Conrad O'Brien Robin S. Weiss Attorney at Law Direct Dial: 215.864.8086 Direct Fax: 215.523.9714 rweiss@conradobrien.com

January 3, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Edward S. Kiel
United States Magistrate Judge
United States District Court for the District of New Jersey
Frank R. Lautenberg U.S. Post Office & Courthouse Building
2 Federal Square
Newark, NJ 07102

RE: <u>Kent v. Denise et al., No. 22-cv-00388</u>

Dear Judge Kiel:

Plaintiff Kevin Dooley Kent, in his capacity as the Receiver, respectfully submits this letter to the Court requesting leave to file a Motion to Compel Discovery and for Sanctions under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 37, in light of Defendant Jordan Denise's continued failure to participate in discovery and her failure to comply with this Court's Order entered on November 1, 2022.

A. The Ongoing Discovery Dispute

As set forth in the Receiver's letter to the Court filed on October 19, 2022 (ECF No. 19), the Court's Pretrial Scheduling Order required the parties to exchange Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures by July 25, 2022, and initial written discovery requests were to be served by August 1, 2022. In accordance with the Pretrial Scheduling Order, the Receiver served Ms. Denise with his Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures on July 25, 2022, and a First Set of Document Requests and First Set of Interrogatories on August 1, 2022. On September 22, 2022, after not having been served with Ms. Denise's Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures or responses to the Receiver's discovery requests, and in

Although Ms. Denise filed an Answer *pro se* in this matter (ECF No. 8), she has never personally responded to any communications from Counsel for the Receiver since this lawsuit was filed. Instead, Joseph Scalia, Esquire, who is not licensed in the District of New Jersey and has not yet moved to appear *pro hac vice* in this matter, claims to represent Jordan Denise and has sent several communications to Counsel for the Receiver on Ms. Denise's behalf.

On October 6, 2022, Mr. Scalia e-mailed Counsel for the Receiver on behalf of Ms. Denise, informing Counsel that Ms. Denise's current health issues have prevented her from communicating or participating in the case and attaching a one-sentence preliminary letter from Ms. Denise's physician. As such, Mr. Scalia stated that he would be taking a more active role in this matter and would (1) move for *pro hac vice* admission; (2) obtain medical records from Ms. Denise's physicians; (3) draft a stipulation to extend the discovery deadlines; and (4) produce documents that are responsive to the Receiver's First Set of Document Requests. On October 7, 2022, Counsel for the Receiver responded to Mr. Scalia's e-mail, asking him to coordinate with local counsel for his *pro hac vice* admission so that he may formally represent Ms. Denise in this action, and so that Counsel may work with Mr. Scalia on outstanding discovery issues and extension requests.

On October 13, 2022, Counsel for the Receiver e-mailed Ms. Denise and Mr. Scalia a draft joint letter to submit to the Court regarding Ms. Denise's failure to participate in discovery,

requesting that Ms. Denise set forth her position in the letter regarding her outstanding discovery by no later than October 19, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. On October 18, 2022 at 5:22 p.m., Mr. Scalia acknowledged receipt of Counsel's e-mail but failed to set forth proposed language to be included in the letter, aside from informing Counsel that he would be "in communication with [Ms. Denise] soon to complete the discovery requests and to compile the documents she has thus far collected." Therefore, on October 19, 2022, the Receiver filed a letter with the Court on his own behalf (ECF No. 19), detailing the discovery dispute and the Receiver's efforts to resolve the dispute, and requesting that the Court order Ms. Denise to provide her Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures and her responses to the Receiver's First Set of Document Requests and First Set of Interrogatories within ten (10) days, or submit sufficient medical documentation with the Court establishing a need for additional time to comply with her discovery obligations. The Receiver further indicated that should Ms. Denise continue to fail to timely participate in discovery, the Receiver may move for default against Ms. Denise.

B. The Court's Telephone Status Conference and Text Order

On November 1, 2022, the Court held a telephone status conference, which Mr. Scalia attended on Ms. Denise's behalf. During the conference, Mr. Scalia informed the Court that he would be moving for *pro hac vice* admission but needed additional time to complete discovery given Ms. Denise's health issues, to which the Court responded that Ms. Denise would have until December 15, 2022 to produce all outstanding discovery to the Receiver. Following the conference, the Court entered a Text Order (ECF No. 23) ordering Ms. Denise to respond to the Receiver's written discovery requests by December 15, 2022.

C. Ms. Denise's Failure to Comply with the Court's Order

Neither Ms. Denise nor Mr. Scalia produced any outstanding discovery responses to the Receiver by the December 15, 2022 deadline. Rather, Mr. Scalia e-mailed Counsel for the Receiver that day to inform Counsel of the following: (1) he would be filing his motion for *pro hac vice* admission that day; (2) the discovery requests were "just about complete" pending Ms. Denise's review and signature and would be produced to the Receiver by "Monday 12/18¹ at the latest"; (3) the parties would have to update the joint discovery plan to reflect the changed timeline; and (4) the parties would have to enter a stipulation for the Court to amend the current scheduling order. *See* December 15, 2022 Email Correspondence with Mr. Scalia, attached hereto as Exhibit A, at 2. Counsel for the Receiver responded shortly thereafter, thanking Mr. Scalia for the update, stating that she would look forward to Mr. Scalia's *pro hac vice* motion and Ms. Denise's discovery responses, and expressing a willingness to discuss a potential extension of case management deadlines after Mr. Scalia filed his *pro hac vice* motion with the Court. *See* Ex. A at 2.

On December 20, 2022, Mr. Scalia e-mailed Counsel for the Receiver and informed Counsel that he was diligently working on the discovery responses, apologized for the delay, and said it was "taking a little longer than anticipated." Ex. A at 1. Counsel once again thanked Mr. Scalia for the update, but informed him that "[g]iven the upcoming discovery deadlines, and the fact that the Court-imposed deadline for Ms. Denise to provide discovery responses has already passed," that Counsel would seek further relief from the Court if Mr. Scalia did not send the

¹ The Receiver presumes that this is a typo, and that Mr. Scalia meant Monday, December 19.

To date, Mr. Scalia has not filed his motion for *pro hac vice* admission, and neither he nor Ms. Denise have produced Ms. Denise's (1) Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures, (2) responses to the Receiver's First Set of Document Requests, or (3) responses to the Receiver's First Set of Interrogatories. Ms. Denise's failure to produce this outstanding discovery is in direct violation of this Court's Order entered on November 1, 2022.

D. The Receiver's Request for Leave to File a Motion to Compel/for Sanctions

Given Ms. Denise's continued failure to participate in discovery, her violation of this Court's November 1, 2022 Order, and Counsel for the Receiver's numerous attempts to resolve the ongoing discovery dispute with Mr. Scalia—who has indicated to both Counsel and this Court that he would move for *pro hac vice* admission but has still yet to do so—the Receiver submits this letter to respectfully request leave to file a Motion to Compel Discovery under Rule 37(a)(3), and for Sanctions under Rule 37(b)(2)(A), (c)(1), and (d)(1)(A)(ii).

Should the Court grant leave to the Receiver, the Receiver's Motion will specifically seek to compel Ms. Denise's Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures, her responses to the Receiver's First Set of Document Requests (including all documents that are responsive to the Requests), and her responses to the Receiver's First Set of Interrogatories. In addition, the Motion will ask the Court to enter default against Ms. Denise and strike Ms. Denise's Answer to the Complaint (ECF No. 8) as sanctions for her failure to obey this Court's November 1, 2022 Order, *see* Rule 37(b)(2)(A), for her failure to provide her Rule 26(a)(1) disclosures, *see* Rule 37(c)(1), and for

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her failure to provide her responses to the Receiver's discovery requests, *see* Rule 37(d)(1)(A)(ii).

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Robin S. Weiss

Robin S. Weiss, Esquire Vanessa L. Huber, Esquire Conrad O'Brien PC 1500 Market Street, Centre Square West Tower, Suite 3900 Philadelphia, PA 19102-1921 Telephone: (215) 864-9600 Facsimile: (215) 864-9620 rweiss@conradobrien.com vhuber@conradobrien.com Counsel for Plaintiff/Receiver

Exhibit A

Weiss, Robin S.

From: Joseph Scalia <joe@josephscalia.com> Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 5:06 PM

To: Weiss, Robin S. Subject: Re: Kent v Denise

Caution: External Email. Please use caution when clicking any links in this email.

I completely understand your position and it is not unreasonable.

Trying to triangulate between a time consuming process, a client who has had experimental stem cell procedure for lupus and a paralegal who had COVID. Several hours of my undivided attention will get this matter back on track.

Sent from my iPhone

On Dec 20, 2022, at 1:56 PM, Weiss, Robin S. <Rweiss@conradobrien.com> wrote:

Thank you for the update. Given the upcoming discovery deadlines, and the fact that the Court-imposed deadline for Ms. Denise to provide discovery responses has already passed, if we don't receive the discovery responses and initial disclosures by this Friday, 12/23, we will have no choice but to seek further relief from the Court.

Thank you,

Robin Weiss, Esquire | Conrad O'Brien PC

1500 Market Street | Centre Square | West Tower, Suite 3900 | Philadelphia, PA 19102-2100

Phone: 215.864.8086 | Cell: | E-mail:Rweiss@conradobrien.com

From: Joseph Scalia [mailto:joe@josephscalia.com]

Sent: Tuesday, December 20, 2022 4:48 PM To: Weiss, Robin S. <Rweiss@conradobrien.com>

Subject: Re: Kent v Denise

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We're working diligently on these. I apologize for the delay. Its taking a little longer then anticipated.

Sincerely.

Joseph A. Scalia II Esq. <image003.png>

From: "Weiss, Robin S."

Date: Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 7:09 AM

To: Joseph Scalia
Cc: "Huber, Vanessa"
Subject: RE: Kent v Denise

Thank you for the update, Mr. Scalia. I'm glad to hear Ms. Denise's condition is improving.

We will look forward to seeing your filings and Ms. Denise's discovery responses. Once you get your PHV motion on file, we can discuss submitting a request for an extension of case management deadlines.

Sincerely,

Robin Weiss, Esquire | Conrad O'Brien PC

1500 Market Street | Centre Square | West Tower, Suite 3900 | Philadelphia, PA 19102-2100

Phone: 215.864.8086 | Cell: | E-mail: Rweiss@conradobrien.com

From: Joseph Scalia [mailto:joe@josephscalia.com]
Sent: Thursday, December 15, 2022 10:00 AM
To: Weiss, Robin S. <<u>Rweiss@conradobrien.com</u>>

Subject: Kent v Denise

Caution: External Email. Please use caution when clicking any links in this email.

Dear Ms. Weis,

Please be advised that now that Ms. Jordan has somewhat recovered she has engaged me to take a more active role in representing her in this matter.

Please be advised that:

- 1. I will be filing the Motion for Pro Hoc Vice today. The checks to Client Protection Fund and the USDC Clerk pursuant to 101(c)(3) will be mailed tomorrow.
- 2. The discovery requests are just about complete and need to be proofed and signed. Ms. Jordan will review and sign off on them in proper person until I am admitted to the jurisdiction. You will have them by Monday 12/18 at the latest.
- 3. We will have to update the joint discovery plan to reflect the changed timeline.
- 4. We will have to enter a stipulation so the court to amend the scheduling order to reflect the a new time line

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

Thank you for your continued patience in this matter.

Sincerely.

Joseph A. Scalia II Esq. <image004.png>

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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY

KEVIN DOOLEY KENT, in his capacity
as Receiver for Broad Reach Capital, LP,
Broad Reach Partners, LLC, Bristol
Advisors, LLC, Investment Consulting:

LLC, CV International Investments : Civil Action

Limited and CV Investments LLC,

v.

: No. 2:22-cv-00388

Plaintiff,

:

:

: CERTIFICATE OF JORDAN DENISE a/k/a DENISE : SERVICE

JORDAN, ENTERCORE, INC. and ORANGE SPLENDOR, INC.,

:

Defendants. :

I hereby certify that on the date set forth below, in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 5, I caused a true and correct copy of the foregoing Letter to the Court to be served upon the following by electronic and U.S. mail:

Jordan Denise 30707 Peggy Way Cathedral City, CA 92243-5845 jordan.denise@entercoreinc.com Jordan Denise c/o Joseph A. Scalia II, Esq. Senior Counsel LLC 3355 S. Highland Ave., Suite 111 Las Vegas, NV 89109 joe@josephscalia.com Jordan Denise c/o Joseph Scalia 1625 E County Line Road Suite 200 Jackson, MS 39211

Dated: January 3, 2023 /s/ Robin S. Weiss
Robin S. Weiss, Esq.