IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO: 2015-029014-CA-01

SECTION: <u>CA11</u>
JUDGE: <u>Carlos Lopez</u>

DIEGO ARMANDO MARADONA (ESTATE OF) et al

Plaintiff(s)

VS.

CLAUDIA ROSANA VILLAFANE et al

Defendant(s)	
	/

ORDER GRANTING DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR FINAL SUMMARY JUDGMENT

THIS CAUSE came before the Court on Defendants' Motion for Final Summary Judgment (the "Motion") filed on May 12, 2023 (DE. 255). The Court, having reviewed the Court's file, including the Motion and all supporting documents, Plaintiff's Response and Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants' Motion (the "Opposition") (DE. 283) and its supporting documents, Plaintiff's Response to Defendants' "Statement of Undisputed Material Facts" (DE.282), Plaintiff's Notice of Filing Transcript Deposition of Claudia Rosana Villafañe (the "Villafañe's Deposition") (DE.277), Notice of Filing Exhibits 1 through 36 of Deposition of Claudia Rosana Villafañe (the "Notice of Filing Deposition Exhibits") (DE.278 through DE.281), and Defendants' Reply In Support Of Their Motion (the "Reply") (DE. 284), having considered the arguments of counsels in a two-hour special set hearing and reviewed all relevant case law, and being otherwise fully advised on the premises, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED**, as follows:

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

On November 7, 1989, Claudia R. Villafañe ("Villafañe") and Diego A. Maradona ("Maradona") were married to one another in Argentina and had two daughters from their marriage. In or about 2000, the parties were separated and, later, legally divorced on April 15,

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2003. Ten years later, in August 2013, the parties entered into a Marital Settlement Agreement (the "MSA"), agreeing on the distribution of the remaining marital assets.

On December 15, 2015, Plaintiff filed the first complaint in this action, and later amended it, with the operative complaint being filed on November 26, 2018, for Count I unjust enrichment, Count II breach of fiduciary duty, Count III conversion, Count IV constructive fraud, and Count VI equitable accounting (the "Amended Complaint") (DE. 49). On August 25, 2020, Plaintiff filed a Motion For Leave to Assert Claim for Punitive Damages ("Motion for Punitive Damages") seeking to amend the Amended Complaint to add a claim for punitive damages against Defendants in accordance with Florida Statutes § 768.72 (2) and Florida Rules of Civil Procedure 1.190 (f) (DE. 184). After a special set hearing, the Court entered an Order Denying Plaintiff's Amended Motion for Leave to Assert Claim For Punitive Damages on July 5, 2023 ("Denial Order") (DE. 268), finding that the proposed amended complaint adding punitive damages did not state when the theft occurred, the amount of the funds alleged to have been stolen, the accounts from which the funds were stolen, and went so far as to state that *upon information and belief*, Villafañe committed theft. *See* Denial Order, at 6.

In the Amended Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that Villafañe misappropriated funds from Maradona, while still married but before their separation, [3] to purchase six (6) condominiums in South Florida (the "Properties"). *See* Amended Complaint ¶¶ 21-24, 29, 30, 35-38, 40, and 41. In support of these allegations, Plaintiff provided the Court with warranty deeds and mortgages for the Properties, where Villafañe had in some instances identified herself as single, while separated but not legally divorced. [4] *See* Not. Fil. Dep. Exh., at Exhibits 4-26; 32. Plaintiff further alleges that Villafañe concealed the theft of Maradona's funds because she purportedly did not disclose any of the Properties in the MSA, excluding them from the division of the marital assets. *See* Am. Compl. ¶¶ 54-57; Exhibit 6, and Not. Fil. Dep. Ex., at [Exh. 3]. Plaintiff also claims that Defendants failed to declare the properties in her tax declarations in Argentina. *See* Not. Fil. Dep. Ex., at Exhs. 33;

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34. Last, Plaintiff alleges that Villafañe held a position of trust and confidence and owed Maradona a duty of care to maintain and preserve his wealth and refrain from misappropriating his funds for her own use and without his authority, which he purportedly entrusted to her to manage during their marriage and demanded an equitable accounting. See Am. Compl. ¶¶ 72-74; 92-97. In supporting of Plaintiff's allegations and in opposition to the Motion, Plaintiff submitted to the Court the Declaration of Diego Armando Maradona (DE.1), a Notice of Filing a Declaration of Diego Armando Maradona ("Maradona's Declaration") (DE.2); see Opp., at Exh. B; See Not. Fil. Dep. Ex., at Exh. 31, Plaintiff's Notice of Service of Answers to Villafañe's First Set of Interrogatories to Plaintiff (DE.113), Villafañe's Declaration dated May 12, 2023 (See Not. Fil. Dep. Ex., at Exh. 27), Villafañe's Declaration dated March 24, 2016 (Not. Fil. Dep. Exh., at Exh. 28), Defendants' Responses to Plaintiff's First Set of Interrogatories ("Villafañe First Responses") (Not. Fil. Dep. Exh, at Exh. 29), Defendant's Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set Interrogatories ("Villafañe Second Responses") (Not. Fil. Dep. Exh., at Exh. 30), Emilio Pastor, Esq. Report dated August 22, 2014 (Not. Fil. Dep. Exh., at Exh. 35), Power of Attorney granted to Villafañe by Maradona in 2005 ("POA") (Not. Fil. Dep. Exh., at Exh. 36), and Villafañe's Deposition held on August 28, 2023 (Opp., at Exh. F).

Villafañe denies the allegations in the Amended Complaint, asserting that Plaintiff filed this action in retaliation and for purposes of harassment. See Defendants' Amended Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaims ("Answer") (DE.143). Defendants raised nine affirmative defenses and for purposes of the Motion relied on the following three: (1) waiver by settlement and release (first affirmative defense), (2) expiration of the statute of limitations (second affirmative defense), and (3) the legal insufficiency of Plaintiff's counts, as Plaintiff fails to plead and establish the required elements of each count (eighth affirmative defense). See Defendants' Second Amended Affirmative Defenses ("Affirmative Defenses") (DE.224). Defendants further argue that there is no material factual dispute, as the Amended Complaint lacks allegations to support the causes of action. Specifically, Defendants state that there are no factual allegations or support for

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(1) Maradona's holding of millions of dollars prior to the alleged theft, (2) the date of alleged theft, (3) the identification of funds allegedly stolen, (4) the manner in which the funds were allegedly stolen; or (5) the amount of funds claimed to have been stolen. *See* Motion, at 6; and Reply, at 8. Defendants argue that they are entitled to final summary judgement, as a matter of law.

In support of the affirmative defenses relied on and the Motion, Defendants provided the Court with the MSA, Transcript of Hearing on May 4, 2023^[5], Defendants' Affirmative Defenses, Villafañe's Declaration dated May 12, 2023, Defendant's Responses to Plaintiff's Second Set Interrogatories, Plaintiff's Notice of Service of Answers to Villafañe's First Set of Interrogatories to Plaintiff, Plaintiff's Responses to Villafañe's Second Request for Admissions to Plaintiff, and Deposition Transcript of Matias Morla dated September 30, 2019. (DE.255).

LEGAL STANDARD FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

The summary judgment standard provided for under Florida Rule of Civil Procedure 1.510(c) is to be construed and applied in accordance with the federal summary judgment standard articulated in *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett. Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317 (1986); *Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc.*, 477 U.S. 242, 251, 252, (1986) (holding the basic issue before the Court on a motion for summary judgment is "whether the evidence presents a *sufficient disagreement* to require submission to a jury"); *Matsushita Elec. Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp.*, 475 U.S. 574 (1986); *see also* Amendment to Fla. R. Civ. Pro. 1.510(c). Consequently, a summary judgment shall be granted when the record shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); *Celotex Corp.*, 477 U.S. at 323-25.

If the nonmoving party fails to make "a sufficient showing on an essential element of the case with respect to which she has the burden of proof," the moving party is entitled to summary judgment. *Celotex Corp.* 477 U.S. at 323. Likewise, "[a] mere 'scintilla' of evidence supporting the

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[nonmoving] party's position will not suffice; there must be enough of a showing that the jury could reasonably find for that party." *Walker v. Darby*, 911 F.2d 1573, 1577 (11th Cir. 1990) (citing *Anderson*, 477 U.S. at 1576).

FINDINGS

THE COURT FINDS that Defendants are entitled to final summary judgment on all counts against Plaintiff for the following reasons:

I. Count I – Unjust Enrichment

Plaintiff alleges that Maradona conferred a benefit upon Villafañe in the form of millions of dollars, which she misappropriated for her own use without compensating Maradona. *See* Am. Compl. ¶¶ 66-68. Villafañe testified that she used her own funds to purchase the Properties and funds given to her by her family. *See* Villafañe's First Responses, at Responses 4 through 8, and Villafañe's Deposition 65:1-6. In opposition, Plaintiff put forward *no* evidence of a material factual dispute, and failed to identify the benefit conferred, including the transfer of funds or acceptance by Villafañe.

Under Florida law, the elements of unjust enrichment are as follows: (1) plaintiff has conferred a benefit on the defendant, who has knowledge thereof; (2) the defendant voluntarily accepts and retains the benefit conferred; and (3) the circumstances are such that it would be inequitable for the defendant to retain the benefit without first paying the value thereof to the plaintiff. *See Duty-Free World, Inc. v. Miami Perfume Junction, Inc.*, 253 So. 3d 689 (Fla. 3d DCA 2018).

In the Opposition, Plaintiff failed to identify evidence in support of a material factual dispute regarding conferring a benefit—there are no allegations or recorded evidence of a transfer of funds to Villafañe, which she accepted and retained. The record is devoid of any evidence of (1)

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plaintiff's possession of funds, (2) the amount of funds, (3) the bank account where the funds were held, (3) the means of transfer, or (4) the date of transfer. Plaintiff has not produced any financial records, not a single bank statement, check, wire transfer, safety deposit record, or any proof of any kind tending to indicate that Maradona had possession of the funds at issue at the time he alleges they were stolen. Moreover, there is no evidence even remotely supporting his allegation that Villafañe misappropriated funds, much less totaling millions of dollars.

On the contrary, Maradona admitted in his declaration that he does not know how the theft occurred or how Villafañe obtained the funds to purchase the Properties ("To date we have been unable to identify where the funds to purchase the condominiums were obtained…"). Maradona's Declaration, ¶ 11. Clearly, Maradona's Declaration establishes that he had been unable to identify the source of the funds.

Further, plaintiffs' reliance on the MSA alleging that Villafañe failed to disclose marital assets in that agreement, is misplaced. As the plain language of the MSA, Section III, states "[t]he parties as a whole declare that the aforementioned assets have been the only ones comprising the undivided assets of husband and wife, and that others that could have comprised it have been divested as a whole and their price received in halves. Moreover, they declare they have been completely compensated between themselves with regard to the potential differences that might exist with regard to the assets allocated to each. Consequently, they expressly waive the right to make a claim with regard to the settlement and allotting the assets comprising the community property." (emphasis added). This completely contradicts Plaintiff's allegations on this count—but even if the parties had not waived their rights, this cause of action had expired, as addressed below.

Last, the statute of limitations period for unjust enrichment is four years. *See* § 95.11, Fla. Stat. Ann. A cause of action accrues when the last element constituting the cause of action occurs. *See* Florida Statutes §§ 95.11(3); 95.031(1). While Plaintiff does not allege a precise date of theft,

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he does claim that it occurred when the parties were married (until April 2003) and that it commenced prior to the purchase of the first property in 2000. See Am. Compl. ¶¶ 11; 21. Since the original complaint was filed on December 15, 2015, Plaintiff's unjust enrichment claim is barred by the statute of limitations. The Plaintiff did not raise any legal arguments for tolling of the applicable statute of limitations, nor was there any factual support on the record and, accordingly, the cause of action for unjust enrichment is time-barred.

As the statute of limitations has expired and there are no allegations in the Amended Complaint nor was there any record evidence provided to the Court that properly showed that Maradona conferred a benefit upon Defendants and that they accepted and retained it unfairly, Plaintiff has not met his burden to come forward with evidence to support a cause of action for unjust enrichment or a material dispute.

Therefore, because the record is devoid of any material factual dispute regarding Count I for unjust enrichment, Defendants are entitled to final summary judgment on Count I, as a matter of law.

II. Count II – Breach of Fiduciary Duty

Plaintiff alleges that Villafañe owed a fiduciary duty to Maradona to refrain from misappropriating his funds for her own use, which he entrusted to her to manage, and that instead she used Maradona's funds to purchase the Properties. *See* Am. Compl. ¶¶ 72-74. Villafañe testified that during their marriage there was no fiduciary duty between them and she did not manage Maradona's business finances. *See* Motion, at 17-18, and Villafañe Deposition 206:10-14; 224:13-19.

Under Florida law, "although it is beyond dispute that the utmost integrity and honesty should inhere in a marital relationship, we decline to recognize an action in tort for a spouse's violation of the financial duties associated with business partnerships". *See Beers v. Beers*, 724 So.

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2d 109 (Fla. 5th DCA 1998); *see* further *Abitbol v. Benarroch*, 273 So. 3d 147 (Fla. 3d DCA 2019) ("Florida law precludes general civil claims premised upon a spouse's intentional dissipation of marital assets"). Absent a specific transaction or agreement, no fiduciary relationship exists between spouses. Levy v. Levy, 862 So. 2d 48 (Fla. 3d DCA 2003).

In this section of the Amended Complaint, Plaintiff incorporated factual allegations that theft occurred prior to 2000. See Am. Compl. ¶¶ 11; 70. The Amended Complaint does not allege any facts supporting a fiduciary duty between the parties prior to 2003. While Plaintiff alleged in the Opposition that, after the parties divorced, Maradona granted the POA to Villafañe in 2005, there is zero evidence or allegations in the Amended Complaint of a specific agreement of a fiduciary nature before 2003, or of any transfer of funds after the POA, or even that the POA was ever used by Villafañe —for the same reasons stated in section I. Therefore, the POA could not be the basis of the Breach of Fiduciary Duty Count, as the theft is alleged to have occurred before 2003. Plaintiff put forward no evidence of a material dispute related to an agreement or understanding which resulted in a professional fiduciary relationship between Maradona and Villafañe, aside from their marriage, which is insufficient under Florida law.

In addition, the statute of limitations period for a breach of fiduciary duty is four years. *See* § 95.11, Fla. Stat. Ann. A cause of action accrues when the last element constituting the cause of action occurs. *See* Florida Statutes §§ 95.11(3); 95.031(1). While Plaintiff does not allege a precise date of theft, he does claim that it occurred when the parties were married (until April 2003) and that it commenced prior to the purchase of the first property in 2000. *See* Am. Compl. ¶ 11; 21. Since the original complaint was filed on December 15, 2015, Plaintiff's breach of fiduciary duty claim is, thus, barred by the statute of limitations. Further, Plaintiff made no legal arguments nor alleged facts to support tolling of the statute of limitations.

Therefore, because the record is devoid of any material factual dispute regarding Count II for breach of fiduciary duty, Defendants are entitled to final summary judgment on Count II, as a

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matter of law.

III. Count III - Conversion

Plaintiff alleges that Maradona has, in writing or otherwise, demanded that Villafañe return the funds she allegedly misappropriated from him and used to purchase the Properties, and that she refused to do so. *See* Am. Com. ¶¶ 78-81. Villafañe testified that she used her own funds to purchase the Properties. *See* Villafañe's First Responses, at Responses 4 through 8, and Villafañe's Deposition 65:1-6.

Under Florida law, the elements of conversion are: "(1) an act of dominion wrongfully asserted; (2) over another's property; and (3) inconsistent with his ownership therein." *See Joe Hand Promotions, Inc. v. Sorota*, 2012 WL 2414035 (S.D. Fla. 2012) (quoting *Special Purpose v. Prime One*, 125 F.Supp.2d 1093 (S.D. Fla. 2000)); *World Cellphones Distributors Corp. v. De Surinaamsche Bank, N.V.*, 357 So. 3d 225 (Fla. 3d DCA 2023).

For the same reasons discussed above in Section I, Plaintiff failed to establish through record evidence in opposition, that a transfer of funds ever occurred. Plaintiff's claim is based solely on the purported *belief* that, without Maradona's money, Villafañe could not have acquired the Properties. Plaintiff also erroneously implies that Villafañe has the burden of proof to establish her affirmative defenses, while it is Plaintiff who carries the burden of proof at trial.

Moreover, the record before the Court is lacking even a scintilla of evidence of theft or misappropriation of funds. Therefore, this Court cannot find that there is sufficient disagreement to submit to a trier of fact the issue of whether there was an *act of dominion* by Defendants over Plaintiff's assets. There simply exists *no* material factual dispute—as the funds claimed to have been stolen have not even been identified by Plaintiff. Money can be subject of conversion so long as it consists of specific money capable of identification; to be a proper subject of conversion, there must be an obligation to keep intact or deliver the specific money in question, so that such *money*

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can be identified. See Taubenfeld v. Lasko, 324 So. 3d 529 (Fla. 4th DCA 2021) (emphasis added).

Additionally, the statute limitations period for conversion is four years. *See* § 95.11, Fla. Stat. Ann. A cause of action accrues when the last element constituting the cause of action occurs. *See* Florida Statutes §§ 95.11(3); 95.031(1). While Plaintiff does not allege a precise date of theft, he does claim that it occurred when the parties were married (until April 2003) and that it commenced prior to the purchase of the first property in 2000. *See* Am. Compl. ¶ 11, 21. Since the original complaint was filed on December 15, 2015, Plaintiff's conversion claim is therefore barred by the statute of limitations. Further, Plaintiff made no legal arguments nor alleged facts to support tolling of the statute of limitations.

Therefore, because the record is devoid of any material factual dispute regarding Count III for conversion, Defendants are entitled to final summary judgment on Count III, as a matter of law.

IV. Count IV - Constructive Fraud

Plaintiff alleges that Maradona conferred a benefit upon Villafañe in the form of millions of dollars, which she purportedly misappropriated for her own use without compensating Maradona. *See* Am. Compl. ¶¶ 71-72). Villafañe testified that she used her own funds to purchase the Properties, including funds given to her by her parents. *See* Villafañe's First Responses, at Responses 4 through 8, and Villafañe's Deposition 65:1-6. In opposition, Plaintiff put forward *no* evidence of a material factual dispute and failed to identify the funds stolen or provide any specific information regarding the alleged theft.

Under Florida law, constructive fraud occurs when a duty under a confidential or fiduciary relationship has been abused or where an unconscionable advantage has been taken. *See Levy v. Levy*, 862 So. 2d 48 (Fla. 3d DCA 2003). But, "there simply is no cognizable tort claim for constructive fraud for a concealed dissipation of marital assets." *See Beers v. Beers*, 724 So. 2d 109 (Fla. 5th DCA 1998).

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In this section of the Amended Complaint, Plaintiff incorporated factual allegations that the theft occurred prior to 2003. See Am. Compl. ¶ 82. However, the Amended Complaint is devoid of any allegation of fiduciary duty between spouses prior to 2003. See Section II, supra. Under Florida law, there can be no fiduciary duty between spouses unless there is a specific agreement or understanding of a business nature separate from the marriage. See Beers v. Beers, 724 So. 2d 109 (Fla. 5th DCA 1998). Here, while Plaintiff alleged in the Opposition that Maradona gave Villafañe a POA in 2005, two years after the parties divorced, there is zero record evidence or allegations in the Amended Complaint of a specific agreement of a fiduciary nature before 2003, or of any transfer of funds after the POA, or even that the POA was ever used by Villafañe. For these reasons and those stated in Sections I and II above—there is no record evidence or material dispute regarding Villafañe's misappropriation of Maradona's funds. At best, Plaintiff has provided the Court with a suspicion, which is unsupported by the record and insufficient under the law.

Further, the statute of limitations period for a constructive trust is four years and can only be extended up to 12 years after the date of the commission of the fraud, *if there was concealment or misrepresentation related to the act itself,* pursuant to the statute of repose. *See Philip Morris USA Inc. v. Principe,* 337 So. 3d 821 (Fla. 3d DCA 2021) (emphasis added); and *Hess v. Philip Morris USA, Inc.,* 175 So. 3d 687 (Fla. 2015). The statute of limitations based on fraud is strictly construed against the party bringing suit. *See Colonial Penn Ins. Co. v. Value Rent-A-Car Inc.,* 814 F. Supp. 1084 (S.D. Fla. 1992). While Plaintiff does not allege a precise date of theft, he does claim that it occurred when the parties were married (until April 2003) and that it commenced prior to the purchase of the first property in 2000. *See* Am. Compl. ¶ 11, 21. Since the original complaint was filed on December 15, 2015, Plaintiff's constructive fraud claim is barred by the statute of limitations. Even if the statute of repose applied—it does not, as the record lacks any factual support of concealment or misrepresentation relied on by Maradona that could have resulted in a delayed discovery—the original complaint would still be time barred because it was filed after twelve years.

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Therefore, because the record is devoid of any material factual dispute regarding Count IV for constructive fraud, Defendants are entitled to final summary judgment on Count IV, as a matter of law.

V. Count VI – Equitable Accounting

Plaintiff claims, in the alternative, equitable accounting alleging that Villafañe owed a fiduciary and/or confidential relationship to manage Maradona's personal finances for his benefit and to refrain from misappropriating his funds for her own use, which he entrusted to her to manage, and that instead she used Maradona's funds to purchase the Properties. *See* Am. Compl. ¶92-97. Villafañe alleges that during their marriage there was no fiduciary duty between them, and she did not manage Maradona's business finances. *See* Motion, at 17-18, and Villafañe Deposition 206:10-14; 224:13-19. In opposition, Plaintiff put forward *no* evidence of a material factual dispute and failed to identify any specific agreement of a fiduciary nature during the parties' marriage.

A party that seeks an equitable accounting must show that: 1) the parties share a fiduciary relationship or that the questioned transactions are complex; and 2) a remedy at law is inadequate. *See Am. United Life Ins. Co. v. Martinez*, 480 F.3d 1043 (11th Cir. 2007).

Plaintiff's allegations in this Count are deficient because there is no allegation of a fiduciary relationship during the marriage and there is no allegation of a complex transaction. *See* Section II, *supra*. Furthermore, there is *zero* evidence or allegations of transfer of funds, as stated in sections I and II above and, therefore, there is no possible transactions or financial records that this Court could Order an accounting of.

Further, the statute of limitations period for accounting is four years. See Fla. Stat. § 95.11(3)(k). A cause of action accrues when the last element constituting the cause of action occurs. See Florida Statutes §§ 95.11(3); 95.031(1). While Plaintiff does not allege a precise date of theft, he does claim that it occurred while the parties were married (until April 2003) and that it

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commenced prior to the purchase of the first property in 2000. *See* Am. Compl. ¶ 11; 21. Since the original complaint was filed on December 15, 2015, Plaintiff's equitable accounting claim is barred by the statute of limitations.

Therefore, because the record is devoid of any material factual dispute regarding Count VI for equitable accounting, Defendants are entitled to final summary judgment on Count VI, as a matter of law.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** that:

1. Defendants' Motion for Final Summary Judgment filed on May 12, 2023, is

GRANTED on all counts, for the reasons stated above and through the facts placed on the record and incorporated herein.

- 2. The Court retains jurisdiction for a determination of attorney's fees and costs pursuant to Florida Statute §768.79.
 - 3. The Plaintiffs shall take nothing by this action, and Defendant, shall go hence without day.

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Plaintiff's Count V for Constructive Trust of the Amended Complaint was dismissed by the February 21, 2019 Court's Order on Defendant's Motion to Dismiss Amended Complaint or To Stay On The Basis Of International Comity ("Motion to Dismiss"). There, the Court granted, in part, Defendants' Motion to Dismiss dismissing the Amended Complaint as to Count V for Constructive Trust without prejudice, and denied Defendants' Motion to Dismiss otherwise. (DE. 71).

On March 23, 2022, Plaintiff filed a Notice of Filing ("First Notice of Filing") documents in support of the Motion for Punitive Damages. (DE. 221). On June 7, 2022, Plaintiff filed an Amended Motion For Leave to Assert Claim for Punitive Damages ("Amended Motion for Punitive Damages"), including a proposal of its Second [Amended] Complaint. (DE. 231). On March 16, 2023, hours before the special set hearing scheduled before the Court, Plaintiff filed a new Notice of Filing ("Second Notice of Filing") documents in support of the Amended Motion for Punitive Damages, which included additional exhibits. (DE. 245). On March 28, 2023, Plaintiff filed an Amended Notice of Filing ("Third Notice of Filing") documents in support of the

Amended Motion for Punitive Damages, which included twelve (12) exhibits. (DE. 247).

- Plaintiff alleges that the theft commenced in 1999 prior to the first purchase of the real estate on January 6, 2000. *See* Am. Com. ¶ 11.
- Plaintiff relies on the misrepresentation of these documents as purported evidence of theft, fraud, and deception. *See* Am. Compl. ¶¶ 21-24, 29, 30, 35-38, 40, and 41. Plaintiff further claims that Villafañe misappropriated the proceeds of the sales of the Properties and did not share them with Maradona. *See* Am. Compl. ¶¶ 26, 28, 43, and 45.
- [5] Special set hearing on the Defendants' Motion for Order to Show Cause Why Plaintiff Should Not Be Held in Contempt of Court and For Sanctions.

DONE and **ORDERED** in Chambers at Miami-Dade County, Florida on this <u>20th day of October</u>, 2023.

2015-029014-CA-01 10-20-2023 12:54 PM

6-029014-000 10-20-2623 12:54 PM

Hon. Carlos Lopez

CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE Electronically Signed

Final Order as to All Parties SRS #: 12 (Other)

THE COURT DISMISSES THIS CASE AGAINST ANY PARTY NOT LISTED IN THIS FINAL ORDER OR PREVIOUS ORDER(S). THIS CASE IS CLOSED AS TO ALL PARTIES.

Electronically Served:

Eduardo F Rodriguez, eddie@efrlawfirm.com
Eduardo F Rodriguez, efrlawfirm@gmail.com
Ibonne Mcclintock, imcclintock@mpalaw.com
Jalaine Garcia, jalaine318@gmail.com
Maria Paula Aguila, paguila@thempalawfirm.com
Maria Paula Aguila, mdreyfus@thempalawfirm.com
Monica Amador, amador@theMPAlawfirm.com
Monica Amador, amador@mpalaw.com
Monique N Reyes, monique@efrlawfirm.com

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Physically Served:

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 11TH	
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR	
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA	
	
ESTATE OF DIEGO ARMANDO	
MARADONA, through Jana Maradona,	
Diego Armando Maradona, Jr., and	
Paola Alejandra Migueles, as	
Joint Personal Representatives,	
Plaintiff,	
v. Case No.	
CLAUDIA ROSANA VILLAFANE, a 2015-029014-CA-01	
foreign individual; GIAMAR 2207,	
LLC, a Florida limited liability	
company; GIAMET 2503, LLC, a	
Florida limited liability	
company; GIAMAR 1606, INC., a	
Florida corporation; GIA DAL	
MAR, CORP., a Florida	
corporation; and DALMAR 0487,	
LLC, a Florida limited liability	
company,	
Defendants.	

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1 VIDEOCONFERENCE HEARING	1 APPEARANCES (Cont'd)	1 4 5 .
2 DATE: Wednesday, September 27, 2023	2 ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANT CLAUDIA ROSANA VILLAFA	NE A
3 TIME: 10:08 a.m.	3 FOREIGN INDIVIDUAL; GIAMAR 2207, LLC, a FLORIDA	, rt.
4 BEFORE: Honorable Carlos Lopez		DIDA
5 LOCATION: Remote Proceeding	4 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; GIAMAR 1606, NIC. A	KIDA
_	5 LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY; GIAMAR 1606, INC., A	
6 Miami, Florida 33169	6 FLORIDA CORPORATION; GIA DAL MAR, CORP., A FLORII	
7 REPORTED BY: Kevin Klingenschmid, Notary Public	7 CORPORATION; AND DALMAR 0487, LLC, A FLORIDA LIM	ITED
8 JOB NO.: 6112470	8 LIABILITY COMPANY:	
9	9 MONICA AMADOR, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)	
10	10 MPA Law Firm	
11	11 1395 Brickell Avenue, Suite 800	
12	12 Miami, Florida 33131	
13	13 amador@mpalaw.com	
14	14 (305) 200-8845	
15	15	
16	16 M. PAULA AGUILA, ESQUIRE (by videoconference)	
17	17 MPA Law Firm	
18	18 1395 Brickell Avenue, Suite 800	
19	19 Miami, Florida 33131	
20	20 paguila@mpalaw.com	
21	21 (305) 200-8845	
22	22	
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2 ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF ESTATE OF DIEGO ARMANDO	2	
2 ON BEHALF OF PLAINTIFF ESTATE OF DIEGO ARMANDO 3 MARADONA, THROUGH JANA MARADONA, DIEGO ARMANDO	2	
3 MARADONA, THROUGH JANA MARADONA, DIEGO ARMANDO	2 3 EXHIBITS	D/EVD
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1 PROCEEDINGS	1 judgment and today's arguments, we are stipulating to
2 THE COURT: Rosana Villafane.	2 a date of 2000 so that there's no potential dispute
3 Appearances please.	3 regarding that item.
4 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning, Your	4 As Your Honor knows, we've had
5 Honor. Eddie Rodriguez for the plaintiffs.	5 extensive motion practice before the Court and it is
6 MS. AMADOR: Good morning, Your Honor.	6 Ms. Villafane's position that this complaint was filed
7 Monica Amador for the defendants. And Paula Aguila is	7 as a slander complaint, a harassment complaint against
8 also present. 9 MS. AGUILA: Good morning, Judge.	8 her after nearly 15 years that the parties were 9 separated.
9 MS. AGUILA: Good morning, Judge. 10 THE COURT: Welcome. Okay. It's	10 So the separation occurred in 2000.
11 Defendants' motion for final summary judgment,	11 The first purchase that they're claiming was funded
12 Ms. Amador.	12 through theft occurred in 2000 specifically,
13 MS. AMADOR: Yes, Your Honor. We're	13 January 6th of 2000. So obviously any funds that were
14 here, Your Honor, on Defendant's motion for final	14 stolen for these initial purchases would have occurred
15 summary judgment. If I may share the screen, Your	15 prior to 2000. And I'll go through the allegations
16 Honor?	16 where they state this.
17 THE COURT: It's open.	There are allegations and I'll go
18 MS. AMADOR: Okay, Your Honor. As I	18 through that too where they say, "well, prior to
19 said, we're here on Defendant's motion for final	19 the divorce, while we were married and Mr. Maradona
20 summary judgment. Before we go forward, Your Honor,	20 was in Cuba, she had a fraudulent scheme to defraud
21 with the legal arguments, I find it necessary	21 Mr. Maradona." At best, Your Honor, that would put
22 because, as Your Honor know, there's lengthy,	22 the last date of the potential theft of 2003.
23 expansive allegations here for nearly 24 years from	So by Plaintiff's own allegations,
24 today's date because the allegations commence in	24 theft commencing in 1999 would've expired statute of
25 1999.	25 limitations, which is four years and I'm going to
Page 7	Page 9
In order for us to go forward with the	1 go through those arguments in 2004. On their best
2 legal arguments, it's necessary to establish the	2 date, if Your Honor takes April 15th as the last
3 timeline of the allegations. Your Honor, before we go 4 forward, I would also like to point that we provided	3 date which again, there's neither allegations in 4 the complaint, no record evidence that would be
5 with a Your Honor with a courtesy binder and the	5 2007 the expiration of the four-year statute of
6 motion for	6 limitations.
7 THE COURT: I go it.	7 Now, I'm going to discuss also a power
8 MS. AMADOR: Okay. The motion for	8 of attorney. Plaintiffs point in their opposition to
9 summary judgment is Tab 2 and 3.	9 a power of attorney that was issued in 2005. Your
THE COURT: And his response and	10 Honor will see from Ms. Villafane's testimony that
11 your rebuttal to his response. I got all that, yeah.	11 that power of attorney was issued because Mr. Maradona
MS. AMADOR: Thank you, Your Honor. So	
13 before we go forward, Your Honor, I would like to take	13 her assistance with business matters.
14 a moment to just really discuss the timeline of events	14 Her testimony is clear that that power
15 leading to this case.	15 of attorney was never used, it was never presented to
Now, the allegations stem in the	16 a bank, it was never used or presented to any third
17 complaint and I'm going to go through it in	17 party. There are no allegations neither in the
18 detail from allegations of theft prior to 2000.	18 complaint or in the record that that power of attorney
The parties, Your Honor, married in	19 was used. And clearly it's nonsensical because if the

3 (Pages 6 - 9)

20 theft occurred in 2000, a power of attorney given five

There's three other units, Your Honor,

24 that were purchased from 2007 through 2009, but again,

25 the allegations in the complaint continue to point to

21 years later could have never been used to purport a

23

22 fraud or any theft.

25

24 declaration states 2000s.

20 1989 and separated by 2000. I would like to point the

22 that she believes that they were separated by 1998, as

23 they were living separate lives, and Mr. Maradona in a

For purposes of our motion for summary

21 Court's attention that Ms. Villafane had testified

Page 10 Page 12

- 1 the theft occurring in this timeframe. So it's
- 2 obvious that any theft would have occurred many years
- 3 prior to the purchases of the last unit in 2009.
- 4 Lastly, Your Honor, there's the MSA
- 5 that the parties into in 2013, which is the marital
- 6 settlement agreement. In Argentina, it's a two-step
- 7 process. The parties are divorced in 2003 and the
- 8 MSA, which is a marital settlement agreement of all
- 9 property that has not been divided, is entered years
- 10 later because it's two separate causes of action in
- 11 Argentina.
- 12 And lastly, Your Honor, the complaint
- 13 is filed on December 15th of 2015, 15 years after the
- 14 allegations of theft. And at that point there's a
- 15 series of four complaints filed internationally
- 16 against Ms. Villafane in a complete harassment scheme
- 17 against her.
- 18 So now that we've established the
- 19 timeline, Your Honor, the motion for summary judgment
- 20 is based on three legal theories -- or three arguments
- 21 that I'm going to go through with the Court.
- The first one is the statute of
- 23 limitations -- that it bars all actions under the
- 24 statute of limitations. And Your Honor will hear and
- 25 I'll go through various arguments that they make
- Page 11
- 1 regarding the tolling of the statue [sic] of
- 2 limitation, which is inapplicable and expired even
- 3 under that argument under the state of Florida.
- 4 The second argument for summary
- 5 judgment which I'll go through with Your Honor is that
- 6 there is no material dispute whatsoever because
- 7 there's no facts on the record.
- 8 And part three of the summary judgment
- 9 argument is that the pleadings are insufficient. Not
- 10 only are there no material disputes but as pled, this
- 11 is a cause of action that cannot be submitted to a
- 12 jury because it's not properly pled.
- So we'll start, Your Honor, by the
- 14 statute of limitations. The operative complaint was
- 15 filed on November 26, 2018. I point the Court's
- 16 attention that there were not an amended complaint but
- 17 there was an order from the Court, striking any
- 18 reference to a financial audit.
- 19 So that operative complaint is not
- 20 amended but there's obviously an order from the Court
- 21 striking that reference should not be considered on
- 22 the motion for summary judgment.
- Now, this is paragraph 18. So this is
- 24 Plaintiff's allegation as to the theft. And it's
- 25 important to point out that, one, their complaint

- 1 states "Upon information and belief, Defendant
- 2 Villafane caused funds in accounts belonging to
- 3 Plaintiff to be transferred to Defendant Villafane's
- 4 own accounts and/or directly to complete the
- 5 various ... transactions."
- So their position in the complaint is
- 7 that this money was taken from bank accounts belonging
- 8 to Plaintiff, transferred directly to Ms. Villafane to
- 9 purchase the properties. As we just saw in the
- 10 timeline, that would put -- again -- the date of theft
- 11 before January 6 of 2000. Right? Because if she
- 12 purchased this property in 2000 with these funds then
- 13 she must've stolen the money at least December of
- 14 1999, pursuant to their own allegations.
- 15 Further -- this is paragraph 19 -- "It
- 16 is clear that Defendant Villafane viewed the
- 17 separation of the parties and the forthcoming divorce
- 18 as an opportunity to raid Plaintiff's fortune ... upon
- 19 information and belief, comment [sic] transferring
- 20 funds from Plaintiff's accounts to accounts not
- 21 belonging to Plaintiff."
- 22 So again, they focus a theft from his
- 23 account to her account. And it's important to note
- 24 that they're saying that this entire scheme occurred
- 25 before the divorce, during the forthcoming divorce
- Page 13

- 1 when he was gone.
 - So again, at their best day it would be
- 3 prior to 2003, but from their own allegations, they're
- 4 saying that these properties she purchased, she got
- 5 with stolen money, which would place the theft prior
- 6 to 2000.
- 7 Now, this is -- excuse me one second.
- 8 Yes. I went through this one -- Plaintiff's
- 9 allegation of theft -- 18 and 19. Okay.
- 10 Paragraph 49. "The very timing of
- 11 Defendants' fraudulent ... scheme, when Plaintiff was
- 12 undergoing well-publicized personal problems ...
- 13 residing in Cuba for rehabilitation, was intended to
- 14 conceal ... the first real estate transaction
- 15 identified above took place in January [of] 2000,
- 16 after Plaintiff have [sic] left Argentina to Cuba, and
- 17 the transactions ... occurred on March 10th [sic],
- 18 March [sic]" -- those are the transaction I just
- 19 showed Your Honor. February 2001 and 2002 --
- 20 "occurred while Plaintiff was residing in Cuba and the
- 21 parties were still married."
- So they point that it had to have
- 23 occurred prior to 2000 and at most by 2002 because her
- 24 entire scheme happened while he was in Cuba, seeking
- 25 treatment for his drug addiction and his extramarital

4 (Pages 10 - 13)

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1 relationships.

And I point Your Honor that in the 3 opposition, they make various comments that should be

4 stricken from the Court regarding Mr. Maradona laying

5 on his deathbed, but it's very publicized and it's in

6 Ms. Villafane's deposition that during that time, he

7 was seeking rehabilitation for drug addiction and

8 fathered two children outside of the marriage. There

9 is no indication that he was on his deathbed during

10 this timeframe.

Now, let's look at the statute of 11

12 limitations in the state of Florida. The state of

13 Florida has a four-year statute of limitations for

14 their causes of action -- it's Florida Statute 9511.

15 Now, it says a cause of action accrues when the last

16 element constituting the cause of action occurs.

17 Now, I point specific to the Kipnis

18 case. This, Your Honor, is -- give me one second --

19 this is Tab No. 25 in the binder. And what the case

20 basically says is that the cause of action begins to

21 run when the injury is sustained and the law affords a

22 remedy.

23 So in this case, the statute of

24 limitations would run at the taking -- when the

25 alleged theft occurred, which by their own admission

1 deed stating single versus married.

None of those items -- neither the

3 MSJ [sic] 13 years later or the description of single

Page 16

Page 17

4 versus married on a deed -- were fraudulent

5 misrepresentations to Mr. Maradona that would result

6 in him not investigating the theft. So in order to

7 toll it, it would've have been related to the theft

8 itself -- why this money was missing and where it

9 went.

10 Specifically, Your Honor, what Florida

11 says is that an action founded on fraud must begin

12 within four years. In any event, if it's based on

13 fraud itself, it must begin within 12 years.

14 So the second argument is that, first,

15 we don't believe there's any record evidence of

16 tolling or misrepresentation, but even if there was,

17 Your Honor, Florida has a cap that's a hard stop at

18 12 years for any allegations of fraud.

So even if there were allegations of

20 fraud, it would be a 12-year stop. And if Your Honor

21 takes their own argument that the theft occurred prior

22 to 2000, that would be 2012. If Your Honor looks at

23 it in the best light and says, "well it could've been

24 by 2013," they would've had to file this case by

25 April 15th of 2015 and this case was filed in

1 must've occurred in 1999 for the first purchases or at 2 best by 2003.

Now, let me speak about the alleged

4 tolling. They spent quite some time in their 5 opposition, which we will discuss, alleging that

6 there's tolling of the statute of limitations. First

7 of all, under the state of Florida, tolling is only 8 relevant to allegations of fraud, meaning that there

9 is concealment around the theft itself.

Therefore what they would have to have 11 put forward for Your Honor to consider is in 1999 or

12 2000 or 2001 or 2002, Ms. Villafane concealed her

13 theft by, for example, transferring money to

14 third-party corporations or transferring money alleged

15 to have been paid for debt.

So in other words, the alleged fraud or 17 misrepresentation, which it's devoid in the entire

18 complaint of any allegations whatsoever of statements

19 she made -- but even if Your Honor will consider any

20 tolling of the statute of limitations, it had to have

21 been with misrepresentations regarding the theft.

22 What Plaintiff is relying on is

23 nondisclosure in 2013 -- 13 years later -- or the

24 potential deed, which I'll discuss at length -- Your

25 Honor heard arguments regarding this prior -- of the

1 December.

Again, our position is that there is no

3 record evidence that any theft occurred whatsoever,

4 but even if it did occur, it would be completely

5 barred by either the four-year statute of limitations

6 or if Your Honor believes that there's record evidence

7 of tolling, which there is not, based on what we've

8 reviewed as not in any of the record evidence before

9 the Court, that would still be a hard no in 2012 --

10 this case should've been filed.

Give me one second. Okay. And again,

12 Your Honor, this is just a timeline of what I

13 discussed. This is the separation. This is the first

14 purchases. This is the statute of limitations.

15 There's no way that this, under any -- honestly and

16 under any jurisdiction in the United States could this

17 case have been filed 15 years later.

18 I'm going to move Your Honor to part

19 two. So the second argument that we make for a motion

20 for summary judgment is that there's no material

21 dispute. So not only are the cases barred by the

22 affirmative defenses of statute of limitation, but

23 there is no material dispute because there are no

24 facts on the record.

25 In order for there to be facts on the

5 (Pages 14 - 17)

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1 record sufficient for a material dispute, the facts

- 2 have to support the actual elements of the causes of
- 3 action. So as Your Honor knows, obviously Florida
- 4 adopted the federal rule regarding summary judgment.
- 5 And what that rule says is that a summary judgment
- 6 should be granted when the record shows that there is
- 7 no genuine dispute as to material facts.
- And what the Court is looking at to
- 9 evaluate is what is a material fact -- it's a fact --
- 10 a sufficient showing of an essential element of the
- 11 cause of action which Plaintiff has the burden of
- 12 proof.
- 13 So in other words, it's not any fact.
- 14 It's what are the facts that are necessary to support
- 15 the cause of action, which in this case would be the
- 16 theft, the transfer, the date of theft, the manner in
- 17 which it occurred. What are those facts? Are they on
- 18 the record and are they disputed?
- And based on what Your Honor has in
- 20 front of you today, there are zero facts on the
- 21 record, much less any material facts that are
- 22 disputed.
- 23 I point the Court's attention to the
- 24 Walker case, which is a federal case that is citing
- 25 the Supreme Court case, which basically says that what

- 1 above, some of which I just went through with Your
- 2 Honor. So "thereforth" for their unjust enrichment,
- 3 they're using the same timeline. They're
- 4 incorporating the date of prior-to-2000 and to this
- 5 cause of action.
- And what they say is that this a cause
- 7 of action for unjust enrichment. "Plaintiff conferred
- 8 a benefit upon [the] Defendant [sic] in the form of
- 9 millions of dollars misappropriated by Defendant
- 10 Villafane." Defendant voluntarily accepted that
- 11 benefit and retained it and it would be inequitable
- 12 for her to keep it.
- 13 So what would need to be in evidence
- 14 for there to be material dispute as to unjust
- 15 enrichment? Well there would have to be proof that a
- 16 benefit was conferred on Ms. Villafane; that she knew
- 17 of that benefit; and that she retained it. The
- 18 elements of unjust enrichment is conferral of a
- 19 benefit, voluntarily accepted, and it would be an
- 20 equitable to accept it.
- 21 First of all, there's no allegations
- 22 whatsoever to substantiate the claim because there's
- 23 nothing in the complaint that says that it was
- 24 conferred on her, but there's no record evidence --
- 25 there could never be a material dispute because Your

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- 1 the court is really looking at on a motion for summary
- 2 judgment is that the mere scintilla of evidence
- 3 supporting the "nonmoving's" party's position will not
- 4 suffice.
- There must be enough of a showing that
- 6 a jury could reasonably find for that party. So in
- 7 other words, is there a material dispute? And is 8 there enough on this record that this could be
- 9 submitted to a jury?
- 10 And what Your Honor has, it's a record
- 11 that says, "we're owed millions of dollars" -- and
- 12 I'll go through to their demand for millions of
- 13 dollars -- "but we don't know where it came from, we
- 14 don't know how it happened, and we just believed it
- 15 happened because Ms. Villafane couldn't possibly have
- 16 any money on her own."
- 17 It's also a prehistoric argument. "My
- 18 ex-wife must've stolen my money because she could not 18 Your Honor. The manner of transfer or the date of
- 19 make any money of her own." So basically what
- 20 Mr. Maradona's declaration says, which I'll go through
- 21 in a moment.
- 22 Give me one second, Your Honor. Okay.
- 23 Okay. So we're going to start with Count I. This is
- 24 Unjust Enrichment. I point to the Court's
- 25 intention [sic] that they incorporate the allegations

- 1 Honor has zero record evidence that any benefit was 2 conferred on her, not only millions of dollars that
- 3 were conferred on her.
- Unjust enrichment, Your Honor, fails
- 5 because the materials elements -- the material facts
- 6 that Your Honor would be looking for on the record --
- 7 would be evidence of possession of funds. There's no
- 8 evidence that Mr. Maradona possessed these funds in
- 9 2000. The funds have to be identified. There's no
- 10 identification of funds.
- Your Honor would have to use a bank
- 12 account. By their own admission, money was
- 13 transferred from his account. There's no
- 14 identification of one bank account, no bank accounts
- 15 were exchanged in discovery, none are produced to the
- 16 Court.
- 17 The amounts have not been identified.
- 19 transfer, these would be facts that would have to be
- 20 on the record in order for them to be materially under
- 21 dispute and there's none.
- 22 Count II, Your Honor, is Breach of
- 23 Fiduciary Duty. And again, they incorporate the same
- 24 allegations, which means they're asserting that the
- 25 breach of the fiduciary duty occurred prior to 2000 or

6 (Pages 18 - 21)

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1 at best by 2003.

What they state is that this is an

- 3 action for fiduciary duty. "At all material times,
- 4 Defendant Villafane owed a fiduciary duty to Plaintiff
- 5 to refrain from misappropriating his funds, which he
- 6 entrusted her to manage."
- 7 "As a fiduciary, Ms. Villafane [sic]
- 8 held a position of trust and confidence ... owed [to]
- 9 Plaintiff a duty of care to maintain and preserve his
- 10 wealth and refrain from misappropriating [the
- 11 wealth]."
- "Defendant ... breached her ... duty to
- 13 Plaintiff by, among other things, misappropriating" --
- 14 again -- "millions of dollars ... [and] investing
- 15 [it] ... in real estate [in her own name]." So what
- 16 this doesn't have is what was the actual fiduciary
- 17 duty, what was the parameters of the fiduciary duty,
- 18 what were the amounts that were alleged to be stolen
- 19 that were a breach of the fiduciary duty.
- 20 So under the state of Florida, the
- 21 elements of fiduciary are existence of a duty itself,
- 22 breach of that duty, and damages that are directly
- 23 related to that breach.
- 24 But most importantly, I point to a
- 25 Florida Third DCA case -- the Abitbol case. And I

1 Breach of fiduciary duty fails

- 2 completely. There are no material allegations. The
- 3 count in the complaint, as Your Honor just reviewed
- 4 through the allegations and factual allegations,
- 5 claimed that the breach occurred in 2000. There is no
- 6 allegation of fiduciary duty or agreement in 2000.
- 7 There are none in the complaint and there are none in
- 8 the record before Your Honor.
- 9 There is zero evidence of allegation of 10 transfer of funds prior to the power of attorney. And
- 11 this is important because in their opposition,
- 12 Plaintiff points, "well the power of attorney proves
- 13 fiduciary duty."
- 14 First of all, that's insufficient under
- 15 Florida law. A general power of attorney is not the
- 16 parameters of a fiduciary agreement, but either way,
- 17 it's completely nonsensical because their allegations
- 18 say that she "stoled" millions of dollars from his
- 19 bank accounts prior to 2000 or at best by 2003.
- 20 So there is no way that a general power
- 21 of attorney in 2005 -- five years after the events
- 22 occurred -- could have been the basis of a fiduciary
- 23 duty. It doesn't make any sense.
- And in addition to that, she testified
- 25 to it. Your Honor only has one record. And she said,

Page 23

- 1 believe that's Tab 3, Your Honor. And what's most
- 2 important is that in the state of Florida, there can
- 3 be no breach of fiduciary duty, there can be no tort
- 4 actions against spouses for misappropriation of funds.
- Where there is no specific transaction
- 6 or agreement between spouses, the dissolution of a
- 7 marriage statute provides the exclusive remedy, where
- 8 one spouse has intentionally "dissipitated" marital
- 9 property.
- 10 Therefore -- and it makes sense because
- 11 if not, every divorce in the state of Florida would
- 12 have a tort action -- that unless there is an actual
- 13 agreement that says, "this is the parameters that my
- 14 spouse had to do -- that she had to run my business,
- 15 she had to deal with my fundraising, she had to handle
- 16 my athletic gear" -- whatever the allegations are from
- 17 Mr. Maradona -- there would've had to be an actual
- 18 agreement either in writing or evidenced through
- 19 circumstantial evidence and factual support that
- 20 established what were the parameters of her fiduciary
- 21 duty outside of the confidential relationship of
- 22 marriage.
- Florida law does not recognize any tort
- 24 for breach of fiduciary duty based on "dissipitation"
- 25 of marital assets.

- Page 25
- 1 as I said earlier, "this was his suggestion because he 2 couldn't fly to Florida. It was after our divorce and
- 3 I never used it." There's no evidence on the record
- 4 that she used it in any capacity.
- So despite the fact that it's a
- 6 nonsensical argument because it cannot predate the
- 7 alleged fiduciary duty, the only evidence before the
- 8 Court is that it was never used. There's nothing
- 9 further. There's no record evidence that that was
- 10 ever used.
- 11 Conversion, Your Honor. This is
- 12 Count III for Conversion. Again, they reiterate the
- 13 same paragraph -- meaning that the conversion occurred
- 14 prior 2000 or at best by 2003. "This is an action for
- 15 conversion."
- "On multiple occasion [sic], Plaintiff
- 17 has, in writing or otherwise, demanded ... Defendant
- 18 Villafane return ... millions of dollars [that] she
- 19 misappropriated."
- 20 "Upon Plaintiff's [sic] demand [sic]
- 21 the return of the [sic] funds, Defendant ... had no
- 22 legal ... right to it [sic]." So she never returned
- 23 the money.
- "Despite this [sic] demands, Defendant
- 25 Villafane has refused and [sic] failed to return

Page 26 Page 28

1 the [sic] funds."

"As a result of this [a] wrongful

3 'deparation' [sic] of his property, Plaintiff has

4 sustained damages." That is the totality of their

5 allegations on conversion, along with the general

6 allegations that we discussed earlier.

It doesn't identify what was the 8 property converted, in what manner the property was

9 converted, when or the amount, besides their general

10 statement that millions of dollars were converted.

In the state of Florida, the elements

12 for conversion are wrongful dominion of another's

13 property inconsistent with their ownership. What is

14 pivotal to this entire argument is that money can only

15 be the basis for conversion -- and this is money can

16 be the subject of conversion so long as it's

17 consistent with specific money capable of

18 identification.

19 To be proper subject of conversion,

20 there must be an obligation to keep intact or deliver

21 the specific money in question. Money that must be

22 identified. So under the state of Florida, in order

23 for there to be conversion of money -- that's not

24 property -- it needs to be money that is identifiable,

25 that is kept in the hands of the individual for a

Page 27

1 specific purpose, that is not comingled.

Your Honor has no facts -- therefore no 3 material dispute -- about what the money was. There's

4 not even one account identified. The amounts are not

5 identified. It fails completely. There's no material

6 dispute as to conversion.

As Your Honor is viewing, we've listed 8 everything that's pending and would be a material fact

9 for this count, which is evidence that Mr. Maradona

10 possessed the funds. You can't have conversion unless

11 you identify, "I had this money sitting in this

12 account, segregated, not comingled prior to 2000."

13 It was transferred to Ms. Villafane in

14 some manner or through a third party. What are the

15 amounts that are alleged to be taken? What are the

16 dates and the manner? Therefore conversion fails, as

17 there are no facts in evidence for Your Honor to even

18 consider if there's a material dispute.

Count IV, Your Honor, is Constructive

20 Fraud. And this goes hand in hand with the fiduciary

21 duty -- that is not allowed in the state of Florida,

22 but let's look at their allegations. Again they

23 incorporate same allegations. So we're looking at the

24 same dates -- prior to 2000 or at best by 2003.

25 "Defendant Villafane and Plaintiff had 1 a confidential ... fiduciary relationship" -- well

2 we've already discussed that that's not true because

3 there's no agreement and Florida doesn't recognize

4 this -- "whereby Defendant Villafane owed a duty to

5 Plaintiff to exercise care with respect to ...

6 handling ... his finances."

7 "Defendant Villafane abused her

8 confidential relationship with Plaintiff by, among

9 other things, misappropriating" -- again -- "millions

10 of dollars and [sic] funds for her personal use."

"As a result ... Defendant

12 Villafane [sic] abused [sic] ... her confidential or

13 fiduciary relationship."

"It would be inequitable for her [sic]

15 to retain [this profit]." The elements of

16 constructive fraud are -- constructive fraud

17 "occurreds" when a duty under a confidential or

18 fiduciary relationship have been abuse. And this is

19 the Levy v. Levy case. It's a Third DCA case,

20 which -- and I point because the Levy v. Levy case is

21 citing to a Fifth DCA case -- Beers v. Beers.

22 And what this case says is but there is

23 simply tort claim for constructive fraud for concealed

24 "dissipitation" of marital assets because it

25 joints [sic] the same theory that the only remedy for

Page 29

1 "dissipitation" of marital assets is the marital

2 statue [sic].

There is no recognition of a fiduciary

4 duty, a confidential relationship, or constructive

5 fraud in the state of Florida for "dissipitation" of

6 marital assets unless there is a separate agreement,

7 which I reviewed the case law in that just a few

8 minutes ago.

There would have to be a separate

10 agreement. And if there is no agreement, there has to

11 be facts in the record, circumstantial events [sic],

12 or testimony that would indicate what is her scope

13 outside her personal relationship with her husband?

14 What is her scope? What was she supposed to be doing

15 and how was this breached?

This element completely fails, Your

17 Honor, because the material facts that Your Honor

18 would be looking at would be is there an agreement,

19 what's the scope of that agreement, what were the

20 funds that were taken, how was it breached, from what

21 account, in what manner, and what are the amounts?

22 And none of this is in the record for

23 Your Honor to consider if there even is a material

24 dispute.

25 Lastly, Your Honor, and in the

8 (Pages 26 - 29)

Page 30 Page 32 We don't have any record before Your

2 Honor that would indicate that there's a theft then

4 jury. No reasonable jury could ever decide on the

6 material facts needed to support the causes of action

There's no material facts to support

10 Maradona held the funds, Your Honor -- of liquid funds 11 to make these purchases prior to 2000. No material

No material facts to support that

12 facts to support the funds were ever transferred to

15 regarding -- there are no material facts to support

16 the dates that the funds were stolen and no material

17 facts to support the manner in which the funds were

So not only are there no material

Now, instead, Plaintiff provides the

18 stolen. And we don't even know the amounts.

21 pled anywhere in the complaint. It is an

23 on these causes of action as alleged.

5 merits of this case. The record is devoid of any

7 and the allegations are not contained in the

3 there's no way this case could ever be submitted for a

1

9

14

8 complaint.

13 Villafane in any way.

1 alternative, they move for equitable accounting. And

- 2 this is -- again -- same dates. They infer that it's
- 3 the same dates. They want an equitable accounting of
- 4 all her accounts, in the alternative.
- This is only allowed in the state of
- 6 Florida if the actual damages are insufficient. They
- 7 have to prove in the state of Florida that there's a
- 8 confidential relationship of a complex nature. They
- 9 don't allege this in the complaint. It is not argued
- 10 in any manner.
- 11 These are the elements of equitable
- 12 accounting. The parties shared a fiduciary
- 13 relationship or that the questioned transaction are
- 14 complex. So first of all, we've already established
- 15 that there are no allegations of a fiduciary
- 16 relationship. There's no scope. There's no
- 17 agreement.
- 18 But there's no record evidence of a
- 19 complex transaction or complex transactions in an
- 20 account when we don't even have a bank account. Your 20 facts, but none of these facts are pled. They're not
- 21 Honor does not have in the record any bank accounts,
- 22 any proof of a complex transaction, any proof that
- 23 there's a complexity in her managing of his accounts
- 24 because there's zero evidence that she ever managed
- 25 anything for him outside of her relationship as his
 - Page 31
- 1 which Defendants' position is that it's insufficient
- 2 and inadmissible. There is no factual evidence to
- 3 support this case.
- So equitable accounting, Your Honor,
- 3 fails on all counts because the basic fact that Your
- 4 Honor would need in the record to evaluate a material
- 5 dispute do not exist. They're not part of the record.
- Lastly, Your Honor, I'm moving to the
- 7 third argument. Now, our third basis for a motion for
- 8 summary judgment is that the pleadings are
- 9 insufficient. And this goes hand in hand with what I
- 10 just argued before the Court that there's no material
- 11 dispute, but in addition to the no material dispute,
- 12 as they're pled, they're insufficient under Florida
- 13 law.

1 wife.

- 14 There's zero evidence of theft in which
- 15 a jury can reasonably find for Plaintiff. And this is
- 16 the Walker case. It's a federal case. It's an
- 17 Eleventh Circuit case. And it's perfect. It's a good
- 18 example because it's based on a summary judgment.
- And what the court reasoned in that
- 20 case is that even though there's a factual dispute --
- 21 in that case there's a factual dispute, because
- 22 there's no actual evidence of the theft on the record,
- 23 it's an impossibility for this to be submitted to a
- 24 jury. There's no material dispute, just like in this
- 25 case.

25 Court with what they consider to be record evidence,

22 impossibility for this case to proceed on the merits

- Now, one of the things that Plaintiff
- 5 points to in their opposition is Maradona's
- 6 declaration. And I point to the Court that his
- 7 deposition was never taken because of continued
- 8 objections from Plaintiff to take the deposition. So
- 9 we do not have the benefit of his deposition. We have
- 10 to rely on two declarations that he previously
- 11 provided on other motions to the Court.
- 12 But this is their record for the Court.
- 13 "It appears that Claudia may have diverted payments
- 14 under contracts she entered into on my behalf." So
- 15 conspiracy theory number one is not, "money came out
- 16 of my bank account and it was millions of dollars and
- 17 she told me X, Y, and Z to conceal it."
- 18 He says in his declaration she "may
- 19 have diverted payments on accounts [sic] on my behalf
- 20 to ... outside of Argentina to [sic] the United States
- 21 or [she] may have misappropriated funds from bank
- 22 accounts held outside of Argentina."
- 23 This is the most important point.
- 24 "Ultimately, only Claudia knows where she obtained the
- 25 funds ... to perpetrate her fraud." There is no

9 (Pages 30 - 33)

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1 indication those funds were obtained from the accounts | 1

2 identified.

So not only does he say that, "I have

4 no idea." This is the argument. "I have no idea how

5 it happened. It could've been this theory or that

6 theory, but I have no proof that it came from my

7 accounts."

So as Your Honor reviewed earlier,

9 that's the basis of the complaint. The complaint

10 says, "millions of dollars were stolen from my

11 accounts, diverted to her accounts." And his

12 declaration says, "I have no idea how this happened.

13 Only she knows. And I know it didn't come from my

14 accounts."

15 And it's important because they point

16 to Ms. Villafane's deposition. Ms. Villafane's

17 deposition, which is part of the record -- Your Honor

18 will review it. She says, "no. Yeah." She knows how

19 she spend the money. She says, "I paid for these

20 transactions from my personal money, through money

21 that I worked, and through money that my family gave

22 me. And I financed it."

23 That is the only facts on the record

24 because this is not a fact. This is a speculation and

25 an affirmation that the money did not come from his

unts 1 it should not be considered by the Court today on

2 weighing the record on the motion for summary

3 judgment.

4 Okay. I want to address the issue of

5 the public records. Previous to the opposition, they

6 relied heavily on a financial audit, which we now know

7 never occurred, and no financial records. They now

8 identify in their opposition that it was actually the

9 public record search and the deeds that first resulted

10 in Mr. Maradona discovering this alleged fraud.

But we would like to point the Court's

12 attention that there was significant arguments on this

13 point. And Your Honor made findings regarding the

14 deeds. Previously, there was a motion to amend for

15 punitive damages. Your Honor entered an order denying

16 the motion to amend and made various findings on the

17 record regarding the deeds.

8 This is Your Honor's order. "While

19 Plaintiff [sic] heavily 'relieds' on the deeds and

20 mortgage as a basis for punitive damages, Villafane's

21 erroneous civil status in the purchase documents is

22 not relevant to the allegations [sic] [or] causes of

23 action [sic] -- which all stem from allegations of

24 theft.

25

What is relevant is that [sic] she used

Page 35

1 account.

Next, they point to the so-called public record. And I'll explain that on the next

4 slide, but I would like to point to the Court's

5 attention that under the Florida Rules of Civil

6 Procedure regarding summary judgment, no personal --

7 affidavits must be on personal knowledge, not

8 speculation.

9 And it is well-established that

10 affidavits such as those presented, if they're based

11 on speculation or summaries, they're inadmissible to a

12 jury. And if it's inadmissible to a jury, it's

13 inadmissible in a motion for summary judgment.

Mr. Maradona's declarations are based

15 on speculation. They're also based, Your Honor -- and

16 it should be stricken -- on his comments that he

17 relied on Morla's financial audit, which Your Honor

18 has struck, to discover this fraud. So he is basing

19 his knowledge on hearsay from an individual that Your

20 Honor has found never conducted a financial audit.

21 And the other portion of his

22 declaration says, "I think this is what may have

23 happened." This is not personal knowledge. This is

24 not evidence. This is not something that a jury would

25 ever hear. There would be a hearsay objection. And

Page 37

Page 36

1 marital assets or nonmarital assets and this cannot be 2 inferred from a [sic] real estate transactions, as the

3 record is devoid of any financial documents

4 evidencing ... funds [which] were ever in Maradona's

5 possession or any potential theft by Villafane."

And this was Your Honor's finding

7 regarding whether there was sufficient evidence for a

8 motion for punitive damages. This was briefed

9 extensively and argued before the Court and this was

10 Your Honor's finding on the motion for punitive

11 damages, which addresses the arguments of this alleged

12 fraud around the deeds.

13 It's really nonsensical because the

14 only way that you could toll a statute of limitations

15 is if the person relied on the fraud. In other words,

16 if when she bought that, she gave him the deed and

17 said, "look, it says single. I bought this with my

18 money. I bought this with money from my career."

That would be a misrepresentation that

20 he relied on to not investigate the fraud, but the

21 fact that there's a misstatement about her marital

22 status while she's separated in a public record could

23 never be sufficient to toll a statute of limitations

24 in the state of Florida.

The next argument that Plaintiff makes

10 (Pages 34 - 37)

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25

1 is the MSA. And this is going to be very brief, Your 1 attempt to perpetuate a breach of the agreement as 2 Honor, because we believe it speaks for itself, but 2 circumstantial evidence in this case. It's an 3 they point to the fact that the potential 4 nondisclosure of the properties is a breach of the 5 MSA. First of all, those are two separate 7 arguments. If there is a nondisclosure of a property, 8 that's a breach of a marital settlement agreement. 9 The nondisclosure of property could never equate theft 10 13 years before. 11 Second of all, there's a remedy for 12 that. There's breach of the marital settlement 13 agreement in Argentina. They haven't done that. They 14 abided by the agreement. They haven't sought to 15 reverse the agreement. There's no indication that 16 this is an invalid agreement. They were both 17 represented by counsel. It was approved by the 18 foreign court. It is valid and enforceable. Additionally, Your Honor, I would like 20 to point -- which is one of our affirmative defenses 21 and raised in the motion for summary judgment -- that 22 the MSA specifically states Maradona and Villafane 23 expressly waive the right to make a claim with regard 24 to the settlement and allocating of assets 25 compromising the community property. Page 39 1

3 absurdity. 4 Okay. Your Honor, in closing on the 5 motion for summary judgment, what Your Honor has to 6 evaluate is what is the record evidence. Is that 7 record evidence material facts that support the causes 8 of action? And we've established that it is not. 9 This is a case that the foundation of the entire case 10 is theft. 11 It is nonsensical that after eight 12 years of litigation, Your Honor does not have before 13 him that evidence that Maradona held the money. Your 14 Honor does not have one proof of transfer to 15 Villafane. Your Honor does not have the actual date 16 that millions of dollar were stolen from him. They 17 have no idea the date of when. Your Honor does not 18 have the amounts of the money. These are the facts that should be on 20 the record, which then Your Honor can evaluate, "well 21 there's material disputes." There are none. There's 22 no material disputes here. They should be granted as 23 a matter of law. In closing, Your Honor, we ask that 25 Your Honor grant the motion for summary judgment on 1 all counts on three bases. It is barred by the 2 statute of limitations. There is no material dispute. 3 And every cause of action is insufficient as pled.

And they declared they have been 2 completely compensated between themselves with regard 3 to potential differences that may exist with regard to 4 the assets allocated to each. And this is the MSA 4 Thank you, Your Honor. 5 Part III. It starts at Tab 3, Your Honor. 5 6 Further, MSA states -- and this is the 7 7 main portion -- "The parties as a whole declare that 8 Honor. 8 the aforementioned assets have been the only ones 9 9 compromising [sic] the undivided assets of husband and 10 wife and that [the] others that could have [been] 10 start? You okay? 11 11 compromised [sic] ... have been divested as a whole 12 and ... price received in halves." 12 13 So they acknowledge in the actual MSA 14 14 that they're claiming is the so-called nondisclosure 15 15 that these people had been living separate lives for 16 13 years. Mr. Maradona had three children and a 16 though. Just one second. 17 17 separate relationship. They each had separate 18 accounts, their own money. And certainly anything 19 that they did not acknowledge they admit had already 19 20 Honor. 20 been divided. 21 So there is absolutely no initial [sic] 22 of any concealment from Ms. Villafane whatsoever in 22 23 23 this agreement. And if they think that they she 24 breached the agreement, they need to go to Argentina 24

THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Amador. Reply, Mr. Rodriguez? MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning, Your THE COURT: You need a break before we MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm fine, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. MR. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. THE COURT: Go ahead. Go ahead. MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'll share my screen THE COURT: You need a break before 18 Mr. Rodriguez starts, Ms. Amador? You're okay? MS. AMADOR: Yes. I'm okay, Your THE COURT: All right. MS. AMADOR: Thank you. THE COURT: No problem. MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I've got you 25 back, Your Honor.

11 (Pages 38 - 41)

25 and file a breach of this agreement. They can't

Page 40

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	1	Page 42		Page 44
	1	Your Honor, we have been before Your		appear
		Honor on various hearings. The one that we spent the	2	
		most time with is the hearing on the motion for order to show cause in which Your Honor entered a sanctions	3	
		order.	5	•
	6		6	THE COURT: Okay. My question is
		There is a pending motion for reconsideration that is scheduled for hearing on	~	Ms. Amadora indicated to me that she had tried to take
		October 11th. And the argument presented by counsel		a deposition of Mr. Maradona and that she was
		confirms to me at least that that reconsideration		consistently her efforts were rebuffed or repelled
		motion should be considered because Your Honor's		or refused or whatever. That's what I
		sanction order is being blown out of proportion.	11	MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I'm going to put
	12	Your Honor struck specific language in		that in context, Your Honor, because it was when
		the complaint regarding an audit of finances performed		Judge Ruiz was presiding over this division.
- 1		by Mr. Morla and that's taken to an absurd place where	14	
- 1		there's no way that because of that finding, the	15	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
		defendant's taking the position that Mr. Maradona knew	16	certain point by Mr. Maradona to avoid his deposition,
		of this fraud before the MSA was filed as a matter of	1	there was a hearing that was held under seal where his
:	18	fact and law of this case.	18	doctor traveled here to explain the reasons why he
	19	So at the end of my argument today,	19	medically could not sit for a deposition at that time.
12	20	Your Honor, I am going to ask that at a minimum, you	20	The judge never ruled on that motion.
2	21	reserve ruling until we have the hearing on the motion	21	The COVID crisis occurred. And then Mr. Maradona
2	22	for reconsideration.	22	died, Your Honor. If Judge Ruiz would've ruled that
	23	THE COURT: I don't know how you got a	l .	he was not competent or able to sit for deposition, it
		date on the rehearing because I usually don't consider		would not have occurred. If she would've ruled that
1	25	those. I mean I pay attention and I devote my time	25	he was able to sit for deposition, it would've
		Page 43		Page 45
		and attention exclusively, like I'm doing this		occurred. Instead, Mr. Maradona died in the
		morning, to your case.		intervening months between that.
	3	MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure.	3	In all candor, Your Honor, we did
	4	THE COURT: And once I hear it for		attempt to avoid the deposition for Mr. Maradona's
		hours, I'm not going to sit there and hear it for		health reasons. We presented the evidence of the
		hours again. I very rarely do that. I mean I'm		testimony of his doctor at an evidentiary hearing.
		telling you I don't know what happened, but go ahead.	l .	And Judge Ruiz never got around to finalizing that
	8	MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. I don't know. I was not aware of Your Honor's position on those. I do		hearing because of COVID and other things, Your Honor. And then Mr. Maradona passed away.
		believe that there's a valid for a reconsideration.	10	THE COURT: Okay. Okay. Thank you.
	11	THE COURT: Okay.	11	MR. RODRIGUEZ: So, Your Honor, but the
	12	MR. RODRIGUEZ: And I do anticipate		presentation by the defendants requires this Court to
		presenting those arguments later. That's not the only		pretend that Ms. Villafane does not exist and that
		reason why Your Honor should not grant summary		Ms. Villafane did not purchase condominiums in Florida
- 1		judgment today.		with funds that she could not identify herself.
	16	THE COURT: Okay.	16	While I understand their desire to
	17	MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'm about to get it	17	point to the lines of Mr. Maradona's declaration in
	18	THE COURT: Okay.		which he says, "I don't know where Ms. Villafane took
	19	MR. RODRIGUEZ: Your Honor, the		the funds from, but I do know that they could've only
12	20	argument presented by Defendants presents a one-sided		come from me because I was the only one that earned an
		view of the entire record of this case. It presents		income in our family and in our household, because I
2	22	lines cherry-picked from a declaration by Mr. Maradona		
12	23	as the only potential evidence in this case	23	because I did not allow her to use the funds to enrich
	24	THE COURT: Is it true that no	24	herself."
2	25	deposition was ever given because he refused to	25	I understand why they think that that's

12 (Pages 42 - 45)

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1 speculation, but there's another side to that coin.

- 2 We've asked Ms. Villafane repeatedly to identify the
- 3 source of funds used to purchase those condominiums.
- 4 And while her story first started with an, "I do not
- 5 recall," it then shifted to, "my parents several years
- 6 earlier won some money in a casino and gave it to me
- 7 and that's what I used."
- 8 And then at her deposition she
- 9 testified at length -- a significant part of the
- 10 deposition was diverted to identifying the source of
- 11 funds. She first testified that the only source of
- 12 funds were the funds provided by her parents.
- 13 She claims that the funds were provided
- 14 to her in cash in Argentina. And she claims that the
- 15 funds would've been transported in cash to the United
- 16 States in increments under \$10,000.00 to avoid U.S.
- 17 reporting requirements.
- 18 And when asked how she accomplished
- 19 that, she confirmed that she personally did not
- 20 deliver funds to United States and that she believes
- 21 that some of her friends would've done these
- 22 structured transactions designed to avoid currency
- 23 reporting requirements in the United States.
- When asked how much her parents gave
- 25 her, her discovery responses say it was at least
- Page 47
- 1 \$50,000.00. In deposition, she said, "I'm not sure.
- 2 Not sure if I used those funds for each purchase. I'm
- 3 not sure how much in total it was. It was maybe
- 4 fifty, maybe seventy-five, maybe ninety-six thousand."
- 5 She does not really know, Your Honor.
- The significance of that, Your Honor,
- 7 is that the summary judgment standard that the Court
- 8 must follow today to determine whether summary
- 9 judgment is proper as requested by Defendants is
- 10 whether a reasonable jury could find for the
- 11 plaintiffs in this case as to that issue. And that's
- 12 one of the two overreaching and overriding factual
- 13 issues in this case.
- 14 And based on that testimony --
- 15 Ms. Villafane's inability to concretely identify the
- 16 source of funds, to give a credible explanation for
- 17 how those funds made it to United States, where those
- 18 funds were deposited, how they made it to complete a
- 19 closing -- a reasonable jury could surely find that
- 20 that testimony is not credible, that there's no
- 21 evidence that those funds were actually ever
- 22 provided --
- 23 THE COURT: Well, Mr. Rodriguez, is
- 24 that your burden or Ms. Amador's burden?
- MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's my burden to prove

- 1 beyond a preponderance of the evidence that the funds
- 2 used were Mr. Maradona's. It doesn't -- I have to
- 3 have Mr. Maradona's bank statement. It also could
- 4 mean that Ms. Villafane's explanation is simply not
- 5 credible.
- 6 The funds had to make it into a bank
- 7 account in the United States. She has not turned over
- 8 a single bank statement reflecting the funds she used
- 9 to purchase the properties. She has not turned over a
- 10 single wire transfer confirmation. And she, frankly,
- 11 cannot explain how she got a hundred thousand, two
- 12 hundred thousand, three hundred thousand -- whatever
- 13 amount she brought into the United States -- into this
- 14 country.
- 15 She confirmed there's only one
- 16 source -- cash provided to her in Argentina. And that
- 17 the only way she would've brought it in is by
- 18 structuring illegal transactions to deliver the money
- 19 into United States.
- A reasonable jury will hear those
- 21 circumstances and can determine that that story is
- 22 either not credible or that story confirms that
- 23 Ms. Villafane's hiding something. And what is she
- 24 hiding? That the actual source of these funds were
- 25 Mr. Maradona's funds that he entrusted to her that she
 - Page 49
- 1 manipulated and she transferred out from accounts
- 2 outside of Argentina, like Mr. Maradona says in his
- 3 declaration, and into United States to buy
- 4 condominiums.
- condominiums.
- 5 To add to the lack of credibility in 6 Ms. Villafane's position, there was the deeds and the
- 7 mortgages and the mortgage application regarding these
- 8 purchases in which for a very good reason we believe,
- o purchases in which for a very good reason we believe
- 9 but for reasons that she cannot explain, misrepresent
- 10 her marital status.
- 1 A reasonable jury could determine that
- 12 the misrepresented marital status in those deeds and
- 13 in those mortgages and in that mortgage application
- 14 are an example of her again attempting to conceal that
- 15 the funds she is using to purchase these properties
- 16 were Mr. Maradona's funds.
- 17 These are things that, if presented to
- 18 a jury, could go in either direction, Your Honor. It
- 19 could either be 51 percent in favor of the plaintiff,
- 20 which would establish our burden, or they could be
- 21 51 percent in favor of the defendant, which would mean
- 22 that I'd failed to meet my burden or the plaintiffs
- 23 failed to meet their burden and they would win.
- But a reasonable jury could determine
- 25 either one of those. And therefore summary judgment

Page 50 1 is improper to the extent that they're asking this 1 marriage is a more-credible explanation for how these 2 Court to determine that there's no evidence on the 2 transactions occurred and that's that she took 3 record of the source of funds. 3 Mr. Maradona's funds and used them for her own 4 There is evidence that's just simply 4 purpose. If you want to add to that, Your Honor, 5 not credible by Ms. Villafane regarding her used of 6 we had this discussion at the last hearing on the 6 funds. There is evidence by Mr. Maradona in his 7 punitive damages motion. There was a motive to do 7 declarations regarding the fact that it could've only 8 been his funds because he's the only one that earned 8 this. Mr. Maradona is in a hospital in Cuba, at a 9 an income during their marriage. 9 rehab facility in Cuba after being hospitalized in 10 A reasonable jury could determine that 10 Uruguay when this fraud starts. Mr. Maradona and Ms. Villafane are 11 in either direction, Your Honor. And summary judgment 12 separated. Mr. Maradona has children outside the 12 would be improper under those circumstances. 13 They advanced that argument -- and to 13 marriage. Ms. Villafane did all of this to conceal 14 assets from either Mr. Maradona or Mr. Maradona's 14 be clear, Your Honor, the concealment didn't go beyond 15 deeds and mortgages and a mortgage application. In 15 other heirs in the event that something really went 16 her Argentine tax filing, which is something that was 16 south with his health, Your Honor. 17 17 established in her deposition, Ms. Villafane again So a reasonable jury can look into that 18 motivation for doing this and determine, yes, the 18 failed to disclose her real estate holdings in Florida 19 when she was required to under Argentine law because 19 funds had to have been Mr. Maradona's and the reason 20 she went to such great lengths to concealed it was to 20 there's an entry on each of those tax filings. 21 avoid claims by heirs, claims by Mr. Maradona in the And there's property tax filings, 22 there's income tax filings, all of which requires you 22 divorce for those funds or those properties, 23 et cetera. 23 identify your assets held abroad. And Ms. Villafane

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24

25 which is one of the two most important facts at issue 1 here and which, frankly, carries the day with regards 2 to all of their arguments as to Mr. Maradona's claims 3 themselves, a reasonable jury could find for 4 Mr. Maradona. If a reasonable jury determines that 6 the funds belong to Mr. Maradona, a reasonable jury 7 could render a verdict as to each of Mr. Maradona's 8 claims asserting a theft of those funds. And 9 therefore summary judgment is improper in that 10 context, Your Honor. The second question that this Court is 12 asked to consider is whether Mr. Maradona knew of this 13 fraud prior to executing the marital settlement 14 agreement. And the significance of that is because 15 once he knew or should've known of the fraud, the 16 statute of limitations starts to run for each of his 17 claims. 18 And the response to that is that 19 there's ample evidence suggesting that not only did 20 Mr. Maradona not know about this fraudulent scheme

So on the issue of the source of funds.

1 Because she deliberately chose not to. 2 In the martial settlement agreement 3 when it was signed, there was not a single mention of 4 the condominiums, of the millions of dollars in 5 profits that were derived from the condominiums. 6 There's not a single mention of it. And yet they 7 contend that that's not an active concealment. It's 8 because there was some kind of signed verbal agreement 9 between Ms. Villafane and Mr. Maradona. 10 A reasonable jury could view 11 Ms. Villafane's uncredible explanation for how she 12 purchased the condominiums; her acts of concealment 13 regarding her marital status, regarding her assets 14 held abroad in her Argentine tax filings, in the 15 martial settlement agreement -- by which time she had 16 millions of dollars from these transactions and had 17 condominiums that she owned and entities that she 18 owned in Florida -- a reasonable jury could see that 19 evidence, could hear that evidence, and determine that 20 the reasons she went to those length is because she 21 was concealing that the funds used to purchase these 22 condominiums were Mr. Maradona's funds and that 23 Mr. Maradona's explanation that he was the only one 24 who earned an income during their marriage and that he 25 entrusted her to manage his finances during their

24 also failed -- them. Wasn't because she didn't

25 understand the line in the tax filings that say that.

21 carried out in Florida but that Ms. Villafane had gone 22 to great lengths to conceal it over a significant 23 period of time. 24 At a minimum, a reasonable jury could 25 find that Mr. Maradona had no way of knowing and did 14 (Pages 50 - 53) 1 not know about the fraud. The only evidence in this 2 record. Your Honor, that can be used to confirm when 3 Mr. Maradona knew about this fraud is the Pastor 4 report, as we describe it in our response to summary

5 judgment motion.

And in that report, Mr. Pastor -- a 7 Florida attorney -- prepares a memorandum in which he 8 describes the real estate transactions that

9 Ms. Villafane had carried on in Florida. The date of 10 that report is August of 2014.

That is the only piece of evidence in 12 this record, Your Honor, that establishes when 13 Mr. Maradona should have or definitely did know of the 13 not start to run. 14 fraud -- August of 2014. Before that, all we have

15 acts of concealment followed by acts of concealment

16 and followed by more acts of concealment.

Again, there's deeds and mortgages and 17 18 mortgage applications that falsely indicate that 19 Ms. Villafane is a single woman. There are tax 20 filings in which these assets are disclose for a

21 decade in Argentina, concealing again her activities 22 in Florida.

There's a marital settlement agreement 24 that depicts Ms. Villafane as having no assets to 25 distribute and of having earned no income and

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1 describes Mr. Maradona's income during his playing 2 career: it describes Mr. Maradona's assets, of which

3 half of them were going to be distributed to

4 Ms. Villafane; and contains -- again -- a false

5 declaration by Ms. Villafane that these are the only 6 assets accumulated by the parties that have not been

7 divided in halves.

That is simply false, Your Honor. As 9 of August of 2013, when that marital settlement 10 agreement was signed, Ms. Villafane had purchased six 11 condominiums and sold three of them and have sold a 12 fourth one about a year later, Your Honor.

13 So by that point she had other assets. 14 None of those assets had ever been distributed between

15 the parties in halves, as she declares in the marital

16 settlement agreement. And, frankly, none of them are

17 mentioned in the agreement. Why? Because she is

18 concealing them.

Now, Your Honor, these are my 20 arguments, but these are definitely facts or

21 determinations that a reasonable jury can make as to

22 when Mr. Maradona learned of the fraud, when he

23 could've learned about the fraud, what Ms. Villafane

24 did to conceal the fraud --25

THE COURT: But isn't 12 years the cap

1 on the repose statute?

MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's for repose 3 statute that applies only to one claim --

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THE COURT: I understand that. I 5 understand that. But that's what I'm asking you.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: And yes, Your Honor, 7 but the cause of action for fraud -- and this is in

8 the Falsetto v. Liss case that we cite for a different 9 issue is -- is when the defendant knew or should've

10 known of the fraud. It doesn't accrue until then. If

11 you cannot possibly know of the fraud before then, the 12 statute of repose or the statute of limitations does

And further, Your Honor, there is an 15 equitable principle of fraudulent concealment that 16 would toll a -- the beginning of the statute of 17 limitations, it tolls the accrual of the cause of 18 action. And in this case, Your Honor, there is

19 significant evidence of a concealment of these causes 20 of action.

21 There's definitely enough evidence that 22 a reasonable jury can find that Ms. Villafane 23 concealed these causes of action. There were

24 misrepresentations regarding her marital status --

25 through her failure to assert these in their tax

Page 57 1 filings, through her failure to disclose these in the

2 marital settlement agreement, through her false

3 declaration in the marital settlement agreement that

4 these are the only assets that have not been divided. All of that, a reasonable jury can find

6 is concealment of these causes of action, thereby

7 tolling the statute of limitations and the accrual of 8 this cause of action. And at that point, Your Honor,

9 the Court could -- the jury may find against us on

10 that, but a reasonable jury can surely find that there 11 was fraudulent concealment of these assets.

12 There's a second element to the

13 fraudulent concealment and that's that there's a duty 14 to disclose. Mr. Maradona's statements are clear. He

15 entrusted his wife to manage the finances for his

16 benefit. And he did not authorized her to use his

17 assets for her own benefit or to enrich herself. 18 That creates a duty to say, "hey, by

19 the way, I've used your funds and I've invested them

20 for my purposes, for my benefit, to enrich only me."

21 She didn't do that. She instead consistently and

22 repeatedly misrepresented the facts.

23 Your Honor, we've asked her to show us 24 bank records. We've asked her to show us where the 25 money came from that she claimed she got from her

15 (Pages 54 - 57)

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1 parents. This uncredible explanation that in lots

- 2 than 10.000, she had tens or hundreds of thousands of
- 3 dollars delivered to United States is remarkable.
- 4 One, it's an admission that she was
- 5 structured transactions to avoid the reporting
- 6 requirements. In her deposition, I told her, "you
- 7 could have come in with those funds and reported it.
- 8 Correct?" And she said, "yes," but she chose not to.
- 9 She chose to supposedly give it to her friends and so
- 10 on.
- 11 I asked her to identify the friends,
- 12 Your Honor. "Who brought in these funds for you?"
- 13 She could not concretely tell me the name of a single
- 14 person that brought those funds for her. She named
- 15 one person and then waffled and said, "I'm not sure
- 16 she did. I'm not sure how many times she did it or
- 17 whether she did it or what amounts she did it."
- 18 Your Honor, there's a significant
- 19 effort by Ms. Villafane to conceal this fraud and the
- 20 reason being was that she was using Mr. Maradona's
- 21 funds. She was committing a fraud. And she was
- 22 trying to avoid Mr. Maradona -- who cannot travel to
- 23 United States, who cannot get a visa United States,
- 24 who had never lived in the United States -- from
- 25 determining that these proceeds were his funds and

- 1 children, whom are now full-aged. It explains that
- 2 they were divorced on April 15, 2003. And it provides

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- 3 a description of their incomes and of their assets.
- And then if you look on the -- I think
- 5 it's the second page of the English translation, it
- 6 says "As is publicly and well known, DAM" -- meaning
- 7 Diego Armando Maradona -- "before and during the
- 8 duration of the marriage to CRV had a successful
- 9 career as a professional player in European clubs --
- 10 Naples, Barcelona, Sevilla -- and in the Argentine
- 11 Republic -- Newells, Old Boys, Boca Juniors. He also
- 12 professionally played for [sic] the Argentine National
- 13 Team.
- 14 During his marriage and as a result of
- 15 his outstanding professional performance, DAM" --
- 16 again, Diego Armando Maradona -- "made, in addition to
- 17 the compensation and regular bonuses and strictly from 18 soccer of the teams in which he served, abundant
- amounts of money corresponding to advertising, image
- 20 release for a film production about his life, 21 manufacturing of products with his trademark,
- 22 attendance in television programs, press interviews,
- 23 et cetera."
- 24 It does not say a thing about
- 25 Ms. Villafane's sources of income that they rely upon,

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- 1 they were used in Florida -- condominiums.
- Your Honor, there's a third argument
- 3 what's somewhere in the argument presented by
- 4 Defendants today and that's that the marital
- 5 settlement agreement constitutes a waiver of these 6 claims, Your Honor. That third argument, it requires
- 7 this Court to misinterpret or to interpret the
- 8 language of the marital settlement agreement through a
- 9 very narrow lens that only favors Ms. Villafane.
- 10 It eliminates the possibility that a
- 11 reasonable jury could view it a different way. And I
- 12 actually want to spend some time going over the
- 13 marital settlement agreement because I know that
- 14 counsel has glossed over it in her argument today. If
- 15 I could share my screen, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: It's open. 16
- 17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: And this is also in
- 18 Your Honor's binder. It's Exhibit A to Tab 3, Your
- 19 Honor. And I'll continue as soon as Your Honor's
- 20 ready.
- 21 THE COURT: I got it.
- 22 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. So the
- 23 agreement's a very basic agreement, a very simple
- 24 agreement. It basically describes the parties'
- 25 marriage in paragraph II and it describes their

Page 61 1 supposedly, to justify her purchases. Does not say a

- 2 thing about Ms. Villafane's real estate transactions
- 3 in Florida, which by this time and [sic] generated
- 4 millions of dollars in profits and significant assets
- 5 worth hundreds of thousands, if not millions of
- 6 dollars at that time. It does not mention them.
- 7 And then it proceeds in the next
- 8 section, titled paragraph III, to allocate the assets
- 9 that remained undivided between the parties. It talks
- 10 about Mr. Maradona's income while they were married
- 11 and it divides them and it gives Ms. Villafane an
- 12 entitlement to \$1.58 million.
- 13 It talks about the personal property --
- 14 divided. And it talks about certain real estate in
- 15 Argentina that had been allocated to Ms. Villafane.
- 16 And then it talks about that being what was going to
- 17 be distributed.
- 18 And then there's another paragraph III,
- 19 which is the one that you heard about today, which is
- 20 the titled Interest In the Joint Declaration, Your
- 21 Honor. And this says "The parties as a whole declare
- 22 that the aforementioned assets have been the only ones
- 23 comprising the undivided assets of husband and wife
- 24 and that others that could have comprised it have been
- 25 divested as a whole and their price received in

	Page 62		Page 64
1	halves."	1	the agreement.
2		2	The Third DCA in Falsetto v. Liss,
	Ms. Villafane regarding her assets and basically	3	which is 275 So. 3d 693, states: "The court's
1	saying that the assets mentioned in above are the only		willingness to enforce general releases is not
1	ones that remain undivided and that all the other ones	1	absolute. Instead, enforcement is premised upon the
6	have been divested to them and received in halves.	6	
7		7	
8	condominiums or the proceeds of the condominiums were	8	Your Honor, the marital settlement
	never distributed between the parties and never	9	agreement did not contemplate the existence of the
1	received in halves and that Mr. Maradona never		condominiums or the profits derived therefrom did
11	received half of it.		it contemplate a waiver or a release of any claims to
12	There's no dispute that in addition to		those properties or those assets. They were acquired
13	the assets mentioned above, Ms. Villafane accumulated	13	during the parties' marriage and it resulted in very
14	at least three condominiums and the profits from the	14	large profits to Ms. Villafane.
15	sales of those condominiums during her marriage.	15	So, Your Honor, the waiver argument
16	Except in this case, Ms. Villafane simply failed to	16	regarding the marital settlement agreement, it's
17	disclose it.	17	baseless, Your Honor. It requires this Court to
18	Your Honor, this is a false	18	interpret this language as being a general release.
19	representation by Ms. Villafane in the marital	19	It is not.
20	settlement agreement about her assets. She had	20	It further requires this Court to
21	significant assets, which if included in there	21	ignore the false representation by Ms. Villafane
22	would've changed the equities between the parties,	22	contained in this language regarding her assets. It
23	would've changed the amounts that were being	1	also requires this Court to assume that any side
24	distributed to Ms. Villafane. And, frankly, she	1	agreement regarding these condominiums, all of which
25	failed to disclose them or she concealed them from	25	would have to be verbal, are contemplated within this
	Page 63		Page 65
1	Mr. Maradona.	1	waiver language. It is not.
2	And then it continues "Moreover, they	2	At a minimum, a reasonable jury can
3	declare they have been completely compensated	3	find that this agreement could not have contemplated
4	between themselves with regard to the potential	4	the undisclosed condominiums and could not have
1	differences that might exist with regard to the assets	l	effectuated a waiver as to those undisclosed
6	allocated to each." The condominiums and the proceeds	6	condominiums because Ms. Villafane had concealed them
7	from the sales of the condominiums had not been	7	all along.
8	allocated to Mr. Maradona by Ms. Villafane or by this	8	Your Honor, the defendants are inviting
9	agreement.	9	the Court to commit an error by ignoring
10	And then this is the waiver language		Ms. Villafane's existence, Ms. Villafane's testimony,
11	3 1 1 3		Ms. Villafane's uncredible explanations for how she
12	1 2		purchased and amassed a fortune in Florida in
13		l	condominiums that resulted in profits in the millions
14	3 1 1 3		of dollars.
15	,	15	If you view this case through a very
1	possibly waived a claim to the properties that are not		narrow lens, as the defendants are inviting the Court
17	disclosed in this agreement and could not have	17	to do, and determine that there are no issue of facts,

17 (Pages 62 - 65)

25

18 that we'll probably be back, Your Honor.

20 this case -- at least the crucial facts -- the only21 facts that really matter for determining whether

But the reality is that the facts in

22 summary judgment is proper are in dispute. They are

without a doubt disputed facts and they without a

24 doubt require this Court to deny summary judgment.

And I'll recite them again, Your Honor.

20 Honor.

18 possibly waived a claim to properties that had been

19 concealed from him through this declaration, Your

22 part of Ms. Villafane is inherently false. The

23 significance of that, Your Honor -- we rely on

24 Falsetto v. Liss -- is that a settlement or a release

25 only releases those claims that are contemplated by

In fact, the declaration itself on the

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- 1 There's a dispute as to the source of funds used by
- 2 Ms. Villafane. Not an absence of evidence. There's
- 3 an uncredible explanation by Ms. Villafane as to how
- 4 she purchased the condominiums. There's an
- 5 explanation by Mr. Maradona as to his belief that it
- 6 could've only been with his assets because he's the
- 7 only one that earned income during the parties'
- 8 marriage.
- 9 In fact, the parties' marital
- 10 settlement agreement confirms as much and where it
- 11 only refers to Mr. Maradona's income and ignores
- 12 Ms. Villafane because, from Mr. Maradona's point of
- 13 view at that time, Ms. Villafane had no income during
- 14 the parties' marriage and generated no assets during
- 15 the parties' marriage.
- There's a dispute as to how
- 17 Ms. Villafane caused tens of thousands, hundreds of
- 18 thousands, whatever amount she needed to buy these
- 19 condominiums to enter the United States. Her
- 20 explanation about deliveries in cash just under
- 21 \$10,000.00 to avoid currency reporting requirements
- 22 should not be the basis for this Court to determine
- 23 that that's how those funds were obtained or those
- 24 were the funds that were used.
- 25 That's just not a credible explanation

- 1 evidence in this case as to when Mr. Maradona
- 2 definitely knew or should've known is a report in
- 3 August of 2014 -- after the marital settlement
- 4 agreement was signed and within the statute of
- 5 limitations period for each of the claims.
- 6 There are a multitude of acts of
- 7 concealment by Ms. Villafane in the intervening years
- 8 that suggest that a reasonable jury could find that
- 9 she fraudulently concealed these causes of action.
- 10 And under the equitable principle of fraudulent
- 11 concealment, the statute of limitations was outright
- 12 tolled.
- 13 The bottom line is, Your Honor, this is
- 14 a case for a jury to determine, not for the Court to
- 15 make factual findings in favor of the defendant,
- 16 ignore evidence regarding the source of the funds, the
- 17 timing of Mr. Maradona's knowledge regarding the
- 18 concealment or the significance of the concealment by
- 19 Ms. Villafane. All of that is for a jury to
- 20 determine.
- 21 And adopting the summary judgment
- 22 standard that now applies in the state, a reasonable
- 23 jury could definitely find in favor of Mr. Maradona
- 24 and render a verdict in his favor as to each of his
- 25 claims in light of these disputed facts and therefore

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- 1 and it's definitely an explanation that a reasonable
- 2 jury could find to be uncredible and find in favor of
- 3 Mr. Maradona.
- 4 There's the concealment by
- 5 Ms. Villafane of her marital status -- the deeds, the
- 6 mortgages, the mortgage application. There's the
- 7 concealment of Ms. Villafane in her tax filings in
- 8 Argentina of these -- there's a concealment in the
- 9 marital settlement agreement. There's the concealment
- 10 which occurred so that Mr. Maradona would not find out
- 11 that his funds were used to purchase these
- 12 condominiums.
- 13 You read the marital settlement
- 14 agreement. Talks about abundant amounts of money that
- 15 Mr. Maradona earned during his playing career. There
- 16 is no credible explanation on the other side of this
- 17 for how Ms. Villafane amassed these condominiums and
- 18 the small fortune that she's amassed in Florida. And
- 19 at a minimum, there's a dispute about the source of
- 20 those funds, which requires the Court to deny summary
- 21 judgment as to each of the defendants' arguments.
- Secondly, there's a dispute of fact as
- 23 to when Mr. Maradona knew or should've known of these
- 24 facts and when the statute of limitations should start
- 25 to toll or start to accrue. And the fact is the only

- 1 summary judgment is improper.
- Your Honor, you should deny the motion
- 3 for summary judgment. At a minimum, you should
- 4 reserve ruling on it until we deal with the motion for
- 5 reconsideration that's pending and which meant --
- 6 because the sanctions order has in fact been blown out
- 7 of proportion not only in its --
- 8 THE COURT: When is that rehearing
- 9 pending again?
- 10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: October 11th, Your
- 11 Honor.
- 12 THE COURT: Oh, October --
- MR. RODRIGUEZ: It's not only blown out
- 14 of proportion in the significance from a legal
- 15 perspective in this case, but they're seeking
- 16 \$60,000.00 in attorneys' fees because 5 or 6 words are
- 17 stricken from the complaint, Your Honor.
- The factual issues in this case are of
- 19 the most material issues of fact. And Your Honor
- 20 should deny summary judgment. Summary judgment's
- 21 improper. It would be an error to grant summary
- 22 judgment today. And I ask that you deny the motion,
- 23 Your Honor.
- 24 THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Rodriguez.
- 25 MS. AMADOR: Your Honor?

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Page 70 Page 72 1 THE COURT: Yes. 1 That is what they believe the burden of 2 proof is for their causes of action of unjust 2 MS. AMADOR: Yes, Your Honor, if I may. 3 First, I have a few items I want to address. 3 enrichment, conversion, breach of fiduciary duty, and 4 fraud. Counsel didn't point to one shred of evidence First of all, regarding the motion for 5 before Your Honor -- one record evidence, one fact in 5 reconsideration. We're preparing a response to that. 6 dispute -- simply that Ms. Villafane must prove where 6 Your Honor will have it early this week. Plaintiff 7 she got this money from. That's nonsense. That does 7 did set it, but there is nothing in the record that 8 would prohibit Your Honor from making a finding today. 8 not exist under the law in Florida or any jurisdiction They didn't file a motion to continue 9 in the United States. 10 10 the summary judgment. They didn't assert in any The burden of proof lies with the 11 manner how it's related to this. That is a separate 11 plaintiff. People cannot be dragged into court and 12 forced to prove how they didn't commit a series of 12 issue of striking of facts regarding an audit. It has 13 not been blown out of proportion. 13 accusation. Plaintiff has the burden of doing that 14 14 and there's nothing before the Court for you -- to It was brought to Your Honor's 15 attention that the financial audit that they relied on 15 prohibit Your Honor from entering summary judgment. What did Plaintiff say? At the end, 16 for seven years doesn't exist. There's nothing that 17 there was a summary of what's disputed. Plaintiff 17 would prohibit Your Honor from ruling today. And if 18 said it's disputed at -- what was Ms. Villafane's 18 he had an argument, it should've been filed prior to 19 source of funds to buy the property? That's not on 19 today for a motion to continue the MSJ. 20 the record. 20 Second, Your Honor asked the 21 She doesn't have to prove -- she could 21 deposition. The deposition was litigated of 22 Mr. Maradona for three years. It was set on three or 22 say today, "I 'stoled' the money from someone else. I 23 evaded taxes, along with probably every Argentine 23 four occasions -- some of them canceled days before it 24 was set. They were canceled from everything from news 24 citizen, including Mr. Maradona. Because of the 25 oppressive nature of the Argentine government and the 25 appearances to soccer shows to unable to travel. We Page 71 Page 73 1 then coordinated in Argentine and it was canceled days 1 financial institutions, it is very common that it is 2 before. There's an entire record from Judge Ruiz 2 not declared." 3 regarding this litigation. MR. RODRIGUEZ: -- it's not appropriate There was an affidavit filed by him, 4 to "unhurl" these accusations regarding 5 saying that, "Morla is the only one that knows because 5 Mr. Maradona -- while tax evasion and so on. There's 6 he's the one that audited my finances. He can travel 6 no record --7 7 to Florida. Take his deposition." So it's a THE COURT: It's argumentative --8 8 misstatement. MS. AMADOR: It's argument, Your Honor. Yes. On year four of attempting to get 9 And I --10 10 his deposition, COVID happened. He became ill and THE COURT: I said that. I said that. 11 passed, but that is irrelevant to the previous years 11 Ms. Amador --12 where he evaded his depositions for years. It's on 12 MS. AMADOR: Thank you, Your Honor. I 13 just want to point that I didn't make any 13 the record. It's on the docket. All the orders and 14 all the motion practice is on the docket. That is a 14 interruptions and felt exactly the same way, but I'll 15 misstatement about the deposition of Mr. Maradona. 15 proceed. Two, Your Honor, what I heard this 16 So her saying that she didn't report 17 entire argument is Ms. Villafane -- I didn't hear one 17 this? It is not her duty, Your Honor. It is not her 18 time, "Your Honor, these are the facts in evidence on 18 burden. The only way that we get to what's her 19 the record to support our causes of action." defense is if they establish their case. If they give 20 Your Honor one fact -- I didn't hear one fact on the 20 This case -- again -- and I'll say 21 prehistoric because it's almost shocking to me -- is 21 record. 22 based on the fact that Mr. Maradona thinks the 22 And counsel specifically said, "these 23 are my arguments." Yeah -- their arguments that are 23 evidence to submit to a jury is, "my wife could not

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24 unsubstantiated on the record. There is zero facts

25 before the Court regarding their burden on these

24 have made this money. She bought these properties

25 after our divorce. So she must've stole it from me."

Page 74 1 elements. 1 of limitation expired or not is a legal argument. It 2 is not -- there are no facts in evidence to support 2 And what does summary judgment say in 3 the state of Florida is that they need -- the 3 any other argument regarding the date of theft. They admit by their own pleadings and 4 nonmoving party must put a sufficient showing of the 5 their own record evidence the date of theft occurred 5 essential elements of the case. There are none. 6 prior to 2000 or at best by 2003. There's no factual 6 There are no facts to substantiate not one of the 7 causes of action. 7 dispute regarding that. So there could be no factual Now, what else did they say? There's a 8 dispute regarding the statue [sic] of limitations. 9 material dispute as to how the money Villafane used to 9 That's a legal argument. 10 buy the properties came into the United States. 10 And lastly, Your Honor, they point to 11 the marital settlement agreement. And again, the 11 That's not a material dispute. She does not have to 12 document speaks for itself. We highlighted a point. 12 prove how she brought the money into the United 13 States. 13 Counsel highlighted another section. Your Honor has 14 14 the document. You cannot invalidate one portion and What there is is zero evidence is that 15 Mr. Maradona had any money, that any money was stolen 15 not the other. The document is read together. 16 from him, or how it came into the United States, but It says that everything else has been 17 divided. That is not an affirmation only by 17 how she bought her property is irrelevant to their 18 Ms. Villafane. It's a joint affirmation, Your Honor. 18 burden of proof. 19 I didn't hear in this argument one fact, Your Honor, 19 Next, they point to her tax -- that 20 that you can consider to deny the motion for summary 20 it's not in her tax records. Again, it's irrelevant. 21 judgment which is in dispute. We ask Your Honor that 21 That's not a material fact, Your Honor. And she 22 admits in her declaration, as I stated, that the 22 you enter final summary judgment on all counts. THE COURT: Thank you. All right. I'm 23 properties and the money is not declared in her taxes 24 going to consider this. You want to send in a 24 and she could've. That's her testimony. That's on 25 proposed order --25 the record. Page 75 Page 77 Just like she said, "the money came 1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Your Honor --1 THE COURT: Yes? 2 2 from my parents. I financed it or friends of mine 3 brought it cash." That's on the record. That's not MR. RODRIGUEZ: Regarding that, I 4 under dispute. This is what she admits happened. 4 believe the new rule requires the Court to make the

5 Their argument that we're not satisfied with what she 6 said is insufficient. That's not a factual dispute. 7 Next, they point to there's a factual 8 dispute regarding concealment -- that the jury can 9 make a reasonable determination. What concealment, 10 Your Honor? The concealment under the state of 11 Florida legally -- this is a legal question which was 12 not addressed in opposition -- is whether there was 13 concealment with the act. There is nothing on the 14 record for Your Honor to evaluate whether it is 15 disputed. Zero. Pointing to an MSA 13 years later, 17 which has a remedy -- breach of the MSA -- or to deeds 17 18 that show single versus married that were never 19 conveyed to Maradona is not concealment. And again, 20 that would only be for the repose, which would be 21 regarding fraud and it will toll for 12 years. 22 The other statute of limitations 23 expired and there's nothing on the record that will

24 contradict it. There's no facts on the record. None

25 were pointed to. And again, whether the statue [sic]

5 findings on the record. 6 THE COURT: And I will make them on the 7 record when I do the order. MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. THE COURT: Are you contending -- so 10 we're clear -- let's be real clear. Are you 11 contending that a finding in a Court order is not an 12 order on the record? Is that what you're saying? 13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I don't know how to 14 interpret that part of the ruling. I didn't --15 THE COURT: -- under Rule 1.510, the 16 Court is required to make findings of fact, whether it grants or denies a summary judgment. Now, if you can provide me with 19 authority telling me, "you have to do it on the 20 record," which is nonsensical only because it now 21 requires me to make up something versus reviewing 22 everything -- but it's okay. If you can provide me with authority,

24 I'll be more than glad to accommodate your request.

20 (Pages 74 - 77)

25 Okay?

Page 78	Page 80
1 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure I apologize	1 (Whereupon, at 11:33 a.m., the proceeding was concluded.)
2 for interrupting you, Your Honor	1
THE COURT: No problem. No problem.	$\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 4 \end{bmatrix}$
4 No problem. 5 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I didn't want to make	5
	6
6 it 7 THE COURT: I don't want to do	7
	8
8 commit error either, Mr. Rodriguez.	9
9 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay.	10
10 THE COURT: But if you can show me any	11
11 authority that says findings on the record means on	12
12 the spot, period, then I will reconsider.	13
MR. RODRIGUEZ: Sure.	
14 THE COURT: And if you can't find	14
15 anything, I would love to know that you didn't because	15
16 that's my understanding.	16 17
17 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Okay. 18 THE COURT: But I could make mistakes	18
	19
19 like anybody else can.	20
MR. RODRIGUEZ: You make them far less 21 often than I do, Your Honor.	21
22 THE COURT: No. No. No. We all do.	22
	23
23 Listen, the only way you don't make mistakes is by not 24 practicing law or not working. If you don't decide	24
25 cases, you can never be reversed.	25
Page 79	Page 81 1 CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSITION OFFICER
1 As you all may recall, there were	2 I, KEVIN KLINGENSCHMID, the officer before
2 judges that would never got reversed because they	3 whom the foregoing proceedings were taken, do hereby
3 never ruled. If you don't ruled, you don't get	4 certify that any witness(es) in the foregoing
4 reversed. If you rule, there's a chance you're you 5 got a 50 percent chance of being right or 50 percent	5 proceedings, prior to testifying, were duly sworn;
6 chance of being wrong. So I don't know.	6 that the proceedings were recorded by me and
7 So I'll wait until October 11 as a	7 thereafter reduced to typewriting by a qualified
8 matter of professional courtesy to you, Mr. Rodriguez.	8 transcriptionist; that said digital audio recording of
9 I'll hear your argument and we'll go from there. Send	9 said proceedings are a true and accurate record to the
	10 best of my knowledge, skills, and ability; that I am
10 me proposed orders in the meantime so we have an idea	11 neither counsel for, related to, nor employed by any
 11 and then we'll go from there. Okay MS. AMADOR: Your Honor, the date of 	12 of the parties to the action in which this was taken;
	13 and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of 14 any counsel or attorney employed by the parties
13 the proposed order is by October 11th or that's14 just	15 hereto, nor financially or otherwise interested in the
15 THE COURT: By October 11th by	16 outcome of this action.
16 MS. AMADOR: by October 11th. Okay.	17
17 THE COURT: Okay?	18
18 MS. AMADOR: So we submit proposed	Kentlythe
19 order by October 11th, mm-hmm. Okay. Thank you, Your	19 KEVIN KLINGENSCHMID
20 Honor, for your time.	Notary Public in and for the
21 THE COURT: all right. Thank you,	20 State of Florida
22 Mr. Rodriguez	21
23 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Have a good day.	22
24 THE COURT: yes, sir. Thank you.	23 24
25 Bye.	25
25 Dyo.	45

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1	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIBER	
2	I, ALICE AMUSIN, do hereby certify that this	
1	transcript was prepared from the digital audio	
	recording of the foregoing proceeding, that said	
	transcript is a true and accurate record of the	
	proceedings to the best of my knowledge, skills, and	
	ability; that I am neither counsel for, related to,	
8	nor employed by any of the parties to the action in	
9	which this was taken; and, further, that I am not a	
	relative or employee of any counsel or attorney	
	employed by the parties hereto, nor financially or	
	otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.	
1	otherwise interested in the outcome of this action.	
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FLORIDA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE Rule 1.310

(e) Witness Review. If the testimony is transcribed, the transcript shall be furnished to the witness for examination and shall be read to or by the witness unless the examination and reading are waived by the witness and by the parties. Any changes in form or substance that the witness wants to make shall be listed in writing by the officer with a statement of the reasons given by the witness for making the changes. The changes shall be attached to the transcript. It shall then be signed by the witness unless the parties waived the signing or the witness is ill, cannot be found, or refuses to sign. If the transcript is not signed by the witness within a reasonable time after it is furnished to the witness, the officer shall sign the transcript and state on the transcript the waiver, illness, absence of the witness, or refusal to sign with any reasons given therefor. The deposition may then be used as fully as though signed unless the court holds that the reasons given for the refusal to sign require rejection of the deposition wholly or partly, on motion under rule 1.330(d)(4).

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ARE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY.

THE ABOVE RULES ARE CURRENT AS OF APRIL 1,

2019. PLEASE REFER TO THE APPLICABLE STATE RULES

OF CIVIL PROCEDURE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.

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