# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

MICHAEL J. QUILLING, Receiver	§	
for ABC VIATICALS, INC., and	§	
Related Entities,	<b>§</b>	
	§	
Plaintiff and Counter-Defendant,		
	§ §	
v.	§	CIVIL ACTION NO.
	§	3:07-CV-1153-P
ERWIN & JOHNSON, LLP, and	§	
CHRISTOPHER R. ERWIN,	§	
	§ §	
Defendants, Counter Claimants,	§	
and Third-Party Plaintiffs, <sup>1</sup>	§	
•		
v.	§	
	§	
MILLS, POTOCZAK & COMPANY,	<i>\$</i> \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	
,	Š	
Third-Party Defendant.	§	

MILLS, POTOCZAK & COMPANY'S ORIGINAL ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES TO ERWIN & JOHNSON, LLP'S ORIGINAL ANSWER, COUNTERCLAIMS & CROSS-COMPLAINT

### TO THE HONORABLE JORGE A. SOLIS:

Mills, Potoczak & Company ("Mills") files this its Original Answer and Affirmative Defenses to Erwin & Johnson, LLP's ("E&J") Original Answer, Counterclaims & Cross-Complaint ("Answer") and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Erwin & Johnson, LLP ("E&J") and Christopher R. Erwin ("Erwin") incorrectly labeled their claims against third-party Mills as a cross-complaint. See Erwin's Original Answer, Counterclaims, & Cross-Complaint at 9; See E&J's Original Answer, Counterclaims, & Cross-Complaint at 9. Since Mills Potoczak was not a party to this action, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 14(a)(1) states that the defending party, "as third-party plaintiff," may serve a summons and complaint on a nonparty "who is or may be liable to it for all or part of the claim against it." FED R. CIV. P. 14(a)(1). The rule describes the nonparty as the "third-party defendant." Id. Mills has corrected the third-party plaintiffs' error and will refer to E&J and Erwin as the third-party plaintiffs and to Mills as the third-party defendant.

I.

## **MILLS' ORIGINAL ANSWER**

### INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH

The allegations contained in the introductory paragraph on page 1 of E&J's Answer are not subject to admission or denial. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

### **ORIGINAL ANSWER**

- 1. The allegations in Paragraph 1 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 2. The allegations in Paragraph 2 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 3. The allegations in Paragraph 3 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 4. The allegations in Paragraph 4 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

MILLS, POTOCZAK & COMPANY'S ORIGINAL ANSWER AND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES TO ERWIN & JOHNSON, LLP'S ORIGINAL ANSWER, COUNTERCLAIMS & CROSS-COMPLAINT – PAGE 2

- 5. The allegations in Paragraph 5 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 6. The allegations in Paragraph 6 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 7. The allegations in Paragraph 7 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 8. The allegations in Paragraph 8 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 9. The allegations in Paragraph 9 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 10. The allegations in Paragraph 10 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills.

- 11. The allegations in Paragraph 11 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 12. The allegations in Paragraph 12 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 13. The allegations in Paragraph 13 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 14. The allegations in Paragraph 14 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 15. The allegations in Paragraph 15 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

- 16. The allegations in Paragraph 16 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 17. The allegations in Paragraph 17 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 18. The allegations in Paragraph 18 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 19. The allegations in Paragraph 19 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 20. The allegations in Paragraph 20 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 21. The allegations in Paragraph 21 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills.

- 22. The allegations in Paragraph 22 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 23. The allegations in Paragraph 23 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 24. The allegations in Paragraph 24 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 25. The allegations in Paragraph 25 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 26. The allegations in Paragraph 26 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

27. The allegations in Paragraph 27 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

- 28. The allegations in Paragraph 28 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 29. The allegations in Paragraph 29 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 30. The allegations in Paragraph 30 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 31. The allegations in Paragraph 31 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 32. The allegations in Paragraph 32 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills.

- 33. The allegations in Paragraph 33 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 34. The allegations in Paragraph 34 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 35. The allegations in Paragraph 35 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 36. The allegations in Paragraph 36 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 37. The allegations in Paragraph 37 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

- 38. The allegations in Paragraph 38 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 39. The allegations in Paragraph 39 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 40. The allegations in Paragraph 40 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 41. The allegations in Paragraph 41 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 42. The allegations in Paragraph 42 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 43. The allegations in Paragraph 43 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills.

- 44. The allegations in Paragraph 44 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 45. The allegations in Paragraph 45 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 46. The allegations in Paragraph 46 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 47. The allegations in Paragraph 47 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 48. The allegations in Paragraph 48 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

- 49. The allegations in Paragraph 49 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 50. The allegations in Paragraph 50 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 51. The allegations in Paragraph 51 of E&J's Answer contain E&J's response to the allegations in Plaintiff's Original Complaint and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies allegations contained in said paragraph.

### **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

- 52. The allegations in Paragraph 52 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 53. The allegations in Paragraph 53 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 54. The allegations in Paragraph 54 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by

- 55. The allegations in Paragraph 55 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 56. The allegations in Paragraph 56 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 57. The allegations in Paragraph 57 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 58. The allegations in Paragraph 58 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 59. The allegations in Paragraph 59 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.

- 60. The allegations in Paragraph 60 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 61. The allegations in Paragraph 61 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 62. The allegations in Paragraph 62 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 63. The allegations in Paragraph 63 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 64. The allegations in Paragraph 64 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 65. The allegations in Paragraph 65 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by

- 66. The allegations in Paragraph 66 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 67. The allegations in Paragraph 67 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 68. The allegations in Paragraph 68 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 69. The allegations in Paragraph 69 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 70. The allegations in Paragraph 70 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.

71. The allegations in Paragraph 71 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's alleged defenses to the claims alleged in Plaintiff's Original Petition and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.

#### **COUNTERCLAIMS**

- 72. The allegations in Paragraph 72 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's counterclaims against ABC Viaticals, Inc. ("ABC") and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.
- 73. The allegations in Paragraph 73 of E&J's Answer concern E&J's counterclaims against ABC and are not subject to admission or denial by Mills. To the extent the Court determines that an answer is required, Mills denies the allegations contained in said paragraph.

### **CROSS-COMPLAINT**

- 74. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 74 of E&J's Answer. E&J has improperly labeled its claims against Mills as a cross-complaint. *See* Footnote 1, *supra*, which is incorporated herein by reference.
  - 75. Mills admits the allegations in Paragraph 75 of E&J's Answer.
- 76. Mills is without sufficient information to admit or deny the allegations in Paragraph 76 of E&J's answer, and on this basis, denies the allegations contained therein.
  - 77. Mills admits the allegations in Paragraph 77 of E&J's Answer.
  - 78. Mills admits the allegations in Paragraph 78 of E&J's Answer.

- 79. Regarding the allegations in Paragraph 79 of E&J's Answer, Mills admits that ABC selected E&J as successor trustee, but denies all of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 80 of E&J's Answer not specifically admitted herein.
- 80. Regarding the allegations in Paragraph 80 of E&J's Answer, Mills admits it notified insurance companies involved in the policies which it held in trusts that it had been replaced as trustee by E&J. Mills admits that it transferred documents to E&J in connection with the transfer of trustee services for ABC from Mills to E&J. Mills denies all of the remaining allegations in Paragraph 80 of E&J's Answer not specifically admitted herein.
  - 81. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 81 of E&J's Answer.
- 82. Mills admits the allegations in the first sentence in Paragraph 82 of E&J's Answer. Mills denies all remaining allegations in Paragraph 82 not specifically admitted herein.
- 83. Regarding allegations in Paragraph 83 of E&J's Answer, Mills admits that Mills attempted to force ABC to escrow money and fund policies as required. Mills further admits that when ABC tried to bribe representatives of Mills to dispose money inconsistent with their obligations, Mills resigned its position rather than follow an illegal path. Mills admits that the Receiver has not brought any claims against it. Mills denies all remaining allegations in Paragraph 83 of E&J's Answer not specifically admitted herein.
  - 84. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 84 of E&J's Answer.
  - 85. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 85 of E&J's Answer.

### A. Breach of Fiduciary Duties

86. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 86 of E&J's Answer. Mills further denies that E&J is entitled to relief or has stated a claim under Ohio Revised Code § 5807.07.

- 87. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 87 of E&J's Answer. Mills further denies that E&J is entitled to relief or has stated a claim under Ohio Revised Code § 5808.04.
- 88. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 88 of E&J's Answer. Mills denies that it breached any fiduciary duty to E&J or anyone else. Mills denies that E&J is entitled to relief or has stated a claim under Ohio Revised Code §§ 5810.01, 5810.02, or 51.10.04.

### **B.** Fraudulent Viatical Settlement Acts

- 89. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 89 of E&J's Answer. Mills further denies that E&J is entitled to relief or has stated a claim under Ohio Revised Code § 3619.01(E)(1)(d). Mills denies that it has committed any "Fraudulent Viatical Settlement Acts."
- 90. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 90 of E&J's Answer. Mills denies that E&J is entitled to any damages or attorney's fees or expenses.

## C. Negligence & Gross Negligence

91. Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 91 of E&J's Answer. Mills denies that it was negligent in any way. Mills also denies that it participated in any way in any fraud perpetuated by ABC. Mills denies that E&J has suffered any damages and denies that E&J is entitled to any relief whatsoever.

#### **JURY DEMAND**

92. Paragraph 92 of E&J's Answer is in the nature of a jury demand to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Mills denies the allegations in Paragraph 93 and denies that E&J is entitled to any relief whatsoever, at law or in equity. *See* FED. R. CIV. P. 8(d).

#### **PRAYER**

- 93. The Prayer paragraph on page 14 of E&J's Answer is in the nature of a prayer for relief to which no response is required. To the extent a response is required, Mills denied the allegations in the Prayer and denies that E&J is entitled to any relief whatsoever, at law or in equity. See FED. R. CIV. P. 8(d).
- 94. To the extent that any claim or allegation contained in E&J's Answer has not been affirmatively admitted herein, such claim or allegation is hereby specifically denied.

II.

## **MILLS' AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

- 95. For further answer, if same be necessary, and while at all times denying liability, Mills asserts the following affirmative defenses to E&J's claims:
  - 1. E&J's claims are barred because it has failed to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.
  - 2. E&J's claims are barred because it lacks standing to assert its claims.
  - 3. E&J's claims are barred because its damages, if any, resulted from its own acts or failures to act.
  - 4. E&J's claims are barred by the doctrine of comparative responsibility
  - 5. E&J's claims are barred by waiver.
  - 6. E&J's claims are barred by the doctrine of ratification.
  - 7. E&J's claims are barred by the doctrine of estoppel.
  - 8. E&J's claims are barred by the doctrine of quasi-estoppel
  - 9. E&J's claims are barred because it failed to mitigate its damages, if any.
  - 10. E&J's claims are barred by laches.
  - 11. E&J's claims are barred by the statute of limitations.

- 12. E&J's claims are barred by its own wrongful conduct and the doctrine of unclean hands.
- 13. E&J's claims are barred by the doctrine of offset/setoff.
- 14. E&J's claims are barred because they are groundless and brought without valid grounds, in bad faith and solely for the purpose of harassment.

Respectfully submitted,

### **BELL NUNNALLY & MARTIN LLP**

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ATTORNEYS FOR THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANT MILLS, POTOCZAK & COMPANY

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify on May 5, 2008, that a true and correct copy of the foregoing was sent via the Court's ECF filing system to the following:

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/s/ Christopher B. Trowbridge
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