

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Peter E. Martin

A Law Corporation State Bar Number 121672

917 Third Street

Eureka, California 95501

Tel: (707) 268-0445 Fax: (707) 667-0318

Email: péter@petermartinlaw.com

Jeffrey Schwartz

5

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

State Bar Number 80643 791 Eighth Street, Suite H Arcata, California 95521 Tel: (707) 822-2707

Fax: (707) 633-1900

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

### SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

Barbara Sage, as an individual; Barbara Sage, as successor-in-interest to Charles Sage, deceased,

Plaintiffs,

VS.

City of Arcata, Brian Hoffman, Does 1 through 50,

Defendants.6

CASE NO. DR120195

DECLARATION OF KEVIN STONEBARGER IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT/SUMMARY ADJUDICATION

I, Kevin Stonebarger, declare:

1. I was a peace officer employed by the City of Arcata from 1999 through March 8,

2013. I am currently employed as a private investigator. My curriculim vitae is attached hereto as Exhibit A and is made a part hereof by this reference.

2. I have personal knowledge of all facts set forth herein, and could, if called upon, competently testify thereto.

- 3. Sgt. Todd Dokweiler is a detective employed by the City of Arcata. In calendar year 2010 through the present, Sgt. Dokweiler has been in charge of the Special Services Unit of the Arcata Police Department. One purpose of the Special Services Unit was to locate and eradicate unlawful indoor marijuana growing operations in the City of Arcata. In the middle of calendar year 2010, Sgt. Dokweiler began using a white board in his office to record statistics relating to the number of marijuana plants seized, the amount of money seized, and the amount of processed marijuana seized.
- 4. I was a member of the Special Services Unit from early 2010 until February, 2012. At the end of calendar year 2010, several members of the Special Services Unit met at the Lost Coast Brewery in Eureka for dinner and drinks. I was present at this meeting. During this meeting, Brian Hoffman proposed that Sgt. Dokweiler should set goals for the Special Services Unit ("SSU") for calendar year 2011. If the SSU reached these goals, Sgt. Dokweiler agreed to buy dinner and drinks for the entire SSU team. At this meeting, Sgt. Dokweiler set a goal for 2011 that the SSU seize at least \$150,000 in forfeitable assets from marijuana growers in calendar year 2011.
- 5. About a month after the dinner, Sgt. Dokweiler, myself and Brian Hoffman met at the Arcata Police Department in Sgt. Dokweiler's office to discuss the details of the goals for 2011. At that time, Sgt. Dokweiler set a goal to seize 10,000 marijuana plants and a goal to seize a certain amount of processed marijuana. Sgt. Dokweiler asked Mr. Hoffman and myself to assist him with keeping the statistics current on his white board in his office to keep track of the SSU's progress toward these goals.

 6. In calendar year 2011, the SSU team met most Wednesdays to serve search warrants. These Wednesdays were called "search warrant Wednesdays" and all members of the SSU were supposed to be at work on Wednesday. Brian Hoffman frequently commented and discussed the goals that Sgt. Dokweiler had set. Brian Hoffman repeatedly stated that Sgt. Dokweiler was going to buy dinner and drinks at the end of the year. Brian Hoffman was very motivated to meet Sgt. Dokweiler's goals because Sgt. Dokweiler had a reputation of being thrifty or cheap, and Mr. Hoffman was planning to take great delight in the day that Sgt. Dokweiler had to pay for dinnner and drinks for the entire SSU team. I have personal knowledge of these facts because I was present when Brian Hoffman made these repeated statements about his motivation for meeting Sgt. Dokweiler's goals.

7. When Brian Hoffman started investigating the Sage case in mid-2011, he was more enthusiastic, determined and driven to complete the investigation than I had previously seen him with any other search warrant case. I worked with Brian Hoffman on the Sage case from the beginning of the investigation. I made two trips with Brian Hoffman to the Sage residence in the early morning hours. Agent Ortega was on the drug task force and was the officer who referred the Sage matter to Mr. Hoffman for investigation. Mr. Hoffman and Agent Ortega have been best friends since childhood.

8. Mr. Hoffman and I went to the exterior of the Sage residence and got out of the car and walked around the area on two occasions prior to the execution of the search warrant for the house. On both occasions, I smelled the odor of growing marijuana coming from the general direction of the Sage residence. On on least one of these occasions, I expressed concern to Mr. Hoffman that we could not determine that the odor of growing marijuana was actually coming from the Sage residence as opposed to one of the other residences in the neighborhood. This was because the wind was blowing east-to-west on both occasions that Mr. Hoffman and I were on foot at the Sage

 residence. There is a well-populated residential neighborhood to the east of the Sage residence, and it was my opinion that the marijuana odor could not be pinpointed as coming from the Sage residence. There was about a fifty foot distance from the west/south edge of the fence on the Sage property to the detached shop area in the backyard. As we could not approach closer to the backyard shed, it was my professional opinion that we could not say where the odor of growing marijuana originated.

9. When Mr. Hoffman got the PG&E records after the PG&E search warrant on the Sages, I told Mr. Hoffman that in my opinion the PG&E records did not show that marijuana was currently growing at the Sage residence. This is because the electric usage had significantly declined. Also, there was a travel trailer parked in the driveway and it appeared to be lived in by persons other than the Sages. I was of the opinion that the PG&E usage could be explained by the number of people potentially living on the property.

10. When Brian Hoffman showed me pictures of the Sages and their birthdates prior to the search warrant for the Sage residence, I expressed concern to Mr. Hoffman that due to the advanced ages of Charles and Barbara Sage, that they could very well have a legitimate medical need to lawfully use marijuana. I also expressed concern about doing a search warrant on persons of those advanced ages due to special officer safety considerations. In a standard search warrant the suspects are placed face down on the ground and have their arms handcuffed behind their backs. I told Mr. Hoffman that I was concerned about officer safety if we could not follow this procedure due to the age and health of the Sages.

11. In November or December, 2011, I called Assistant D.A. Kelly Neel to discuss her having declined to approve two search warrants written by Brian Hoffman. I asked Ms.

3

Neel if the D.A. had changed its policy on approving marijuana grow search warrants. She told me that the D.A.'s policy had not changed. Ms. Neel told me that concerns had arisen about Brian Hoffman's search warrant affidavits. Ms. Neel told me Mr. Hoffman had submitted an affidavit for a search warrant for marijuana at 1447 Panoroma Drive, Arcata, CA. Ms. Neel told me that certain information in Mr. Hoffman's affidavit for 1447 Panorama Drive was false. Mr. Hoffman had stated in his affidavit that the electrical meter at 1447 Panorama Drive was visible from the roadway. Ms. Neel told me that it was not possible to see the PG&E meter from the roadway at 1447 Panorama Drive because it was obscured by vegetation. Ms. Neel also told me that Mr. Hoffman had recently submitted a marijuana search warrant affidavit for a residence at 2155 Wyatt Lane, Arcata, CA, and that affidavit had contained a signficant error. Ms. Neel told me that Mr. Hoffman had incorrectly indentified a prior incident relating to the 2155 Wyatt investigation as involving marijuana or hashish when in fact that prior incident involved cocaine. Mr. Hoffman discovered his mistake two days later and re-wrote the search warrant to include the correct information and re-submitted it to Asst. D.A. Neel. Ms. Neel rejected the corrected affidavit because she felt the magnitude of Mr. Hoffman's error had the potential to compromise any prosecution arising out of that search warrant. Ms. Neel told me about a third marijuana search warrant that Mr. Hoffman had submitted to her that she rejected because the evidence was weak. Based on these three incidents, Ms. Neel told me that she had concerns about Mr. Hoffman's credibility and was more cautious when reviewing search warrant affidavits written by Mr. Hoffman.

23

12. Shortly after my call with Ms. Neel as described in Paragraph 11, I met with Sgt. Dokweiler and related the substance of my conversation with Ms. Neel to him.

2627

28

25

13. I know that Sgt. Dokweiler's custom and practice is to report any personnel concerns of this magnitude directly to Chief Chapman.

14. In November, 2013, I went to 1447 Panorama Drive to view the residence from the street and took pictures. The PG&E meter was not visible from the street or from the driveway of the residence to the south of 1447 Panorama Drive. I had been with Mr. Hoffman in November, 2011, when we drove by 1447 Panorama Drive and got out of the car to view the residence. At that time, we stood on the sidewalk in front of the residence. The PG&E meter was obscured by a large stump and a large tree in November, 2011, just as it was when I returned to 1447 Panorama in November, 2013.

15. Prior to about October, 2009, APD did not generally do search warrants on grow houses in Arcata. At that time, complaints about grow houses were referred to the Drug Task Force.

16. In or about October, 2009, there was a nationally televised documentary aired about marijuana growing in Arcata entitled: "Pot City, USA." As a result of the controversy surrounding the airing of this documentary, the APD began a campaign to eradicate grow houses in Arcata.

17. In 2010, APD had a custom that grow houses that had PG&E usage of less than 5,000 kilowatt hours per month would not be the subject of investigation. In 2011, the target was lowered to 3,000 kilowatt hours per month. This was because the eradication program had become a victim of its own success: there were fewer large grows to investigate.

18. Tom Chapman was close friends with Sgt. Dokweiler. The Dokweilers and the Chapmans socialized together outside of work. Tom Chapman was a big fan of statistics. Tom Chapman ordered that each officer's citations and arrests be tabulated every month and posted at APD so their colleagues could see them. In 2011, Tom Chapman was constantly in and out of Sgt. Dokweiler's office, and could not have failed

to see that large 4' x 6' "white board" where Dokweiler posted the running total of cash seizures, plant seizures, guns seized, and processed marijuana seized. Dokweiler would not have undertaken this program without Chief Chapman's knowledge and approval. Chief Chapman originated the campaign to eradicate grow houses in Arcata.

- 19. In 2011, Chief Chapman had a "no surprises" policy where he told his managers to bring everything to him for review so that he would not be unpleasantly surprised by developments.
- 20. In 2011, Dokweiler wanted to publish the statistics on APD's grow eradication efforts at the end of the year.
- 21. Chief Chapman was responsible for training the officers at APD. In 2010 and 2011, there was no formal training about search warrants or search and seizures issues provided to officers who wrote search warrants. An officer with no training would be told to write an affidavit and then a supervisor would review it. I had received formal training in writing search warrants from CNOA, but no one else I worked with in 2011 had such training to my knowledge.
- 22. In 2010 and 2011, APD had no documented training of officers about the Compassionate Use Act (H&S 11362.5 et seq.) or about SB 420.
- 23. APD never investigated or disciplined Hoffman for his false and/or misleading statement that he smelled marijuana coming from the Sage residence. This statement was made in Hoffman's affidavit for the search of the Sage residence.

24. APD never investigated or disciplined Hoffman for his false and/or misleading
statement about viewing the electric meter at the premises at 1447 Panorama Dr.,
Arcata.

- 25. APD never investigated or disciplined Hoffman for his false and/or misleading statement about an arrest made in a search warrant affidavit relating to an investigation at 2155 Wyatt Lane, Arcata.
- 26. APD never investigated or disciplined Dokweiler for his 2011 numerical goals and quotas for cash seizures, plant seizures, guns seized, and processed marijuana seized.
- 27. APD never investigated or disciplined Dokweiler for his offer to buy drinks for the marijuana eradication team if they met his 2011 numerical goals and quotas for cash seizures, plant seizures, guns seized, and processed marijuana seized.
- 28. Had any internal investigation been commenced on Officer Hoffman or Sgt.

  Dockweiler for the events described in paragraphs 24-28, I would have known of them because APD policy is to interview witnesses in an internal investigation (IA). I was a percipient witness to the events and was never interviewed.
- 29. At the execution of the Sage search warrant on June 1, 2011, at least six officers carried AR-15 assault rifles. This is because many of the DTF officers liked to carry assault rifles, and several DTF officers were a part of this search warrant team.
- 30. Generally, all the officers at an APD search warrant party wore bullet proof vests and helmets.
- 31. In or about mid-2009, Thomas Chapman was appointed Acting Chief of Police.

1	40. Chief Chapman was the policymaker who permitted and allowed his officers to seek
2	search warrants for citizen's homes in Arcata without any consideration of the mandates
3	of the CUA and the MMPA.
4	
5	41. Chief Chapman was the policymaker who by his actions herein exhibited deliberate
6	indifference to the right of the citizens of Arcata who were medical marijuana patients to
7	be secure in their homes.
8	
9	42. City Manager Randy Mendoza was not involved in policy making at the Arcata
10	Police Department while he was city manager.
11	
12	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that
13	the foregoing is true and correct.
14	
15	Data di Januari 2014
16	Dated: January, 2014 Kevin Stonebarger
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
40	10

40. Chief Chapman was the policymaker who permitted and allowed his deputies to seek search warrants for citizen's homes in Arcata without any consideration of the mandates of the CUA and the MMPA. 41. Chief Chapman was the policymaker who by his actions herein exhibited deliberate indifference to the right of the citizens of Arcata who were medical marijuana patients to be secure in their homes. 42. City Manager Randy Mendoza was not involved in policy making at the Arcata Police Department while he was city manager. I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Dated January 14, 2014

Generated by CamScanner from intsig.com

**EXHIBIT A** 

## STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

#### **KEVIN D. STONEBARGER**

Your affiant, Kevin Stonebarger is currently the owner and operator of Stonebarger Investigations, specializing in criminal and civil actions. My main focus of expertise is on narcotics, including Proposition 215 and the Compassionate Use Act, Use of Force and Drunk Driving, including impairment and Field Sobriety Tests.

I was employed as a full-time sworn police officer by the Arcata Police Department from December 20, 1999 to March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013. I was assigned to the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDTF) during the year of 2012, my second assignment to that position during my career. Prior to that, I was assigned to the Arcata Police Department Special Services Unit as a Park Ranger and was the Warrant Entry Team Leader.

Prior to my employment with the Arcata Police Department, I was employed as a full time Police Officer for the Fortuna Police Department (FoPD) from June 1, 1996 to December 19, 1999. I was assigned to the Humboldt County Drug Task Force (HCDTF) from June 1, 1998 to December 10, 1999 to investigate violations of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act. I hold a Peace Officers Standards and Training Advanced Certificate. I also hold an Associates of Science degree in Administration of Justice from College of the Redwoods where I graduated with high honors.

I was a handler protection K-9 Handler for the Arcata Police Department from May 29, 2001 until January 13, 2008. My K-9 partner "Eddie" was trained in handler protection, building and area searches and suspect apprehension. Since November 2000, "Eddie" and I trained regularly in each of those areas. I also trained with other K-9 handlers and trainers from other Humboldt County Law Enforcement agencies as well as handlers from around the State of California. "Eddie" was responsible for the apprehension of numerous subjects, some the most violent wanted subjects in the County.

I have worked with and spoken with local, state and federal officers/agents in the area of narcotics enforcement. I have developed contacts with narcotics users, narcotics sellers and narcotics informants and have discussed with them all aspects of use, sales, packaging and transfer of controlled substances. I have discussed with prior and current users of controlled substances regarding the effects of certain drugs including methamphetamine, opiates, marijuana, ecstasy, alcohol, LSD and certain prescription drugs. I have attended a 16 hour drug recognition course and have conducted drug influence evaluations of hundreds of people.

I have arrested nearly 400 people for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or controlled substances and have assisted in the arrests of hundreds more. I have arrested

## STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

#### **KEVIN D. STONEBARGER**

over 300 people for possession, possession for sale, transportation for sale and being under the influence of controlled substance(s), including, heroin, methamphetamine, LSD, marijuana, hallucinogens, inhalants and depressants and have assisted in the arrest/investigations of dozens more persons for the same violations. I have assisted with and participated in at least 2 DUI/Driver's License checkpoints in the cities of Arcata and Eureka. I am the recipient of the 1998, 2001 and 2002 California State Mother's Against Drunk Driver's Award. I am also the recipient of the 1997, 2001 and 2002 Humboldt County Mother's Against Drunk Driver's Award. In 2001, I received the MADD "Century" Award, denoting 100 or more arrests for drunk driving in that year.

I have obtained no less than 100 search warrants where controlled substances were listed as the primary item to be seized. I have also trained multiple officers/agents in writing and obtaining search warrants. I have qualified numerous times in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of Humboldt, as an expert in the area of possession, possession for sale, transportation and cultivation of marijuana. I have also qualified as an expert in the possession and possession for sale of other controlled substances such as methamphetamine, heroin and hash in all its forms.

I was the sexual assault, parolee, probation and registrant coordinator for the Fortuna Police Department from 1996 to 1999. I am currently a firearms, Taser, rifle and chemical agents instructors for the Arcata Police Department.

Until 2012, I was a firearms instructor, force options simulator instructor, chemical agents instructor, and controlled substances instructor at the College of the Redwoods Basic Police Academy. During that time, I instructed in excess of 500 students in firearms, in excess of 600 students in a state-of-the art Force Options Simulator that I installed and set up. I also exposed over 600 students to miscellaneous chemical agents including CN, CS and OC.

I am an advanced officer instructor in Tactical Firearms, Force Option Simulator, Patrol Rifle, Taser & Drug Recognition Evaluation. I am currently the only POST certified Taser "Train the Trainer" instructor in the County of Humboldt. In May 2005, I became Associate Faculty at College of the Redwoods.

I graduated from the Redwoods Police Academy (690 hours) on April 26, 1996. I ranked #4 overall in graduation standings. The academy included at least 16 hours of drug recognition and evaluation training. Also during the course of the Basic Police

## STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

#### **KEVIN D. STONEBARGER**

attended and completed a twelve hour block of instruction on the investigation of child exploitation, a three hour block on Child Sexual Assault, a three hour block on Adult Sexual Assault, and a seven hour block of instruction on Sexual Assault Investigation.

I have attended the following training since June 1, 1996:

- 1. Basic Traffic Accident Investigation (Concord) **1996** (40 hours)
- 2. Street Survival Seminar (Calibre Press) **1997** (16 hours)
- 3. Parolee Contacts (Garden Grove P.D.) **1997** (8 hours)
- 4. Crime Scene Recognition and Reconstruction (D.O.J.) **1998** (60 hours)
- 5. Basic S.W.A.T. (Stockton P.D.) **1998** (40 hours)
- 6. Interview and Interrogation (F.B.I.) **1998** (24 hours)
- 7. Narcotics Influence and Evaluation (Sonoma Co. S.O.) **1998** (24 hours)
- 8. Basic Narcotics Investigations (D.O.J.) **1998** (80 hours)
- 9. Surviving Search Warrant Entries (CNOA) **1998** (4 hours
- 10. Clandestine Labs-Techniques & Investigations (CNOA) **1998** (4 hours)
- 11. A Workable Approach to Search and Seizure (CNOA) **1998** (4 hours)
- 12. Clandestine Labs- The Mexican Connection (CNOA) 1998 (4 hours)
- 13. Drugs on Wheels (CNOA) **1998** (4 hours)
- 14. Vehicle Interdiction (C.A.M.P.) 1998 (4 hours)
- 15. Courtroom Tactics (C.A.M.P.) 1998 (4 hours)
- 16. A Weed to a Science (C.A.M.P.) 1998 (4 hours)
- 17. Marijuana Trends (C.A.M.P.) **1998** (4 hours)
- 18. Mexican National Drug Organizations (C.A.M.P.) **1998** (4 hours)
- 19. Expert Testimony in Marijuana Cases (C.A.M.P.) **1998** (4 hours)
- 20. Domestic Violence, First Responders (San Francisco P.D.)1999 (8 hours)
- 21. Making Meth (CNOA) **1999** (8 hours)
- 22. Firearms Instructor (Modesto) **1999** (40 hours)
- 23. Domestic Violence Prosecution (San Francisco) **1999** (40 hours)
- 24. Light/Sound Diversionary Devices (Pelican Bay State Prison) **1999** (4 hours)
- 25. Search Warrants A to Z (CNOA) 1999 (8 hours)
- 26. Narcotic Street Development (CNOA) **1999** (8 hours)
- 27. Risk Management (CHP) **2000** (8 hours)
- 28. Sexual Assault for First Responders (San Diego Training Center) **2000** (8 hours)
- 29. Child Forensic Interview Techniques (C.A.S.T.) **2000** (24 hours)
- 30. Child Abuse & Sexual Assault Investigations/ First Responders (HCDA) **2001** (8 hours)

#### 31. Rave Culture (CNOA) **2001** (8 hours)

## STATEMENT OF EXPERTISE

#### **KEVIN D. STONEBARGER**

- 32. Chemical Agents Instructor (Napa Valley Training Center) **2001** (32 hours)
- 33. Sexual Assault Investigator (San Jose State University) **2001** (36 hours)
- 34. Radar Operator's Course (Eureka Police Department) **2002** (24 hours)
- 35. Force Options Simulator Instructor (West Covina PD) **2003** (40 hours)
- 36. Drug Screening (Department of Justice) **2003** (8 hours)
- 37. Advanced Interactive Systems Instructor Course (AIS) **2003** (16 hours)
- 38. E-PAS Certification (Department of Justice) **2003** (4 hours)
- 39. Glock Armorer (Glock, Inc.) **2003** (8 hours)
- 40. M26/X26 Taser Instructor (Taser International) **2003** (12 hours)
- 41. Field Training Officer (Sacramento County Sheriff) **2004** (40 hours)
- 42. "Stop Teaching our Kids to Kill" (Lt. Colonel David Grossman) **2005** (8 hours)
- 43. Homicide Investigation (Sacramento County Sheriff) 2005 (40 hours)
- 44. Scenario Management (POST) **2006** (24 hours)
- 45. Canine Handler Update (Adlerhorst Kennels) 2006 (24 hours)
- 46. Patrol Rifle Instructor (Alameda County Sheriff) 2006 (40 hours)
- 47. Taser Instructor Update (Taser International) **2006** (16 hours)
- 48. Instructor Development (Napa Valley College) **2006** (40 hours)
- 49. Canine Program Management (CPOA) **2007** (24 hours)
- 50. Assertive Supervision (Davis PD) 2007 (24 hours)
- 51. Master Simulator Instructor (TI Training) **2009** (24 hours)
- 52. ATV Operator Course (Humboldt County Sheriff's Office) 2009 (8 hours)
- 53. CIT Training (Humboldt County Mental Health) 2010 (32 hours)
- 54. Low Light Entry Training (Eureka PD) **2011** (10 hours)
- 55. Indoor Marijuana Grow Site Safety (DOJ) **2011** (24 hours)
- 56. Narcotics Investigations (DOJ) **2012** (80 hours)

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Teresa Cote', declare that I am employed by Peter E. Martin, A Law Corporation, whose address is 917 Third Street, Eureka, California 95501. I am over the age of eighteen (18) years and am not a party to this action.

On January 15, 2014, I served the following document:

# DECLARATION OF KEVIN STONEBARGER IN OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT/SUMMARY ADJUDICATION

[X] BY HAND DELIVERY: By Personally delivering a true copy thereof to the party(ies) and at the address(es) as set forth below:

Nancy K. Delaney MITCHELL, BRISSO, DELANEY & VRIEZE Attorneys at Law 814 Seventh Street Eureka, California 95502

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed at Eureka, California on January 15, 2014.

Teresa Cote