COLLINS, MESEREAU, REDDOCK & YU 1 Thomas A. Mesereau, Jr., State Bar Number 091182 Susan C. Yu, State Bar Number 195640 2 1875 Century Park East, 7th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90067 3 Tel.: (310) 284-3120, Fax: (310) 284-3133 4 DEC 17 2004 SANGER & SWYSEN Attorneys at Law Robert M. Sanger, State Bar No. 058214 233 East Carrillo Street, Suite C GARY M. BLAIR, Executive Officer 5 Carried Wagner CARRIE L. WAGNER, Deputy Clerk 6 Santa Barbara, CA 93101 7 Tel.: (805) 962-4887, Fax: (805) 963-7311 8 **OXMAN & JAROSCAK** Brian Oxman, State Bar No. 072172 14126 East Rosecrans Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670 sealed pursuant Tel.: (562) 921-5080, Fax: (562) 921-2298 10 Attorneys for Defendant 11 MICHAEL JOSEPH JACKSON 12 13 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA 14 FOR THE COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA, COOK DIVISION 15 16 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF Case No. 1133603 17 CALIFORNIA. MR. JACKSON'S REPLY TO OBJECTOR'S 18 Plaintiffs. PRIVILEGE LOG 19 VS. Honorable Rodney S. Melville 20 Date: December 22, 2004 MICHAEL JOSEPH JACKSON. Time: 1:30 p.m. 21 Dept: SM 2 Defendant. 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

#### A. Introduction

Mr. Michael Jackson submits the Reply Brief in response to the Privilege Log submitted by Objector, Janet Arvizo in connection with the Motion to Quash Subpoena by Feldman & Rothstein and C. Michael Adler. Mr. Jackson's opposition to the claim of privilege is based on the following grounds:

- (1) The Arvizos have waived their attorney-client privilege with the Subpoensed Parties by Janet Arvizo signing a written waiver of privilege dated December 18, 2003, and by David Arvizo signing a written waiver dated February 2, 2004:
- (2) Janet Arvizo may not assert attorney work product privilege because the exclusive holder of the privilege are the attorneys, and the Subpoenaed Party attorneys have stated in open court they wish to turn the file over to the court and be done with the matter;
- (3) Objectors have no right to privacy of any of the materials identified in the Privilege Log, and none of the documents relating to mediation are privileged as offers of compromise because Mr. Jackson does not seek to use any offer to compromise "to prove [the offeror's] liability for the loss or damages or any part of it" as set forth in Evidence Code section 1152.

#### 1. Statement of the Case.

On November 9, 2004, Feldman & Rothstein and C. Michael Adler filed a Motion to Quash subpoenas served on them seeking records from a lawsuit entitled Janet Arvizo and David Arvizo v. J.C. Penney, Inc., Los Angeles County Superior Court Case No. KC 027876. Mr. Jackson responded to the motion pointing out that on December 18, 2003, Janet Arvizo, on behalf of herself and as guardian Ad Litem for her children, Davellin, Gavin, and Star Arvizo, executed a written waiver of the attorney-client privilege with her attorneys in that lawsuit. David Arvizo also executed a waiver dated February 2, 2004, and all privileges regarding the files in that proceeding were waived.

On November 22, 2004, the Court held a hearing at which the Court felt notice should be given to both Janet and David Arvizo. The Court continued the hearing to November 29, 2004. At the November 29, 2004, hearing, Attorney Russell Halperin appeared for David Arvizo and stated on the record that Mr. Arvizo had waived the attorney client privilege and had no objection to the production of the documents.

At that same hearing, Attorney Tony S. Sadri, informed the court that Feldman & Rothstein and C. Michael Adler wanted to turn over the records to the court and be done with the matter. Attorney Sandra

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Polin appeared for Janet Arvizo and claimed Ms. Arvizo had not waived attorney-client privilege. The Court requested Ms. Polin to provide the court with a Privilege Log to determine what matters were in issue. On December 9, 2004, Ms. Polin filed a Privilege Log claiming 37 items were privileged.

# 2. Objector's privilege claims are without foundation.

Objector's privilege claims fail because nothing vitiates, alters, or invalidates the full and complete waiver of attorney-client privilege of December 18, 2003. Objector is not the holder of any work product privilege, and only the attorneys are capable of asserting work product privilege. Lasky, Hass, Cohler & Munter v. Superior Court, 172 Cal. App.3d 264, 271 (1985). The attorneys have not only declined to assert work product privilege, but also they have affirmatively waived that claim by telling this Court they wish to deliver the files to the Court and be done with the matter.

The materials identified in the Privilege Log do not violate Objector's right to privacy. None of the documents in any manner constitute private material. In all events, Mr. Jackson's right to a fair trial outweighs any claim of right to privacy Objector might assert.

Objectors claim that some of the documents constitute inadmissible offers to compromise because they are contained in a Mediation Brief. The argument is without foundation because Evidence Code section 1152 prohibits a party from introducing offers to compromise "to prove [the offeror's] liability for the loss or damages or any part of it." Mr. Jackson does not seek to discover such information in order to establish liability on the claim being mediated, not is the admissibility of such evidence the issue in discovery. Rather, Mr. Jackson seeks to establish the Arvizos' preexisting injuries, mental illness, and fraudulent activity of concealing settlement proceeds from the J.C. Penny's case from numerous persons, including County Welfare Authorities, Fritz Coleman, and Mr. Jackson.

# B. Objector's Privilege Log Ignores the Express Waiver of Privileges and Fails to Establish Any Right to Privacy or Offer to Compromise Exclusions.

#### 1. Business cards from witnesses.

#### a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

One sheet of paper containing photocopies of business cards for witnesses from the Westfield Shopping Town Mall in West Covina with handwritten notes with addresses Attorney work product

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# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

# (i) Identity of witnesses is not attorney work product.

The business cards from third parties are neither attorney-client privileged nor work product because they are not communications to or from the attorney. Green & Shinee v. Superior Court, 88 Cal. App. 4th 532, 536 (2001)(public records sent to or gathered by an attorney are not subject to attorney client privilege). There is no work product privilege because a document gathered by or delivered to an attorney does not become privilege merely because the attorney is the recipient. Holm v. Superior Court, 42 Cal. 2d 500, 511 (1954). The business cards have no privileged communication or attorneys thoughts, and they are not privileged. American Mut. Liab. Ins. Co. v. Superior Court, 38 Cal. App. 3d 579, 594 (1974) (work product applies only to documents containing attorneys's impressions, conclusions, opinions, or legal theories). is not subject to privilege.

Code of Civil Procedure section 2018 provides:

- "(b) Subject to subdivision (c), the work product of an attorney is not discoverable unless the court determines that denial of discovery will unfairly prejudice the party seeking discovery in preparing that party's claim or defense or will result in an injustice.
- "(c) Any writing that reflects an attorney's impressions, conclusions, opinions, or legal research or theories shall not be discoverable under any circumstances."

The claim of work product for the business cards is without foundation. They are not attorney work product and they contain no communications, thoughts, or opinions. Mr. Jackson's right to a fair trial outweighs any claim of work product because these cards demonstrate potential witnesses and witness statements of the incident that is highly relevant to this proceeding. Trade Center Properties v. Superior Court, 185 Cal. App. 2d 409 (1960) (statements taken by attorney from witnesses, or other third parties are not communications by client to attorney and not subject to attorney-client or work product privilege).

# (ii) Clients may not assert attorney work product privilege

The attorney, not the client, is the holder of the attorney work product privilege. Lasky, Hass. Cohler & Munter v. Superior Court, 172 Cal. App. 3d 264, 271 (1985). Here, the attorneys have affirmatively indicated they do not assert any privilege on their own behalf, but also that they wish to

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interplead and deliver the files so that they are no longer involved in the matter. The client has no basis to assert work product privilege. .

Nothing about the business cards contain attorneys impressions, theories, opinions, or conclusions.

Judge Jefferson states:

"Not every writing or document in a client's possession becomes a confidential communication immune from disclosure merely because the client sends it to his or her lawyer. The lawyer-client privilege was primarily designed to protect oral communications and any writing that the client prepares in order to provide his or her lawyer with confidential information relevant to the purpose of the consultation. See In re Jordan (1972) 7 C3d 930, 103 CR 849. Writings or documents that may be prepared for a purpose other than furnishing counsel with confidential information. Any writing or documents in the client's possession that contain admissible evidence or discoverable matter do not become privileged by the client's transmitting them to counsel. See Holm v. Superior Court (1954) 42 C2d 500, 267 P2d 1025. Such documents or writings are created without the intent that they constitute a confidential communication and hence the client's transmittal of the documents or writings to counsel cannot change their non-confidential character."

2 Jefferson's California Evidence Benchbook, sec. 40.17, at 304 (3d ed. 2004)(emphasis original).

Nothing about these business card documents are work product or attorney-client privileged. There is no basis for objection in this case on any grounds. Mr. Jackson requests the court compel disclosure of these business cards.

# 2. Mediation Brief.

# a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

Plaintiff's Mediation Brief

Evidence Code sec. 1152

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

Evidence Code section 1152 is not a privilege from discovery, and nothing in that section precludes Mr. Jackson's subpoena. Rather, the section prohibits introduction of an offer of compromise "to prove [the offeror's] liability for the loss or damages or any part of it." If the purpose is other than to establish the offeror's liability, section 1152 provides neither a privilege nor a basis to exclude the evidence from

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introduction in any court proceeding where it is relevant. 1 B. Witkin, <u>California Evidence</u>, Circumstantial Evidence, sec 424, at 398-99 (3d ed. 1986).

Evidence Code section 1152 provides:

"Evidence that a person has, in compromise or from humanitarian motives, furnished or offered or promised to furnish money or any other thing, act, or service to another who has sustained or will sustain or claims that he or she has sustained or will sustain loss or damage, as well as any conduct or statements made in negotiation thereof, is inadmissible to prove his or her liability for the loss or damage or any part of it."

Mr. Jackson does not seek the Mediation Brief as an admission of liability. Rather, it contains information such as the nature of the Arvizo's claimed injuries, their medical disclosures and waivers of medical privileges, and their testimony regarding their mental condition. The issue here is discovery, not admissibility at trial. Section 1152 is not applicable under these conditions because a Mediation Brief is no sought to be admitted at trial to "prove [the Arvizos'] liability for loss or damages or pay part of it.. This evidence is critical to Mr. Jackson's defense to demonstrate not only the complaining witnesses preexisting injuries and mental illness, but also fraudulent activity of concealing the J.C. Penny settlement proceeds from County Welfare Authorities, Fritz Coleman, and Mr. Jackson.

#### 3. Letter from Attorney Rothstein

#### a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

08/01/02 Letter from Thomas D. Rothstein to Janet Arvizo

Attorney-client privilege

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

Both David Arvizo and Janet Arvizo have fully waived all claims of attorney-client privilege. There is no partial or qualified waiver of that privilege recognized under California law. McKesson HBOC, Inc. v. Superior Court, 115 Cal. App. 4<sup>th</sup> 1229, 1241 (2004). There is no basis for the assertion of an attorneys-client privilege and the Arvizo's attempt to ignore their full waiver of privilege in their December 18, 2003, written waiver is without merit

# 4. Documents showing Minor's bank account...

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# a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

4. Undated

Information regarding Minor's blocked Account with attachments regarding said account

Attorney work product

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

The information from the Arvizo's bank account is not work product privileged. It contains no impressions, thoughts, conclusions, opinions, or legal theories. American Mut. Liab. Ins. Co. v. Superior Court, 38 Cal. App. 3d 579, 594 (1974). The bank documents are communications from their parties to the attorneys and have no work product aspect to them because by definition they come from their parties and are disclosed to third parties. 2 Jefferson's California Evidence Benchbook, sec. 40.26, at 885 (3d ed. 2004)(disclosure of a privileged communication waives all attorney-client and work privilege associated with the disclosure).

A communication from a third party to the attorney, such as a bank that sends a statement to an attorney, is not attorney-client privileged. Olende v. United States, 310 F.2d 795, 806 (9th Cir. 1954). Nor is a cancelled check attorney-client privileged because a check is an order to a third party payor, usually a bank, to pay the client, and involves no communication to the client. California Commercial Code sec. 3104(f). Lawyer who maintains accounts for client as either checking or savings accounts are not covered by attorney client privilege, and the transactions in question are not clothed with privilege. U.S. v. Chin Lim Mow, 12 F.R.D. 433, 434 (D.C. Cal. 1952).

#### 5. Mediation Brief

### a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

5. 09/21/01

Plaintiff's Confidential Mediation Brief For Mediation on September 21, 2001 Evidence Code sec. 1152

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

This item is identical to Item No. 2 above. There is no section 1152 privilege because only the attorney can assert the privilege, and that has not happened here. In addition, Mr. Jackson does not seek discovery of such evidence to establish liability on behalf of the Arvizo's, but rather to find out the nature of their injuries and mental illness, along with demonstrating a pattern of fraud in concealing the \$152,000 J.C. Penny settlement from people the complaining family solicited to pay for non-existent medical bills.

1	6. Letter from Attorney Adler to minor.				
2	a. Objector's Privilege Claim:				
3	6. 09/14/01 Letter from Law Offices of c. Michael Attorney-client privilege Adler to Janet Arvizo regarding Settlement offer from J.C. Penney				
5	b. Mr. Jackson's Response;				
6	Janet Arvizo waived attorney-client privilege by her written waiver of December 18, 2003. There				
7	was no conditions or qualifications attached to that waiver. McKesson HBOC, Inc. v. Superior Court, 115				
8	Cal. App. 4th 1229, 1241 (2004). The court should require production of the documents.				
9	7. Letter from Mediator				
10	a. Objector's Privilege Claim:				
11	7. Undated Fax confirmation invoice from JAMS Attorney work product Arbitration and Mediation Services to				
12	C. Michael Adler, Esq. with handwritten notes on said fax				
13	transmittal				
14	b. Mr. Jackson's Response:				
15	The document is a transmittal letter to a third person and is not an offer for compromise. It does no				
16	contain any thoughts, opinions, theories, or attorneys impressions. The document is not privileged in any				
17	manner and should be disclosed.				
18	8. Transmittal letter for brief to Mediator				
19	a. Objector's Privilege Claim;				
20	8. 09/21/01 Fax cover from Law offices of Attorney work product C. Michael Adler to Judge William				
21	McVittie enclosing Mediation Brief with handwritten notes regarding				
22	settlement				
23	b. Mr. Jackson's Response:				
24	Here again the assertion of work product is both excessive and without merit, especially when it can				
25	be asserted only by the attorney, and not the client. This is a communication to a third party. It is not work				
26	product because it contains no attorney impressions, opinions, theories, or thoughts.				
27	9. Letter from opposing counsel regarding settlement				
28	a. Objector's Privilege Claim:				
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This "to do" list may or may not contain attorney thoughts, impressions, theories, or opinions.

However, the attorneys have not asserted any work product privilege. The Arvizos cannot assert it, and the Court should require production of the document.

The assertion loses sight of the fact there has been a full waiver of all privileges here by both clients. That waivers cannot be ignored. No basis exists to withhold this document.

# 12. Legal research

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# a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

Legal notes on one 8-1/2 x 11 piece of paper regarding legal research

Attorney work product

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

It is uncertain what "legal notes" mean, and it cannot be ascertained from this description if opinions, impressions, theories, or opinions from an attorneys are contained within such a document. However, regardless of such a determination, the attorneys are the holders of the privilege, not the client, and they have not asserted such a privilege here. The Court should require production because in the final analysis, both clients have fully waived all privileges.

# 13. Disposition of settlement proceeds

# a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

Handwritten notes on back of one piece of pleading paper regarding disposition of settlement proceeds

Attorney work product

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

The disposition of settlement proceeds is not an attorney opinion, though, theory, or impression regarding the case. It is not a communication from the client to the attorneys. Any attorney-client communication was waived here, and in a more fundamental sense, bookkeeping or banking transactions handled by an attorneys for a client are in no manner attorney client privileged. <u>U.S. v. Chin Lim Mow</u>, 12 F.R.D. 433, 434 (D.C. Cal. 1952). It is not work product because the distribution of money is not an attorney though, theory, impression, or opinion.

# 14. Message to Janet Arvizo

#### a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

14. Undated Handwritten notes on one piece of legal size paper regarding message to Janet Arvizo

Attorney work product

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

Any message to Janet Arvizo is a communication, not an internal though impression, opinion, or theory kept within the thoughts of the attorney. Work product is inapplicable to any such communication, and the claim does not establish the message to Janet Arvizo came from an attorney. The communication

should be disclosed because attorney-client privilege was waived by both parties. Further, the attorneys

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# a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

09/18/01 Internal memorandum from Cheryl to Michael Adler with typewritten text

only regarding conversation with clerk

Attorney work product

# b. Mr. Jackson's Response:

Nowhere is the identity, capacity, or status of Cheryl Henderson identified. The court should take judicial notice that Cheryl Henderson is not admitted to the California Bar. While an attorneys's thoughts, impressions, opinions, and theories are work product privileged, non-attorneys have no such privilege.

In National Steel Products Co. v. Superior Court, 164 Cal. App. 3d 476 (1985), the court found that where an attorney utilizes the services of non-attorneys consultants or employees, the product of those services will qualify as attorneys work-product only where (1) the material in whole, or in part, reflects an attorneys's impressions, conclusions, opinions, or legal research or theories as communicated to the consultant or employee, (2) if any portion of the materials is advisory to the attorneys, is that portion severable from the portions that are not advisory to the attorneys, and (3) as to the non-advisory portions, the judge should determine whether good cause for discovery outweighs the principles supporting the conditional work product privilege. <u>Id</u>. at 489-90.

The National Steel Products case contemplates an In Camera review of all such documents. However, in this case, there is no necessity of that review because the attorneys who hold the work product privilege have not asserted it. They have waived it by informing the Court they wish to turn over all materials to the court and be done with the matter.

# 19. Notes regarding depositions

# a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

One page photocopy of attorney Undated notes regarding taking depositions Attorney work product

# b. Mr. Jackson's response:

What these notes say is not identified. It is not possible to determine if the notes contains thoughts, reflections, opinions, or theories of the case. There is no work product privilege involved because the attorney has not claimed work product privilege.

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Document entitled "character Witness List" containing handwritten interlineations and post-its with thirty party names, addresses, and telephone numbers

Attorney work product: right to privacy

### b. Mr. Jackson's response:

The names and addresses of witnesses are not attorney work product. Mr. Jackson has a right to a fair trial, and the names of witnesses who observed the falsity of the Objector's prior claims, mental illness, and fraudulent money raising, are material to Mr. Jackson's defense. There is no basis for the Objector's to claim work product because the attorneys's have told the Court they wish to part with the material.

There is no invasion of privacy by disclosure of witnesses. Witnesses are not the property of or a private concern of any individual. The objection is without merit.

The constitutional right to privacy is not absolute and is outweighed by rights to a fair trial. Binder v. Superior Court, 196 Cal. App. 3d 893, 900 (1987). Other state interests, such as facilitating the ascertainment of truth in a criminal proceeding, outweigh privacy rights. Board of Trustees v. Superior Court, 119 Cal. App. 3d 516, 524-25 (1981). In Palay v. Superior Court, 18 Cal. App. 4th 919, 933 (1993). the court stated:

"The constitutional right to privacy is not absolute. ([Jones v. Superior Court,] 119 Cal. App. 3d at p. 550; Board of Medical Quality Assurance v. Gherardini, supra, 93 Cal. App. 3d at p. 679.) It may be outweighed by supervening concerns. (Ibid.) The state has enough of an interest in discovering the truth in legal proceedings, that it may compel disclosure of confidential material. (Jones v. Superior Court, supra, 119 Cal.App.3d at p. 550.) "[A]n individual's medical records may be relevant and material in the furtherance of this legitimate state purpose ...." (Board of Medical Quality Assurance v. Gherardini, supra, 93 Cal.App.3d at p. 679.) An "intrusion upon constitutionally protected areas of privacy requires a balancing of the juxtaposed rights, and the finding of a compelling state interest.' [Citations.]" (Jones v. Superior Court, supra, 119 Cal.App.3d at p. 550.)"

For the complaining mother to suggest her witness list is private strains credulity. These witnesses not only know about the mother's schizophrenia and psychosis, but also they know about her fraudulent

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2		numbers and other miscellaneous				
3	jtacts.com	notes MacLS.com				
4		b. Mr. Jackson's response:				
5	Addresses and telephone numbers do not contain attorneys thoughts, opinions, impressions, or					
6	theories, and they are not work product privileged. Objection has no ability to assert a work product					
7	privilege for attorneys who have told this court they wish to part with the entire file. Mr. Jackson's right to					
8	a fair trial outweighs	a fair trial outweighs any claims objector is making, particularly in view of the December 18, 2003, waive				
9	where Objector directed release of the entire file to the District Attorney.					
10	34. Attorney letter to Janet Arvizo regarding deposition.					
		a. Objector's Privilege Claim:				
11	34. <mark>01/08/</mark> 01	Letter from Anthony N. Ranieri of	Attorney-client privilege			
12		Feldman & Rothstein to Janet and David Arvizo regarding deposition				
13	mjfacts.com	transcripts mifacts.com				
14	,	b. Mr. Jackson's response:				
15	Objector signed an attorney-client privilege waiver on December 18, 2003. The waiver bound her					
16	without condition. The privilege for the communication from the attorney to Objector was waived.					
17	35. 🛕	tto <mark>rney letter t</mark> o David Arvizo regarding	<u>g mediation</u>			
18	3	a. Objector's Privilege Claim:				
19	35. 03/30/01	Letter from Anthony N. Ranieri of Feldman & Rothstein to Janet and	Attomey-client privilege			
20		David Arvizo regarding mediation				
21	-	b. Mr. Jackson's response:				
22	Objector signed a waiver of attorney-client privilege on December 18, 2003. David Arvizo also					
23	waived all attorneys-client privileges. The waiver bound the parties without condition or qualification.					
24	The privilege for the	communication from the attorney was wai	ved.			
25	nifacts 36. A	ttorney letter to Janet and David Aryizo	regarding mediation			
26	,	a. Objector's Privilege Claim:				
27	36. 04/04/01	Letter from Russell L. Bolin of	Attorney-client privilege			
28		Feldman & Rothstein to Janet and David Arvizo regarding mediation	all a			
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	MR. JACKSON'S REPLY TO OBJECTOR'S PRIVILEGE LOG					

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### b. Mr. Jackson's response:

Objector signed a waiver of attorney-client privilege on December 18, 2003. David Arvizo also waived all attorneys-client privileges. The waiver bound the parties without condition or qualification. The privilege for the communication from the attorney was waived.

# 37. Letter from Bank to Janet Arvizo regarding account

# a. Objector's Privilege Claim:

37. 05/08/02

Letter from Mary Holzer to Janet Arvizo regarding account at City

Attorney-client privilege

National Bank

### b. Mr. Jackson's response:

The Court should take judicial notice that Mary Holzer is not a member of the California Bar. A letter from the Bank to Janet Arvizo is not attorney-client privileged, and even if the attorneys transmitted it to the client, it is not attorney client privileged. In all events, Janet Arvizo waived attorney-client privilege on December 18, 2003, and the objection is without merit.

#### C. Conclusion.

For the foregoing reasons, Mr. Michael Jackson requests the Motion to Quash by Feldman & Rothstein be denied, and the Claim of Privilege asserted by Janet Arvizo be overruled.

Dated: December 10, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Mesereau, Jr. Susan Yu

COLLINS, MESEREAU, REDDOCK & YU

Robert M. Sanger SANGER & SWYSEN

Brian Oxman OXMAN & JAROSCAK

By:

R. Brian Oxman
Attorneys for Defendant
Mr. Michael Jackson