# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON FOR THURSTON COUNTY

STATE OF WASHINGTON,

Plaintiff,

 $\mathbf{v}_{\bullet}$ 

TIM EYMAN, individually, as committee officer for Voters Want More Choices – Save the 2/3s and Protect Your Right to Vote on Initiatives, and as principal of TIM EYMAN WATCHDOG FOR TAXPAYERS, LLC; TIM EYMAN WATCHDOG FOR TAXPAYERS, LLC, a Washington limited liability company; WILLIAM AGAZARM, individually and as a principal of CITIZEN SOLUTION LLC, a Washington limited liability company; and CITIZEN SOLUTIONS LLC, a Washington limited liability company,

NO. 17-2-01546-34

DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE,
OBJECTION AND REQUEST TO STRIKE
OR CONTINUE STATE'S MOTION FOR
CONTEMPT

Defendants.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The Plaintiff's suit is based entirely on the truthful and voluntary 2014 testimony of Defendant Eyman regarding payments he received for consulting in 2012. The amount he was paid, who paid him and when he was paid are undisputed and have been for four years. The Plaintiff's motion to compel is borne of its frustration that, on these undisputed and

DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO MOTION TO COMPEL - 1

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agreed facts, it cannot demonstrate that any Defendant has violated the Fair Campaign Practices Act.

In response, the Plaintiff seeks to distract from this cold reality with colorful diagrams, breathless press releases and pleadings that paint the Defendants (who have undergone five sworn interviews in the past four years — including just last month — and turned over thousands of pages of highly sensitive documents) as recalcitrant scofflaws. The Plaintiff resorts to this hyperbole because its case is weak and, unless it can distract the Court with conspiracy theories and conjecture, it will lose at trial on the facts that have been established and known by both sides for four years.

The motion currently before the Court is no exception. The Plaintiff seeks to manufacture a controversy by filing a surprise motion the same week that the undersigned counsel returned from a notice of unavailability and pledged to update discovery requests --with Defendants' response due the day before this agreed update is to be delivered. The motion itself was served on the Defendants' counsel during this notice of unavailability that was filed in October of last year. Moreover, the motion deals squarely with a discovery issue which, by order of this Court, should be addressed by the Special Master. This would be the very same Special Master the Plaintiff itself insisted on arguing, "The time is now to appoint a special master while discovery is underway and being thwarted by the Defendants." It is somewhat ironic that the Plaintiff complains loudly of the Defendants not following court orders in a motion that directly contradicts an order of this Court.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> See Answer at 4.24, 4.27 and 4.28.

The relief Plaintiff seeks in its motion is as extreme as its rhetoric and just as revealing of its true purpose. Plaintiff only brought this motion after it was served with discovery requests by Defendant Eyman last month, responses to which are due 10 days after this hearing. The State seeks in its contempt motion that which it cannot achieve through litigation on the merits of this case: crippling fines against the Defendants and dismissal of the Defendants' counterclaims which are focused on the Attorney General's unlawful and self-serving conduct in this matter. The Court should strike this hearing and order the Plaintiff to address its concerns to the Special Master it insisted this Court appoint, to the extent any such concerns remain after discovery is updated by close of business on January 10, 2018.

## II. STATEMENT OF FACTS

Counsel for the Defendants filed a notice of unavailability<sup>2</sup> with Court on October 24, 2017 and served the Plaintiff the same day. Plaintiff served the motion before the Court on Defendants on January 4, 2018, a date which the Defendants counsel had previously advised in writing he was unavailable to actively respond to motions. Court Records.

One month ago, the Court appointed (at Plaintiff's request) a special master for discovery matters, ruling:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Plaintiff notes that it filed an objection to the notice of unavailability, but this objection was served during the very same notice of unavailability it objects to. It is notable that this objection was not formally made until after Defendant's had served discovery requests on the Plaintiff, responses to which are due shortly. Plaintiff could have objected at any time after receiving the notice on October 24, 2017 (including during a deposition of Defendant Eyman on December 14, 2017) or at the November 3, 2017 hearing before this Court, but instead chose to wait until Defendant's counsel was again unavailable to file its objection to give the pretext of procedural cover for the present motion.

The Special Master shall have *full power and authority* to adjudicate *any and all discovery disputes*, and to issue orders deemed necessary for the fair, reasonable and efficient prosecution of discovery. The Special Master is granted the discretion to determine which, if any, discovery disputes he will resolve by way of his own orders, and which will be resolved by way of a report to the court with recommendations as to the resolution of such disputes, as contemplated by CR 53.3. [Emphasis added].

The Defendants reminded Plaintiff of both the notice of unavailability and the jurisdiction of the special master in correspondence on October 8, 2017, offering to stipulate to a continuance to a date when the Special Master could here this matter. The State declined. Lamb Declaration

The Plaintiff conducted two depositions of Defendants during the week of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Following the deposition of Defendant Eyman on the 14<sup>th</sup>, the undersigned counsel indicated that Defendants would provide updated discovery responses on January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 following the period of unavailability for counsel (and travel for Defendants). Counsel for the State did not object to this date or demand an earlier response at that time. Lamb Declaration.

## III. ISSUE STATEMENT

Should a motion to compel be heard and granted when: a.) the Defendants have updated discovery by January 10, 2018, b.) the motion to compel was served during a notice of unavailability and, c.) this Court has ordered that all discovery disputes are to be addressed through the Special Master? **No.** 

#### IV. ARGUMENT

The Defendants in this matter have been questioned under oath five times in the last four years, including just last month. Following the deposition of Defendant Eyman on December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, counsel for the Defendants and the Plaintiff conferred, and the undersigned counsel indicated that additional discovery responses would be provided by January 10, 2018 following the return of counsel from a notice of unavailability and Defendant from holiday related travel. Counsel for the State did not indicate that this date was unacceptable, much less that it would bring a motion for contempt even if it were complied with.

The present motion is brought to generate publicity<sup>3</sup> and violates the clear directive of this Court that discovery disputes be addressed by the special master. The motion was served during a notice of unavailability and, more importantly, with the full knowledge that the Defendants had pledged to update discovery responses by January 10, 2018, following the return of counsel from the notice of unavailability and Defendants from travels related to the holidays. Defendants have every confidence that all remaining issues will be addressed to the satisfaction of the Court by the hearing date, but the task is made more difficult by having to respond to the present motion in addition to updating its responses to the voluminous requests at issue in this case.

The relief requested by the Plaintiff: dismissal of all counterclaims, \$2,000 a day fines and potential imprisonment, speak to the headline-seeking savvy of the Attorney General who

See http://www.seattlepi.com/local/politics/article/Connelly-Attorney-General-wants-Eyman-held-in-

animates this action. No doubt, when Defendants' responses are delivered as promised on January 10, 2018, the Plaintiff will claim that it was the threat of this motion (as opposed to the pledge of the Defendants given weeks ago) that prompted such action. This Court should view such claims, along with the predictable requests for fees to financially damage the Defendants, with skepticism.

Defendants do not address the substance of the motion because time does not permit them to do so as: 1.) the motion was served during a notice of unavailability, and 2.) they are working to provide updated responses by tomorrow as pledged. For purposes of illustration, the Defendants will note that many of the requests were in fact addressed in the December 14, 2017 deposition of Mr. Eyman, including all questions concerning cell phone and email providers.

# IV. CONCLUSION & RELIEF REQUESTED

The present motion should be stricken, or in the alternative continued to January 19, 2017 to be heard by the special master. This would afford the Plaintiff's an opportunity to review Defendants January 10<sup>th</sup> transmittal and see if it still required the intervention of the special master (or, in the Plaintiff's opinion, the Court). The motion was served during a notice of unavailability and, coupled with the deadline of a January 10, 2018 response, did not provide Defendants an adequate or fair time to respond. The Plaintiff has refused to continue the matter or allow the special master to address it. Accordingly, Defendants respectfully request that the Court deny the Plaintiff's motion for contempt.

THE NORTH CREEK LAW FIRM

Mark & Lough

Mark C. Lamb, WSBA No. 30134

Attorney for Defendants

## DECLARATION OF SERVICE

2 On this date I caused to be served a true and correct copy of the within and 3 foregoing DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE, OBJECTION AND REQUEST TO STRIKE OR 4 CONTINUE STATE'S MOTION FOR CONTEMPT on the following, in the manner 5 6 indicated: 7 Attorney General of Washington Via first class mail, postage Linda Dalton prepaid 8 Todd Sipe Via facsimile Jeffrey Sprung Via Legal Messengers 9 1125 Washington Street X Other: Via Electronic Mail 10 P.O. Box 40100 Olympia, WA 98504-0100 11 12 I declare, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of Washington, that the 13 foregoing is true and correct. 14 DATED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018. 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23

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DECLARATION OF MARK LAMB

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LAW OFFICES

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- 2. Defendant Eyman has voluntarily provided sworn testimony on three separate occasions over the past four years
- 3. In the most recent instance, I sat with Defendant Eyman for a deposition on December 14, 2018. Following this deposition counsel for the Plaintiff inquired as to the status of discovery responses. I indicated (after conferring with Defendant Eyman) that Defendants would provide additional responses by December 10, 2018, following my return from the notice of unavailability and my client's planned travel. Counsel for the Plaintiff did not object to this date nor indicate that he would bring a motion for contempt if it was complied with.
- 4. After receiving the motion for contempt I wrote to counsel for the Plaintiff and pointed out that this motion was defective as it was served during my notice of unavailability and was not set before the special master for discovery disputes. Counsel for the state indicated that they would not agree to a continuance or to having the matter heard before the special master.
- 5. I HEREBY DECLARE under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and that this declaration was executed this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2018 at Bothell, Washington.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January 2018.

THE NORTH CREEK LAW FIRM

Mark Lamb, WSBA No. 30134

Counsel for Defendants