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This Response and Opposition is made and based the *Memorandum of Points and Authorities* attached hereto and made a part hereof by reference, the documents, papers
and pleadings on file herein with the Clerk of the Court, and the arguments of counsel as
may be adduced at hearing on the matter.

DATED:

October 16, 2009

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### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

### 1.Statement of the Case

In the instant case, the Plaintiffs agreed to payment of restitution through a global Settlement Agreement executed in 2006. The payment becomes due at the time of the sale of the Crazy Horse Too by the Government. Should the sale thereof result in a shortfall and payment of less than the entire amount, then, and only then, does Defendant RICK RIZZOLO, become personally obligated for the balance after the shortfall.

The Plaintiffs now allege that the Defendants knew, <u>before the Settlement Agreement was executed</u>, that the sale of the Crazy Horse Too would be delayed, thereby allowing Defendants to transfer property and assets in the supposed collusive 2005 state court *Decree of Divorce*. The Plaintiffs failed to intervene is this the divorce action, and also failed to challenge its validity. Plaintiff's contend that the transfers of property and assets into separate property trusts were done so solely for the purpose of defrauding the Plaintiffs from receiving <u>any</u> payments and compensation for personal injuries pursuant to the Settlement Agreement.

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Plaintiffs now seek (1) creditor status, (2) a redetermination of the domestic relations community property awarded and transferred to the Defendants and to separate property trusts pursuant to a final state court Decree of Divorce, and (3) the "avoidance of the transfer . . . . to the extent necessary to satisfy the creditor's claim[.]" N.R.S. 112.220(1)(a).

A Second Amended Complaint was filed which rendered moot a motion bringing forth issues pertaining to personal and subject matter jurisdiction, the domestic relations exception to diversity, and the statute of limitations.

In this most recent motion, Plaintiffs are seeking through civil discovery the release and disclosure of the Presentence Report ("PSR") in Defendant Fredrick "Rick" Rizzolo's Federal Criminal Case, 2:06-CR-00186-PMP-PAL, as well as the post-release supervision records of the Defendant in that case, ostensibly for the purpose of proving some financially based fact pertaining to the allegedly collusive divorce.

# 2. Standard of Review

Under 18 U.S.C. §3552(d) and Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 32(e)(2), PSRs are to be provided to the defendant, the defendant's counsel, and the attorney for the Government. While this rule does not specifically address the release of the report to third parties, it is well established that PSRs are confidential documents, and there is a strong presumption against such disclosure. *United States Dept. of Justice v. Julian*, 486 U.S. 1, 12 (1987) ("Courts have been very reluctant to give third parties access to the presentence investigation report prepared for some other individual or individuals."). See *In re Kenna*, 453 F.3d 1136, 1137 (9th Cir. 2006); United States v. Anzalone, 886 F.2d 229, 233 (9th Cir. 1989); United States v. Schlette, 842 F.2d 1574, 1584, amended, 854 F.2d 359 (9th Cir. 1988); Beller, et al. vs. United States of America, 221 F.R.D. 674 (D.C. NM 2003) (PSR is not the property of litigants to disclose, but the United States Probation Department as arm of the judiciary); see also *United States v. Figurski*, 545 F.2d 389, 391 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1976). As stated in Figurski, supra, the PSR is the property of the United States Probation Department, accordingly, the Plaintiffs should have noticed not only the Department, but also the Defendant's Federal Probation Officer as interested parties. LCR 32-2 (a) states that the PSRs

are "not to be reproduced or distributed to other agencies or other individuals unless permission is granted by the determining official or as mandated by statute." Even assuming Defendant or any other party legitimately has possession of a copy of the PSR at issue, this rule precludes dissemination of the report, as it is not the property of Defendant, or any other party to this action. The right to disclose, or refuse to disclose this PSR belongs to the United States Probation Department as an arm of the judiciary and interested party to the proceedings. <u>Id.</u>

LCR 32-2(c) allows for disclosure of the PSR, supporting documents, or supervision records upon written application and the requirements of that application. When a court is called upon to release a PSR, the court <u>must</u> balance the desire for confidentiality of the reports against the need for their disclosure, with "a strong presumption in favor of confidentiality", <u>Schlette</u>, 842 F.2d at 1579, and the party seeking disclosure must show a strong compelling need for disclosure, and that disclosure is required in order to meet the "ends of justice."

This compelling need determination is based on several factors. The party seeking disclosure must \_first show that the report pertains to a significant witness. <u>United States</u> <u>v. Strifler</u>, 851 F.2d 1197, 1202 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988), *cert. denied*, 489 U.S. 1032, 109 S. Ct. 1170, 103 L. Ed. 2d 228 (1989).

Next, "a central element in the showing required of a third person seeking disclosure is the degree to which the information in the presentence report cannot be obtained from other sources. *Schlette*, 842 F.2d 1574, 1579, quoting *United States v. Charmer Indus., Inc.*, 711 F.2d 1164, 1177 (2<sup>nd</sup> Cir. 1983).

Upon compliance with the determinative factors, and <u>on application by a defendant</u>, a court may release to a defendant but not to a third party what is material, relevant and probative, but <u>not</u> what is cumulative. <u>United States v. Strifler</u>, 851 F.2d 1197, 1202 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1988), cert. denied, 489 U.S. 1032, 109 S. Ct. 1170, 103 L. Ed. 2d 228 (1989).

In a civil suit arising out of a prior criminal conviction, <u>Beller</u>, <u>supra</u>, an unopposed motion for disclosure of PSR was denied because the parties seeking disclosure failed to

establish a particularized, compelling need to examine the PSR beyond the ordinary justifications for discovery in a civil suit. While the report could have contained information relevant to civil case against defendants, lack of a compelling need is not sufficient to overcome strong presumption of confidentiality. "Proof of mere relevance, economy, and efficiency will not suffice." *United States v. Charmer Indus., supra,* at 1176.

By inference, the Plaintiffs also contend, as the purported victims in the original Federal Criminal Case, that they require the PSR in order to ensure their right to restitution. Failure to assert the right of production under CVRA in the original criminal case in 2006 and 2007 prior to Defendant Rick Rizzolo being sentenced, constitutes a waiver of same. Notwithstanding the failure of the Plaintiffs to request disclosure in the original Federal Criminal Case, *In re Kenna*, 453 F.3d at 1137, the district court rejected a victim's argument that §3771 of the CVRA confers a general right for purported crime victims to obtain disclosure of the PSR for the purpose of ensuring the availability of financial resources for payment of restitution.

This CVRA argument was considered in <u>United States v. Sacane</u>, 2007 WL 951666, at 1 ("The [victims] claim that without a court order compelling more detailed disclosures, the court will not have an accurate picture of the assets available for purposes of setting a payment schedule."). The court in <u>Sacane</u> noted that because the information the victims sought had already been requested by the Government, and indeed the Government was in control of the restitution issue through the forfeiture process [identical to the instant case], that disclosure to the purported victims was "not necessary" to ensure full and timely restitution. <u>Id</u>. at 2.

Accordingly, the standard of review supports the public interest that maintaining the confidentiality of a PSR sufficiently outweighs a civil litigant's need for the document, especially in light of the fact that discoverable information is otherwise available from non-confidential sources.

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# 3. Analysis and Applicable Law - Civil Litigants are Not Entitled to PSR

In <u>Beller</u>, <u>supra</u>, the unopposed motion for disclosure of PSR was denied. Failure to establish particularized, compelling need for disclosure, beyond the ordinary justifications for discovery in a civil suit, precluded same. While the PSR in this case may contain information relevant to the financial claims against Defendant Rick Rizzolo, that relevance is not sufficient to overcome the strong presumption of confidentiality.

The motion is labeled "unopposed," and Plaintiffs state that defendant United States, which has acknowledged through counsel that it has a copy of the presentence report at issue, takes the position that it does not object to disclosure of the report under certain conditions. However, the presentence report was prepared by an arm of the Court, for use by the Court in handing down a just sentence in a criminal case. Even assuming Defendant legitimately has possession of a copy of the report, the report is not Defendant's to disclose or conceal as it wishes.

Rather, this Court has an independent duty to determine whether disclosure of the presentence report under the circumstances of this case would serve the ends of justice. The Court finds that it would not, and the motion will be denied. (Emphasis added).

Beller at 674.

Federal probation officers are charged with the duty of conducting presentence investigations in criminal cases and preparing a report to be submitted to the sentencing judge. F.R.C.P. 32; 18 U.S.C. §3552. No statutory provision or court rule strictly prohibits disclosure of such reports to third persons. *United States v. Figurski*, 545 F.2d 389, 391 (4<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1976). Similarly, PSRs are not within the purview of the Federal Information Act or the Privacy Act. *Charmer, supra*. However, it has been almost universally held that, because these reports are prepared exclusively at the direction and for the benefit of the court in a criminal case, "it is essential that the confidentiality of such a report be protected to insure the free flow of information." *United States v. Dingle*, 546 F.2d 1378, 1381 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1976).

In *Hancock Brothers, Inc. v. Jones*, 293 F. Supp. 1229 (N.D. Cal. 1968), civil plaintiffs sought disclosure of a presentence report prepared on a corporation which pled guilty to violations of the Sherman Act. The corporation was facing a civil suit arising from the same

conduct which formed the basis for the criminal prosecution. The Government, stated that it would nevertheless have no objection to making some of the material part of the public record. Despite the Government's agreement in <a href="Hancock">Hancock</a>, the court quashed the subpoenas, utilizing the same standard that disclosure would be proper "only if a compelling. necessity has been shown with particularity." <a href="Id">Id</a>, at 1232. The court found that the plaintiffs sought the materials basically for "the avoidance of expense and additional work," and refused the request, noting that "mere convenience is not enough to encroach upon the secrecy" of such materials. <a href="Id">Id</a>.

The court in <a href="United States v. Krause">United States v. Krause</a>, 78 F.R.D. 203, 204 (E.D. Wis. 1978), refused to allow a judgment creditor of the defendant in a federal criminal case to have access to the defendant's presentence report, where the stated reason was to help the creditor execute on the state court judgment. The court noted that "disclosure of such reports in civil"

allow a judgment creditor of the defendant in a federal criminal case to have access to the defendant's presentence report, where the stated reason was to help the creditor execute on the state court judgment. The court noted that "disclosure of such reports in civil proceedings could be justified, if at all, by only the most compelling reasons." The PSR is created, not for the general use of the United States Attorney's Office or purported victims, but rather was prepared by the probation office, an arm of the judiciary, for use by the courts in sentencing proceedings. Those proceedings are of course, distinct and separate from the current civil action. The report is disclosed to the United States Attorney's office under the provisions of F.R.C.P. 32(e)(2), which requires that a probation officer give the report to the defendant, the defendant's attorney, and an attorney for the Government, prior to sentencing.

The weight of F.R.C.P. 32(c) and LCR 32-2, and the policies served, make plain the need for the confidentiality of PSRs. Disclosure of PSRs could be seen as Judges breaking faith with defendants, who are uniformly urged to cooperate with, and make full and truthful disclosure to, the Probation Office to assist in sentencing decisions. This would not be the case if the reports were opened to public scrutiny. *Board of Education v. Admiral Heating and Ventilation, Inc.*, 513 F. Supp. 600, 605 (N.D. III. 1981).

The history of F.R.C.P. 32 reflects a longstanding judicial view that confidentiality should be maintained." *United States v. Charmer, supra,* at 1173. In *United States v. Corbitt,* 

879 F.2d 224, 229 (7<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1989) the Seventh Circuit noted, "It is clear that presentence reports have traditionally been confidential – indeed, it is only in the past 25 years that the *defendant* has had access to the presentence report, either as a discretionary matter or as of right." In the earlier version, F.R.C.P. 32 required that the parties to whom a presentence report was disclosed, including the attorney for the government, return all copies of the report to the defendant's probation officer immediately following imposition of sentence. That provision is no longer in the Rule, but the reasons for confidentiality remain present.

The <u>Corbitt</u> court examined the presumption of confidentiality in some detail, and listed a number of factors justifying the secrecy of presentence reports. These factors include privacy interests of the defendant, the defendant's family, the victim, and others; the "substantial interest" of the sentencing court in obtaining all information relevant to the sentencing decision; and the probability that disclosure of the report would tend to discourage the defendant and other sources from communicating information freely, thus reducing the information available to the sentencing court and adversely effecting future presentence investigations; as well as the Government's interest in maintaining confidentiality of the identity of informants and of grand jury proceedings. *Id.*, at 229-235.

The courts have been very reluctant to give *third parties, especially third party civil litigants*, access to the presentence investigation reports prepared for some other individual or individuals. One reason for this is the fear that disclosure of the reports will have a chilling effect on the willingness of various individuals to contribute information that will be incorporated into the report. A second reason is the need to protect the confidentiality of the information contained in the report. Accordingly, the courts have typically required some showing of special need before they will allow a third party to obtain a copy of a presentence report. *United States Dept. of Justice v. Julian*, 486 U.S. 1, 12, 108 S. Ct. 1606, 1613, 100 L. Ed. 2d 1 (1988).

The Plaintiffs in this case are "third parties" to the criminal proceedings involving Defendant Rick Rizzolo. While the Plaintiffs were the purported victims of the crime, the criminal proceedings were prosecuted in the name of, and on behalf of, the United States.

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The Plaintiffs in this case were not parties to the criminal proceedings, even though their interests were considered by the sentencing judge. This Honorable Court should take judicial notice that Defendant Rick Rizzolo has already been sentenced and his criminal case terminated.

The issue of disclosure to third parties most often arises in criminal cases when defendants seek access to the presentence reports of their co-defendants, or other government witnesses, for impeachment purposes. While noting that there may be instances where such disclosure might be vital to the defense, the courts almost never allow it. See, e.g., United States v. Evans, 454 F.2d 813, 820 (8th Cir. 1972) ("Such a claimed right is contrary to public interest as it would adversely affect the sentencing court's ability" to obtain complete information); United States v. Greathouse, 484 F.2d 805 (7th Cir. 1973); United States v. Walker, 491 F.2d 236 [9th Cir. 1974]; United States v. Figurski, supra; United States v. Dingle, supra, at 1381 (the Tenth Circuit, quoting from another case, says such production "would ... seriously hamper and handicap the probation investigation system"); United States v. Cyphers, 553 F.2d 1064, 1069 (7th Cir. 1977) (noting "the critical importance" of maintaining the confidentiality of presentence reports); United States v. Martinello, 556 F.2d 1215, 1216 (5th Cir. 1977) ("Presentence reports are not public records but rather confidential reports to the trial judge for use in his effort to arrive at a fair sentence"); United States v. Anderson, 724 F.2d 596, 598-99 [7th Cir. 1984] ["[a broad] disclosure requirement . . . would upset the delicate balance underlying Rule 32(c)(3). Confidentiality of presentence reports is vitally important to the efficacy of the sentencing process"); United States v. Jackson, 876 F. Supp. 1207, 1208 (D. Kan. 1994) (defendant's asserted need to examine a codefendant's presentence report to verify for himself that the codefendant had not been treated more leniently "is not enough to disturb the confidentiality protecting Garcia's presentencing report"); United States v. Hart, 1995 U.S. App. LEXIS 20203, No. 94-1005, 1995 WL 445685, at 8 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. July 28, 1995) ("we agree with the district court that the 'extremely marginal relevance' of that information 'is considerably outweighed by the considerations of confidentiality"); and United States v. Ventura, 1997 U.S. App. LEXIS

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27 28 35614, No. 96-2148, 1997 WL 774750, at 2 (10<sup>th</sup> Cir. Dec. 17, 1997) ("Concerns about preserving the confidentiality of presentence reports, however, weight against disclosure of the report to a third party other than defendants who are the subjects of the report or their counsel").

On the same reasoning, courts have also disallowed, or placed sharp restraints on, disclosure of presentence reports to the news media. *See, e.g., United States v. Boesky*, 674 F. Supp. 1128, (S.D.N.Y. 1987).

While the Court may appreciate that the production of the PSR may or may not facilitate the preparation of Plaintiffs' case, that is insufficient to justify disclosure.

#### 4. Conclusion

Accordingly, this Court should follow the vast majority of courts which have considered this issue, as well as our own LCR 32-2, and find that in light of the strong presumption of confidentiality the Plaintiffs have failed to make a showing of the identification of a particular witness or a particularized need sufficient to overcome the presumption of confidentiality, and deny the motion to disclose in its entirety.

DATED: October 16, 2009

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Ву

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#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I am a resident of and employed in Clark county, Nevada. I am over the age of 18 years and not a party to the within action. My business address is: 509 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89101.

On October 16, 2009, I served this document on the parties listed on the attached service list via one or more of the methods of service described below as indicate next to the name of the served individual or entity by a checked box:

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BY PERSONAL SERVICE: by personally hand-delivering or causing to be hand delivered by such designated individual whose particular duties include delivery of such on behalf of the firm, addressed to the individual(s) listed, signed by such individual or his/her representative accepting on his/her behalf. A receipt of copy signed and dated by such an individual confirming delivery of the document will be maintained with the document and is attached.

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Employee of KENNETH G. FRIZZELL, III, ESQ.

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