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Superior Court of California, County of San Diego

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Clerk of the Superior Court By Melissa Valdez, Deputy Clerk

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Attorney for Defendant Larry Geraci

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DARRYL COTTON,

v.

Plaintiff,

LAWRENCE (A/K/A LARRY) GERACI, an individual,

Defendant.

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA

## **COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

Case No. 37-2022-00000023-CU-MC-CTL

DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S VERIFIED COMPLAINT IN EQUITY TO SET ASIDE VOID JUDGMENT

Judge: Hon. James A. Mangione

Dept.: C-75

Complaint Filed: January 3, 2022

Trial Date: Unassigned

Defendant Larry Geraci ("Defendant"), separating himself from all other defendants, answers Plaintiff's Verified Complaint in Equity to Set Aside Void Judgment (the "Verified Complaint") on file herein as follows:

#### **ANSWER**

- 1. Answering the allegations of paragraph 1 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies the Cotton I Judgment is void for the reasons alleged therein or for any other reason; as to the remaining allegations, Defendant denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 2. Answering the allegations of paragraph 2 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

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- 3. Answering the allegations of paragraph 3 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies the Cotton I Judgment was filed without factual or legal probable cause based on "judicially noticeable facts" or otherwise and denies all remaining allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 4. Answering the allegations of paragraph 4 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 5. Answering the allegations of paragraph 5 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 6. Answering the allegations of paragraph 6 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced document speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein, defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 7. Answering the allegations of paragraph 7 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced document speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein, defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 8. Answering the allegations of paragraph 8 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief the allegations in the first sentence of said paragraph and denies each and every remaining allegation contained therein.
- 9. Answering the allegations of paragraph 9 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 10. Answering the allegations of paragraph 10 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in the Verified Complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 10 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 11. Answering the allegations of paragraph 11 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly

included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 11 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

- 12. Answering the allegations of paragraph 12 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 13. Answering the allegations of paragraph 13 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations.
- 14. Answering the allegations of paragraph 14 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations.
- 15. Answering the allegations of paragraph 15 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations.
- 16. Answering the allegations of paragraph 16 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits he was a license real estate agent during the alleged time period; the remaining allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint and based thereon defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 17. Answering the allegations of paragraph 17 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced documents speak for themselves as to their content; except as expressly admitted herein defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 18. Answering the allegations of paragraph 18 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations.
- 19. Answering the allegations of paragraph 19 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 20. Answering the allegations of paragraph 20 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations except that he believed the Property might qualify for a CUP and denies that he believed the Property would qualify for a CUP.
- 21. Answering the allegations of paragraph 21 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations.

- 34. Answering the allegations of paragraph 34 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 35. Answering the allegations of paragraph 35 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced document speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 36. Answering the allegations of paragraph 36 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced document speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 37. Answering the allegations of paragraph 37 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 38. Answering the allegations of paragraph 38 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced document speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 39. Answering the allegations of paragraph 39 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 40. Answering the allegations of paragraph 40 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 41. Answering the allegations of paragraph 41 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 42. Answering the allegations of paragraph 42 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 43. Answering the allegations of paragraph 43 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced complaint speaks for itself as to its content and allegations; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 44. Answering the allegations of paragraph 44 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits plaintiff was served with the referenced complaint and the referenced lis pendens was

recorded; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.

- 45. Answering the allegations of paragraph 45 of the Verified Complaint the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 45 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein and specifically denies the Cotton I action was filed without factual or legal probable cause.
- 46. Answering the allegations of paragraph 46 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 46 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 47. Answering the allegations of paragraph 47 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 47 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 48. Answering the allegations of paragraph 48 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 48 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief
- 49. Answering the allegations of paragraph 49 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced judgment speaks for itself as to its term and content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 50. Answering the allegations of paragraph 50 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

- 51. Answering the allegations of paragraph 51 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 52. Answering the allegations of paragraph 52 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 52 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 53. Answering the allegations of paragraph 53 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 53 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 54. Answering the allegations of paragraph 54 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 54 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 55. Answering the allegations of paragraph 55 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of the first sentence of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint and based thereon, Defendant Geraci denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief; answering the remaining allegations of said paragraph, Geraci denies said allegations.
- 56. Answering the allegations of paragraph 56 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 56 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

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- 57. Answering the allegations of paragraph 57 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 57 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 58. Answering the allegations of paragraph 58 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits the plaintiff moved for a directed verdict at the conclusion of the Cotton I trial, and that said motion speaks for itself as to its basis; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 59. Answering the allegations of paragraph 59 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits that the referenced judgment speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein, Defendant denies the remaining allegations of said paragraph.
- 60. Answering the allegations of paragraph 60 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations.
- 61. Answering the allegations of paragraph 61 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits the plaintiff moved for a new trial after the Cotton I trial and said motion speaks for itself as to its basis; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 62. Answering the allegations of paragraph 62 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits Geraci opposed plaintiff's motion for a new trial after the Cotton I trial, and that said opposition speaks for itself as to its basis; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 63. Answering the allegations of paragraph 63 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 64. Answering the allegations of paragraph 64 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits the court denied plaintiff's motion for a new trial after the Cotton I trial and the court record speaks for itself as to the basis for said denial; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

- 65. Answering the allegations of paragraph 65 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 65 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 66. Answering the allegations of paragraph 66 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 66 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 67. Answering the allegations of paragraph 67 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 67 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 68. Answering the allegations of paragraph 68 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 68 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 69. Answering the allegations of paragraph 69 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 69 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 70. Answering the allegations of paragraph 70 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 70 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

- 71. Answering the allegations of paragraph 71 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 71 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 72. Answering the allegations of paragraph 72 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 72 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 73. Answering the allegations of paragraph 73 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 74. Answering the allegations of paragraph 74 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 75. Answering the allegations of paragraph 75 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 76. Answering the allegations of paragraph 76 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that plaintiff's pleadings and filings in the Cotton I action speak for themselves as to their content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 77. Answering the allegations of paragraph 77 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that plaintiffs referenced demurrer speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 78. Answering the allegations of paragraph 78 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that plaintiff filed a motion to expunge lis pendens and that the referenced motion speaks for themselves as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

- 79. Answering the allegations of paragraph 79 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that plaintiff filed a motion to expunge lis pendens and that the referenced motion speaks for themselves as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 80. Answering the allegations of paragraph 80 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci admits said allegations.
- 81. Answering the allegations of paragraph 81 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that the referenced declaration speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 82. Answering the allegations of paragraph 82 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that the referenced email speaks for itself as to its content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 83. Answering the allegations of paragraph 83 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 84. Answering the allegations of paragraph 84 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 84 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 85. Answering the allegations of paragraph 85 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 85 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 86. Answering the allegations of paragraph 86 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 86 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

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verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

88. Answering the allegations of paragraph 88 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly

of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly

Answering the allegations of paragraph 87 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations

- of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 88 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 89. Answering the allegations of paragraph 89 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 89 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 90. Answering the allegations of paragraph 90 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 90 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 91. Answering the allegations of paragraph 91 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 91 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 92. Answering the allegations of paragraph 92 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 92 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

- 93. Answering the allegations of paragraph 93 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 93 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 94. Answering the allegations of paragraph 94 of the Verified Complaint, the allegations of said paragraph contain arguments and plaintiff's conclusions of fact and law not properly included in a complaint; based thereon and answering the allegations of paragraph 94 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 95. Answering the allegations of paragraph 95 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies said allegations for lack of sufficient knowledge, information, and belief.
- 96. Answering the allegations of paragraph 96 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that plaintiff filed and thereafter amended the referenced action in federal court and that the pleadings in said action speak for themselves as to their content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 97. Answering the allegations of paragraph 97 of the Verified Complaint, Geraci admits that the court dismissed the federal action and that the court's order in that regard speaks for itself as to its rulings and content; except as expressly admitted herein Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.
- 98. Answering the allegations of paragraph 98 of the Verified Complaint, Defendant Geraci denies each and every allegation contained therein.

# **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

99. Defendant Geraci has not completed discovery as to the pertinent facts and occurrences pertaining to the Verified Complaint. Defendant Geraci presently has insufficient knowledge and information upon which to form a belief as to whether it may have additional, as yet unstated, affirmative defenses. In addition to the affirmative defenses asserted below, Defendant Geraci reserves the right to assert further affirmative defenses in the event discovery indicates such affirmative defenses are available.

1	WHEREFORE, this Defendant prays for judgment as follows:
2	1. For denial of Plaintiff's request to vacate the Cotton I judgment and dismissal of the
3	Verified Complaint on file herein;
4	2. For costs of suit incurred herein; and,
5	3. For such other relief as the Court deems just and proper.
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7	Dated: February 8, 2022 Respectfully submitted,
8	/s/ Isos an D. Consiler
9	/s/ James D. Crosby James D. Crosby
10	Attorney for Larry Geraci
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# **VERIFICATION**

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I am a Defendant in this action. I have read the foregoing DEFENDANT'S ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S VERIFIED COMPLAINT IN EQUITY TO SET ASIDE VOID JUDGMENT and know the contents thereof. The matters stated therein are true to my knowledge except as to those matters which are stated on information and belief, and, as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under the penalty of perjury under the laws of the States of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on February 9, 2022, in San Diego, California.

Tary Geraci