NYSCEF DOC. NO. 39

RECEIVED NYSCEF: 08/12/2016

## SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - NEW YORK COUNTY

		Justice		PART 3
ALPERT, JACOB			INDEX NO.	651728/2016
:	FIL	ED	MOTION DATE	06/29/2016
M.R. BEAL & COMPA	NY AUG 12	2 2016	MOTION SEQ. NO.	001
	COUNTY CLER NEW Y	RK'S OFFICE ORK	_	
The following papers,	rumbered 1 to		e read on this motion to/for	confirm award
Notice of Motion/Order	to Show Cause - Aff	idavits - Exhibits	No.	(s)1
Answering Affidavits -	Exhibits		No	(s) <u>2</u>
Replying Affidavits			No	o(s)3
Cross Motion				Yes
•	-	pondent is confi	d the award rendered rmed; and it is further	
ADJUDGED that from respondents \$475,000, plus in 2012 until the aw per annum from A	petitioner Jacob M.R. Beal & Co terest on \$250,0 ard is paid in full April 1, 2013 untiler with costs and we execution the	pondent is conficed Alpert, do recompany and Berro 100 at the rate of the award is part of th	rmed; and it is further ver jointly and several nard B. Beal, the amount from A \$225,000 at the rate of a taxed by the Clerk, in the control of the control	bly bunt of April 1, of 9%
ADJUDGED that from respondents \$475,000, plus in 2012 until the aw per annum from the Clerk, together that petitioner has	petitioner Jacob M.R. Beal & Co terest on \$250,0 ard is paid in full April 1, 2013 untiler with costs and we execution the	pondent is conficed Alpert, do recompany and Berro 100 at the rate of the award is part of th	rmed; and it is further ver jointly and several nard B. Beal, the amount from a \$225,000 at the rate of the full, as computed as taxed by the Clerk, which in full.	ount of April 1, of 9% d by 8,184.25 and 60 for a total succession
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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NEW YORK - CIVIL TERM - PART 3 JACOB ALPERT,

Petitioner,

-against-

M.R. BEAL & COMPANY and BERNARD B. BEAL,

Respondents. ----X

Index No. 651728/16 60 Centre Street DECISION and ORDER

New York, N.Y. June 22, 2016

BEFORE:

HONORABLE EILEEN BRANSTEN, Justice

APPEARANCES:

LIDDLE & ROBINSON, L.L.P. Attorneys for the Petitioner 800 Third Avenue New York, N.Y. 10022 BY: BLAINE H. BORTNICK, ESQ.

LAW OFFICES OF REGINA L. DARBY Attorneys for the Respondents 111 John Street, Suite 800 New York, N.Y. 10038 BY: REGINA L. DARBY, ESQ. ANTHONY LOMAN, ESQ.

RECEIVED

JUN 29 2016

PART 3 NYS SUPREME COURT - CIVIL

ALAN F. BOWIN, CSR, RMR, CRR Official Court Reporter

	P 21		Page 4
	Page 2		
1	Proceedings	1	Proceedings
2	THE COURT: For Jacob Alpert, who is the	2	be here in a minute.
3	petitioner, I have, from the law offices of Liddle &	3	THE COURT: Well, come and check in. Okay.
4	Robinson, L.L.P., Blaine H. Bortnick.	4	So who is this other gentleman (indicating)?
5	MR. BORTNICK: Correct, your Honor.	5	MR. LOMAN: This (indicating) is Mr. Beal.
6	THE COURT: How are you?	6	He's a defendant in the case.
7	I don't see a piece of paper in opposition to	7	MR. BORTNICK: He's one of the two
8	this anywhere. Did I miss something?	8	respondents: M.R. Beal & Company, which defaulted in
9	MR. BORTNICK: Yes, you would have.	9	the arbitration, and then Mr. Beal, who did appear.
10	There was a petition to confirm the	10	THE COURT: Put a tie on, sir. Put a tie on.
11	arbitration award, there was a cross-petition to	11	You're an attorney-at-law?
12	vacate, and then there was a reply/reply in furtherance	12	MR. LOMAN: Yes.
13	of the petition to confirm and opposition to vacate.	13	THE COURT: You can come and represent
14	But the other side, as far as we can tell, filed no	14	whoever you want to represent.
15	reply on their petition to vacate.	15	(Mr. Loman complied.)
16	THE COURT: Now, was the cross-motion to	16	THE COURT: It's already 10:08.
17	vacate the arbitration award was that done by the	17	(Pause.)
18	Regina L. Darby law offices?	18	(Whereupon, Mr. Loman joined Mr. Bortnick at
19	MR. BORTNICK: It was.	19	counsel table.)
20	THE COURT: And what's the number for Regina	20	THE COURT: All right. For the petitioner,
21	Darby?	21 22	Jacob Alpert, I have, from the Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P. firm, Blaine Bortnick.
22	THE CLERK: (212)	23	For the respondents, M.R. Beal & Company and
23	THE CURT: Okay. 9, (1-212)	24	Bernard Beal, I have, from the Regina Darby, Esquire,
25	THE CLERK: 480 THE COURT: Yeah?	25	law firm the law firm of I have Anthony Loman;
26	THE CLERK: -3236.	26	L-o-m-a-n?
	Page 3		Page 5
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<b>1</b>	Proceedings	1	Proceedings
2	THE COURT: Do you know whether Anthony Loman	2	MR. LOMAN: That's correct.
3	was still involved?	4	THE COURT: You're an attorney-at-law in the
4	MR. BORTNICK: He was. He works for	5	State of New York?
5	Ms. Darby; he writes most of the papers, actually.		
	(The fellowing was board via the Court's		MR. LOMAN: Yes, I am.
6	(The following was heard via the Court's	6	THE COURT: Okay. You represent only Bernard
7	speakerphone:)	6	THE COURT: Okay. You represent only Bernard B. Beal?
7 8	speakerphone:)  VOICE: Hi. You've reached the Law Offices	6 7 8	THE COURT: Okay. You represent only Bernard B. Beal? MR. LOMAN: Well, I represent Bernard Beal.
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2 (Pages 2 to 5)

Page 8 Page 6 Proceedings 1 1 **Proceedings** herself; she is present in the courtroom. Also, we 2 York." That means that you represented the person by 2 also have Anthony Loman, who is also from her office. the -- the respondent, Bernard B. Beal, according to 3 3 This is motion sequence No. 1, a motion to 4 the report. confirm an arbitration award that was held before the 5 5 It also says that "Respondent M.R. Beal & FINRA Dispute Resolution. It was held over the course 6 Company," otherwise known as M.R. Beal, "did not appear 6 of time. I'm just trying to look at when -- the award 7 7 at the hearing in this matter." So they were not 8 was signed on March 3rd, 2016. 8 represented; they did not appear. And, in fact, the three arbitrators signed 9 9 There were five days of hearing and Mr. -- or the document, one on March 1st; the second -- March the company, M.R. Beal & Company, never appeared during 10 10 1st -- that was the Presiding Chairperson -- Ira S. 11 11 any one of the five days. Cure, signed the award, or the decision; then Adelfa 12 There was also another respondent, Blaylock 12 Ann Lugo signed it on March 2nd, 2016; and the 13 13 Beal Van -- Beal Van, LLC, otherwise known as Non-Public Arbitrator, Donald Raymond McNally, signed "Blaylock," I think it's called, was represented by 14 14 15 Chris Pham, Esquire, of the Law Offices of Abe Lampart, 15 Thereafter, the petitioner filed his petition 16 16 P.C., from San Francisco, California. They were let go to confirm the arbitration award, and before me is the 17 17 during the --Amended Cross-Petition to Vacate the Arbitration Award 18 18 MR. BORTNICK: Right. We agreed to withdraw 19 and Deny Petitioner's Petition to Confirm the Award. 19 that without prejudice. 20 So I have the papers in front of me, 20 THE COURT: All right. everything that is necessary and the Court is prepared 21 21 MR. BORTNICK: The -to indeed give a decision in this matter, so we're 22 22 THE COURT: So they're not part of the 23 23 ready to go. Beal --24 This is background: 24 MR. BORTNICK: I think it is important to know that the company M.R. Beal did sign a submission 25 Petitioner, Jacob Alpert, was a municipal 25 26 bond trader employed by Respondent M.R. Beal & Company, 26 agreement. They were there at the beginning and Page 9 Page 7 **Proceedings** 1 1 **Proceedings** 2 2 otherwise known as the "Firm." Respondent Bernard Beal then --3 is the founder of the Firm. 3 (Whereupon, Ms. Darby entered the courtroom.) 4 On February 7th, 2014, Alpert commenced a THE COURT: Ma'am, you have to check in. 4 5 FINRA arbitration against Bernard Beal and the Firm. 5 MR. BORTNICK: They were there at the 6 The dispute stems from Respondent's failure to pay 6 beginning of the process, where they signed the 7 Alpert commissions that he allegedly earned. 7 arbitration submission agreement; the company, that is, 8 Following a five-day evidentiary hearing, of 8 and then defaulted thereafter. 9 which the transcripts of these five days are included 9 THE COURT: Ms. Darby has now arrived, at a 10 in the Respondent's amended cross-petition to vacate 10 quarter after ten this morning. She is now in the the arbitration award as Exhibit H, the FINRA panel, 11 11 courtroom. We will wait on her signing herself in. consisting of three people, issued an award in Alpert's MR. LOMAN: Your Honor, can I get my bag? I 12 12 favor on March 3rd, 2016. This award was for a total 13 13 have a bag with files in the hallway. THE COURT: Yeah, I would suggest you go and 14 of \$628,928.09, for which Respondents were held to be 14 15 15 jointly and severally liable. get them. 16 MR. LOMAN: Thank you. 16 On March 31st, 2016, Alpert filed a petition 17 to confirm the arbitration award in this court. 17 THE COURT: Legal files should not be left in 18 Respondents then filed a cross-petition to vacate the 18 the hallway. award on April 5th, 2016, which was amended as of right 19 19 (Whereupon, Mr. Loman left the courtroom.) 20 on April 21st, 2016. 20 (Pause.) 21 So we're dealing with motion sequence No. 1, 21 THE COURT: Set up. 22 Petition to Confirm Award, Cross-Petition to Vacate. 22 (Whereupon, Mr. Loman re-entered the 23 The standards: 23 courtroom and returned to counsel table, along with "Under settled law, the arbitration of 24 24 Ms. Darby.) disputes concerning employment in the securities 25 THE COURT: I have, now present before me, 25 industry... is governed by the Federal Arbitration 26 26 from the Law Offices of Regina Darby, Regina L. Darby

3 (Pages 6 to 9)

Page 12 Page 10 Proceedings **Proceedings** 1 provisions of Section 10 apply. Instead, best 2 2 Act," otherwise known as "FAA," citing to -construed, they argue that the panel issued an award 3 (Whereupon, Ms. Darby's cell phone sounded 3 that was either in "manifest disregard of the law" or 4 and then was silenced.) 4 5 MS. DARBY: I apologize; I didn't realize it irrational. Neither doctrine applies. 5 6 As it concerns manifest disregard: 6 was on, your Honor. As the Court of Appeals has explained, 7 7 (Pause.) 8 manifest disregard "is a doctrine of last resort 8 THE COURT: -- citing to Salvano versus 9 limited to the rare occurrences of apparent 'egregious Merrill Lynch Pierce Fenner & Smith, 85 N.Y.2d 173, at 9 impropriety' on the part of the arbitrators, where none 10 10 page 180, a 1995 case. of the provisions of the FAA apply. The doctrine of 11 Even though Respondents bring their 11 manifest disregard, therefore, gives extreme deference 12 cross-motion pursuant to CPLR section 7511, the Court 12 to the arbitrators." Citing to Wien & Malkin LLP 13 13 must consider both the petition and the cross-petition versus Helmsley-Spear, Incorporated, 6 N.Y.3d 471, at 14 14 under the FAA. 15 pages 480-81, a 2006 case. 15 Section 9 of the FAA provides that "at any "Manifest disregard" requires "more than a 16 time within one year after the award is made, any party 16 simple error in law or a failure by the arbitrators to 17 to the arbitration may apply to the court so specified 17 18 understand or apply it; and, it is more than an 18 for an order confirming the award, and thereupon the 19 erroneous interpretation of the law." Same citation at court must grant such an order unless the award is 19 vacated, modified, or corrected..." and the emphasis is 20 page 481. 20 Nevertheless, Respondents premise their 21 21 added. motion on the argument that the arbitrator erred in Alpert brought his petition to confirm within 22 22 one year of the award. Nevertheless, Respondents seek 23 interpreting the law: 23 They argue that Bernard Beal should not be 24 24 25 held individually liable since for Alpert's unpaid 25 FAA Section 10 provides very limited grounds 26 bonuses and -- and ... I'll reread that. upon which an arbitration award may be vacated: 26 Page 13 Page 11 Proceedings 1 **Proceedings** They argue that Bernard Beal should not be 2 2 "(1) where the award was procured by 3 held individually liable for Alpert's unpaid bonuses 3 corruption, fraud, or undue means; 4 and that the panel erred in applying the 4 "(2) where there was evident partiality or 5 Debtor-Creditor Law. Amended Counter-Petition at 5 corruption in the arbitrators, or either of them; 6 paragraphs 47 through 74. "(3) where the arbitrators were guilty of 6 7 Next, Respondents maintain that the 7 misconduct in refusing to postpone the hearing, upon arbitrators adopted an erroneous interpretation of 8 8 sufficient cause shown, or in refusing to hear evidence Alpert's employment contract by finding that Alpert was 9 pertinent and material to the controversy; or of any 9 entitled to payment of a discretionary bonus earned 10 other misbehavior by which the rights of any party have 10 11 while he worked at the Firm after he left the Firm's 11 been prejudiced; or employment. Again Amended Counter-Petition at 12 12 "(4) where the arbitrators exceeded their paragraphs 75 through 104. 13 13 powers, or so imperfectly executed them that a mutual, 14 Respondents also contend that the arbitrators 14 final and definitive award upon the subject matter 15 made an erroneous evidentiary ruling, i.e. that an 15 submitted was not made." employment handbook was inadmissible. Again, same 16 16 In addition to the four grounds listed in 17 counter-petition, Amended Counter-Petition, at 17 Section 10, courts recognize an additional two grounds 18 18 paragraphs 105 through 111. for vacating awards under the FAA: one, manifest 19 disregard of the law and, two, irrationality. See 19 Respondents argue that the weight of the evidence does not support the award. Amended 20 Morgan Stanley DW Incorporated versus Afridi, 13 20 Counter-Petition at paragraphs 112 through 132. 21 A.D.3d 248, at page 250, a First Department 2004 case. 21 22 Finally, they contend that the arbitrators 22 None of the bases for vacatur apply here. should not have deemed Beal in default, notwithstanding 23 23 Respondents offer a scattershot critique of 24 the fact that he failed to appear for the five-day 24 the arbitration panel's ruling, which distills down to 25 25 a disagreement with the outcome. Respondents do not contend that the four 26 Was Beal also not at the hearing? 26

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1	Proceedings	,
2	MR. BORTNICK: No, your Honor; Beal was there	}
3	and defended. It was just the company.	
<b>4</b>	THE COURT: Just the company, M.R. Beal.	
5	have deemed M.R. Beal in default M.R.	
6	Beal & Company in default notwithstanding the fact	
7	that M.R. Beal failed to appear for the five-day	
8	hearing.	
9	That, again, is the Counter cites to the	
10	Amended Counter-Petition at paragraphs 133 to 137.	•
11	None of these arguments demonstrate the rare	
12	"egregious impropriety" needed to vacate an arbitration	
13	award on manifest disregard grounds.	
14	So then we go on to the issue of	
15	irrationality:	
16	Furthermore, Respondents have failed to	
17	demonstrate that the award is irrational.	
18	Again, at most, Beal, as the individual, and	
19	the Firm have demonstrated a disagreement with the	
20	award but such disagreement does not demonstrate	
21	irrationality.	
22	Accordingly, Respondents' cross-petition to	
23	vacate the March 3rd, 2016 FINRA award in favor of	
24	Alpert and against M.R. Beal & Company and Bernard B.	
25	Beal is denied, and the petition to confirm the award	
26	is hereby granted.	
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<u> 1</u>	Proceedings	
2	And that constitutes the Decision and Order	
3	of the Court.  So I don't think we need anything else.	
5	What I'm going to ask you to do is to get me	
6	a copy of the minutes, and once I get a copy of the	
7	minutes, I will give you the gray sheet, plus the	
8	decision on the back of it, and that will be the	
9	appealable order. All right?	
10	Okay, thank you.	
11	Have a good day.	
12	* * *	
13	CERTIFIED to be a true and accurate transcript	
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NEW YORK SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF NEW YORK	
JACOB ALPERT,	X : Index No. 651728/2016 : IAS Part 3
Petitioner,	: Justice Eileen Bransten
-against-	:
M.R. BEAL & COMPANY AND BERNARD B. BEAL,	: BILL OF COSTS AND : ATTORNEY AFFIRMATION
Respondents.	:
	: :
	X

## **BILL OF COSTS**

## Costs, Fees, and Disbursements

GRAND TOTAL	9 <del>70.03</del> 7 <i>0</i> 9.00
Travel and Taxi	<del>78.59</del>
Legal Research (Westlaw)\$	1 <del>71:11-</del>
Working Meals	<del>11.33 -</del>
Prospective Sheriff's fees	\$45
Transcript Fee of 6/22/16 Proceedings	\$114
Filing Fees (Notice of Petition (\$45), RJI (\$95), Index Fee (\$210))	\$350
Proceedings before Note of Issue is filed	\$200

## **AFFIRMATION OF BLAINE H. BORTNICK**

The undersigned, Blaine H. Bortnick, an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the courts of the State of New York, hereby affirms the following under penalty of perjury:

- 1. I am a partner of Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P., attorneys for Petitioner Jacob Alpert and, as such, am fully familiar with the facts and circumstances of the above captioned action.
- 2. The foregoing costs are correct and were necessarily in this action and are reasonable in amount.

  ADJUSTED THIS BILL OF COSTS AT \$ 709.00

Millon A. Tingling

1 of 11

3. The services for which fees have been charged were actually and necessarily performed and are reasonable in amount.

Dated: New York, New York August 11, 2016

FILED

AUG 12 2016

COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE NEW YORK Blaine H. Bortnick Liddle & Robinson, L.L.P. 800 Third Avenue New York, New York 10022 (212) 687-8500

Counsel for Petitioner Jacob Alpert

ALAN F. BOWIN, CSR, RMR, CRR OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER SUPREME COURT, N.Y. COUNTY 60 CENTRE STREET - ROOM 420 NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007 TELEPHONE: (646) 386-3067 (Tax I.D.# 06-1379123)

June 23, 2016

TO: LIDDLE & ROBINSON, L.L.P. 800 Third Avenue New York, N.Y. 10022 (212) 687-8500

Invoice Via E-mail

ATTN: BLAINE H. BORTNICK, ESQ.

TITLE OF ACTION: Jacob Alpert

v.

M.R. Beal & Company, et al.

BEFORE: Eileen Bransten, J.S.C.

INDEX NO: 651728/16

DATE OF PROCEEDINGS: June 22, 2016

TRANSCRIPT FEE: \$114.00

REMARKS: Decision and Order

Confirming Arbitration Award

Thank you

651728/16

Order + Judgment Afformer for Judgment Creditor Lidelle + Robinson, L.L.P. 800 Third Avenue New York, NY 10022 (212) 687-8500

FILED AND DOCKETED

AUG 12 2016 AT 139 PM N.Y., CO. CLK'S OFFICE