
Subject: Fwd: Nuha Sayegh--Retainer Draft
From: Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>
To: Eric Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>, Eric Jones <eric@er-design.org>
Date Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:37:51 AM GMT-07:00
Date Received: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 11:38:04 AM GMT-07:00
Attachments: Nuha Sayegh--Retainer Draft-2025.10.27.PDF

Eric I feel SSOOO much better now that I have options coming my way for representation. At the rosebowl bout to do an hour on the courts killing time before i go see that other doc to give him a heads up so he can prepare as i did with Dr Armen

Hope your having a fantastic start to your morning.

nuha
love always
im so grateful for you

H BUI LAW FIRM- LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT

FAMILY LAW

THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS A PROVISION FOR BINDING ARBITRATION AND WAIVER OF THE RIGHT TO A JURY TRIAL FOR DISPUTES BETWEEN ATTORNEY AND CLIENT. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

This eleven-page document (the "Agreement"), executed in duplicate with each party receiving an executed original and/or faxed copy, is a written fee contract that California law requires lawyers to have with their clients, pursuant to California Business and Profession Code, including but not limited to Sections 6147-6148 and is intended to fulfill the requirements of those Sections. If client's retainer or payments are made by third parties then client and the third party shall sign the third party payor consent form and said form shall be made a part of this agreement.

The H BUI LAW FIRM (herein "Attorney"), located at: 802 S. 1st Ave. Arcadia, CA 91006 and **Nuha Sayegh** (herein referred to as "Client"), on the terms set forth below. This Contract will supersede all prior legal services, if any, contracts between Attorney and Client.

1. **NATURE OF SERVICES.** Attorney will provide legal services to Client with respect to **your Family Law matter.**
2. **CONDITIONS.** This Agreement will not take effect, and Attorney will have no obligation to provide legal services, until Client returns a signed copy of this Agreement and pays the initial fee called for under Paragraph Five (5).
3. **SCOPE OF SERVICES.** Attorney shall provide the following service: **your dissolution matter under case number 25PDFL01441 (related cases 25PDRO01246 and 25PDRO01260)** except for appeals from any judgment rendered by any court, or pre-judgment writs or petitions to a higher court to review an inferior court's action. Such representation will require a separate agreement for costs and attorney's fees. Unless Client and Attorney make a different agreement in writing, this Agreement will govern all future services Attorney may perform for Client.

Attorney will take reasonable steps to keep Client informed of progress and to respond to Client's inquiries. In order to provide Client with efficient and convenient legal services, Attorney will frequently communicate and transmit documents using e-mail. Because e-mail continues to

evolve, there may be risks communicating in this manner, including risks related to confidentiality and security. By entering into this Agreement, Client is consenting to such e-mail transmissions with Client and Client's representatives and agents.

3.2 In the absence of specific directions from Client, Attorney reserves the right to make those tactical and policy decisions concerning the time and place of discovery, scheduling the Court hearings, granting continuances voluntarily, and engaging in voluntary discovery or settlement negotiations. Client authorizes Attorney to file all pleadings and papers that Attorney believes to be reasonably necessary and to enter into negotiations towards a compromise and settlement of Client's case. Any settlement offer will be conveyed to Client with Attorney's recommendation for Client's acceptance or rejection. Client agrees to consider seriously any recommendations for settlement that Attorney makes and not to withhold, unreasonably, Client's consent to such settlement proposal. Attorney will not make any settlement affecting Client's rights without Client's consent.

3.3 Attorney is authorized to associate other counsel on Client's behalf any time Attorney deems it necessary or desirable. Attorney will give Client notice of any association. Allocation of legal fees with associated counsel will be made according to Rule 1.5.1 of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of California.

3.4 Client further understands that s/he may be represented in or out of court by any attorney associated with the H BUI LAW FIRM.

4. **CLIENT'S DUTIES.** Client agrees to be truthful with Attorney; to promptly provide all information and documents requested by Attorney; to communicate with Attorney as necessary; to return Attorney's telephone calls and respond to Attorney's letters; to keep Attorney informed of developments; to do those things that the law requires of Client as a litigant, including responding to discovery requests; to abide by this Agreement; to pay Attorney's legal bills on time; to keep Attorney advised of Client's address, telephone number and whereabouts; and to cooperate fully in preparing and presenting Client's case. Client also agrees to make Client's expectations and goals as clear to Attorney as possible.

5. **INITIAL ATTORNEY'S FEE.** Client hereby agrees to pay Attorney a refundable retainer in the amount of **\$7500** Client agrees that this initial fee is a payment to Attorney to secure Attorney's time, experience, and services.

5.1 The hourly charges and costs will be charged against the Deposit. The initial Deposit, as well as any future deposits, will be held in Attorney's Client Trust Account. Client authorizes Attorney to use that deposit to pay the fees and other charges. Client acknowledges that the deposit is not an estimate of total fees and costs to be charged by Attorney, but merely an advance.

5.2 Client agrees to pay all deposits after the initial deposit within 10 days of Attorney's demand. In the event there is any money from any deposit remaining in Attorney's Client Trust Account after Attorney's final bill is satisfied, that money will be promptly refunded to Client.

5.3 Whenever the deposit is exhausted, Attorney reserves the right to demand further deposits, each up to a maximum of \$5000 at any time before a trial or arbitration date is set. Once a trial or arbitration date is set, Client will pay all sums then owing and deposit the Attorney's fees estimated to be incurred in preparing for and completing the trial or arbitration, as well as the jury fees or arbitration fees, expert witness fees and other costs likely to be assessed. Those sums may exceed the maximum deposit.

6. LEGAL FEES AND BILLING PRACTICES. Client agrees to pay by the hour at Attorney's rates as set forth below for all time spent on Client's matter by Attorney and Attorney's legal personnel. Current hourly rates for legal personnel are as follows:

a. \$450.00 per hour for office time and \$450.00 per hour for Court time for partners and firm owner. It is expressly agreed by Client that the hourly rates are based upon the responsibilities undertaken by Attorney; the nature, extent, and complexities of Client's case; the intellectual work and effort by the Attorney; other benefits which might be obtained for Client by Attorney; and other value billing factors in accordance with Rule 1.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of California.

b. \$350.00 per hour for office time and \$350.00 per hour for Court time for associate attorney and of-counsel. It is expressly agreed by Client that the hourly rates are based upon the responsibilities undertaken by Attorney; the nature, extent, and complexities of Client's case; the intellectual work and effort by the Attorney; other benefits which might be obtained for Client by Attorney; and other value billing factors in accordance with Rule 1.5 of the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of California.

c. Law Clerks, Paralegals, and legal assistants have an hourly rate of \$200.00 per hour.

6.1 Attorney charges for time in minimum units of one tenth (.10) of an hour.

6.2 Client has been informed and understands that it is impossible to determine in advance the nature and extent of the necessary legal services needed in Client's matter. Client acknowledges that Attorney has made no promises about the total amount of attorney's fees to be incurred by Client under this agreement.

6.3 The rates on this schedule are subject to change on 30 days written notice to Client. If Client declines to pay increased rates, Attorney will have the right to withdraw as attorney for Client if permitted under the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of California and/or applicable law.

6.4 Time for which Client is billed applies to all time Attorney spends on Client's case, including, but not limited to, preparation of all legal documents for Court proceedings or marital settlement agreements; conferences; Court appearances; consultations with witness, experts or other persons necessary to the resolution of any issues raised during the proceedings; travel; research; correspondence; review of correspondence; telephone calls relating to Client's matter, including calls with Client, opposing counsel or court personnel; and negotiations. The legal personnel assigned to Client's matter will confer among themselves about the matter, as required. When they do confer, Client will be billed for the all attorney time. If more than one of our legal personnel attend a meeting, court hearing or other proceeding, Client will be billed for all of the attorneys attending, at their full billing rate. Client will be charged for waiting time in court and elsewhere. Client agrees to pay transportation, meals, lodging, and all other costs of any necessary out-of-town travel by Attorney's personnel. Client will also be charged the hourly rates for the time legal personnel spend traveling.

6.5 Client agrees that any money received by Client from any settlement, mediation, arbitration, court order or judgment of this matter should be made out to Client and Attorney's name, and deposited in Attorney's client trust account. Client hereby authorizes Attorney to deduct from those monies any attorney's fees and costs owed by Client to Attorney, pursuant to this Agreement, and for Attorney to give any remaining funds, if any, to the Client. Client also agrees that if these funds are made out to only Client's name, that Client will endorse said check, draft, or money order to Attorney's trust account; or in the alternative, Client hereby gives Attorney the power and instructions to endorse said check, draft, or money order on behalf of Client and/or Attorney and Attorney will deposit the same in the trust account.

7. **COST AND OTHER CHARGES.** Attorney will incur various costs and expenses in performing legal services under this Agreement. Client agrees to pay for those costs and expenses in addition to the attorney's fees. All necessary and reasonable costs for investigating, preparing and presenting Client's case, as covered by this Agreement, such as filing fees; process service fees; subpoena costs; mileage costs (\$0.575 per mile); fees fixed by law or assessed by courts and other agencies; court reporters' fees; photocopying costs; standard postage, express mail and messenger and other delivery charges; and long distance telephone calls, may, in Attorney's sole discretion, be advanced by Attorney, and Client shall be billed for all costs so advanced. Attorney cannot accept a deposit for advances for costs and expenses by credit card. Any such deposit must be paid via debit card, cash, check or money order. Client shall replenish their cost account whenever it falls below \$250 or as requested by the Attorney.

7.1 Client is advised and understands that the Attorney will **not** advance deposition costs, or costs relating to expert witnesses or other professional advisors. All of these costs must be advanced and/or paid for by the Client.

7.2 Client authorizes Attorney to engage such experts, consultants, and witnesses, and incur such additional litigation costs as Attorney deems necessary to the proper preparation or presentation of Client's case. However, before engaging any expert, Attorney will consult with Client as to the need for such an expert and obtain Client's consent before any expert is retained. Attorney will select any expert witnesses, consultants, or investigators to be hired.

7.3 In-office photocopying costs are billed at \$0.20 per page.

8. **BILLING STATEMENTS AND PAYMENTS.** Attorney will render periodic statements to Client on a time actually worked by Attorney/s and costs advanced. Client agrees to review Attorney's bills carefully, immediately upon receipt. One reason for periodic billings is to give Client an opportunity to bring any problems promptly to Attorney's attention. In the absence of any written objection thereto, within forty-five (45) days of the date of statement, Client will be deemed to have accepted and acknowledged the statements as current through the period covered by the statements.

8.1 All payments for legal services and costs are due within ten (10) days after the billing statement is emailed from Attorney. It is Attorney's practice to charge a late charge at the rate of 10% per annum or the maximum rate allowable by law, whichever is less, on the unpaid balance, on any sums not paid within ten (10) days of the initial billing date. The payment for the late charge does not extend terms or deter payment of any past-due bill.

8.2 Client agrees that Attorney's right to recover fees and costs from the Deposit or any subsequent deposit held in Attorney's Client Trust Account becomes fixed 45 days after the date a bill is sent to Client. Client authorizes Attorney to withdraw the funds from Attorney's Client Trust Account to pay Attorney's fees and costs 45 calendar days after the date a bill is sent to Client. If Attorney receives a written objection from Client within 45 days of sending the bill, Attorney's right to withdraw the amount that is identified in the objection shall be deemed to be disputed, and Attorney will not withdraw the disputed fees and/or costs from the Client Trust Account until the dispute is resolved. If Attorney receives an objection from Client more than 45 days after the date the bill is sent and after the funds have been withdrawn, Attorney will not be required to redeposit the disputed fees and/or costs into the Client Trust Account during the pendency of the dispute.

8.3 No fee is charged for discussing or explaining Client's bill; if there is any question concerning Client's bill, Client agrees to contact Attorney immediately.

8.4 It is expressly agreed that if Client receives any type of settlement, judgment or award in this matter Attorney will have a lien on those amounts, whether or not Attorney is still the attorney of record in the case. This lien will be applied to any outstanding balances the Client owes for Attorney's fees and any costs incurred or advanced by Attorney in this matter. This lien shall apply whether the check or draft is made out to the Client and the Attorney, the Client alone, or the Attorney alone. In the event the check or draft is made out with the Client's name, Client does hereby expressly authorize Attorney to endorse said instrument on Client's behalf and to deposit the instrument into Attorney's client trust account, and to withdraw the fees and costs which are outstanding and not disputed pursuant to this fee Agreement (i.e., paragraph 8 above, written objections to bill within the 45 days).

9. **DISCHARGE AND WITHDRAWAL.** Provisions with respect to withdrawal or discharge of Attorney:

9.1 Client has the right to discharge Attorney for any reason, at any time, by written notice, effective when received by Attorney.

9.2 Attorney has the right to withdraw from representation, at any time, as permitted under the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar upon giving Client reasonable written notice and, when applicable, with the consent of the Court in which the action is then pending. The circumstances under which the Rules permit such withdrawal include, but are not limited to: (i) due to the Attorney's withdrawal from active law practice; (ii) in the event evidence disclosed that Attorney has an irreconcilable conflict of interest between Client and/or a third party; (iii) the

Client's conduct renders it unreasonably difficult for the Attorney to carry out the representation effectively, which includes, but is not limited to, Client's non-cooperation, Client's refusal to follow Attorney's advice on a material matter of any fact or circumstance that would render Attorney's continuing representation unlawful or unethical, material breach of this Agreement or Client's nonpayment of attorney's fees or costs, as set forth in this Agreement; or (iv) the Client consents.

9.3 When Attorney's services are concluded, Client will remain obligated to pay Attorney at the agreed rates for all services provided, and to reimburse Attorney for all costs advanced before the withdrawal.

9.4 Attorney will withdraw as Counsel of Record after entry of judgment or Final Order so as to protect Client with respect to post judgment/hearing service of process unless otherwise agreed to by the Attorney and Client in writing (email confirmation shall suffice).

10. **RELEASE OF CLIENT'S PAPERS AND PROPERTY:** Client may have access to Client's case file at Attorney's office at any reasonable time. At the end of the engagement, Client may request the return of Client's case file. If Client has not requested the return of Client's file, and to the extent Attorney has not otherwise delivered it or disposed of it consistent with Client's directions, Attorney will retain the case file for a period **of 2 years**, after which Attorney is authorized by this agreement to have the case file destroyed. If Client would like Attorney to maintain Client's case file for more than **2 years** after the conclusion of Attorney's services for Client on a given matter, a separate written agreement must be made between Attorney and Client, which may provide for Client to bear the cost of maintaining the file. In the event Client requests that Attorney transfer possession of Client's case file to Client or a third party, Attorney is authorized to retain copies of the case file at Attorney's expense. It is further agreed that, upon withdrawal or discharge, Attorney will have the right to retain a copy of Client's file.

11. **ARBITRATION OF FEE OR OTHER DISPUTES:**

11.1 Any dispute between Client and Attorney as to the reasonable value of services under this Agreement shall be arbitrated under the provisions of the State Bar Fee Arbitration Program by the Los Angeles County Fee Arbitration Program.

11.2 Any dispute (other than one concerning legal fees only), including, but not limited set forth in section 6200-6206 of the California Business and Professions Code, disputes as to the quality of Attorney's services, breach of fiduciary duties, fraud, or any other aspect of the attorney-client relationship, will be determined by submission to binding arbitration as provided by California

law, and not by a lawsuit or resort to court process, except as California law provides for judicial review of arbitration proceedings. Client may also have the right, under California law, to mandatory nonbinding arbitration before a binding arbitration. If Client is entitled to, and asks for, nonbinding arbitration, and Client and/or Attorney is/are unhappy with the result, it will be followed by binding arbitration. All parties to this Agreement, by entering into it, are giving up their rights to have any dispute decided in a court of law before a judge or jury and, instead, are accepting the use of arbitration.

11.3 By signing this Agreement, Client is consenting to binding arbitration of any and all disputes.

11.4 Pursuant to California Rule of Professional Conduct, Rule 1.4.2., we are informing you by this writing that we currently have professional liability insurance.

12. ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS IN ACTION ON AGREEMENT. The prevailing party in any action or proceeding to enforce any provision of this Agreement will be awarded reasonable attorney's fees and costs incurred in that action or proceeding or in efforts to negotiate the matter.

13. DISCLAIMER OF GUARANTEE. Nothing in this Agreement and nothing in Attorney's statements to Client will be construed as a promise or guarantee about the outcome of Client's matter. Client acknowledges that the attorney has made no promises about the outcome and that any opinion offered by Attorney in the future will not constitute a guarantee.

13.1 NO TAX ADVICE. Attorney has not been retained to provide Client with any tax advice concerning any of the services described in paragraph 1-3. Any documents prepared by Attorney may have specific tax ramifications. To be sure Client understands and is certain of all the potential tax consequences, Client should consult with a tax advisor regarding these matters.

14. NONWAIVER OF AGREEMENT. There is to be no change or waiver of any of the provisions of this Agreement unless the change is in writing, signed by both Client and Attorney.

15. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties. No other agreement, statement, or promise made on or before the effective date of this Agreement will be binding on the parties.

16. **SEVERABILITY IN EVENT OR PARTIAL INVALIDITY.** If any provision of this Agreement is held in whole or in part to be unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of that provision and of the entire agreement will be severable and remain in effect.

17. **MODIFICATION BY SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT.** This Agreement may be modified by subsequent agreement of the parties only by an instrument in writing signed by both of them.

18. **CALIFORNIA LAW GOVERNS CONTRACT.** Parties have negotiated and entered into our contract in the County of Los Angeles, State of California. The contract shall be interpreted according to California law. Los Angeles County shall be the venue jurisdiction for any action brought relating to the validity or enforceability of this contract, including fee or other arbitration.

19. **PLACE OF CONTRACT.** This Agreement is entered into in Los Angeles, California, and it shall come into existence upon acceptance and execution by the Attorney in Los Angeles, California. This provision is not meant to exempt Client from liability to pay for legal services performed by Attorney pursuant to Client's request, prior to the execution and acceptance of this Agreement.

20. **AGREEMENT BINDING ON HEIRS OR SUCCESSORS.** Client agrees that this Agreement shall be binding upon Client's heirs or successors.

21. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** The effective date of this Agreement will be the date when, having been executed by Client, one copy of the Agreement is received by Attorney and Attorney receives the initial fee required by Paragraph 5 of this Agreement. The date at the end of this Agreement is for reference only. Even if this Agreement does not take effect, client will be obligated to pay Attorney the reasonable value of any services Attorney may have performed for Client.

Dated: October 28, 2025

Bichhanh (Hannah) Bui, Esq.

22. I (Client) have read and understood the foregoing terms and agree to them, as of the date Attorney first provided services. Further, I have had the opportunity to negotiate this Agreement and have chosen to accept its terms. I guarantee to the H BUI LAW FIRM the

Rev. 2015

Initials _____

payment of all sums due them by me in accordance with the above attorney client fee law agreement. If any part of the Agreement is not clear to me, I understand and acknowledge that I am free to ask Attorney to explain it further before the Agreement is signed, and I will not sign the Agreement until I fully understand this Agreement. I further understand and acknowledge that I have the right to consult another attorney about any aspect of this Agreement.

WARNING

THIS IS A LEGAL, BINDING, CONTRACT BETWEEN YOU AND ATTORNEY. BEFORE SIGNING, PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY AND BE SURE YOU UNDERSTAND ALL OF THE CONTENTS. IF THERE IS ANYTHING YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, ASK ABOUT IT. DO NOT HESITATE TO HAVE THIS AGREEMENT REVIEWED BY ANOTHER ATTORNEY OF YOUR CHOICE. WE ENCOURAGE IT.

Client Information and Signature

Dated: October 28, 2025

Signature: _____

Client Name: Nuha Sayegh

Date of Birth: _____

Driver's License number: _____

Social Security number: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone Numbers:

Work: _____

Home: _____

Cell: _____

Email: _____

Client/ Third party payor* wishes to pay the initial retainer by way of the following, or any combination of the following:

() Cash in the amount of \$_____

() Check number _____ in the amount of \$_____

() Credit/Debit Card in the amount of \$_____

Account Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Payment Notes:

* In the event a third party makes a payment on behalf of Client and a refund is due, that refund shall be paid directly to the third party. A third-party payor shall not be deemed to have an Attorney-Client relationship with the H BUI LAW FIRM. A third-party payor shall not be entitled to any confidential information concerning Client's legal matter unless Client gives written permission to discuss some or all of the Client's matter with the third-party payor.

DATED: October 28, 2025

3rd party Payor

Subject: Re: Nuha Sayegh--Retainer Draft

From: Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>

To: Eric Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>, Eric Jones <eric@er-design.org>

Date Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:25:29 PM GMT-07:00

Date Received: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:25:41 PM GMT-07:00

Subject: Re: Nuha Sayegh--Retainer Draft
From: Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>
To: "Xiaoye (Melody) Zhou" <melody@hbuilaw.com>
Cc: Valerie Arebalo <valerie@hbuilaw.com>, Eric Jones <eric@er-design.org>
Bcc: eric@er-design.org
Date Sent: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:49:55 PM GMT-07:00
Date Received: Tuesday, October 28, 2025 4:50:08 PM GMT-07:00

Dear Ms. Zhou and Ms. Bui,

Thank you for the retainer agreement dated October 27, 2025. I'm writing on behalf of my client, Nuha Sayegh, regarding the timing of potential representation transition. We have several strategic concerns that require your professional input before Ms. Sayegh can make an informed decision.

BACKGROUND:

Ms. Sayegh's case involves three active proceedings in LA County Superior Court (Pasadena):

Case 25PDFL01441: Dissolution proceeding

Case 25PDRO01260: Domestic violence restraining order (DVRO) dismissed October 15, 2025 - Ms. Sayegh prevailed as respondent

Case 25PDRO01246: Related DVRO matter

Current attorney (Kirk A. Kolodji, Esq.) has:

Filed three strategic motions on October 27, 2025:

FC §6344 attorney fees motion (\$14,473.64 - requesting opposing party pay)

Notice of Lis Pendens (family residence protection)

FC §271 sanctions notice (frivolous conduct penalties)

CRITICAL TIMELINE CONCERNS:

We have two pressing deadlines that require your assessment:

1. IMMEDIATE DEADLINE: November 1, 2025 (Friday - 3 days)

Opposition brief due to opposing party's Motion for Reconsideration (CCP §1008)

Brief must include newly secured expert medical testimony (two physicians confirming no cosmetic procedures performed)

This evidence directly rebuts opposing party's primary defense claim

2. CONTESTED HEARING: November 19, 2025 (22 days)

Combined hearing on: attorney fees (FC §6344), child support, spousal support, custody/visitation, property possession

Current attorney has invested 65.5 hours, filed all necessary motions, familiar with Judge Lofton (Dept. L)

QUESTIONS FOR H BUI LAW FIRM:

Question 1: November 1 Deadline Management

If Ms. Sayegh retains your firm immediately (pays retainer this week), can your firm:
Review approximately 50+ case documents within 48 hours?

Prepare and file opposition brief to Motion for Reconsideration by November 1 deadline?

Coordinate with two medical experts to obtain declarations by November 1?

OR would your firm request a continuance of the November 1 deadline?

Question 2: November 19 Hearing Preparation

With only 22 days until a complex, contested hearing involving five separate issues:
What is your typical onboarding timeline for a case of this complexity?

Would 22 days provide sufficient time for your firm to prepare at the level of excellence Ms. Sayegh deserves?

OR would your firm recommend retaining you post-November 19 to ensure adequate preparation time?

Question 3: Transition Coordination

If transition occurs now:

How would your firm coordinate with current attorney regarding:

FC §6344 motion already filed (Ms. Sayegh's potential \$14,473 recovery from opposing party)?

Lis pendens already recorded (family home protection)?

FC §271 sanctions notice already served?

Would these motions need to be re-filed, or can your firm adopt them via substitution of counsel?

Question 4: Financial Considerations

Current attorney has outstanding balance of \$10,473.64, BUT has filed motion for opposing party to pay \$14,473.64 under FC §6344(a) (mandatory fee award to prevailing party in DVRO cases).

If this motion succeeds (likely, given Ms. Sayegh prevailed and opposing party has demonstrated ability to pay at \$48,000/month income):

Ms. Sayegh's debt would be eliminated

Opposing party would pay the fees directly

Timing question:

If Ms. Sayegh switches attorneys before November 19 hearing, does she still benefit from current attorney's FC §6344 motion?

OR would substitution of counsel affect the fee recovery?

Question 5: Strategic Recommendation

Given the above facts, what is your professional recommendation?

Option A: Retain H Bui Law Firm immediately

Pros: CFLS expertise, client's preference for new representation

Cons: November 1 deadline risk, November 19 preparation constraints, transition complications

Option B: Retain H Bui Law Firm post-November 19

Pros: Current attorney completes pending motions, adequate onboarding time, no deadline pressure

Cons: 22-day delay in representation transition

Option C: Hybrid approach (co-counsel, limited scope, etc.)

Your firm's assessment of viability

ADDITIONAL CONTEXT:

Ms. Sayegh's Current Situation:

Income: \$0/month (unemployed during dissolution)

Expected relief from November 19 hearing: \$7,000-\$12,000/month (child + spousal support)

Financial pressure: Retainer payment of \$7,500 represents significant immediate expense with zero current income

Ms. Sayegh's Priorities:

Securing child and spousal support (November 19 hearing critical)

Protecting \$1.1M-\$1.5M family home (lis pendens filed)

Recovering attorney fees from opposing party (FC §6344 motion filed)

Ensuring children's welfare (custody/visitation protection)

Excellent legal representation going forward

REQUEST:

We respectfully request your firm's professional assessment of the above questions. Your honest evaluation will help Ms. Sayegh make the best decision for her case.

Specifically:

Can your firm effectively manage the November 1 deadline if retained this week?

Is 22 days sufficient preparation time for November 19 hearing?

What is your recommendation regarding optimal transition timing?

We are not asking you to decline representation. We are asking for your professional judgment on timing to ensure Ms. Sayegh receives the excellence she deserves from your firm.

If your assessment is that post-November 19 retention would better serve Ms. Sayegh's interests (allowing adequate onboarding time and avoiding deadline pressure), we would greatly respect that professional opinion and plan accordingly.

If your assessment is that immediate retention is viable without compromising quality, please explain how your firm would manage the November 1 and November 19 deadlines.

RESPONSE TIMELINE:

Given the November 1 deadline urgency, we respectfully request your response by end of day Wednesday, October 30, 2025 (48 hours).

This will allow Ms. Sayegh to make an informed decision based on your professional input.

CLOSING:

Ms. Sayegh is impressed by your firm's credentials (CFLS certification is exceptional) and your retainer agreement is professional and fair. She wants to work with your firm.

The only question is WHEN - immediately or post-November 19 - and we defer to your professional judgment on what best serves her case.

Thank you for your consideration of these timing concerns. We look forward to your response.

Respectfully,

Eric Brakebill Jones

DV Case Manager & Strategic Advisor

On behalf of: Nuha Sayegh

Email: eric@recovery-compass.org

Phone: 626-348-3019

Subject: Fwd: Nuha Sayegh--Retainer Draft
From: Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>
To: Eric Jones <eric@er-design.org>
Date Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:39:54 AM GMT-07:00
Date Received: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:40:09 AM GMT-07:00

Subject: Fwd: Nuha Sayegh--Retainer Draft
From: Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>
To: Eric Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>
Date Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:54:44 AM GMT-07:00
Date Received: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 10:54:58 AM GMT-07:00

Subject: Fwd: Nuha Sayegh--Retainer Draft
From: Nuha Sayegh <nuha@recovery-compass.org>
To: Eric Jones <eric@recovery-compass.org>
Date Sent: Monday, November 3, 2025 1:31:03 PM GMT-08:00
Date Received: Monday, November 3, 2025 1:31:18 PM GMT-08:00