

RECEIVED

Jun 09 2025

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
JESSICA ANN SALVINI, CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
Appellate Case No. 2025-000355

Hulsey Law Group, LLC,Respondent,

v.

Robin M. Schoepfel, Jessical Lynn Schoepfel, and
Nicholas Mark Schoepfel, Appellants.

**RETURN TO
MOTION TO SEAL**

Respondent Hulsey Law Group, LLC (hereafter “HLG”) submits this return to Appellant’s Motion to Seal and in so doing opposes the Motion to Seal.

The sealing of the referenced documents on appeal would serve no useful purpose. Respondents have pointed out repeatedly that the alleged breach of confidence about which Appellants complaint was not the result of any disclosure by Respondents, but was instead disclosed by counsel for a non-party, *i.e.*, counsel for the company owned by Appellant’s late father/ex-husband. This is more fully set forth in the Third-Party complaint, which is pending in the circuit court, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. **Exhibit**

A. Also attached are affidavits of Paul Hulsey (**Exhibit B**) and Cherie Durand (**Exhibit C**).

For the reasons set forth herein, Appellants’ motion should be denied.

[signature block next page]

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Desa Ballard

Desa Ballard (S.C. Bar No. 498)

Harvey M. Watson III (S.C. Bar No. 74053)

Haley Hubbard (S.C. Bar No. 103195)

BALLARD & WATSON

226 State Street

West Columbia, SC 29169

Telephone 803.796.9299

Facsimile 803.796.1066

desab@desaballard.com

harvey@desaballard.com

haley@desaballard.com

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

June 9, 2025

Exhibit A

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF HORRY)	
)	
Hulsey Law Group, LLC,	)	Civil Action No.: 2024-CP-10-04202
)	
Plaintiff and)	
Third-Party Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.	)	THIRD-PARTY SUMMONS
)	
Robin M. Schoepfel, Jessica Lynn Schoepfel,)	
and Nicolas Mark Schoepfel,)	
)	
Defendants)	
)	
and)	
)	
John T. Lay and Gallivan, White & Boyd,)	
P.A.,)	
)	
Third-Party Defendants.)	

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED THIRD-PARTY DEFENDANTS AND THEIR ATTORNEYS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to answer the Complaint in this action, a copy of which is hereby served on you, and to serve a copy of your Answer to the said Complaint upon the subscribers at 226 State Street, West Columbia, South Carolina 29169, within thirty (30) days after service hereof, exclusive of the day of such service, and if you fail to answer the Complaint within the time aforesaid, judgment by default will be rendered against you for the relief demanded in such Complaint.

s/ Desa Ballard
Desa Ballard (S.C. Bar No. 498)
Harvey M. Watson III (S.C. Bar No. 74053)
Haley Hubbard (S.C. Bar No. 103195)

BALLARD & WATSON
226 State Street
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169
Telephone 803.796.9299
desab@desaballard.com
harvey@desaballard.com
haley@desaballard.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

November 22, 2024

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
	)	NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
COUNTY OF HORRY)	
)	
Hulsey Law Group, LLC,	)	Civil Action No.: 2024-CP-10-04202
)	
Plaintiff and)	
Third-Party Plaintiff,)	
)	
vs.	)	THIRD-PARTY COMPLAINT
)	
Robin M. Schoepfel, Jessica Lynn)	
Schoepfel, and Nicolas Mark Schoepfel,)	
Defendants)	
)	
and)	
)	
John T. Lay and Gallivan, White & Boyd,)	
P.A.,)	
Third-Party Defendants.)	

Plaintiffs further assert the following claim against Third-Party Defendants for equitable indemnification. In addition to the relief sought in their complaint and response to counterclaims, Plaintiffs seek an award of actual and consequential damages against Third-Party Defendants for all costs and attorney’s fees incurred by them in defending the counterclaims herein. In support of its response to the answer and counterclaims and, affirmatively alleging relief against the Third-Party Defendants, Plaintiffs would show as follows:

1. Each and every allegation of the complaint set forth herein is incorporated herein where relevant as fully as if repeated herein verbatim.
2. Plaintiffs incorporate their Response to Counterclaim dated October 22, 2024 as fully as if repeated herein.
3. Paragraphs 1 through 30 of Part I of the document entitled Defendants’ Answer and Counterclaims do not appear to relate to the Counterclaims, but to the extent they are

alleged to so relate, any allegation thereof is denied and proof thereof is demanded. Similarly, Paragraphs 1 through 17 of Part II of the document entitled Defendants' Answer and Counterclaims do not appear to relate to the Counterclaims, but to the extent they are alleged to so relate, any allegation thereof is denied and strict proof thereof is demanded.

Further responding to Section III of the Counterclaims and all paragraphs therein, Plaintiffs allege and will show unto this Honorable Court:

1. Plaintiffs admit Paragraphs 1 – 4 of Section III of the counterclaims. Further answering Paragraph 4, Plaintiffs object to the allegation that they have a “purported place of business in Charleston” and would show that they do, in fact, maintain their only office for the practice of law in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. Plaintiffs, who have been licensed in South Carolina for many years and who previously resided full time in South Carolina, now reside in Arizona, but they maintain their office for the practice of law in South Carolina, something the Schoepfels were fully aware of at the time Plaintiffs were hired. The principals of Plaintiff are both licensed to practice law, and do practice law, in South Carolina.
2. Paragraphs A(5) and (6) of Section III of the counterclaim are admitted. Further answering Paragraphs A(5) and (6) of the counterclaims, Plaintiffs will show that in pursuit of proper legal representation of the Defendants, Plaintiffs discovered largely uncontroverted evidence that established that a third-party, Summer Hall (hereafter “Hall” or “Summer Hall”) was not the lawful wife of Jeffrey James Schoepfel. Hall was ineligible to inherit from his estate and, even if she claimed she was the legitimate wife, Hall had caused the death of the decedent under circumstances that would disqualify her from any

claim of inheritance from decedent. Hall bore criminal responsibility for decedent's death. Plaintiffs and their former clients, the Defendants herein, were basing their prior litigation strategy, with the knowledge and consent of their former clients, the Defendants herein, by establishing Hall's lack of standing as the wife and Hall's culpability for decedent's death.

3. On information and belief, certain officers of decedent's company¹, *i.e.*, (a) Brad Meyer (hereafter "Meyer"), a resident of California and friend of Jeffrey Schoepfel, originally from Indiana, who was brought in as CEO after the death of Jeffrey Scheopfel, (b) Meyer's attorney, Patrick Cross, (hereafter "Cross") a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana and non-South Carolina lawyer brought in to represent Meyer, the company and (over Plaintiff's objection) Jessica Schoepfel after Jeffrey Schoepfel's death and (c) David Sparkman, CFO, (hereafter "Sparkman"), who had worked for the company while Jeffrey Schoepfel was alive and know all of the details of the company before and after Scheopfel's death, feared the litigation strategy that was being pursued by Plaintiff on behalf of their former clients, Defendants herein, would drag on for a long time and would hamper their plans to quickly prepare the company for sale, allow them all to earn a hefty "golden parachute" notwithstanding the damage that would occur to Plaintiff's clients, Defendants herein. Meyer and Cross had expressed their intent to accomplish the sale as soon as possible on multiple occasions and had threatened to leave the company if such sale did not happen in an expedited fashion. Nevertheless, the Defendants did not change their position that they should pursue any and all avenues to prevent their father's paramour and purported wife,

¹ Decedent was the owner and principal manager of GSP Transportation Inc., a South Carolina corporation and prior to his death was exploring the potential sale of the company to another corporation, believed to be Hertz or a Hertz-related company.

Hall, from recovering half of decedent's estate.

4. Upon information and belief, Cross, Meyer and Sparkman all were in possession of all confidential information about the company and the finances of the Schoepfel family including Plaintiff's former clients, Defendants herein, and thus had personal knowledge of significant financial wrongdoing of the company over many years. On information and belief, Cross, Meyer and Sparkman feared that the threat of protracted litigation accompanied by the discovery process, as well as the possible threat of disclosure by Hall of financial wrongdoing on the part of decedent's company in her efforts to demand a share of Jeffrey Schoepfel's estate, would interfere with their ability to obtain their golden parachute, *i.e.*, a significant personal financial benefit from the sale of the company, when the company was sold. For that reason, Cross, Meyer and Sparkman maneuvered to have the Plaintiffs dismissed despite the instructions of the Schoepfel family with respect to the pursuit of Hall in litigation.
5. To the extent relevant, Paragraphs A(5) through A(9), Paragraphs B(10) through B(12), Paragraphs C(13) through C(21) are denied in their entirety, and strict proof thereof is demanded of the Defendants.
6. To the extent relevant, Paragraphs 31 through 43 are also denied in their entirety and strict proof thereof is demanded.
7. On information and belief, Third-party Defendant John T. Lay is a citizen and resident of the State of South Carolina.
8. On information and belief, Third-Party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd P.A. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of South Carolina, and

Third-party Defendant John T. Lay is a principal and/or manager thereof. On information and belief, at all times relevant hereto, Third-party Defendant John T. Lay was acting within the course and scope of his responsibilities with Third-party Defendant, which is vicariously liable for the wrongful acts of Third-party Defendant John T. Lay.

9. On information and belief, in early March, 2024, third parties, two Dallas lawyers and one Indianapolis lawyer, Thomas Haskins and Anna Kalinina (hereafter “the Dallas lawyers”) and Andrew Detherage (hereafter “the Indianapolis lawyer”) wrongfully interfered with Plaintiff’s representation of Defendants, and made false statements regarding Plaintiffs to Plaintiff’s clients, Defendants herein, persuading Defendants to terminate Plaintiff as counsel for Defendants.
10. On information and belief, at 3:21 p.m. Defendant Jessica Schoepfel transmitted a letter to Plaintiff via email terminating Plaintiff as counsel for herself, her brother Nicholas and their mother Susan. On information and belief, the letter was written for Jessica by the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers.
11. Moments later, at 3:42 p.m., the Dallas lawyers transmitted via email a letter to Plaintiffs advising they were now representing Defendants in all matters in which Plaintiff had previously represented Defendants. Neither letter made any allegation of wrongdoing on the part of Plaintiff, and Jessica’s letter made vague statements about “general lack of communication” and “unresponsiveness,” neither of which were true, but legally cognizable reasons for termination of counsel. On information and belief, the coordination and transmission of the two letters of March 8, 2024 was the brainchild of the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers.

12. Nonetheless, Plaintiff properly responded and turned over its files to the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers and cooperated fully in attempting to educate the Dallas lawyers on the many facts of the very complex litigation. Plaintiff provided a step-by-step analysis of Plaintiff's own forensic analysis of the evidence, and explained Hall's involvement in the death of decedent.
13. It soon became clear to Plaintiff that the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers had no interest in pursuing claims against Hall, and as Plaintiff attempted to explain the details regarding Hall's fraud involving the sham marriage and her involvement in the murder of decedent, the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers showed no interest whatsoever in Plaintiff's strategy. It began to appear that the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers instead planned to make Hall an ally so as to prevent her from revealing damaging information about the operation of decedent's company as their efforts to continue the proposed sale of the company moved forward.
14. Just before being terminated as Defendants' counsel, Plaintiff had managed to "flip" Hall's star witness, Tom Wood, who had agreed to meet with Plaintiff and reveal what he knew about Hall's involvement in defrauding decedent into marriage as well as the murder of decedent. Plaintiff stressed to the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers how turning Tom Wood would seal the fate of Hall's blatant attempts to financially benefit from decedent's death. Plaintiffs unsuccessfully encouraged the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers to show Hall how she was in a losing battle and how close Plaintiff had been to maximizing Defendants' desire to eliminate Hall from decedent's estate and his considerable wealth.
15. On reflection, Plaintiff realized that Cross, Meyer and Sparkman had favored Hall in the

months following decedent's death, in that they had, despite the insistence of the Defendants, allowed Hall to remain in a house owned by decedent, drive a car owned by the decedent's company and they had taken pains to avoid taking any position that was adverse to Hall. It became apparent that Plaintiff's litigation strategy was a threat to the expectations of Cross, Meyer and Sparkman to receive a financial windfall upon the sale of the company, and that Plaintiffs needed to be removed as counsel for Defendants in order for Cross, Meyer and Sparkman to benefit from their individual financial plans.

16. On March 14, 2024, Plaintiff wrote to Cross, Meyer and Sparkman, and put them on notice that Plaintiff would seek legal remedies against them for conspiring with the Dallas and Indianapolis lawyers to effect the termination of Plaintiff as counsel for Defendants, setting forth the evidence that supported the conclusion that each of them had significant motivation to effect the termination of Plaintiff as counsel for Defendants. It should be noted that Cross was counsel to the company and Jessica Schoepfel, Meyer was CEO of the company and Sparkman was CFO of the company, thus all of them already had access to the allegedly confidential information that is alleged to have been revealed! There was no possibility of divulging confidential information to individuals or entities who already possessed that information and were well aware of it.
17. On March 27, 2024, Third-party Defendant John T. Lay advised via email that he was representing decedent's company, Cross, Cross's law firm, as well as Meyer and Sparkman. Lay's letter stated that he "represent[ed] all five parties" which made it clear that Cross, Meyer and Sparkman and the company had been acting in concert and were, in fact, catering to Hall. It further ratified that Plaintiff's discovery of the "five parties" coordinated efforts to keep Hall as "friendly" to decedent's company was exactly what

Plaintiff thought it was, a subterfuge to protect the individual interests of Cross, Meyer and Sparkman, to keep Hall quiet and effect a sale of decedent's company before the company's significant financial fraud could be discovered through the examinations conducted through a due diligence investigation by a potential purchaser.

18. On April 24, 2024, Plaintiff communicated with Third-party Defendant John T. Lay and provided him with, *inter alia*, a draft of a lawsuit spelling out the misconduct of Summer Hall, Cross, Meyer, Sparkman, decedent's company and unnamed other parties, for the purpose of insuring John T. Lay understood that Cross's, Meyer's and Sparkman's conduct, as well as that of decedent's company, was harmful not only to Plaintiff, but to Plaintiff's former clients. The draft lawsuit spelled out in detail the criminal activities of Summer Hall in arranging for and covering up the murder of decedent.
19. After a quiet month, Third-party Defendant John T. Lay, acting as an agent of Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. advised Plaintiff on June 7, 2024 that he was not willing to recognize the validity of Plaintiff's conclusion regarding the motives of Cross, Meyer and Sparkman, and apparently as a threat of some kind, Third-party Defendant John T. Lay sent a copy of Plaintiff's correspondence and proposed complaint to Patricia Scarborough, the special administrator of decedent's estate.²
20. In their counterclaims in this case, Defendants assert that Plaintiff took steps to divulge confidential information about them and their case to Hall. That's not what happened.

² Plaintiff lacks understanding as to what Third-party Defendant John T. Lay and Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. were attempting to accomplish by sharing Plaintiff's pleading with Ms. Scarborough, other than to seek her added voice to the pressure to stop Plaintiff from pursuing its right to recover unpaid attorney fees from Defendants and/or of establishing the misconduct of Cross, Meyer, Sparkman, and decedent's company, which was and continues to cause harm to Plaintiff's former clients, Defendants herein, as well as to Plaintiff.

Third party Defendant John T. Lay acting as an agent of Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P. A. provided the draft pleadings to Patricia Scarborough, and if Hall and her lawyers know about the allegations, they learned about them from Third-party Defendant John T. Lay acting as an agent of Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A., not from Plaintiffs. The only information Plaintiff has publicized are facts necessary to file this lawsuit against Defendants, which reveal only such facts regarding the prior representation of Defendants as is necessary to pursue its claim for unpaid attorney's fees and the contingency portion of unpaid attorney's fees. Plaintiff has not violated confidentiality of its attorney-client relationship with Defendants. Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and Gallivan, White & Boyd P.A. acted with malicious intent, seeking to deceive the Defendants and the Plaintiff's former clients about their true motivations and intentions.

21. Plaintiff shared its draft pleadings with no one other than Third-party Defendant John T. Lay who was acting as an agent of Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. If Hall and her counsel got wind of the strategy that was being employed by Plaintiff in its representation of Defendants, and the facts that Plaintiff had discovered about her involvement in decedent's death, they got it from Third-party Defendant John T. Lay acting as an agent of Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A., or through them, because Third-party Defendant John T. Lay, acting as an agent of Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A., while acting as counsel for "all five parties" shared the pleadings with Patricia Scarborough.
22. As pleaded and argued in this action, the draft pleadings are claimed to have "made their way" to Hall and her counsel, which has supposedly caused harm to Defendants. Plaintiff

shared no confidential information with Hall or her counsel or anyone else. Third-party Defendant John T. Lay acting as an agent of Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. is the one who shared confidential information about Plaintiff's legal strategy and the facts Plaintiff had discovered about Hall's involvement in decedent's murder, as well as the financial mismanagement of decedent's company that Hall could prove.

23. While Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. may not have known about the financial mismanagement of decedent's company and the responsibility of Hall for the death of the decedent, they were fully informed by the Plaintiff as to the circumstances of both, and when they learned the facts, Third-party Defendant John T. Lay and Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. failed to act responsibly and instead divulged the information about the facts so as to "make its way" to Hall, if in fact, it did as alleged in the counterclaims.
24. The acts of Third-party Defendants in causing the circumstances that led to the counterclaim herein, without fault of Plaintiff, has caused Plaintiff to incur substantial attorney's fees and costs, and Third-party Defendants are liable to Plaintiff for equitable indemnification for the costs incurred by Plaintiff in defending against the counterclaims herein. These acts caused substantial harm both to Plaintiff and its former clients, Defendants here.
25. On information and belief, Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. should have anticipated that the special administrator would share the draft Complaint with any and all parties making a claim on decedents estate and once that happened had no control over who else might acquire that information.

26. If Plaintiff is found to have violated attorney-client privilege as set forth in the counterclaims, which is hereby denied, such liability will be based solely on the acts of Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A..
27. Plaintiffs have and will continue to incur attorney's fees and costs in defending against the counterclaims in this action, which counterclaims are the natural and proximate result of the actions of Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and his principal Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. in publicizing the thought processes and legal strategy of Plaintiff and their work product, *i.e.*, the proposed lawsuit against Cross, Meyer and Sparkman, as well as the facts which disclose Hall's sham marriage and responsibility for the death of the decedent.
28. The dispute asserted by Defendants in the counterclaims herein are between Plaintiff and its former clients, Defendants herein, which satisfies the prerequisites for an award of equitable indemnification in favor of Plaintiff against Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A..
29. Third-party Defendant John T. Lay and Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A. should be deemed to have contemplated that their conduct in sharing the Plaintiff's work product, *i.e.*, the proposed lawsuit against Cross, Meyer and Sparkman, as well as the facts which disclose Hall's responsibility for the death of the decedent, might cause Defendants to assert the counterclaims they have asserted herein, such that Plaintiff is entitled to an award of actual damages in the amount of its attorney's fees and costs incurred in defending the counterclaims herein against Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A..

Wherefore, having fully set forth additional information denying the counterclaims herein, and setting forth the facts which support an award in favor of Plaintiff against Third-party Defendants John T. Lay and Third-party Defendant Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A., Plaintiff prays for an order:

- A. Awarding actual and consequential damages in the amount of the attorney's fees and costs incurred by Plaintiff in defending against the counterclaims herein;
- B. For the costs of this action; and
- C. For such other and further relief as the court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

s/ Desa Ballard
Desa Ballard (S.C. Bar No. 498)
Harvey M. Watson III (S.C. Bar No. 74053)
Haley Hubbard (S.C. Bar No. 103195)
BALLARD & WATSON
226 State Street
West Columbia, South Carolina 29169
Telephone 803.796.9299
desab@desaballard.com
harvey@desaballard.com
haley@desaballard.com

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS

November 22, 2024

Exhibit B

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA	)	IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON	)	NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
)	
Hulsey Law Group, LLC,	)	Civil Action No.: 2024-CP-10-04202
Plaintiffs,)	
vs.)	
)	
Robin M. Schoepfel, Jessica Lynn	)	AFFIDAVIT OF PAUL H. HULSEY
Schoepfel, and Nicholas Mark Schoepfel,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	
)	

PERSONALLY APPEARED before me, Paul H. Hulsey, who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that:

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and am competent to state the matters set forth herein. I have personal knowledge of the matter so stated, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to those I have a good faith belief that they are true.
2. I have been admitted by examination to the practice of law in Kansas, South Carolina and the United States District Court for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Throughout my career, I have been admitted pro hac vice and appeared as lead counsel in over 35 jurisdictions in United States and have tried numerous cases to verdict in dozens of states across the country.
3. From a community standpoint, I have served as the Chairman of the MUSC Children’s Hospital Advisory Board and established the Paul H. Hulsey Community Food and Nutrition Center as well as serve as special counsel to the Board of yesCarolina which established the Paul H. Hulsey Scholarship for unprivileged high school students.

4. I am presently lead counsel for various plaintiffs in the Federal Court RICO actions. Among the areas in which I consider myself an expert is the preparation and trial of complex Plaintiffs' cases, including those involving the Crime Control Act of 1970, Pub.L.No. 91-452, Title IX, "Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act" (codified at 18 U.S.C. §§1961-1968) (hereinafter "RICO Act"). I have more jury verdicts in toxic tort cases across the nation than any other lawyer currently in practice. I have tried to successful verdict the largest consolidation of asbestos cases (10,000 plus plaintiffs) in the nation against more than 200 defendants. I established the precedent setting RICO ruling in the tobacco cases which helped promote a multi-billion-dollar settlement on behalf of multiple state, territory, and Commonwealth clients, as well as participating in those settlement discussions. I am one of the few trial lawyers in the country to have tried to verdict a class action based upon the RICO Act. I still hold the highest single verdict ever obtained in a RICO case, \$124 million. Of particular significance is my long-term experience with Professor G. Robert Blakey, known as the Father of RICO, who, at the request of President John F. Kennedy and Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy authored the RICO Act in an effort to address rampant organized crime within the five Mafia families in Chicago and New York. Professor Blakey has consulted with me, as well as acted as co-counsel with me, on numerous RICO cases that I have personally handled over more than twenty-five years. I have considered him my mentor as we worked together on RICO cases involving the tobacco industry, pharmaceutical fraud, consumer fraud, insurance fraud, health care fraud, banking fraud and various cases against professionals, such as lawyers and accountants, engaging in racketeering conduct outside their capacities as professional advisors.

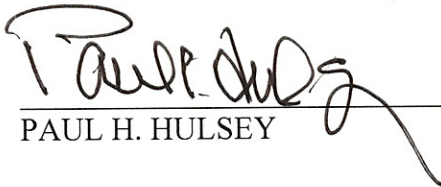
5. Desa Ballard and I have worked together for more than thirty (30) years. We were law partners at a law firm in South Carolina for approximately ten years, until she left to open her own office in 1997. She and I have served as co-counsel in multiple matters, not just in South Carolina, but other jurisdictions as well.
6. Desa served as an expert witness in a RICO case in which I was the plaintiff against multiple parties, including lawyers, accountants, and bankers. This RICO case, which coincidentally involved various parties who fraudulently brought defamation actions against me in state court as a part of a longstanding racketeering scheme, was resolved prior to trial to my complete satisfaction through confidential settlement agreements, the terms of which cannot be disclosed, but the details of which can be found at Hulsey v. Cisa et al., Civil Action No. 2:17-cv-03095-JD (United States District Court for the District of South Carolina).
7. Throughout my 48 year career specializing in trying multiparty cases involving complex litigation, I have achieved over a quarter billion in jury verdicts and negotiated cases involving complex commercial litigation, RICO cases, toxic tort consolidations and products liability matters successfully settling those cases in excess of one billion dollars, excluding Tobacco cases which, by way of example, included a 2.2 billion dollar settlement for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Throughout my career and all these endeavors, I have never been sued for malpractice or had any client or opponent claim I had breached any ethical duty of confidentiality.
8. On or about April of 2024, my partner, Cherie K. Durand, and I had discussions with John T. Lay regarding his clients, Patrick Cross (counsel to Jessica Schoepfel and GSP Transportation, Inc.), Brad Meyer (CEO of GSP Transportation, Inc.), and David

Sparkman (CFO of GSP Transportation, Inc.) about allegations we believe we have against them, including, but not limited to, tortious interference with contract, RICO, defamation and conspiracy.

9. On April 24, 2024, in the context of those discussions, we sent Mr. John T. Lay certain draft proposed documents for negotiation purposes. No one else was copied on such documents.
10. In fact, John T. Lay is the only person that we sent those documents to at the time and no one else has been sent those documents by Plaintiffs since that time.
11. In June of 2024, upon hearing that Patricia Scarborough had been given such documents, we warned Ms. Scarborough's counsel that certain individuals with whom we were in a legal dispute would be likely to attempt to enlist her assistance against us in that dispute and that it would not be a good idea for her to get involved. We never sent her or anyone else any of the documents in question.
12. Whatever Ms. Scarborough did or decided not to do with the documents she received from Mr. John T. Lay was done despite any warnings by Plaintiffs.
13. To the extent that any confidential information was improperly divulged, it was improperly divulged by Patrick Cross (counsel to Jessica Schoepfel and GSP Transportation, Inc.), Brad Meyer (CEO of GSP Transportation, Inc.), and David Sparkman (CFO of GSP Transportation, Inc.), through their counsel, John T. Lay, not by the Plaintiffs.

14. I understand that John T. Lay had reason to divulge such documents to third parties for strategic purposes in the underlying litigation and other potential litigation against Plaintiffs.

FURTHER deponent sayeth not.


PAUL H. HULSEY

Sworn and Subscribed to before me this
11 day of November, 2024

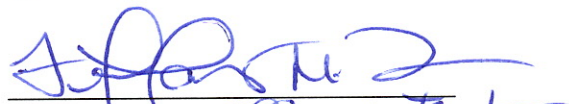

Print Name: Tiffany Taylor
Notary Public for South Carolina
My commission expires: 8/8/28

Exhibit C

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA) IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON) NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Hulsey Law Group, LLC,)
Plaintiffs,) Civil Action No.: 2024-CP-10-04202

vs.)

Robin M. Schoepfel, Jessica Lynn)
Schoepfel, and Nicholas Mark Schoepfel,) **AFFIDAVIT OF CHERIE K. DURAND**

Defendants.)

PERSONALLY APPEARED before me, Cherie K. Durand, who, being first duly sworn,
deposes and says that:

1. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and am competent to state the matters set forth herein. I have personal knowledge of the matter so stated, except as to those matters stated on information and belief, and as to those I have a good faith belief that they are true.
2. I am admitted to practice law in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Federal District Court of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the State of South Carolina by examination. I have actively engaged in the practice of law since 1990, the year I graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law, and passed the Virginia Bar, now over 34 years ago.
3. During my career, I have been primarily engaged in the practice of complex litigation, class actions, and mass torts across various jurisdictions nationwide. I have been involved in Tobacco litigation, asbestos litigation, other toxic tort litigation, healthcare fraud, pharmaceutical and medical device litigation, as well as having developed specialized expertise in civil RICO. I have tried cases to verdict worth millions of dollars

and have engaged in negotiations worth hundreds of millions to billions of dollars. I have been admitted pro hac vice in various courts across the country.

4. Prior to this case, I have never been sued for malpractice in my entire career and I have never had any ethics complaints made against me.
5. On or about April of 2024, my partner, Paul H. Hulsey, and I had discussions with John T. Lay regarding his clients, Patrick Cross (counsel to Jessica Schoepfel and GSP Transportation, Inc.), Brad Meyer (CEO of GSP Transportation, Inc.), and David Sparkman (CFO of GSP Transportation, Inc.) about allegations we believe we have against them, including, but not limited to, tortious interference with contract, RICO, defamation and conspiracy.
6. On April 24, 2024, in the context of those discussions, we sent Mr. John T. Lay certain draft proposed documents for negotiation purposes. No one else was copied on such documents.
7. In fact, John T. Lay is the only person that we sent those documents to at the time and no one else has been sent those documents by Plaintiffs since that time.
8. In June of 2024, upon hearing that Patricia Scarborough had been given such documents, we warned Ms. Scarborough's counsel that certain individuals with whom we were in a legal dispute would be likely to attempt to enlist her assistance against us in that dispute and that it would not be a good idea for her to get involved. We never sent her or anyone else any of the documents in question.
9. Whatever Ms. Scarborough did or decided not to do with the documents she received from Mr. John T. Lay was done despite any warnings by Plaintiffs.

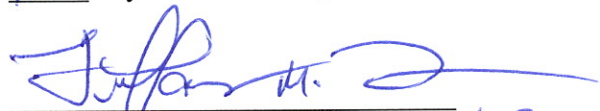
- 10. To the extent that any confidential information was improperly divulged, it was improperly divulged by Patrick Cross (counsel to Jessica Schoepfel and GSP Transportation, Inc.), Brad Meyer (CEO of GSP Transportation, Inc.), and David Sparkman (CFO of GSP Transportation, Inc.), through their counsel, John T. Lay, not by the Plaintiffs.

- 11. I understand that John T. Lay had reason to divulge such documents to third parties for strategic purposes in the underlying litigation and other potential litigation against Plaintiffs.

FURTHER deponent sayeth not.


CHERIE K. DURAND

Sworn and Subscribed to before me this
11 day of November, 2024


Print Name: Tiffany M Taylor
Notary Public for South Carolina
My commission expires: 8/8/28



RECEIVED

Jun 09 2025

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
JESSICA ANN SALVINI, CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE
Appellate Case No. 2025-000355

Hulsey Law Group, LLC, Respondent,

v.

Robin M. Schoepfel, Jessical Lynn Schoepfel, and
Nicholas Mark Schoepfel, Appellants.

PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Beth Cogan, an employee with Ballard & Watson, do hereby certify that on June 9, 2025, I served a copy of the **Return to Motion to Seal**, in the above-captioned case on the following individuals by electronic mail using their email address listed in the Attorney Information System, addressed as follows:

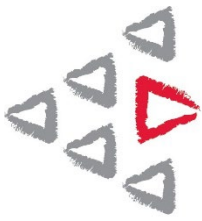
Shanon N. Peake, Esquire
Smith Robinson Holler DuBose Morgan, LLC
shanon.peake@smithrobinsonlaw.com

Jonathan M. Robinson, Esquire
Smith Robinson Holler DuBose Morgan, LLC
jon@smithrobinsonlaw.com

George M. Smith, Jr., Esquire
Smith Robinson Holler DuBose Morgan, LLC
murrell@smithrobinsonlaw.com


Beth Cogan, Paralegal

June 9, 2025



Ballard & Watson
Attorneys at Law
PERSISTENT. UNWAVERING.

Desa Ballard
Harvey M Watson III
Haley Hubbard

226 State Street West Columbia, SC 29169
ph 803.796.9299 | fx 803.796.1066 | desaballard.com

June 9, 2025

Via Email (ctappfilings@sccourts.org)
The Honorable Jenny Abbot Kitchings
Court of Appeals Clerk of Court
Post Office Box 11629
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

RECEIVED
Jun 09 2025
SC Court of Appeals

Re: *Hulsey Law Group, LLC v. Robin Schoepfel, et al.*
Case No.: 2025-000355

Dear Ms. Kitchings:

Enclosed for filing, please find a Return to Motion to Seal and Proof of Service for the above-referenced matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

With warm personal regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

Desa Ballard
desab@desaballard.com

Enclosure

cc: Via Email
Shanon N. Peake, Esquire
Jonathan M. Robinson, Esquire
George Murrell Smith, Jr., Esquire
Christian Stegmaier, Esquire
Evan Gessner, Esquire
Michael Bunda, Esquire
Cherie Durand, Esquire