ORIGINAL

medical de l'anna destinations OLIVA & ASSOCIATES ALC Joseph L. Oliva, Esq., State Bar No. 113889 FILED Michael S. Faircloth, Esq., State Bar No. 211153 2 11770 Bernardo Plaza Court, Suite 350 2009 APR - 1 AM 10: 37 3 San Diego, California 92128 Telephone: (858) 385-0491 CLERK US DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA Facsimile: (858) 385-0499 4 DEPUTY 5 **BURKE O'NEIL LLC** Susan L. Burke (Pro Hac Vice motion pending) William T. O'Neil (Pro Hac Vice motion pending) 1000 Potomac Street, SW, Suite 150 Washington, DC 20007 7 Telephone: (202) 445-1409 sburke@burkeoneil.com Attorneys for Plaintiffs UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 10 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA 11 CASE NO 09 CV 0 64 7 12 ESTATE OF SABAH SALMAN AML HASSOON; HAMZIA UBAID ALWAN; 13 **COMPLAINT FOR:** SAJJAD SABAH SALMAN; MOHAMMED SABAH SALMAN; 14 **WAR CRIMES** ALI SABAH SALMAN; ESTATE OF AZHAR ABDULLAH ALI: **ASSAULT AND BATTERY** 15 3. WRONGFUL DEATH IBTISAM ABBASS JORREY; 4. INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF SAJJAD AZHAR ABDULLAH: 16 EMOTIONAL DISTRESS EMAD AZHAR ABDULLAH; SAJAH AZHAR ABDULLAH; and 5. NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF 17 **EMOTIONAL DISTRESS** ESTATE OF NIBRASS MOHAMMED 6. NEGLIGENT HIRING, TRAINING 18 DAWOOD, AND SUPERVISION 7. TORTIOUS SPOILATION OF 19 Plaintiffs, **EVIDENCE** 20 v. **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL** XE, formerly known as BLACKWATER 21 WÓRLDWÍDE and BLACKWATER LODGE 22 AND TRAINING CENTER, INC.; US TRAINING CENTER WEST; BLACKWATER SECURITY CONSULTING. 23 LLC: 24 BLACKWATER ARMOR AND TARGETS, LLC; BLACKWATER AIRSHIPS, LLC; 25 BLACKWATER LOGISTICS, LLC; 26 RAVEN DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC; **GREYSTONE LIMITED TOTAL** INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS, LLC; 27 THE PRINCE GROUP LLC; 28

OP

1	EP INVESTMENTS, LLC; and) ERIK PRINCE,
2	Defendants.
3	
4	Plaintiffs ESTATE OF SABAH SALMAN HASSOON; HAMZIA UBAID ALWAN;
5	SAJJAD SABAH SALMAN; MOHAMMED SABAH SALMAN; ALI SABAH SALMAN;
6	ESTATE OF AZHAR ABDULLAH ALI; IBTISAM ABBASS JORREY; SAJJAD AZHAR
7	ABDULLAH; EMAD AZHAR ABDULLAH; SAJAH AZHAR ABDULLAH; and
8	ESTATE OF NIBRASS MOHAMMED DAWOOD (hereinafter referred to as "Plaintiffs")
9	hereby allege as follows:
10	JURISDICTION AND VENUE
11	1. This Court has original jurisdiction over the subject matter of this action pursuant
12	to 28 U.S.C. Section 1331 (federal question); 28 U.S.C. Section 1332 (diversity jurisdiction);
13	28 U.S.C. Section 1350 (Alien Tort Statute); and 28 U.S.C. Section 1367 (supplemental
14	jurisdiction).
15	2. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. Section 1391(a)(3) and
16	Section 1391(b)(2).
17	THE PARTIES
18	3. Plaintiff is the Estate of Sabah Salman Hassoon. Before being shot by Xe-
19	Blackwater, Sabah Salman Hassoon was a 38-year old father of three who worked as a
20	security guard for the Iraqi Media Network.
21	4. Plaintiff Hamzia Ubaid Alwan is the widow of Sabah Salman Hassoon. She is
22	a 45-year old mother now raising three young children without her husband.
23	5. Plaintiffs Sajjad Sabah Salman, Mohammed Sabah Salman, and Ali Sabah
24	Salman are the three sons forced to grow up without their father. Now 12, 11 and 10 years
25	old, respectively, they have suffered, and continue to suffer greatly, as a result of Xe-
26	Blackwater's misdeeds.
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- 6. Plaintiff is the Estate of Azhar Abdullah Ali. Before being shot by Xe-Blackwater, Azhar Abdullah Ali was a 33-year old father of three who worked as a security guard for the Iraqi Media Network.
- 7. Plaintiff Ibtisam Abbass Jorrey is the widow of Azhar Abdullah Ali. She is a 29-year old mother now raising three young children without her husband.
- 8. Plaintiffs Sajjad Azhar Abdullah; Emad Azhar Abdullah; and Sajah Azhar Abdullah are the three children forced to grow up without their father. Now 9, 7 and 4 years old, respectively, they have suffered, and continue to suffer greatly, as a result of Xe-Blackwater's misdeeds.
- 9. Plaintiff is the Estate of Nibrass Mohammed Dawood. Before being shot by Xe-Blackwater, Nibrass Mohammed Dawood was a 25-year old who worked as a security guard for the Iraqi Media Network.
- 10. Defendant Erik Price is a resident of McLean, Virginia, with business offices at 1650 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102, who personally and wholly owns holding companies known as The Prince Group and EP Investments LLC. Mr. Price, through these holding companies, owns and controls the various Xe-Blackwater entities, as well as entities known as Greystone and Total Intelligence.
- 11. Defendant The Prince Group LLC is a holding company located at 1650 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102.
- 12. Defendant EP Investments, LLC, is a holding company managed by The Prince Group LLC. EP Investments, LLC is located at 1650 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102.
- 13. Defendant Erik Prince, acting through a web of companies operating under the "Xe" or "Blackwater" or "Falcon" or "Greystone" or "Total Intelligence" names, earns billions of dollars providing mercenaries (known as "shooters") for hire. The various Xe-Blackwater, Greystone and The Prince Group corporate entities were formed merely to reduce legal exposures and do not operate as individual and independent companies outside the control of Erik Prince. Erik Prince personally controls all the various entities.

- 14. Defendants Xe, Blackwater Worldwide, Blackwater Lodge and Training Center, Inc., Blackwater Target Systems, Blackwater Security Consulting and Raven Development Group are all located at 850 Puddin Ridge Road, Moyock, North Carolina 27958.
- 15. Defendant Greystone Ltd. and Total Intelligence Solutions LLP are companies through which Erik Prince conducts his mercenary business. Greystone Ltd. and Total Intelligence Solutions LLP are located at 1650 Tysons Boulevard, McLean, Virginia 22102.
- 16. Defendant U.S. Training Center, a subsidiary of Xe- Blackwater, operates U.S. Training Center Southwest. This 66,000 square foot training center provides military, law enforcement and private citizen firearms and specialty course training. U.S. Training Center Southwest was formed and does business in this District at 7685 Siempre Viva Road, San Diego, California. It had previously conducted business in this District at 5590 Ruffin Road, San Diego, California.

COMPLAINT

- 17. On February 7, 2007, heavily-armed Xe-Blackwater employees shot and killed three (3) men working as security guards at the rear gate of the Iraqi Media Network compound in central Baghdad -- Sabah Salman Hassoon, Azhar Abdullah Ali, and Nibrass Mohammed Dawood. The Xe-Blackwater employees had no reason to shot these three men.
- 18. Approximately twenty (20) Xe-Blackwater employees witnessed the crimes. Blackwater-Xe supervisors learned of the killings shortly after they occurred. Yet Xe-Blackwater did nothing to report the shootings. Instead, Xe-Blackwater acted, and continues to act, in conspiracy with the shooters, to evade any accountability whatsoever.
- 19. Xe-Blackwater's bad acts include, among other things, refusing to identify the shooters to Iraqi authorities and destroying documents and other evidence relating to this and other Xe-Blackwater shootings.
- 20. This action seeks damages sufficient to stop Xe, formerly Blackwater, in all of its various corporate incarnations, from continuing its lawless behavior. These companies (including an Xe-Blackwater company called Falcon, which continues to operate in Iraq), are

all component parts of a single private company wholly owned and personally controlled by a man named Erik Prince. Xe-Blackwater's unjustified killings of Sabah Salman Hassoon, Azhar Abdullah Ali, and Nibrass Mohammed Dawood are but one of a staggering number of senseless deaths that directly resulted from Xe-Blackwater's misconduct.

THE XE-BLACKWATER IRAQI MEDIA NETWORK MURDERS

- 21. Xe-Blackwater provides armed forces to protect Department of State personnel in Iraq. These mobile armed forces that accompany diplomats and others in need of protection are consistently referred to by Xe-Blackwater as "shooters."
- 22. Xe Blackwater earned more than two billion dollars from the United States. The United States paid Xe Blackwater these substantial sums based on Xe Blackwater's misrepresentations that it was a legitimate company able to conduct itself in a lawful manner. But in fact, Xe Blackwater operates extra-legally, providing heavily-armed mercenaries who flout the laws of this nation and the host nation, Iraq.
- 23. On February 7, 2007, approximately twenty (20) Xe-Blackwater employees in four SUVs escorted a U.S. diplomat to a meeting at the Iraqi Justice Ministry outside the Green Zone. During the meeting, Blackwater shooters took up positions on the Justice Ministry's roof.
- 24. Across the street from the Iraqi Justice Ministry sits the compound of the Iraqi Media Network, a state-owned and operated enterprise, which operates newspapers, radio stations and the al-Iraqiya television station. (The United States provides assistance to this network.) The rear gate to the Iraqi Media Network compound sits across the street from the Iraqi Justice Ministry. A traffic circle known as King Faisal Square separates the two compounds.
- 25. The three (3) deceased were guards for Iraqi Media Network, and were manning their guard stations on February 7, 2007.

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- 26. Xe-Blackwater shooters located on the roof across the street opened fire on Nibrass Mohammed Dawood, who was stationed on a balcony overlooking gate. The Xe-Blackwater shooters hit him, and he fell to the balcony floor. Xe-Blackwater shooters had no reason to shoot him.
- 27. Several other guards heard the shot and saw Nibrass Mohammed Dawood fall. As they ran to his side to assist him, they too came under fire from the Xe-Blackwater shooters.
- 28. Azhar Abdullah Ali and Sabah Salman Hassoon were among those who ran to assist Nibrass. Xe-Blackwater shooters shot them both as they were assisting Nibrass.
- 29. The Iraqi Army commander at the site, Captain Ahmed Thamir Abood, received a phone call from the Justice Ministry telling him that the shots were coming from the Americans stationed on the roof of the Ministry.
- 30. Captain Abood rushed toward the Justice Ministry, where he confronted the Xe-Blackwater shooters as they were preparing to leave. Captain Abdood questioned them about the shootings.
- 31. Xe-Blackwater personnel refused to identify who was in charge or to answer Captain Abood's questions. They joked among themselves, giving contradictory statements regarding to whom the Captain should speak. Instead of answering questions posed by the Iraqi military captain, Xe-Blackwater shooters loaded up their vehicles, released smoke grenades and sped off toward the Green Zone.
- 32. The families later discovered from Iraqi police reports that Xe-Blackwater had been involved in the shootings, and that the shootings were described as "an act of terrorism."
- 33. Xe-Blackwater failed to conduct any investigation whatsoever into the shootings.
- 34. Instead, Xe-Blackwater conspired with the shooters to protect their identities from discovery and to evade any accountability.

XE - BLACKWATER'S PATTERN AND PRACTICE OF ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

- 35. Blackwater's shootings of Nibrass Mohammed Dawood, Azhar Abdullah Ali and Sabah Salman Hassoon were neither the first nor the last time Xe-Blackwater shot and killed innocents for no reason.
- 36. Xe Blackwater has a pattern and practice of recklessness in the use of deadly force. Xe Blackwater has created and fostered a corporate culture in which excessive and unnecessary use of deadly force by its employees is not investigated or punished in any way.
- 37. Xe Blackwater routinely sends heavily-armed "shooters" into the streets of Baghdad with the knowledge that some of those "shooters" are chemically influenced by steroids and other judgment-altering substances.
- 38. Xe-Blackwater routinely gives weapons to men known to be alcoholics or drug users. Xe-Blackwater fails to prevent its employees from carrying their weapons when they are imbiding alcohol or using drugs.
- 39. Xe Blackwater management refused to fire or discipline mercenaries who murdered innocent Iraqis. Mercenaries known to have committed "bad shoots" (*i.e.* murder) would not even be placed on the "do not use" list. Instead, Xe Blackwater would continue to rehire and deploy mercenaries known to have killed innocents for no reason. Plaintiffs will show at trial a litany of illegal shootings around the globe by Xe-Blackwater.
- 40. Xe-Blackwater repeated engages in illegal conduct. Xe Blackwater engages in conduct that violates the laws governing the use and sale of firearms. Xe-Blackwater fails to track or monitor its weaponry and ammunition as is required by law.
- 41. Plaintiffs will show at trial that Xe Blackwater hired and continues to hire former military officials known to have been involved in human rights abuses in Latin America and elsewhere. Although Xe Blackwater tries to pass itself off as a company using retired American military, the company actually recruits mercenaries from the Philippines, Chile, Nepal, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Panama, Peru, Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Jordan and perhaps South Africa. Xe Blackwater hires and deploys to Iraq

foreign nationals without regard for the fact that they were forbidden by the laws of their country from serving as mercenaries.

42. Given its status as a mercenary or quasi-mercenary organization, Xe – Blackwater violates the law by seeking and accepting work from the United States government. The Anti-Pinkerton Act, 5 U.S.C. § 1803, prohibits the United States from doing business with "[a]n individual employed by the Pinkerton Detective Agency, or similar organization." The legislative history of the Act makes it clear that a "similar organization" means any mercenary or quasi-mercenary organization.

XE-BLACKWATER'S DESTRUCTION OF EVIDENCE

- 43. Xe Blackwater captured much of the illegal conduct on videotape and audiotape. Reasonable discovery will show that Xe-Blackwater generated documents that revealed the identities of the shooters in the February 7, 2007 incident. Reasonable discovery will show that Xe Blackwater intentionally destroyed evidence relating to this incident.
- 44. Reasonable discovery will show that on or about March 18, 2008, Defendants' high-level executives Messrs. Gary Jackson and Dave Jackson met with others at Xe-Blackwater (then called Blackwater) to discuss ongoing Department of Justice investigations and other legal troubles. Reasonable discovery will show that after that meeting, Xe-Blackwater employees began to destroy documents and other evidence relating to the events at issue in this and other legal proceedings.

DAMAGES

- 45. Defendants are liable for killing Nibrass Mohammed Dawood, Azhar Abdullah Ali and Sabah Salman Hassoon. Defendants are liable for the pain and suffering caused to Nibrass Mohammed Dawood, Azhar Abdullah Ali and Sabah Salman Hassoon, as well as the pain and suffering and loss of consortium caused to the family members of these victims.
- 46. Defendants are liable for the physical and mental injuries caused to all Plaintiffs.

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1	47.	Plaintiffs seeks compensatory and punitive damages in an amount for each
2	individual in	excess of the jurisdictional amount set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1332. Plaintiffs also
3	seek any and	all additional remedies (such as attorneys' fees) available under law and equity.
4		COUNT ONE - WAR CRIMES
5	48.	All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set
6	forth herein.	
7	49.	Defendants' acts were deliberate, willful, intentional, wanton, malicious and
8	oppressive an	d constitute war crimes.
9	50.	Defendants' acts took place during a period of armed conflict.
0	51.	Defendants committed war crimes against Nibrass Mohammed Dawood, Azhar
11	Abdullah Ali	and Sabah Salman Hassoon, and others.
ا 2ا	52.	Defendants are liable for their conduct that constitutes war crimes.
13	53.	Defendants' misconduct caused grave and foreseeable injuries to Plaintiffs.
14		COUNT TWO - ASSAULT AND BATTERY
15	54.	All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set
16	forth herein.	
17	55.	Defendants unlawfully intended to and did inflict immediate injury upon
18	Plaintiffs.	
19	56.	Defendants intentionally assaulted, battered, and made other offensive
20	contacts; and	aided and abetted the assaulting, battering and offensively contacting of the
21	Plaintiffs.	
22	57.	Plaintiffs did not consent to the offensive contacts. Plaintiffs feared for their
23	personal safe	ty and felt threatened by Defendants' actions.
24	58.	Defendants committed the assaults and batteries.
25	59.	Defendants' acts caused grave and foreseeable damages to Plaintiffs.
26		COUNT THREE – WRONGFUL DEATH
27	60.	All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set
28	forth herein.	

- 61. Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions caused the death of Plaintiffs.
- 62. Defendants set the conditions, directly and/or indirectly facilitated, ordered, acquiesced, confirmed, ratified and/or conspired with others to act in the manner that led to the wrongful deaths.
- 63. The Estate Plaintiffs are the duly appointed personal representative of Nibrass Mohammed Dawood, Azhar Abdullah Ali and Sabah Salman Hassoon, respectively.
- 64. The deaths of Nibrass Mohammed Dawood, Azhar Abdullah Ali and Sabah Salman Hassoon were the foreseeable result of Defendants' wrongful acts and omissions.

COUNT FOUR – INTENTIONAL INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

- 65. All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
- 66. Defendants intentionally inflicted severe emotional distress by way of extreme and outrageous conduct on Plaintiffs and their family members.
- 67. Defendants set the conditions, directly and/or indirectly facilitated, ordered, acquiesced, confirmed, ratified and/or conspired with others to inflict emotional distress on Plaintiffs.
- 68. Defendants' acts caused grave and foreseeable injuries to Plaintiffs and his family members.

<u>COUNT FIVE – NEGLIGENT INFLICTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS</u>

- 69. All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.
 - 70. Defendants negligently inflicted severe emotional distress on Plaintiffs.
 - 71. Defendants breached a duty to Plaintiffs.
 - 72. Defendants' negligence directly and foreseeably harmed Plaintiffs.

COUNT SIX - NEGLIGENT HIRING, TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

73. All preceding paragraphs are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth herein.

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1	(a) compensatory damages for death, physical, mental and economic
2	injuries;
3	(b) punitive damages in an amount sufficient to strip Defendants of all of
4	the revenue and profits earned from their pattern of constant misconduct and callous
5	disregard for human life; and
6	(c) any attorneys' fees and costs permitted by law.
7	DATED: March 31, 2009 OLIVA & ASSOCIATES, ALC
8	OLIVA & ABSOCIATES, ALC
9	By: Mil Til
10	Joseph L. Oliva, Ésq. Michael S. Faircloth, Esq.
11	BURKE O'NEIL LLC
12	Susan L. Burke (Pro Hac Vice motion pending) William T. O'Neil (Pro Hac Vice motion pending)
13	1000 Potomac Street, SW, Suite 150 Washington, DC 20007
14	202.445.1409 sburke@burkeoneil.com
15	Attorneys or Plaintiffs,
16	ESTATÉ OF SABAH SALMAN HASSOON; HAMZIA UBAID ALWAN; SAJJAD SABAH
17	SALMAN; MOHAMMED SABAH SALMAN; ALI SABAH SALMAN; ESTATE OF AZHAR
18	ABDULLAH ALI; IBTISAM ABBASS JORREY; SAJJAD AZHAR ABDULLAH;
19	EMAD AZHAR ABDULLAH; SAJAH AZHAR ABDULLAH; AND ESTATE OF
20	NIBRASS MOHAMMED DAWOOD
21	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
22	Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial as provided by Rule 38(a) of the Federal Rule of
23	Civil Procedure.
24 ¹ 25	OLIVA & ASSOCIATES, ALC
26	
27	By: Joseph J. Olivie Face
28	Joseph L. Oltva, Esq. Michael S. Faircloth, Esq.
_~	

BURKE O'NEIL LLC Susan L. Burke (Pro Hac Vice motion pending) William T. O'Neil (Pro Hac Vice motion pending) 1000 Potomac Street, SW, Suite 150 Washington, DC 20007 202.445.1409 sburke@burkeoneil.com

Attorneys or Plaintiffs, ESTATE OF SABAH SALMAN HASSOON; HAMZIA UBAID ALWAN; SAJJAD SABAH SALMAN; MOHAMMED SABAH SALMAN; ALI SABAH SALMAN; ESTATE OF AZHAR ABDULLAH ALI; IBTISAM ABBASS JORREY; SAJJAD AZHAR ABDULLAH; EMAD AZHAR ABDULLAH; SAJAH AZHAR ABDULLAH; AND ESTATE OF NIBRASS MOHAMMED DAWOOD

VII. REQUESTED IN

Proceeding

VI. ORIGIN

X 1 Original

3 Remanded from 4 Reinstated or Appellate Court Reopened

(PLACE AN "X" IN ONE BOX ONLY)

/ BURNS

5 Transferred from 6 Multidistrict another district (specify)

Litigation Judge from Magistrate Judgment

890 Other Statutory Actions

7 Appeal to District

COMPLAINT: VIII. RELATED CASE(S) CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23

JUDGE WHALEN

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint: JURY DEMAND: YES . 🔲 NO WW

IF ANY

4 161 549

2 Removal from

State Court

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

Docket Number 09cv0561 /09cv0626 /09cv0631

MARCH 31 2009

MICHAEL S. FAIRCLOTH, ESQ.

1350. ::ODMA\PCDOCS\WORDPERFECT\22816\1 January 24, 2000 (3:10pm)

1	ATTACHMENT TO CIVIL COVER SHEET
2	
3	ADDITIONAL PLAINTIFFS:
4	MOHAMMED SABAH SALMAN;
5	ALI SABAH SALMAN;
6	ESTATE OF AZHAR ABDULLAH ALI;
7	IBTISAM ABBASS JORREY;
8	SAJJAD AZHAR ABDULLAH;
9	EMAD AZHAR ABDULLAH;
10	SAJAH AZHAR ABDULLAH; and
11	ESTATE OF NIBRASS MOHAMMED DAWOOD,
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AO 72 (Rev. 8/82)

ATTACHMENT TO CIVIL COVER SHEET ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS: BLACKWATER SECURITY CONSULTING, LLC; BLACKWATER ARMOR AND TARGETS, LLC; BLACKWATER AIRSHIPS, LLC; 7 I BLACKWATER LOGISTICS, LLC; RAVEN DEVELOPMENT GROUP, LLC; GREYSTONE LIMITED TOTAL INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS, LLC; THE PRINCE GROUP LLC; EP INVESTMENTS, LLC; and ERIK PRINCE,

AO 72 (Rev. 8/82)

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO DIVISION

161549 - SR

April 01, 2009 10:43:27

Civ Fil Non-Pris

USAO #.: 09CV0647

Judge..: M. JAMES LORENZ

Amount.:

\$350.00 CK

Check#.: BC#9960

Total-> \$350.00

FROM: ESTATE OF SABAH, ET AL V. XE

CIVIL FILING