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THE HONORABLE THOMAS S. ZILLY

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

A.M.,

Plaintiff,

v.

VALVE CORPORATION,

Defendant.

No. 2:16-cv-01166-TSZ

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE  
ORDER**

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, 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, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

“Confidential Material” shall mean information, recorded, stored, or maintained for any reason in any medium, including but not limited to print, electronic, or digital, that the party,

1 including any third-party, designating the information as confidential (the “designating party”)  
2 reasonably believes to fall within the following definition:

3 1. Non-public financial, product use or business plan information, including research  
4 and development and product use data; proprietary product development or use information;  
5 confidential financial, sales or profitability data; confidential financial or sales metrics; or  
6 confidential financial or sales projections.

7 2. Proprietary, commercial, or client information, which is defined as:

8 a. Research, development, or commercial information that is of a highly  
9 competitively sensitive nature and that a reasonably prudent business person in the applicable  
10 field would not release to or share with the public in the ordinary course of business, and the  
11 release of which would likely cause proprietary, competitive, or economic harm; or

12 b. “Trade secret,” as set forth in the Washington Trade Secrets Act, RCW  
13 19.108.010, meaning information, including a formula, pattern, compilation, program, device,  
14 method, technique, or process that:

15 (i) Derives independent economic value, actual or potential,  
16 from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable  
17 by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value  
18 from its disclosure or use; and

19 (ii) Is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the  
20 circumstances to maintain its secrecy.

21 3. Personal information where the producing party reasonably believes that  
22 disclosure of that information could violate that person’s privacy. A “person” shall include any  
23 natural person and, where relevant, a corporation, joint stock association, or an unincorporated  
24 association. The standard for determining whether a person’s privacy could be violated shall be  
25 based on the standard set forth in the Washington Public Disclosure Act, RCW 42.56, as follows:  
26

1 A person’s “right to privacy,” “right of privacy,” “privacy,” or  
2 “personal privacy,” is invaded or violated if disclosure of  
3 information about the person: (1) would be highly offensive to a  
4 reasonable person, and (2) is not of legitimate concern to the  
5 public.

6 Personal information includes but is not limited to Plaintiff’s medical and  
7 financial records.

8 4. Notwithstanding any other provision in this Protective Order, it shall not apply to  
9 information that is publicly available. Confidential Material shall be used and disclosed only in  
10 the above-captioned case. No person afforded access to Confidential Material shall use or  
11 disclose Confidential Material for any purpose other than this litigation. “Confidential Material  
12 marked HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY shall mean confidential  
13 information that the producing party believe in good faith is so commercially or personally  
14 sensitive that disclosure to another party or employees of a party, even under the restricted terms  
15 and conditions applicable to material designated “CONFIDENTIAL” would not provide  
16 adequate protection to the interests of the producing party. HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL  
17 ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY information includes, without limitation (a) plaintiff’s psychiatric  
18 and psychological records; (b) Valve’s non-public financial, product or business plan  
19 information, including research and development and product use; proprietary product  
20 development or use information; confidential financial, sales or profitability data; confidential  
21 financial or sales metrics; or confidential financial or sales projections; and (c) non-party  
22 personnel files and private information contained in records maintained by defendant such as  
23 records concerning the compensation, stack-ranking or performance feedback for Valve  
24 employees or independent contractors.

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1 3. SCOPE

2 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only Confidential Material (as  
3 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from Confidential Material; (2)  
4 all copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of Confidential Material; and (3) any testimony,  
5 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal Confidential  
6 Material. However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is  
7 in the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

8 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

9 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use Confidential Material that is  
10 disclosed or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for  
11 prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential Material may be  
12 disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement.  
13 Confidential Material must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a  
14 secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

15 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" and "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL  
16 ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by the court or  
17 permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any Confidential  
18 Material only to:

19 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of  
20 counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

21 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the  
22 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties  
23 agree that a particular document or material produced is designated as HIGHLY  
24 CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY and is so designated;

25 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this  
26 litigation and who have signed the "Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound" (Exhibit A);

1 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

2 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of  
3 Confidential Material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service  
4 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately  
5 return all originals and copies of any Confidential Material;

6 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is  
7 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”  
8 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of  
9 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must  
10 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted  
11 under this agreement;

12 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a  
13 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

14 4.3. Disclosure of HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY  
15 Material:

16 Information designated as “HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY”,  
17 including references to such information, shall be disclosed only to the following persons:

18 (a) the receiving party’s outside counsel of record in this action, as well as  
19 employees of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this  
20 litigation;

21 (b) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this  
22 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

23 (c) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

24 (d) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of  
25 Confidential Material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service  
26 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately

1 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

2 (e) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is  
3 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”  
4 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of  
5 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Confidential Material must  
6 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted  
7 under this agreement;

8 (f) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian  
9 or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

10 4.4 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing Confidential Material or discussing or  
11 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party  
12 to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the  
13 document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is  
14 warranted. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and the  
15 standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material under  
16 seal.

17 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

18 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party  
19 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take  
20 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate  
21 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,  
22 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the  
23 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not  
24 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement. Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized  
25 designations are prohibited. Designations that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have  
26 been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber or delay the case

1 development process or to impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) expose  
2 the designating party to sanctions. If it comes to a designating party's attention that information  
3 or items that it designated for protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must  
4 promptly notify all other parties that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

5       5.2     Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this  
6 agreement (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or  
7 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must  
8 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

9             (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and  
10 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),  
11 the designating party must affix the term "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL  
12 ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY" to each page that contains Confidential Material. If only a portion  
13 or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the producing party also must  
14 clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

15             (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial or trial proceedings: the  
16 parties must identify on the record, during the deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, all  
17 protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after  
18 reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving a  
19 deposition transcript, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential.

20             (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on  
21 the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word  
22 "CONFIDENTIAL" or "HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS' EYES ONLY." If only a  
23 portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the  
24 extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

25       5.3     Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to  
26 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's

1 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a  
2 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is  
3 treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

4 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

5 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of  
6 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality  
7 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic  
8 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to  
9 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the  
10 original designation is disclosed.

11 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute  
12 regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding  
13 confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in  
14 a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer  
15 conference with other affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The  
16 certification must list the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to  
17 confer requires a face-to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

18 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court  
19 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under  
20 Local Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of  
21 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those  
22 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on  
23 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to  
24 maintain the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

25 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER LITIGATION

26 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels

1 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL” or  
2 HIGHLY CONFIDENTIAL ATTORNEYS’ EYES ONLY,” that party must:

3 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the  
4 subpoena or court order;

5 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue  
6 in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject  
7 to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

8 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by  
9 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

10 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

11 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential  
12 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving  
13 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized  
14 disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material,  
15 (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of  
16 this agreement, and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and  
17 Agreement to Be Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

18 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED  
19 MATERIAL

20 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently  
21 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the  
22 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This  
23 provision is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery  
24 order or agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. Parties shall  
25 confer on an appropriate non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502.

26 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENT

1           Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving  
2 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts  
3 and summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of  
4 destruction. Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all  
5 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,  
6 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert  
7 work product, even if such materials contain confidential material. The confidentiality  
8 obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a designating party agrees  
9 otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

10           IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

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12           DATED this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March, 2017.

13 FOCAL PLLC

RIDDELL WILLIAMS P.S.

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15  
16 By: /s/ Barbara Rhoads-Weaver  
17       Barbara Rhoads-Weaver, WSBA #34230  
18       Attorney for Plaintiff

By /s/ Laurence A. Shapero  
Laurence A. Shapero, WSBA #31301  
Kristina Markosova, WSBA #47924  
Attorneys for Defendant

19 PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED

20  
21           DATED this 3rd day of March, 2017.

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24           Thomas S. Zilly  
25           United States District Judge  
26

1 EXHIBIT A  
2 ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

3 I, \_\_\_\_\_[print or type full name], of\_\_\_\_\_ [print or type full address],  
4 declare under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the Stipulated  
5 Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the Western District of  
6 Washington on \_\_\_\_\_, 2017 in the case of *A.M. v. Valve Corporation*, 2:16-cv-  
7 1166-TSZ. I agree to comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective  
8 Order and I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to sanctions  
9 and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will not disclose in any  
10 manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated Protective Order to any person  
11 or entity except in strict compliance with the provisions of this Order.

12 I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the  
13 Western District of Washington for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated  
14 Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action.

15  
16 Date:

17 City and State where sworn and signed:

18 Printed name:

19 Signature:  
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