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Attorneys for Plaintiff Christopher Williams

# SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO – HALL OF JUSTICE

CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS,	) CASE NO. 37-2018-00023369-CU-PO-CTL
Plaintiff,	) ) PLAINTIFF CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS'S ) OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANTS'
VS.	) MOTION IN LIMINE, 7 OF 23
DAVID ARAMBULA; CITY OF LEMON GROVE; and DOES 1 through 1,000,	Action Filed: March 01, 2017 Department: C-68 (Whitney)
Defendants.	) Trial Date: August 5, 2022 ) Trial Time: 8:30 a.m

Plaintiff Christopher Williams ("Plaintiff") respectfully submits this brief in opposition to Defendant David Arambula ("Arambula") and City of Lemon Grove ("City") (collectively, "Defendants")'s Motion *In Limine* No. 7 to preclude photographic and demonstrative evidence depicting the tops of Plaintiff's hands.

Plaintiff's partner, Kathleen McClean, testified at the time of her deposition that she photographed Plaintiff using her cell phone on the morning after he was attacked by Arambula. Ms. McClean produced the photographs at her deposition and testified as to when and how she took these photographs. At issue in Defendants' motion is specifically, two photographs that she took of the tops of Plaintiff's hands. Defendants requests this evidence be excluded at trial because the photographs have not been authenticated and are otherwise unduly prejudicial. His contentions fail and the motion should be denied.

First, the motion should be denied because the photographs are relevant to Plaintiff's claims in his lawsuit. All relevant evidence is admissible except as otherwise provided by statute. EVID. CODE § 351. For evidence to be relevant, it must have "any tendency in reason to provide or disprove any disputed fact that is

of consequence to the determination of the action". EVID. CODE § 210. Plaintiff's lawsuit is based on the assault and battery that Arambula committed against him on the night of July 14, 2017. The photographs taken by Ms. McClean show the visible physical state Plaintiff was in after Arambula's attack-including the state of his hands. The photographs are directly relevant to Plaintiff's claims as to how Arambula attacked him and whether or not he engaged in the attack. Precluding the evidence would be unfairly prejudice Plaintiff by preventing him from proving his asserted claims. This is not an undue consumption of time and does not confuse or mislead the jury in any way.

Second, the motion should be denied because Ms. McClean can, and has, authenticated the photographs she captured. *See* Decl. Pasin, ¶1-2, Exs.1-2. Photographs are considered "writings". EVID. CODE § 250. "Authentication of a writing means (a) the introduction of evidence sufficient to sustain a finding that it is the writing that the proponent of the evidence claims it is or (b) the establishment of such facts by any other means provided by law." EVID. CODE § 1400. "A writing may be authenticated by anyone who saw the writing made or executed." EVID. CODE § 1413. Because Ms, McClean captured these images, she is the best witness to authenticate the images, confirm the time and manner in which she took the photographs, and can lay their foundation by showing that the images accurately represent an image of Plaintiff at the time she took the photographs.

Defendants' motion suggests that because the photographs she captured were in-color, but printed in black-and-white ink when produced at Ms. McClean's deposition, the images are unreliable and cannot be properly authenticated. However, Defendants provide no showing that the photographs are not what Ms. McClean claims them to be. "A printed representation of images stored on a video or digital medium is presumed to be an accurate representation of the images it purports to represent." EVID. CODE § 1553. Arambula goes on to suggest that because the photographs do not contain meta-data, they may not be reliable. "The fact that it is possible to alter data contained in a computer is plainly insufficient to establish untrustworthiness." *U.S. v. Bonallo*, 858 F.2d 1427, 1436 (9th Cir. 1988). Because there is nothing to actually suggest or indicate that the photographs are not accurate representations or are untrustworthy in any way, the evidence should not be precluded.

Lastly, the photographs are not unduly prejudicial. The court in its discretion may exclude evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the probability that its admission will (a) necessitate undue consumption of time or (b) create substantial danger of undue prejudice, of confusing the issues, or of

misleading the jury. EVID. CODE § 352. Photographs of Plaintiff's hands after he was attacked by Arambula do not create substantial danger of undue prejudice, do not confuse the issues, and do not mislead the jury. The photographs only aide to provide as much relevant information as possible to the jury as to what happened the night of the attack. Even if this Court finds otherwise, when balancing whether the value of the photographic evidence of the aftermath of the attack, including the state of Plaintiff's hands, against the risk that it will have an undesired outcome listed in Section 352, the probative value of the photographs greatly outweighs any possible risk.

For these reasons, motion in limine no. 7 to preclude photographic and demonstrative evidence depicting the tops of Plaintiff's hands at trial should be denied.

Date: August 3, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

11 ora Parts

**BRIGGS LAW CORPORATION** 

By:

Nora Pasin

Cory J. Briggs Attorneys for Plaintiff Christopher Williams

#### **DECLARATION OF NORA PASIN**

- I, Nora Pasin, am over the age of 18 years and if called as a witness in this lawsuit will testify as follows:
- 0. I am an attorney licensed to practice law before all courts in the State of California. I am one of the attorneys of record for Plaintiff Christopher Williams in this lawsuit.
- 1. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** are true and correct copies of excerpts from the deposition transcript of Kathleen McClean in this lawsuit, which is maintained by our firm in the ordinary course of business. The excerpts show that Ms. McClean testified at her deposition that she took photographs of Plaintiff using her cell phone and testified as to the time and location in which she took the photographs.
- 2. Attached hereto as **Exhibit 2** are true and correct copies of the exhibits from the deposition of Kathleen McClean that correspond to the her testimony highlighted in Exhibit 1.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: August 3, 2022	nom tasa
	Nora Pasin

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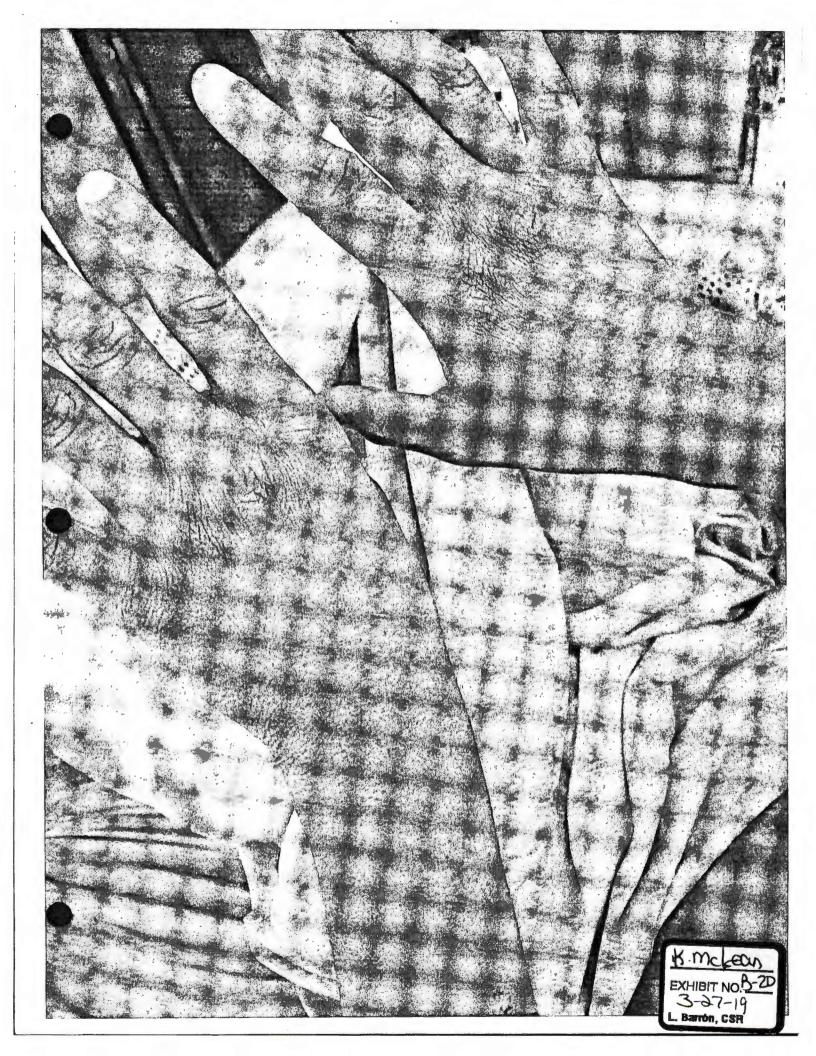
1	documents, including photographs and correspondence,
2	that pertain to the alleged altercation that occurred on
3	or about July 14, 2017 between plaintiff, Christopher
4	Williams and defendant, David Arambula.
5	What items did you look for that would be
6	responsive to that category?
7	A Pictures.
8	Q And you brought a series of photographs today.
9	I didn't count how many there were.
10	MR. BRIGGS: I think there's 21, if memory
11	serves me.
12	BY MS. WILLIAMS:
13	Q Okay. So you located the photographs that you
14	brought today; is that right?
15	A Yes.
16	Q Okay. How did you take these photographs?
17	A On my cell phone.
18	On your cell phone.
19	When you took them were they black and white
20	or were they in color?
21	A They were in color.
22	Q Okay. And just for the record, what you've
23	produced today is black and white, correct?
24	A Yes.
25	Q Okay. Do you still have the electronic files

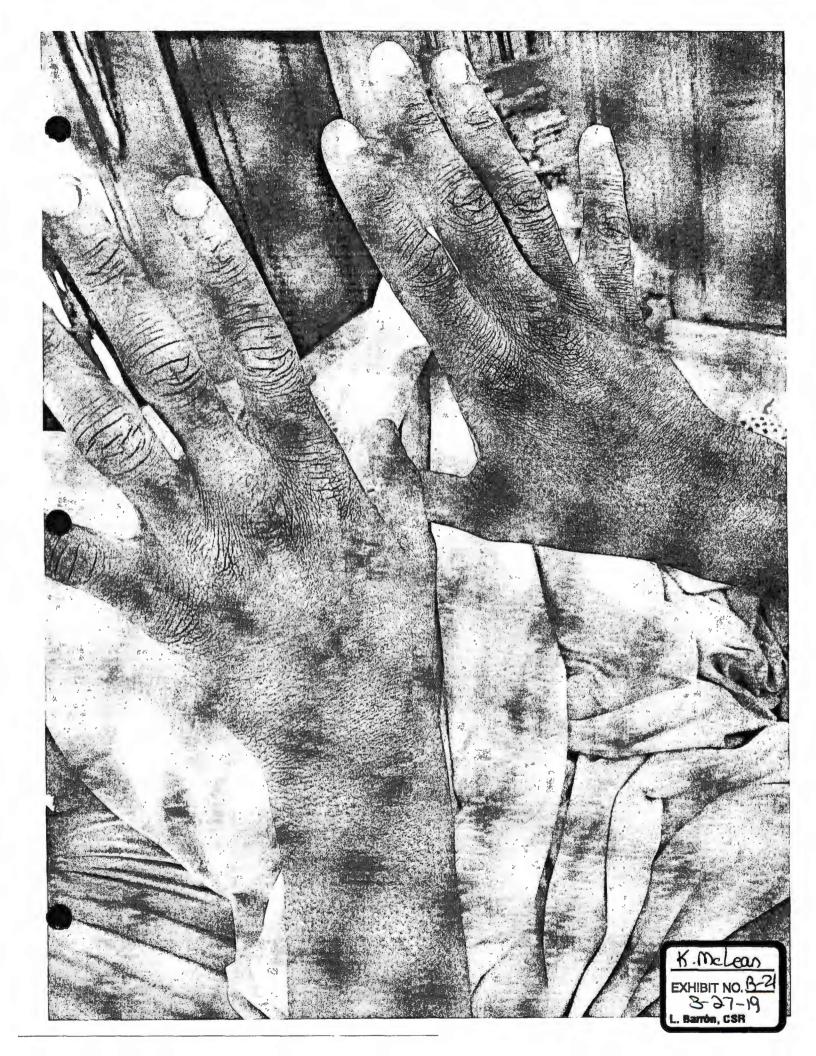
## Atkinson-Baker, Inc. www.depo.com

1	Q When was it taken?
2	A The next morning between around between
3	8:00 and 9 o'clock in the morning.
4	Q What was the purpose of taking this
5.	photograph?
6	A To show the after the after of like,
7	what after he got it cleaned up.
8	Q To show the cleaned up condition of his face?
9	A Yes.
10	MS. WILLIAMS: Okay. I'm going to mark the
11	next photograph as B-20.
12	(Exhibit B-20 was marked.)
13	BY MS. WILLIAMS:
14	Q Where was this picture taken?
15	A It was taken in our bed at our home.
16	Q When was it taken?
17	A The same time, between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m.
18	Q On July 15?
19	A On July 15.
20	Q And what are you trying to depict here?
21	A Um, he doesn't have any bruising or any broken
22	knuckles and nothing wrong with his hands.
23	MS. WILLIAMS: I'll mark the next photograph,
24	B-21.
25	(Exhibit B-21 was marked.)

### Atkinson-Baker, Inc. www.depo.com

1	BY MS. WILLIAMS:
2	Q Was this also taken at home the next morning?
3	A Yes.
4	<pre>Same time frame?</pre>
5	A Yes.
6	Q What were you trying to depict here?
7	A He never threw a punch, never hit anything
8	with his hands.
9	Q Okay. So your conclusion is that he didn't
10	hit anything with his hands. And you were documenting
11	his the condition?
12	A Yes.
13	Q Did you take any other photographs pertaining
14	to Mr. Williams' physical condition?
15	A No.
16	Q Have you provided these photographs to anyone
17.	other than your attorney and us here today?
18	A Um, I showed my parents.
19	Q Anyone else?
20	A Um, I gave this one.
21	MR. BRIGGS: Look at her numbers so that we
22	can identify it.
23	THE WITNESS: Oh, I apologize.
24	This one
25	





#### PROOF OF SERVICE

1.	My name is Keri Taylor . I am over the age of eighteen. I am employed in the
	State of California, County of San Bernardino.
2.	My ✓ businessresidence address is Briggs Law Corporation, 99 East "C" Street, Suite 111
	Upland, CA 91786
3.	On August 3, 2022, I served an original copy a true and correct copy of the following documents: Plaintiff Christopher Williams's Opposition to Defendants' Motion in Limine
	Training
4.	I served the documents on the person(s) identified on the attached mailing/service list as follows:
<u></u> .	by personal service. I personally delivered the documents to the person(s) at the address(es) indicated on the list.
	La Ti Consultation de la consult
	by U.S. mail. I sealed the documents in an envelope or package addressed to the person(s) at the address(es) indicated on the list, with first-class postage fully prepaid, and then I
	molecules on the fist, with this class postage fully propert, and then I
	deposited the envelope/package with the U.S. Postal Service
	placed the envelope/package in a box for outgoing mail in accordance with my office's ordinary
	practices for collecting and processing outgoing mail, with which I am readily familiar. On the same
	day that mail is placed in the box for outgoing mail, it is deposited in the ordinary course of business with the U.S. Postal Service.
	I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. The mailing occurred in the city of Upland, California.
	by overnight delivery. I sealed the documents in an envelope/package provided by an overnight-delivery
	service and addressed to the person(s) at the address(es) indicated on the list, and then I placed the envelope/package for collection and overnight delivery in the service's box regularly utilized for receiving items for overnight delivery or at the service's office where such items are accepted for overnight delivery.
60.004	by facsimile transmission. Based on an agreement of the parties or a court order, I sent the documents to the person(s) at the fax number(s) shown on the list. Afterward, the fax machine from which the documents were sent reported that they were sent successfully.
<u>*</u>	by e-mail delivery. Based on the parties' agreement or a court order or rule, I sent the documents to the person(s at the e-mail address(es) shown on the list. I did not receive, within a reasonable period of time afterward, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.
that tl	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of the State of California he foregoing is true and correct.
	$\mathcal{U}_{-}$
	Date: August 3, 2022 Signature:

#### SERVICE LIST

Christopher Williams vs. Lemon Grove
Superior Court of the State of California Case No. 37-2018-00023369-CU-PO-CTL

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