

By:  
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Deputy Clerk



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6 Attorneys for Defendant John Meyer

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9 **SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**  
10 **FOR THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**

11 MENDOCINO RAILWAY,  
12 Plaintiff,

13 vs.

14 JOHN MEYER; REDWOOD EMPIRE  
TITLE COMPANY OF MENDOCINO  
15 COUNTY; SHEPPARD  
INVESTMENTS; MARYELLEN  
SHEPPARD; MENDOCINO COUNTY  
16 TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR; all  
other persons unknown claiming an  
17 interest in the property; and DOES 1  
through 100, inclusive

18 Defendants.

) Unlimited

) Case No. SCUJ-CVED 20-74939

) DECLARATION OF ATTILA PANCZEL  
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR  
19 AWARD OF REASONABLE  
20 ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS  
PURSUANT TO CCP § 1268.610

) Date: August 18, 2023  
Time: 9:30 am  
21 Dept: E  
22 Judge: Honorable Jeanine B. Nadel

23 I, Attila Panczel, declare:

24 The following matters are of my own personal knowledge and if called to testify as  
25 a witness I can testify competently thereto:

26 1. I am currently a partner in the law firm of Insurance Litigators & Counselors,  
27 PLC, located in Ukiah, California. I am admitted to the practice of law before the Courts  
28 of the State of California.

2. I graduated from Empire School of Law in Santa Rosa, California, and I was  
admitted to the California State Bar on October 23, 2007.

1           3. My legal practice generally includes, but is not limited to, civil litigation  
2 involving real property, insurance related issues, trust litigation, and business related  
3 issues. As a result of my litigation background, and my work on attorneys fee matters for  
4 my own and other law firms, I am familiar with the prevailing market rates for skilled and  
5 competent attorneys in the Mendocino County legal community.

6           4. I charge my clients \$400 per hour for litigation related services, and I believe  
7 that such a rate is consistent with the rates charged by comparable attorneys in Mendocino  
8 County.

9           5. My firm's billing rates are charged to, and paid by, fee-paying clients of our  
10 firm and by court awards and settlements, and our fees are paid by the hour on a regular  
11 billing basis.

12           6. I have had cases against parties that were represented by Stephen Johnson, and  
13 he is a competent and respected litigation attorney. Mr. Johnson's attorney fee rate of  
14 \$350 per hour is relatively low, especially given his significant experience and the  
15 complex nature of this eminent domain litigation.

16           7. By obtaining complete success defendant John Meyer and his attorneys have  
17 performed a great public service. Without such a successful action, other landowners  
18 may have had their property wrongfully taken through an eminent domain action, thereby  
19 being deprived of valuable protections afforded by the law. In my opinion, the award of  
20 reasonable attorney fees and costs should recognize the important and broader  
21 consequences of the results of Meyer and his attorneys' hard work.

22           I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct and that this  
23 document was executed on July 10, 2023, at Ukiah, California.

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26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Attila Panczel  
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