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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

ENSOURCE INVESTMENTS LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company,

Plaintiff,

v.

THOMAS P. TATHAM, an individual;
MARK A. WILLIS, an individual; PDP
MANAGEMENT GROUP, LLC; a Texas
limited liability company; TITLE
ROVER, LLC, a Texas limited liability
company; BEYOND REVIEW, LLC, a
Texas limited liability company; IMAGE
ENGINE, LLC, a Texas limited liability
company; WILLIS GROUP, LLC, a
Texas limited liability company; and
DOES 1-50,

Defendants.

Case No.: 3:17-cv-00079-H-JMA

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND
DENYING IN PART MOTION TO
WITHDRAW**

[Doc. No. 62]

On April 24, 2018, attorney Pete T. Patterson filed an ex parte motion to withdraw as counsel for Defendants Thomas P. Tatham and PDP Management Group, LLC. (Doc. No. 62.) In his motion, Patterson states that he also represents a corporation called Hopewell Pilot Project, LLC in related litigation pending before the Southern District of

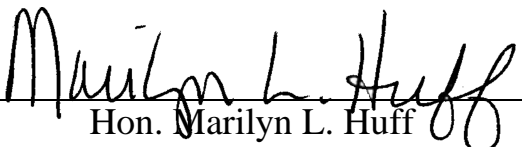
1 Texas. (Id.) Patterson states that in the course of litigating these cases, a potential conflict
2 has arisen that requires Patterson to withdraw as counsel in both cases. (Id.)

3 The Court grants the motion in part and denies it without prejudice in part. Patterson
4 may withdraw as counsel for Thomas P. Tatham, an individual, but the Court declines to
5 permit Patterson to withdraw as counsel for PDP Management Group, LLC at this time.
6 “It is a longstanding rule that ‘[c]orporations and other unincorporated associations must
7 appear in court through an attorney.’” D-Beam Ltd. P’ship v. Roller Derby Skates, Inc.,
8 366 F.3d 972, 973–74 (9th Cir. 2004) (footnote omitted) (quoting In re Am. W. Airlines,
9 40 F.3d 1058, 1059 (9th Cir. 1994)). The Court will thus not permit Patterson to withdraw
10 from his representation of PDP Management Group, LLC until the company has obtained
11 substitute counsel. See, e.g., Aqua Logic, Inc. v. Esealife, Inc., No. 07-cv-2119-H, 2008
12 WL 11337818, at *1 (S.D. Cal. June 20, 2008) (Huff, J.) (declining to permit law firm to
13 withdraw from corporation’s representation where no substitute counsel had been
14 obtained).

15 Accordingly, the Court orders Defendant PDP Management Group, LLC to obtain
16 substitute counsel on or before **June 1, 2018**. Patterson may renew his motion to withdraw
17 once the Court has obtained contact information for PDP Management Group, LLC’s new
18 counsel.

19 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

20 DATED: May 1, 2018

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22 Hon. Marilyn L. Huff
23 United States District Judge
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