SUPERIOR COURT, STATE OF WASHINGTON, COUNTY OF SPOKANE

ROBERT LEE, an individual, individually and derivatively on behalf of REFLECTION LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a Washington non-profit corporation;

Plaintiff,

v.

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GARY LONG, an individual; GERALD PARKER, an individual; ABRAM COSBY, an individual; JAMES "JIM" BOOTHBY, an individual;

Defendants,

17 | -and-

REFLECTION LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a Washington non-profit corporation.

Nominal Defendant.

c25201872-32

VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT

Plaintiff Robert Lee brings this derivative action on behalf of Reflection Lake Community
Association ("RLCA") against certain current and/or former officers and directors of RLCA based
upon the unlawful course of conduct by Defendants.

VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT - 1 ROBERTS | FREEBOURN, PLLC 120 N. Stevens St., Suite 300 Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 381-5262

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### I. PARTIES, JURISDICTION, AND VENUE

- 1. Plaintiff Robert Lee is an individual who, at all material times relevant herein, was a resident of Spokane County, Washington.
- 2. Reflection Lake Community Association is a non-profit corporation organized under the laws of Washington, with its principal place of business in Spokane County, Washington.
- 3. Defendant Gary Long is an individual who, at all material times relevant herein, was a resident of Spokane County, Washington.
- Defendant Gerald Parker is an individual who, at all material times relevant herein,
   was a resident of Spokane County, Washington.
- Defendant Abram Cosby is an individual who, at all material times relevant herein,
   was a resident of Spokane County, Washington.
- 6. Defendant James "Jim" Boothby is an individual who, at all material times relevant herein, was a resident of Spokane County, Washington.
- All individual Defendants named in this case were Board Members of RLCA ("The Board") at all material relevant times herein.
  - 8. All acts alleged occurred in Spokane County, Washington.
  - 9. Jurisdiction and venue are proper in this Court.

### II. <u>FACTS</u>

- 10. On or about November 9, 2021, members of RLCA, homeowners, and The Board entered into a mediated settlement agreement ("Settlement Agreement").
- 11. The Board at that time consisted of four (4) Board Members and five (5) Directors: Charlie Bennett, Angela Ward, Jim Boothby, Sandi Bennett, Gary Long, Bill Pease, Jeff Toffer,

VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT - 2

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Joe Dickinson, and Robert Syverson.

- 12. Pursuant to the Agreement, The Board was given responsibilities, including but not limited to establishing a 'Road Committee', which was to be tasked with overseeing road maintenance and reallocating fees for the east side of the lake to those lots fronting the road.
- 13. The Board was also required, by this Agreement, to amend the bylaws as necessary to reflect and clarify RLCA's obligations to provide necessary road maintenance.
- 14. The Board was also required, by this Agreement, to be transparent with all members of the RLCA concerning all financial matters, including posting the receipts for all expenses over \$100 posted on the RLCA website monthly.
- 15. The Board was also required, by this Agreement, to audio record and make available to all members the Board Minutes and strictly follow the bylaws as were currently comprised and as amended.
- 16. The Board was also required, by the Agreement, to obtain and maintain D&O insurance to cover, among other things, breach of fiduciary duties by individual RLCA Board Members.
- 17. The Board was also required with RWA, by the Agreement, to transfer ownership or operation of the Reflection Lake east water system to a third party.
- 18. The Defendants have refused to comply with nearly all responsibilities in the Settlement Agreement.
- 19. The Board's Road Committee did not adequately oversee road maintenance or reallocation of fees as required by the agreement.
  - 20. The Defendants have not amended the bylaws to reflect the Agreement as required.
  - 21. The Defendants have not audio-recorded all meetings or strictly followed the

bylaws as they were comprised or amended as required by the agreement.

- 22. The Defendants have not obtained any D&O insurance as required by the agreement and have not transferred the ownership or operation of the Reflection Lake east water system to a third party.
- 23. On April 1, 2022, members of the RLCA, including Mr. Lee, filed a Motion to Compel Arbitration and for Attorney Fees, pursuant to CR 2A to mediate the dispute over the enforceability of the Settlement Agreement.
- 24. On May 13, 2022, Mr. Lee and other members of the RLCA filed a second Motion to Enforce the Settlement Agreement, and on June 1, 2022, the Court deemed the Settlement Agreement to be an enforceable Agreement with the parties bound by its terms.
- 25. Since the time the Settlement Agreement was deemed enforceable by the Court, just shy of three (3) years ago, the Defendants have not complied with many Terms of the Agreement, including but not limited to the responsibilities listed above.
- 26. In addition to not complying with the Agreement, Mr. Lee requested mediation multiple times pursuant to the Agreement, all of which were ignored by the Defendants.
- 27. On March 13, 2024, Mr. Lee filed a Motion to Compel and for Contempt, attempting once again to comply with the enforceable Agreement and undergo mediation.
- 28. On May 7, 2024, the Board approved the 'East Side Road Maintenance Policy' ('Policy').
- 29. The Policy authorized a Satellite Management Agency ('SMA'), through the Washington State Department of Health, to manage and operate the water system at issue, including but not limited to creating and maintaining a budget, rate setting, billing and collections, taxes, grant applications, and engineering.

- 30. The Defendants went against this Policy by using an unapproved SMA, KARE Solutions LLC and Mr. Klempel, who did not **fully** operate and manage the eastside water system as required, and further, neither were listed on the Operating Permit issued to RWA.
- 31. On August 6, 2024, Defendant Cosby was elected as the RLCA President, Defendant Gary Long was elected as RLCA Vice President, and Gerald Parker was elected as RLCA Treasurer.
- 32. On October 1, 2024, the parties were ordered by the Court to schedule a mediation to address the water association, including who was responsible for operation, the D&O insurance issues that flowed from that, and changes to the bylaws related to the management of the water system.
- 33. During the October RLCA Board Meeting, acting President Abram Cosby limited the board members participating in the ordered mediation to himself and **two** others, Gary Long and Keith Cox, despite RLCA bylaws and covenants requiring **five** Board Members for quorum to make any decisions, and Mr. Jim Markley, a member of the RLCA, informing Cosby of this fact.
- 34. The October RLCA Board Meeting minutes clearly reflect Mr. Cosby's intentions of mediating in bad faith, leaving no possibility of resolution if the requisite number of Board Members were **not** going to be present for quorum, and despite positive knowledge of that decision-making requirement.
- 35. On November 20, 2024, from approximately 9:00AM until noon, the ordered mediation took place, unsuccessfully, until it was terminated unilaterally by the attending Board Members.
  - 36. The individuals present at this mediation were: Plaintiff Robert Lee and his

Counsel Kevin Roberts, Abram Cosby, Gary Long, Keith Cox, and RLCA's Counsel Paul Stewart.

- 37. Mr. Lee entered mediation in **good faith**, hoping to resolve **all** claims as provided for in the Order.
- 38. Since this **bad faith attempt** at mediation by Defendants, if we can go as far to call it an attempt, the Defendants have refused to fix **any** bylaws or covenants that cause confusion or comply with current bylaws or covenants despite **numerous** requests.
- 39. There were member dues collected and billed on July 27, 2024, which are still incorrectly labelled, and the 2024-2025 dues have remained unfixed and set by resolution as required by Board Members.
- 40. The Defendants, as a group and individually as Board Members, had **no intention** of complying with the Court Ordered mediation, but instead attended in bad faith— in hopes of 'checking a box' and getting the lawsuit dismissed.
- 41. After mediation, Defendants moved to dismiss Plaintiff's lawsuit that was brought to enforce the Settlement Agreement.
- 42. In its pleadings, the Defendants argued that they had complied with the Settlement Agreement to the fullest extent possible, but that they were prohibited from fully complying due to RWA not agreeing to transfer the water operation.
- 43. The Defendants further argued that they did not have the power to force RWA to comply.
- 44. However, the Defendants knew that there was an agreement between RLCA and RWA providing that RWA disclaimed the rights to the Water System and to convey it to RLCA.
  - 45. This agreement was entered into on or around October 11, 2022.

- Additionally, the Settlement Agreement included that RLCA may act as RWA's
- The Defendants failed to mention this agreement with RWA and falsely blamed
  - The Defendants breached their fiduciary duties.
  - Robert Lee sent a derivative suit demand to RLCA on March 19, 2024.
- To date, no response has been provided to the demand by Robert Lee for a

### CAUSES OF ACTION

### **FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION** (Violation of RCW 24.03A - Washington Non-Profit Corporation Act)

- Plaintiff incorporates by reference all paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully
- RLCA was harmed when the Board failed to comply with the Settlement
  - The harm RLCA suffered was proximately caused by the Defendants' conduct.
  - The Board is liable for intentional misconduct.

### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION (Breach of Fiduciary Duty; RCW 23B.08.300)

- Plaintiff incorporates by reference all paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully
- Defendants, as directors of the board of RLCA, owed a fiduciary duty to the corporation and were required to act only in the corporation's interest.

VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER **DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT - 7** 

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The Defendants breached their fiduciary duty when they engaged in self-dealing, 3 deceit, and misrepresentations causing RLCA to incur attorney fees and costs for their own self 4 5 6 There was no reasonable basis for the Defendants' actions. 7 The Defendants' actions were taken with a corrupt motive. 8 This breach proximately caused injury to the corporation. 9 As a direct result of Defendants Long, Parker, Boothby and Cosby's negligence, 10 11 12 (Violation of RCW 24.03A - Washington Non-Profit Corporation Act) 13 Plaintiff incorporates by reference all paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully 14 15 Robert Lee was harmed when the Defendants failed to comply with the Settlement 16 17 The harm Robert Lee suffered was proximately caused by Defendants' conduct. 18 The Defendants are liable for knowingly inflicting harm on Robert Lee and 19 20 21 22 Plaintiff incorporates by reference all paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully 23 24 The Defendants acted without legal authority when they failed to comply with the 25 ROBERTS | FREEBOURN, PLLC 120 N. Stevens St., Suite 300 **DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT - 8** Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 381-5262

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Settlement Agreement and when they engaged in decision making outside of board meetings.

70. Defendants' ultra vires conduct resulted in RLCA suffering damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

## FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION (Civil Conspiracy)

- 71. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein.
- 72. Defendants acted in concert for an unlawful purpose and/or combined to accomplish a lawful purpose by unlawful means.
- 73. Specifically, Defendants conspired to fail to comply with the Settlement Agreement.
  - 74. Defendants entered into an agreement to establish the conspiracy.
- 75. As a direct result of the agreement entered into between Defendants, Plaintiff has suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

### IV. PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Plaintiff incorporates by reference all paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully set forth herein and requests the following relief:

- 1. Judgment against Defendants for the amount of damages sustained by RLCA as a result of Defendants' breaches of fiduciary duties.
- 2. Directing RLCA to take all necessary actions to reform and improve its corporate governance and internal procedures to comply with applicable laws and to protect the corporation and its shareholders from a repeat of the damaging events described herein.
  - 3. For judgment against Defendants in an amount to be proven at trial;
  - 4. To enjoin the Defendants from performing any further ultra vires acts.

VERIFIED SHAREHOLDER DERIVATIVE COMPLAINT - 10

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# 2025.04.17 Complaint

#### Final Audit Report

2025-04-17

Created:

2025-04-17

By:

Lauren McVicker (laurenm@robertsfreebourn.com)

Status:

Signed

Transaction ID:

CBJCHBCAABAAkjZnD56nhDFoNyjFr8Q5d7D7ilfWWu-p

### "2025.04.17 Complaint" History

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