Morales et al v. Leggett & Platt Incorporated et al

Doc. 23

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Disclosure and discovery activity in this action are likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, and/or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order pertaining to material of a confidential, personal, private, sensitive, or non-public nature, including any of Defendants' non-public proprietary, business, financial, or commercially sensitive information, and including such information pertaining to putative class members or other current and/or former employees of Defendants, which ordinarily would be kept confidential and not disclosed by Defendants, including that in the following categories: information maintained in personnel files; information concerning employee compensation, payroll and benefits to the extent the information is not generally applicable to all employees; social security numbers, home telephone numbers and addresses of Defendants' current and former employees, and information reflected outside of employees' personnel files but concerning discipline, employee evaluations and other documents concerning employee performance, employee concerns, investigations, injuries, absences, and reasons for termination. Public disclosure of these categories of confidential information maintained on putative class members and other current and former employees of Defendants may cause embarrassment and/or financial or competitive harm to an individual who is the subject of such information. The parties have agreed that entry of a protective order will assist in the flow of discovery materials, facilitate the prompt resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, protect and ensure the confidential treatment of information, and ensure that the parties are permitted reasonably necessary uses of such materials in prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation and any appeals arising therefrom.

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The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 141 sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

2. <u>DEFINITIONS</u>

- 2.1 <u>Challenging Party</u>: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation of information or items under this Order.
- 2.2 <u>"CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items</u>: information (regardless of how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c).
- 2.3 <u>Counsel (without qualifier)</u>: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their support staff).
- 2.4 <u>Designating Party</u>: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as "CONFIDENTIAL."
- 2.5 <u>Disclosure or Discovery Material</u>: all items or information, regardless of the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including, among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.
- 2.6 <u>Expert</u>: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter pertinent to the litigation and who may serve as an expert witness or as a consultant in this action.
- 2.7 <u>House Counsel</u>: attorneys who are employees of a party to this action. House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside counsel.

- 2.8 <u>Non-Party</u>: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity not named as a Party to this action, including putative class members not specifically named in the case caption.
- 2.9 <u>Outside Counsel of Record</u>: attorneys who are not employees of a party to this action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this action and have appeared in this action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm which has appeared on behalf of that party, including the employees and staff of Outside Counsel of Record.
- 2.10 <u>Party</u>: any party to this action, including all of its officers, directors, employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (including employees and agents of Outside Counsel of Record).
- 2.11 <u>Producing Party</u>: a Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or Discovery Material in this action.
- 2.12 <u>Professional Vendors</u>: persons or entities that provide litigation support services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium) and their employees and subcontractors.
- 2.13 <u>Protected Material</u>: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is designated as "CONFIDENTIAL."
- 2.14 <u>Receiving Party</u>: a Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material from a Producing Party.

3. SCOPE

The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material. A Designating Party may designate as Protected Material material that is produced informally or in response to formal

discovery in the course of the litigation. However, the protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order do not cover the following information: (a) any information that is in the public domain at the time of disclosure to a Receiving Party or becomes part of the public domain after its disclosure to a Receiving Party as a result of publication not involving a violation of this Order, including becoming part of the public record through trial or otherwise; and (b) any information known a Party prior to the disclosure or obtained by the Party after the disclosure from a source who obtained the information lawfully and under no obligation of confidentiality to the Designating Party. Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by a separate agreement or order.

4. DURATION

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

5. <u>DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL</u>

Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify — so that other portions of the material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

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

Designation in conformity with this Order shall be made in the following manner:

(a) in the case of information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial proceedings): by affixing the legend "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains Protected Material.

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

(b) in the case of testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: (i) by a statement on the record, by counsel for the Designating Party, before the close of the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, that any particular testimony shall be treated as Confidential Information. In that event, the reporter

shall separately transcribe any such portion of the testimony; or (ii) by written notice, sent by counsel to all parties within twenty-one (21) business days after receiving a copy of the deposition transcript, that any particular testimony shall be treated as Confidential Information.

- (c) in the case of information produced in some form other than documentary and for any other tangible items: by affixing in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the legend "CONFIDENTIAL."
- 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected upon discovery of the error, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the Designating Party's right to secure protection under this Order for such material. Such correction and notice thereof shall be made in writing, and the Designating Party shall promptly substitute copies of each item appropriately marked. After the Receiving Party receives such notice, the Receiving Party must make reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this Order. Within thirty (30) days after receipt of the corrected copies, unless the Designating Party agrees otherwise, the Receiving Party shall return the previously unmarked items and all copies thereof or destroy the same and certify, upon request of the Designating Party, the destruction to counsel for the Designating Party.

6. <u>CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS</u>

- 6.1 <u>Timing of Challenges</u>. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a Designating Party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a Party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.
- 6.2 <u>Meet and Confer.</u> The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute resolution process by providing written notice of each designation it is challenging and

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

6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the Parties cannot resolve a challenge without court intervention, the Designating Party shall file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Civil Local Rule 230 within 21 days of the initial notice of challenge or within 14 days of the parties agreeing that the meet and confer process will not resolve their dispute, whichever is earlier. Each such motion must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed in the preceding paragraph. Failure by the Designating Party to make such a motion including the required declaration within 21 days (or 14 days, if applicable) shall automatically waive the confidentiality designation for each challenged designation. In addition, the Challenging Party may file a motion challenging a confidentiality designation at any time if there is good cause for doing so, including a challenge to the designation of a deposition transcript or any portions thereof. Any motion brought pursuant to this provision must be accompanied by a competent declaration affirming that the movant has complied with the meet and confer requirements imposed by the preceding paragraph.

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

7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7.1 <u>Basic Principles</u>. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this case only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation and any appeals arising therefrom or any bankruptcy proceedings of the Defendants in this action, and for no other purpose whatsoever. Such Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this Order. When the litigation has been terminated, a Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL DISPOSITION).

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

- 7.2 <u>Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items</u>. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated "CONFIDENTIAL" only to:
- (a) the Receiving Party and the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this action, as well as employees of and Professional Vendors hired by said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the

- (c) Experts (as defined in this Order) to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);
- (d) the Court and its personnel, as well as any mediator that the parties have agreed in writing to use or have been ordered to use in connection with this action;
- (e) court reporters and their staff, professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional Vendors who have been retained by a party or counsel of record for purposes of assisting in this litigation and to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation;
- (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material must be separately bound and identified by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order;
- (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew of the information prior to its designation as CONFIDENTIAL in this action;
- (h) the employee or putative class member to whom the Protected Material pertains. Neither the Receiving Party nor his/its counsel may show or disclose to an employee or putative class member Protected Material pertaining to other employees or putative class members.
- 7.3 Material designated as "CONFIDENTIAL" may be provided to persons listed in paragraphs 7(c) and (f) above provided that such person confirms his or her understanding and agreement to abide by the terms of this Stipulation and Order by signing an "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" in the form attached

hereto as Exhibit A. The signed "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" shall be maintained by counsel for the Receiving Party who seeks to disclose such Confidential Information and a copy shall be provided to the Designating Party upon agreement of the parties or order by the Court.

8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

If a Party is served with a subpoena, other compulsory process or a court order issued in other litigation that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as "CONFIDENTIAL," that Party must:

- (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party within five (5) business days (or before the date for compliance if earlier) identifying the Confidential Information sought and enclosing a copy of the subpoena, other compulsory process or court order;
- (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and
- (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

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

9. <u>A NON-PARTY'S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED IN</u>

THIS LITIGATION

- (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-Party in this action and designated as "CONFIDENTIAL." Such information produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.
- (b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:
- (1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;
- (2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this litigation, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and
- (3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party.
- (c) If the Non-Party fails to object or seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed

Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

11. <u>INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE</u> PROTECTED MATERIAL

Inadvertent failure to designate documents, testimony or things as Protected Material does not waive the Designating Party's right to secure the protections of this Stipulated Protective Order. When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence 502(d), the disclosure of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work product protection is not a waiver of privilege or protection from discovery in this case or in any other federal or state proceeding. The inadvertent disclosure or inadvertent failure to designate as confidential by a Designating Party of documents or information that party believes to be Protected Material shall not be deemed a waiver in whole or in part of any party's claim of confidentiality, either as to a specific document or information disclosed or as to any other document or information relating thereto or concerning the same or related subject matter.

12. MISCELLANEOUS

12.1 <u>Right to Further Relief</u>. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any person to seek its modification by the court in the future.

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- 12.2 <u>Right to Assert Other Objections</u>. By stipulating to the entry of this Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective Order.
- Designating Party or a court order secured after appropriate notice to all interested persons, a Party may not file in the public record in this action any Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 141. Protected Material may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the specific Protected Material at issue. If a Receiving Party's request to file Protected Material under seal pursuant to Civil Local Rule 141 is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information in the public record pursuant to Civil Local Rule 133 unless otherwise instructed by the court.
- 12.4 <u>No Limit on a Party's Own Use.</u> Nothing herein shall be construed to limit a producing party's use or disclosure of its own Protected Material. This Stipulation and Order has no effect upon, and shall not apply to, the producing party's use of its own Protected Material.

13. FINAL DISPOSITION

Within 60 days after the final disposition of this action, including the expirations or exhaustion of all rights to appeal this and any and all related actions, as defined in paragraph 4, each Receiving Party must, at the election of the Receiving Party, either return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. However, counsel may retain Protected Material for the length of time required by counsel's malpractice carrier. As used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, if requested by the Producing Party, the Receiving

Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if not the same
person or entity, to the Designating Party) that affirms that the Receiving Party has
not retained any copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format
reproducing or capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this
provision, Counsel are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion
papers, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence,
deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and
expert work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such
archival copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this
Protective Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).
IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.
MALLISON & MARTINEZ
DATED: October 14, 2016 By: <u>/s/ Marco A. Palau</u> Attorney for Plaintiffs
SHOOK HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
DATED: October 14, 2016 By: <u>/s/ Carri A. McAtee</u> Attorneys for Defendants
PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.
DATED: October 27, 2016. Somula 1-Billian EDMUND F. BRENNAN UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

1	EXHIBIT A
2	ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND
3	I, [print or type full name], of [print
4	or type full address], declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety
5	and understand the Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States
6	District Court for the Eastern District of California on [date] in the case of <i>Edgar</i>
7	Morales et al. v. Leggett & Platt Incorporated et al., Case No. 2:15-cv-01911-JAM-EFB.
8	I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective
9	Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to
10	sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not
11	disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated
12	Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions
13	of this Order.
14	I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the
15	Eastern District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated
16	Protective Order.
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18	Date:
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20	City and State where sworn and signed:
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22	Printed name:
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24	Signature:
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