26

AND CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS

1 2 3 4 5 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON 7 AT SEATTLE 8 GEORGE CLINTON, Case No. C11-1142RSL 9 Plaintiff, ORDER SEVERING 10 **COUNTERCLAIMS AND** v. CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS 11 HENDRICKS & LEWIS, PLLC, et al., 12 Defendant. 13 14 This matter comes before the Court on Hendricks & Lewis' "Status 15 Report" (Dkt. # 57), Clinton's "Motion to Dismiss Counterclaim Plaintiff's Second 16 Amended Counterclaims" (Dkt. # 61), and Hendricks & Lewis' unopposed "Motion to 17 Sever Judgment Collection Counterclaims and Consolidate Actions" (Dkt. #71). 18 Having reviewed the memoranda, declarations, and exhibits submitted by the parties and 19 the remainder of the record, the Court finds as follows: 20 Hendricks & Lewis has made a number of attempts to execute on the 21 judgments entered by the Honorable John C. Coughenour in Hendricks & Lewis, PLLC 22 v. Clinton, C10-0253JCC (W.D. Wash.). For the reasons stated in this Court's "Order 23 Denying Plaintiff's Motion to Dismiss Counterclaims or, in the Alternative, to Transfer" 24 (Dkt. # 38), the collection efforts initiated in California and the amended counterclaims 25 ORDER SEVERING COUNTERCLAIMS

1 asserted in this litigation are not duplicative and do not run afoul of the prohibition 2 against claim splitting. The Court agrees, however, that restructuring the three actions 3 currently pending in this district will promote the efficient administration of justice. 4 5 For all of the foregoing reasons, Clinton's motion to dismiss (Dkt. # 61) is 6 DENIED and Hendricks & Lewis' motion to sever and consolidate (Dkt. # 65) is 7 GRANTED. The counterclaims stated in the Second Amended Counterclaims (Dkt. # 56 8 in C11-1142RSL) are hereby SEVERED in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 21. The 9 severed counterclaims and Cause Nos. C12-0841RSL and C12-0884RSL are 10 consolidated and merged into a single action for all purposes pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 11 42(a)(2). All future filings in the consolidated actions shall bear the following caption: 12 13 HENDRICKS & LEWIS, PLLC, Case No. C12-0841RSL 14 Plaintiff, 15 v. 16 GEORGE CLINTON, 17 Defendant. 18 19 Hendricks & Lewis shall, within fourteen days of the date of this Order, file and serve a 20 consolidated pleading that includes all requests for relief to be pursued in the 21 consolidated action. The "Motion to Appoint a Receiver" and the "Motion for Sale of 22 Copyrights" currently pending in C12-0841RSL and C11-1142RSL, respectively, will be 23 considered by the Court in due course and need not be refiled in the consolidated action. 24 The "Order Regarding Initial Disclosures, Joint Status Report and Early Settlement"

-2-

2526

ORDER SEVERING COUNTERCLAIMS

AND CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS

1	issued in C12-884RSL is hereby VACATED.
2	
3	Dated this 30th day of August, 2012.
4	MA
5	MMS Casnik
6	Robert S. Lasnik United States District Judge
7	Officed States District Judge
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	ORDER SEVERING COUNTERCLAIMS
26	AND CONSOLIDATING ACTIONS  -3-