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FIRST NATIONAL COLLECTION BUREAU, INC.

7
8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
9 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
10

11 CLAUDETTE NEAL, INDIVIDUALLY) CASE NO. 2:13-CV-01206-WBS-CKD
AND ON BEHALF OF ALL OTHERS)
12 SIMILARLY SITUATED,) **STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER**
) **FOR LITIGATION INVOLVING**
13 Plaintiff,) **HIGHLY SENSITIVE CONFIDENTIAL**
) **INFORMATION**
14 v.)
) Complaint filed: June 17, 2013
15 FIRST NATIONAL COLLECTION)
BUREAU, INC.,)
16 Defendant.)
17)
18)

19
20 1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

21 Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential,
22 proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for
23 any purpose other than prosecuting or defending this particular litigation may be warranted. Accordingly,
24 the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order.
25 The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or
26 responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the
27 limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under applicable legal principles.
28 The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 14.4, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order

1 does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 141 sets forth the
2 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission
3 from the Court to file material under seal.

4 2. DEFINITIONS

5 2.1 Challenging Party: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or
6 items under this Order.

7 2.2 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items: information (regardless of how it is generated,
8 stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure
9 26(c) or other applicable federal or state law.

10 2.3 Counsel (without qualifier): Outside Counsel of Record, other outside retained counsel,
11 and In-House Counsel (as well as their respective support staff).

12 2.4 Designating Party: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it
13 produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY
14 CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.”

15 2.5 Disclosure or Discovery Material: all items or information, regardless of the medium or
16 manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony,
17 transcripts, and tangible things), that is produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in
18 this matter.

19 2.6 Expert: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the
20 litigation who (1) has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as an expert witness or as a
21 consultant in this action, (2) is not a past or current employee of a Party or of a Party’s competitor, and
22 (3) at the time of retention, is not anticipated to become an employee of a Party or of a Party’s competitor.

23 2.7 “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” Information or Items:
24 “Confidential Information or Items” containing descriptions of future business or marketing plans or
25 strategies, non-public financial information, non-public user statistics and user information, or similar
26 material, the disclosure of which to another Party or Non-Party would create a substantial risk of serious
27 harm that could not be avoided by less restrictive means.

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1 2.8 In-House Counsel: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. In-House
2 Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel retained by or on behalf
3 of a party to this action.

4 2.9 Non-Party: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity
5 not named as a Party to this action.

6 2.10 Outside Counsel of Record: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this action but
7 are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this action on behalf of that
8 party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party.

9 2.11 Party: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees, agents,
10 representatives, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their support staffs).

11 2.12 Producing Party: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in
12 this action.

13 2.13 Professional Vendors: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g.,
14 photocopying, videotaping, translating, transcribing, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and
15 organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.

16 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as
17 “CONFIDENTIAL,” or as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.”

18 2.15 Receiving Party: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing
19 Party.

20 3. SCOPE

21 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as
22 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies,
23 excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
24 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material. However, the protections
25 conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following information: (a) any information that is
26 in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain
27 after its non-inadvertent disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a violation
28 of this Order, including becoming part of the public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any

1 information known to the Receiving Party prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Receiving Party after
2 the disclosure from a source who obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of
3 confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a
4 separate agreement or order.

5 4. DURATION

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

12 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

13 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each Party or Non-
14 Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to limit any such
15 designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. To the extent it is practical
16 to do so, the Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents,
17 items, or oral or written communications that qualify – so that other portions of the material, documents,
18 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the
19 ambit of this Order.

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

24 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for
25 protection do not qualify for protection at all or do not qualify for the level of protection initially asserted,
26 that Designating Party must promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken
27 designation.

28 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this Order (see,

1 e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or
2 Discovery Material that qualifies for protection under this Order must be clearly so designated before the
3 material is disclosed or produced. Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

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

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

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 proceeding,
24 all protected testimony and specify the level of protection being asserted. Alternatively, the Designating
25 Party shall have the right, up to 21 days following receipt of a certified copy of the deposition transcript,
26 to identify the specific portions of the testimony as to which protection is sought and to specify the level
27 of protection being asserted. Only those portions of the testimony that are appropriately designated for
28 protection within the 21 days shall be covered by the provisions of this Stipulated Protective Order. Such

1 transcript shall be treated during that 21-day period as if it had been designated “HIGHLY
2 CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” in its entirety unless otherwise agreed. After the
3 expiration of that period, the transcript shall be treated only as actually designated.

4 Parties shall give the other parties notice if they reasonably expect a deposition, hearing or other
5 proceeding to include Protected Material so that the other parties can ensure that only authorized
6 individuals who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A) are present
7 at those proceedings. The use of a document as an exhibit at a deposition shall not in any way affect its
8 designation as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY.”

9 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other
10 tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or
11 containers in which the information or item is stored the legend “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY
12 CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY. If only a portion or portions of the information or
13 item warrant protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected
14 portion(s) and specify the level of protection being asserted.

15 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate
16 qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party’s right to secure
17 protection under this Order for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving
18 Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions
19 of this Order.

20 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

21 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of
22 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party’s confidentiality designation
23 is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant
24 disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality
25 designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

26 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by
27 providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and describing the basis for each challenge.
28 To avoid ambiguity as to whether a challenge has been made, the written notice must recite that the

1 challenge to confidentiality is being made in accordance with this specific paragraph of the Protective
2 Order. The parties shall attempt to resolve each challenge in good faith and must begin the process by
3 conferring directly (in voice to voice dialogue; other forms of communication are not sufficient) within
4 five (5) days of the date of service of notice. In conferring, the Challenging Party must explain the basis
5 for its belief that the confidentiality designation was not proper and must give the Designating Party an
6 opportunity to review the designated material, to reconsider the circumstances, and, if no change in
7 designation is offered, to explain the basis for the chosen designation. A Challenging Party may proceed
8 to the next stage of the challenge process only if it has engaged in this meet and confer process first or
9 establishes that the Designating Party is unwilling to participate in the meet and confer process in a timely
10 manner.

11 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention,
12 the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Civil Local Rule 141.1
13 (and in compliance with Civil Local Rule 141, if applicable) within 21 days of the initial notice of
14 challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer process will not resolve their
15 dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent declaration
16 affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in the preceding
17 paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion including the required declaration
18 within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the confidentiality designation for
19 each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party may file a motion challenging a
20 confidentiality designation at any time if there is good cause for doing so, including a challenge to the
21 designation of a deposition transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this
22 provision must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with
23 the meet and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

24 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on the Designating Party.
25 Frivolous challenges and those made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary
26 expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the
27 Designating Party has waived the confidentiality designation by failing to file a motion to retain
28 confidentiality as described above, all parties shall continue to afford the material in question the level of

1 protection to which it is entitled under the Producing Party’s designation until the Court rules on the
2 challenge.

3 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

4 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or
5 produced by another Party or by a Non-Party only in connection with this case and only for prosecuting,
6 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the
7 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been
8 terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 14 below (FINAL
9 DISPOSITION).

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

12 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the
13 Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information
14 or item designated “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

15 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, and any other
16 retained counsel for the Receiving Party, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record or other
17 retained counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

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

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

24 (d) the Court and its personnel;

25 (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, and Professional
26 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation;

27 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
28 necessary, unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the Court.

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

3 7.3 Disclosure of “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” Information
4 or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the Court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
5 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL –
6 ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” only to:

7 (a) the Receiving Party’s Outside Counsel of Record in this action, and any other
8 retained counsel for the Receiving Party, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record or other
9 retained counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

10 (b) Designated In-House Counsel of the Receiving Party (1) who has no involvement in
11 competitive decision-making, (2) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, and (3)
12 who has signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

13 (c) Experts of the Receiving Party (1) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for
14 this litigation, and (2) who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

15 (d) the Court and its personnel;

16 (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, and Professional
17 Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation; and

18 (f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or
19 other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

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

22 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
23 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY
24 CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY” that Party must:

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

27 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the
28 other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this

1 Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

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

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

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

14 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this
15 action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL” or “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL – ATTORNEYS’ EYES
16 ONLY” Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
17 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as
18 prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

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

- 22 1. promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party
23 that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;
24 2. promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated
25 Protective Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description
26 of the information requested; and
27 3. make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-
28 Party.

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

8 10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

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

16 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
17 MATERIAL

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

26 12. MISCELLANEOUS

27 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its
28 modification by the Court in the future.

1 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order no
2 Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or
3 item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right
4 to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.

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

15 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

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

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as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

DATED: January 27, 2014

/s/ Seyed Abbas Kazerounian

SEYED ABBAS KAZEROUNIAN
Attorneys for Plaintiff

DATED: January 27, 2014

/s/ Amy Maclear

GARY J. LORCH
AMY MACLEAR
Attorneys for Defendant

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: January 29, 2014



CAROLYN K. DELANEY
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

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EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____, 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 *Claudette Neal v. First National Collection Bureau, Inc.* (Case No. 2:13-CV-01206-WBS-CKD). 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 Eastern 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.

Date: _____

City and State where sworn and signed: _____

Printed name: _____
[printed name]

Signature: _____
[signature]