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      STATE OF ILLINOIS
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      COUNTY OF McHENRY
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             IN THE TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
                    McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
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 6
      PAUL DULBERG.
 7
               Plaintiff.
 8
                                           No. 17 LA 377
          VS.
 9
      THE LAW OFFICES OF THOMAS J.
      POPOVICH, P.C., and HANS MAST,
10
11
               Defendants.
12
               ELECTRONICALLY RECORDED REPORT OF
13
      PROCEEDINGS had in the above-entitled cause before
      the Honorable THOMAS MEYER, Judge of said Court of
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15
      McHenry County, Illinois, on the 5th day of April.
      2022, at the McHenry County Government Center,
16
17
      Woodstock, Illinois.
18
          APPEARANCES:
               THE LAW OFFICE OF ALPHONSE TALARICO, by
19
20
               MR. ALPHONSE TALARICO, (Via Zoom)
21
                    On behalf of the Plaintiff,
22
               KARBAL COHEN ECONOMOU SILK DUNNE, LLC, by
23
               MR. GEORGE K. FLYNN, (Via Zoom)
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                    On behalf of the Defendants.
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1 THE COURT: Are we ready to proceed on Dulberg right now? Dulberg versus Mast. 2 Mast and Popovich. 3 MR. FLYNN: 4 THE COURT: Okay. Plaintiff's counsel, if you 5 can identify yourself? 6 MR. TALARICO: Yes. My name is Alphonse 7 Talarico for the plaintiff, Paul Dulberg. 8 THE COURT: Okay. 9 MR. FLYNN: George Flynn on behalf of the 10 defendants, Hans Mast and the Popovich Law Offices. 11 THE COURT: All right. Plaintiff's counsel, 12 what's going on? 13 MR. TALARICO: Judge, the last time we were 14 here -- actually in January, you allowed plaintiff 15 ten additional interrogatories and ten additional 16 requests to produce and you had stated reasons which 17 I won't go through right now. But we served the ten additional interrogatories, ten additional requests 18 19 to produce. The defendants have answered that, and 20 at this moment, we are -- we are still talking. 21 201(K) conversations are going on. 22 THE COURT: What's the -- if he's answered, 23 what's the 201(k) conference?

MR. TALARICO: Basically, how best can I say it,

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nonresponse to a lot of answers.

THE COURT: All right. So Mr. Flynn, you're aware of their objections?

MR. FLYNN: Yes, Judge. We painstakingly responded to discovery. Much of it was duplicative. I had a paralegal go through all the prior discovery including deposition testimony and pinpointed citations where the discovery was duplicative. There was other discovery that was irrelevant, though we answered it best we could. But for example, going on conflict of interest, the conflicts checks that were prevented (indiscernible) the case. There has never been an allegation in five years that there was an issue of conflict.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. FLYNN: Nevertheless --

THE COURT: Hang on. Hang on. I'm going to hold you guys to the end, and I'm going to try and work our way through this as best we can. I see that we have an April 13 -- I think it's April 13 motion to compel. I assume that's plaintiff's motion, am I correct?

MR. TALARICO: That's correct, your Honor. But I have not filed a motion because of we are still in

1 201(k). I set the date when I first got a response. 2 THE COURT: Okay. Let me --MR. FLYNN: 3 I have not seen -- I have not seen 4 that motion --5 THE COURT: There is not a motion in the file. 6 There is just a date reserved. So I'm going to pass 7 this. I'll come back to you guys, and we will try 8 and work this out without further motions. 9 (Whereupon the afore-captioned 10 cause was recalled.) 11 THE COURT: All right. Go back to Dulberg. 12 Sorry about the lengthy wait. All right. Dulberg, 13 do I -- and maybe I can't address your issue. But 14 most of these are a -- more easily resolved than 15 writing motions. So Mr. Talarico, if you could tell me what 16 17 the issue is with their response specifically. MR. TALARICO: Judge, well, specifically, I 18 19 submitted a six-page letter with numerous issues to 20 Mr. Flynn for us to talk about pursuant to Supreme 21 Court Rule 201. I can name a few. But it's a 22 six-page document. THE COURT: Yeah. That -- yeah, you are right. 23

I was overly ambitious. So Mr. Flynn, you made

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reference, and I'm hoping to provide some guidance so we waste as little time as possible. That's not directed at either one of you.

You made reference to duplicative, is that correct?

MR. FLYNN: Yes, I did.

THE COURT: All right. And I limited them, and I'm thinking out loud. I certainly am not looking at the interrogatories or your answers or the basis of your objection, but is -- the failed to have may be duplicative tells me you can just refer to the prior answers. Or did you do that?

MR. FLYNN: Judge, I have actually done that.

THE COURT: Okay.

MR. FLYNN: In fact, I've referenced even specific deposition pages.

THE COURT: All right. But where -- the fact that it shows up in the deposition, in my opinion, doesn't make it duplicative, doesn't prohibit them from asking in writing effectively the same question. I mean -- and I'm just trying to be clear.

So in your answer relative to the deposition, you said, see answer on Page 45,

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Lines 10 through 12 or something like that.
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 2
          MR. FLYNN:
                      Some cases, yes.
          THE COURT: Then I guess I will have to -- I --
 3
 4
      what I was afraid of you're saying is see
      deposition, and you didn't do that so that's --
 5
 6
          MR. FLYNN:
                      I just put specific page numbers of
 7
      the deposition testimony. If you think it's
 8
      (indiscernible.)
          THE COURT: Okay.
 9
                      It was after -- after the discovery
10
          MR. FLYNN:
11
      was already done.
12
          THE COURT:
                      All right.
13
          MR. FLYNN:
                      Those --
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          THE COURT: Have you seen his letter?
          MR. FLYNN:
15
                      I have, Judge. To be honest, I got
                     I received it yesterday.
16
      it vesterday.
17
          THE COURT: All right.
                      By the way, I never did receive
18
          MR. FLYNN:
19
      whatever was noticed from the 13th. But the letter
20
      is --
21
          THE COURT: Yes, there isn't a notice.
          MR. FLYNN: It's hard for me to follow the
22
      letter, to be honest. I don't really
23
24
      (indiscernible) 201(k) discussions or letters back
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and forth (indiscernible) to advance the case. But on the other hand, I don't see how the Court can make rulings without copies of the discovery responses and the (indiscernible) pages that I have referenced.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. FLYNN: And other --

THE COURT: I was kind of hoping I would find them in the court file. That was dumb on my part, and I feel bad for making you wait because this was --

MR. FLYNN: No. No. That's okay.

THE COURT: So what I would -- what I don't want to do is have you brief it. What I -- what I prefer to do, and I don't know if we have done it previously in this case, is just walk through them and I'll make my rulings. You can tell me orally what your -- your objections are and why you think it's inappropriate. And hopefully we will save some time, effort and money by doing it that way unless you have a specific issue with it. Mr. Talarico?

MR. TALARICO: Judge, I'm willing to any way that we can resolve this.

THE COURT: Six pages sounds like it's going to

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      take some time. How about the week of April 25?
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      can do -- I can give you a 10:00 o'clock on the 27th
 3
      or 28th, and we will take as long as we need.
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          MR. FLYNN: The 27th would be better for me.
 5
          MR. TALARICO:
                         That's fine.
 6
          THE COURT: All right. I'm going to draft the
 7
      order. Hang on a second. If you guys are able to
      resolve any of these disputes in the interim, please
 8
 9
      feel free to do so.
                           And --
10
                      This will be April 27 at what time,
          MR. FLYNN:
      Judge?
11
12
          THE COURT:
                      I'm sorry?
13
                      April 27 at what time?
          MR. FLYNN:
14
          THE COURT:
                      10:00 o'clock.
          MR. FLYNN:
15
                      10:00 o'clock.
                      Are we keeping the April 13?
16
          THE CLERK:
17
          THE COURT:
                      Is it --
18
          THE CLERK:
                      Motion to compel.
19
          THE COURT:
                      I'm going to strike April 13 even
20
      though it wasn't formally noticed.
21
          MR. FLYNN:
                      I have a deposition at 1:00.
22
          THE COURT:
                      Okay. What I --
23
          MR. FLYNN:
                      Judge.
24
          THE COURT:
                      Yeah.
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MR. FLYNN: As far as courtesy copies of the documents we submit to you -- as far as the documents themselves should be (indiscernible) to the Court.

THE COURT: Yeah.

MR. FLYNN: For instance, deposition --

THE COURT: You are cutting in and out. But what I -- I agree. I'm going to need copies of the interrogatories, production requests that are at issue. Probably it wouldn't hurt to have your -- the plaintiff's letter documenting what he finds objectionable. So that will give you some guidance in preparation. And what I anticipate doing then is asking your response and explaining your answers. And I'll make a ruling on the fly whether or not that's responsive to the interrogatory of production request.

Okay. Any questions? All right. I have drafted the order. It just says hearing on discovery objections. I will await your courtesy copies. I guess you can file them at the proposed orders email address and then get to me. You don't need to physically file them. So that would be helpful. All right anything else?

1	MR. TALARICO: No, Judge.
2	THE COURT: All right. We will see you then on
3	April 27. Thank you.
4	MR. TALARICO: Thank you, counsel. Thank you,
5	Judge.
6	THE COURT: All right.
7	(Which were all the proceedings
8	had in the above-entitled cause
9	this date.)
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1	STATE OF ILLINOIS )
2	) SS:
3	COUNTY OF McHENRY )
4	
5	I, JUDY CARLSON, an official Court Reporter
6	for the Circuit Court of McHenry County,
7	Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit of Illinois,
8	transcribed the electronic recording of the
9	proceeding in the above-entitled cause to the best
10	of my ability and based on the quality of the
11	recording, and I hereby certify the foregoing to be
12	a true and accurate transcript of said electronic
13	recording.
14	
15	Judy R. Carlson
16	<u>Guoly A. Caulson</u> Certified Shorthand Reporter
17	License No. 084-003347
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