NYSCEF DOC. NO. 11

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 05/12/2021

F,

At I.A.S. Part 36 of the Supreme
Court of the State of New York, held
in and for the County of New York,
at the Courthouse thereof, at 60 70 Thomas ST
Centre Street, New York, NY on
12 7 May 2021.

PRESENT:

# HON. VERNA L. SAUNDERS Justice of the Supreme Court J.S. 9

DEBORAH MCCABE, on behalf of herself and others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

- against -

HARRY'S NURSES REGISTRY, INC., and HARRY DORVILIER,

Defendants.

Index No: 153822/2020

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Upon the reading and filing of the annexed affirmation of Clara Lam, Esq., dated May 11, 2021, the exhibits annexed thereto, and upon all prior pleadings and proceedings heretofore had herein, in support of the motion seeking an Order from this Court granting Clara Lam, Esq. and Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP leave to withdraw as counsel for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE,

IET Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE, and Defendants HARRY'S NURSES REGISTRY,

or their counce!

INC. and HARRY DORVILIER, SHOW CAUSE before this Court, before the Hon. Judge

Vera Salinders at IAS Part De, Room Wo thereof, to be held at the Courthouse thereof, at 60 Centre Street, New York, New York 10007, on the day of Party 2021, at 1011

a.m. on that date, or as soon as the parties to this proceeding may be heard, why an order should not be made and entered herein pursuant to CPLR § 321(b)(2):

MICROSOFT FEATUS) LINK TO BE PHUNIDED BY EMAIL TO ADDRESSES ON FILE W MSCEF NO LATER THAN JUNE 9, 2021.

HON, VERNA L. SAUNDERS

1 of :

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- (i) granting Clara Lam, Esq. and the law firm of Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP to withdraw as counsel of record for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE in the above-captioned matter;
- staying the proceedings for a period of ninety (90) days pending substitution of new counsel for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE;
- (iii) extending the time for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE to move for default judgment against Defendants for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the herein Order; and
- (iv) granting such other and further relief as this Court deems necessary and proper.
  Sufficient cause being allegel,

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, that service of a copy of this order and the papers submitted in support hereof be served in the following manners, which shall be deemed good and sufficient service thereof:

(ii) upon Defendants HARRY'S NURSES REGISTRY, INC. and HARRY DORVILIER,

Why United States Postal Service, First Class Mail

\_by Order

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on or before 1944, 2021, at Harry's Nurses Registry, located at 88-25 163<sup>rd</sup> Street, Jamaica, New York 11432. An affidavit or other proof of service shall be presented to this Court on the return date fixed above; and

**ENTER** 

JHON. VERNA L. SAUNDERS J.S.C.

Index No. 153822/2020.

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INDEX NO. 153822/2020 RECEIVED NYSCEF: 05/11/2021

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK

**DEBORAH MCCABE,** 

on behalf of herself and others similarly situated,

Plaintiff,

- against -

HARRY'S NURSES REGISTRY, INC., and HARRY DORVILIER,

Defendants.

Index No: 153822/2020

#### AFFIRMATION OF CLARA LAM, ESQ. IN SUPPORT OF BROWN KWON & LAM, LLP'S MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF DEBORAH MCCABE PURSUANT TO CPLR § 321(b)(2)

Clara Lam, Esq., an attorney duly admitted to practice in the Courts of the State of New York, hereby affirms pursuant to § 2106 of the New York Civil Practice Law and Rules ("CPLR") and subject to penalties of perjury that the following is true and correct:

- 1. I am a partner of the firm of Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP ("BKL"), counsel for Plaintiff, DEBORAH MCCABE ("Plaintiff" or "Ms. McCabe"), in the above-captioned matter, and as such, I am fully familiar with all matters contained in this Affirmation as they pertain to this motion, as well as all facts and circumstances in this proceeding.
- 2. I submit this Affirmation pursuant to CPLR § 321(b)(2), seeking an order: (i) granting affiant Clara Lam, Esq. and BKL to withdraw as counsel for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE, (ii) staying the proceedings for a period of ninety (90) days pending substitution of new counsel for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE, (iii) extending the time for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE to move for default judgment against Defendants for a period of ninety (90) days from

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the date of the Order to Show Cause; and (iv) granting such other and further relief as this Court deems necessary and proper.

- 3. This is an application by counsel of record for Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP to be relieved from representation pursuant to CPLR § 321(b)(2).
  - 4. Plaintiff filed its Complaint on June 2, 2020.
- Defendants HARRY'S NURSES REGISTRY INC. and HARRY DORVILIER
   (together, the "Defendants") were served on August 12, 2020, and their Answer was due on or about September 1, 2020.
- 6. Defendants have yet to provide a responsive pleading or to file an appearance in the herein matter.
- 7. On March 9, 2021, I called Plaintiff to discuss finalizing the draft of her affidavit in support of Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment against Defendants. Ms. McCabe answered the telephone call and informed me that she was busy at the moment. Following the telephone call, I emailed Ms. McCabe to contact me at her earliest convenience regarding her case. See Exhibit A.
- 8. On March 9, 2021, Ms. McCabe returned my telephone call and we spoke for approximately twenty (20) minutes, reviewing and revising the draft of her affidavit. Following the telephone call, on March 9, 2021, I emailed Ms. McCabe a revised draft of her affidavit for her review. See Exhibit A.
- 9. Thereafter, I emailed Ms. McCabe on March 18, 2021, April 15, 2021, and on April 22, 2021 to follow-up on her revisions to the draft of her affidavit. See Exhibit A. In addition to these emails, I left her a voicemail on April 15, 2021 and April 16, 2021 to return my telephone call regarding her pending lawsuit as she did not pick up any of the telephone calls. Furthermore,

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I text messaged Ms. McCabe on April 19, 2021 and April 22, 2021, to contact me regarding her lawsuit. In the text message chain, the iMessage chat indicated that Ms. McCabe read the most recent message from April 22, 2021, on April 23, 2021. See Exhibit B.

- 10. On April 22, 2021, the attached letter as **Exhibit C** was mailed to Ms. McCabe via Certified Mail with Return Receipt. The text message and email sent to Ms. McCabe on April 22, 2021 also requested that Ms. McCabe contact our firm by Friday, April 30, 2021, otherwise we would terminate our attorney-client relationship and have to move to withdraw as her counsel. *See* **Exhibits A-B**.
- 11. Subsequent to these attempts, BKL called Ms. McCabe on May 4, 2021, and again on May 10, 20201. Ms. McCabe did not pick up any of these telephone calls.
- 12. As of the date of the herein affirmation, Ms. McCabe has still not answered any of our attempts to contact her.
- 13. As a result, BKL cannot effectively represent Plaintiff herein as BKL cannot reach Plaintiff to prosecute her lawsuit.

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE MOTION

- 14. In light of the foregoing, Rule 1.16(c)(7) of the Rules of Professional Conduct provides in pertinent part as follows: "[A] lawyer may withdraw from representing a client when ... the client fails to cooperate in the representation or otherwise renders the representation unreasonably difficult for the lawyer to carry out employment effectively."
- 15. In light of Ms. McCabe's refusal to respond to BKL's attempts to prosecute her case, BKL respectfully seeks leave, pursuant to CPLR § 321(b)(2), to withdraw as counsel of record for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE in this action.

NEW YORK COUNTY CLERK 05/11/2021 02:15 PM FILED:

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16. On the motion, the attorney is required to show good cause and reasonable notice before he or she will be permitted to terminate the attorney-client relationship. What constitutes good cause is not an objective determination, but rather lies within the sound discretion of the trial court. By way of example, it may be irreconcilable differences between the attorney and the client with respect to the proper course to be pursued in litigation, a failure to cooperate and a "failure to remain in contact with the . . . law firm or to respond to any of its correspondence." Tartaglione v. Tiffany, 280 A.D.2d 543 (2d Dept 2001); see also Bok v. Werner, 9 A.D.3d 318, 318 (1st Dept)(finding that "plaintiff[]'s failure to respond to any communication from counsel, made it unreasonably difficult for appellant to represent him effectively" and granting counsel leave to withdraw their representation of the plaintiff).

- 17. In the process of finalizing Ms. McCabe's affidavit to be signed and notarized, the last and most pertinent piece of Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment against Defendants, BKL made multiple attempts to contact Ms. McCabe, all of which went unanswered.
  - 18. The deadline for Ms. McCabe to move for default judgment is approaching.
- 19. If this instant motion to withdraw is granted, we respectfully request that all proceedings be stayed for a period of ninety (90) days pending substitution of new counsel for Ms. McCabe and that the deadline to file for default judgment be extended accordingly for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of the Order to Show Cause.
- Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that this Court grant the within motion, 20. brought by Order to Show Cause, and grant Clara Lam, Esq. and Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP leave to withdraw as counsel for Plaintiff DEBORAH MCCABE.

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21. To the best of my knowledge, information and belief, formed after an inquiry reasonable under the circumstances, the presentation of the paper or the contentions therein are not frivolous as defined in subsection (c) of 22 NYCRR 130 1.1.

22. No prior requests have been made for the same or similar relief.

Dated: New York, New York May 11, 2021

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**BROWN KWON & LAM, LLP** 

By:

Clara Lam, Esq. 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th FLoor New York, NY 10175

Tel.: (718) 971-0326 Fax: (718) 795-1642 clam@bkllawyers.com Attorneys for Plaintiff

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## Exhibit A

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Fw: Harry's Nurses Registry

Clara Lam <clam@bkllawyers.com> Thu 4/22/2021 2:29 PM @gmail.com < @gmail.com> 2 attachments (186 KB) Harry's - Motion for Default - Affidavit.docx; 153822 2020 Deborah McCabe v Deborah McCabe SUMMONS COMPLAINT 1.pdf; Deborah, I have made multiple attempts to contact you regarding your case but have not heard back from you. If we do not hear from you by Friday, April 30, 2021, we will terminate our attorney-client relationship due to failure to communicate and move to withdraw as your attorney from your case.

Sincerely, Clara Lam, Esq. Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10175

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Cell:

Tel.: (718) 971-0326 Fax: (718) 795-1642 www.bkllawyers.com

- Please note our new address

From: Clara Lam <clam@bkllawyers.com> Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 5:10 PM

To: @gmail.com < @gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Harry's Nurses Registry

Deborah.

I just left a voicemail for you regarding the below email. I still have not heard back from you and it is really important for you to confirm the information, so that we can finalize and file your motion by the end of the month.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Clara Lam, Esq. Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10175

Cell:

Tel.: (718) 971-0326 Fax: (718) 795-1642 www.bkllawyers.com

- Please note our new address

From: Clara Lam <clam@bkllawyers.com> Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2021 3:44 PM

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To: @gmail.com < @gmail.com> Subject: Re: Harry's Nurses Registry

Deborah.

Following up on the below email-I reattached the affidavit for your review. Please review and advise if anything is incorrect, so that I can make the necessary corrections before you sign and notarize.



If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely, Clara Lam, Esq. Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10175 Cell:

Tel.: (718) 971-0326 Fax: (718) 795-1642 www.bkllawyers.com

- Please note our new address

From: Clara Lam <clam@bkllawyers.com> Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:50 PM

@gmail.com |@gmail.com>

Subject: Re: Harry's Nurses Registry

Deborah.

As discussed, see attached for the filed Complaint from last year and a draft of the affidavit for your Motion for Default Judgment. I will need you to sign and notarize it.



Please also make sure that all of the other information on the affidavit is correct. If anything is incorrect, please let me know so that I can change it. Thank you.

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Sincerely,

Clara Lam, Esq.

Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor

New York, NY 10175

Cell:

Tel.: (718) 971-0326 Fax: (718) 795-1642 www.bkllawyers.com

- Please note our new address

From: Clara Lam

Sent: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 8:20 PM

To: @gmail.com < @gmail.com>

Subject: Harry's Nurses Registry

Deborah,

At your earliest convenience, can you please give me a call regarding your Harry's Nurses Registry lawsuit. You can reach me on my cell at the control of th

Regards,

Clara Lam, Esq.

Brown Kwon & Lam, LLP 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor New York, NY 10175

Cell:

Tel.: (718) 971-0326 Fax: (718) 795-1642 www.bkllawyers.com

- Please note our new address

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Exhibit B

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Deborah >

your opportunity to recover anything. When you have a chance, please call me.

Thu, Apr 22, 1:49 PM

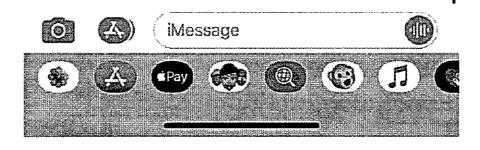
Deborah, please contact me as soon as possible regarding your case as the deadline to move for a default judgment is approaching

. If we

do not hear from you by next Friday, April 30, 2021, we will have to terminate our attorney client relationship and move to withdraw our representation due to failure to communicate. If you're working long hours, I can work around your schedule to discuss your case, but you do have to let me know what's the best time to give you a call.

1:49 PM

Read 4/23/21



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## Exhibit C

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BROWN & LAM LLP

Brown Kwon & Lam LLP Attorneys at Law 521 Fifth Avenue, 17th Floor

New York, NY 10175

Tel.: (718) 971-0326 Fax: (718) 795-1642

Email: info@bkllawyers.com

April 22, 2021

Via First Class Mail
Deborah McCabe
Bronx, NY 10465

RE: McCabe v. Harry's Nurses Registry, Inc., et al.

Index No. 153822/2020 (Supreme Court, County of New York)

Dear Ms. McCabe:

This firm represents you in the above-referenced matter against Harry's Nurses Registry, Inc. and Harry Dorvilier. We have made multiple attempts to contact you regarding your case and have not heard from you.

If you do not contact us by Friday, April 30, 2021 by phone at unfortunately have to terminate our attorney-client relationship and we will move to withdraw as your attorney in the above-referenced matter due to failure to communicate.

Sincerely,

/s/ Clara Lam

Clara Lam, Esq. clam@bkllawyers.com