1 2 3 4	Anthony M. Bettencourt (SBN 289361) Marina Kublanovskaya (SBN 315652) <b>LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL E. CINDRICH, A</b> 225 Broadway, Suite 1900 San Diego, California 92101 Telephone: (619) 262-2500 Facsimile: (619) 819-7342	ELECTRONICALLY FILED Superior Court of California, County of San Diego  OB/31/2018 at 11:11:40 AM Clerk of the Superior Court By Jacqueline J. Walters, Deputy Clerk	
5 6	Attorneys for Plaintiff		
7	RICARDO VIDAL d.b.a. SCHNELLZUG CAPITAL		
8	SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
9	COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO, HALL OF JUSTICE		
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12	RICARDO VIDAL d.b.a. SCHNELLZUG	CASE NO. 37-2018-00044217-CU-BC-CTL	
13	CAPITAL;	COMPLAINT FOR:	
14 15	Plaintiff, v.	1) BREACH OF CONTRACT; AND 2) INTENTIONAL MISREPRESENTATION	
16	PICK AXE HOLDINGS, LLC, a California limited		
17	liability company; CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS,	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED	
18	an individual; and DOES 1 through 50, inclusive,		
19	Defendants.		
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22	TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR ATTORNEY OF RECORD:		
23	Plaintiff RICARDO VIDAL d.b.a. SCHNELLZUG CAPITAL ("VIDAL") brings this action		
24	against defendants PICK AXE HOLDINGS, LLC ("PICK AXE"), CHRISTOPHER WILLIAMS		
25	("WILLIAMS"), and DOES 1 through 50 (collectively, "Defendants") and alleges the following:		
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**COMPLAINT** 

## **INTRODUCTION**

This is a two-count unlimited complaint for breach of contract and intentional misrepresentation stemming from a disputed future use agreement of a property, wherein VIDAL alleges that PICK AXE, an alter ego of WILLIAMS, had no intention to fulfill its obligations under the agreement terms. VIDAL alleges that PICK AXE'S conduct is part of a large plan or scheme wherein these intentional misrepresentations are regularly negotiated to secure future use agreements at PICK AXE'S request.

## THE PARTIES

- 1. VIDAL, at all relevant times, is an individual residing in San Diego County, California, and a party to the future use agreement at issue.
- 2. PICK AXE, at all relevant times, is a California limited liability company, doing business in, and with its principal place of business located in, the City of San Diego, San Diego County, and a party to the future use agreement at issue.
- 3. WILLIAMS is a natural person residing in San Diego County, California, and managing member of PICK AXE.
- 4. Defendants named herein by fictitious names DOES 1 through 50, inclusive, are persons, individuals, corporations, partnerships, associations, or otherwise. The true names and identities and capacities of each fictitiously named Defendant are unknown to Plaintiff at this time. Leave of Court will be requested to amend this Complaint to show their true names and capacities when they have been ascertained.
- 5. Plaintiff is informed and believes, and based upon such information and belief, alleges that, at all times herein mentioned, each of the Defendants, including the fictitiously named Defendants, and each of them, was the duly authorized agent, employee, alter ego or partner of each other Defendant and in doing the thing herein mentioned, Defendants, including fictitiously named Defendants, and each of them, were acting within the scope of their agency, employment or partnership, and that all acts or omissions hereinafter alleged were committed with the knowledge, permission, or consent, or any combination thereof, of the other Defendants, including the fictitiously named Defendants and each of them.

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## **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

- 6. PICK AXE is, and at all relevant times mentioned in this complaint has been, a California limited liability company, doing business in California, with its principal place of business in the City of San Diego, County of San Diego, State of California.
  - 7. The amount sought exceeds the jurisdictional minimum of this Court.

## FACTUAL BACKGROUND

- 8. VIDAL owns the real property known as 314 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081 (the "Property").
- 9. On November 28, 2017, VIDAL and PICK AXE entered into a future use agreement involving the Property (the "Agreement"), wherein VIDAL is the property owner and PICK AXE is the future property user. A true copy of this agreement is attached hereto as **Exhibit 1** and incorporated by this reference.
- 10. The Agreement required PICK AXE to put forth its best efforts to help identify a tenant for the second floor of the Property, as an essential term.
  - 11. PICK AXE did not advertise or otherwise promote the property.
  - 12. PICK AXE did not show the property to any potential tenants.
  - 13. PICK AXE failed to identify a tenant for the vacant area in the property.
  - 14. PICK AXE did not put forth its best efforts to identify a tenant for the property.
- 15. Accordingly, VIDAL attempted to mitigate his losses from PICK AXE's failure to put forth best efforts to help find a tenant.
  - 16. VIDAL advertised the property.
- 17. VIDAL made several requests that PICK AXE put its best efforts and help identify potential tenants.
- 18. As of today, VIDAL has lost more than seven months' rent from PICK AXE's failure to help identify potential tenants.
- 19. The fair market value of the vacant area in the property for seven months is at least \$21,420.00.
  - 20. WILLIAMS is the sole manager of PICK AXE.

- 21. Based on information and belief, DOES 1 through 50 are members or other responsible parties of PICK AXE.
- 22. WILLIAMS failed to file a Statement of Information for PICK AXE within 90 days of its formation.
- 23. Based on information and belief, PICK AXE regularly negotiates future use agreements in commercial lease properties in exchange for terms similar to the clause at issue.
- 24. Accordingly, PICK AXE is motivated by a larger plan or scheme to negotiate terms of an agreement with an explicit intent to breach those terms.

## **ALTER EGO LIABILITY**

- 25. Under the alter-ego doctrine, where a corporation is used by an individual or individuals, or by another corporation, to perpetrate fraud, circumvent a statute, or accomplish some other wrongful or inequitable purpose, a court may disregard the corporate entity and treat the corporation's acts as if they were done by the persons actually controlling the corporation. Toho-Towa Co., Ltd. v. Morgan Creek Productions, Inc., 217 Cal. App. 4th 1096, 1106 (2nd Dist. 2013). The doctrine applies to limited liability companies as well as corporations. Celebrity Chefs Tour, LLC v. Macy's, Inc., 2014 WL 1660724, \*4–5 (S.D. Cal. 2014) (citing Cal. Corp. Code § 17703.04(b)).
- 26. Generally, to prevail on an alter-ego theory, the plaintiff must show that "(1) there is such a unity of interest that the separate personalities of the corporations no longer exist; and (2) inequitable results will follow if the corporate separateness is respected." <u>Tomaselli v. Transamerica Ins. Co.</u>, 25 Cal.App.4th 1269, 1285 (4th Dist. 1994).
- 27. Unity of interest is shown by several factors, including: commingling funds, the use of a corporation as a mere shell for the business of an individual, use of the same office, undercapitalization, and foregoing corporate formalities. See Sonora Diamond Corp. v. Superior Court, 83 Cal. App. 4th 523, 539 (5th Dist. 2000). No single factor is determinative; the court must look at all circumstances. <u>Id.</u>
- 28. Here, PICK AXE is WILLIAMS' alter-ego for two reasons. First, a unity of interest exists. WILLIAMS is the sole manager of PICK AXE; PICK AXE failed to maintain corporate formalities; and, based on information and belief, PICK AXE executes a common plan or scheme to commit fraud (intentional misrepresentation) in its lease negotiations and agreements. Second, an inequitable result

Pursuant to the Agreement, PICK AXE represented to VIDAL that he would put forth his

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best efforts to help identify a tenant to rent the vacant second floor of the Property.

- 38. Those representations were false. PICK AXE had knowledge that its representations were false when they were made because, based on information and belief, PICK AXE has a larger plan or scheme where it was motivated to negotiate agreements for future use of commercial properties when it had no intention to meet its obligations and had no intention to put forth best efforts to find a tenant for the vacant area of the Property.
  - 39. PICK AXE intended that VIDAL detrimentally rely on these representations.
- 40. VIDAL actually and justifiably relied upon these false representations that best efforts had been put forth to find a tenant for the second floor of the Property.
- 41. VIDAL's reliance on these false representations was a substantial factor causing him harm. As a proximate cause of PICK AXE's intentional misrepresentations, VIDAL detrimentally relied on such misrepresentations and suffered economic damages in an amount to be proven at trial, but that is at least, \$21,420.00.
- 42. Alternatively, because VIDAL was fraudulently induced to enter into the Agreement, he is entitled to rescission and/or restitution in an amount to be proven at trial, but that is at least, \$21,420.00.
- 43. VIDAL is further entitled to punitive damages against PICK AXE because its actions constituted malice, oppression, and fraud pursuant Cal. Civ. Code § 3294.

## **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, VIDAL prays for judgment against all defendants as follows:

- A. For economic damages of, at least, \$21,420.00;
- B. For punitive damages pursuant to Cal. Civ. Code § 3294;
- C. For pre-judgment interest;
- D. For costs of suit;
- E. For attorneys' fees to the extent permitted by law;
- F. For rescission of the Agreement and restitution in an amount to be proven at trial; and
- G. For such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper

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3	Date: August 30, 2018	LAW (	OFFICES OF MICHAEL E. CINDRICH, APC
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5		By:	Marian Kublenkun
6			MARINA KUBLANOVSKAYA Attorneys for Plaintiff
7			RICARDO VIDAL d.b.a. SCHNELLZUG
8			CAPITAL
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**COMPLAINT** 



## Property

314 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081. Comprised of a stand alone two story commercial building.

## Terms

- \$5,000 non-refundable earnest money deposit will be made paid by will be due within 30 days of the city approving an initiative. permit for medical or recreational marijuana activity. An additional \$5,000 check/cash to secure the properties rights to apply for a conditional use
- expenses to apply for a conditional use permits with the city of Vista including Pick Axe Holdings management will be responsible for all associated fees and building inspectors, public affairs, lobbyist and other third party consultants. but not limited to corporate and land use attorney, permits, architect,

## Terms Continued

- building and tenant improvement period. begin on mutually approved move in date \$Fair Market Rent/month during At the issuance of conditional use permit Pick Axe Holdings lease payments wil
- offices) from the time the dispensary doors open and are legally allowed to area to \$13,000month for the whole building (if tenants vacate the occupied Lease payments will increase from \$9,000.00 month for the available upstairs
- Triple net five year lease with five, five year options. Plus a 2% yearly increase.
- conditional use permit and any taxes associated with the tenant improvements Lessee agrees to pay up to \$350,000 in tenant improvements for the

# Terms Continued

- Lessee is responsible for any improvement correction costs (including architect and engineer.
- second floor at FMV per sq ft. Lessee agrees to put forth their best effort to help identify sub lease to rent the
- certain products that management wishes to distribute in the dispensary. Lessee agrees to grant lessor a first right of refusal to manufacture and supply
- manufacturing business, acquire and retain customers and drive sales and manufacturing services and products. We will provide tools to promote the Lessee will assist lessor with licensing, branding, marketing and advertising his

# Terms Continued

- Lessor is responsible for any previous fines.
- Lessee holds the first right of refusal to purchase the property at a sliding scale TBD by third party BPO.
- recreational conditional use permit. The lease will be a five year exclusive option to only apply for a MMJ or
- The Lessor has a buyout option of Three million to apply or take over the permi

## Signatures



Rick Vidal

Lessor

11/28/17

Date

Christopher O. Williams

Christopher Williams Lessee

11/28/17

Date

This is an agreement to work on the actual lease terms to the best of our abilities.