## SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS **DIVISION OF ST. CROIX**

# IN RE: COMPLEX LITIGATION CASES PENDING ) CASE NO. SX-19-MC-035 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS.

# **COMPLEX LITIGATION DIVISION**

#### **STANDING ORDER NO. #6**

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THIS ORDER concerns all cases transferred to the Complex Litigation Division that were commenced on or before March 31, 2017, the date the Virgin Islands Rules of Civil Procedure took effect. Virgin Islands Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1 requires every "nongovernmental corporate party" to "file two copies of a disclosure statement that . . . identifies any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock; or ... states that there is no such corporation." V.I. R. Civ. P. 7.1(a)(1)-(2). Disclosures statements must accompany the party's "first appearance, pleading, petition, motion, response, or other request addressed to the court" and must also be "supplemental ... if any required information changes." V.I. R. Civ. P. 7.1(b)(1)-(2).

Virgin Islands Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1 is new and it aim is to "avoid conflicts of interest and to make ownership of parties or affiliates clear." V.I. R. Civ. P. 7.1 (rptr's note). Virgin Islands Rule of Civil Procedure 1-1(c)(2) makes the Virgin Islands Rules of Civil Procedure applicable to all cases pending on March 31, 2017, unless "the Superior Court makes an express finding that applying them in a particular previously-pending action would be infeasible or would work an injustice." V.I. R. Civ. P. 1-1(c)(2)(B). Requiring nongovernmental corporate parties to disclose or to supplement the same corporate ownership information in cases commenced before March 31, 2017, that they would have to disclose in cases commended after March 31, 2017, will not implicate any rights. Accordingly, after careful consideration and review, it is hereby

**ORDERED** that Virgin Islands Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1 is made applicable retroactively to all cases pending in the Complex Litigation Division that were commenced prior to March 31,

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### 2017. It is further

**ORDERED** that, **on or before Monday**, **April 1**, **2019**, counsel for every nongovernmental corporate party (hereinafter "counsel" and "party" respectively) shall adhere to the following protocol: (A) For cases grouped under a master case, counsel shall serve and file in the master case **one (1) global disclosure statement** for each party that counsel represents; (B) For cases not grouped under a master case (hereinafter "individual cases"), counsel shall serve and file in each individual case **one (1) disclosure statement** for each party that counsel shall serve and file in each individual case **one (1) disclosure statement** for each party that counsel represents, *provided, however*, that the party is not a litigant in more than fifteen (15) individual cases. If the party is a litigant in more than fifteen (15) individual cases, counsel **may** instead serve and file **one (1) global disclosure statement** in this miscellaneous case, *provided* that every attorney and/or self-represented litigant in each respective case is also served with a copy of the global disclosure statement filed in this case. It is further

**ORDERED** that any **SUPPLEMENTAL STATEMENTS** required by Virgin Islands Rule of Civil Procedure 7.1, shall be filed in the respective individual case or cases, or master case if appropriate, per. It is further

**ORDERED** that every party who has already filed its disclosure statement in a case commenced before March 31, 2017 is **EXCUSED** from complying with this Order for that case.

**DONE AND SO ORDERED.** 

Date: March 6, 2019

**ROBERT A. MOLLOY** Judge of the Superior Court

ATTEST: ESTRELLA H. GEORGE Clerk of the Court Angl Bv: F- Court Clerk Supervisor Dated: