# IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY, FLORIDA CIVIL DIVISION

In re:

Laser Spine Institute, LLC <sup>1</sup>	Case No. 2019-CA-2762
CLM Aviation, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2764
LSI HoldCo, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2765
LSI Management Company, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2766
Laser Spine Surgery Center of Arizona, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2767
Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cincinnati, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2768
Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cleveland, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2769
Laser Spine Surgical Center, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2770
Laser Spine Surgery Center of Pennsylvania, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2771
Laser Spine Surgery Center of St. Louis, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2772
Laser Spine Surgery Center of Warwick, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2773
Medical Care Management Services, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2774
Spine DME Solutions, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2775
Total Spine Care, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2776
Laser Spine Institute Consulting, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2777
Laser Spine Surgery Center of Oklahoma, LLC	Case No. 2019-CA-2780
Assignors,	Consolidated Case No.
	2019-CA-2762
to	
Soneet Kapila,	Division L
Assignee.	

# ASSIGNEE'S MOTION TO EMPLOY GENOVESE JOBLOVE & BATTISTA, P.A. AND ROCKE, MCLEAN & SBAR, P.A. AS SPECIAL LITIGATION COUNSEL AND TO PAY FEES ON A CONTINGENCY FEE BASIS

Soneet Kapila ("Assignee"), by and through his undersigned attorneys, hereby files this motion pursuant to Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.100(b) and § 727.108(7) of the Florida

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> On April 8, 2019, the Court entered an order administratively consolidating this case with the assignment cases of the following entities: LSI Management Company, LLC; Laser Spine Institute Consulting, LLC; CLM Aviation, LLC; Medical Care Management Services, LLC; LSI HoldCo, LLC; Laser Spine Surgical Center, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Arizona, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cincinnati, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of St. Louis, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Pennsylvania, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Oklahoma, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Warwick, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cleveland, LLC; Total Spine Care, LLC; and Spine DME Solutions, LLC.

Statutes, to employ the law firm of Genovese Joblove & Battista, P.A. ("GJB") and the law firm of Rocke, McLean & Sbar, P.A. ("RMS") in the Assignment Cases for the purposes of pursuing (a) litigation against officers and directors of the Assignors for acts or omissions (the "D&O Claims") and (b) other causes of action designated by the Assignee, including avoidance actions (the "Claims"), on the terms set forth in the Contingency Fee Contract (the "Contract") attached hereto as Exhibit A. In support of this motion, the Assignee states as follows:

#### **Background**

- 1. On March 14, 2019, Laser Spine Institute, LLC ("LSI") executed and delivered an assignment for the benefit of creditors to the Assignee. The Assignee filed a Petition with the Court on March 14, 2019, commencing an assignment for the benefit of creditors proceeding pursuant to Chapter 727 of the Florida Statutes (the "LSI Assignment Case").
- 2. Simultaneous with the filing of the LSI Assignment Case, the Assignee filed fifteen other Petitions commencing assignment for the benefit of creditors proceedings for 15 affiliates of LSI (the "Affiliated Assignment Cases," and together with the LSI Assignment Case, the "Assignment Cases"): LSI Management Company, LLC; Laser Spine Institute Consulting, LLC; CLM Aviation, LLC; Medical Care Management Services, LLC; LSI HoldCo, LLC; Laser Spine Surgical Center, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Arizona, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cincinnati, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of St. Louis, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Pennsylvania, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Oklahoma, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Warwick, LLC; Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cleveland, LLC; Total Spine Care, LLC; and Spine DME Solutions, LLC (collectively with LSI, the "Assignors").
- 3. In the initial stages of the Assignment Cases, the Assignee has identified circumstances that could give rise to claims against former officers and directors of the Assignors. Additionally, the Assignee has learned that, in the years prior to the Assignment Cases, numerous

parties received transfers of funds that may be avoidable under § 726 of the Florida Statutes, or other applicable law.

#### **Relief Requested**

- 4. The Assignee seeks authority to employ GJB and RMS, *nunc pro tunc* to May 1, 2019, for the purposes of pursuing litigation of Claims, to the extent designated and directed by the Assignee, (the "Services") on a contingency fee basis.
- 5. GJB and RMS will work together to perform the Services on the terms set forth in the Contract attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. As described in the Contract, GJB and RMS have agreed to work together to pursue the Claims and will split any contingency fees earned on account of recoveries on a fifty-fifty basis. Thus, the assignment estates will receive the benefit of the collective expertise and experience of both GJB and RMS, but will only be responsible for one contingency fee, payable from any recoveries on account of the Claims. The Assignee will seek Court approval prior to any disbursement of earned contingency fees provided in the Contract. In addition, GJB and RMS shall advance the payment of costs incurred by the estates in the pursuit of the Claims as they determine appropriate, until such time as the Assignee has sufficient funds to pay such litigation costs directly. The Assignee agrees to reimburse GJB and RMS for the litigation costs advanced by GJB and RMS once the Assignee has sufficient funds to reimburse such costs.
- 6. Under Chapter 727, an assignee is tasked with the duty to "[c]ollect and reduce to money the assets of the estate, whether by suit in any court of competent jurisdiction or by public or private sale, including, but not limited to, *prosecuting any tort claims or causes of action that were previously held by the assignor*, regardless of any generally applicable law concerning the nonassignability of tort claims or causes of action." Fla. Stat. § 727.108(1). Additionally, one of the Assignee's duties is "to the extent necessary, employ at the expense of the estate one or more

- ... attorneys ... to assist the assignee in carrying out his or her duties under this chapter." Fla. Stat. § 727.108(7).
- 7. The Assignee has selected GJB and RMS because they have considerable combined experience in the area of insolvency and litigation, particularly in litigation involving officer and director liability, related insurance issues, and the avoidance and recovery of fraudulent transfers. The Assignee believes that GJB and RMS are well qualified to represent him and the assignment estates in pursuing the Claims.
- 8. Neither GJB nor RMS represent any interest adverse to the Assignee or to the estates in the matters upon which they are to be engaged by the Assignee, and their employment would be to the best interest of creditors and parties in interest.
- 9. The Assignee is currently negotiating with other potential counsel to handle certain causes of action other than the D&O Claims. GJB and RMS will be handling the D&O Claims as outlined above. The Assignee may also request that GJB and RMS handle certain other claims, including some or all of the estates' avoidance actions. However, the Assignee may engage other counsel to pursue some or all of the avoidance actions and will coordinate with GJB and RMS in connection therewith to ensure that the estates' interests are protected.
- 10. In the event GJB and RMS pursue some or all of the avoidance actions, and the Assignee later determines to involve other counsel in such matters, including to replace GJB and RMS, then GJB and RMS shall be entitled to compensation through a portion of the contingency fee in connection with such matters in an equitable fashion. The Assignee will work with GJB and RMS and such other counsel to reach an amicable resolution of such fee sharing or will bring the matter to the Court for a determination. In no event shall the Assignee or the Assignment Estate be liable for more than a total contingency fee of 35 percent for each such matter.

WHEREFORE, the Assignee respectfully requests that he be authorized to employ and

appoint the law firms of Genovese Joblove & Battista, P.A. and Rocke, McLean & Sbar, P.A. to

represent him in the Assignment Cases under Fla. Stat. § 727.108(7), nunc pro tunc to May 1,

2019, pursuant to the terms of the Contract, and that the Court order such other and further relief

as is just and proper.

Dated: June 24, 2019

/s/ Edward J. Peterson

Edward J. Peterson (FBN 0014612) Matthew B. Hale (FBN 110600)

Stichter, Riedel, Blain & Postler, P.A.

110 E. Madison Street, Suite 200

Tampa, Florida 33602

Telephone: (813) 229-0144

Email: epeterson@srbp.com; mhale@srbp.com

Counsel for Assignee

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Motion has been furnished on this 24th day of

June, 2019 by the Court's electronic system to all parties receiving electronic service, and by either

U.S. mail or electronic mail to the parties listed on the Limited Notice Parties list attached.

/s/ Edward J. Peterson

Edward J. Peterson

5

### MASTER LIMITED NOTICE SERVICE LIST June 21, 2019

#### Assignors and Assignor's Counsel: (via the Court's electronic servicing system)

CLM Aviation, LLC

LSI HoldCo, LLC

LSI Management Company, LLC

Laser Spine Surgery Center of Arizona, LLC

Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cincinnati, LLC

Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cleveland, LLC

Laser Spine Surgical Center, LLC

Laser Spine Surgery Center of Pennsylvania, LLC

Laser Spine Surgery Center of St. Louis, LLC

Laser Spine Surgery Center of Warwick, LLC

Laser Spine Institute, LLC

Medical Care Management Services, LLC

Spine DME Solutions, LLC

Total Spine Care, LLC

Laser Spine Institute Consulting, LLC

Laser Spine Surgery Center of Oklahoma, LLC

c/o Nicole Greensblatt, Esq.

Kirkland & Ellis, LLP

601 Lexington Avenue

New York, NY 10022

Email: ngreenblatt@kirkland.com

#### Assignee and Assignee's Counsel (via the Court's electronic servicing system)

Soneet Kapila c/o Stichter Riedel, Blain & Postler, P.A. Attn: Edward J. Peterson, Esq. 110 E. Madison Street, Suite 200

Tampa, Florida 33602

#### **Secured Creditors:**

CarePayment, LLC (MAIL RETURNED) 5300 Meadow Rd., #400 Lake Oswego, OR 97035

Steris Corporation 5960 Heisley Rd. Mentor, OH 44060 CIT Bank, N.A. 10201 Centurion Pkwy., #400 Jacksonville, FL 32256

Medport Billing, LLC 6352 S. Jones Blvd., #400 Las Vegas, NV 89118

U.S. Bank Equipment Finance 1310 Madrid St. Marshall, MN 56258

Maricopa County Treasurer c/o Peter Muthig, Esq. 222 N. Central Ave., #1100 Phoenix, AZ 85004

Email: <u>muthigk@maco.maricopa.gov</u>

## Those Parties and Attorneys Formally Requesting Notice (via the Court's electronic servicing system unless otherwise noted)

Highwoods Realty Limited Partnership c/o Eric E. Ludin, Esq. Tucker & Ludin, P.A. 5235 16<sup>th</sup> Street North St. Petersburg, FL 33703-2611

Email: ludin@tuckerludin.com; erin@ludinlaw.com

Terry and Sherry Legg c/o Colling Gilbert Wright & Carter, LLC 801 N. Orange Avenue, Ste. 830 Orlando, FL 32801

Email: JGilbert@TheFloridaFirm.com; RGilbert@TheFloridaFirm.com;

CertificateofService@TheFloridaFirm.com

Joe Bailey; Mark Miller; Ted Suhl; Laserscopic Spinal Centers of America, Inc.; Laserscoppic Medical Clinic, LLC; Laserscopic Surgery Center of Florida, LLC; Laserscopic Diagnostic Imaging; Laserscopic Spinal Center of Florida, LLC; and Tim Langford c/o Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.

401 E. Jackson Street, Ste 2500

Tampa, FL 33602

Email: wschifino@gunster.com (primary) kmather@gunster.com (primary)

jbennett@gunster.com (primary) cwarder@gunster.com (secondary) tkennedy@gunster.com (secondary)

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Clearwater, FL 33765

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<a href="mailto:rbarack@employeerights.com">mnadeau@employeerights.com</a>
<a href="mailto:Jackie@employeerights.com">Jackie@employeerights.com</a>

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<a href="mailto:Jackie@employeerights.com">Jackie@employeerights.com</a>

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Primary Email: slieb@trenam.com

Secondary Email: mmosbach@trenam.com Tertiary Email: dmedina@trenam.com Home Management, Inc. c/o Michael C. Markham, Esq. 401 E. Jackson Street, Suite 3100 Tampa, Florida 33602

Tampa, Florida 33002

Email: mikem@jpfirm.com; minervag@jpfirm.com

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Email: donschutz@netscape.net; don@lawus.com

Jared W. Headley c/o Cameron M. Kennedy, Esq. Searcy Denney Scarola, et al 517 North Calhoun Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

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Email: bhill@wfclaw.com; twells@wfclaw.com

MedPro Group c/o Jeffery Warren, Esq. and Adam Alpert, Esq. Bush Ross, P.A. P.O. Box 3913 Tampa, FL 33601-3913

Email: jwarren@bushross.com; aalpert@bushross.com; mlinares@bushross.com; ksprehn@bushross.com

Cosgrove Enterprises, Inc. c/o Walters Levine Lozano & Degrave 601 Bayshore Blvd., Ste 720 Tampa, Florida 33606

Email: hdegrave@walterslevine.com; jduncan@walterslevine.com

Cherish Collins c/o Heather N. Barnes, Esq. The Yerrid Law Firm 101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 3910 Tampa, FL 33602 Email: <a href="mailto:hbarnes@yerridlaw.com">hbarnes@yerridlaw.com</a>; <a href="mailto:evento@yerridlaw.com">evento@yerridlaw.com</a>;

Timothy Farley and Marilyn Farley c/o Heather N. Barnes, Esq. The Yerrid Law Firm 101 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 3910

Tampa, FL 33602

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Robert Kimble, Administrator and Personal Rep of Estate of Sharon Kimble c/o Luis Martinez – Monfort 400 North Ashely Drive, Suite 1100 Tampa Florida 33602

Primary Email: lmmonfort@gbmmlaw.com; litigation@gbmmlaw.com

Independent Orthopedics, P.A., Weiss Family Management, LLLP Michael C. Weiss, D.O. c/o V. Stephen Cohen, Esq. 100 North Tampa Street, Suite 1900 Tampa, FL 33602

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William P. Esping
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EFO Holdings, L.P.,
EFO Genpar, Inc.
EFO Laser Spine Institute, Ltd.
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Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301
Email drt@bergersingerman.com; iwertman@l

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Email: donschutz@netscape.net; don@lawus.com

Laser Spine Institute, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2762 CLM Aviation, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2764 LSI HoldCo, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2765 LSI Management Company, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2766 Laser Spine Surgery Center of Arizona, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2767 Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cincinnati, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2768 Laser Spine Surgery Center of Cleveland, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2769 Laser Spine Surgical Center, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2770 Laser Spine Surgery Center of Pennsylvania, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2771 Laser Spine Surgery Center of St. Louis, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2772 Laser Spine Surgery Center of Warwick, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2773 Medical Care Management Services, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2774 Spine DME Solutions, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2775 Total Spine Care, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2776 Laser Spine Institute Consulting, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2777 Laser Spine Surgery Center of Oklahoma, LLC Case No. 2019-CA-2780 Consolidated Case No.

Assignors,

to

Soneet Kapila,

Assignee.

Division L

2019-CA-2762

# **EXHIBIT A**

ASSIGNEE'S MOTION TO EMPLOY GENOVESE JOBLOVE & BATTISTA, P.A. AND ROCKE, MCLEAN & SBAR, P.A. AS SPECIAL LITIGATION COUNSEL AND TO PAY FEES ON A CONTINGENCY FEE BASIS

# GENOVESE JOBLOVE C BATTISTA

Paul J. Battista, Esq. Telephone: 305-372-2457 email: pbattista@gjb-law.com

June 17, 2019

#### <u>Via Email</u>

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

skapila@kapilamukamal.com

Soneet Kapila, as Assignee for the Benefit of Creditors for Laser Spine Institute, and other related entities (the "Assignee") KAPILAMUKAMAL, LLP 1000 S. Federal Hwy, Suite 200 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

Re: Terms of Engagement—Special Counsel

Dear Soneet:

Thank you for again for the opportunity for Genovese Joblove & Battista, P.A. ("GJB") and Rocke, McLean & Sbar P.A. ("RMS") (collectively, GJB and RMS shall be referred to as the "Firms"), to represent you as the statutory assignee for Laser Spine Institute, LLC and related entities ("LSI") as special counsel in the proceedings pending in the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Hillsborough County, Florida (the "ABC Case"). This proposed retention and its terms are subject to the approval of the Court in the ABC Case.

Based on our discussions, the Firms shall represent the Assignee in all causes of action designated by the Assignee, including avoidance actions (the "Avoidance Actions") and breach of fiduciary duty and other claims arising from the errors and omissions of the LSI officers and directors (the "D&O Claims") (collectively, "Litigation Claims"), on the terms set forth herein.

GJB and RMS shall advance the payment of costs incurred by the estate in the pursuit of the Litigation Claims as they determine appropriate, until such time as the Assignee has sufficient funds to pay such litigation costs directly. Assignee agrees to reimburse GJB and RMS for the litigation costs advanced by GJB and RMS once the Assignee has sufficient funds to reimburse such costs.

To the extent that the Firms provide services to the Assignee which result in the pre-suit resolution of one or more of the Avoidance Actions, then the Firms shall be paid on a blended hourly rate for their services. The blended hourly rate for GJB is \$350 per hour and the blended hourly rate for RMS is \$350 per hour.

Subject to any pre-suit settlement of the Avoidance Actions, the Firms will pursue the prosecution of one or more of the Litigation Claims under the following contingency fee with respect to each Litigation Claim (the "Contingency Fee").

For Litigation Claims based upon any Avoidance Action, the Firms would collectively be entitled to the following Contingency Fee for each such Avoidance Action:

- 1) An amount equal to seventeen and one-half (17.5%) percent of any gross amounts collected or recovered from any source whatsoever after a lawsuit is filed in respect of each such Avoidance Action;
- 2) An amount equal to twenty-two and one-half (22.5%) percent of any amounts recovered from any source whatsoever after an answer is filed by any defendant in each such Avoidance Action but before trial commences against any defendant in respect of such Avoidance Action;
- An amount equal to thirty (30%) percent of any gross amounts recovered from any source whatsoever after a trial commences against any defendant in respect of each such Avoidance Action; and
- 4) An amount equal to thirty-three (33%) percent of any gross amounts recovered from any source whatsoever after a judgment is obtained against any defendant in each such Avoidance Action and in any appeals of such judgment(s).

For Litigation Claims based on any D&O Claim, the fee structure to the Firms collectively will be based on gross recoveries from the different layers of the applicable insurance policies, on the following Contingency Fee percentages:

- 1) An amount equal to seventeen and one-half (17.5%) percent on the gross amounts recovered in respect of the first layer of insurance policy (which has a 3.0 mm cap, less aggregate defense costs paid);
- 2) An amount equal to twenty (20%) percent on the gross amounts recovered in respect of the second layer of insurance policy (which has a 3.0 mm cap less aggregate defense costs paid to the extent such costs are greater than \$3.0 mm);
- An amount equal to twenty-five (25%) percent on the gross amounts recovered in respect of the third layer of insurance policy (which has a 4.0 mm cap less aggregate defense costs paid to the extent such costs are greater than \$6.0 mm);
- 4) An amount equal to thirty (30%) percent on the gross amounts recovered in respect of the fourth layer of insurance policy (which has a 5.0 mm cap less aggregate defense costs paid to the extent such costs are greater than \$10.0 mm);
- An amount equal to thirty-three (33%) percent on the gross amounts recovered (i) in respect of the fifth and final layer of insurance policy (which has a 5.0 mm

June 17, 2019 Page 3

cap); and (ii) from the putative defendants from any other assets or sources.

Please review this agreement carefully, and if any of you have any questions concerning the foregoing terms and conditions, please do not hesitate to contact me. If this agreement is acceptable, then please acknowledge that it has been reviewed, understood, and that you desire to retain us on the basis of the terms of this letter by signing and returning to us a signed copy. We recommend that you keep a copy of this letter in your file. Also, attached as Exhibit A is a Statement of Client's Rights ("Statement"). Please review the Statement and if acceptable, sign in the space provided.

We understand that this engagement letter is subject to the approval of the court in the ABC Case and we will cooperate with the Assignee in filing the appropriate pleadings to obtain such approval and attending any hearings in connection therewith. This engagement, however, shall be deemed retroactive to the commencement of the services provided by the Firms prior to court approval.

Thank you for allowing us to be of service.

Sincerely,

GENOVESE JOBLOVE & BATTISTA, P.A.

By: Faul J. Bartista

ROCKE, McLEAN SBAR, P.A.

Robert Rocke

AGREED AND ACCEPTED BY:

Soneet Kapila, as Assignee

#### EXHIBIT A

#### STATEMENT OF CLIENT'S RIGHTS

Before you, the prospective Client, arrange a contingency fee agreement with a lawyer, you should understand this Statement of your rights as Client. This Statement is not a part of the actual contract between you and your lawyer, but as prospective Client, you should be aware of these rights:

- 1. There is no legal requirement that a lawyer charge a client a set fee or a percentage of money recovered in a case. You, the Client, have the right to talk with your lawyer about the proposed fee and to bargain about the rate or percentage as in any other contract. If you do not reach an agreement with one lawyer, you may talk with other lawyers.
- 2. Any contingency fee contract must be in writing and you have three (3) business days to reconsider the contract. You may cancel the contract without any reason if you notify your lawyer in writing within three (3) business days of signing the contract. If you withdraw from the contract within the first three (3) business days you do not owe the lawyer a fee, although you may be responsible for the lawyer's actual costs during that time. If your lawyer begins to represent you, your lawyer may not withdraw from the case without giving you notice, delivering necessary papers to you, and allowing you time to employ another lawyer. Often, your lawyer must obtain court approval before withdrawing from a case. If you discharge your lawyer without good cause after the three (3) day period, you may have to pay a fee for work the lawyer has done.
- 3. Before hiring a lawyer, you, the Client, have the right to know about the lawyer's education, training and experience. If you ask, the lawyer should tell you specifically about his or her actual experience dealing with cases similar to yours. If you ask, the lawyer should provide information about special training or knowledge and give you this information in writing if you request it.
- 4. Before signing a contingency fee contract with you, a lawyer must advise you whether he or she intends to handle your case alone or whether other lawyers will be helping with the case. If your lawyer intends to refer the case to other lawyers, he or she should tell you what kind of fee sharing arrangement will be made with the other lawyers. If lawyers from different law firms will represent you, at least one lawyer from each law firm must sign the contingency fee contract.
- 5. If your lawyer intends to refer your case to another lawyer or counsel with other lawyers, your lawyer should tell you about that at the beginning. If your lawyer takes the case and later decides to refer it to another lawyer or to associate with other lawyers, you should sign a new contract which includes the new lawyers. You, the Client, also have the right to consult with each lawyer working on your case and each lawyer is legally responsible to represent your interests and is legally responsible for the acts of the other lawyers involved in the case.

- 6. You, the Client, have the right to know in advance how you will need to pay the expenses and the legal fees at the end of the case. If you pay a deposit in advance for costs, you may ask reasonable questions about how the money will be or has been spent and how much of it remains unspent. Your lawyer should give a reasonable estimate about future necessary costs. If your lawyer agrees to lend or advance you money to prepare or research the case, you have the right to know periodically how much money your lawyer has spent on your behalf. You also have the right to decide, after consulting with your lawyer, how much money is to be spent to prepare a case. If you pay the expenses, you have the right to decide how much to spend. Your lawyer should also inform you whether the fee will be based on the gross amount recovered or on the amount recovered minus the costs.
- 7. You, the Client, have the right to be told by your lawyer about possible adverse consequences if you lose the case. Those adverse consequences might include money which you might have to pay to your lawyer for costs, and liability you might have for attorney's fees to the other side.
- 8. You, the Client, have the right to receive and approve a closing statement at the end of the case before you pay any money. The statement must list all of the financial details of the entire case, including the amount recovered, all expenses, and a precise statement of your lawyer's fee. Until you approve the closing statement you need not pay any money to anyone, including your lawyer. You also have the right to have every lawyer or law firm working on your case sign this closing statement.
- 9. You, the Client, have the right to ask your lawyer at reasonable intervals how the case is progressing and to have these questions answered to the best of your lawyer's ability.
- 10. You, the Client, have the right to make the final decision regarding settlement of a case. Your lawyer must notify you of all offers of settlement before and after the trial. Offers during the trial must be immediately communicated and you should consult with your lawyer regarding whether to accept a settlement. However, you must make the final decision to accept or reject a settlement.
- or illegal fee, you, the Client, have the right to report the matter to The Florida Bar, the agency that oversees the practice and behavior of all lawyers in Florida. For information on how to reach The Florida Bar, call (904) 222-5286, or contact the local Bar Association. Any disagreement between you and your lawyer about a fee can be taken to court and you may wish to hire another lawyer to help you resolve this disagreement. Usually fee disputes must be handled in a separate lawsuit, unless your fee contract provides for arbitration. You can request, but may not require, that a provision for arbitration (under Chapter 682, Florida Statutes, or under the fee arbitration rule of the Rules Regulating the Florida Bar) be included in your fee contract.

Dated: 6 24 19

Chent:

Printed: