1 AARON J. GREENSPAN FILED BIC THINK COMPUTER FOUNDATION 2 1132 Boranda Avenue Mountain View, CA 94040-3145 3 Telephone: (415) 670-9350 Fax: (415) 373-3959 4 RICHARD W. WIEKING E-Mail: legal@thinkcomputer.org CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 5 PRO SE 6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 7 NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 8 SAN JOSE DIVISION 9 10 THINK COMPUTER FOUNDATION an Case No. 5:14-cv-02396-BLF 11 Ohio 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation; THINK COMPUTER CORPORATION, a MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT 12 Delaware corporation, AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR 13 Plaintiffs, ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF TO EXTEND THE TIME BY WHICH THE AMERICAN 14 ٧. BAR ASSOCIATION MUST RESPOND TO THE COMPLAINT; AND MOTION FOR 15 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AS TO WHY UNITED STATES COURTS; UNITED THE COMPLAINT SHOULD NOT BE 16 STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE DISMISSED AND ASSOCIATED NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA; **DOCUMENTS** 17 and AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, Judge Beth Labson Freeman 18 Defendants. 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

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MOTION TO STRIKE

Plaintiffs Think Computer Corporation and Think Computer Foundation (collectively, "Plaintiffs") hereby respectfully move to strike the June 9, 2014 motions and attachments thereto (Docket Nos. 11 and 13) filed by Defendant American Bar Association ("ABA") for failure to comply with Civil Local Rules 5-1(c)(2)(A) and 7-2(b). For reasons not entirely clear, purported counsel for Defendant ABA chose not to file a Notice of Appearance, and then to spontaneously file two completely separate and independent motions, only one of which is unopposed, in one awkwardly combined document.

Civil Local Rule 5-1(c)(2)(A) requires that "A Notice of Appearance must be e-filed whenever counsel joins a case." No Notice of Appearance was included in the papers hand-delivered to Plaintiffs on June 9, 2014, and no Notice of Appearance is listed in the PACER case docket thus far. *See* Docket.

Civil Local Rule 7-2(b) states, "In *one* filed document not exceeding 25 pages in length, *a motion* must contain..." (emphasis added). The intent of the rule is clearly to establish a one-to-one ratio between motions and their encapsulating documents for the sake of simplicity and clarity.

Unlike the specific Restrictive Local Rules referenced in the Complaint in this case, Civil Local Rules 5-1(c)(2)(A) and 7-2(b) do not on their face prejudice anyone, and there is no good reason why they should not be followed—especially by a newly-admitted but otherwise experienced attorney who only four days ago, on June 6, 2014, supposedly agreed to Civil Local Rule 11-4(a)(2), to "[c]omply with the Local Rules of this Court," which has also been violated.

On the contrary, Defendant ABA's attempt to compress more than one unrelated motion into one improper document, such that it might accomplish more than one of its objectives with one correspondingly improper Proposed Order, is possibly designed to

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prejudice Plaintiffs, who through their initial pleadings have already made abundantly clear how prejudiced—whether intentionally or not—the justice system already is against *pro se* litigants and small businesses.

Civil Local Rule 7-2(b) has been taken quite seriously by several judges in this Court in the recent and distant past.

"Under Civ LR 7-2(b), motions are to consist of 'one filed document not to exceed 25 pages in length.' Counterdefendants filed three separate 'motions' within one day of each other instead of 'one filed document' as required by the Civil Local Rules. Although none of the documents exceeds twenty-five pages individually, counterdefendants' three motions added together total fifty-eight pages, a sum more than double the allowed page limit. Indeed, counterdefendants grouped their arguments against the first through third and fifth claims in one motion and their arguments against the fourth and sixth through twelfth claims in another motion. This odd grouping suggests the intent to evade the Civil Local Rules.

This type of rule-bending motion practice is unacceptable. The court regularly grants parties' requests to file an over-sized memorandum under Civ LR 7-4 and 7-10. But parties are not permitted unilaterally to impose on the nonmoving parties and the court the burden of sifting through excessively long moving papers."

Burger v. Kuimelis, 325 F. Supp. 2d 1026, 1030 (N.D. Cal. 2004). Although the present attempt at "odd grouping" does not appear to be intended to evade page limitations, it is nonetheless extremely confusing, and perhaps deliberately so. The document's caption alone, requiring a semicolon, is barely intelligible and hardly clear, especially as to the fact that one motion is unopposed, while the other is not.

In another example, Judge Koh of this District herself emphasized that each motion "should be '[i]n one filed document not exceeding 25 pages in length.'" Errico v. Pacific Capital Bank, NA, 753 F. Supp. 2d 1034, footnote 1 (N.D. Cal. 2010). In Errico, Judge Koh did not strike the documents because "[t]hough Defendants did not comply with the Civil Local Rules, Plaintiffs have opposed both motions and have not alleged any prejudice." Id. Here, Plaintiffs have not yet filed any responsive pleadings, and do allege prejudice.

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1 Regardless of counsel's intent, the irony given the particular context of Plaintiffs' Complaint is almost palpable: Defendant ABA, which exerts enormous influence over the 2 3 rule-making bodies of numerous courts, including this one, wishes for others to obey its frequently protectionist and lopsided Rules, but on the day when it finally comes time for the 4 5 ABA to actually participate in the judicial process itself, those Rules are apparently too 6 insignificant to be adhered to by its own ethically-bound, professionally-trained corporate 7 counsel. Unlike Plaintiffs, Defendant ABA has made no specific protest that it is harmed by any particular Civil Local Rule. The Court should therefore strike Defendant ABA's filings 8 9 if for no other reason than to emphasize that the Local Rules apply to all parties before the 10 Court. 11 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court strike Docket Nos. 11 12 and 13. 13 14

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 10, 2014

Aaron Greenspan

President

THINK COMPUTER FOUNDATION

By:

Aaron Greenspan

President & CEO

THINK COMPUTER CORPORATION

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## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that, on June 10, 2014, a true copy of the foregoing MOTION TO STRIKE DEFENDANT AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION'S UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF TO EXTEND THE TIME BY WHICH THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION MUST RESPOND TO THE COMPLAINT; AND OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE AS TO WHY THE COMPLAINT SHOULD NOT BE DISMISSED AND ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS is being served via electronic mail, pursuant to written agreements between the parties, at the following e-mail addresses:

Administrative Office of the United States Courts
United States District Court for the Northern District of California
James A. Scharf
Assistant United States Attorney
james.scharf@usdoj.gov

**American Bar Association** 

Bety Javidzad Venable, LLP bjavidzad@venable.com

Dated: June 10, 2014

By:

Aaron Greenspan

President

THINK COMPUTER FOUNDATION

By:

Aaron Greenspan President & CEO

THINK COMPUTER CORPORATION