

1 ROB BONTA
Attorney General of California
2 HARINDER K. KAPUR
Senior Assistant Attorney General
3 JOSHUA B. EISENBERG
Supervising Deputy Attorney General
4 MICHAEL J. YUN (SBN 292587)
ETHAN A. TURNER (SBN 294891)
5 GREGORY M. CRIBBS (SBN 175642)
Deputy Attorneys General
6 600 West Broadway, Suite 1800
San Diego, CA 92101
7 Telephone: (619) 321-5793
Facsimile: (619) 645-2061
8 *Attorneys for Plaintiff*
Department of Cannabis Control
9

*Per Government Code § 6103, State of
California is exempt from filing fee*

10
11 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
12 **COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**
13 **NORTH VALLEY DISTRICT – CHATSWORTH COURTHOUSE**
14

15 **DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS**
16 **CONTROL,**

17
18 Plaintiff,

19 v.

20 **VERTICAL BLISS, INC., KUSHY**
PUNCH, INC., CONGLOMERATE
21 **MARKETING, LLC, MORE**
AGENCY, INC., RUBEN KACHIAN
22 **a.k.a. RUBEN CROSS, ARUTYUN**
BARSAMYAN, KEVIN
23 **HALLORAN, MIKE A. TOROYAN,**
24 **and DOES 1 through 30, inclusive,**

25 Defendants.
26
27
28

Case No. 20CHCV00560

**DECLARATION OF DEPUTY
ATTORNEY GENERAL ETHAN
TURNER IN SUPPORT OF
DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS
CONTROL'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY
JUDGMENT**

Date: December 5, 2022
Time: 8:30 a.m.
Dept: F49
Judge: The Honorable Stephen P.
Pfahler

Trial Date: January 30, 2023
Action Filed: September 23, 2020

RESERVATION NO. 590950777530

1 I, Ethan Turner declare as follows:

2 1. I am an attorney duly licensed to practice law before the Courts of the State of
3 California. I am one of the Deputy Attorneys General (hereinafter, “DAG”) assigned to represent
4 Plaintiff Department of Cannabis Control (hereinafter “Plaintiff” or “DCC”) in the above-entitled
5 matter. I have personal knowledge of the information set forth herein below, based on my own
6 personal knowledge and belief that the following evidence, declarations, exhibits and writings are
7 true and correct. If called as a witness in this proceeding, I could truthfully testify to the
8 following:

9 2. On June 14, 2021, Plaintiff propounded discovery, including Requests for
10 Admission, Set one on the following seven Defendants: Ruben Kachian, a.k.a. “Ruben Cross”,
11 Vertical Bliss, Inc., Kushy Punch, Inc., Conglomerate Marketing, LLC, More Agency, Inc.,
12 Arutyun Barsamyan, and Mike A. Toroyan. True and correct copies of Requests for Admissions
13 are attached as exhibits to the Declaration of Deputy Attorney General Michael Yun in Support of
14 Department of Cannabis Control’s Motion for Summary Judgment.¹ At the time, all seven
15 Defendants were represented by Browne, George, Ross, O’Brien, Annaguey & Ellis, LLP
16 (hereinafter, “BGR”).

17 3. On July 19, 2021, Plaintiff agreed to a three-week extension of the due date for
18 Defendants’ discovery responses, making the due date August 9, 2021.

19 4. On July 27, 2021, Margarita Salazar (hereinafter, “Salazar”) substituted in as
20 counsel of record for Defendant Ruben Kachian. A true and correct copy of the substitution of
21 attorney is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. Defendant Kachian has never provided any discovery
22 responses.

23 5. On August 3, 2021, David Carroll of BGR, counsel for the remaining six
24 Defendants—Vertical Bliss, Inc., Kushy Punch, Inc., Conglomerate Marketing, LLC, More
25 Agency, Inc., Arutyun Barsamyan, and Mike A. Toroyan (hereinafter, “the six Defendants”)—
26 requested an additional two-week extension to provide responses. Plaintiff agreed to extend the

27
28 ¹ See concurrently filed Declaration of Deputy Attorney General Michael Yun In Support of
Department of Cannabis Control’s Motion for Summary Judgment, Exhibits 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, and 12.

1 date for responses to August 17, 2021.

2 6. On August 17, 2021, counsel for the six Defendants requested an extension of the
3 due date of discovery to October 18, 2021. Plaintiff again granted the extension.

4 7. On October 13, 2021, counsel for the six Defendants requested yet another
5 extension of the due date of discovery responses to November 1, 2021. On behalf of Plaintiff, I
6 offered an extension to October 25, 2021, and stated that there would be no more extensions.

7 8. On November 1, 2021, one week after the expiration of the fourth extension,
8 responses to the requests for admissions that had been served on June 14, 2021, were received
9 from the six Defendants. The responses comprised exclusively of boiler plate objections. True
10 and correct copies of the RFA responses of Vertical Bliss, Inc., Kushy Punch, Inc., Conglomerate
11 Marketing, LLC, More Agency, Inc., Arutyun Barsamyan, and Mike A. Toroyan are attached as
12 Exhibits to the concurrently filed Declaration of Deputy Attorney General Michael Yun in
13 Support of Department of Cannabis Control's Motion for Summary Judgment.²

14 9. On November 5, 2021, I sent an email to counsel for the six Defendants stating
15 that the received responses did not meet the minimum standards required under the California
16 Code of Civil Procedure.

17 10. On November 15, 2021, counsel for the six Defendants responded that he was
18 continuing to make efforts to secure substantive responses to the Plaintiff's discovery requests.
19 Regarding the boiler plate objections, counsel for the six Defendants stated the objections were
20 served "simply to preserve them" and admitted that they "otherwise did not have verified
21 responses to provide." A true and correct copy of the email is attached as **Exhibit 2**.

22 11. On November 23, 2021, counsel for the six Defendants indicated that he had been
23 unsuccessful in securing any substantive discovery responses from his clients. A true and correct
24 copy of the email is attached as **Exhibit 3**.

25 12. On December 21, 2021, Margarita Salazar (hereinafter, "Salazar") filed
26 substitution of attorney forms and undertook the representation of the six Defendants in addition

27 ² See concurrently filed Declaration of Deputy Attorney General Michael Yun In Support of
28 Department of Cannabis Control's Motion for Summary Judgment, Exhibits 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, and 13.

1 to Defendant Ruben Kachian. True and correct copies of the of the substitution of attorney forms
2 for Vertical Bliss, Inc., Conglomerate Marketing, LLC, Kushy Punch, Inc., More Agency, Inc.
3 served upon counsel for Plaintiff are attached as **Exhibits 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9.**

4 13. On December 21, 2021, I sent an email to Salazar to inform her that the discovery
5 responses provided by the six Defendants under BGR's representation had failed to comply with
6 the requirements of the Civil Discovery Act. In the correspondence, I included an email
7 previously sent to prior counsel of record informing him of the same, and requested scheduling a
8 meet and confer for December 22, 2021. A true and correct copy of the email is attached as
9 **Exhibit 10.**

10 14. On January 4, 2022, I corresponded with Salazar and she indicated that she would
11 be available for meet and confer on January 5, 2022. A true and correct copy of the emails are
12 attached as **Exhibit 11.**

13 15. On January 5, 2022, Salazar, my co-counsel Deputy Attorney General Michael
14 Yun, my supervisor Senior Assistant Attorney General Harinder Kapur, and I met and conferred
15 via teleconference. During the phone call, Salazar stated she would speak with her clients on
16 January 6, 2022. Salazar and Plaintiff's counsel agreed that the seven Defendants would provide
17 the supplemental responses by noon on Friday, January 21, 2021. Additionally, the parties agreed
18 that Salazar would send a follow up email to counsel for Plaintiff after her conversation with the
19 Defendants on January 6, 2022, to re-confirm that supplemental responses would be turned over
20 to counsel for Plaintiff as scheduled by noon on Friday, January 21, 2021. Following the meet and
21 confer, I sent an email to Salazar to document and confirm the parties' agreement. A true and
22 correct copy of the email is attached as **Exhibit 12.**

23 16. On January 12, 2022, having received no response from Salazar regarding
24 supplemental discovery responses, I sent a follow up email to Salazar regarding outstanding
25 discovery matters (1) to inform her again that I have not heard back from her, (2) to ask her for an
26 update, and (3) to remind her that she agreed to provide the Code compliant supplemental
27 responses by January 21, 2022. A true and correct copy of the emails are attached as **Exhibit 13.**

28 17. As of January 26, 2022, Salazar had failed to provide any of the promised

1 supplemental discovery responses for the six Defendants and still had not provided any discovery
2 responses for Defendant Kachian. On that date, I sent an email to Salazar memorializing prior
3 communications and for the purpose of meeting and conferring prior to filing motions to compel
4 discovery motions as to the six Defendants. A true and correct copy of that email is attached
5 hereto as **Exhibit 14**.

6 18. On May 6, 2022, counsel for the parties including Salazar, Deputy Attorney
7 General Michael Yun, Supervising Deputy Attorney General Joshua Eisenberg, and I attended a
8 telephonic meet and confer to discuss the outstanding defense discovery responses in this case.
9 During the meet and confer, Salazar represented that by May 13, 2022, she would provide all
10 responses and further responses to (1) Form Interrogatories, (2) Requests for Admissions, and (3)
11 Requests for Production of Documents as to the seven Defendants she represents in this case.

12 19. As of the date of execution of this declaration and filing of these papers, counsel
13 for Plaintiff have not received any discovery responses from Salazar or the Defendants named in
14 the Department of Cannabis Control's Motion for Summary Judgment. Neither have Defendants
15 nor Salazar provided any justification for the failure to provide further responses in violation of
16 the Court's discovery orders.

17
18 This declaration is executed under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of
19 California this 21st day of September, 2022, at Rancho Cordova, California.


20
21
22
23 
24 ETHAN A. TURNER

Exhibit 1

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse	
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.	
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)	CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): Ruben Kachian makes the following substitution:

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney
 - a. Name: Margarita Salazar
 - b. State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
 - c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
 Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
 470 Third Avenue, Suite 9, Chula Vista, CA 91910
 - d. Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardian • Conservator • Trustee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Representative • Probate fiduciary • Corporation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardian ad litem • Unincorporated association |
|--|---|---|

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS

A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: July 22, 2021

Ruben Kachian

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: July 22, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: July 22, 2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

CASE NAME: — Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.	CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560
---	-----------------------------

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL
Substitution of Attorney—Civil

Instructions: After having all parties served by mail with the Substitution of Attorney—Civil, have the person who mailed the document complete this Proof of Service by Mail. An unsigned copy of the Proof of Service by Mail should be completed and served with the document. Give the Substitution of Attorney—Civil and the completed Proof of Service by Mail to the clerk for filing. If you are representing yourself, someone else must mail these papers and sign the Proof of Service by Mail.

1. I am over the age of 18 and **not a party to this cause**. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My residence or business address is (*specify*):

2. I served the Substitution of Attorney—Civil by enclosing a true copy in a sealed envelope addressed to each person whose name and address is shown below and depositing the envelope in the United States mail with the postage fully prepaid.

(1) Date of mailing: _____
 (2) Place of mailing (*city and state*): _____

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

Date: _____

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH PERSON TO WHOM NOTICE WAS MAILED

4. a. Name of person served:
b. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- c. Name of person served:
d. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- e. Name of person served:
f. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- g. Name of person served:
h. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- i. Name of person served:
j. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

☐ List of names and addresses continued in attachment.

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 **California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.**
3 **Case No. 20CHCV00560**

4 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

5 At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am
6 employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. My business address is 801 S.
7 Figueroa Street, Suite 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

8 On July 26, 2021, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as
9 **SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

10 Xavier Becerra
11 Attorney General of California
12 Harinder K. Kapur
13 Senior Assistant Attorney General
14 Stacey L. Roberts
15 Supervising Deputy Attorney General
16 Ethan A. Turner
17 Deputy Attorney General
18 1300 I Street, Suite 125
19 P.O. Box 944255
20 Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
21 Telephone: (916) 210-7898
22 Facsimile: (916) 327-2319
23 ethan.turner@doj.ca.gov
24 harinder.kapur@doj.ca.gov
25 natalie.clark@doj.ca.gov

*Attorneys for Plaintiffs
California Department of Public Health and
Bureau of Cannabis Control*

18 **BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:** On July 26, 2021, I caused a copy
19 of the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address cubence@bgrfirm.com to the persons at the e-
20 mail addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the
21 transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

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

24 Executed on July 26, 2021, at Los Angeles, California.

25 

26

Corinne Ubence
27
28

Exhibit 2

Ethan Turner

From: David J. Carroll <dcarroll@bgrfirm.com>
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Ethan Turner; Ivy A. Wang
Cc: Harinder Kapur; Robert White
Subject: RE: Meet and Confer Discovery responses California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.: [IWOV-DOCSLA.FID365123]

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Ethan,

We are continuing to attempt to secure from our clients substantive responses to your clients' discovery requests while we remain counsel of record. We served our objections simply to preserve them, as we otherwise did not have verified responses to provide. I will advise you this week of any progress we are able to make on securing substantive responses.

With respect to Defendant Barsamyan's responses, our e-mail did contain his responses to Form Interrogatories, but they were just incorrectly labeled as responses to requests for production of documents.

Thanks,
David

From: Ethan Turner <Ethan.Turner@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 2:46 PM
To: David J. Carroll <dcarroll@bgrfirm.com>; Ivy A. Wang <iwang@bgrfirm.com>
Cc: Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>; Robert White <Robert.White@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Meet and Confer RE: Discovery responses California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.:

Dear David and Ivy,

The responses provided do not meet the minimum statutory requirements for discovery responses.

The answers given are not made under oath (Code Civ. Proc § 2030.210, subd. (a)). No responsive information is provided (Code Civ. Proc. § 2030.210, subd. (a)(1)), the objections are without merit and are too general (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.300, subd. (a)(3)) and all objections are made without connecting the questions to any "specific ground for the objection." (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.240, subd. (b).)

There have been three extensions to the deadlines for discovery, you failed to meet the last deadline that was given and ultimately produced totally inadequate responses.

With the trial date just seven months away, we cannot afford further delays to meaningful discovery. Please consider this email our attempt to meet and confer with you regarding the inadequacy of the responses that were served on November 1.

We're going to need actual, legitimate responses to the discovery we propounded. Please undertake whatever efforts are necessary to secure the cooperation of your clients to provide responses that at least meet the minimum statutory requirements by November 22, 2021.

I would also point out that there is one discrepancy between the proof of service and the documents that we received via email on 11/1. Item 11 "DEFENDANT ARUTYUN BARSAMYAN'S RESPONSES TO PLAINTIFF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S FORM INTERROGATORIES - GENERAL, SET ONE" is not attached to the email.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: (916) 210-7898



From: Corinne Ubence <cubence@bgrfirm.com>

Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:58 PM

To: Ethan Turner <Ethan.Turner@doj.ca.gov>; Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>; Natalie Clark <Natalie.Clark@doj.ca.gov>; ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com; margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Cc: David J. Carroll <dcarroll@bgrfirm.com>; Ivy A. Wang <iwang@bgrfirm.com>; Timothy O'Shea <toshea@bgrfirm.com>

Subject: California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Dear Counsel,

Attached are service copies of Defendant's discovery responses in the above matter along with a letter of today's date.

Regards,



Corinne Ubence | Legal Assistant to
Carl A. Roth, David Carroll,
Matthew Kussman and Luke Fiedler
801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2000
Los Angeles, California 90017
Main 213.725.9800 | Fax 213.725.9808
cubence@bgrfirm.com
www.bgrfirm.com

This e-mail message may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient(s), or the employee or agent responsible for delivery of this message to the intended recipient(s), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete this e-mail message from your computer.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

This e-mail message may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient(s), or the employee or agent responsible for delivery of this message to the intended recipient(s), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete this e-mail message from your computer.

Exhibit 3

Ethan Turner

From: David J. Carroll <dcarroll@bgrfirm.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 8:37 AM
To: Ethan Turner; Ivy A. Wang
Cc: Harinder Kapur; Robert White
Subject: RE: Meet and Confer Discovery responses California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.: [IWOV-DOCSLA.FID365123]

ProfiledItem: true

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Ethan,

We have not had any luck obtaining substantive discovery responses for our clients. If you are available for a call to discuss further steps, I think that may be beneficial to both of us. As you know, we have also refiled our motions to withdraw as counsel in this case, which may impact any discovery motions.

Thanks,
David

From: David J. Carroll
Sent: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:13 PM
To: Ethan Turner <Ethan.Turner@doj.ca.gov>; Ivy A. Wang <iwang@bgrfirm.com>
Cc: Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>; Robert White <Robert.White@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: RE: Meet and Confer Discovery responses California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.: [IWOV-DOCSLA.FID365123]

Ethan,

We are continuing to attempt to secure from our clients substantive responses to your clients' discovery requests while we remain counsel of record. We served our objections simply to preserve them, as we otherwise did not have verified responses to provide. I will advise you this week of any progress we are able to make on securing substantive responses.

With respect to Defendant Barsamyan's responses, our e-mail did contain his responses to Form Interrogatories, but they were just incorrectly labeled as responses to requests for production of documents.

Thanks,
David

From: Ethan Turner <Ethan.Turner@doj.ca.gov>
Sent: Friday, November 5, 2021 2:46 PM
To: David J. Carroll <dcarroll@bgrfirm.com>; Ivy A. Wang <iwang@bgrfirm.com>
Cc: Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>; Robert White <Robert.White@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Meet and Confer RE: Discovery responses California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.:

Dear David and Ivy,

The responses provided do not meet the minimum statutory requirements for discovery responses.

The answers given are not made under oath (Code Civ. Proc § 2030.210, subd. (a)). No responsive information is provided (Code Civ. Proc. § 2030.210, subd. (a)(1)), the objections are without merit and are too general (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.300, subd. (a)(3)) and all objections are made without connecting the questions to any “specific ground for the objection.” (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.240, subd. (b).)

There have been three extensions to the deadlines for discovery, you failed to meet the last deadline that was given and ultimately produced totally inadequate responses.

With the trial date just seven months away, we cannot afford further delays to meaningful discovery. Please consider this email our attempt to meet and confer with you regarding the inadequacy of the responses that were served on November 1.

We’re going to need actual, legitimate responses to the discovery we propounded. Please undertake whatever efforts are necessary to secure the cooperation of your clients to provide responses that at least meet the minimum statutory requirements by November 22, 2021.

I would also point out that there is one discrepancy between the proof of service and the documents that we received via email on 11/1. Item 11 “DEFENDANT ARUTYUN BARSAMYAN’S RESPONSES TO PLAINTIFF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH’S FORM INTERROGATORIES - GENERAL, SET ONE” is not attached to the email.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

Deputy Attorney General
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: (916) 210-7898



From: Corinne Ubence <cubence@bgrfirm.com>

Sent: Monday, November 1, 2021 4:58 PM

To: Ethan Turner <Ethan.Turner@doj.ca.gov>; Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>; Natalie Clark <Natalie.Clark@doj.ca.gov>; ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com; margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Cc: David J. Carroll <dcarroll@bgrfirm.com>; Ivy A. Wang <iwang@bgrfirm.com>; Timothy O'Shea <toshea@bgrfirm.com>

Subject: California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Dear Counsel,

Attached are service copies of Defendant's discovery responses in the above matter along with a letter of today's date.

Regards,

BGR | BROWNE GEORGE ROSS
O'BRIEN ANNAGUEY & ELLIS LLP

Corinne Ubence | Legal Assistant to

Carl A. Roth, David Carroll,

Matthew Kussman and Luke Fiedler

801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2000

Los Angeles, California 90017

Main 213.725.9800 | Fax 213.725.9808

cubence@bgrfirm.com

www.bgrfirm.com

This e-mail message may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient(s), or the employee or agent responsible for delivery of this message to the intended recipient(s), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete this e-mail message from your computer.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

This e-mail message may contain legally privileged and/or confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient(s), or the employee or agent responsible for delivery of this message to the intended recipient(s), you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this e-mail message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please immediately notify the sender and delete this e-mail message

from your computer.

Exhibit 4

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse	
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.	
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)	CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): Vertical Bliss, Inc. makes the following substitution:

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney
 - a. Name: Margarita Salazar
 - b. State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
 - c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
 Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
 470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
 - d. Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- Guardian
- Personal Representative
- Guardian ad litem
- Conservator
- Probate fiduciary
- Unincorporated association
- Trustee
- Corporation

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS


A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Ruben Kachian aka Ruben Cross

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)


(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

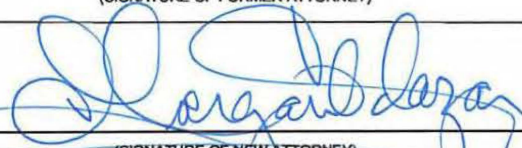

(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)


(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

1 **PROOF OF SERVICE**

2 **California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.**
3 **Case No. 20CHCV00560**

4 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES**

5 At the time of service, I was over 18 years of age and not a party to this action. I am
6 employed in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. My business address is 801 S.
7 Figueroa Street, Suite 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90017.

8 On December 21, 2021, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as
9 **SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

10 **SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST**

11 **BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION:** On December 21, 2021, I caused
12 a copy of the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address cubence@bgrfirm.com to the persons at
13 the e-mail addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the
14 transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

15 **BY ELECTRONIC SERVICE:** I served the document(s) on the person listed in the
16 Service List by submitting an electronic version of the document(s) to One Legal, LLC, through
17 the user interface at www.onelegal.com.

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

20 Executed on December 21, 2021, at Los Angeles, California.

21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28


Corinne Ubence

SERVICE LIST
California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.
Case No. 20CHCV00560

Xavier Becerra
Attorney General of California
Harinder K. Kapur
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ethan A. Turner
Deputy Attorney General
1300 I Street, Suite 125
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Tel: 916.210.7898
ethan.turner@doj.ca.gov
harinder.kapur@doj.ca.gov
natalie.clark@doj.ca.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
California Department of Public Health
and Bureau of Cannabis Control

Ian Stewart, Esq.
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
555 S. Flower Street, Suite 2900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: 213.443.5100
ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com

Attorneys for Defendant
Kevin Halloran

Margarita Salazar, Esq.
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Suite 9
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Tel: 619.994.9578
margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Attorney for Defendant
Ruben Kachian

Exhibit 5

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguy & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarrroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse	
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.	
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)	CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): **Kushy Punch, Inc.** makes the following substitution:

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): **Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguy & Ellis LLP**
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney **Annaguy & Ellis LLP**
- a. Name: **Margarita Salazar** b. State Bar No. (if applicable): **224649**
- c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
- d. Telephone No. (include area code): **619-994-9578**
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Guardian | • Personal Representative | • Guardian ad litem |
| • Conservator | • Probate fiduciary | • Unincorporated association |
| • Trustee | • Corporation | |

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS

A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Arutuyun Barsamyan

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguy & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse	
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.	
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)	CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): Kushy Punch, Inc. makes the following substitution:

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney Annaguy & Ellis LLP
 - a. Name: Margarita Salazar
 - b. State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
 - c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
 Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
 470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
 - d. Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- Guardian
- Personal Representative
- Guardian ad litem
- Conservator
- Probate fiduciary
- Unincorporated association
- Trustee
- Corporation

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS

A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Arutuyun Barsamyan

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

CASE NAME:

CASE NUMBER:

— Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.

20CHCV00560

PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL
Substitution of Attorney—Civil

Instructions: After having all parties served by mail with the Substitution of Attorney—Civil, have the person who mailed the document complete this Proof of Service by Mail. An unsigned copy of the Proof of Service by Mail should be completed and served with the document. Give the Substitution of Attorney—Civil and the completed Proof of Service by Mail to the clerk for filing. If you are representing yourself, someone else must mail these papers and sign the Proof of Service by Mail.

1. I am over the age of 18 and **not a party to this cause**. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My residence or business address is (*specify*):

2. I served the Substitution of Attorney—Civil by enclosing a true copy in a sealed envelope addressed to each person whose name and address is shown below and depositing the envelope in the United States mail with the postage fully prepaid.
 - (1) Date of mailing:
 - (2) Place of mailing (*city and state*):

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

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)_____
(SIGNATURE)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH PERSON TO WHOM NOTICE WAS MAILED

4. a. Name of person served:
- b. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- c. Name of person served:
- d. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- e. Name of person served:
- f. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- g. Name of person served:
- h. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- i. Name of person served:
- j. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

☐ List of names and addresses continued in attachment.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

On December 20, 2021, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as **SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: On December 20, 2021, I caused a copy of the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address cubence@bgrfirm.com to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

Executed on December 20, 2021, at Los Angeles, California.

Corinne Ubence

SERVICE LIST
California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.
Case No. 20CHCV00560

Xavier Becerra
Attorney General of California
Harinder K. Kapur
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ethan A. Turner
Deputy Attorney General
1300 I Street, Suite 125
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Tel: 916.210.7898
ethan.turner@doj.ca.gov
harinder.kapur@doj.ca.gov
natalie.clark@doj.ca.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
California Department of Public Health
and Bureau of Cannabis Control

Ian Stewart, Esq.
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
555 S. Flower Street, Suite 2900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: 213.443.5100
ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com

Attorneys for Defendant
Kevin Halloran

Margarita Salazar, Esq.
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Suite 9
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Tel: 619.994.9578
margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Attorney for Defendant
Ruben Kachian

Exhibit 6

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse	
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.	
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)	CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): Conglomerate Marketing LLC makes the following substitution:

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney
 - a. Name: Margarita Salazar
 - b. State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
 - c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
 Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
 470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
 - d. Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardian • Conservator • Trustee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Representative • Probate fiduciary • Corporation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guardian ad litem • Unincorporated association |
|--|---|---|

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS


A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

 Ruben Kachian aka Ruben Cross

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

▶ 
 (SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

 David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

▶ 
 (SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

 Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

▶ 
 (SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

On December 21, 2021, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as **SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: On December 21, 2021, I caused a copy of the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address cubence@bgrfirm.com to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

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

Corinne Ubence

SERVICE LIST
California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.
Case No. 20CHCV00560

Xavier Becerra
Attorney General of California
Harinder K. Kapur
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ethan A. Turner
Deputy Attorney General
1300 I Street, Suite 125
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Tel: 916.210.7898
ethan.turner@doj.ca.gov
harinder.kapur@doj.ca.gov
natalie.clark@doj.ca.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
California Department of Public Health
and Bureau of Cannabis Control

Ian Stewart, Esq.
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
555 S. Flower Street, Suite 2900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: 213.443.5100
ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com

Attorneys for Defendant
Kevin Halloran

Margarita Salazar, Esq.
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Suite 9
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Tel: 619.994.9578
margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Attorney for Defendant
Ruben Kachian

Exhibit 7

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants		FOR COURT USE ONLY CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse		
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.		
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)		

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): More Agency, Inc. makes the following substitution:

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney
 a. Name: Margarita Salazar b. State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
 c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
 Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
 470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
 d. Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- Guardian
- Personal Representative
- Guardian ad litem
- Conservator
- Probate fiduciary
- Unincorporated association
- Trustee
- Corporation

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS

A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Ruben Kachian aka Ruben Cross

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

On December 21, 2021, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as **SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: On December 21, 2021, I caused a copy of the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address cubence@bgrfirm.com to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

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

Corinne Ubence

SERVICE LIST
California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.
Case No. 20CHCV00560

Xavier Becerra
Attorney General of California
Harinder K. Kapur
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ethan A. Turner
Deputy Attorney General
1300 I Street, Suite 125
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Tel: 916.210.7898
ethan.turner@doj.ca.gov
harinder.kapur@doj.ca.gov
natalie.clark@doj.ca.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
California Department of Public Health
and Bureau of Cannabis Control

Ian Stewart, Esq.
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
555 S. Flower Street, Suite 2900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: 213.443.5100
ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com

Attorneys for Defendant
Kevin Halloran

Margarita Salazar, Esq.
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Suite 9
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Tel: 619.994.9578
margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Attorney for Defendant
Ruben Kachian

Exhibit 8

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants	FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse	
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.	
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)	CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): **Arutuyun Barsamyan** makes the following substitution:

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): **Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP**
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney **Annaguey & Ellis LLP**
- a. Name: **Margarita Salazar** b. State Bar No. (if applicable): **224649**
- c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
- d. Telephone No. (include area code): **619-994-9578**
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| • Guardian | • Personal Representative | • Guardian ad litem |
| • Conservator | • Probate fiduciary | • Unincorporated association |
| • Trustee | • Corporation | |

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS


A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Arutuyun Barsamyan

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



 (SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)



 (SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)


 (SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants		FOR COURT USE ONLY
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse		
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.		
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)		CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): Arutuyun Barsamyan makes the following substitution:

- Former legal representative ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP
- New legal representative ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney
 - Name: Margarita Salazar
 - State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
 - Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
 Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
 470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
 - Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
- The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- Guardian
- Personal Representative
- Guardian ad litem
- Conservator
- Probate fiduciary
- Unincorporated association
- Trustee
- Corporation

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS

A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Arutuyun Barsamyan

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: December 17, 2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

CASE NAME:

— Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.

CASE NUMBER:

20CHCV00560

**PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL
Substitution of Attorney—Civil**

Instructions: After having all parties served by mail with the Substitution of Attorney—Civil, have the person who mailed the document complete this Proof of Service by Mail. An unsigned copy of the Proof of Service by Mail should be completed and served with the document. Give the Substitution of Attorney—Civil and the completed Proof of Service by Mail to the clerk for filing. If you are representing yourself, someone else must mail these papers and sign the Proof of Service by Mail.

1. I am over the age of 18 and **not a party to this cause**. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My residence or business address is (*specify*):

2. I served the Substitution of Attorney—Civil by enclosing a true copy in a sealed envelope addressed to each person whose name and address is shown below and depositing the envelope in the United States mail with the postage fully prepaid.
 - (1) Date of mailing:
 - (2) Place of mailing (*city and state*):

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

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)_____
(SIGNATURE)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH PERSON TO WHOM NOTICE WAS MAILED

4. a. Name of person served:
- b. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- c. Name of person served:
- d. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- e. Name of person served:
- f. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- g. Name of person served:
- h. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

- i. Name of person served:
- j. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

☐ List of names and addresses continued in attachment.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

On December 20, 2021, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as **SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: On December 20, 2021, I caused a copy of the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address cubence@bgrfirm.com to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

Executed on December 20, 2021, at Los Angeles, California.

Corinne Ubence

SERVICE LIST
California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.
Case No. 20CHCV00560

Xavier Becerra
Attorney General of California
Harinder K. Kapur
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ethan A. Turner
Deputy Attorney General
1300 I Street, Suite 125
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Tel: 916.210.7898
ethan.turner@doj.ca.gov
harinder.kapur@doj.ca.gov
natalie.clark@doj.ca.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
California Department of Public Health
and Bureau of Cannabis Control

Ian Stewart, Esq.
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
555 S. Flower Street, Suite 2900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: 213.443.5100
ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com

Attorneys for Defendant
Kevin Halloran

Margarita Salazar, Esq.
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Suite 9
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Tel: 619.994.9578
margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Attorney for Defendant
Ruben Kachian

Exhibit 9

ATTORNEY OR PARTY WITHOUT ATTORNEY (Name, State Bar number, and address): Ivy A. Wang (SBN 224899) / David J. Carroll (SBN 291665) Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP 801 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 2800 Los Angeles, CA 90017 TELEPHONE NO.: (213) 725-9800 FAX NO. (Optional): (213) 725-9808 E-MAIL ADDRESS (Optional): iwang@bgrfirm.com / dcarroll@bgrfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR (Name): Defendants		FOR COURT USE ONLY CASE NUMBER: 20CHCV00560
SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES STREET ADDRESS: 9425 Penfield Avenue MAILING ADDRESS: CITY AND ZIP CODE: Chatsworth, CA 91311 BRANCH NAME: Chatsworth Courthouse		
CASE NAME: Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.		
SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY—CIVIL (Without Court Order)		

THE COURT AND ALL PARTIES ARE NOTIFIED THAT (name): Mike A. Toroyan makes the following substitution:

1. Former legal representative ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien Annaguey & Ellis LLP
2. New legal representative ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney
- a. Name: Margarita Salazar b. State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
- c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
 Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
 470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
- d. Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

***NOTICE TO PARTIES APPLYING TO REPRESENT THEMSELVES**

- Guardian
- Personal Representative
- Guardian ad litem
- Conservator
- Probate fiduciary
- Unincorporated association
- Trustee
- Corporation

If you are applying as one of the parties on this list, you may NOT act as your own attorney in most cases. Use this form to substitute one attorney for another attorney. SEEK LEGAL ADVICE BEFORE APPLYING TO REPRESENT YOURSELF.

NOTICE TO PARTIES WITHOUT ATTORNEYS

A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

4. I consent to this substitution.

Date: August 7, 2021

Mike A. Toroyan

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

5. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: ~~August 7, 2021~~ December 17, 2021

David J. Carroll

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

6. ☒ I consent to this substitution.

Date: 12/17/2021

Margarita Salazar

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

(See reverse for proof of service by mail)

Page 1 of 2

1. **Former legal representative** ☐ Party represented self ☒ Attorney (name): Browne George Ross O'Brien
2. **New legal representative** ☐ Party is representing self* ☒ Attorney Annaguey & Ellis LLP
a. Name: Margarita Salazar b. State Bar No. (if applicable): 224649
c. Address (number, street, city, ZIP, and law firm name, if applicable):
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910
d. Telephone No. (include area code): 619-994-9578
3. The party making this substitution is a ☐ plaintiff ☒ defendant ☐ petitioner ☐ respondent ☐ other (specify):

- Guardian
- Conservator
- Trustee
- Personal Representative
- Probate fiduciary
- Corporation
- Guardian ad litem
- Unincorporated association

A party representing himself or herself may wish to seek legal assistance. Failure to take timely and appropriate action in this case may result in serious legal consequences.

(SIGNATURE OF PARTY)

(SIGNATURE OF FORMER ATTORNEY)

(SIGNATURE OF NEW ATTORNEY)

Page 1 of 2

CASE NAME:

CASE NUMBER:

Cal. Dep't of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.

20CHCV00560

**PROOF OF SERVICE BY MAIL
Substitution of Attorney—Civil**

Instructions: After having all parties served by mail with the Substitution of Attorney—Civil, have the person who mailed the document complete this Proof of Service by Mail. An unsigned copy of the Proof of Service by Mail should be completed and served with the document. Give the Substitution of Attorney—Civil and the completed Proof of Service by Mail to the clerk for filing. If you are representing yourself, someone else must mail these papers and sign the Proof of Service by Mail.

1. I am over the age of 18 and **not a party to this cause**. I am a resident of or employed in the county where the mailing occurred. My residence or business address is (*specify*):
2. I served the Substitution of Attorney—Civil by enclosing a true copy in a sealed envelope addressed to each person whose name and address is shown below and depositing the envelope in the United States mail with the postage fully prepaid.
 - (1) Date of mailing:
 - (2) Place of mailing (*city and state*):
3. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date:

(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)

(SIGNATURE)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF EACH PERSON TO WHOM NOTICE WAS MAILED

4. a. Name of person served:
- b. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):
- c. Name of person served:
- d. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):
- e. Name of person served:
- f. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):
- g. Name of person served:
- h. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):
- i. Name of person served:
- j. Address (*number, street, city, and ZIP*):

☐ List of names and addresses continued in attachment.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10
- 11
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21
- 22
- 23
- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

On December 21, 2021, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as **SUBSTITUTION OF ATTORNEY** on the interested parties in this action as follows:

BY E-MAIL OR ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION: On December 21, 2021, I caused a copy of the document(s) to be sent from e-mail address cubence@bgrfirm.com to the persons at the e-mail addresses listed in the Service List. I did not receive, within a reasonable time after the transmission, any electronic message or other indication that the transmission was unsuccessful.

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

Corinne Usener

Corinne Ubence

SERVICE LIST
California Dept. of Public Health et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc. et al.
Case No. 20CHCV00560

Xavier Becerra
Attorney General of California
Harinder K. Kapur
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Ethan A. Turner
Deputy Attorney General
1300 I Street, Suite 125
P.O. Box 944255
Sacramento, CA 94244-2550
Tel: 916.210.7898
ethan.turner@doj.ca.gov
harinder.kapur@doj.ca.gov
natalie.clark@doj.ca.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
California Department of Public Health
and Bureau of Cannabis Control

Ian Stewart, Esq.
Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP
555 S. Flower Street, Suite 2900
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Tel: 213.443.5100
ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com

Attorneys for Defendant
Kevin Halloran

Margarita Salazar, Esq.
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, APLC
470 Third Avenue, Suite 9
Chula Vista, CA 91910
Tel: 619.994.9578
margarita@msalazarlaw.com

Attorney for Defendant
Ruben Kachian

Exhibit 10

From: [Ethan Turner](#)
To: [Margarita Salazar, Esq.](#)
Cc: [Harinder Kapur](#); [Michael Yun](#)
Subject: Vertical Bliss
Date: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 4:52:12 PM
Attachments: [11.5.21 Meet and Confer re discovery.pdf](#)

Ms. Salazar,

Now that you have taken over representing all defendants except Mr. Halloran, there are a couple of matters I would like to discuss with you as soon as possible because our trial date is only six months away and we're running out of time.

First, the Court ordered all parties to engage in mediation within 60 days of our case management conference. That deadline has long since passed. We need to agree on a mediator and undertake that process as soon as possible. I would like to set up a conference call with you and Mr. Stewart (Halloran's counsel) to move this process forward. Perhaps the three of us can find a time that will work for all of us in the first two weeks of 2022.

Second, as we have discussed with Mr. Carroll, the discovery responses provided by the defendants formerly represented by BGR fail to comply with the requirements of the Civil Discovery Act (see attached email). I would like to meet and confer regarding this issue this week if possible.

Are you available tomorrow to discuss next steps? I am free after 10:30 a.m.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

**Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: (916) 210-7898**



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

Exhibit 11

From: [Ethan Turner](#)
To: [Margarita Salazar, Esq.](#)
Cc: [Michael Yun](#); [Harinder Kapur](#)
Subject: RE: FW: Vertical Bliss
Date: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 1:40:10 PM

Ms. Salazar,

I will be in a meeting until 10:30. However, we can talk after that.

My co-counsel Michael Yun and my Supervisor, Harinder Kapur may also join in the call.

If 10:30 works for you I'll send you a conference call number and a participation code.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18
[Sacramento, CA 95814](#)
Office: (916) 210-7898



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From: Margarita Salazar, Esq. <Margarita@msalazarlaw.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 4, 2022 1:15 PM

To: Ethan Turner <Ethan.Turner@doj.ca.gov>

Cc: Stewart, Ian <Ian.Stewart@wilsonelser.com>; Michael Yun <Michael.Yun@doj.ca.gov>; Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>

Subject: Re: FW: Vertical Bliss

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.
--

Hello, Ethan,

Can we do a call tomorrow morning? 10:00?

--m

On Mon, Jan 3, 2022 at 5:18 PM Ethan Turner <Ethan.Turner@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Ms. Salazar,

I'm following up on my December 21, email.

Please let me know when we can discuss these matters.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

**Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section**

1300 I Street

1620-18

[Sacramento, CA 95814](#)

Office: (916) 210-7898



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From: Ethan Turner
Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2021 4:52 PM
To: 'Margarita Salazar, Esq.' <Margarita@msalazarlaw.com>
Cc: Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>; Michael Yun <Michael.Yun@doj.ca.gov>
Subject: Vertical Bliss

Ms. Salazar,

Now that you have taken over representing all defendants except Mr. Halloran, there are a couple of matters I would like to discuss with you as soon as possible because our trial date is only six months away and we're running out of time.

First, the Court ordered all parties to engage in mediation within 60 days of our case management conference. That deadline has long since passed. We need to agree on a mediator and undertake that process as soon as possible. I would like to set up a conference call with you and Mr. Stewart (Halloran's counsel) to move this process forward. Perhaps the three of us can find a time that will work for all of us in the first two weeks of 2022.

Second, as we have discussed with Mr. Carroll, the discovery responses provided by the defendants formerly represented by BGR fail to comply with the requirements of the Civil Discovery Act (see attached email). I would like to meet and confer regarding this issue this week if possible.

Are you available tomorrow to discuss next steps? I am free after 10:30 a.m.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: (916) 210-7898



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

--

--m

Margarita Salazar, Esq.
Law Offices of Margarita Salazar, A Professional Law Corporation
470 Third Avenue, Suite 9
Chula Vista, California 91910
Cell / Text: 619.994.9578
Fax: 877.264.4695

From: [Margarita Salazar](#)
To: [CCSCalendar](#)
Cc: [Michael Yun](#); [Harinder Kapur](#)
Subject: Re: Meet and Confer Regarding Inadequate Discovery Responses
Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 9:23:36 AM
Attachments: [mime-attachment.ics](#)

EXTERNAL EMAIL: This message was sent from outside DOJ. Please do not click links or open attachments that appear suspicious.

Thank you.
I will be there for today's meeting.

--m
Margarita Salazar
Tel. / Text: (619) 994-9578

On Jan 5, 2022, at 8:41 AM, CCSCalendar <CCSCalendar@doj.ca.gov> wrote:

Ms. Salazar,

You did not respond to my email inquiring whether 10:30 a.m. this morning would work for you.

In the event that it does work, you can join me for a teleconference at 10:30, by dialing the following information

Phone Number: (888) 278 0296
Access Code: 4766034

As I told Mr. Carroll, the responses provided by your clients, Mr. Toroyon, Mr. Barsamyan, Kushy Punch, Inc., Conglomerate Marketing, and Vertical Bliss, Inc. are inadequate for the following reasons:

1. The answers given are not made under oath (Code Civ. Proc. § 2030.210, subd. (a)).
2. No responsive information is provided (Code Civ. Proc. § 2030.210, subd. (a)(1)),
3. The objections are without merit and are too general (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.300, subd. (a)(3));
4. All objections are made without connecting the questions to any "specific ground for the objection." (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.240, subd. (b).)

There have been three extensions to the deadlines for discovery, you failed to meet the last deadline that was given and ultimately produced totally inadequate responses. The trial date is now

barely more than six months away and no meaningful discovery has occurred.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

**Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section**

1300 I Street

1620-18

[Sacramento, CA 95814](#)

Office: (916) 210-7898

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

Exhibit 12

From: [Ethan Turner](#)
To: ["Margarita Salazar, Esq."](#)
Cc: [Harinder Kapur](#); [Michael Yun](#)
Subject: Meet and Confer Conversation
Date: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 1:04:00 PM
Attachments: [Vertical Bliss et al. Global Demand Letter.pdf](#)
[image001.jpg](#)

Margarita,

To confirm what we discussed earlier, you indicated that you will be meeting with your clients this afternoon in order to work on supplemental answers to discovery. You further indicated that you will call or email us tomorrow to confirm timeframes for getting the supplemental responses to us, and that you could get us the supplemental responses by January 21. We stated that we have been trying to get responses to discovery for 6 months now, and we would like to see your additional discovery requests by noon on Friday 1/21.

We also discussed issue of mediation and I told you I would send you the initial settlement letter that was authorized by our clients. It is attached to this email.

Please feel free to send a counter offer with justification, including supporting documentation, for the offer.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

**Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section**

1300 I Street

1620-18

Sacramento, CA 95814

Office: (916) 210-7898

1591211062874



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential

and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

Exhibit 13

From: [Ethan Turner](#)
To: [Margarita Salazar, Esq.](#); [Kevin Knox](#)
Cc: [Michael Yun](#); [Harinder Kapur](#)
Subject: RE: Meet and Confer Conversation
Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:35:32 PM
Attachments: [Stipulation and Proposed Order for Substitution of Plaintiff.pdf](#)
[Notice of Court Order Granting Motion to Compel \(Signed\).pdf](#)

Margarita,

I'm following up on my emails from this morning regarding the mediation, the proposed stipulation that I sent on January 7th, regarding the consolidation of the Plaintiff agencies, the discovery matters we discussed on January 5th, and the order that was issued by the Court on Monday (which was served to you on the same day, but is attached for reference).

Mediation

As noted in my email this morning to case manager for retired judge, Gail Andler, on which you were copied we've now all agreed to the mediator, the date, and to the fee splitting proposal made by Ian Stewart. As indicated by Mr. Levington, in his email, our mediation briefs are due on February 21st. We are hopeful that we will have a fruitful mediation session.

Stipulation

Mr. Stewart indicated that he would agree to the stipulation I sent on the 7th. Let me know if you have had a chance to review it. I have attached it to this email for your easy reference.

Discovery

After our discussion on January 5, you indicated that you would get back to us after your discussion with your clients about further discovery responses. We not heard back from you - Do you have any update? Based on our conversation you will be providing code compliant responses by January 21, 2022.

Please note that the Court ordered Mr. Kachian's responses to be served on the 1/21, also. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

**Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18
Sacramento, CA 95814**

Office: (916) 210-7898



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

From: Ethan Turner

Sent: Wednesday, January 5, 2022 1:04 PM

To: 'Margarita Salazar, Esq.' <Margarita@msalazarlaw.com>

Cc: Harinder Kapur <Harinder.Kapur@Doj.Ca.Gov>; Michael Yun <Michael.Yun@doj.ca.gov>

Subject: Meet and Confer Conversation

Margarita,

To confirm what we discussed earlier, you indicated that you will be meeting with your clients this afternoon in order to work on supplemental answers to discovery. You further indicated that you will call or email us tomorrow to confirm timeframes for getting the supplemental responses to us, and that you could get us the supplemental responses by January 21. We stated that we have been trying to get responses to discovery for 6 months now, and we would like to see your additional discovery requests by noon on Friday 1/21.

We also discussed issue of mediation and I told you I would send you the initial settlement letter that was authorized by our clients. It is attached to this email.

Please feel free to send a counter offer with justification, including supporting documentation, for the offer.

Thanks,

Ethan Turner

Deputy Attorney General III

California Department of Justice

Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18
Sacramento, CA 95814
Office: (916) 210-7898



CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This communication with its contents may contain confidential and/or legally privileged information. It is solely for the use of the intended recipient(s). Unauthorized interception, review, use or disclosure is prohibited and may violate applicable laws including the Electronic Communications Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender and destroy all copies of the communication.

Exhibit 14

Ethan Turner

From: Ethan Turner
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022 11:38 AM
To: 'Margarita Salazar, Esq.'; 'Kevin Knox'
Cc: Michael Yun; Harinder Kapur
Subject: RE: Meet and Confer Conversation

ProfiledItem: true

Margarita,

Pursuant to the Court's order, Kachian's responses to Interrogatories were due six days ago, on January 20, 2022. Pursuant to representations you made in our January 5 conversation and in subsequent correspondence, you indicated that supplemental responses would be provided for your other clients to cure the defective responses that were previously provided, by January 21, 2022. Subsequently, you informed us that you needed time to provide responses and would have them to us by Monday, January 24, 2022.

As I previously indicated, the responses received from Vertical Bliss, Inc., Kushy Punch, Inc., Conglomerate Marketing, LLC, More Agency Inc., Arutyun Barsamyan, and Mike A. Toroyan were uniformly defective for the following reasons and have not been cured:

1. The answers given are not made under oath (Code Civ. Proc § 2030.210, subd. (a)).
2. No responsive information is provided (Code Civ. Proc. § 2030.210, subd. (a)(1)),
3. The objections are without merit and are too general (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.300, subd. (a)(3));
4. All objections are made without connecting the questions to any "specific ground for the objection." (Code Civ. Proc., § 2030.240, subd. (b).)

With respect to Mr. Kachian, no discovery responses have yet been received. Also note, that pursuant to the Court's order, the RFAs sent to Mr. Kachian have all been deemed admitted.

If there is anything to discuss regarding any of these matters you may call me. However, I believe our prior conversations together with this email constitute adequate efforts to meet and confer prior to filing additional motions to compel, which we now intend to do.

Additionally, if your clients have any interest in taking part in mediation, which the Court ordered us to engage in, please respond to Mr. Levinson's email from yesterday and please execute the mediation agreement by the deadline he set.

Thanks,

Ethan

Ethan Turner
Deputy Attorney General III
California Department of Justice
Office of the Attorney General
Division of Civil Law
Cannabis Control Section
1300 I Street
1620-18

DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY U.S. Mail and E-Mail

Case Name: **California Department of Public Health, et al. v. Vertical Bliss, Inc., et al.**
Case No.: **20CHCV00560**

I declare:

I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General, which is the office of a member of the California State Bar, at which member's direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to this matter. I am familiar with the business practice at the Office of the Attorney General for collection and processing of correspondence for mailing with the United States Postal Service. In accordance with that practice, correspondence placed in the internal mail collection system at the Office of the Attorney General is deposited with the United States Postal Service with postage thereon fully prepaid that same day in the ordinary course of business.

On **September 21, 2022**, I served the attached **DECLARATION OF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ETHAN TURNER IN SUPPORT OF DEPARTMENT OF CANNABIS CONTROL'S MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT** by transmitting a true copy via electronic mail. In addition, I placed a true copy thereof enclosed in a sealed envelope, in the internal mail system of the Office of the Attorney General, addressed as follows:

Party	Address
Margarita Salazar, Esq. <i>Attorney for Defendants Vertical Bliss, Inc., Kushy Punch, Inc., Conglomerate Marketing, LLC., More Agency, Inc., Ruben Kachian, Arutyun Barsamyan, and Mike A. Toroyan</i>	Margarita Salazar, Esq. Law Offices of Margarita Salazar 470 Third Avenue, Ste. 9 Chula Vista, CA 91910-4663 E-mail Address: margarita@msalazarlaw.com
Ian Stewart Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP <i>Attorney for Defendant Kevin Halloran</i>	Wilson Elser Moskowitz Edelman & Dicker LLP 555 South Flower St. Ste. 2900 Los Angeles, Ca 90071 E-mail Address: ian.stewart@wilsonelser.com

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on **September 21, 2022**, at San Diego, California.

Cecilia Apodaca

Declarant



Signature