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Markus Risinger, #031524
Attorney for Clayton Echard

**IN THE SUPREME COURT
OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA**

In Re the Matter of:

LAURA OWENS,

Petitioner/Appellant,

And

CLAYTON ECHARD,

Respondent/Appellee.

Case No.: CV-25-0124-PR
Div. 2 No.: 2 CA-CV 2024-0315
Sup.Ct. No.: FC20243-052114

**APPELLEE'S APPLICATION FOR
ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS**

Respondent/Appellee, CLAYTON ECHARD, by and through counsel undersigned, and pursuant to the Minute Letter dated August 21, 2025, ARCAP 21 and 23, A.R.S. §§ 25-324(A), 25-809(G), 12-314, and Schweiger v. China Doll Restaurant, 138 Ariz. 183, 673 P.2d 927 (1983), hereby files his Application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs incurred in this matter.

1. On August 21, 2025, the Supreme Court of Arizona issued a Minute Letter denying Laura's Petition for Review and granting Clayton's request for attorney fees.

2. This Application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs is based upon the Affidavit of Markus Risinger, Esq., which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A".

3. Clayton's fees and costs incurred in responding to Laura's Petition for Review and with Markus Risinger and Woodnick Law, PLLC total \$6,597.06, excluding the cost of preparing the Fee Application. *See* the Fee Agreement which is attached to the Application for Attorneys' Fees and Costs hereto as Exhibit "B." *See also* Invoices/Itemization for Professional Services, which are signed attached hereto as Exhibit "C."

4. In total, Mr. Echard incurred the following fees and costs in responding to the Petition for Review (including time spent evaluating Appellant's arguments for review, research, drafting the response, and other tasks that a competent attorney would undertake in the same circumstances):

Attorney fees	\$6,416.50
+ Total court costs and expenses	<u>\$180.56</u>
Total Costs and Fees	\$6,597.06

Therefore, Mr. Echard requests a supplemental award of attorney fees and costs in the amount of **\$6,597.06** to be paid by a date certain and to accrue at the legal interest rate in the event of nonpayment.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED on September 2, 2025.

WOODNICK LAW, PLLC

Markus Risinger
Attorney for Respondent/Appellee

ORIGINAL of the foregoing filed
September 2, 2025, with:

Clerk of Court
Supreme Court of the State of Arizona

1 (via electronic filing)

2 **COPY** of the foregoing was delivered
3 the same day to the following via email:

4 David S. Gingras
5 Gingras Law Office, PLLC
6 4802 E. Ray Road, #23-271
7 Phoenix, AZ 85044
8 David@GingrasLaw.com
9 *Attorney for Petitioner/Appellant Laura Owens*

10 By: /s/ M. Risinger
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2 STATE OF ARIZONA)
3) ss.
4 County of Maricopa)

AFFIDAVIT

5 **Markus Risinger**, being first duly sworn upon oath, deposes and states as follows:

6 I am an attorney with the law firm of Woodnick Law, PLLC and attorney of record
7 for CLAYTON ECHARD in this appellate proceeding before Arizona Court of Appeals
8 Division Two (case no. 2 CA-CV 2024-0315). I have been in full-time legal practice since
9 2014. My practice primarily concerns parental rights and child welfare litigation under Title
10 25, Title 8, Title 13, Title 41, and related appeals/special actions. I have extensive
11 experience in appeal and special action matters relevant to the pending case, including direct
12 representation and amicus contributions in cases interpreting chapter 6 of Title 25. I am also
13 a faculty associate in the MLS/MHREL program at the Arizona State University Sandra
14 Day O'Connor College of Law and have been called numerous times to provide testimony
15 and stakeholder input to the Arizona Legislature as a "subject matter expert" in Title 8, Title
16 25, and Title 41 matters.
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20 My standard rate in appellate matters is \$500 per hour, which I believe accurately
21 reflects current market conditions and my skills and experience. The rate agreed upon and
22 charged in this case for my services was discounted to \$450 per hour. I have reviewed the
23 statements in this matter and believe the hourly rates are reasonable, the time expended was
24 necessary in furtherance of my client's position in the appeal, and the total fee is appropriate
25 given the scope of work performed. My timekeeping designation in the statements is MR.
26
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28 As to the other timekeepers who contributed to the work performed in this matter, I

1 state as follows:

2 Isabel Ranney is a second-year associate at Woodnick Law and has been licensed to
3 practice since 2023. She previously worked as a law clerk for Woodnick Law from 2021 to
4 2023. In her capacity as a law clerk, she assisted on several special action and appellate
5 matters, such as the unpublished decisions of Smith v. Hon. Williams/Bibbee, No. 1 CA-SA
6 22-0145 (Ariz. App. June 1, 2023), and Mikesell v. Hon. Nicholls/Brown/Kay, No. 1 CA-
7 SA 23-0077 (Ariz. App. July 5, 2023). Ms. Ranney contributed to researching and drafting
8 the appellee's response to the petition for review at an hourly rate of \$295. Her timekeeping
9 designation in the statements is IR.
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12 Appended hereto as **Exhibit B** is an itemized billing report evidencing the legal
13 services performed in this matter. The time spent and billing information were documented
14 using the Timeslips timekeeping system in the ordinary and customary course of the firm's
15 practice. The records and statements provided are true and correct evidence of the time
16 expended, and each was necessarily expended. Time spent is measured in tenths of an hour
17 with time entries indicating the file name, the timekeeper, a brief narrative description of the
18 tasks performed, and the time expended. Statements are provided to clients monthly and
19 charged against funds kept in IOLTA or remitted by the client in response to the billing
20 statement.
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24 The hourly rates charged are:

25 \$450.00 for Markus Risinger (MR)

26 \$295.00 for Isabel Ranney (IR)

27 Echard has agreed to pay and has been charged for legal services at these rates.
28

1 The total time expended in responding to the petition for review, including research,
2 briefing, and all other related tasks among all timekeepers is 14.50 hours. The total amount
3 of attorney fees incurred in defending the appeal was \$6,416.50, plus \$180.56 in costs for
4 filing fees and credit card processing fees.
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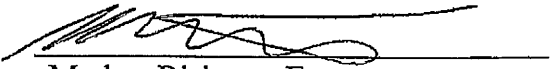
6 Mr. Echard requests this Court determine all the requested attorney fees, court costs
7 and expenses itemized herein are reasonable, and thereupon, computation should be made in
8 accordance with the following arithmetic formula:
9

10 Attorney fees	\$6,416.50
11 + Total court costs and expenses	<u>\$180.56</u>
12 Total Costs and Fees	<u>\$6,597.06</u>

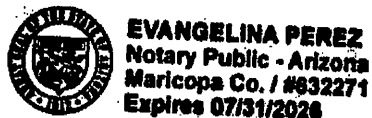
13
14 WHEREFORE, based upon the above, Appellee Echard respectfully requests the
15 Court enter an order for his reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred as stated above.

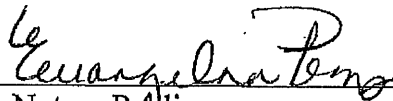
16 RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED this 2nd day of September 2025.
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18 WOODNICK LAW, PLLC

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21 Markus Risinger, Esq.
22 Attorney for Clayton Echard

23 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 2nd day of September 2025, by
24 Markus Risinger.



27 
28 Notary Public