UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT DISTRICT OF NEVADA

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Elma Henderson,

Plaintiff

v.

Thomas Robert Hughes, et al.,

Defendants

2:16-cv-01837-JAD-CWH

Order Granting in Part Motions to Dismiss, Sustaining in Part Objections to Magistrate Judge's Order, and Setting Aside Defaults

[ECF Nos. 99, 101, 103, 107, 129, 134–36, 143]

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A Missouri state court awarded Elma Henderson damages against Thomas Robert Hughes and Northstar Global BT in the principal amounts of \$15,000 and \$225,000, respectively, plus awards of attorney's fees and interest.¹ Henderson domesticated the Missouri judgment in Nevada.² In exchange for Henderson's agreement to delay collection, Northstar and Hughes promised to pay Henderson the amount owned under the judgment plus an additional \$200,000.³ As collateral for their obligations to Henderson, Hughes and Northstar placed shares of stock in Mission Mining Company and accounts receivable due to them from that company in escrow.⁴ Problems arose and this action followed.

Hoping to expand the pool of debtors that she can recover against on the Missouri judgment, Henderson sues Northstar and numerous other trusts and entities that she alleges are alter egos of Hughes.⁵ Henderson sues Mission Mining for breach of contract regarding the

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¹ ECF No. 85 at ¶ 54. This information, taken from allegations in the first amended complaint, is offered to provide context and should not be construed as a statement of facts.

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⁵ *Id.* at ¶¶ 104–08 (count 5). Alleging that Northstar, Odin Statutory Trust, Lake W Holdings, Inc., Western Gold Company, Colindo Minerals, LLC, Colindo, Ltd., Colindo Trust, Bob Creek Trust, BCT Holdings, LLC, CECT Holdings, Inc., Colten Metals, LLC, Pacific Western Capital, Inc., CBH Consulting, LLC, and CBH Ventures are Hughes's alter egos.

²⁴ $\int_{0.04}^{2} Id.$ at ¶ 78.

²⁵ $\int_{0.07}^{3} Id.$ at ¶¶ 79–81.

²⁶ $\int_{0.8}^{4} Id.$ at ¶ 82.

assigned accounts receivable.⁶ She sues Hughes and Northstar for beaching the forbearance agreement.⁷ She sues Hughes, Northstar, Mission Mining, and Western Gold Company, LLC for fraudulent transfer of the "Gold Star" mining claims or ownership of the company that holds those claims.⁸ She sues Hughes, Northstar, the Colindo Trust, Colten Metals, LLC, Pacific Western Capital, Inc., Lake W Holdings, Inc. for fraudulent transfer of the "El Dorado," "Lake W Holdings," "Colten Metals," and "Adder" mining claims or ownership of the companies that hold those claims.⁹ She names Hughes's ex-wife Cheryl as a defendant.¹⁰ And she seeks declaratory relief.¹¹

Four defendants move to dismiss the claims against them under FRCP 12(b)(6).¹² Three different defendants move to dismiss for failure to timely serve them under FRCP 4(m).¹³ Four of the defendants also appeal Magistrate Judge Hoffman's order denying their motion to appear specially for the purpose of contesting service by seeking reconsideration of the magistrate judge's order denying their motions to quash service.¹⁴

I grant Cheryl Hughes's motion to dismiss under FRCP 12(b)(6) because Henderson has not sufficiently stated a claim for declaratory relief against her. I give Henderson leave to amend if she can sufficiently state a plausible claim for declaratory relief against Cheryl. I deny Northstar's and Odin Statutory Trusts's motions to dismiss under FRCP 12(b)(6) because those

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_{19} 6 Id. at ¶¶ 100–03 (count 3).
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 $\int_{0.07}^{0.07} Id.$ at ¶¶ 104–07 (count 4).

 8 *Id.* at ¶¶ 59–68, 88–93 (count 1)

⁹ *Id.* at ¶¶ 69–77, 94–99 (count 2).

 $\int_{10}^{10} Id.$ at ¶ 16.

^{24 | 11} *Id.* at ¶¶ 115–18 (count 6).

²⁶ Li ECF Nos. 99, 101, 103, 107, 129.

^{27 13} ECF Nos. 134, 135, 143.

²⁸ Left No. 136.

defendants have been defaulted by the Clerk of the Court. I disregard Hughes's unauthorized amended motion to dismiss,¹⁵ but I grant his original motion to dismiss under FRCP12(b)(6) in part: I dismiss Henderson's alter-ego claim with leave to amend.

I deny Colindo Minerals, LLC's and Lake W Holdings, LLC's motions to dismiss under FRCP 4(m) because I find that both entities were timely and properly served with process. But I grant Henderson leave to file a second amended complaint to change "Lake W Holdings, Inc." to "Lake W Holdings, LLC." I cannot determine on this record if defaulted defendant Colten Metals, LLC was properly served with process. I therefore convert its motion to dismiss under FRCP 4(m) into a motion to set aside default, grant that request, deny its motion in all other respects, and give Henderson 30 more days to serve Colten.

I also cannot determine on this record if defaulted defendant Frank Finnerty, in his capacity as trustee for the Colindo Trust and the Bob Creek Trust, was properly served with process. I therefore sustain the trusts' objections to the magistrate judge's order in part: I reverse the portion of the order denying reconsideration on the issue of the sufficiency of service on Finnerty. I overrule the trusts' other objections and affirm Judge Hoffman's order in all other respects. I instruct the Clerk of Court to set aside the default entered against Finnerty, and I grant Henderson a 30-day extension to effectuate service.

Discussion

A. Motions to dismiss under FRCP 12(b)(6)

"A dismissal under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) is essentially a ruling on a question of law." At minimum, a plaintiff should state "enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." The complaint need not contain detailed factual allegations, but it

26 ECF No. 129.

27 North Star Int'l v. Ariz. Corp. Comm., 720 F.2d 578, 580 (9th Cir. 1983).

¹⁷ Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007).

must contain more than "a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action." The Rule 8(a) notice pleading standard requires the plaintiff to "give the defendant fair notice of what the . . . claim is and the grounds upon which it rests." The "plausibility standard" does not impose a "probability requirement"; rather, it requires a complaint to contain "more than a sheer possibility that a defendant has acted unlawfully." "Where a complaint pleads facts that are merely consistent with a defendant's liability, it stops short of the line between possibility and plausibility of entitlement to relief."

In considering a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted, all material allegations in the complaint are accepted as true and are to be construed in a light most favorable to the non-moving party.²² "Threadbare recitals of the elements of a cause of action, supported by mere conclusory statements, do not suffice."²³ "While legal conclusions can provide the framework of a complaint, they must be supported by factual allegations."²⁴ "[O]nly a complaint that states a plausible claim for relief survives a motion to dismiss."²⁵ A court should assume the veracity of well-pleaded factual allegations and "then determine whether they plausibly give rise to an entitlement to relief."²⁶ "[W]here the well-pleaded facts do not permit the court to infer more than the mere possibility of misconduct, the complaint has

¹⁸ *Id.* at 555.

^{20 19} *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citation omitted).

^{21 | &}lt;sup>20</sup> Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009).

 $|_{21}$ *Id.*

^{23 | 22} See Cahill v. Liberty Mut. Ins. Co., 80 F.3d 336, 337–38 (9th Cir. 1996).

^{25 | &}lt;sup>23</sup> *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678.

 24 *Id.* at 679.

^{27 &}lt;sup>25</sup> *Id*.

 $^{^{26}}$ *Id.*

alleged—but it has not shown—that the pleader is entitled to relief."²⁷ Thus, a complaint may be dismissed as a matter of law for "(1) lack of a cognizable legal theory or (2) insufficient facts under a cognizable legal claim."²⁸

The United States Supreme Court's decision in *Ashcroft v. Iqbal* provides a two-step framework for considering the sufficiency of factual allegations subject to a motion to dismiss under FRCP 12(b)(6). First, I may choose to begin by identifying which of the complaint's factual allegations are no more than "legal conclusions" or "mere conclusory statements," because "the tenet that a court must accept as true all of the allegations contained in a complaint is inapplicable to legal conclusions." The inquiry then becomes whether the remaining, nonconclusory allegations make it plausible that an actionable claim exists. 30

Cheryl Hughes, Northstar, Odin Statutory Trust, and Thomas Hughes move to dismiss the amended complaint under FRCP 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim on which relief can be granted.³¹ I address each defendant's argument in turn.

1. Cheryl Hughes

Cheryl Hughes argues that the claims against her should be dismissed because Henderson does not allege any wrongdoing on Cheryl's part and Henderson has not actually stated any claims against her.³² Henderson responds that she named Cheryl as a defendant because "it is appropriate to seek declaratory relief against" Cheryl due to her relationship with other

²⁷ *Id.* (quotation marks, citation, and brackets omitted).

²⁸ Smilecare Dental Group v. Delta Dental Plan, 88 F.3d 780, 783 (9th Cir. 1996) (quoting Robertson v. Dean Witter Reynolds, Inc., 749 F.2d 530, 534 (9th Cir. 1984)).

²⁹ *Iqbal*, 556 U.S. at 678, 680.

³⁰ *Id.* at 681.

²⁷ St. ECF Nos. 99, 101, 103, 107, 129.

³² ECF No. 99.

defendants.³³ Henderson alleges that Cheryl is the "putative owner" of defendant CBH Consulting, LLC and "putative beneficiary" of the Colindo Trust defendant.³⁴ Henderson alleges that CBH Consulting and the Colindo Trust are the alter egos of Thomas Hughes.³⁵

Declaratory relief is appropriate when "the judgment will serve a useful purpose in clarifying and settling the legal relations in issue" and "it will terminate and afford relief from the uncertainty, insecurity, and controversy giving rise to the proceeding." Accepting Henderson's allegations that Cheryl is the owner of CBH Consulting and the beneficiary of the Colindo Trust as true, as I must, there is still not sufficient factual information in the amended complaint to make it plausible that an actionable claim for declaratory relief exists against Cheryl. Henderson does not allege what legal relations between herself and Cheryl are unclear, unsettled, uncertain, insecure, or in controversy. Nor does Henderson allege that she and Cheryl have adverse legal rights or that a definite and concrete controversy going to their respective legal rights has arisen. I therefore grant Cheryl's motion to dismiss. Henderson may amend her claims against Cheryl if she can sufficiently state a plausible claim for declaratory relief—based on true factual allegations that give rise to an actionable legal theory—against her.

2. Northstar Global BT and Odin Statutory Trust

Northstar Global BT and Odin Statutory Trust each moves to dismiss under FRCP 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim.³⁷ Both of these defendants are in default for failing to respond to Henderson's original complaint.³⁸ Neither defendant has moved to set aside the Clerk

^{22 33} ECF No. 106 at 3.

34 Id.

^{25 35} *Id.*

³⁶ Bilbrey by Bilbrey v. Brown, 738 F.2d 1462, 1470 (9th Cir. 1984).

²⁷ CF No. 101, 103.

^{28 38} ECF No. 43.

of Court's entry of default against it. I therefore deny Northstar's and Odin's motions to dismiss. Before they may seek this relief, they must move to set aside the defaults.

3. Thomas Robert Hughes

Thomas Robert Hughes responded to Henderson's amended complaint with an answer containing a 13-page motion to dismiss under FRCP 12(b)(6) as his first affirmative defense.³⁹ Hughes later filed, without leave, an "amended answer to complaint and motion to dismiss."⁴⁰ The only difference between Hughes's two filings appears to be the assertion of a statute-of-limitations defense in the later one. I disregard Hughes's later filing because he did not obtain leave of court to file it. I construe Hughes's first filing as a motion to dismiss under FRCP 12(b)(6) and consider it under that standard.

Hughes spends much of his motion disputing the factual allegations in Henderson's complaint. When considering a motion to dismiss, I must accept all material allegations in the complaint as true and construe them in the light most favorable to the non-moving party. Hughes argues that Henderson cannot state a cognizable claim that the defendant trusts are his alter egos because they are spendthrift trusts governed by Nevada law, and Nevada law authorizes the alter-ego relationship between a natural person and a spendthrift trust. But Henderson does not allege that any of the trusts are spendthrift trusts, and Hughes does not provide any evidence to establish that they are. Without commenting on the merits of Hughes's argument, I note that it invites me to consider matters outside the pleadings; I decline to do so.

Hughes broadly argues that Henderson's alter-ego claim is not adequately supported by factual allegations. I agree. Henderson alleges that 14 different entities and trusts are Thomas Hughes's alter egos. She correctly pleads the elements of an alter-ego claim under Nevada law.

³⁹ ECF No. 107.

⁴⁰ ECF No. 129.

^{27 | 41} *Cahill*, 80 F.3d at 337–38.

⁴² ECF No. 107 at 12–19.

But she does not allege sufficient facts to state a claim for alter-ego liability that is plausible on its face as to one or any of the alleged alter-ego defendants. I therefore grant Hughes's motion to dismiss in part as to Henderson's alter-ego claim. Henderson may amend her alter-ego claim if she can sufficiently state plausible alter-ego liability against one or any of the alleged alter-ego defendants.

B. Motions to dismiss under FRCP 4(m)

Rule 4(m) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure provides that, "[i]f a defendant is not served within 90 days after the complaint is filed, the court—on motion or in its own after notice to the plaintiff—must dismiss the action without prejudice against that defendant or order that service be made within a specified time." Colindo Minerals, Lake W Holdings, and Colton Metals each moves to dismiss the amended complaint, arguing that Henderson failed to serve them within FRCP 4(m)'s 90-day window.⁴³ I address each defendant's argument separately.

1. Colindo Minerals, LLC

Colindo Minerals argues that it was not timely served with either Henderson's original complaint or her amended pleading. Henderson named Colindo Minerals, LLC as a defendant in her original complaint filed on August 3, 2016.⁴⁴ Three days later, Henderson served Colindo Minerals with summons and a copy of the original complaint through its resident agent, CBH Consulting, LLC.⁴⁵ Colindo Minerals answered Henderson's original complaint through its counsel, S. Frank Stapleton.⁴⁶ I find that this company was properly and timely served with the summons and a copy of Henderson's original complaint.

I also find that Colindo was properly and timely served with a copy of Henderson's first amended complaint. Rule 5(b)(3) authorizes a pleading filed after an original complaint to be

⁴³ ECF Nos. 134, 135, 143.

^{25 44} ECF No. 1 at 3, ¶ 7.

⁴⁵ *Compare* ECF No. 1 (original complaint) *with* ECF No. 15 at 2 (affidavit attesting that Colindo Minerals was served with copies of the summons and complaint on August 10, 2016).

⁴⁶ ECF No. 34.

served using the court's electronic-filing system, if a local rule so authorizes. The local rules of this district authorize service to be effected in that manner on persons who are "filers" in the court's electronic-filing system. ⁴⁷ Colindo's attorney is a "filer" in the court's electronic-filing system. Thus, when Henderson electronically filed her first amended complaint, ⁴⁸ Colindo was necessarily served with a copy of that pleading through its attorney via the Court's electronic-filing system. ⁴⁹ I therefore deny Colindo's motion to dismiss either of Henderson's complaints under FRCP 4(m).

2. Lake W Holdings, Inc./Lake W Holdings, LLC

Lake W Holdings, LLC argues that it was not timely served with process for either of Henderson's complaints because she named⁵⁰ and served⁵¹ the wrong entity: Lake W Holdings, **Inc.** instead of Lake W Holdings, **LLC**.⁵² Henderson responds that service was nonetheless timely and proper because the company and the corporation are one in the same.⁵³ I agree.

The parties agree that the Lake W Holdings, Inc. that Henderson sued and served converted its form into a limited-liability entity several years ago. The records for this entity that are available for public inspection on the Colorado Secretary of State's website are consistent

⁴⁷ L.R. IC 4-1 (a), (b) (providing that "[p]articipation in the court's electronic[-]filing system by registration and receipt of a login and password constitutes consent to the electronic service of pleadings and other papers under applicable rules, statutes, or court orders" and "electronic transmission of the Notice of Electronic Filing constitutes service of a document on filers").

⁴⁸ ECF No. 85.

⁴⁹ See ECF No. 85 at 26 (certificate of service stating that "S. Frank Stapleton" and "Thomas (T.R.) Hughes" were served with the first amended complaint "via electronic means").

⁵⁰ ECF No. 1 at 2−3, ¶ 5; ECF No. 85 at 3, ¶ 5.

²⁶ S1 ECF Nos. 19, 132.

²⁷ SECF No. 135.

⁵³ ECF No. 142.

with the parties' agreement.⁵⁴ Colorado law provides that when an entity converts from one form to another, "the conversion shall not be deemed to constitute a dissolution of the converting entity and shall constitute a continuation of the existence of the converting entity in the form of the resulting entity."⁵⁵ "The resulting entity is the same entity as the converting entity."⁵⁶ Because the Lake W Holdings, Inc. that Henderson sued and served is "the same entity" as Lake W Holdings, LLC, I find that Henderson's naming gaffe does not render service ineffective. I therefore deny Lake W's motion to dismiss. However, to ensure a clear record in this case, I grant Henderson leave to amend her complaint to change the name of this entity from "Lake W Holdings, Inc." to "Lake W Holdings, LLC." Lake W Holdings, LLC will then have 14 days after service of the second amended complaint to answer or otherwise respond to that pleading.⁵⁷

3. Colten Metals, LLC

Colten Metals, LLC argues that Henderson's claims against it should be dismissed under FRCP 4(m) because it was not timely or properly served with process.⁵⁸ The problem, Colten argues, is that Henderson served summons and a copy of the original complaint on CBH Consulting, LLC, which she claimed was Colten's resident agent, but it is not. Henderson urges me to disregard Colten's motion because that entity is in default.⁵⁹

⁵⁴ See Articles of Amendment, attached as Appendix A (filed in December 2009 and providing that BCT Capital, Inc. amended its name to Lake W Holdings, Inc.); Statement of Conversion, attached as Appendix B (filed in January 2011 and providing that Lake W Holdings, Inc. converted to a limited-liability company entitled Lake W Holdings, LLC). I take judicial notice of these public records under FRE 201.

^{23 55} Co. Rev. Stat. § 7-90-202(3).

⁵⁶ *Id.* at § 7-90-202(4).

²⁶ See FED. R. CIV. P. 15(a)(3).

²⁷ See ECF No. 143.

^{28 &}lt;sup>59</sup> ECF No. 146.

Henderson named Colten Metals as a defendant in her original complaint⁶⁰ and served that entity through what she claimed was its resident agent, CBH Consulting, LLC.⁶¹ Colten did not answer or challenge service. Instead, Mr. Stapleton states that he advised Henderson's attorney in writing in February 2017 that Colten's correct resident agent had not been served.⁶² Henderson then moved for⁶³ and obtained a clerk's entry of default against Colten in April 2017.⁶⁴ Henderson does not address Colten's argument that CBH Consulting, LLC was not authorized to accept service on Colten's behalf.⁶⁵ Colten's argument that CBH Consulting, LLC is not its resident agent is supported by the records that are available for public inspection on the Wyoming Secretary of State's website for this entity.⁶⁶

The problem with Colten's motion, however, is that it is in default.⁶⁷ Rule 55(c) authorizes district courts to "set aside an entry of default for good cause" I find that good cause exists here because I cannot conclude on this record that Colten was properly served with process. I therefore construe Colten's motion to dismiss under FRCP 4(m) as a request to set aside default under FRCP 55, grant that request, and instruct the Clerk of Court to set aside the default that was entered against Colten. I give Henderson 30 days to properly serve Colten. Within 30 days of filing her second amended complaint, Henderson must serve, obtain a waiver

⁶⁰ ECF No. 1 at 5, ¶ 13.

⁶¹ See ECF No. 21 at 2.

⁶² ECF No. 143 at 3:8–10.

⁶³ ECF No. 139.

^{23 64} ECF No. 140.

⁶⁵ See ECF No. 146.

⁶⁶ Statement of Change by Registered Agent, attached as Appendix C (filed May 17, 2013, and stating that Colten's resident agent, at least since May 2013, is Frontier Registered Agency Services, LLC, located at 2120 Carey Ave., Cheyenne, WY 82001). I take judicial notice of this public record under FRE 201.

^{28 67} ECF No. 140.

or acceptance of service, or move the court for leave to serve Colten by alternate means. I deny Colten's motion in all other respects.

C. Appeal from Magistrate Judge's order denying leave to specially appear

Northstar Global BT, Odin Statutory Trust, Colindo Trust, and Bob Creek Trust each moved to quash service. Finding that these trusts had been properly served with process, Magistrate Judge Hoffman denied their motions. The trusts then moved to appear specially for the purpose of challenging the sufficiency of service of process by moving the magistrate judge to reconsider his order denying the trusts' motions to quash service. Magistrate Judge Hoffman denied that motion on the bases that the trusts had already unsuccessfully challenged service and had not provided any new evidence to suggest that reconsideration was warranted. The trusts now appeal from that order denying their motion to appear specially.

"A district court judge may reconsider any pretrial matter referred to a magistrate in a civil . . . case under LR IB 1-3, when it has been shown [that] the magistrate judge's order is clearly erroneous or contrary to law." Any party wishing to object to the magistrate judge's order on a pretrial matter must file and serve specific written objections. . . . [within] 14 days after service of the order." The district judge may affirm, reverse, or modify, in whole or in part, the magistrate judge's order."

⁶⁸ ECF Nos. 55, 58, 62, 64.

^{21 69} ECF No. 90.

²² FCF No. 111.

⁷¹ ECF No. 126.

⁷² ECF No. 136.

^{26 73} L.R. IB 3-1(a).

^{27 &}lt;sup>74</sup> *Id*.

⁷⁵ *Id.* at 3-1(b).

1 appeared to seek various forms of relief. I begin with their request for leave to specially appear 2 for the purpose of challenging service of process (i.e., jurisdiction). The magistrate judge's 4 decision to decline this request was neither clearly erroneous nor contrary to law for two reasons. 5 First, special appearances are not a thing anymore. "The technical distinctions between general and special appearances" for the purpose of challenging jurisdiction in federal court were 6 "abolished" over half a century ago. ⁷⁶ Second, Magistrate Judge Hoffman had already found that 7 the trusts had been properly served with process when he denied their motions to quash service. 8 The proper procedure for the trusts to challenge that decision was to move the magistrate judge to reconsider, 77 and Magistrate Judge Hoffman properly interpreted the trusts' motion as doing 10 11 just that. It appears that the trusts simultaneously moved for reconsideration and for leave to

"A party seeking reconsideration" of an interlocutory order "must state with particularity the points of law or fact that the court has overlooked or misunderstood."⁷⁸ Finding that the trusts had not provided any "new evidence to suggest a reconsideration" is warranted, the magistrate judge denied their motion.⁷⁹ Respectfully, I disagree. The trusts argued that the magistrate judge had overlooked the proof that Henderson filed regarding service on Frank Finnerty in his capacity as trustee for the Colindo Trust and the Bob Creek Trust. 80 In denying the trusts' motions to quash service, the magistrate judge stated—correctly—that "[d]efendants

specially appear for the purpose of filing a motion for reconsideration.

The motion for leave to specially appear is a convoluted document in which the trusts

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⁷⁶ McGarr v. Hayford, 52 F.R.D. 219, 221 (C.D. Cal. 1971) (citing Bjorgo v. Weerden, 342 F.2d 558 (7th Cir. 1971)); accord Republic Int'l Corp. v. Amco Engineers, Inc., 516 F.2d 161, 164–65 (9th Cir. 1975).

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⁷⁷ Alternatively, the trusts could have appealed from that decision under LR IB 1-3.

⁷⁸ L.R. 59-1. 26

⁷⁹ ECF No. 126. 27

⁸⁰ See ECF No. 111 at 11–12.

I cannot determine on this record that Colindo, Ltd. had authority to accept service on behalf of the Colindo Trust. Nor can I determine on this record that BCT Holdings, LLC had authority to accept service on behalf of the Bob Creek Trust. And there is nothing in the record showing that the trustee for these trusts—Finnerty—was personally served with process. I therefore sustain the trusts' objections in part: I reverse the portion of the magistrate judge's order denying reconsideration on the issue of the sufficiency of service on Finnerty in his capacities as trustee of the Colindo Trust and the Bob Creek Trust. I overrule the trusts' other objections and affirm the magistrate judge's order in all other respects.

In light of these service issues, I direct the Clerk of Court to set aside the default that was entered against Finnerty in his capacity as trustee of the Colindo Trust and the Bob Creek Trust.⁸⁵

⁸¹ ECF No. 90 at 1.

^{24 82} ECF No. 48 at 3 (emphasis omitted).

⁸³ ECF No. 49 at 3 (emphasis omitted).

²⁷ ECF No. 50; ECF No. 50-1 at 2.

⁸⁵ ECF No. 128.

I give Henderson 30 days to properly serve Finnerty in his capacity as trustee of the Colindo 1 2 Trust and the Bob Creek Trust. Within 30 days of filing her second amended complaint, Henderson must serve, obtain waivers or acceptance of service, or move the court for leave to 3 4 serve by alternate means. 5 Conclusion Accordingly, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that: 6 7 Cheryl Beth Hughes's motion to dismiss [ECF No. 99] is GRANTED. 8 Henderson is granted leave to amend her complaint if she can sufficiently state a 9 plausible claim for declaratory relief against Cheryl. Henderson does not have 10 leave to add additional claims against Cheryl or to add other parties. 11 Northstar Global BT's and Odin Statutory Trust's motions to dismiss [ECF Nos. 101, 103] are DENIED. 12 Thomas Robert Hughes's motion to dismiss [ECF No. 107] is GRANTED in 13 part: Henderson's claim for alter-ego liability is **DISMISSED**. Henderson is 14 15 granted leave to amend her complaint if she can sufficiently state a plausible alter-16 ego claim against one or any of the alleged alter-ego defendants. Henderson does 17 not have leave to add additional claims against the alleged alter-ego defendants or

- Thomas Robert Hughes's amended motion to dismiss [ECF No. 129] is
 DENIED.
- Colindo Minerals, LLC's motion to dismiss [ECF No. 134] is DENIED.
- Lake W Holdings, LLC's motion to dismiss [ECF No. 135] is DENIED.
 However, Henderson is granted leave to amend her complaint to replace "Lake W Holdings, Inc." with "Lake W Holdings, LLC." Henderson does not have leave to add additional claims against Lake W Holdings, LLC or to add other parties.

to add other parties. Thomas Robert Hughes's motion is denied in all other

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- Colten Metals, LLC's motion to dismiss [ECF No. 143] is GRANTED in part: I construe the motion as one seeking to set aside default and grant that request. The Clerk of Court is instructed to set aside the default that was entered against Colten Metals, LLC [ECF No. 140]. I deny Colten Metals, LLC's motion in all other respects.
- Northstar Global BT, Odin Statutory Trust, Colindo Trust, and Bob Creek Trust's objections to magistrate judge's order [ECF No. 136] are SUSTAINED in part: I REVERSE the portion of the magistrate judge's order [ECF No. 126] denying reconsideration on the issue of the sufficiency of service on Finnerty in his capacities as trustee of the Colindo Trust and the Bob Creek Trust. I direct the Clerk of Court to set aside the default that has been entered against the Colindo Trust and the Bob Creek Trust [ECF No. 128]. I overrule the trusts' other objections and affirm the magistrate's order in all other respects.
- Henderson has 10 days to file her second amended complaint. Once that second amended complaint is filed, she has 30 days to serve it on Colten Metals, LLC and Finnerty in his capacity as trustee of the Colindo Trust and the Bob Creek Trust, or to obtain waivers of service by these parties or move the court for permission to serve by alternate means; service on all other parties must be made under FRCP 5.

DATED: May 9, 2017.

Jennifer A. Dorsey United States District Judge

Appendix A

Articles of Amendment, Colorado Secretary of State

重-Filed

\$ 25.00

Document processing fee
If document is filed on paper
If document is filed electronically
Fees & forms/cover sheets
are subject to change.
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ID number:	20041403520
1. Entity name:	BCT Capital, Inc. (If changing the name of the corporation, indicate name BEFORE the name change)
2. New Entity name: (if applicable)	Lake W Holdings, Inc.
3. Use of Restricted Words (if any of these terms are contained in an entity name, true name of an entity, trade name or trademark stated in this document, mark the applicable box):	"bank" or "trust" or any derivative thereof "credit union" "savings and loan" "insurance", "casualty", "mutual", or "surety"
4. Other amendments, if any, are attached.	
5. If the amendment provides for an excharacter states the provisions for implementing the	nge, reclassification or cancellation of issued shares, the attachment he amendment.
6. If the corporation's period of duration as amended is less than perpetual, state the date on which the period of duration expires:	(mm/dd/yyyy)
OR	
If the corporation's period of duration as	s amended is perpetual, mark this box:
7. (Optional) Delayed effective date:	(mm/dd/yyyy)

Notice:

Causing this document to be delivered to the secretary of state for filing shall constitute the affirmation or acknowledgment of each individual causing such delivery, under penalties of perjury, that the document is the individual's act and deed, or that the individual in good faith believes the document is the act and deed of the person on whose behalf the individual is causing the document to be delivered for filing, taken in conformity with the requirements of part 3 of article 90 of title 7, C.R.S., the constituent documents, and the organic statutes, and that the individual in good faith believes the facts stated in the document are true and the document complies with the requirements of that Part, the constituent documents, and the organic statutes.

This perjury notice applies to each individual who causes this document to be delivered to the secretary of state, whether or not such individual is named in the document as one who has caused it to be delivered.

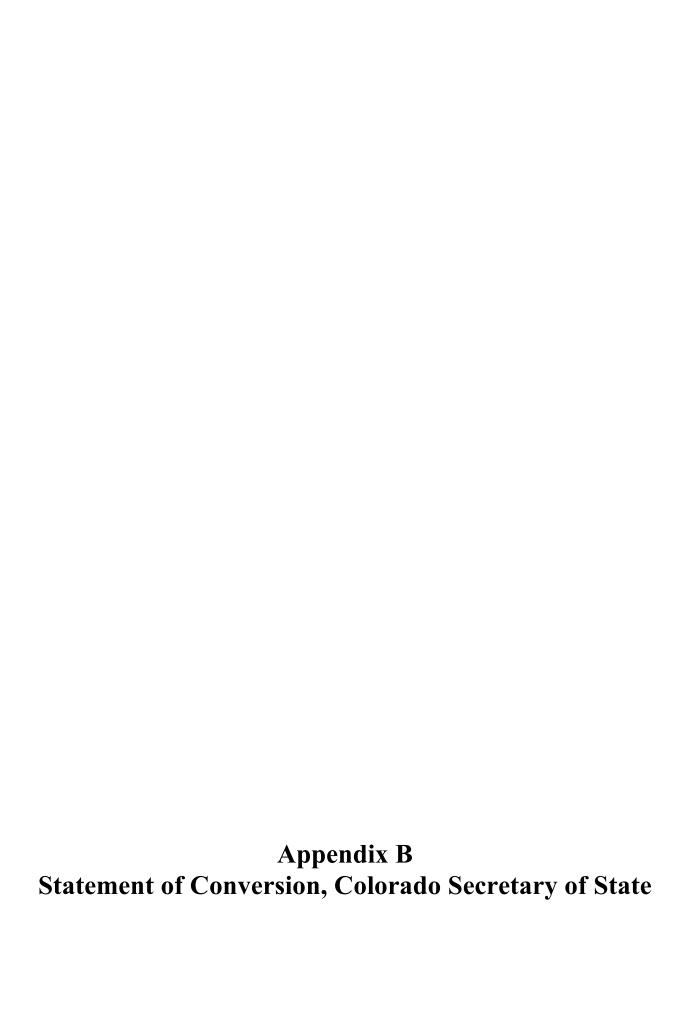
8. Name(s) and address(es) of the individual(s) causing the document to be delivered for filing:

Hughes	T.R.		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	(Suffix)
13618 N. 99th Aven	iue		
#911	l number or Post Off	ice information)	
Sun City	AZ	85351	
(City)	United S	(Postal/Zip C	Code)
(Province – if applicable)	(Country – į	f not US)	
address of more than one individu			

(The document need not state the true name and address of more than one individual. However, if you wish to state the name and address of any additional individuals causing the document to be delivered for filing, mark this box and include an attachment stating the name and address of such individuals.)

Disclaimer:

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ID number

Colorado Secretary of State

Date and Time: 01/03/2011 02:24 PM

ID Number: 20041403520

\$50.00 Document number: 20111002927

Amount Paid: \$100.00

ABOVE SPACE FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Statement of Conversion

filed pursuant to § 7-90-201.7 (3) of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.)

1. For the <u>converting</u> entity, its ID number (if applicable), entity name or true name, form of entity, jurisdiction under the law of which it is formed, and principal address are

		(Colorado Secretary of State ID numbe	er)	
	Entity name or true name	Lake W Holdings, Inc.		
	Form of entity	Corporation		
	Jurisdiction	Colorado		
	Street address	13614 N. 99th Avenue		
		#911	nber and name)	
		Sun City	AZ 85	5351
		(City)	(State) United State	(ZIP/Postal Code)
		(Province – if applicable)	(Country)	
	Mailing address (leave blank if same as street address)	(Street number and name	or Post Office Box i	information)
		(City)	(State)	(ZIP/Postal Code)
		(Province – if applicable)	(Country)	
2.	The entity name of the <u>resulting</u> entity is (<i>Caution: The use of certain terms or abbrev</i>)		instructions for m	aore information.)
3.	The converting entity has been converted	ed into the resulting entity purs	suant to section	7-90-201.7, C.R.S.
4.	(If applicable, adopt the following statement by man. This document contains additional			

5. (Caution: <u>Leave blank</u> if the document does not have a delayed effective a legal consequences. Read instructions before entering a date.)	date. Stating a delayed effective date has significant
(If the following statement applies, adopt the statement by entering a date and, if a The delayed effective date and, if applicable, time of this document of the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the statement by entering a date and the delayed effective date and the delayed	
Notice:	
Causing this document to be delivered to the Secretary of State for	2

Causing this document to be delivered to the Secretary of State for filing shall constitute the affirmation or acknowledgment of each individual causing such delivery, under penalties of perjury, that such document is such individual's act and deed, or that such individual in good faith believes such document is the act and deed of the person on whose behalf such individual is causing such document to be delivered for filing, taken in conformity with the requirements of part 3 of article 90 of title 7, C.R.S. and, if applicable, the constituent documents and the organic statutes, and that such individual in good faith believes the facts stated in such document are true and such document complies with the requirements of that Part, the constituent documents, and the organic statutes.

This perjury notice applies to each individual who causes this document to be delivered to the Secretary of State, whether or not such individual is identified in this document as one who has caused it to be delivered.

6. The true name and mailing address of the individual causing this document to be delivered for filing are

Hughes	T.R.		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	(Suffix)
13614 N. 99th Avenue			
#911	and name or Post Offic	e Box information)	
Sun City	AZ	85351	
(City)	(State) United Stat	(ZIP/Postal Co	ode)
(Province – if applicable)	(Country))	

(If applicable, adopt the following statement by marking the box and include an attachment.)

This document contains the true name and mailing address of one or more additional individuals causing the document to be delivered for filing.

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Colorado Secretary of State

Date and Time: 01/03/2011 02:24 PM

ID Number: 20041403520

\$50.00 Document number: 20111002927

Amount Paid: \$100.00

ABOVE SPACE FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Articles of Organization

filed pursuant to § 7-80-203 and § 7-80-204 of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.)

1. The domestic entity name of the limited liability company is

Lake W Holdings LLC

(The name of a limited liability company must contain the term or abbreviation "limited liability company", "ltd. liability company", "limited liability co.", "ltd. liability co.", "limited", "l.l.c.", "llc", or "ltd.". See §7-90-601, C.R.S.)

(Caution: The use of certain terms or abbreviations are restricted by law. Read instructions for more information.)

2. The principal office address of the limited liability company's initial principal office is

Street address	13614 N. 99th Avenue					
	#911	number and name)				
	Sun City	AZ	8535	 5351		
	(City)	United S		(ZIP/Postal Code)		
	(Province – if applicable)	(Countr	y)			
Mailing address						
(leave blank if same as street address)	(Street number and na	me or Post Office I	Box infor	mation)		
	(City)	(State)	(ZIP/Postal C	ode)	
	(Province – if applicable)	(Country	v)	•		
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ne registered agent name and register gent are Name (if an individual)						
gent are Name	red agent address of the limite	d liability com		s initial reg	gistered (Suffix)	
gent are Name (if an individual)	(Last) CBH Consulting LLC					
yent are Name (if an individual) OR (if an entity) (Caution: Do not provide both an individual)	(Last) CBH Consulting LLC	(First)				
Name (if an individual) OR (if an entity)	(Last) CBH Consulting LLC idual and an entity name.) 1208 Lindenwood Driv	(First)				
yent are Name (if an individual) OR (if an entity) (Caution: Do not provide both an individual)	(Last) CBH Consulting LLC idual and an entity name.) 1208 Lindenwood Driv	(First)		(Middle)		

Mailing address (leave blank if same as street address) (Street number and name or Post Office Box information)						
	(City)	CO (State)	(ZIP Code)			
(The following statement is adopted by marking the The person appointed as registered	e box.)	, ,				
4. The true name and mailing address of the	ne person forming the l	imited liability con	mpany are			
Name (if an individual)	Hughes	T.R.				
OR	(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	(Suffix)		
(if an entity) (Caution: Do not provide both an individ	ual and an entity name.)					
Mailing address	13614 N. 99th Av	venue				
Ç	#911	oer and name or Post Oj	ffice Box information)			
	Sun City	AZ	85351			
	(City)	(State) United S	(ZIP/Postal Code	2)		
	(Province – if applicab	ole) (Count	ry)			
 (If the following statement applies, adopt the The limited liability company has company and the name and mail to the limited liability (Mark the applicable box.) ✓ one or more managers. OR the members. 	as one or more addition ling address of each suc	al persons forming	g the limited liability			
 6. (The following statement is adopted by marking the There is at least one member of the 7. (If the following statement applies, adopt the statem This document contains additional 	limited liability compa	clude an attachment.)				
8. (Caution: <u>Leave blank</u> if the document does n significant legal consequences. Read instruct			yed effective date has			
(If the following statement applies, adopt the staten The delayed effective date and, if appli		ment is/are	he required format.) m/dd/yyyy hour:minute am/	 (pm)		

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9. The true name and mailing address of the individual causing the document to be delivered for filing are

Hughes	T.R		
(Last)	(First)	(Middle)	(Suffix
13614 N. 99th Avenue			
#911	and name or Post Office	Box information)	
Sun City	AZ 8	35351	
(City)	(State) United State	(ZIP/Postal Code	e)
(Province – if applicable)	(Country)		
pt the statement by marking the box and ue name and mailing address of			S

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Wyoming Secretary of State State Capitol Building, Room 110 200 West 24th Street Cheyenne, WY 82002-0020 Ph. 307.777.7311 Fax 307.777.5339

Email: Business@wyo.gov

Max Maxfield, WY Secretary of State FILED: 05/17/2013 10:18 AM Global Amendment ID: 3891 Affected Entities: 8378

Statement of Change by Registered Agent

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STATE OF WYOMING * SECRETARY OF STATE MAX MAXFIELD BUSINESS DIVISION

200 West 24th Street, Cheyenne, WY 82002-0200 Phone 307-777-7311 · Fax 307-777-5339

Website: http://soswy.state.wy.us · Email: business@wyo.gov

Global Amendment Summary

Global Amendment ID: 3891

Amendment Type: RA Address Change
Amendment Date: 05/17/2013 10:18 AM

Copy To Mailing: N
Copy To Principal: N
Affected Entities: 8378

Agent Name: FRONTIER REGISTERED AGENCY SERVICES LLC

Address: 2120 Carey Ave

Cheyenne, WY 82001

Field Name Changed From Changed To

Registered Agent Physical Address 1 2120 Carey Ave Ste 300 2120 Carey Ave

Global Amendment Summary

Affected Entities -Active

Global Amendment ID: 3891

Filing ID	Туре	Name	Status
1999-000346184	Limited Liability Company	Hilconti Investments LLC	Active
2013-000640272	Statutory Trust	HIM 515 Statutory Trust	Active
1995-000300110	Limited Liability Company	Holdings Management LLC	Active
2009-000575219	Profit Corporation	Home Accents Alliance Inc.	Active
2013-000643458	Limited Liability Company	HONEST PARTNER LLC	Active
2012-000620647	Limited Liability Company	Hospitality Solutions Holdings LLC	Active
2012-000620650	Limited Liability Company	Hospitality Solutions LLC	Active
2009-000573374	Profit Corporation	HP Fiduciary Management Corp.	Active
2008-000553331	Limited Liability Company	HSE Solutions Consulting (LLC) Limited	Active
1994-000296226	Profit Corporation	Hubbard Properties, Inc.	Active
2009-000565800	Limited Liability Company	Huckleberry Investments III LLC	Active
2008-000558342	Limited Liability Company	HUCKLEBERRY INVESTMENTS LLC	Active
2009-000572889	Limited Liability Company	Hummingbird Fiduciary Management LLC	Active
2002-000440859	Limited Liability Company	Huntington (USA), LLC	Active
2010-000581713	Limited Liability Company	HYDRA LLC	Active
2008-000552454	Limited Liability Company	IDAHO HANGARS LLC	Active
2012-000632540	Limited Liability Company	Immigrant's Challenge LLC	Active
2012-000630849	Limited Liability Company	IMOBILIARE, LLC	Active
1999-000341788	Limited Liability Company	Inet (LIc) Limited	Active
2009-000572779	Limited Liability Company	Infinity Assets, LLC	Active
2007-000545560	Limited Liability Company	INKAB CONSULTING LLC	Active
2005-000489943	Profit Corporation	Innernet Communications	Active
2004-000478724	Limited Liability Company	Inter-European Trading L.L.C.	Active
1993-000283270	Limited Liability Company	Interfund Management Limited Liability Company	Active
2002-000435649	Limited Liability Company	Inter-Lex LLC	Active
2001-000419587	Profit Corporation	Intermed, Inc.	Active
2000-000401213	Limited Liability Company	International Excellence (Llc) Limited	Active
1992-000275150	Limited Liability Company	International Nominees (LLC) Limited	Active
2004-000466229	Limited Liability Company	International Top Star Promotions LLC	Active
2004-000469086	Limited Liability Company	International Trading & Consulting LC	Active
2011-000598859	Profit Corporation	INTERSTATE UTILITY SERVICES, INC.	Active
2007-000544853	Limited Liability Company	IRIS CONSULTING LLC	Active
2013-000641984	Limited Liability Company	ISIDE LLC	Active
2009-000573815	Limited Liability Company	Iso LLC	Active
2007-000545432	Limited Liability Company	IURIS ARGUMENTUM CONSULTANTS LLC	Active
1999-000343256	Profit Corporation	Izzo Insurance Services, Inc.	Active
1991-000269731	Limited Liability Company	J & G of Colorado Springs Ltd. Liability Company	Active
1996-000316612	Limited Liability Company	J Bar J Ranch, LLC	Active
2001-000416516	Limited Liability Company	J C A Trading (Llc) Limited	Active
2010-000594617	Profit Corporation	J. Chambless, Inc.	Active

Global Amendment Summary

Affected Entities -Active

Global Amendment ID: 3891

Filing ID	Туре	Name	Status
2012-000633185	Limited Liability Company	PM Farming LLC	Active
2008-000564092	Limited Liability Company	PML, LLC	Active
1997-000328055	Limited Liability Company	Poole Slough Partners LLC	Active
2012-000628952	Limited Liability Company	POSEIDON LLC	Active
1997-000319298	Limited Liability Company	Poseidon Power Production (PPP) LLC	Active
2009-000576193	Limited Liability Company	Prairie Inn Motel LLC	Active
2010-000586607	Profit Corporation	PREMIER FIDUCIARY SERVICES INC.	Active
2012-000621737	Limited Liability Company	Present Health Media LLC	Active
2012-000622086	Limited Liability Company	Preserve Casper II LLC	Active
2011-000611065	Limited Liability Company	Preserve Casper LLC	Active
1998-000331644	Limited Liability Company	Primex Limited Liability Company	Active
1994-000290577	Limited Liability Company	Primus Resources L.C.	Active
1998-000331788	Limited Liability Company	Principle Print & Design (Llc) Limited	Active
2010-000582849	Limited Liability Company	Pristine Properties LLC	Active
2012-000630039	Limited Liability Company	Privacy Apps, LLC	Active
2009-000574125	Profit Corporation	PRL Export, Inc.	Active
2004-000479193	Limited Liability Company	Procom LLC	Active
1999-000349311	Limited Liability Company	Prodema LLC	Active
2003-000452592	Profit Corporation	Professional Real Estate Inc.	Active
2002-000437620	Limited Liability Company	Project Technical Services (Llc) Limited	Active
2011-000611511	Limited Liability Company	PROPRIEDAD LLC	Active
2004-000469426	Limited Liability Company	Ptarmigan Acquisition LLC	Active
2011-000598073	Limited Liability Company	PUBLISHING SERVICES LLC	Active
1983-000205356	Profit Corporation	Puma Operating Corporation	Active
2012-000615322	Limited Partnership	Purdy Land (LOB) Limited Liability Limited Partnership	Active
2003-000451146	Limited Liability Company	QCH Nashville LLC	Active
2009-000565541	Limited Liability Company	QTE Fiduciary Management LLC	Active
2004-000468746	Limited Liability Company	Quad C, LLC	Active
2003-000451137	Limited Liability Company	Quanta Computer Nashville LLC	Active
2003-000450035	Limited Liability Company	Quanta Manufacturing Nashville LLC	Active
2003-000451140	Limited Liability Company	Quanta Service Nashville LLC	Active
2009-000569846	Profit Corporation	Quantitative Insights	Active
2007-000533008	Limited Liability Company	Quantum Capital LLC	Active
2005-000494038	Limited Liability Company	Quantum International LLC	Active
1993-000285040	Limited Liability Company	Quantum Management Limited Liability Company	Active
1999-000347600	Profit Corporation	Quantum Northwest	Active
2008-000561439	Limited Liability Company	QUEALY FIDUCIARY MANAGEMENT LLC	Active
2004-000476310	Limited Liability Company	Quintin Investments LLC	Active
2004-000479510	Limited Liability Company	R2D1 L.L.C.	Active
2011-000597471	Limited Liability Company	Rabbit Ear Ranch LLC	Active