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JEFF FINE
Clerk of the Superior Court
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----- CASE# CV2020-004208 -----
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TOTAL AMOUNT 333.00
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8 **Superior Court of Arizona**

9 **Maricopa County**

10 Alfredo J. Molina, an individual; James
11 B. Weber, an individual; Carlise
Investments, LLC, a Colorado limited
liability company,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 v.

14 AZPB Limited Partnership, a Delaware
15 limited partnership; AZDB I, LLC, a
Delaware limited liability company; Earl
16 G. "Ken" Kendrick Jr. and Randy
Kendrick, husband and wife; Does 1 -
17 10 and XYZ Companies 1 - 10,

18 Defendants.

CV2020-004208

Complaint

19 Plaintiffs allege:

20 **Parties and Jurisdiction**

21 1. Plaintiff Alfredo J. Molina ("Molina") is an individual and a resident of
22 Maricopa County, Arizona.

23 2. Plaintiff James B. Weber ("Weber") is an individual and a resident of
24 Maricopa County, Arizona.

25 3. Plaintiff Carlise Investments, LLC ("Carlise LLC") is a limited liability
26 company duly formed and existing under the laws of Colorado

1 4. Defendant AZPB Limited Partnership (the "Partnership") is a Delaware
2 limited partnership, registered to do business in Arizona, and the owner of the National
3 League baseball team the Arizona Diamondbacks (the "Team").

4 5. Defendant AZDB I, LLC ("AZDB I") is the general partner of the
5 Partnership, and is a Delaware limited liability company, registered to do business in
6 Arizona.

7 6. Defendants Earl G. (Ken) Kendrick Jr. ("Kendrick") and Randy Kendrick
8 are husband and wife and residents of Maricopa County, Arizona.

9 7. Based on the Partnership's partnership documents, including the Fourth
10 Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership, Kendrick is the President of
11 AZDB Baseball II corporation, a Delaware corporation, which is the manager of AZDB
12 I and the general partner of AZDB Baseball, L.P., a Delaware limited partnership.

13 8. Kendrick holds himself out, and is described, in public, including on a
14 Wikipedia page, as "the principal owner" and the "managing general partner" of the
15 Team.

16 9. Kendrick holds himself out in written communications to Plaintiffs and on
17 the Team biography as the "managing general partner" of the Team.

18 10. The contracts out of which Plaintiffs' claims arose were formed and to be
19 performed in Maricopa County, Arizona. Each of Defendants has caused an event to
20 occur in Maricopa County, Arizona out of which Plaintiffs' claims arose, and all of the
21 transactions out of which Plaintiffs' claims arose occurred in Maricopa County,
22 Arizona.

23 11. All acts of any Defendant alleged in this Complaint were performed on
24 the acting Defendant's own behalf, and on behalf of each and every other Defendant as
25 an affiliate, parent company, sister company, co-venturer, or agent acting within the
26 scope of its authority, actual or apparent, or as an alter ego of each other.

1 an ardent fan of baseball and, specifically, of the Diamondbacks, following the team on
2 road trips and attending over one hundred games each year. Weber purchased his share
3 of the Team from former Diamondbacks third baseman Matt Williams (“Williams”).

4 18. Weber holds four season tickets dating back to the Diamondbacks’
5 inaugural season. For 2019, the cost of each season ticket was \$7,885.00, for a total
6 ticket cost of \$31,540.00.

7 19. The principal of Carlise LLC, Charles Carlise (“Carlise”) has been an
8 investor in, and owner of, the Diamondbacks since the Team’s inaugural season in
9 1998.

10 **Franchise Ownership History**

11 20. In the early stages of the Diamondbacks’ history, the Team was owned by
12 a Limited Partnership (the “Original Partnership”), the owners of which comprised
13 largely of (a) business entities, such as America West Airlines and Phoenix
14 Newspapers, Inc., and (2) ownership groups made up of the owners of limited liability
15 companies or other entities, which in turn held General or Limited Partnership interests
16 in the Team.

17 21. The Arizona Diamondbacks Limited Partnership (the “2002
18 Diamondbacks Partnership”) was formed in Delaware on February 19, 2002.

19 22. Upon information and belief, the 2002 Diamondbacks Partnership is the
20 successor in interest of the Original Partnership.

21 23. The initial general partner of the 2002 Diamondbacks Partnership was
22 AZPB Team Limited Liability Company (the “Initial General Partner”), an Arizona
23 limited liability company; the initial limited partner was AZDB Baseball, L.P.
24 (“AZDB”), a Delaware limited partnership.
25
26

1 24. The Initial General Partner and AZDB were parties to an Agreement of
2 Limited partnership dated February 19, 2002 (the "2002 Limited Partnership
3 Agreement").

4 25. On February 26, 2002, the 2002 Diamondbacks Partnership and
5 Defendant AZPB Limited Partnership entered into an Agreement and Plan of Merger
6 pursuant to which AZPB Limited Partnership merged with and into the Partnership with
7 the Partnership as the surviving limited partnership (the "AZPB Merger").

8 26. After the AZPB Merger, Arizona Diamondbacks Limited Partnership, as
9 the surviving limited partnership, changed its name to AZPB Limited Partnership.

10 27. As a result of the AZPB Merger, AZPB I, Inc., an Arizona corporation
11 ("AZPB I") became the successor general partner of the Partnership.

12 28. On March 1, 2004, the Successor General Partner transferred its entire
13 General Partner Partnership interest in the Partnership to AZDB I, and AZDB I became
14 the new general partner of the Partnership (the "New General Partner").

15 29. Ownership of the Partnership is divided into Units ("Units"), each of
16 which represents the rights of a Limited Partner or Unit Holder in the Partnership
17 pursuant to the Delaware Limited Partnership Act and the Partnership Agreement.

18 **Carlise Has Been an Owner of the Diamondbacks**
19 **Virtually Since the Team's Inception and Did Not**
20 **Voluntarily Acquire a Less than 1% Interest**

21 30. In 1998, Carlise acquired an ownership interest in the Team through his
22 ownership interest in Lynch Baseball, L.L.C., ("Lynch Baseball"), which was a Limited
23 Partner of the Team.

24 31. The ownership interest held by Lynch Baseball exceeded 1%, and upon
25 information and belief, Carlise's indirect ownership of the Team exceeded 1%.

1 and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership dated March 1, 2004 and the terms and
2 conditions of the Confidential Private Placement Memorandum dated March 1, 2004.

3 38. As set forth in the Confidential Private Placement Memorandum, the
4 Deferred Equity Rights were convertible into additional Units of the Partnership
5 approximately 10 years from the close of the private placement of the Deferred Equity
6 Rights.

7 39. Section 3.2.2 of the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited
8 Partnership granted AZDB the right to request the reimbursement of all or a portion of
9 the \$14 million additional capital contribution that AZDB made to the Partnership on
10 March 1, 2004 if the Partnership had not received subscriptions for at least \$50 million
11 of Deferred Equity Rights (the "Minimum Target") by June 1, 2004.

12 40. The Partnership did not receive the Minimum Target of Deferred Equity
13 Rights by June 1, 2004; however, AZDB agreed not to exercise its rescission right and
14 to extend the deadline for the Partnership to receive the Minimum Target to July 1,
15 2004.

16 41. The General Partner, to achieve the Minimum Target by July 1, 2004,
17 amended the terms and conditions of the Deferred Equity Rights offering to provide
18 purchasers with the right to elect to convert their Deferred Equity Rights into additional
19 Units of the Partnership ("DER Units") either upon purchase or ten years from the close
20 of the private placement of the Deferred Equity Rights.

21 42. As a result and by virtue of the Minimum Target, as set forth in Section
22 3.2.2 of the First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership, and the
23 General Partner's stated goal and desire to achieve the Minimum Target, the Partnership
24 sought investments from wealthy investors, including Molina and Williams.

25 43. On April 1, 2004, the Partnership and Plaintiffs entered into a Deferred
26 Equity Rights Agreement, as amended by the First Amendment on the same date (the

1 “DER Agreement”), whereby the Partnership agreed to issue up to \$99 million in
2 deferred equity rights (the “Amended Deferred Equity Rights”), which allow the
3 purchasers to convert such Rights into limited partnership interests in the Partnership.

4 44. The DER Agreement recites that the Amended Deferred Equity Rights
5 would be sold in denominations (each a “2004 Rights Unit”) of either (a) \$3 million per
6 Rights Unit due in ten annual payments of \$300,000.00, or (b) \$2.7 million per Rights
7 Unit payable in full at the time of purchase.

8 45. The DER Agreement defines “Eligible Purchaser” as any person “who
9 meets the requirements of MLB and has received an MLB Consent with respect to such
10 person’s ownership or acquisition of a Rights Unit and a Partnership Unit.”

11 46. In 2004, Molina became a DER Limited Partner in the Partnership;
12 Molina invested \$3 million in exchange for 40,919 2004 Rights Units equivalent to a
13 one-half percent interest in the Partnership (the “Molina 2004 Investment Agreement”);
14 on information and belief, Williams likewise invested \$3 million in exchange for an
15 interest in the DER Agreement equivalent to a one-half percent interest in the
16 Partnership (the “Williams 2004 Investment Agreement”).

17 47. Weber thereafter invested \$1.5 million, purchasing from Williams 20,459
18 2004 Rights Units equivalent to an approximate one-fourth percent interest in the
19 Partnership.

20 48. The First Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership, as
21 amended, was amended and restated in its entirety on July 1, 2008 (the “Second
22 Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership”).

23 49. On April 24, 2009, the General Partner offered up to \$50 million in
24 additional Units of the Partnership (the “2009 Units”) for sale pursuant to Section 3.3.3
25 of the Second Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership and the terms
26

1 and conditions of the Confidential Private Placement Memorandum dated April 24,
2 2009.

3 50. To reflect the offering and issuance of the 2009 Units, the Second
4 Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership was amended and restated in
5 its entirety on July 1, 2009 (the "Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited
6 Partnership").

7 51. The express and explicit reason the Partnership offered the 2009 Units
8 were the Team's immediate need for cash and the desire to avoid a capital call.

9 52. As in 2004, the Partnership sought investments from wealthy investors,
10 including Molina.

11 53. In 2009, Molina agreed to purchase 10,230 2009 Units, pledging a total of
12 an additional \$250,000.00, payable at the rate of \$51,050.00/year for five years
13 (collectively, with the Molina 2004 Investment Agreement and the Williams 2004
14 Investment Agreement, the "Investment Agreements").

15 54. By 2014, Molina had paid in full for the 2009 Units.

16 55. The Third Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership, as
17 amended, was amended and restated in its entirety on January 1, 2014 (the "Fourth
18 Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership").

19 56. With respect to the DER Units, the Fourth Amended and Restated
20 Agreement of Limited Partnership provides, in applicable part,

21 A. "Deferred Equity Rights Percentage" means the percentage
22 determined, from time to time, by multiplying (a) the number of Deferred Equity Rights
23 converted to DER Units by each DER Limited Partner by (b) 0.3844%;

24 B. "DER Limited Partner" means those persons who acquire a
25 Partnership Interest as a result of the conversion of Deferred Equity Rights to DER
26 Units;

1 C. For voting purposes, DER Limited Partners are to be treated as
2 Existing Limited Partners upon conversion of their Deferred Equity Rights to DER
3 Units;

4 D. Distributions are to be made to the DER Limited Partners,
5 including, without limitation,

6 i) Profits and losses for any taxable year are allocated among
7 the partners, in order of priority as set forth therein, including to the aggregate Deferred
8 Equity Rights Percentage to the DER Limited Partners;

9 ii) Net Cash from Operations, with reductions as described
10 therein, are distributed quarterly, in order of priority as set forth therein, including to the
11 aggregate Deferred Equity Rights Percentage to the DER Limited Partners; and

12 iii) Net Cash from Sales or Refinancing, are distributed “as
13 soon as reasonably possible following such sale or refinancing” in order of priority as
14 set forth therein, including to the aggregate Deferred Equity Rights Percentage to the
15 DER Limited Partners.

16 57. Molina and Weber are designated as DER Limited Partners on Exhibit A
17 to the Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership.

18 58. With respect to the 2009 Units, the Fourth Amended and Restated
19 Agreement of Limited Partnership provides, in applicable part,

20 A. “2009 Unit Holders” means those persons who own one or more
21 2009 Units, and are designated as a 2009 Unit Holder on Exhibit A thereto;

22 B. “2009 Units Percentage” means 23.12%;

23 C. Distributions are to be made to the 2009 Unit Holders, including,
24 without limitation,

25
26

1 i) Profits and losses for any taxable year are allocated among
2 the partners, in order of priority as set forth therein, including to the 2009 Units
3 Percentage to the 2009 Unit Holders;

4 ii) Net Cash from Operations, with reductions as described
5 therein, are distributed quarterly, in order of priority as set forth therein, including to the
6 2009 Units Percentage to the 2009 Unit Holders; and

7 iii) Net Cash from Sales or Refinancing, are distributed "as
8 soon as reasonably possible following such sale or refinancing" in order of priority as
9 set forth therein, including to the 2009 Units Percentage to the 2009 Unit Holders.

10 59. Molina is designated one of four 2009 Unit Holders on Exhibit A to the
11 Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited Partnership.

12 **Broadcast Rights – AZ Baseball Holdings, LLC**

13 60. In or about October 2015, the Team entered into a lucrative transaction
14 with Fox Sports Net Arizona ("FSAZ") involving the Team's broadcast rights.
15 According to a letter dated October 8, 2015 from Kendrick on behalf of the Partnership,
16 the essential components of the transactions were (a) "a long-term television rights fee
17 agreement between the Team and [FSAZ] [which] will provide substantial cash
18 payments to the Team for many years" and (b) an opportunity granted to each Limited
19 Partner to participate pro rata in the acquisition of a collective 30% limited partnership
20 interest in FSAZ], which was "being offered to each and every partner of the Team, pro
21 rata in accordance with each partner's ownership interest in the Team" (the "Fox
22 Acquisition").

23 61. The specific structure of the Fox Acquisition, according to Kendrick, was
24 as follows:

25 AZ Baseball Media, LP ("Media Co.") has been formed to
26 hold the 30% interest in Fox; in turn, the owners of the
Team who participate in this offering will (effectively) own

1 Media Co. (Technically, the Team's partners will acquire
2 interests in AZ Baseball Broadcast Holdings, LP, which in
turn will own 99.9% of Media Co.)

3 62. In order to participate in the Fox Acquisition, each Limited Partner was
4 required to make a pro rata contribution towards the Teams' legal, accounting and
5 consulting fees in the transaction.

6 63. Each of Molina, Weber, and Carlise LLC agreed to, and did, participate in
7 the Fox Acquisition, becoming a limited partner in AZ Baseball Broadcast Holdings, LP
8 (the "Broadcast Entity").

9 64. According to letter from the Team dated June 5, 2019, in or about May
10 2019, upon exercise by the Broadcast Entity of a Put option granted in connection with
11 the Fox Acquisition, the Broadcast Entity's 30% interest in FSAZ was sold to FSAZ for
12 \$168 million, of which \$20 million, or approximately 17.8%, was distributed pro rata to
13 the owners of the Broadcast Entity, including Plaintiffs; the remainder of the proceeds,
14 together with an additional \$30 million of funds already on the Broadcast Entity was
15 transferred to the Partnership, and additional Units in the Partnership ("FSAZ Units")
16 were issued to the owners of the Broadcast Entity, including Plaintiffs, to reflect their
17 pro rata interest in the contributed funds.

18 65. On information and belief, as a result of the foregoing transactions,
19 13,425.685 FSAZ Units were issued to Molina, 5,301.33 FSAZ Units were issued to
20 Weber, and 4,880.755 FSAZ Units were issued to Carlise LLC.

21 **Plaintiffs' Ownership Status**

22 66. As of January 13, 2020, Molina, by virtue of his acquisition of 2004
23 Rights Units, 2009 Units and FSAZ Units, owned an aggregate of 64,574.685 Units of
24 the Partnership; Weber, by virtue of his acquisition of 2004 Rights Units and FSAZ
25 Units, owned an aggregate of 25,760.333 Units of the Partnership; and Carlise LLC, by
26

1 virtue of its receipt of Units distributed by Lynch Baseball, as well as FSAZ Units,
2 owned 23,716.667 Units of the Partnership.

3 **Rights and Obligations of the Partnership and Limited Partners**

4 67. Section 8.7 of the Fourth Amended and Restated Agreement of Limited
5 Partnership (and, upon information and belief the same provision of the Fifth Amended
6 and Restated Partnership Agreement) (collectively, the “Amended Partnership
7 Agreement”) recites that the Partnership has the right, but not the obligation to redeem
8 the interest of a Limited Partner or Unit Holder upon a determination that “the Limited
9 Partner or Unit Holder is not an Eligible Holder.”

10 68. The term “Eligible Holder” is defined in § 1.1.49 of the Amended
11 Partnership Agreement as “any Person who meets the requirements of MLB and has
12 received all necessary MLB Approvals with respect to such Person’s ownership or
13 acquisition of Units regardless of its ownership interest.” The term “MLB Approval” is
14 defined in § 1.1.90 as including “any approval, consent or no-objection letter . . .
15 required with respect to the acquisition or ownership by . . . a Limited Partner [or] a
16 Unit Holder . . . which shall be obtained and delivered to the Partnership prior to the
17 acquisition of a Partnership Interest or a Unit, or the Transfer of record of any Units,
18 Partnership Interest, or rights therein to any Person.”

19 69. Each of Plaintiffs is, and at all times relevant has been, an Eligible Holder
20 as so defined.

21 70. Section 4.5(a) of the Partnership Agreement states that “The General
22 Partner, without the prior approval of the Limited Partners required in accordance with
23 the provisions of Article 11 and any required MLB Approvals, shall not cause the
24 Partnership to . . . Merge or consolidate with any other limited partnership or other
25 entity, unless the Partnership is the surviving entity.”

26

1 71. Section 8.7.2 of the Partnership Agreement sets forth, in general terms,
2 the formula and procedure for determining the applicable redemption price.

3 72. Section 8.7.2 contains no procedure for objecting to the Partnership's
4 valuation.

5 73. Section 8.2.4(d) provides that in the event of a sale of the Partnership or
6 the Team, the Minority Partners who have converted their investments to an equity
7 position have a right to share pro rata in the proceeds of sale under the exercise of
8 AZDB Drag-Along Rights.

9 74. Section 10.2.2 provides that in the event of dissolution of the Partnership,
10 partnership assets shall be liquidated and the proceeds applied and distributed in the
11 priority set forth therein, with distributions to Partners and Unit Holders in accordance
12 with their capital accounts.

13 75. Section 6.2 provides that the General Partner shall keep or cause to be
14 kept, full and complete books and accounts of all business transactions arising out of
15 and in connection with the conduct of the business of the Partnership and that any
16 Limited Partner shall have the right at any reasonable time to have access to and inspect
17 and copy the contents of the Partnership's books and records.

18 **The So-Called "Buy-Up/Buy-Out" Demand and Defendants' Efforts and**
19 **Threats to Freeze-Out Plaintiffs from the Partnership**

20 76. On January 13, 2020, Kendrick, as managing general partner, wrote each
21 of Plaintiffs, and others, a letter entitled "Buy-Up/Buy-Out" (the "Buy-Up/Buy-Out
22 Letter") whereby Kendrick unilaterally adopted a proposal to require each partner to
23 own at least 1% of the Partnership.

24 77. Kendrick claimed that Major League Baseball (MLB) had expressed its
25 preference that the Team "streamline its ownership group and minimize the
26 disproportionate number of owners with very small equity stakes," and further claimed

1 that “[v]ery recently, MLB again expressed its desire for the Team to have an ownership
2 group comprised predominantly of members who have a meaningful equity position in
3 order to promote efficient Club governance and to assure financial stability.”

4 78. Kendrick further stated that “in response” to the foregoing
5 communications, the General Partner of the Team [i.e., Kendrick] “has adopted a
6 proposal to require each partner of the Team to own at least 1% (other than members of
7 Team management).”

8 79. In fact, the proposal was not implemented in response to an expression of
9 policy from Major League Baseball; to the contrary, Major League Baseball was
10 requested to consent to a proposal initiated by Kendrick and the Team for purposes
11 unrelated to those set forth in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter.

12 80. Among other things, the elimination of minority Limited Partners holding
13 less than 1% interests will have no effect on financial stability; nor is such elimination
14 necessary to promote efficient governance, given that (a) the Team historically has been
15 governed and operated by unilateral action of the General Partner, and without input
16 from the Limited Partners, and (b) it is fully anticipated that this pattern will continue,
17 given that Kendrick controls, or is reputed to control, 90% of the Limited Partners.

18 81. Kendrick further stated in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter that the foregoing
19 proposal was to be implemented through a “a merger of the Team into a to-be-formed
20 Delaware limited partnership.”

21 82. Upon inquiry, the minority limited partners were advised that the
22 authority for the Partnership’s demand was Sections 8.7 and 8.7.2 of the Amended
23 Partnership Agreement, suggesting that Plaintiffs, while previously approved for
24 ownership by MLB and the Team, were no longer “Eligible Holders.”

25 83. Kendrick asserted in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter that the Team had
26 retained Bases Loaded Consulting, LLC to appraise the value of Units owned by a 1%

1 limited partner in the Team and that the purported appraisal report valued the units of a
2 1% limited partner at \$60/unit.

3 84. Kendrick advised Molina that “based upon the number of units that you
4 currently own, your dollar outlay to increase your ownership percentage to 1% will be
5 approximately \$3,810,000.00.”

6 85. Kendrick further advised Molina that if he did not elect to increase his
7 ownership percentage his “entire ownership interest” would purportedly “be bought out
8 by the Team for \$3,874,481.00.”

9 86. Kendrick advised Weber that “based upon the number of units that you
10 currently own, your dollar outlay to increase your ownership percentage to 1% will be
11 approximately \$6,120,000.”

12 87. Kendrick further advised Weber that if he did not elect to increase his
13 ownership percentage his “entire ownership interest” would purportedly “be bought out
14 by the Team for \$1,545,644.”

15 88. Kendrick on multiple occasions shortly after the issuance of the Buy-
16 Up/Buy-Out letter, including without limitation in a telephone conversation with a non-
17 plaintiff minority limited partner, represented that a Limited Partner/Unit Holder, after
18 receiving payment, would have the right to “petition the [Partnership] that they did not
19 get a fair price for their units,” in which event a second valuation firm will be hired at
20 the expense of the dissenting partner/partners and, if the second firm comes up with a
21 different value, “the two valuation firms will meet to compare the differences.”

22 89. Defendants’ counsel thereafter advised Plaintiffs that Kendrick had
23 “misspoken” and that a second valuation would not be permitted, regardless of any
24 disagreement over the value or purchase price of Units.

25 90. On information and belief, the valuation reflected in the Bases Loaded
26 appraisal is artificially low in that, among other things, it (a) does not take into

1 consideration the Team's expectation of increased revenues from, among other things,
2 legalized gambling, and (b) utilizes unfair and inappropriate discounts.

3 91. The Units owned by Plaintiffs are worth significantly more than the
4 \$60/unit valuation set forth in the Bases Loaded appraisal and the Buy-Up/Buy-Out
5 Letter.

6 92. By letter dated February 13, 2020 (the "Buy-Out Letter"), the Partnership
7 advised Plaintiffs that, because it had not received back a purported "election form,"
8 "you have been deemed to have elected not to acquire additional units" and that "by not
9 acquiring additional units, your entire ownership interest will be bought out by the
10 Team at a purchase price of \$60/Unit."

11 93. The Buy-Out Letter purported to declare that "as of February 12, 2020,
12 you are no longer a limited partner."

13 94. The Buy-Out Letter claimed that "for cost savings and efficiency
14 purposes," instead of a merger, it would "use a simple required redemption approach"
15 and attached an Assignment and Assumption of Limited Partnership Units and MLB
16 Form A-2.

17 95. By letter dated February 13, 2020 (the "No Effect Letter"), Plaintiffs
18 notified the Partnership that the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter is of no force or effect and is
19 ineffective to diminish or in any way affect the rights of Plaintiffs as Limited Partners
20 and/or Unit Holders.

21 96. Further by the No Effect Letter, Plaintiffs demanded that the Partnership
22 provide them all documents supporting or pertaining to the transactions described in the
23 Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter, including without limitation (1) all correspondence or other
24 documents, including any letters or other communications from MLB, evidencing or
25 supporting the purported conclusion that Plaintiffs clients have ceased to be Eligible
26 Holders as defined in the Amended Partnership Agreement, (2) organizational

1 documents, including Limited Partnership Agreement and Certificate of Partnership, of
2 the “to-be-formed” limited partnership referred to in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out letter, (3) all
3 articles of merger, merger agreements and other documents evidencing or pertaining to
4 the proposed merger, and (4) the complete file of Bases Loaded Consulting, including
5 without limitation the final valuation report and all work papers, supporting materials
6 and emails and other communications with representatives of the Partnership.

7 97. In a conversation on February 13, 2020, counsel for Defendants stated that
8 no documents would be provided and that, while Defendants had elected to proceed by
9 way of the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Demand, Defendants retained the right to terminate
10 Plaintiffs’ interests in the Partnership and the Team through the mechanism of a
11 “freeze-out” merger under Delaware law.

12 **Potential New Sources of Revenue**

13 98. Plaintiffs are informed and believed that, contemporaneously with their
14 efforts to remove Plaintiffs from the Partnership, Defendants have been actively
15 engaged in pursuing new sources of revenue for the Partnership, including specifically
16 proceeds of legalized gambling operations, which will significantly increase the value of
17 the Partnership and the Team, to the benefit of Defendants.

18 **COUNT ONE**
19 **(Declaratory Judgment)**

20 99. Plaintiffs reallege all other allegations in this Complaint.

21 100. Plaintiffs are entitled, by virtue of their investments, conversion to equity
22 positions, and Investments Agreements, as well as the Amended Partnership
23 Agreement, to (1) continue to be limited partners in the Team, (2) share pro rata in the
24 proceeds of sale of the Partnership or the Team, (3) hold their interests for future
25 appreciation and sale, (4) hold their interests for distributions, profits and future
26 anticipated profits, (5) participate in future appreciation and sale, (6) participate in

1 distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, and (7) receive and exercise any and
2 all other rights as investors, Limited Partners and Eligible Holders.

3 101. Further by virtue of their investments, conversion to equity positions, and
4 Investments Agreements, as well as the Amended Partnership Agreement, Plaintiffs had
5 no expectation or any obligation to (1) increase their financial commitment to the Team,
6 (2) be required to accept a discounted buyout, or (3) be deprived of the essential benefits
7 of ownership.

8 102. No event has occurred by virtue of which Defendants are entitled to force
9 Plaintiffs to make the "Buy-Up/Buy-Out" election purported to be required by the Buy-
10 Up/Buy-Out Letter; without limiting the foregoing, Plaintiffs have not ceased to be
11 Eligible Holders and, to the contrary, continue to be fully qualified and eligible to hold
12 their interest in the Partnership.

13 103. Defendants have denied Plaintiffs' rights in their investments, the
14 Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement, and have otherwise
15 acted in derogation of Plaintiffs' rights, by, among other things, (a) purporting to require
16 Plaintiffs to make the election set forth in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter and (b) declaring
17 in the Buy-Out Letter that "as of February 12, 2020, you are no longer a limited
18 partner."

19 104. Defendants have denied Plaintiffs' rights in their investments, the
20 Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement by, among other
21 things, purporting to terminate Plaintiffs' status as limited partners, thereby depriving
22 them of their rights to (1) share pro rata in the proceeds of sale of the Partnership or the
23 Team, (2) hold their interests for future appreciation and sale, (3) hold their interests for
24 distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, (4) participate in future appreciation
25 and sale, (5) participate in distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, and (6)
26 exercise any and all other rights as investors, Limited Partners and Eligible Holders.

1 105. Defendants have further denied Plaintiffs' rights in their investments, the
2 Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement by, among other
3 things, purporting to require Plaintiffs to (1) increase their financial commitment to the
4 Team, (2) accept a discounted buyout, or (3) be deprived of the essential benefits of
5 ownership.

6 106. Defendants' acts as described above are of no force or effect to terminate
7 or otherwise diminish Plaintiffs' continuing rights and status as Limited Partners or Unit
8 Holders.

9 107. An actual and justiciable controversy has therefore arisen and exists
10 between Plaintiffs and Defendants with respect to their respective rights, interests and
11 obligations under the Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement.

12 108. Plaintiffs are entitled to taxable costs, and to attorney fees under A.R.S. §
13 12-341.01.

14 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs request judgment against Defendants, jointly and
15 severally, as follows:

16 A. Declaring that the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter is of no force or effect
17 and is ineffective to diminish or in any way affect Plaintiffs' rights as Limited Partners
18 or Unit Holders;

19 B. Declaring that the Buy-Out Letter is of no force or effect and is
20 ineffective to diminish or in any way affect Plaintiffs' rights as Limited Partners or Unit
21 Holders;

22 C. Declaring that Plaintiffs continue to be Limited Partners, with all
23 rights of Limited Partners;

24 D. Declaring that Plaintiffs are entitled to, and directing that
25 Defendants recognize and provide to Plaintiffs (1) Plaintiffs' pro rata share of the
26 proceeds of sale of the Partnership or the Team, (2) the continuing right to (a) hold their

1 interests for future appreciation and sale, (b) hold their interests for distributions, profits
2 and future anticipated profits, (c) participate in future appreciation and sale, (d)
3 participate in distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, and (3) any and all
4 other rights as investors, Limited Partners and Eligible Holders;

5 E. Declaring that Plaintiffs have no obligation to, and Defendants are
6 ordered to not require that Plaintiffs (1) increase their financial commitment to the
7 Team, (2) accept a discounted buyout, or (3) be deprived of the essential benefits of
8 ownership, including without limitation, (a) their pro rata share of the proceeds of sale
9 of the Partnership or the Team, (b) the continuing right to hold their interests for future
10 appreciation and sale, (c) the continuing right to hold their interests for distributions,
11 profits and future anticipated profits, (d) participate in future appreciation and sale, (e)
12 participate in distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, and (f) any and all
13 other rights as investors, Limited Partners and Eligible Holders;

14 F. For costs and attorney fees, together with interest at the highest
15 legal rate from the date of judgment until paid in full; and

16 G. For such other and further relief as is proper and just.

17
18 **COUNT TWO**
19 **(Breach of Contract)**

20 109. Plaintiffs reallege all other allegations in this Complaint.

21 110. Plaintiffs performed their obligations in accordance with their
22 investments, the Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement by,
23 among other things, providing consideration, and conferring benefits, to Defendants as
24 set forth above.

25 111. Defendants breached and repudiated the terms and conditions of
26 Plaintiffs' investments, the Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership

1 Agreement by, among other things, (a) purporting to require Plaintiffs to make the
2 election set forth in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter and (b) declaring in the Buy-Out Letter
3 that “as of February 12, 2020, you are no longer a limited partner.”

4 112. Defendants further breached and repudiated, and are continuing to breach
5 and repudiate, the terms and conditions of Plaintiffs’ investments, the Investment
6 Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement by, among other things, their
7 actual and intended acts and omissions in depriving Plaintiffs of their rights to (1) share
8 pro rata in the proceeds of sale of the Partnership or the Team, (2) hold their interests
9 for future appreciation and sale, (3) hold their interests for distributions, profits and
10 future anticipated profits, (4) participate in future appreciation and sale, (5) participate
11 in distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, and (6) exercise any and all other
12 rights as investors, Limited Partners and Eligible Holders.

13 113. Defendants have further breached and repudiated the terms and conditions
14 of Plaintiffs’ investments, the Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership
15 Agreement by purporting to require them to (1) increase their financial commitment to
16 the Team, (2) accept a discounted buyout, or (3) be deprived of the essential benefits of
17 ownership.

18 114. Defendants have further breached and repudiated the Investment
19 Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement by denying or threatening to deny
20 Plaintiffs distributions to which they are entitled as DER Limited Partners, including,
21 without limitation, (1) Profits and losses for any taxable year allocated among the
22 partners, in order of priority as set forth therein, including the aggregate Deferred
23 Equity Rights Percentage to the DER Limited Partners; (2) Net Cash from Operations,
24 with reductions as described therein, distributed quarterly, in order of priority as set
25 forth therein, including the aggregate Deferred Equity Rights Percentage to the DER
26 Limited Partners; and (3) Net Cash from Sales or Refinancing, distributed “as soon as

1 reasonably possible following such sale or refinancing” in order of priority as set forth
2 therein, including the aggregate Deferred Equity Rights Percentage to the DER Limited
3 Partners.

4 115. Defendants have further breached and repudiated the Investment
5 Agreements and Amended Partnership Agreement by denying or threatening to deny
6 Molina’s distributions to which he is entitled as a 2009 Unit Holder, including, without
7 limitation, (1) profits and losses for any taxable year allocated among the partners, in
8 order of priority as set forth therein, including to the 2009 Units Percentage to the 2009
9 Unit Holders; (2) Net Cash from Operations, with reductions as described therein,
10 distributed quarterly, in order of priority as set forth therein, including to the 2009 Units
11 Percentage to the 2009 Unit Holders; and (3) Net Cash from Sales or Refinancing,
12 distributed “as soon as reasonably possible following such sale or refinancing” in order
13 of priority as set forth therein, including to the 2009 Units Percentage to the 2009 Unit
14 Holders.

15 116. Defendants have further breached and repudiated the Amended
16 Partnership Agreement by violating Sections 1.1.49, 4.5(a), 8.7.2, 8.2.4(d), 10.2.2, and
17 6.2.

18 117. As a direct and foreseeable result of Defendants’ breaches and
19 repudiations of Plaintiffs’ investments, the Investment Agreements and the Amended
20 Partnership Agreement, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, damages in the
21 form of loss of funds, loss of distributions, loss of interest income, loss of investment
22 value, loss of profit and otherwise, the full nature and extent of which have not yet been
23 fully determined.

24 118. Plaintiffs are entitled to taxable costs, and to attorney fees under A.R.S. §
25 12-341.01.

26

1 119. The principal amount is wholly or partially liquidated. Under A.R.S. §
2 44-1201, Plaintiffs are entitled to interest on the foregoing amount at the highest legal
3 rate from the date due until paid in full.

4 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs request judgment against Defendants, jointly and
5 severally, as follows:

- 6 A. For damages in an amount to be proved at trial;
- 7 B. For pre-judgment and post-judgment interest at the highest legal
8 rate;
- 9 C. For costs and attorney fees, together with interest at the highest
10 legal rate from the date of judgment until paid in full; and
- 11 D. For such other and further relief as is proper and just.

12 **COUNT THREE**
13 **(Breach of Implied Covenant of**
14 **Good Faith and Fair Dealing)**

15 120. Plaintiffs reallege all other allegations in this Complaint.

16 121. The Investment Agreements and the Amended Partnership Agreement
17 contain, as an essential term, an implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing,
18 whereby each of the parties is obligated to act fairly and in good faith and to refrain
19 from any acts to deny the other parties the benefits of their bargain.

20 122. The intended purpose and intent of the Investment Agreements and the
21 Amended Partnership Agreement is to provide the Team with needed cash infusions and
22 to provide Plaintiffs, as the benefits of their bargain, continuing rights and benefits of
23 ownership, including without limitation the rights to (1) share pro rata in the proceeds of
24 sale of the Partnership or the Team, (2) hold their interests for future appreciation and
25 sale, (3) hold their interests for distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, (4)
26 participate in future appreciation and sale, (5) participate in distributions, profits and

1 future anticipated profits, (6) hold themselves out as minority owners of the Arizona
2 Diamondbacks, and (7) receive all benefits as investors, Limited Partners and Eligible
3 Holders.

4 123. Defendants, by their acts and omissions set forth above, including without
5 limitation issuing and seeking to enforce the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter and Buy-Out
6 Letter, have breached, and continue to breach, the implied covenant of good faith and
7 fair dealing in that, among their things, (a) their acts and omissions were and are
8 arbitrary, unfair, and unreasonably detrimental to the rights and interests of Plaintiffs
9 and other minority Limited Partners, while at the same time being calculated to increase
10 the value of Defendants' interests in the Partnership and the Team, and (b) the natural
11 and intended effect of such acts and omissions is to deprive Plaintiffs of the essential
12 benefits for which they bargained under the Investment Agreements and the Amended
13 Partnership Agreement.

14 124. As a direct and foreseeable result of Defendants' breaches as set forth
15 above, Plaintiffs have suffered, and continue to suffer, damages in the form of loss of
16 funds, loss of distributions, loss of interest income, loss of investment value, loss of
17 profit and otherwise, the full nature and extent of which have not yet been fully
18 determined.

19 125. Plaintiffs are entitled to taxable costs, and to attorney fees under A.R.S. §
20 12-341.01.

21 126. The principal amount is wholly or partially liquidated. Under A.R.S. §
22 44-1201, Plaintiffs are entitled to interest on the foregoing amount at the highest legal
23 rate from the date due until paid in full.

24 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs request judgment against Defendants, jointly and
25 severally, as follows:

26 A. For damages in an amount to be proved at trial;

1 Agreement and Delaware law, including without limitation Del. Code Ann. title 6, § 17-
2 305, Plaintiffs are entitled to an accounting of the books and records of the Partnership.

3 136. Further, by virtue of the terms and conditions of the Amended Partnership
4 Agreement and Delaware law, including without limitation Del. Code Ann. title 6, § 17-
5 305, Plaintiffs are entitled to documents supporting or pertaining to the transactions
6 described in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter, including without limitation (1) all
7 correspondence or other documents, including any letters or other communications from
8 MLB, evidencing or supporting the purported conclusion that Plaintiffs have ceased to
9 be Eligible Holders as defined in the Amended Partnership Agreement, (2) all articles of
10 merger, merger agreements and other documents evidencing or pertaining to the
11 claimed, proposed merger, and (3) the complete file of Bases Loaded Consulting,
12 including without limitation the final valuation report and all work papers, supporting
13 materials and emails and other communications with representatives of the Partnership.

14 137. Further, by virtue of the terms and conditions of the Amended Partnership
15 Agreement and Delaware law, including without limitation Del. Code Ann. title 6, § 17-
16 305, Plaintiffs are entitled to documents supporting or pertaining to (a) any and all
17 revenues from television and radio rights, and (b) any and all transactions, including
18 without limitation the transactions described in the Team's letters of October 8, 2015,
19 and June 5, 2019, relating to broadcast rights and/or the Broadcast Entity, involving the
20 direct or indirect sale of broadcast rights affecting the Team.

21 138. Further, by virtue of the terms and conditions of the Amended Partnership
22 Agreement and Delaware law, and including without limitation Del. Code Ann. title 6, §
23 17-305, Plaintiffs are entitled to documents supporting or pertaining to any and all
24 agreements, communications, and documents relating or pertaining to contemplated or
25 effective gambling rights, sportsbooks, sports betting, fantasy sports, online gaming,

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1 casino gambling, and any and all other gambling modes affecting or impacting the
2 Team.

3 139. Plaintiffs are entitled to their costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred
4 herein, pursuant to A.R.S. §12-341.01.

5 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs request judgment against Defendants, jointly and
6 severally, as follows:

7 A. For an Order that Plaintiffs are entitled to an accounting of the
8 books and records of the Partnership;

9 B. For an Order that Plaintiffs are entitled to documents supporting or
10 pertaining to the transactions described in the Buy-Up/Buy-Out Letter, including
11 without limitation (1) all correspondence or other documents, including any letters or
12 other communications from MLB, evidencing or supporting the purported conclusion
13 that Plaintiffs have ceased to be Eligible Holders as defined in the Amended Partnership
14 Agreement, (2) all articles of merger, merger agreements and other documents
15 evidencing or pertaining to the claimed, proposed merger, and (3) the complete file of
16 Bases Loaded Consulting, including without limitation the final valuation report and all
17 work papers, supporting materials and emails and other communications with
18 representatives of the Partnership;

19 C. For an Order that Plaintiffs are entitled to documents supporting or
20 pertaining to (1) any and all revenues from television and radio rights, and (2) any and
21 all transactions, including without limitation the transactions described in the Team's
22 letters of October 8, 2015, and June 5, 2019, relating to broadcast rights and/or the
23 Broadcast Entity, involving the direct or indirect sale of broadcast rights affecting the
24 Team.

25 D. For an Order that Plaintiffs are entitled to documents supporting or
26 pertaining to any and all agreements, communications, and documents relating or

1 pertaining to contemplated or effective gambling rights, sportsbooks, sports betting,
2 fantasy sports, online gaming, casino gambling, and any and all other gambling modes
3 affecting or impacting the Team;

4 E. For Plaintiffs' costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred herein;

5 F. For interest on the foregoing amounts from the date of Judgment
6 until paid in full; and

7 G. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper and
8 just.

9 **COUNT SIX**
(Preliminary and Permanent Injunction)

10 140. Plaintiffs reallege all other allegations in this Complaint.

11 141. On information and belief, unless restrained from doing so, Defendants
12 intend to, and immediately will, engage in conduct in violation of Plaintiffs' contractual
13 and legal rights, including, without limitation treating Plaintiffs as no longer being
14 Limited Partners and/or Unit Holders in the Team.

15 142. Further, upon information and belief, unless restrained from doing so,
16 Defendants will act in accordance with their express threat to implement a "freeze-out
17 merger" for the purpose of terminating Plaintiffs' rights and status as Limited Partners
18 and Unit Holders.

19 143. A limited partnership or other ownership interest in the Arizona
20 Diamondbacks, or any Major League Baseball team, is a unique and irreplaceable asset,
21 the loss or deprivation of which cannot be adequately compensated for by money
22 damages.

23 144. Plaintiffs have no adequate remedy at law.
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1 145. Unless Defendants are immediately restrained and enjoined from the
2 foregoing acts, Plaintiffs will suffer irreparable and irreparable injury, pending the trial
3 of this matter.

4 146. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to an order to show cause and preliminary
5 injunction enjoining Defendants and their respective agents and employees, and all
6 other persons acting under their direction and control, or in concert with them, during
7 the pendency of this action, from the following:

8 A. Declaring, publically or in private, or taking any action to enforce
9 any prior declaration that Plaintiffs are no longer minority Limited Partners or Unit
10 Holders in the Team;

11 B. Depriving Plaintiffs of their rights to (1) share pro rata in the
12 proceeds of sale of the Partnership or the Team, (2) hold their interests for future
13 appreciation and sale, (3) hold their interests for distributions, profits and future
14 anticipated profits, (4) participate in future appreciation and sale, (5) participate in
15 distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, and (6) any and all other rights as
16 investors, Limited Partners and Eligible Holders;

17 C. Requiring Plaintiffs to (1) increase their financial commitment to
18 the Team, (2) accept a discounted buyout, or (3) be deprived of the essential benefits of
19 ownership;

20 D. Implementing a merger or other transaction the purpose or effect of
21 which would be to cause Plaintiffs no longer to be minority Limited Partners or Unit
22 Holders in the Team.

23 147. Plaintiffs are further entitled to Judgment maintaining the foregoing
24 preliminary injunctions in force as permanent injunctions.

25 148. Plaintiffs are entitled to costs and to an award of attorney fees under
26 A.R.S. § 12-341.01.

1 **WHEREFORE**, Plaintiffs request Judgment against Defendants, jointly and
2 severally, as follows:

3 A. That the Court issue an order requiring Defendants to appear and
4 show cause, if any, why Defendants and their employees and agents, and all persons
5 acting under their supervision and control or in concert with them, should not be
6 preliminarily enjoined, during the pendency of this action, from the following:

7 i) Declaring, publically or in private, or taking any action to
8 enforce any prior declaration that Plaintiffs are no longer minority Limited Partners or
9 Unit Holders in the Team;

10 ii) Depriving Plaintiffs of their rights to (1) share pro rata in
11 the proceeds of sale of the Partnership or the Team, (2) hold their interests for future
12 appreciation and sale, (3) hold their interests for distributions, profits and future
13 anticipated profits, (4) participate in future appreciation and sale, (5) participate in
14 distributions, profits and future anticipated profits, and (6) any and all other rights as
15 investors, Limited Partners and Eligible Holders;

16 iii) Requiring Plaintiffs to (1) increase their financial
17 commitment to the Team, (2) accept a discounted buyout, or (3) be deprived of the
18 essential benefits of ownership; or

19 iv) Implementing a merger or other transaction the purpose or
20 effect of which would be to cause Plaintiffs no longer to be minority Limited Partners or
21 Unit Holders in the Team.

22 B. That upon hearing, the Court issue a preliminary Injunction
23 enjoining Defendants, and their respective employees and agents, and all persons acting
24 under their supervision and control or in concert with them, from the acts described
25 above during the pendency of this action.

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upon trial on the merits, Defendants and their respective
and all persons acting under their supervision and control or in
be permanently enjoined from the acts described above.

D. For costs and attorney fees, together with interest at the highest
from the date of judgment until paid in full; and

E. For such other and further relief as is proper and just.

DATED this 31st day of March, 2020.

Jaburg & Wilk, P.C.



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