## Rosas v. USFast@ash et al 1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 3 4 KATHRINE ROSAS, on behalf of herself and all others similarly 5 situated, and as Private Attorney General, 6 Plaintiff, 7 v. 8 USFASTCASH; AMERILOAN; UNITED 9 CASH LOANS; PREFERRED CASH LOANS; ONE CLICK CASH; MIAMI TRIBE OF 10 OKLAHOMA, also known as MIAMI NATION OF OKLAHOMA; MIAMI NATION For the Northern District of California 11 ENTERPRISES, also known as MNE; SANTEE SIOUX NATION; SFS, INC.; **United States District Court** 12 AMG SERVICES, INC.; AMG CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, LLC; BLACK CREEK 13 CORPORATION; BLACK CREEK CAPITAL, LLC; BROADMOOR CAPITAL PARTNERS; 14 HALLINAN CAPITAL CORPORATION; LEADFLASH CONSULTING, LLC; LEVEL 15 5 MOTORSPORTS, LLC; N.M. SERVICE CORP., formerly known as NATIONAL 16 MONEY SERVICE; PARTNER WEEKLY LLC; PARK 269, LLC; ST. CAPITAL, 17 LLC; THE MUIR LAW FIRM, LLC; TRIBAL FINANCIAL SERVICES; WEST 18 FUND, LLC; SCOTT'S TRIBAL ENTITIES; SCOTT A. TUCKER; BLAINE 19 A. TUCKER; CHARLES M. HALLINAN; CAROLYN HALLINAN; DON E. BRADY; 20 ROBERT D. CAMPBELL; and TIMOTHY J. MUIR, 21 Defendants.

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No. C 12-5066 CW

ORDER ADDRESSING NOTICE OF POTENTIAL APPEARANCE OF IMPARTIALITY AND POSSIBLE BASIS FOR RECUSAL PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 455(a) (Docket Nos. 22 in 12-5066, 20 in 12-5067)

1 AMY LYNNE BAILLIE, and KATHRINE No. C 12-5067 CW ROSAS, on behalf of themselves 2 and all others similarly situated, and as Private Attorney 3 General, 4 Plaintiffs, 5 v. 6 ACCOUNT RECEIVABLE MANAGEMENT OF FLORIDA, INC., formerly known as 7 UNITED LEGAL CORPORATION; MTE FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.; 8 INSTANTCASHLOANTILLPAYDAY.COM; PROCESSING SOLUTIONS, LLC; 9 INSTANT CASH USA, INC.; FIRST EAST, INC.; RIO RESOURCES; THOMAS 10 ASSENZIO; JOLENE HART ASSENZIO; CHARLES HALLINAN; CAROLYN 11 HALLINAN; CLK MANAGEMENT, LLC; WEB CASH NETWORK, LLC, doing 12 business as RIO RESOURCES; DEXTER EMERALD GROUP, LLC; AMG SERVICES, 13 INC.; SCOTT TUCKER; BLAINE TUCKER; PROFESSIONAL RECOVERY 14 SYSTEMS; CHECK STOP UTAH, LLC; and EAST FINCHEY, LLC, 15 Defendants. 16 17 On October 11, 2012, Attorney Daniel J. O'Rielly, who 18 represents Defendants Thomas Assenzio, Charles M. Hallinan and 19 Hallinan Capital Corporation in the above-captioned cases, filed a 20 notice of potential for appearance of impartiality and possible 21 basis for recusal pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 455(a). Docket Nos. 22 22 in 12-5066, 20 in 12-5067. In the notice, Attorney O'Rielly 23 stated 24 Mr. O'Rielly and his wife are both personal friends of 25 Chief Judge Wilken's stepdaughter and son-in law. Mr. O'Rielly and his wife have socialized with Chief Judge 26 Wilken and her husband on some occasions in recent years at social engagements hosted by Chief Judge Wilken's 27 stepdaughter and son-in law. 28

United States District Court For the Northern District of California 1 Notice, 2. Plaintiffs Amy Lynne Bailie and Kathrine Rosas respond 2 that these circumstances raise no reasonable question as to the 3 undersigned's impartiality. Docket Nos. 25 in 12-5066, 23 in 12-4 5067).

5 In "the absence of a legitimate reason to recuse himself, a 6 judge should participate in cases assigned." United States v. 7 Holland, 519 F.3d 909, 912 (9th Cir. 2008)(internal quotations and citations omitted). However, a judge shall recuse himself "in any 8 9 proceeding in which his impartiality might reasonably be 10 questioned." 28 U.S.C. § 455(a). Under this standard, "the trial judge is required to recuse himself only when a reasonable person 11 with knowledge of all the facts would conclude that the judge's 12 13 impartiality might reasonably be questioned." United States v. 14 Winston, 613 F.2d 221, 222 (9th Cir. 1980). "The 'reasonable 15 person' is not someone who is 'hypersensitive or unduly suspicious,' but rather is a 'well-informed, thoughtful observer.' 16 17 Holland, 519 F.3d at 913 (quoting In re Mason, 916 F.2d 384, 386 18 (7th Cir. 1990)).

19 A well-informed and thoughtful observer would not reasonably 20 question a judge's impartiality toward a party because the judge 21 was casually acquainted with the party's counsel as alleged here. See United States v. Murphy, 768 F.2d 1518, 1537-1538 (7th Cir. 22 23 1985) ("In today's legal culture friendships among judges and 24 lawyers are common. They are more than common; they are desirable. A judge need not cut himself off from the rest of the 25 26 legal community. Social as well as official communications among 27 judges and lawyers may improve the quality of legal decisions. 28 . . . Many courts therefore have held that a judge need not

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disqualify himself just because a friend--even a close friend--1 appears as a lawyer.") (collecting cases); see also Sewer Alert 2 3 Committee v. Pierce County, 791 F.2d 796, 798 (9th Cir. 1986) (upholding denial of recusal motion where the presiding judge had 4 5 a friendship with the defendants); Carolina Cas. Ins. Co. v. Jones 6 Helsley, PC, 2010 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 144464, at \*2, 5-6 (E.D. Cal.) 7 (denying recusal motion where one counsel of record was the brother of an acquaintance of the judge and had socialized with 8 9 the judge on several occasions).

10 Accordingly, the Court concludes that recusal is not 11 warranted under these circumstances.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

14 Dated: 10/16/2012

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CHAUDIA WILKEN United States District Judge

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