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17 *Counsel for Plaintiffs*

18 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 19 FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

20 DAVID RIKER, ROGER LIBBY, RICKY SECHREST
 21 TERRENCE BROTHERS, JEFFREY HOSMER, MARK
 WHITTINGTON on their own behalf and on behalf of
 those similarly situated,

22 Plaintiffs,

23 v.

24 JAMES GIBBONS, Governor of Nevada; ROSS MILLER,
 Secretary of State of Nevada; CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO,
 25 Attorney General of Nevada; HOWARD SKOLNIK, Director,
 Nevada Department of Corrections; ROBERT BANNISTER,
 26 Medical Director, Nevada Department of Corrections; and
 E. K. MCDANIEL, Warden, Ely State Prison.

27 Defendants.
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) Docket No. _____

) **Class Action Complaint**
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2 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT**
3 **FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

4 **INTRODUCTION**

5 1. The Plaintiffs are prisoners confined in Ely State Prison (ESP), a maximum security prison
6 in Ely, Nevada, housing 1,000 men, including death row prisoners. Plaintiffs bring this class action
7 Complaint on their own behalf and on behalf of those similarly situated, seeking relief from
8 deprivations of medical care at ESP. These deprivations are so extreme that they subject all the men
9 confined there to constant significant risk of serious injury, medical harm, premature death, and the
10 needless infliction of great physical pain and suffering.

11 2. Defendants' actions, detailed herein, deny basic human needs, inflict unnecessary and
12 wanton pain and suffering, and put Plaintiffs and all those similarly situated at substantial risk of
13 physical injury, illness, and premature death, all in violation of Plaintiffs' rights under the Eighth and
14 Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Plaintiffs seek injunctive and declaratory
15 relief to remedy these ongoing violation of rights for themselves as well as for a class of those
16 similarly situated.

17 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

18 3. This action arises under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to redress the deprivation under color of state law
19 of rights, privileges and immunities secured by the Constitution of the United States. The rights
20 sought to be redressed are guaranteed by the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States
21 Constitution. The Court has federal question jurisdiction over this controversy under 28 U.S.C. §§
22 1331 and 1343.

23 4. Venue is proper in the District of Nevada under 28 U.S.C. § 1391. The Plaintiffs are
24 incarcerated there, the acts complained of occurred there, and the Defendants work there.

25 **PARTIES**

26 **I. Plaintiffs**

27 5. Plaintiff David Riker is a prisoner in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections
28 who is currently incarcerated in Ely State Prison.

1 6. Plaintiff Roger Libby is a prisoner in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections
2 who is currently incarcerated in Ely State Prison.

3 7. Plaintiff Ricky Sechrest is a prisoner in the custody of the Nevada Department of Corrections
4 who is currently incarcerated in Ely State Prison.

5 8. Plaintiff Terrence Brothers is a prisoner in the custody of the Nevada Department of
6 Corrections who is currently incarcerated in Ely State Prison.

7 9. Plaintiff Jeffrey Hosmer is a prisoner in the custody of the Nevada Department of
8 Corrections who is currently incarcerated in Ely State Prison.

9 10. Plaintiff Mark Whittington is a prisoner in the custody of the Nevada Department of
10 Corrections who is currently incarcerated in Ely State Prison.

11 **II. Defendants**

12 11. Defendant James Gibbons is the Governor of the State of Nevada. As Governor, Gibbons
13 is the President of the Board of State Prison Commissioners (the "Board"), the state governmental
14 body responsible for oversight of all prisons in Nevada. As part of its oversight duties, the Board
15 receives semiannual reports from the State Health Officer on correctional facilities' compliance with
16 the medical services standards established under Nevada statute. Defendant Gibbons is sued in his
17 official capacity.

18 12. Defendant Ross Miller is the Secretary of State of Nevada. As Secretary of State, Miller is
19 the Secretary of the Board of State Prison Commissioners, the state governmental body responsible
20 for oversight of all prisons in Nevada. Defendant Miller is sued in his official capacity.

21 13. Defendant Catherine Cortez Masto is the Attorney General of the State of Nevada. As
22 Attorney General, Cortez Masto is a member of the Board of State Prison Commissioners.
23 Defendant Cortez Masto is sued in her official capacity.

24 14. Defendant Howard Skolnik is the Director of the Nevada Department of Corrections
25 (NDOC). As Director, Skolnik is responsible for NDOC's daily functioning and administration.
26 Under Nevada law, the Director of NDOC is also responsible for establishing standards for medical
27 services in prisons with the approval of the Board. Defendant Skolnik is sued in his official capacity.

1 15. Defendant Robert Bannister, M.D. is the Medical Director for NDOC. As Medical Director,
2 Bannister is responsible for the administration and provision of medical care services to individuals
3 in NDOC's custody. Dr. Bannister's duties include ensuring the quality and adequacy of medical
4 care services provided to prisoners at ESP. He is sued in his official capacity.

5 16. Defendant E. K. McDaniel is the Warden of ESP. As Warden, McDaniel is responsible for
6 the daily functioning and administration of ESP, including the safe, secure and humane treatment
7 of all prisoners incarcerated there. He is sued in his official capacity.

8 **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

9 **I. Defendants Systematically Fail to Treat Prisoners' Serious Medical Needs Causing
10 Significant Injury and Unnecessary and Wanton Infliction of Pain.**

11 17. ESP is a maximum security prison in Ely, Nevada designed to house over 1,000 men,
12 including death row inmates.

13 18. ESP lacks the most basic elements of an adequate prison health care system, including: ready
14 access to adequate medical care; a medical staff competent to examine prisoners and diagnose
15 illnesses; adequate, accurate, and up-to-date medical record-keeping; an ability to treat medical
16 problems or to refer prisoners to others who can, including reasonably speedy referrals and access
17 to other physicians within the prison, or to physicians or facilities outside the prison; and adequate
18 policies and procedures for responding to emergencies, including adequate facilities and staff to
19 handle emergencies within the prison.

20 19. Every man incarcerated at ESP is subject to the following policies and practices which
21 subject all of them to a significant risk of injury and unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain:

- 22 • Defendants' policy and practice of refusing to provide necessary medical care for
23 serious medical needs, including injuries that a reasonable doctor or patient would
24 find important and worthy of comment or treatment, medical conditions that
25 significantly affect prisoners' daily activities, and medical conditions involving
26 chronic or substantial pain;
- 27 • Defendants' policy and practice of failing to maintain an adequate system to provide
28 prescription medication refills and to ensure continuity of treatment;

- 1 • Defendants' policy and practice of failing to make timely referrals for specialty care;
- 2 • Defendants' policy and practice of failing to keep professionally adequate, accurate
- 3 and up-to-date medical records;
- 4 • Defendants' policy and practice of failing to monitor prisoners with chronic
- 5 conditions adequately;
- 6 • Defendants' policy and practice of refusing to treat chronic pain; and
- 7 • Defendants' failure to ensure adequate coverage by a qualified physician at ESP.

8 20. ___ This pervasive pattern of grossly inadequate medical care and the lack of basic elements of
9 an adequate medical care system creates a substantial risk of serious medical harm for every prisoner
10 incarcerated at ESP, and in fact causes actual harm to them. All prisoners at ESP are subject to the
11 same medical system, the same practices and policies, and the same systematic denial of care.

12 21. The grossly inadequate medical care at ESP deprives the Plaintiffs and all prisoners at
13 ESP of the minimal civilized measure of life's necessities.

14 **II. Defendants Are Aware of and Have Deliberately Failed to Take Adequate Action to**
15 **End Medical Abuse at Ely State Prison.**

16 22. In the spring of 2006 the Legislative Commission's Subcommittee to Study Sentencing
17 and Pardons, Parole and Probation heard testimony from a number of Nevada citizens regarding
18 grossly inadequate medical care for seriously ill prisoners, in particular at ESP. As a result of this
19 hearing, on October 6, 2006, the Subcommittee sent a formal request to the Governor's Office to
20 have the Executive Branch carry out an evaluation of the adequacy of inmate access to medical care
21 in Nevada.

22 23. The Governor's Office took no action on the Legislature's request.

23 24. The Board of State Prison Commissioners, whose membership is comprised of Defendants
24 Gibbons, Miller and Cortez Masto, has either failed to require semiannual reporting on the provision
25 of medical services in state correctional facilities or failed to review and take action on such reports.
26 The Board's dereliction of duty in this matter has directly contributed to the current state of medical
27 abuse at ESP.

28 25. In May 2007, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) informed Defendant Skolnik

1 of the grave medical situation at ESP and the need for immediate intervention.

2 26. The ACLU retained a qualified medical expert, Dr. William K. Noel of Boise, Idaho, to
3 review prisoner medical records at ESP. Dr. Noel reviewed the medical records of the thirty-five
4 ESP prisoners that Defendant Skolnik made available for his review.

5 27. Dr. Noel prepared a report (the “Noel Report”), which was promptly provided to
6 Defendant Skolnik and Defendant Bannister, detailing his findings in particular cases and a summary
7 of his conclusions as to the status of the health care being provided to prisoners at Ely.

8 28. The Noel Report found overwhelming evidence that the grossest possible systemic
9 medical abuses at ESP are occurring and have been occurring there for years. Dr. Noel’s review of
10 the records found that not only are prisoners at ESP in imminent danger of death or grave irreparable
11 medical injury, but that they are being callously and wantonly subjected to needless physical agony
12 inflicted by grossly improper medical treatment. Moreover, the medical records themselves were
13 so poorly and unprofessionally maintained that he found the charting practices alone constitute a
14 danger to prisoners at ESP. The Noel Report also found that at least one man has already died an
15 unnecessary, slow and agonizing death and that in all likelihood there will be more such deaths and
16 unnecessary suffering if immediate systemic changes are not made in the provision of health care
17 at ESP.

18 29. Among the cases Dr. Noel reviewed is that of Patrick Cavanaugh, who was an insulin
19 dependent diabetic. He lived in the ESP infirmary for at least two years before his agonizing death
20 on April 10, 2006.

21 30. Mr. Cavanaugh’s cause of death was complications of Diabetes Mellitus, peripheral
22 gangrene of both lower extremities, hypertension, and congestive heart failure – all untreated. In the
23 best of circumstances (hospitalization, quick antibiotics, and early detection) gangrene has a 30%
24 mortality rate, but untreated, it is essentially 100% fatal. Mr. Cavanaugh received almost no
25 treatment for his illnesses, so his slow, painful death in the ESP infirmary was virtually assured.
26 Given the profound and unmistakable smell of putrefying flesh, there can be no question that every
27 medical provider and correctional officer in that infirmary was acutely aware of Patrick Cavanaugh’s
28 condition.

1 31. Although Mr. Cavanaugh was an insulin-dependent diabetic, there is an order in his chart
2 stopping all his medications, including his insulin three years before his death. The medical order
3 is unsigned and there is no indication as to why this was done. Insulin was ordered sporadically
4 thereafter but for the next three years until his death was never given.

5 32. There is no indication that consideration was ever given to surgically removing the
6 gangrenous limbs. This procedure could have saved Mr. Cavanaugh's life. Instead, ESP medical
7 staff left him to literally rot to death.

8 33. The records suggest that Mr. Cavanaugh "would not let" people come into his cell and
9 that he started refusing all medications except for aspirin. Even though progress notes in his chart
10 detail increasing paranoia and probable dementia, and even though gangrene is known to derange
11 the mind, there was no order to force life-sustaining medications.

12 34. Although a signed and notarized full, non-limited Power of Attorney Authorization
13 giving power to a guardian is present in his chart, there is no indication that Defendant McDaniel
14 or any other prison official ever contacted Mr. Cavanaugh's guardian to advise her of Mr.
15 Cavanaugh's medical condition and the need to administer medications without his consent because
16 of his incapacity, due to his dementia, to make medical decisions for himself.

17 35. Even during his last days before death, where an order is given for 5 mgs of morphine
18 sulfate every 4 to 5 hours to alleviate his terrible pain and suffering, there is no evidence that this
19 order was ever carried out. Patrick Cavanaugh was left to die in prolonged agony and to suffer an
20 extremely painful death without any palliative care.

21 36. The Noel Report also analyzed the case of Greg Leonard, who suffers from HIV, diabetes
22 mellitus, hypertension, two spinal injuries and a botched back surgery resulting in chronic,
23 debilitating pain, and kidney disease. Although Mr. Leonard suffers severe and chronic pain, he
24 receives almost no treatment for that pain. He is also an insulin-dependent diabetic who needs daily
25 sugar tests, but he has not received regular sugar checks since 2003. Moreover, when ESP medical
26 placed Mr. Leonard on insulin on April 2, 2003, he was left on metformin (oral agent to lower blood
27 sugar) even though the metformin can cause ketoacidosis in insulin-dependent diabetics.

28

1 37. Like most ESP medical records, much of Mr. Leonard's chart is illegible. Vital signs are
2 rarely taken or recorded. Like many ESP prisoners, Mr. Leonard also experienced major problems
3 with his multiple medications at ESP. He only received his HIV medications sporadically which
4 undermines their efficacy and puts him at great risk for resistance to entire classes of HIV
5 medications, thereby dangerously limiting treatment options. In addition, although Mr. Leonard's
6 health requires tight control of his blood pressure, his prescriptions are rarely refilled in a timely
7 manner and he consistently runs out of his medications despite his vigilant efforts to obtain refills
8 without a lapse.

9 38. The Noel Report noted that it is astonishing that Mr. Leonard is still alive, given the
10 grossly inadequate medical treatment revealed in his records.

11 39. The Noel Report further examined the case of John Snow, an ESP prisoner who has
12 severe degenerative hip disease and requires surgery. An orthopedist recommended hip surgery for
13 Mr. Snow years ago but this procedure was denied as "not life-threatening." If he is not given
14 surgery, Mr. Snow's bones will eventually wear through his acetabulae, which are the large sockets
15 at the base of the hip bones into which the head of the femur fits. Because of Mr. Snow's condition,
16 he is in constant, excruciating pain but he is given no pain medications. There is no medically
17 justifiable reason for leaving this man in agony.

18 40. The Noel Report reviewed the case of Michael Mulder, who suffered a stroke in prison.
19 He now suffers paralysis of his right side. His medical records indicate that Mr. Mulder had the
20 stroke on March 15, 2001 but he was not transferred to the infirmary in ESP until March 31, 2001.
21 There is no indication in the medical records that he received any acute treatment for his stroke.

22 41. Dr. Noel further reviewed Michael Mulder's case with Defendant Bannister and met
23 with the patient during his visit to ESP. Mr. Mulder was obviously severely disabled by his stroke
24 and he has been given absolutely no physical therapy to repair that damage. His right side is
25 extremely impaired and he has difficulty walking and talking. His right arm, hand and fingers are
26 also hideously contorted in an agonizing position that will only grow worse without treatment. The
27 medical term for this disabling process is contracture. A simple brace could have prevented the
28 contracture that has already occurred. Without intervention Mr. Mulder's arm may contract until it

1 rips itself from its own socket and his hand could bend in upon itself until the wrist breaks.

2 42. Another case reviewed in the Noel Report is that of Robert Ybarra. Mr. Ybarra suffers
3 from deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and chronic, non-healing venous stasis ulcers on both lower legs
4 and ankles. DVT is extremely painful and Ybarra suffers severe and chronic pain that is not treated.

5 Mr. Ybarra's chronic leg ulcers could be easily cured, but instead, Defendants have allowed his
6 open, draining, painful wounds to remain untreated for years. Without adequate treatment, he will
7 lose his feet and legs.

8 43. Dr. Noel emphasized in his report that the ESP records "show a system that is so
9 broken and dysfunctional that, in my opinion, every one of the prisoners at Ely State Prison who has
10 serious medical needs, or who may develop serious medical needs, is at enormous risk."

11 44. On October 8-9, 2007, Dr. Noel met with the Medical Director of the Nevada Department
12 of Corrections, Defendant Dr. Robert Bannister. Dr. Noel discussed his findings with Defendant
13 Bannister who agreed to implement most of Dr. Noel's treatment recommendations for the especially
14 urgent cases, and further stated that he was planning follow-up care for several of those prisoners.

15 45. Defendant Bannister unreasonably failed to implement most of these urgent treatment
16 recommendations, despite the obvious risks to the prisoners concerned. Defendant Skolnik was also
17 made aware of these urgent treatment needs but failed to require meaningful corrective action.

18 46. The gross medical abuse at ESP is further exacerbated because Defendant McDaniel, the
19 Warden at ESP, arbitrarily denies, delays and intentionally interferes with the medical decisions of
20 ESP medical staff.

21 47. On December 6, 2007, Defendants Gibbons, Miller, Cortez Mastro and Skolnik received
22 copies of the Noel Report.

23 48. In response to the findings of the Noel Report, Defendants sent some of the seriously
24 ill prisoners at ESP to High Desert Correctional Center ("High Desert") and allegedly hired a part-
25 time local doctor to work at ESP.

26 49. Recent reports from prisoners transferred to High Desert indicate that the prisoners are
27 still not receiving adequate medical care at that facility.

28 50. Recent reports from prisoners remaining at ESP reveal that grossly inadequate medical

1 care continues unabated at ESP and many medically fragile prisoners remain at the facility without
2 access to necessary medical services.

3 51. All Defendants are aware of the systemic deficiencies in the provision of medical services
4 at ESP, have disregarded the excessive risks to prisoner health and safety caused by those
5 deficiencies, and have deliberately failed to take reasonable and timely steps to prevent the likely risk
6 of harm caused by those deficient medical services.

7 **IV. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies.**

8 52. Plaintiffs have exhausted such administrative remedies as are available to them.

9 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS**

10 53. Plaintiffs bring this action on behalf of themselves and all others similarly situated, pursuant
11 to Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(a) and (b)(2).

12 54. Plaintiffs seek to represent a class consisting of “all prisoners who are now or will in the
13 future be confined in Ely State Prison in Ely, Nevada” (hereinafter the “ESP Class”). As a result of
14 their confinement at ESP, the Plaintiffs and the ESP Class have been, are, and will be subjected to
15 violations of their constitutional rights as described in this Complaint. Plaintiffs represent a class
16 of persons seeking declaratory and injunctive relief to eliminate or remedy Defendants’ policies,
17 practices, acts, and omissions depriving them of those rights.

18 **The Named Plaintiffs**

19 55. **Plaintiff David Riker** suffers from rheumatoid arthritis (RA) and fibromyalgia. These
20 conditions cause debilitating and chronic pain. The California Department of Corrections, which
21 had custody of Mr. Riker before his incarceration by NDOC, extensively documented his medical
22 conditions including the treatment regimens which had proved effective to control his symptoms.
23 Those treatment regimens were stopped when he came to ESP in 2005.

24 56. When a doctor at NDOC’s Regional Medical Facility (RMF) reviewed Riker’s
25 records and conditions in August of 2006 and prescribed appropriate medications and ordered x-rays,
26 ESP medical staff did not follow her orders. Mr. Riker never received x-rays, and the medical staff
27 at ESP did not implement the order for a dosage increase in his medication. Instead, the Physician’s
28 Assistant at ESP, Max Carter, took him off the medications ordered by the RMF doctor and stated

1 that Riker does not have rheumatoid arthritis, a condition previously treated and diagnosed by several
2 Rheumatologists.

3 57. Because Mr. Riker is not receiving adequate care for his RA, he suffers chronic and
4 severe protopathic nerve pain. ESP medical staff have told him that treating chronic pain is against
5 the policy of the prison. Such a policy or practice contradicts medical ethics and community
6 standards of care in the State of Nevada. Medical staff do not provide him with pain medication
7 other than very limited quantities of ibuprofen, which is completely inadequate for treating his
8 chronic pain.

9 58. Mr. Riker takes or has taken several medications that require careful monitoring for
10 possible side effects and complications, including Plaquinel and Methotrexate, but ESP medical staff
11 fail to perform the regular testing required to ensure that Mr. Riker is not harmed by his medications.

12 59. Mr. Riker's medical records also demonstrate that he is prescribed medication that is
13 alternately stopped for no reason or the refills are not given on time so he is frequently forced to go
14 without them. For example, he has been prescribed Propanolol for both migraines and blood
15 pressure control and this medication is often discontinued suddenly. Propanolol is a beta blocker
16 and if stopped abruptly can cause a heart attack.

17 60. Mr. Riker is not receiving adequate treatment for his serious medical conditions at ESP
18 and he is at great risk of suffering and has suffered serious medical harm.

19 61. **Plaintiff Roger Libby** has a right inguinal hernia. Mr. Libby suffers a great deal of pain
20 and discomfort due to his hernia. The hernia is causing him problems with digestion and difficulty
21 with bowel movements. Over time his condition has gotten worse and the hernia is now the size of
22 a softball. The proper treatment for this condition is surgery if the patient can tolerate it.

23 62. Mr. Libby repeatedly requested surgery for his hernia, but Defendants have denied this
24 medically necessary treatment. His medical records show no medical reason why Mr. Libby should
25 not have a hernia operation.

26 63. The only treatment Defendants have provided for the hernia is a truss, which is not good
27 medical practice. It weakens the inguinal ring and musculature and over time makes the hernia
28 worse.

64. Mr. Libby is not receiving adequate treatment for his serious medical condition at ESP and he is at great risk of suffering and has suffered serious medical harm.

1 65. **Plaintiff Rickey Sechrest** has chronic intermittent Herpetic Iritis of his right eye which
2 has not been treated properly. If this disease is not treated promptly it leads to scarring and
3 blindness. Mr. Sechrest is at great risk of going blind due to the grossly inadequate medical care
4 provided by Defendants.

5 66. Mr. Sechrest's liver enzymes were elevated for years, but Defendants did no testing for
6 Hepatitis C (HCV) until 2005. Although he tested positive for HCV, Defendants have never offered
7 him treatment for the disease. Indeed, there is no indication in his medical records that he has ever
8 been evaluated under a treatment protocol to determine whether or not he is a good candidate for
9 HCV treatment. Instead, he appears to be denied care for a potentially lethal disease without any
10 medical consideration. He is also frequently placed on steroids, which is contraindicated for patients
11 with HCV.
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15 67. Mr. Sechrest's medical file has no record of his age, the progress notes are extremely
16 scanty, and there is almost no mental health record. His medical chart is very incomplete for a man
17 with significant health problems.
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19 68. Mr. Sechrest has experienced difficulties obtaining medications at ESP. In at least
20 one instance, ESP medical staff deliberately denied Mr. Sechrest his medications after he signed for
21 their receipt.
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23 69. Mr. Sechrest is not receiving adequate treatment for his serious medical conditions at ESP
24 and he is at great risk of suffering and has suffered serious medical harm.

25 70. **Plaintiff Terrence Brothers** suffered from untreated open sores on his scalp for
26 approximately ten years at ESP. After years of requesting treatment without success, Mr. Brothers
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1 finally received a prescription shampoo that helped his condition in 2006. But due to the years of
2 inadequate treatment, his scalp is permanently scarred, discolored and a large keloid formed on the
3 back of his head. This keloid often swells, bleeds and is very painful. Despite repeated requests,
4 Defendants still refuse to treat this condition.

5 71. Mr. Brothers is not receiving adequate treatment for his serious medical condition at ESP
6 and he is at great risk of suffering and has suffered serious medical harm.

7 72. **Plaintiff Jeffrey Hosmer** suffers from chronic severe back and neck pain and numbness
8 on his left side. Despite repeated requests for care, Mr. Hosmer's condition is not being adequately
9 treated. He frequently waits weeks or months to be seen by a doctor even though he is housed in
10 ESP's infirmary.

11 73. Mr. Hosmer's pain medication refills are often delayed for days or weeks at a time
12 causing him to suffer excruciating pain.

13 74. Mr. Hosmer is bi-polar and his medications for that condition are frequently interrupted
14 or discontinued thereby worsening his condition.

15 75. Mr. Hosmer is not receiving adequate treatment for his serious medical conditions at ESP
16 and he is at great risk of suffering and has suffered serious medical harm.

17 76. **Plaintiff Mark Whittington** requires thyroid replacement therapy and he has suffered
18 from chest and stomach pain and insomnia for months without adequate treatment despite repeated
19 requests for care.

20 77. While incarcerated at ESP, Mr. Whittington has experienced continual problems with
21 discontinued medications, dosages of prescribed medications running out, and on at least one
22 occasion he was given the wrong medication by medical staff and suffered serious physical and
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mental side effects as a result.

1 78. Mr. Whittington is not receiving adequate treatment for his serious medical conditions at
2 ESP and he is at great risk of suffering and has suffered serious medical harm.

3 79. The requirements of Rule 23(a) are met with regard to the putative class. Specifically:

4 a. There are currently over 1000 prisoners confined in ESP. The members of the class
5 are too numerous, and the membership of the class too fluid, to permit joinder of all
6 members.
7

8 b. Common questions of law and fact exist as to all class members. These common
9 questions include, but are not limited to, whether the systemically inadequate medical
10 care provided to ESP prisoners violates their rights under the Eighth and Fourteenth
11 Amendments to the United States Constitution.
12

13 c. The claims of the named plaintiffs are typical of those of the ESP Class as a whole.
14 They do not have access to minimally adequate medical care at ESP and are subject
15 to such grossly callous denial of basic medical care that every class member is either
16 suffering from, or at great risk of suffering, agonizing pain, injury and potentially
17 premature death.
18

19 d. Plaintiffs will fairly and adequately represent the interests of the class. The interests
20 of the Plaintiffs are consistent with those of the class, and they are represented by
21 counsel who are experienced in class action, civil rights, and prison conditions
22 litigation.
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24 80. The further requirements of Rule 23(b)(2) are met in this case in that at all times
25 Defendants have acted and refused to act on grounds generally applicable to the class, thereby
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making appropriate final injunctive and declaratory relief with respect to the class as a whole.

CLAIM FOR RELIEF

Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and 42 U.S.C. § 1983

81. Defendants' policies, practices, acts, and omissions place Plaintiffs and the ESP class at unreasonable, continuing and foreseeable risk of serious medical problems.

82. Defendants have acted with deliberate indifference to Plaintiffs' and the ESP class's serious medical needs by implementing, sanctioning, approving, ratifying, or failing to remedy policies, practices, acts and omissions that deny, delay or intentionally interfere with medical treatment.

83. Defendants' deliberate indifference to Plaintiffs' and the ESP class's serious medical needs puts Plaintiffs and the ESP class at substantial risk of injury, causes avoidable pain, mental suffering, and deterioration of their health, and in some cases it has resulted or may result in premature death. Defendants' conduct constitutes unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain on the Plaintiffs and the ESP class.

84. Defendants' policies, practices, acts, and omissions evidence and constitute deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of prisoners and violate the Cruel and Unusual Punishments Clause of the Eighth Amendment, made applicable to the States through the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

85. As a proximate result of Defendants' unconstitutional policies, practices, acts and omissions, Plaintiffs and the ESP class have suffered and will continue to suffer immediate and irreparable injury, including physical, psychological and emotional injury and risk of death. Plaintiffs have no plain, adequate or complete remedy at law to address the wrongs described herein. The injunctive relief sought by Plaintiffs is necessary to prevent continued and further injury.

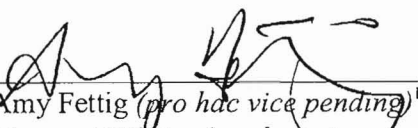
PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court:

1. Issue an order certifying this action to proceed as a class action pursuant to Rules 23(a) and (b)(2) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure;
2. Issue a judgment declaring that the actions of Defendants described herein are unlawful and violate Plaintiffs' rights under the Constitution and laws of the United States;
3. Enjoin Defendants, their subordinates, agents, employees, and all others acting in concert with them, from subjecting Plaintiffs to the conditions set forth in this Complaint;
4. Grant Plaintiffs their reasonable attorney fees and costs pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1988 and other applicable law; and
5. Grant such other relief as the Court considers just and proper.

Date: March 6, 2008

BY:


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Tel. (702) 433-2666; fax (702) 433-9591
alichtensteinlaw@aol.com

Stephen F. Hanlon (*pro hac vice pending*)
HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
2099 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel. (202) 955-3000; fax (202) 955-5564

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JS 44 (Rev. 11/04)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

David Riker, Roger Libby, Ricky Sechrest, Terrence Brothers, Jeffrey Hosmer, and Mark Whittington

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff White Pine County
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

(c) Attorney's (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Lee Rowland, ACLU of Nevada, 1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46, Reno, NV 89502 775/786-1033

DEFENDANTS

James Gibbons, Ross Miller, Catherine Cortez Masto, Howard Skolnik, Robert Bannister, and E.K. McDaniel

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant _____
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.

Attorneys (If Known)

Janet Traut, Deputy Attorney General, Litigation Division
100 North Carson Street, Carson City, NV 89701 775/684-1033

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excl. Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Med. Malpractice <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 810 Selective Service <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 875 Customer Challenge 12 USC 3410 <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 892 Economic Stabilization Act <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 894 Energy Allocation Act <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 900 Appeal of Fee Determination Under Equal Access to Justice <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 444 Welfare <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights	PRISONER PETITIONS <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition	<input type="checkbox"/> 610 Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> 620 Other Food & Drug <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 630 Liquor Laws <input type="checkbox"/> 640 R.R. & Truck <input type="checkbox"/> 650 Airline Regs. <input type="checkbox"/> 660 Occupational Safety/Health <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 730 Labor/Mgmt. Reporting & Disclosure Act <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	

V. ORIGIN

(Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- 1 Original Proceeding
- 2 Removed from State Court
- 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- 5 Transferred from another district (specify)
- 6 Multidistrict Litigation
- 7 Appeal to District Judge from Magistrate Judgment

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
42 U.S.C. 1983

Brief description of cause:
Deliberate indifference to the serious medical needs of over 1000 prisoners at Ely State Prison in Ely, NV.

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23 DEMAND \$ _____ CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:
JURY DEMAND: Yes No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions): JUDGE _____ DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE
3/6/08

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD
Lee Rowland #10209

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT # _____ AMOUNT _____ APPLYING IFP _____ JUDGE _____ MAG. JUDGE _____

1 Amy Fettig (*pro hac vice* pending)¹
 Margaret Winter (*pro hac vice* pending)
 2 THE NATIONAL PRISON PROJECT
 OF THE ACLU FOUNDATION, INC.
 3 915 15th Street, N.W., Seventh Floor
 Washington, D.C. 20005
 4 Tel (202) 393-4930; fax (202) 393-4931
 afettig@npp-aclu.org
 5 mwinter@npp-aclu.org

6 Lee Rowland
 ACLU OF NEVADA
 NV Bar No. 10209
 1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
 8 Reno, NV 89502
 Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805
 9 rowland@aclunv.org

10 Allen Lichtenstein
 ACLU OF NEVADA
 NV Bar No. 3992
 3315 Russell Road, No. 222
 12 Las Vegas, Nevada 89120
 Tel (702) 433-2666; fax (702) 433-9591
 13 alichtensteinlaw@aol.com

14 Stephen F. Hanlon (*pro hac vice* pending)
 HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP
 15 2099 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20006
 16 Tel. (202) 955-3000; fax (202) 955-5564

17 *Counsel for Plaintiffs*

18 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 19 FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEVADA

20 DAVID RIKER, ROGER LIBBY, RICKY SECHREST
 21 TERRENCE BROTHERS, JEFFREY HOSMER, MARK
 WHITTINGTON on their own behalf and on behalf of
 those similarly situated,

22 Plaintiffs,

23 v.

25 JAMES GIBBONS, Governor of Nevada; ROSS MILLER,
 26 Secretary of State of Nevada; CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO,
 Attorney General of Nevada; HOWARD SKOLNIK, Director,

Docket No. _____

27 _____
 28 ¹ Attorneys Winter, Fettig and Hanlon will comply with LR IA 10-2 within 45 days.

1 Nevada Department of Corrections; ROBERT BANNISTER,
2 Medical Director, Nevada Department of Corrections; and
3 E. K. MCDANIEL, Warden, Ely State Prison.

4
5
6 Defendants.

7
8
9 **PLAINTIFFS' CERTIFICATE AS TO INTERESTED PARTIES**


10 Pursuant to Local Rule 7.1-1 the undersigned, counsel of record for Plaintiffs, certifies
11 that the following have an interest in the outcome of this case:

12 There are no known interested parties other than those participating in this case.

13 These representations are made to enable judges of the Court to evaluate possible disqualification
14 or recusal.

15
16
17 Date: March _6_, 2008

18 BY:

19 
20 Lee Rowland
21 ACLU of Nevada
22 NV Bar No. 10209
23 1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
24 Reno, NV 89502
25 Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805
26 rowland@aclunv.org
27
28

AO 440 (Rev. 8/01) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of NEVADA

David Riker, Roger Libby, Ricky Sechrest, et al.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

V.

James Gibbons, Ross Miller, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

TO: (Name and address of Defendant)

Robert Bannister
Medical Director
Nevada Department of Corrections
5500 Snyder Ave.
Carson City, NV 89701

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Lee Rowland
ACLU of Nevada
NV Bar No. 10209
1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
Reno, NV 89502
Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805

an answer to the complaint which is served on you with this summons, within 20 days after service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Any answer that you serve on the parties to this action must be filed with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

CLERK

DATE

(By) DEPUTY CLERK

AO 440 (Rev. 8/01) Summons in a Civil Action

RETURN OF SERVICE		
Service of the Summons and complaint was made by me ⁽¹⁾	DATE	
NAME OF SERVER (<i>PRINT</i>)	TITLE	
<i>Check one box below to indicate appropriate method of service</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Served personally upon the defendant. Place where served: <input type="checkbox"/> Left copies thereof at the defendant's dwelling house or usual place of abode with a person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein. Name of person with whom the summons and complaint were left: <input type="checkbox"/> Returned unexecuted: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify):		
STATEMENT OF SERVICE FEES		
TRAVEL	SERVICES	TOTAL \$0.00
DECLARATION OF SERVER		
<p style="text-align: center;">I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information contained in the Return of Service and Statement of Service Fees is true and correct.</p> <p>Executed on _____ Date Signature of Server</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Address of Server</p>		

(1) As to who may serve a summons see Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

AO 440 (Rev. 8/01) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of NEVADA

David Riker, Roger Libby, Ricky Sechrest, et al.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

V.

James Gibbons, Ross Miller, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

TO: (Name and address of Defendant)

Catherine Cortez Masto
Attorney General
100 North Carson Street
Carson City, Nevada 89701-4717

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Lee Rowland
ACLU of Nevada
NV Bar No. 10209
1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
Reno, NV 89502
Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805

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AO 440 (Rev. 8/01) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of NEVADA

David Riker, Roger Libby, Ricky Sechrest, et al.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

V.

James Gibbons, Ross Miller, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

TO: (Name and address of Defendant)

Governor James Gibbons
State Capitol
101 N. Carson Street
Carson City, NV 89701

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Lee Rowland
ACLU of Nevada
NV Bar No. 10209
1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
Reno, NV 89502
Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805

an answer to the complaint which is served on you with this summons, within 20 days after service of this summons on you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the complaint. Any answer that you serve on the parties to this action must be filed with the Clerk of this Court within a reasonable period of time after service.

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AO 440 (Rev. 8/01) Summons in a Civil Action

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Check one box below to indicate appropriate method of service

- Served personally upon the defendant. Place where served:

- Left copies thereof at the defendant's dwelling house or usual place of abode with a person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein.
 Name of person with whom the summons and complaint were left:
- Returned unexecuted:

- Other (specify):

STATEMENT OF SERVICE FEES

TRAVEL	SERVICES	TOTAL \$0.00
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DECLARATION OF SERVER

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing information contained in the Return of Service and Statement of Service Fees is true and correct.

Executed on _____
Date *Signature of Server*

Address of Server

(1) As to who may serve a summons see Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

AO 440 (Rev. 8/01) Summons in a Civil Action

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of NEVADA

David Riker, Roger Libby, Ricky Sechrest, et al.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

V.

James Gibbons, Ross Miller, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

TO: (Name and address of Defendant)

E.K. McDaniel
Ely State Prison
P.O. Box 1989
4569 North State Rt. 490
Ely, NV 89301

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Lee Rowland
ACLU of Nevada
NV Bar No. 10209
1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
Reno, NV 89502
Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of NEVADA

David Riker, Roger Libby, Ricky Sechrest, et al.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

V.

James Gibbons, Ross Miller, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

TO: (Name and address of Defendant)

Ross Miller
Secretary of State
Main Office - Capitol Building
101 North Carson Street, Suite 3
Carson City, NV 89701-3714

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Lee Rowland
ACLU of Nevada
NV Bar No. 10209
1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
Reno, NV 89502
Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

District of NEVADA

David Riker, Roger Libby, Ricky Sechrest, et al.

SUMMONS IN A CIVIL ACTION

V.

James Gibbons, Ross Miller, et al.

CASE NUMBER:

TO: (Name and address of Defendant)

Howard Skolnik, Director
Nevada Department of Corrections
Central Administration, Stewart Facility
5500 Snyder Avenue, Bldg. 17
Carson City, Nevada 89701

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve on PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY (name and address)

Lee Rowland
ACLU of Nevada
NV Bar No. 10209
1280 Terminal Way, Suite 46
Reno, NV 89502
Tel (775) 786-1033; fax (775) 786-0805

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