Case No. 99-02829 RGK (CWx)

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#### I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

Artemis argues that (1) the Commissioner is not entitled to post-judgment interest from the date of the prior judgment entered on February 13, 2006, which this Court has decided to reinstate; and (2) Artemis is entitled to reduce the restitution judgment by offsetting settlements from other defendants in this case and, as a result, keep all of the illegal profits that Judge Matz and this Court have decided should be disgorged. Artemis is wrong on both counts.

First, the Commissioner is entitled to post-judgment interest from the date of the prior restitution judgment. Controlling Ninth Circuit authority holds that the post-judgment interest mandated by 28 U.S.C. § 1961 runs from the date of the original judgment when that judgment is vacated and then reinstated. That well-established principle applies here because this Court had ordered "restitution in the amount ordered by Judge Matz ... [f]or the same reasons stated by Judge Matz." See Order Re: Restitution Award (Dkt. No. 4330). Artemis has not cited any case that held that, under similar circumstances, post-judgment interest did not run from the prior judgment. Moreover, although Artemis stresses the fact that reinstatement was not certain here until recently ordered by this Court, such uncertainty was also present in many other cases cited below that held that post-judgment interest ran from the prior judgment.

Second, Artemis is not entitled to an offset. Artemis has failed to cite a single decision that held that an **individual** judgment for **restitution** should be reduced by settlements from other defendants, and both Judge Matz and the Ninth Circuit have held that such an offset is not appropriate. Moreover, such an offset would be contrary to common sense and the interests of justice because it would permit a wrongdoer like Artemis to keep all of its illegal profits. Accordingly, Artemis's request for an offset should be denied.

## II. THE COMMISSIONER IS ENTITLED TO POST-JUDGMENT INTEREST FROM THE FEBRUARY 2006 JUDGMENT

The Ninth Circuit has repeatedly held that post-judgment interest runs from the date of the original judgment when, as here, that judgment was vacated and then reinstated. See, e.g., Guam Soc'y of Obstetricians & Gynecologists v. Ada, 100 F.3d 691, 702-03 (9th Cir. 1996) (finding that "the district court was correct in awarding interest from the date of entry of the original judgment," which had been vacated by appellate court and then reinstated by district court); Handgards, Inc. v. Ethicon, Inc., 743 F.2d 1282, 1299 (9th Cir. 1984) (holding that post-judgment interest ran from prior judgment, which had been vacated and then reinstated, because the "second judgment 'remains the same – in the same amount, for the same damages incurred during the same period" – as the prior judgment); Twin City Sportservice, Inc. v. Charles O. Finely & Co., 676 F.2d 1291, 1311 (9th Cir. 1982) (same).

Artemis concedes that "post-judgment interest accrues from the date the monetary award is 'ascertain[ed]." See Artemis Objections to Proposed Judgment ("Objections") at 4. As the Ninth Circuit has explained, an award is "ascertained" for this purpose when "the legal and evidentiary basis" of the award is determined. See Planned Parenthood of the Columbia/Willamette Inc. v. Am. Coalition of Life Activists, 518 F.3d 1013, 1018 (9th Cir. 2008). Here, this Court reinstated the prior restitution award "[f]or the same reasons stated by Judge Matz." See Dkt. No. 4330. Accordingly, the "legal and evidentiary basis" for this Court's restitution award was determined by the prior restitution judgment, so post-judgment interest runs from that prior judgment.

Artemis argues that the foregoing Ninth Circuit authority should not apply here because "there was no way for either party to know whether there would be any restitution award or, if so, how much it would be" until this Court decided to reinstate the prior award. See Objections at 2. The uncertainty about whether the

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prior judgment would be reinstated, however, does not alter the general rule that post-judgment interest runs from a prior judgment that is reinstated.

In fact, the general rule has been frequently applied where it was not certain that the district court would reinstate the prior judgment until it did so. For example, in Guam Society, the Ninth Circuit held that post-judgment interest ran from the date of the previously vacated judgment when the district court reinstated that judgment after considering intervening case law. See 100 F.3d at 703. Similarly, in *Handgards*, the Ninth Circuit affirmed an award of post-judgment interest "on the amount of the first judgment from its date of entry" after the original judgment for the plaintiff was reversed and the plaintiff won the retrial. See 743 F.2d at 1284 & 1298. See also Twin City Sportservice, 676 F.2d at 1296 & 1311 (affirming award of post-judgment interest from date of previously reversed judgment when district court reinstated that judgment after considering new evidence); Mt. Hood Stages, Inc. v. Greyhound Corp., 616 F.2d 394, 395 & 406 (affirming award of post-judgment interest from previously vacated judgment where district court reinstated that judgment after reconsideration of whether statute of limitations had tolled). As these authorities show, when a prior judgment is reinstated for the same amount and same reasons, as is the case here, the amount of that judgment was "ascertained" at the time of the prior judgment even if the issue of whether the prior judgment would be reinstated was not decided until the court ordered such reinstatement.

None of the cases cited by Artemis support its contention that post-judgment interest should not accrue from February 2006 here. In fact, as discussed above, several of these cases actually held that post-judgment interest **should** run from the date of a prior judgment that was reinstated. *See Planned Parenthood*, 518 F.3d at 1018; *Handgards*, 743 F.2d at 1299; *Mt. Hood Stages*, 616 F.2d at 497. Another case cited by Artemis, *Turner v. Japan Lines*, *Ltd.*, 702 F.2d 752 (9th Cir. 1983), similarly recognized that post-judgment interest should run from the date of the

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prior judgment because, "where a judgment for plaintiff is vacated on appeal but a judgment for plaintiff for the same amount of damages incurred during the same period is entered on remand, the date of entry of the judgment [under] . . . section 1961 is the date on which the first judgment for plaintiff was entered in the trial court proceedings." *Id.* at 754.<sup>1</sup>

The only other cases cited by Artemis on this issue are readily distinguishable. Kaiser Aluminum & Chemical Corp. v. Bonjorno, 494 U.S. 827 (1990), held that post-judgment interest should run from the later judgment because the district court had found that the damages portion of the prior judgment was "not supported by the evidence." Id. at 852-53 (emphasis added). United States v. Hougham, 301 F.2d 133 (9th Cir. 1962), held that a plaintiff was not entitled to post-judgment interest from the date of the original judgment on additional damages that were awarded by the district court after entry of that judgment. Id. at 134-35. Finally, James B. Lansing Sound, Inc. v. National Union Fire Ins. Co., 801 F.2d 1560 (9th Cir. 1986), rejected a plaintiff's request for "post-judgment interest from the date the trial court should have awarded its damages" because "there was no original award in the district court." Id. at 1570 (emphasis added). Unlike those cases, this Court has reinstated a prior judgment for the same amount and based on the same evidentiary and legal basis, so post-judgment interest must run from the date of the prior judgment under the controlling Ninth Circuit authority cited above.

Artemis also argues that there "are no equities that favor" awarding postjudgment interest from the prior judgment here. See Objections at 6. In fact, the

Artemis quotes a statement from the *Turner* opinion out of context, but the holding in that case actually supports the Commissioner's position here, as explained above. *See Objections at 5*. Artemis also fails to mention that the Ninth Circuit later expressly characterized the *Turner* statement quoted by Artemis as "dicta" and "decline[d] to interpret [it] ... as an attempt to formulate a general rule for all cases" because it was "inconsistent with the reasoning supporting [the] holding and result" in *Turner*. *See Handgards*, 743 F.2d at 1299.

U.S. Supreme Court has explained that the "purpose of postjudgment interest is to compensate the successful plaintiff for being deprived of compensation for the loss from the time between the ascertainment of the damage and the payment by the defendant." *Kaiser Aluminum*, 494 U.S. at 835. *See also Ministry of Def. & Support v. Cubic Def. Sys., Inc.*, 2013 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 1625 at \*12 (S.D. Cal. Jan. 3, 2013) ("This equitable rule allows postjudgment interest to run from the initial ascertainment of damages so as not to penalize the victor for delay in the eventual entry of the final judgment."). Here, it would be inequitable for Artemis to benefit from the delay in paying the illegal profits that both Judge Matz and this Court have concluded that it should disgorge, so post-judgment interest should run from the prior judgment.

Finally, Artemis argues that the Commissioner should not receive post-judgment interest from February 2006 to date because this Court did not award pre-judgment interest for that period. *See Objections to 6*. This Court's Order Re: Restitution Award, however, did not reach the issue of post-judgment interest, which was not ripe for briefing or decision until this Court decided the amount of and basis for the restitution award. Accordingly, that Order should not be interpreted as rejecting the arguments and authorities that have now been presented to the Court.<sup>2</sup>

Artemis also argues that the prior judgment should not be reinstated nunc pro tunc, as proposed by the Commissioner and NOLHGA. See Objections at 7. The only case cited by Artemis, however, involved a request to amend a judgment nunc pro tunc. See United States v. Sumner, 226 F.3d 1005, 1009-10 (9th Cir. 2000) (affirming district court's refusal to set aside conviction). Here, by contrast, the Court is reinstating a judgment for the same amount and the same reasons without any substantive amendment, so making that reinstatement nunc pro tunc is appropriate. See Fassbinder v. Pennsylvania R.R. Co., 233 F. Supp. 574, 575 (W.D. Pa. 1964) ("It seems obvious to us that the reinstatement of the original judgment operated to restore the legal relationship existing between the parties, nunc pro tunc, as of" the date of the original judgment.)

In any event, whether or not the prior judgment is reinstated *nunc pro tunc*, post-judgment interest should run from the prior judgment under the cases cited in the text above, none of which involved a reinstatement of the prior judgment that was expressly *nunc pro tunc*.

### III. ARTEMIS IS NOT ENTITLED TO AN OFFSET

Artemis argues that this Court's restitution award should be reduced to zero by offsetting the settlement payments by other defendants, but Artemis fails to cite a single case that allowed such an offset under similar circumstances. Artemis instead cites irrelevant criminal cases in which defendants were held jointly and severally liable for restitution of the victim's losses, not the defendants' unjust enrichment. See Objections at 8, citing People v. Blackburn, 72 Cal. App. 4th 1520, 1533 & 1535 (1999); In re S.S., 37 Cal. App. 4th 543, 550 (1995). Moreover, the only civil cases cited by Artemis that actually granted offsets involved judgments for joint and several liability for damages. See, e.g., Reed v. Wilson, 73 Cal. App. 4th 439, 443-45 (affirming trial court decision that appellant-joint tortfeasor was entitled to offset prior settlements by other defendants against jury verdict for damages but not against appellant's several liability for taxable costs). These cases did not involve an offset to reduce a wrongdoer's individual liability for unjust enrichment, which is what Artemis is requesting here.

In fact, the only two decisions cited in Artemis's Objections that involved claims to reduce **restitution** awards by offsetting prior settlements actually held that such offsets were not appropriate. See Garamendi v. Henin, 683 F.3d 1069, 1081-82 (9th Cir. 2012); Order Denying Motion of the Artemis Defendants for an Offset, filed on February 1, 2006 (Dkt. No. 3554). These decisions by the Ninth Circuit and Judge Matz rejected the very same arguments that Artemis now makes for an offset.

In 2006, Judge Matz denied Artemis's motion to reduce its liability for restitution by offsetting the settlements by other defendants. *Id.* Artemis argued then, as it does again now, that it was entitled to an offset under California Code of Civil Procedure Section 877 because the Commissioner had alleged that defendants were jointly and severally liable for restitution, that the "only requirement" for such an offset was that "the plaintiff *allege* joint liability among the defendants," and

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that "Section 877 specifically applies to all claims arising from the wrong for which the settling defendants were alleged to be liable." See Dkt. No. 3251 at 8 (emphasis in original). Artemis also argued, as it does now, that both the Commissioner's restitution claim and his damages claim "sought the profits generated from the insurance business." Id. at 11.

Judge Matz rejected these arguments when he denied Artemis's motion for an offset. See Dkt. No. 3554. He expressly held that "Section 877(a) does not require an offset" because "there is no risk of double recovery if Artemis disgorges the benefit it derived unjustly" and there is "a difference between disgorgement and damages." Id. at 2.

Artemis argues that "Judge Matz's reasoning no longer applies" because the Commissioner was permitted at the 2012 trial to seek damages based on a model that took into account the profits of the successor insurance company. *See Objections at 12*. Artemis never explains, however, why that asserted distinction should make any difference. In fact, Judge Matz held, and this Court agreed, that the failure to recover damages did not preclude an award of partial restitution here because such an award is "consistent with the principle embodied in Cal. Civ. Code § 3517 that no one can 'take advantage of his own wrong." *See Garamendi v. Altus Fin., S.A.,* 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 39273 at \*47 (C.D. Cal. Nov. 21, 2005).

Moreover, the Ninth Circuit expressly held that a restitution judgment against another defendant in this action, Jean-Francois Henin, should not be offset by settlements from other defendants "because his liability is individual, not joint." See Garamendi v. Henin, 683 F.3d at 1074 & 1081-82. The court stressed that such individual liability was not offset because the "relevant language of section 877(a) ... presupposes the existence of multiple defendants jointly liable for the same damages." Id., quoting Vesey v. United States, 626 F.2d 627, 633 (9th Cir. 1980). See also Wilson v. John Crane, Inc., 81 Cal. App. 4th 847, 864 (2000) (holding that settlements from other joint tortfeasors should not offset non-settling tortfeasor's

several and individual liability for non-economic damages under California Civil Code Section 1431.2); *In re Piper Aircraft*, 792 F. Supp. 1189, 1192-93 (N.D. Cal. 1992) (same).

In addition, the *Henin* decision expressly rejected the argument that Artemis now makes, based on *Vesey* and *McComber v. Wells*, 72 Cal. App. 4th 512 (1999), that "the complaint, rather than the judgment, ... controls" whether Section 877(a) requires an offset. The court explained:

In those cases [i.e., Vesey and McComber], it was the complaint that controlled, meaning that the non-settling (and liable) defendants could claim setoff for the amounts paid by the settling (and non-liable) defendants even though the two groups of defendants had not been judged to be jointly liable.... But those cases have no application to this case, where the district court apportioned damages individually to Henin rather than making him liable, jointly or otherwise, for the total claimed loss.

683 F.3d. at 1082 n.8 (emphasis in original).<sup>3</sup>

Artemis tries to distinguish *Henin* by arguing that the judgment against Henin specifically imposed individual liability on Henin alone. *See Objections at 14 n.10*. In fact, the judgment against Artemis also imposes individual liability on Artemis alone. Far from claiming that any one else is jointly and severally liable for restitution of Artemis's profits, Artemis has asked the Court to add language to the Commissioner's [Proposed] Judgment to make it clear that Artemis is "the **sole** Net Artemis Judgment Obligation Party." *Id. at 15 n.12* (emphasis added). Accordingly, the liability of Artemis, like that of Henin, is individual, and not joint, so this individual liability is not reduced by settlements from other defendants.

Artemis stresses that there is some overlap between the Commissioner's claim for restitution of Artemis's unjust enrichment and his claim for all damages caused by the conspiracy, but Artemis does not cite any authority that indicates that that point is relevant to whether the Commissioner is entitled to restitution or Artemis is entitled to an offset. In fact, the restitution award requires disgorgement of only a portion of the undisputed profits of Artemis, not the profits received by any other defendant. See Garamendi v. Altus Fin., 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 39273 at \*42-43 & 49 (deducting Artemis profits received from defendant MAAF in calculating total restitution award against Artemis).

## IV. ARTEMIS'S OTHER OBJECTIONS TO THE COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED JUDGMENT SHOULD BE REJECTED

Artemis objects to Judge Matz's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law Re: Restitution (Dkt. No. 3494) being reinstated, as provided in the Commissioner and NOLHGA's [Proposed] Judgment and expressly permitted by the Ninth Circuit, because they are "significantly incomplete" and do not mention "the events of the last seven years." *See Objections at 7 n.3.* In fact, this Court is reinstating the prior judgment for the reasons stated by Judge Matz in these Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, so subsequent events are irrelevant.

In addition, Artemis objects to the statement in the [Proposed] Judgment that the "Net Artemis Judgment Obligation is for restitution and does not include any punitive damages component." *See Objections at 7 n.4*. Artemis contends that Judge Matz supposedly "based his restitution award primarily on the 2005 jury's invalidated attempt to award \$700 million in punitive damages." *Id.* In fact, Judge Matz vacated the punitive damages award, and his restitution award was expressly based on Artemis's undisputed profits and was considerably smaller than the punitive damages award. *See Garamendi v. Altus Fin., S.A.,* 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 39273 at \*42-43 & 49.

The challenged sentence was added to the [Proposed] Judgment to make sure that a French court, if asked to enforce this Judgment, would not mistakenly believe that the award was punitive, rather than restitutionary, as a French court did with the Commissioner's restitution judgment against Henin. *See Garamendi v. Henin*, 683 F.3d at 1075 (explaining that French court had refused to enforce the Commissioner's and Sierra's judgments against Henin because "the judgments did not clearly allow [the French court] ... to rule out the possibility that some of the damages were punitive in nature, in contravention of French public policy"). Accordingly, the Commissioner and NOLHGA request that the challenged statement be included in the Judgment to avoid this potential problem.

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#### V. CONCLUSION

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In summary, the Commissioner is entitled to post-judgment interest from the date of the prior restitution award because the Court has ordered that judgment to be reinstated for the same reasons stated by Judge Matz. Moreover, Artemis should not benefit from the delay in disgorging the designated portion of its unjust enrichment.

In addition, Artemis should not escape its individual obligation to disgorge these illegal profits by offsetting the settlements from the other defendants. The restitution award requires Artemis to disgorge only some of its **own** profits, so there is no risk of double recovery. In addition, the settlements from other defendants did not reduce Artemis's profits and should not reduce its liability.

DATED: March 19, 2013

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Case No. 99-02829 RGK (CWx) REPLY TO ARTEMIS'S OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSIONER AND NOLHGA'S PROPOSED JUDGMENT

# SHARTSIS FRIESE LLP ONE MARITIME PLAZA EIGHTEENTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111

#### V. CONCLUSION

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DATED: March 19, 2013

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Case No. 99-02829 RGK (CWx)

REPLY TO ARTEMIS'S OBJECTIONS TO COMMISSIONER AND NOLHGA'S PROPOSED JUDGMENT