Motion is Respectfully Referred to:

	PART STOPE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX:	Case Dispose Settle Order Schedule App							
٠		R. SILVER	<u>.</u>						
-	Renald B. Blatt x	Justice.							
	The following papers numbered 1 to Read on this motion,  Noticed on and duly submitted as No on the Motion Calendar of								
		PAPERS NUMBERED							
	Notice of Motion - Order to Show Cause - Exhibits and Affidavits Annexed								
	Answering Affidavit and Exhibits								
	Replying Affidavit and Exhibits	***************************************							
	Affidavits and Exhibits								
	Pleadings - Exhibit								
	Stipulation(s) - Referee's Report - Minutes								
	Filed Papers								
	Memoranda of Law	·							
	Upon the foregoing papers this motion quinted I de	Sugn	red						
	<b>RECEIVED</b> BRONX COUNTY QLT旅生の対荷								
	MAY 1 0 2008								
	PAID NO FÉE								
Justice: Dated:	Dated: 1/6/08 Hon	\(\frac{1}{2}\)							

FAX (918) 892-0033

At STP Part of the Supreme Court of the State of New York to be held in and for the County of Bronx. State of New York at the Courthouse located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York on the / day of April, 2008

PRESENT:

Applicant's Tel. #: 718-892-0400

Applicant's Fax #:

718-892-0033

Honorable Justice Howard Silver

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF BRONX

ANDREW MORALES, As Administrator of the Estate of CYNTHIA QUINTANA MORALES,

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

Plaintiff.

-against-

**Index No.** 13093/03

RONALD D. BLATT, M.D. RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., P.G. PECCIVED EASTSIDE GYNECOLOGY, P.C., and FRANK HALCOND, RN,

MAY 1 9 2008

Defendant.

SIRS:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that upon the reading and filing of the Affirmation of Louis G. Solimano, Esq., dated the 9 the day of April, 2008, with Exhibits annexed thereto, and all prior pleadings and proceedings heretofore had herein,

LET, the defendants show cause before this Court at the Supreme Court of The State of New York, Bronx County, at the Courthouse located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York, at the STP Part on the 6 day of may, 2008, at 9 30 clock on the forenoon of that day or soon thereafter as counsel can be heard, why an Order should not be issued granting the following items of relief pursuant to the coordinate jurisdiction of the

Supreme Court established by Estates Powers and Trust Law §5-4.6:

- a) Approving the \$1,250,000.00 proposed settlement of this action;
- b) Modifying the limitations contained in the Limited Letters of Administration, restricting the Administrator, ANDREW MORALES from executing a general release in favor of the defendants to permit the Administrator to execute a general release, and any other papers necessary to effectuate the settlement of the action against the defendants;
- c) Authorizing the law firm of William A. Gallina to execute stipulations of discontinuance with prejudice, of the above-entitled action;
- Approving the return of disbursements in the amount of \$9,786.45 advanced by the Law Office of William A.
   Gallina for the prosecution of the within personal injury action;
- e) Approving, after deduction of the approved disbursements from the gross recovery, combined attorneys' fees in the amount of \$273,532.02 for the Law Office of William A. Gallina and for all legal services rendered in connection with ancillary Surrogate's proceedings previously performed and for any remaining proceedings to be performed in furtherance of the protection of the pecuniary beneficiaries of the Estate of CYNTHIA QUINTANA MORALES;
- f) Appointing the Law Offices of William A. Gallina as escrow agent for the purpose of establishing an interest-bearing escrow account to receive the net settlement proceeds of the above referenced settlement fund in the amount of \$936,940.44 in order that interest promptly accrue to the benefit of the pecuniary beneficiaries prior to the issuance of a further order or decree of distribution of the net settlement proceeds;
- g) That a check be issued to ACS Recovery Services to satisfy their lien in the sum of \$29,741.12 for their client CIGNA Healthcare against the settlement proceeds due the Estate of Cynthia Quintana Morales;

- h) Directing defendants to issue drafts from Dr. Blatt's insurance company, Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company for \$1,000,000.00 and for Dr. Blatt's excess coverage, Hospitals Insurance Company, Inc. for \$250,000.00 to the Law Office of William A. Gallina for its legal fees and disbursements in the amount of \$283,318.47, and to the Law Office of William A. Gallina as escrow agent with respect to the balance of the settlement proceeds \$936,940.44;
- i) An Order transferring this matter to the Surrogate's Court of Bronx County for allocation and distribution of the net settlement funds in accordance with a final Decree of said Surrogate's Court; and

For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

RECEIVED THOMX COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

ENTER,

MAY 1 a 2008

PAID

NOFEE

J.S.C

HOWARD R. SILVER

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX ANDREW MORALES. As Administrator of the Estate of CYNTHIA QUINTANA MORALES,, **AFFIRMATION** Plaintiffs. -against-

Index No. 13093/03

RONALD D. BLATT, M.D. RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., P.C., EASTSIDE GYNECOLOGY, P.C., and FRANK HALCOND, RN

Defendant. \_\_\_\_X

LOUIS G. SOLIMANO, ESQ., an attorney duly submitted to practice law in the State of New York, affirms the following to be true under the penalties of perjury:

- I am Of Counsel to the firm of WILLIAM A. GALLINA, ESQ., the attorney for the plaintiff herein, and as such I am fully familiar with the facts and circumstances of the within matter, having in my possession the file containing the investigative materials as well as the pleadings and proceedings heretofore had herein.
- 2. This affirmation is submitted in support of the instant application seeking an Order:
  - a) Approving the \$1,250,000.00 proposed settlement of this action:
  - Modifying the limitations contained in the Limited Letters of b) Administration, which currently prohibit Administrator, Andrew Morales from executing general releases in this matter, to permit the Administrator to execute general releases, and any other papers necessary to effectuate the settlement of the action against the defendants;
  - Authorizing the law firm of William A. Gallina to execute c) stipulations of discontinuance with prejudice, of the aboveentitled action:

- d) Approving the return of disbursements in the amount of \$9,786.45 advanced by the Law Office of William A. Gallina for the prosecution of the witnin personal injury action;
- e) Approving, after deduction of the approved disbursements from the gross recovery, combined attorneys' fees in the amount of \$273,532.02 for the Law Office of William A. Gallina and for all legal services rendered in connection with ancillary Surrogate's proceedings previously performed and for any remaining proceedings to be performed in furtherance of the protection of the pecuniary beneficiaries of the Estate of Cynthia Quintana Morales;
- Directing defendants, and their insurance companies Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company and Hospitals Insurance Company, Inc. to issue separate settlement drafts to the Law Office of William A. Gallina for its legal fees and disbursements in the amount of \$283,318.47, and to the Law Office of William A. Gallina as escrow agent with respect to the balance of the settlement proceeds in the sum of \$936,940.44;
- g) That a check be issued to ACS Recovery Services to satisfy their lien in the sum of \$29,741.12 for their client CIGNA Healthcare against the settlement proceeds due the Estate of Cynthia Quintana Morales;
- h) Appointing the Law Offices of William A. Gallina as escrow agent for the purpose of establishing an interest-bearing escrow account to receive the net settlement proceeds of the above referenced settlement fund in the amount of \$936,940.44 in order that interest promptly accrue to the benefit of the pecuniary beneficiaries prior to the issuance of a further order or decree of distribution of the net settlement proceeds by the Surrogate's Court;
- i) An Order transferring this matter to the Surrogate's Court of Bronx County for allocation and distribution of the net settlement funds in accordance with a final Decree of said Surrogate's Court;
- j) That the filing of a bond be dispensed with; and

For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

- 1. Cynthia Quintana Morales, the decedent died on May 18, 2001.
- 2. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> day of April, 2002, Limited Letters of Testamentary of the Estate of Cynthia Quintana Morales, deceased, were issued to her husband, Andrew Morales by the Surrogate's Court of Bronx County. These letters were limited in that they restrained the Administrator from compromising or collecting upon said claim for personal injuries and wrongful death until further order of the Surrogate's Court. To date, said letters have not been revoked and are presently in full force and effect. No bond was required of the Administrator to cover any probable amount to be realized from said action.
  - 3. Ms. Quintana Morales was employed at the time of her death.
- 4. Ms. Quintana Morales was 30 years of age at the time of her death, having been born on August 16, 1971.
- 5. That the facts relating to decedent's death are as Follows: Cynthia Quintana Morales, went to the defendants for a termination of pregnancy. She was administered an anesthetic agent called Brevital and never regained consciousness. She was taken to Lennox Hill Hospital where she remained until her death on May 18, 2001 never having regained consciousness. She died of anoxic encepalopathy due to cardio respiratory arrest of unknown etiology.
- on the eve of trial a tentative settlement was reached before the Honorable Howard Silver, and the defendants agreed

to collectively pay the sum of \$1,250,000.00.

- 7. The details of the proposed settlement offer of \$1,250,000.00 by the defendants, if approved will be full satisfaction of the personal injury and wrongful death claim by the pecuniary beneficiaries of decedent Cynthia Quintana Morales are as follows: defendants RONALD D. BLATT, M.D. RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., P.C., EASTSIDE GYNECOLOGY, P.C., through their insurance company, Medical Liability Mutual Insurance Company shall pay \$1,000,000.00 and the same defendants through their excess carrier, Hospitals Insurance Company, Inc. shall pay \$250,000.00.
- 8. Your Affirmant believes that it is in the best interests of the distributees and the estate of the decedent and those interested therein to accept the settlement so offered and that this is the largest amount that can be obtained without further litigation. The Law Office of William A. Gallina, through various representatives have counseled both the Administrator about the inherent problems and risks of proceeding further to trial. Upon the conclusion of numerous telephone conference calls, all agreed that accepting the aforementioned offer was the prudent decision under the circumstances.
- 9. The grounds of Your Affirmant's belief is that the sum offered in settlement is fair, reasonable as was discussed before the Honorable Howard Silver and should be accepted. There is no reason to believe that a significantly greater sum could be recovered by jury verdict had this matter proceeded to trial and there is always the possibility the sum recovered after trial could be substantially less. In fact, should the case be brought to trial, there is the possibility that a jury could render a defense verdict leaving the Administrator and distributees with nothing.
  - 10. The decedent at the time of death let the following survivors:

Name	Relationship	Present Age
Andrew Morales	husband	Over 18
Aaron Morales	son	16
Amanda Morales	daughter	10

- as his attorney. In view of the results achieved, as well as the extensive amount of work done by this office during the course of this claim, petitioner would request the Court to approve a fee as follows: That the attorney's disbursements in the sum of \$9,786.45 first be deducted from the gross settlement of \$1,250,000.00, that a fee of \$273,532.02, representing medical malpractice sliding scale of the settlement proceeds after the deduction of disbursements, which together with said disbursements would amount to a total compensation of \$283,318.47.
- 12. Attached hereto as Exhibit "A" is a list of disbursements that were incurred during the pendency of this litigation.
  - 13. No previous application has been made for the relief sought herein.
- 14. Your affirmant desires leave of this Court to allow the Administrator, Andrew Morales, to compromise and settle a cause of action for decedent's personal injuries and wrongful death commenced against the defendants, granting him the power to execute general releases, to fix reasonable attorney's fees and to reimburse the Law Office of William A. Gallina for disbursements out of the settlement proceeds and thereafter proceed with the Surrogate's Court for the distribution of the estate's assets.
- 15. Your Affirmant has not become interested in the within matter at the instance of the decedent's behalf, directly or indirectly.

**WHEREFORE,** Your Affirmant prays that an Order be granted providing for the following relief:

- a) Approving the \$1,250,000.00 proposed settlement of this action;
- b) Modifying the limitations contained in the Limited Letters of Administration, which currently prohibit Administrator, Andrew Morales from executing general releases in this matter, to permit the Administrator to execute general releases, and any other papers necessary to effectuate the settlement of the action against the defendants;
- c) Authorizing the law firm of William A. Gallina to execute stipulations of discontinuance with prejudice, of the above-entitled action;
- d) Approving the return of disbursements in the amount of \$9,786.45 advanced by the Law Office of William A. Gallina for the prosecution of the within personal injury action;
- e) Approving, after deduction of the approved disbursements from the gross recovery, combined attorneys' fees in the amount of \$273,532.02 for the Law Office of William A. Gallina and for all legal services rendered in connection with ancillary Surrogate's proceedings previously performed and for any remaining proceedings to be performed in furtherance of the protection of the pecuniary beneficiaries of the Estate of Cynthia Quintana Morales;
- f) Directing defendants, to issue separate settlement drafts to the Law Office of William A. Gallina for its legal fees and disbursements in the amount of \$283,318.47, and to the Law Office of William A. Gallina as escrow agent with respect to the balance of the settlement proceeds (\$936,940.44);
- g) That ACS Recovery Services holds a lien in the sum of \$29,741.12 for their client CIGNA Healthcare against the settlement proceeds due the Estate of Cynthia Quintana Morales;
- h) Appointing the Law Offices of William A. Gallina as escrow agent for the purpose of establishing an interest-bearing escrow account to receive the net settlement proceeds of the above referenced settlement fund in the amount of \$936,940.44 in order that interest promptly accrue to the benefit of the pecuniary beneficiaries prior to the issuance of a further order or decree of distribution of the net settlement proceeds by the Surrogate's Court;

- i) An Order transferring this matter to the Surrogate's Court of Bronx County for allocation and distribution of the net settlement funds in accordance with a final Decree of said Surrogate's Court;
- That the filing of a bond be dispensed with; and j)

For such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: Bronx, New York April 9, 2008

LOUIS G. SOLIMANO

Morales, Mr. Andrew J. **Case #:** 200664 (1935)

Case Type: MED MAL Class: MM **DOI:** 05/07/2001 **Assigned:** LOU

LimDate: 11/05/2003 Date Opened: 12/04/2001

04/03/2008 02:39 PM

Page 1 of 3

## Value Code Report

Value Code	Dates of Service	Provider Of Service	Total Amount
DTF	11/15/2002 - 11/15/2002 Weingarden, Dr. Edw	Law Office of William A. Gallina ard; Certificate of Merit Revi	2,500 00
DTF	02/10/2003 - 02/10/2003 Clerk of the Court - B	Law Office of William A. Gallina ronx; Index Number	185.00
DTF	04/15/2003 - 04/15/2003 Paragon Process Ser	Law Office of William A. Gallina vice; serve Eastside Gynecology	35.00
DTF	04/15/2003 - 04/15/2003 Paragon Process Ser	Law Office of William A. Gallina vice; serve Ronald Blatt MD	37.96
DTF	04/15/2003 - 04/15/2003 Paragon Process Ser	Law Office of William A. Gallına vice; serve Dr. Blatt MD PC	37.96
DTF	04/15/2003 - 04/15/2003 Paragon Process Ser	Law Office of William A. Gallina vice; serve Eastside Gynocology	38 00
DTF	04/15/2003 - 04/15/2003 Paragon Process Ser	Law Office of William A. Gallina vice; serve Ronald Blatt MD	38.00
DTF	04/15/2003 - 04/15/2003 Paragon Process Ser	Law Office of William A. Gallina vice; serve Ronald Blatt MDPC	38.00
DTF	04/15/2003 - 04/15/2003 Paragon Process Ser	Law Office of William A. Gallina vice; serve Frank Halcond RN	38.00
DTF	06/18/2003 - 06/18/2003 Clerk of the Court - B	Law Office of William A. Gallına ronx; RJI fee	75.00
DTF	01/12/2005 - 01/12/2005 The Jack D Weiler - l	Law Office of William A. Gallina Einstein Hospital;	76.40
DTF	11/30/2005 - 11/30/2005 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallina G.; travel expense	17.25
DTF	11/30/2005 - 11/30/2005 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallina G.; travel expense	4 96
DTF	03/08/2006 - 03/08/2006 Sandy Saunders Cou	Law Office of William A. Gallina rt Reporting; Invoice No.: 31562	445.25
DTF	04/03/2006 - 04/03/2006 Chief Medical Examir	Law Office of William A. Gallina er;	25 00
DTF	04/03/2006 - 04/03/2006 Clerk of the Court - B	Law Office of William A. Gallina ronx; motion fee	45.00

 Morales, Mr. Andrew J.
 Case Type: MED MAL Case #: 200664 (1935)
 DOI: 05/07/2001 (1935)
 LimDate: 11/05/2003 (1935)

 Class: MM
 Apsigned: LOU
 Date Opened: 12/04/2001

04/03/2008 02:39 PM Page 2 of 3

## Value Code Report

Value Code	Dates of Service	Provider Of Service	Total Amount
DTF	04/03/2006 - 04/03/2006 Surrogate Court Bron	Law Office of William A. Gallina x County;	35.00
DTF	04/03/2006 - 04/03/2006 Chief Medical Examin	Law Office of William A. Gallina er;	10.00
DTF	04/03/2006 - 04/03/2006 Solimano, Esq , Louis	Law Office of William A Gallina G., travel expense	7.00
DTF	04/13/2006 - 04/13/2006 Diamond Court Repor	Law Office of William A. Gallına ting, Inc.; ebt of Dr. Blatt	286.87
DTF	07/26/2006 - 07/26/2006 FYI Investigations; p/d	Law Office of William A. Gallina u material at ME office	152.00
DTF	09/29/2006 - 09/29/2006 Clerk of the Court - Br	Law Office of William A. Gallina ronx; note of issue	95.00
DTF	02/20/2007 - 02/20/2007 Solimano, Esq , Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallına ; travel expenses	7.00
DTF	05/14/2007 - 05/14/2007 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallına G.; parkıng	7.00
DTF	05/14/2007 - 05/14/2007 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallina G.;	7.00
DTF	07/13/2007 - 07/13/2007 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Galiina G.; travel expense	7.00
DTF	10/10/2007 - 10/10/2007 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallina G.; travel	7.00
DTF	12/07/2007 - 12/07/2007 FYI Investigations; tria	Law Office of William A. Gallina al - investigation	1,196.50
DTF	12/20/2007 - 12/20/2007 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallına G.; travel expense	7.00
DTF	01/04/2008 - 01/04/2008 Fitzgerald, Ph D., Tho	Law Office of William A. Gallina mas; economist expert	1,062.50
DTF	01/24/2008 - 01/24/2008 Luciani, EXPERT Ricl	Law Office of William A Gallina nard L.;	1,750.00
DTF	02/21/2008 - 02/21/2008 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallina G.; parking	7.00

Morales, Mr Andrew J. Case #: 200664 (1935)

Case Type: MED MAL Class: MM DOI: 05/07/2001 Assigned: LOU LimDaté: 11/05/2003 Date Opened: 12/04/2001

04/03/2008 02:39 PM

Page 3 of 3

## Value Code Report

Value Code	Dates of Service	Provider Of Service	Total Amount
DTF	02/21/2008 - 02/21/2008 Solimano, Esq., Louis	Law Office of William A. Gallina G., parking	7.00
DTF	04/03/2008 - 04/03/2008 Law Office of William	Law Office of William A. Gallina A. Gallina; copies and postage	248.80
DTF	04/03/2008 - 04/03/2008 Luciani, EXPERT Rich	Law Office of William A. Gallina nard L.;	1,250.00
		SUBTOTAL FOR DTF	<u>\$ 9,786.45</u>
Totals for all	value codes		\$ 9,786.45

### Report Criteria:

Value codes = DTF Value notes are included Sorted by: party, value code, start date, provider name

# ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

LAW OFFICES OF

#### WILLIAM A. GALLINA

Attorney for Plaintiff

1180 MORRIS PARK AVENUE BRONX, NEW YORK 10461 TEL: (718) 892-0400 FAX (718) 892-0033

Pursuant to 22 NYCRR 130-1 1, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, certifies that, upon information and belief and reasonable inquiry, the contentions contained in the annexed document are not frivolous

Dated <u>April 9, 2008</u>

Signature

Print Signer's Name: LOUIS G. SOLIMANO

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF BRONX

ANDREW MORALES as Administrator of the Estate of of CYNTHIA QUINTANA-MORALES,

Index No. 13093/03

Plaintiff,

AFFIRMATION IN LIMITED OPPOSITION

-against-

RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., P.C., EASTSIDE GYNECOLOGY, P.C., and FRANK HALCOND, R.N.,

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COREY L. WISHNER, an attorney admitted to practice before the Courts of this State, hereby affirms the following to be true under the penalties of perjury and Rule 2106 of the CPLR:

- 1 I am a Member of the law firm of McALOON & FRIEDMAN, P.C., attorneys of record for defendants. RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., and RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., P.C., s/h a RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., P.C. and EASTSIDE GYNECOLOGY, P.C. As such, and from a review of the file maintained in your affirmant's office. I amully familiar with the facts and circumstances existing herein.
- 2. I submit this Affirmation in Limited Opposition to the Plaintiff's Order To Show Cause approving the proposed settlement of this action, and for other relief as more fully described in plaintiff's papers.
- 3. The defendants represented by the undersigned do not object to any of the provisions requested by plaintiff, except that, pursuant to EPTL5-4.6, in order for the trial Court to approve a settlement in a death action prior to a Surrogate's Court Decree, the plaintiff must first have filed appropriate papers with the Surrogate's Court.

Filed On - 5/20/2008 9:56:06 AM Bronx County Clerk

4. Your Affirmant has personally discussed this matter with plaintiff's counsel and it

is my understanding that such filing is shortly to be made, if not already done by the time these

papers are read by the Court. To the extent that the appropriate filing has not been made by the

time that this Order To Show Cause is argued before the Court, then the defendants only

Opposition is that, should the Court choose to grant plaintiff's Motion, then an Order should be

issued permitting the settlement to be approved as requested by the plaintiff only after such

filings are made.

5. If such filings have been made by the time that the Order to Show Cause is

scheduled to be argued, then the defendants have no Opposition to the plaintiff's requests.

6. Finally, although not so stated in the Order To Show Cause, itself, but only in the

plaintiff's Affirmation in Support of the Order to Show Cause, the settlement is being made on

behalf of RONALD D. BLATT, M.D., only, and not on behalf of the his P.C. or EASTSIDE

GYNECOLOGY, P.C. (incorrectly named in the caption). The two P.C.'s are not insured and

are not contributing to the settlement.

7. Your Affirmant personally spoke with plaintiff's counsel, who raised no

dissention to this during our conversation.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully requested that this Affirmation be considered in

response to plaintiff's application, along with such other and further relief as this Court deems

just and proper.

Dated:

New York, New York

May 8, 2008

COREY Ľ. WISHNER, ESQ.

2

#### AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF NEW YORK ) (ss.: COUNTY OF NEW YORK )

I, REBECCA J. MARKS, being duly sworn, say:

I am not a party to this action, am over 18 years of age and reside at Staten Island, New York.

On May 8, 2008, I served the within **AFFIRMATION IN LIMITED OPPOSITION** by depositing a true copy thereof in a post-paid wrapper, in an official depository under the exclusive care and custody of the U.S. Postal Service within New York State, addressed to each of the following persons at the last known address set forth after each name:

WILLIAM A. GALLINA, ESQ. 1180 Morris Park Avenue Attorney for Plaintiff Bronx, NY 10461

DePODWIN & MURPHY ,ESQS. Attorneys for Defendant FRANK HALCOND, R.N. 500 Airport Executive Park, Suite 502 Nanuet, NY 10954

REBECCA J. MARKS

Sworn to before me this 8th day of May, 2008.

NOTARY PUBLIC