IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT IN AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO. 2014CA006733 AI

ALLIED CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC a Florida Limited Liability Company, HARBOURSIDE PLACE, LLC, a Florida limited Liability Company,

Plaintiffs,

ν.

DAVID FINKELSTEIN, an Individual,

Defendant.

DAVID FINKELSTEIN, an Individual,

Counter-Plaintiff,

v.

ALLIED CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC a Florida Limited Liability Company, HARBOURSIDE PLACE, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, FLORIDA REGIONAL CENTER, LLC, a Florida Limited Liability Company, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, HARBOURSIDE FUNDING, LP, a Florida Limited Partnership, VIA MIZNER FUNDING, LP, a Florida Limited Partnership, CHARLES INVESTMENT FUND, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, CHARLES SPE FUNDING, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND-NY, LLC, a New York Limited Liability Company, 65 BAY STREET FUNDING, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, BRYANT PARK FUNDING 100, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, WEST 57TH STREET FUNDING, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company, and NICHOLAS

RICHMAN GREER, P.A.

Miami • West Palm Beach

Case Number: 2014CA006733 Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

A. MASTROIANNI, II, an Individual,

Counter- Defendants/Defendants. /

## DAVID FINKELSTEIN'S ANSWER, AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES <u>AND COUNTERCLAIM</u>

Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff, DAVID FINKELSTEIN ("Finkelstein"), by and through his undersigned counsel, hereby serves his Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim. Defendant denies each and every allegation not expressly admitted herein. Further, any admissions are only made to the extent specifically stated herein. As to each correspondingly numbered paragraph of the Complaint, Defendant states as follows:

#### **ANSWER**

- 1. Admitted.
- 2. Admitted.
- 3. Admitted.
- 4. Admitted that paragraph 4 recites the claim alleged, but Finkelstein denies all allegations and liability thereunder.
- 5. Admitted that this Court has jurisdiction over Defendant. The remaining allegations are denied.
- 6. Admitted that in 2010, Finkelstein negotiated with Plaintiff for an interest in Allied Capital and Harbourside. The remaining allegations are denied.
  - 7. Denied.
  - 8. Denied.
- 9. Admitted that Finkelstein was the Chief Financial Officer of Allied Capital and other entities. The remaining allegations are denied.

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

10. Admitted that in addition to his financial interest in the Plaintiff entities, Finkelstein received a reduced salary and health insurance benefits. The remaining allegations are denied.

- 11. Denied.
- 12. Admitted.
- 13. Denied.
- 14. Denied.
- 15. Admitted that Finkelstein resigned. The remaining allegations are denied.
- 16. Denied.
- 17. Denied.
- 18. Admitted that Finkelstein resigned. The remaining allegations are denied.
- 19. Admitted that Finkelstein demanded payment due to him. Admitted that Finkelstein resigned. The remaining allegations are denied.
  - 20. Denied.
  - 21. Admitted.
- 22. Finkelstein does not have information regarding the facts alleged in paragraph 22 and must therefore deny same.

#### Count I- Declaratory Judgment

- 23. Finkelstein adopts and incorporates each of the responses to paragraphs 1-22 as if fully set forth herein.
- 24. Admitted that paragraph 24 recites the claim alleged, but Finkelstein denies all allegations and liability thereunder.
  - 25. Denied.

Case Number: 2014CA006733

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

26. Denied.

27. Denied.

28. Finkelstein does not have information regarding the facts alleged in paragraph 28

and must therefore deny same.

29. Denied.

**AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES** 

First Affirmative Defense: Failure to State a Cause of Action

Plaintiff fails to state a cause of action. Specifically, Plaintiff has failed to plead the

elements required to allege a declaratory judgment, including the bona fide, actual, present and

practical need for the declaration, that some right of the Plaintiff is dependent upon the facts or

law applicable to the facts, that there is some person or persons who have an actual, present,

adverse and antagonistic interest in the subject matter, and that this is not merely the seeking of

legal advice by the Court.

Second Affirmative Defense- Advisory Opinion

Plaintiff's Complaint seeks an advisory opinion, as Plaintiff has only alleged that they

"will have difficulties in raising capital, or incurring liabilities." Since the Plaintiff has not been

damaged, the possibility of legal injury is contingent, wholly speculative, and is clearly not yet

ripe.

Third Affirmative Defense: Promissory Estoppel

Defendant was promised an ownership interest in the Plaintiff entities. Defendant relied

upon the promise in agreeing to work with Plaintiffs for a reduced salary. Plaintiffs should have

reasonably expected that the promise of an ownership interest in the entities induced Defendant

to work for entities and accept a reduced salary as compensation. Enforcement of Plaintiffs'

-4-

Case Number: 2014CA006733

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

promise is necessary to avoid an injustice.

COUNTERCLAIM

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

In the spirit of "whoever throws the first punch usually wins," the Plaintiffs, at the

direction of their principal Nick Mastroianni, filed a bogus and improper declaratory judgment

action as a peremptory strike against Mr. Finkelstein. However, this case is, and always has

been, about Mr. Finkelstein's claims against Plaintiffs, Mastroianni, and Mastroianni's other

entities (collectively "Plaintiffs"), claims that are worth tens of millions of dollars representing

Mr. Finkelstein's share of the Plaintiffs' lucrative profits earned on Mr. Finkelsteins's back.

These profits arose from development fees and projects, and the use of the EB-5 visa to raise

investment capital for qualifying "commercial enterprises." EB-5 visas are visas extended to

foreign nationals who invest at least \$1 million (or \$500,000 in rural areas or areas with high

unemployment) into an authorized commercial enterprise which creates jobs for American

workers.

Mr. Finkelstein devoted years and years and thousands and thousands of hours to

Plaintiffs in developing and implementing the EB-5 system for the benefit of Plaintiffs, including

becoming the Chief Financial Officer of Plaintiffs. In exchange for his labors, Mr. Finkelstein

was granted an equity share in the Plaintiffs and other related entities—an equity share that

Plaintiffs now seek to have this Court declare does not exist. Through this case, Mr. Finkelstein

only seeks that which he was promised, that which he has earned, and that which Plaintiffs have

taken from him.

JURISDICTIONAL ALLEGATIONS

This is an action for damages in excess of \$15,000.00 exclusive of interest, costs, 1.

-5-

and attorneys' fees.

- 2. Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff DAVID FINKELSTEIN, ("Finkelstein") is a resident of Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 3. Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant ALLIED CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC, ("Allied FL") is a Florida Limited Liability Company, whose principal place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 4. Plaintiff/Counter-Defendant HARBOURSIDE PLACE, LLC, ("Harbourside") is a Florida Limited Liability Company, whose principal place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 5. Defendant FLORIDA REGIONAL CENTER, LLC, ("FRC") is a Florida Limited Liability Company, whose principal place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 6. Defendant U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND, LLC, ("USIF") is a Delaware Limited Liability Company, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 7. Defendant HARBOURSIDE FUNDING, LP, ("HarborFund") is a Florida Limited Partnership, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 8. Defendant VIA MIZNER FUNDING, LP, ("Mizner") is a Florida Limited Partnership, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 9. Defendant CHARLES INVESTMENT FUND, LLC, ("Charles") is a Delaware Limited Liability Company, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 10. Defendant CHARLES SPE FUNDING, LLC, ("CharlesSPE") is a Delaware Limited Liability Company, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

11. Defendant U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND-NY, LLC, ("USIFNY") is a New York Limited Liability Company, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.

- 12. Defendant 65 BAY STREET FUNDING, LLC, ("Bay Street") is a Delaware Limited Liability Company, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 13. Defendant BRYANT PARK FUNDING 100, LLC, ("Bryant") is a Delaware Limited Liability Company, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 14. Defendant WEST 57TH STREET FUNDING, LLC, ("W57TH") is a Delaware Limited Liability Company, whose principle place of business is located in Palm Beach County, Florida.
- 15. Defendant NICK MASTROIANNI, II ("Mastroianni") is a resident of Palm Beach County, Florida, and is otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of this Court.
- 16. Venue against Allied and Harbourside is proper in Palm Beach County, Florida as this is a counterclaim against these defendants and this action was originally brought by these defendants in Palm Beach County, Florida. Venue is proper against FRC in Palm Beach County under Fla. Stat. § 605.0703 because that is where the FRC principal office is located. Venue against Mastroianni is proper in Palm Beach County, Florida under Fla. Stat. 47.011 as that is where Mr. Mastroianni resides.
- 17. By virtue of Allied, Harbourside, and FRC being limited liability companies organized and existing under the laws of Florida, this Court has general personal jurisdiction over them pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 48.193(2) as they are engaged in substantial and not isolated

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

activity within Florida.

18. Mastroianni is also subject to the general jurisdiction of this Court pursuant to Fla.

Stat. § 48.193(2) as he is engaged in substantial and not isolated activity within Florida.

Alternatively, Mastroianni is subject to the specific personal jurisdiction of this Court pursuant to

Fla. Stat. §§ 48.193(1)(a) as he operates, conducts, engages in, or carries on a business or

business venture in Florida and has an office or agency in Florida.

**GENERAL ALLEGATIONS** 

19. In late 2010, Mastroianni created FRC along with an attorney named Richard

Yellen ("Yellen"). Yellen was Jack Schliffer's partner in the Harbourside project. The purpose

of FRC was to utilize the EB-5 visa investment vehicle to raise funds to complete the

Harbourside project.

20. In 2010, well into the recession, capital sources started drying up for real estate

development. Accordingly, as a means to supplement investment capital for the Harbourside

project, Mastroianni began looking into EB-5 investments.

21. The EB-5 program, also known as the Immigrant Investor Program, is

administered by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services ("USCIS"). Through the

program, foreign nationals seeking entry into the United States can obtain an EB-5 visa if they

make a minimum \$1 million investment (or \$500,000 in rural or low employment areas) into

approved "Regional Centers" and certain conditions are satisfied. These conditions include a

requirement of for-profit activity to be carried out in the Regional Center, as well as the creation

of jobs for American workers.

22. Mastroianni applied for FRC to become an approved "Regional Center"

qualifying for EB-5 funding, and was granted approval in September of 2010.

-8-

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

23. As with any federal program, there are a lot of requirements that must be met to stay in compliance with the EB-5 program. For example, the money invested by the foreign nationals cannot be used for just any purpose, but its use is strictly regulated to accomplish the stated purpose of the EB-5 program (i.e. economic growth and job creation).

- 24. Accordingly, and to assist him with the implementation of the EB-5 program for use on the Harbourside project, Mastroianni reached out to Finkelstein due to his experience in financial and business matters.
- 25. In November of 2010, while Mastroianni and Finkelstein were in negotiations relating to Mr. Finkelstein's return to the Allied entities, FRC, and working again with Mastroianni in general, Mastroianni confirmed in writing to Mr. Finkelstein that he would get Mr. Finkelstein "5% of harbourside, and 10% of Allied" ("Allied FL") as equity ownership interests, in addition to other benefits such as salary and bonuses. According to Mastroianni: "Your interest in harbourside and other projects will spin off income for life, unless we were to sell an asset, in which case there would be a big payday," further promising that "were [sic] going from tee ball, to the world series in size, within the next 12 months!!"
- 26. Based on these promises, Finkelstein again began working with the Allied entities, FRC, the Harbourside project, and others. In fact, Mastroianni again confirmed to Mr. Finkelstein on March 25, 2011 that "we have a general agreement from the time we made the deal for you to come back to work, we have %'s that I agreed to in an email as it relates to harbourside and the RC [Florida Regional Center]."
- 27. Finally, in an email dated July 9, 2012, Mastroianni confirmed that Finkelstein is a 5% owner in Harbourside; a 5% owner in FRC, and a 10 % owner in Allied FL. By now, Finkelstein had been the CFO for all three entities, and the parties realizing that the EB-5 model

Case Number: 2014CA006733

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

was working very well for Harbourside, decided to expand its use to other projects.

28. Up until late 2011 or early 2012, the Harbourside project was the only project that

utilized the EB-5 program. Ultimately, FRC was retained to, and did in fact, complete EB-5

funding of other projects, as to all of which Finkelstein has been promised a 10% interest.

29. The following entities were established for the purpose of executing the various

projects: USIF, HarborFund, Mizner, Charles, CharlesSPE, USIFNY, Bay Street, Bryant and

W57TH.

30. Finkelstein is entitled to his 10% share of the profits made on these projects by

FRC as a result of his interest in FRC and all the related entities for the projects, including

USIF, HarborFund, Mizner, Charles, CharlesSPE, USIFNY, Bay Street, Bryant and W57TH.

31. In or around January and February of 2013, Finkelstein, as CFO of FRC, Allied

FL and another entity controlled by Mastroianni, raised concerns about the way Mastroianni and

the companies he controlled were treating the EB-5 monies.

32. Finkelstein, after reviewing the books of the various entities determined that he

could no longer maintain his position as CFO of any of the entities as Mastroianni, along with

those in his employ, routinely conducted side deals, and funneled money in and out of various

accounts without conferring with the CFO and, as Finkelstein believed, in non-compliance with

the EB-5 requirements, something that would cause serious problems should there ever be a

USICS or SEC audit.

33. Accordingly, Finkelstein sent a letter to everyone advising that he was resigning

his position as CFO.

34. This letter was not well-received by Mastroianni, who retaliated against

Finkelstein by trying to freeze him out of his ownership interest in Harbourside, Allied FL,

-10-

Case Number: 2014CA006733

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

FRC, USIF, HarborFund, Mizner, Charles, CharlesSPE, USIFNY, Bay Street, Bryant and

W57TH.

35. Ultimately, Mastroianni's dissatisfaction resulted in the filing of the unfounded

and inappropriate declaratory judgment action that commenced this action.

Count I

Judicial Dissolution of Florida Regional Center, LLC

Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 605.0702

36. Finkelstein re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 35 above as though fully set forth

herein.

37. Finkelstein holds a membership interest in FRC in the amount of 10%.

38. Finkelstein, as both a member and former Chief Financial Officer of FRC

believes that sufficient grounds for judicial dissolution exists because:

a. Mastroianni is causing FRC's conduct, or all or substantially all of FRC's

activities and affairs to be unlawful. Specifically, Finkelstein believes that FRC,

at the direction of its majority (and managing) member, Mastroianni, is failing to

use the EB-5 investment funds in a manner that is authorized by the applicable

rules and regulations. Because the EB-5 capital investment is the sole activity of

FRC, and FRC has raised or is in the process of raising hundreds of millions of

dollars under the EB-5 investment program, the unlawful conduct or activities and

affairs of FRC as described above necessarily taints all of FRC's conduct.

b. Mastroianni, who is in control of the company, has acted, is acting, and is

reasonably expected to act in a manner that is illegal or fraudulent. Specifically,

Finkelstein believes that FRC, at the direction of its majority (and managing)

member, Mastroianni, is failing to use the EB-5 investment funds in a manner that

-11-

Case Number: 2014CA006733

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

is authorized by the applicable rules and regulations.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 605.0703(4)(b) and (c), Finkelstein respectfully

requests the Court to dissolve FRC, or alternatively enter an order requiring FRC or its remaining

members to purchase his 5% interest in FRC for fair market value pursuant Fla. Stat. § 605.0706,

or for such other remedy the Court deems appropriate.

Count II

Judicial Dissolution of Allied Capital and Development of South Florida, LLC Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 605.0702

39. Finkelstein re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 35 above as though fully set forth

herein.

40. Finkelstein holds a membership interest in Allied FL in the amount of 10%.

41. Finkelstein, as both a member and former Chief Financial Officer of Allied FL

believes that sufficient grounds for judicial dissolution exists because:

a. Mastroianni is causing Allied FL's conduct, or all or substantially all of Allied

FL's activities and affairs to be unlawful. Specifically, Finkelstein believes that

Allied FL, at the direction of its majority (and managing) member, Mastroianni, is

failing to use the EB-5 investment funds in a manner that is authorized by the

applicable rules and regulations. Because the EB-5 funds are used for all

development fees paid to Allied FL, and are the sole income for Allied FL, the

improper and unauthorized use of the EB-5 funds taints all of Allied FL's

conduct.

b. Mastroianni, who is in control of the company, has acted, is acting, and is

reasonably expected to act in a manner that is illegal or fraudulent. Specifically,

Finkelstein believes that Allied FL, at the direction of its majority (and managing)

-12-

Case Number: 2014CA006733

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim member, Mastroianni, is failing to use the EB-5 investment funds in a manner that

is authorized by the applicable rules and regulations.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 605.0703(4)(b) and (c), Finkelstein respectfully

requests the Court to dissolve Allied FL, or alternatively enter an order requiring Allied FL or its

remaining members to purchase his 10% interest in FRC for fair market value pursuant Fla. Stat.

§ 605.0706, or for such other remedy the Court deems appropriate.

Count III

Judicial Dissolution of Harbourside Place, LLC Pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 605.0702

42. Finkelstein re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 35 above as though fully set forth

herein.

43. Finkelstein holds a membership interest in Harbourside Place, LLC in the amount

of 5%.

44. Finkelstein, as both a member and former Chief Financial Officer of Harbourside

believes that sufficient grounds for judicial dissolution exists because:

a. Mastroianni is causing Harbourside's conduct, or all or substantially all of

Harbourside's activities and affairs to be unlawful. Specifically, Mr. Finkelstein

believes that Harbourside, at the direction of its majority (and managing) member,

Mastroianni, is failing to use the EB-5 investment funds in a manner that is

authorized by the applicable rules and regulations. Because the EB-5 capital

investment is the sole activity of Harbourside, and Harbourside has raised or is in

the process of raising hundreds of millions of dollars under the EB-5 investment

program, the unlawful conduct or activities and affairs of Harbourside as

described above necessarily taints all of Harbourside's conduct.

-13-

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

b. Mastroianni, who is in control of the company, has acted, is acting, and is reasonably expected to act in a manner that is illegal or fraudulent. Specifically, Finkelstein believes that Harbourside, at the direction of its majority (and managing) member, Mastroianni, is failing to use the EB-5 investment funds in a manner that is authorized by the applicable rules and regulations.

WHEREFORE, pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 605.0703(4)(b) and (c), Finkelstein respectfully requests the Court to dissolve Harbourside, or alternatively enter an order requiring Harbourside or its remaining members to purchase his 5% interest in Harbourside for fair market value pursuant Fla. Stat. § 605.0706, or for such other remedy the Court deems appropriate.

## Count IV Breach of Contract

- 45. Finkelstein re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 35 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 46. Mastroianni promised Finkelstein that if he accepted employment at a reduced salary, he would be further, and more fully, compensated by being given a 5% membership interest in Harbourside; a 5% membership interest in FRC, and a 10 % membership interest in Allied FL.
- 47. Finkelstein accepted employment as CFO of the entities based upon the promise of full compensation, including a membership interest in the three entities and any future business ventures.
  - 48. The employment arrangement is a binding contract between the parties.
- 49. Counter-Defendants have breached the contract by failing to provide Finkelstein his compensation in accordance with the terms of the contract.
  - 50. Finkelstein performed at all times in accordance with the terms of the contract and

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

satisfied all conditions precedent.

51. Finkesltein has been damaged as a result of Counter-Defendants' breach of the contract.

WHEREFORE, Finkelstein demands judgment for damages against ALLIED CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC, HARBOURSIDE PLACE, LLC and FLORIDA REGIONAL CENTER, LLC, along with the costs associated with bringing this action, interest, and any further relief this Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

## Count V Fraudulent Inducement

- 52. Finkelstein re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 24 and 28 through 35 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 53. Counter-Defendants made misrepresentations for the purpose of inducing Plaintiffs to enter into accepting employment at a reduced salary.
- 54. Specifically, Mastroianni, as an individual and as a principal of Harbourside, FRC and Allied FL, promised Finkelstetin that if he accepted employment with Counter-Defendants at a reduced salary, he would also be given a membership interest in Harbourside, FRC, Allied FL, And 10% of all future EB-5 projects/entities, including USIF, HarborFund, Mizner, Charles, CharlesSPE, USIFNY, Bay Street, Bryant and W57TH.
- 55. Despite their promises, Counter-Defendants never provided Finkelstein any membership interest in Harbourside, FRC, Allied FL, USIF, HarborFund, Mizner, Charles, CharlesSPE, USIFNY, Bay Street, Bryant or W57TH.
- 56. Counter-Defendants knew or should have known that the misrepresentations were false at the time they were made and knew or should have known that Finkelstein would rely upon said misrepresentations in accepting the position.

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

57. Finkelstein reasonably relied upon the misrepresentations identified, and would not have accepted the employment at a reduced salary had Counter-Plaintiff known of the falsity of these misrepresentations.

58. Finkelstein reasonably relied upon the misrepresentations to his detriment and has been damaged as a direct and proximate consequence of this reasonable reliance.

WHEREFORE, Finkelstein demands judgment for damages against NICHOLAS A. MASTROIANNI, II, ALLIED CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC, HARBOURSIDE PLACE, LLC, FLORIDA REGIONAL CENTER, LLC, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND, LLC, HARBOURSIDE FUNDING, LP, VIA MIZNER FUNDING, LP, CHARLES INVESTMENT FUND, LLC, CHARLES SPE FUNDING, LLC, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND-NY, LLC, 65 BAY STREET FUNDING, LLC, BRYANT PARK FUNDING 100, LLC, and West 57TH STREET FUNDING, LLC, along with the costs associated with bringing this action, interest, and any further relief this Court deems appropriate under the circumstances. Counter-Plaintiff reserves the right to seek leave to plead a claim for punitive damages.

# Count VI Unjust Enrichment

- 59. Finkelstein re-alleges 1 through 24 and 28 through 35, and 53 through 58 above as though fully set forth herein.
- 60. Finkelstein conferred a benefit on the Counter-Defendants by providing them his expertise and knowledge on the EB-5 program without being fully compensated as promised.
- 61. Counter-Defendants have knowledge of the benefits conferred upon them, as evidenced by the significant funding on the various projects obtained pursuant to the EB-5 program.

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

- 62. Counter-Defendants voluntarily accepted and retained the benefit conferred.
- 63. It would be inequitable for Counter-Defendants to retain the benefit of Finkelstein's services without paying the full value of such services to Finkelstein.

WHEREFORE, Finkelstein demands judgment for damages against ALLIED CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC, HARBOURSIDE PLACE, LLC, FLORIDA REGIONAL CENTER, LLC, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND, LLC, HARBOURSIDE FUNDING, LP, VIA MIZNER FUNDING, LP, CHARLES INVESTMENT FUND, LLC, CHARLES SPE FUNDING, LLC, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND-NY, LLC, 65 BAY STREET FUNDING, LLC, BRYANT PARK FUNDING 100, LLC, and WEST 57TH STREET FUNDING, LLC, along with the costs associated with bringing this action, interest, and any further relief this Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

## Count VII Promissory Estoppel

- 64. Finkelstein re-alleges paragraphs 1 through 24 and 28 through 35, and 53 through 58 above as though fully set forth herein.
  - 65. Finkelstein was promised an ownership interest in the Counter-Defendant entities.
- 66. Finkelstein relied upon that promise in agreeing to work for Counter-Defendants for a reduced salary.
- 67. Counter-Defendants should have reasonably expected that the promise of an ownership interest in the entities would induce Finkelstein to work for entities and accept a reduced salary as compensation.
  - 68. Enforcement of Counter-Defendants' promise is necessary to avoid an injustice.

WHEREFORE, Finkelstein demands judgment for damages against ALLIED CAPITAL AND DEVELOPMENT OF SOUTH FLORIDA, LLC, HARBOURSIDE PLACE, LLC,

Case Number: 2014CA006733

Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

FLORIDA REGIONAL CENTER, LLC, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND, LLC, HARBOURSIDE

FUNDING, LP, VIA MIZNER FUNDING, LP, CHARLES INVESTMENT FUND, LLC,

CHARLES SPE FUNDING, LLC, U.S. IMMIGRATION FUND-NY, LLC, 65 BAY STREET

FUNDING, LLC, BRYANT PARK FUNDING 100, LLC, and WEST 57TH STREET

FUNDING, LLC, along with the costs associated with bringing this action, interest, and any

further relief this Court deems appropriate under the circumstances.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHMAN GREER, P.A.

Counsel for Finkelstein
One Clearlake Centre, Suite 1504
250 Australian Avenue, South

West Palm Beach, Florida 33401-5016

Telephone: (561) 803-3500 Facsimile: (561) 820-1608

Bv:

GERALD F. RICHMAN Florida Bar No.: 066457 grichman@richmangreer.com

ERIC M. SODHI

Florida Bar No.: 0583871 esodhi@richmangreer.com

LEORA B. FREIRE

Florida Bar No.: 0013488 lfreire@richmangreer.com Defendant's Answer, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of *Defendant's Answer*, Affirmative Defenses and Counterclaim has been served this day of January 2015, to Mitchell Berger, Esquire, and Zachary P. Hyman of BERGER SINGERMAN, LLP., 350 East Las Olas Blvd., Suite 1000, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

LEORA B. FRIERE