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9 **(EXCEPT POST JUDGMENT
COLLECTION MATTERS -
10 MOTION TO WITHDRAW
PENDING)**

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AMAZON WEB SERVICES, INC., and
TWITCH INTERACTIVE, INC.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
SAN JOSE DIVISION

16 IN RE: PERSONAL WEB TECHNOLOGIES,
LLC ET AL., PATENT LITIGATION,

17 AMAZON.COM, INC., and AMAZON WEB
18 SERVICES, INC.,

19 Plaintiffs

v.

20 PERSONALWEB TECHNOLOGIES, LLC and
21 LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, LLC,

22 Defendants.

23 PERSONALWEB TECHNOLOGIES, LLC, and
24 LEVEL 3 COMMUNICATIONS, LLC,

25 Plaintiffs,

v.

26 TWITCH INTERACTIVE, INC.,

27 Defendant.
28

Case No.: 5:18-md-02834-BLF

Case No.: 5:18-cv-00767-BLF

Case No.: 5:18-cv-05619-BLF

**JOINT STATEMENT RE MOTION TO
COMPEL INTERROGATORY
RESPONSES AND PRODUCTION OF
DOCUMENTS**

1 **I. AMAZON'S STATEMENT**

2 Amazon asks the Court to compel PersonalWeb to provide responses to interrogatories and
3 produce documents in response to its post-judgment discovery requests. PersonalWeb provided no
4 responses by the deadline to do so and has therefore waived all its objections. *See Richmark Corp.*
5 *v. Timber Falling Consultants*, 959 F.2d 1468, 1473 (9th Cir. 1992). Instead it has relied on a
6 baseless claim that its counsel of record cannot be served with discovery—an objection for which
7 other district courts have rightly issued sanctions—to obstruct the Court's judgment.

8 ***Factual Background.*** On March 2, 2021, the Court awarded Amazon \$4,615,242.28 in
9 attorney fees and \$203,300.10 in non-taxable costs. (Case No. 5:18-md-02834, Dkt. 648.) On
10 March 31, 2021, PersonalWeb noticed its appeal of the award. (Dkt. 653.) On April 1, 2021, the
11 automatic 30-day stay of enforcement of the judgment expired. Fed. R. Civ. P. 62(a). The Court
12 later granted an additional \$571,961.71 in attorney fees and \$11,120.97 in non-taxable costs in a
13 separate order. (Dkt. 656.) PersonalWeb has not paid the judgment or posted a supersedeas bond
14 to stay enforcement. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 62; (Dkt. 661-1 ¶ 4). Nearly two months ago, Amazon
15 asked PersonalWeb's counsel of record from Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP (SAM) whether
16 PersonalWeb would post a bond. (Dkt. 659-1 at 5.) PersonalWeb's counsel invited Amazon to
17 follow up with him by the next week, but never provided any substantive response to this inquiry
18 or others about whether PersonalWeb has funds to satisfy the judgment. (*Id.* at 4.)

19 On April 19, 2021, Amazon served interrogatories and requests for production of documents
20 pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 69 and Cal. Civ. Proc. Code §§ 708.020-708.030, seeking information
21 as to whether PersonalWeb has sufficient assets to satisfy judgment. (*See* Exs. 1-2.) SAM
22 responded by stating that they do not represent PersonalWeb with respect to judgment enforcement,
23 and claimed that Amazon has “no authority” to serve them with case documents to the extent they
24 concern those issues. (Dkts. 661-1 ¶ 3, 659-1 at 3.) PersonalWeb has claimed that it retained Mr.
25 Ronald Richards to represent it with respect to judgment enforcement. (Dkts. 673-1, 674-1 ¶ 4),
26 but Mr. Richards has refused to appear in the case. (Dkt. 673-1 at 4.) PersonalWeb did not serve
27 responses to the requests by the deadline to do so.

28 On April 26, 2021, Amazon also filed an ex-parte application for an order compelling a

1 debtor's examination and the production of information and documents relating to PersonalWeb's
 2 assets. (Dkts. 661, 662.) On April 27, the Court ordered PersonalWeb to produce its bank and
 3 financial account information by May 7 and to produce the documents sought by Amazon by May
 4 27. (Dkt. 664.) It separately ordered PersonalWeb to appear for a debtor's examination but later
 5 vacated that order based on California state mileage limits for that procedure. (Dkts. 665, 675.)¹
 6 PersonalWeb provided no bank account information by the deadline—that violation of the Court's
 7 order is the subject of a separate motion.

8 ***Motion to Compel.*** Amazon asks the Court to deem that PersonalWeb has waived its
 9 objections to Amazon's requests and provide complete responses to the interrogatories and produce
 10 documents in response the production requests. Post-judgment discovery is governed by Fed. R.
 11 Civ. P. 69(a)(2), which provides, "In aid of the judgment or execution, the judgment creditor . . .
 12 may obtain discovery from any person . . . as provided in these rules *or* by the procedure of the
 13 state where the court is located" (emphasis added). *See also A&F Bahamas, LLC v. World Venture*
 14 *Grp., Inc.*, No. CV 17-8523 VAP (SS), 2018 WL 5961297, at *2 (C.D. Cal. Oct. 19, 2018). The
 15 scope of post-judgment discovery is "very broad," with a "presumption [] in favor of full discovery
 16 of any matters arguably related to the creditor's efforts to trace the debtor's assets and otherwise to
 17 enforce its judgment." *Id.* (citation omitted). Under federal and California law, judgment creditors
 18 may propound both document requests and interrogatories. *See Odnil Music Ltd. v. Katharsis LLC*,
 19 No. CIVS05-0545WBSEFB, 2007 WL 1703763, at *2 (E.D. Cal. June 11, 2007).

20 Amazon served the document requests on SAM through ECF in compliance with Rule
 21 5(b)(1), which provides: "If a party is represented by an attorney, service under this rule must be
 22 made on the attorney unless the court orders service on the party." SAM *invited* discussion of post-
 23 judgment issues with it up until Amazon first served these requests (Dkt. 659-1 at 5), but at any

24 ¹ PersonalWeb's accusation below that Amazon "misled" the court as to its jurisdiction to order a
 25 debtor's exam is also unfounded. There is a split in authority as to whether such mileage limits
 26 would apply in federal court. *See Vedatech, Inc. v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins. Co.*, No. C 04-1249
 27 VRW, 2008 WL 2790200, at *2 (N.D. Cal. July 17, 2008) (rejecting argument that federal district
 28 court must cede jurisdiction to a state tribunal under Cal. Civ. Proc. § 708.160(b)), *aff'd sub nom.*
Subramanian v. St. Paul Fire & Marine Ins., 494 F. App'x 817 (9th Cir. 2012); *United States v.*
Feldman, 324 F. Supp. 2d 1112 (C.D. Cal. 2004) (same). Moreover, the correct location for a
 debtor's exam has nothing to do with the issue here, which is PersonalWeb's failure to respond to
 properly served discovery requests

1 rate has remained PersonalWeb's counsel of record. Amazon also served Mr. Richards, the counsel
2 who identified himself as retained by PersonalWeb specifically for these post-judgment matters.

3 SAM's claim that service on it was ineffective is baseless and sanctionable. Indeed, in
4 *Wordtech Systems, Inc. v. Integrated Network Solutions, Inc.*, No. CIV S-04-1971 MCE EFB, 2009
5 WL 3126409 (E.D. Cal. Sep. 24, 2009), the debtor made the same argument SAM made, claiming
6 that its counsel could not be served with discovery in aid of enforcement because he "did not
7 represent" the debtor "for post-judgment collections." *Id.* at *4. The court rejected this argument,
8 ruled that the attorney was served properly with the requests, and ordered him to show cause why
9 he should not be sanctioned for, *inter alia*, failing to respond to them; failing to comply with the
10 local rule regarding withdrawal from representation; and failing to inform the court or creditor of
11 his claim to represent the debtor for a limited purpose or provide any authority for that claim. *Id.*
12 at *3-4. The Court should compel responses and a complete production.

13 II. RESPONSIVE STATEMENT

14 **SAM's Position:** Stubbs Alderton & Markiles, LLP ("SAM") has been discharged by its
15 client PersonalWeb for purposes of handling post judgment collection proceedings. (Dkt 688, 688-
16 1.) PersonalWeb has retained new counsel, Ronald Richards ("Richards"), to represent it post
17 judgment, who has yet to substitute into this matter. (Dkt 671, 688-1-688-4). SAM previously filed
18 a motion to withdraw (Dkt 674) but later withdrew it (Dkt 684) and thereafter PersonalWeb filed a
19 consent motion to substitute PersonalWeb *in pro per*, in place of SAM (Dkt 679) as a result of the
20 Court's suggestion that *in pro per* substitution by PersonalWeb was permissible. (Dkt 688-4 at
21 10:23-25; 16:20-23.) After the CMC where the Court's statement was made, however, the Court
22 denied the consent motion (Dkt. 685), after which SAM filed a second Motion to Withdraw as
23 counsel for PersonalWeb (Dkt. 688), which is pending.

24 On April 19, 2021, Amazon *for the first time* served post judgment interrogatories and
25 requests for production on SAM via email. (Dkt 671-2.) SAM took the position that this discovery
26 was improperly served based on California law which requires personal service of such discovery
27 on the judgment debtor. *See* Cal. Civ. Proc. § 684.020; *Taghizadeh v. Azadi*, No. B150817, 2003
28 WL 504121, at *5 (Cal. Ct. App. Feb. 26, 2003). SAM nonetheless immediately sent Amazon's

1 written discovery to PersonalWeb and its counsel, Mr. Richards the same day it received it.

2 SAM repeatedly advised Amazon that it does not represent PersonalWeb in any post
3 judgment collection proceedings. (Dkt 671-2-671-7.) On April 22, 2021, Mr. Gregorian contacted
4 SAM to discuss, *for the first time*, Amazon's post judgment written discovery and Amazon's desire
5 to seek a judgment debtor exam. (Dkt 671-2 - 671-5.) While Amazon's counsel previously emailed
6 SAM inquiring whether PersonalWeb was going to post a bond (Dkt 659-1), Amazon *never*
7 contacted SAM to discuss written post judgment collection discovery.

8 Amazon now apparently seeks sanctions against SAM because it did not respond to written
9 discovery on PersonalWeb's behalf. However, PersonalWeb through its counsel, Mr. Richards told
10 SAM that it had no authority to do anything relating to post judgment discovery matters (Dkt 688-
11 1, 688-2, 688-3). SAM has never taken the position that written post judgment discovery is not
12 permitted. The issue has to do with service. Amazon relies on *Odnil Music Ltd., supra*, which does
13 not hold that service of written post judgment discovery on counsel is proper, and *A&F Bahamas,*
14 *LLC, supra*, in which the issue of whether service is proper on the judgment debtor only or is proper
15 on counsel was not addressed because the written discovery there was personally served on the
16 judgment debtor. SAM relies on Cal. Civ. Proc. § 684.020, Fed. R. Civ. P. 69, and *Taghizadeh,*
17 *supra*, 2003 WL 504121 at *5 which held that service on counsel of post judgment interrogatories
18 and request for production of documents, like those at issue here, was invalid because "Section
19 684.020 provides that service on a judgment debtor of papers relating to enforcement of the
20 judgment shall be made on the judgment debtor itself, rather than its attorney".

21 Notwithstanding the foregoing, SAM acted appropriately by sending the discovery *the very*
22 *same day* to PersonalWeb and Mr. Richards. SAM cannot and could not respond to the written
23 discovery because it does not have the responsive information, nor can it respond for PersonalWeb
24 since it was discharged as counsel. Lastly, Amazon's reliance on *Wordtech Systems, Inc., supra*, is
25 misplaced as SAM did not conduct itself here like the debtor's former counsel did in that case.
26 First, unlike counsel in *WordTech*, regardless of whether email service was effective, SAM sent the
27 written discovery to PersonalWeb and Mr. Richards. Second, immediately upon receiving legal
28 authority that it needed to withdraw from the case, despite judgment being entered and the case

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