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and
6

7 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
8 Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

9 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with the
10 subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this action as
11 “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the subpoena or order
12 issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s permission. The Designating Party
13 shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in that court of its confidential material –
14 and nothing in these provisions should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving
15 Party in this action to disobey a lawful directive from another court.
16

17 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED
18 IN THIS LITIGATION
19

20 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this
21 action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information produced by Non-Parties in
22 connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order.
23 Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking
24 additional protections.
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1 (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-
2 Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with
3 the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

4 (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some
5 or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

6 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective
7 Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of
8 the information requested; and
9

10 (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.

11 (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within 14
12 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce
13 the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party
14 timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its
15 possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a
16 determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the
17 burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.
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20 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

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

3 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
4 PROTECTED MATERIAL

5 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently
6 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
7 Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This
8 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery
9 order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of
10 Evidence 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure of a
11 communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product
12 protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated protective order
13 submitted to the court.
14
15

16 12. MISCELLANEOUS

17 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to
18 seek its modification by the court in the future.
19

20 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective
21 Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any
22 information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly,
23 no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material
24 covered by this Protective Order.
25

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1 12.3 Filing Protected Material. Without written permission from the Designating Party
2 or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in
3 the public record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
4 Protected Material must comply with Local Rule 141. Protected Material may only be filed
5 under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at
6 issue. Pursuant to Local Rule 141(d), a sealing order will issue only upon a request establishing
7 that the Protected Material at issue is privileged, protectable as a trade secret, or otherwise
8 entitled to protection under the law. If a Receiving Party's request to file Protected Material
9 under seal pursuant to Local Rule 141 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file
10 the information in the public record pursuant to local rules unless otherwise instructed by the
11 court.
12

13
14 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

15 Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each
16 Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such
17 material. As used in this subdivision, “all Protected Material” includes all copies, abstracts,
18 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected
19 Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must
20 submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the
21 Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all
22 the Protected Material that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has
23 not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or
24 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to
25 retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts,
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1 legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work
2 product, and consultant and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected
3 Material. Any such archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to
4 this Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

5 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.
6

7 GOLDEN & CARDONA, LOYA
8

9 DATED: March 14, 2014 s/ Jeremy Golden
10 Jeremy S. Golden, Esq.
11 Attorneys for Plaintiffs
12 TERRY GREEN and CHARLES WITCHER
13

14 CIR, LAW OFFICES

15 DATED: March 14, 2014 s/ Tara Muren
16 Tara Muren, Esq.
17 Attorneys for Defendant
18 CREDITOR IUSTUS ET REMEDIUM, LLP d/b/a
19 CIR, LAW OFFICES, LLP

20 IT IS SO ORDERED.

21 Dated: March 17, 2014 /s/ Jennifer L. Thurston
22 UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE
23
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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of

_____ [print or type full

address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the

Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern

District of California on [date] in the case of *Terry Green and Charles Witcher v. Creditor Iustus*

Et Remedium, LLP d/b/a CIR, Law Offices, LLP, Case No.1:13-cv-01414-LJO-JLT. I agree to

comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I

understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions and

punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any manner

any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person or entity

except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the

Northern District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated

Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of

_____ [print or type full address and telephone

number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any

proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____