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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

23 ASHLEY GONZALEZ,  
24 Plaintiff,  
25 v.  
26 COUNTY OF MERCED, a municipal  
27 corporation, Merced County Deputy Correctional  
28 Officer GREGORY M. RICH individually, and  
DOES 1-10, jointly and severally,  
Defendants.

Case No.: 1:16-cv-01682-LJO-SAB  
ORDER RE JOINT STIPULATION  
PROTECTIVE ORDER

1        1.     PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2            Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of  
3 confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure  
4 and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. These types  
5 of materials include, but not limited to, personal files, investigation reports and document related to  
6 personal decisions, medical documentation, and other private or confidential documents.

7 Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated  
8 Protective Order pursuant to Local Rule 141.1 in order protect the documents from disclosure as set  
9 forth in this stipulation. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections  
10 on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure  
11 and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment  
12 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3,  
13 below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information  
14 under seal; Civil Local Rule 141 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards  
15 that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

16        2.     DEFINITIONS

17            2.1     Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of  
18 information or items under this Order.

19            2.2     “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is  
20 generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of  
21 Civil Procedure 26(c).

22            2.3     Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well  
23 as their support staff).

24            2.4     Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it  
25 produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

26            2.5     Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium  
27 or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony,  
28 transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to

1 discovery in this matter.

2           2.6     Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to  
3 the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a  
4 consultant in this action.

5           2.7     House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House  
6 Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

7           2.8     Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal  
8 entity not named as a Party to this action.

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

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

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

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

19           2.13    Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as  
20 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

21           2.14    Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a  
22 Producing Party.

23 3.     SCOPE

24           The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as  
25 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all  
26 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony,  
27 conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.  
28 However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following

1 information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving  
2 Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of  
3 publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public record  
4 through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known to the Receiving Party prior to the  
5 disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained the  
6 information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of  
7 Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

8 4. DURATION

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

15 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

16 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party or  
17 Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to  
18 limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The  
19 Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or  
20 oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents,  
21 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within  
22 the ambit of this Order.

23 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown  
24 to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily  
25 encumber or retard the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on  
26 other parties) expose the Designating Party to sanctions.

27 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for  
28 protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties

1 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

2           5.2     Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order  
3 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,  
4 Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so  
5 designated before the material is disclosed or produced.

6           Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

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

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

22           (b) for testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings, that the  
23 Designating Party identify on the record, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other  
24 proceeding, all protected testimony.

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

1 practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

2           5.3     Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to  
3 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's  
4 right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a  
5 designation, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in  
6 accordance with the provisions of this Order.

7     6.       CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

8           6.1     Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of  
9 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality  
10 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens,  
11 or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a  
12 confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original  
13 designation is disclosed.

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

27           6.3     Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court  
28 intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality pursuant to

1 Local Rule 251, within 21 days of the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties  
2 agreeing that the meet and confer process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each  
3 such motion must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has  
4 complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the  
5 Designating Party to make such a motion including the required declaration within 21 days (or 14  
6 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the confidentiality designation for each challenged  
7 designation. In addition, the Challenging Party may file a motion challenging a confidentiality  
8 designation at any time if there is good cause for doing so, including a challenge to the designation  
9 of a deposition transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision  
10 must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the  
11 meet and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

12 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating  
13 Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose  
14 unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions.  
15 Unless the Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to  
16 retain confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question  
17 the level of protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the court  
18 rules on the challenge.

## 19 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

20 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or  
21 produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,  
22 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to  
23 the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has  
24 been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL  
25 DISPOSITION).

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

28 7.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by

1 the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any  
2 information or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

3 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as employees  
4 of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for  
5 this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” that is  
6 attached hereto as Exhibit A;

7 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving  
8 Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the  
9 “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

10 (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is  
11 reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement  
12 to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

13 (d) the court and its personnel;

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

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

23 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or  
24 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

25  
26 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER  
LITIGATION

27 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels  
28 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party



1 must:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in

1 this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the  
2 information requested; and

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

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

11 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

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

19 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED  
20 MATERIAL

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

1        12.    MISCELLANEOUS

2            12.1    Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek  
3 its modification by the court in the future.

4            12.2    Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order,  
5 no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any  
6 information or item on any ground. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to  
7 use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order. No party waives their right  
8 to appeal from the Order entered pursuant to his stipulation.

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

19        13.    FINAL DISPOSITION

20            Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, as defined in paragraph 4, each  
21 Receiving Party must return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material.  
22 As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations,  
23 summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether  
24 the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the Receiving Party must submit a written  
25 certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party)  
26 by the 60 day deadline that (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material  
27 that was returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any copies,  
28 abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected

1 Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all  
2 pleadings, motion papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda,  
3 correspondence, deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant  
4 and expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival copies  
5 that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective Order as set forth in  
6 Section 4 (DURATION).

7 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

8 Dated: March 6, 2018

BLUESTONE ZUNINO & HAMILTON, LLP

9 /s/ Marshall Bluestone

10 By: Marshall E. Bluestone, Esq.

11 Attorneys for Defendant Gregory M. Rich

12 LAW OFFICES OF PANOS LAGOS

13 -and-

LAW OFFICE OF SANJAY S. SCHMIDT

14 Dated: March 6, 2018

/s/ Panos Lagos

15 By: Panos Lagos, Esq.

16 Attorneys for Plaintiff Ashley Gonzalez

/s/ Sanjay S. Schmidt

17 By: Sanjay S. Schmidt, Esq.

18 Attorneys for Plaintiff Ashley Gonzalez

19 MERCED COUNTY COUNSEL

Roger Matzkind

20 Dated: March 6, 2018

/s/ Roger S. Matzkind

21 By: Roger S. Matzkind, Chief Civil Litigator

22 Attorney for Defendant County of Merced

23  
24 **ORDER**

25 Pursuant to the stipulation of the parties, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

- 26 1. The protective order is entered;
- 27 2. The parties are advised that pursuant to the Local Rules of the United States
- 28 District Court, Eastern District of California, any documents which are to be

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filed under seal will require a written request which complies with Local Rule 141; and

3. The party making a request to file documents under seal shall be required to show good cause for documents attached to a nondispositive motion or compelling reasons for documents attached to a dispositive motion. Pintos v. Pacific Creditors Ass'n, 605 F.3d 665, 677-78 (9th Cir. 2009).

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: March 6, 2018

  

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UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

1 EXHIBIT A

2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

3 I, \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name], of \_\_\_\_\_ [print or  
4 type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the  
5 Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern  
6 District of California on [date] in the case of \_\_\_\_\_ [**insert formal name of the case and the**  
7 **number and initials assigned to it by the court**]. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the  
8 terms of this Stipulated Protective Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply  
9 could expose me to sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I  
10 will not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective  
11 Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

12 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Northern  
13 District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even  
14 if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

15 I hereby appoint \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full name] of  
16 \_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address and telephone number] as  
17 my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related  
18 to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

19  
20 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

22  
23 Printed name: \_\_\_\_\_

24  
25 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
26  
27  
28