BEFORE THE OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPEAL OF:)
)
JOY & JOSHUA ENTERPRISES, INC.) OTA No. 2107828
APPELLANT.)
AFFELLANI.)

CERTIFIED COPY

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Fresno, California

Thursday, September 29, 2022

Reported by:

Cynthia P. Hernandez CSR No. 13521

Job No.: 38707 OTA(B)

1	BEFORE THE OFFICE OF TAX APPEALS
2	STATE OF CALIFORNIA
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6	JOY & JOSHUA ENTERPRISES, INC.) OTA No. 21078284
7	APPELLANT.)
8)
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15	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS, taken at
16	855 M Street, Suite 960, Fresno, California,
17	commencing at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday,
18	September 29, 2022, reported by
19	Cynthia Hernandez, CSR No. 13521, a
20	Certified Shorthand Reporter in and for
21	the State of California.
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1	APPEARANCES:	
2		
3	Panel Lead:	ALJ JOSHUA ALDRICH
4		
5	Panel Members:	ALJ KEITH LONG ALJ OVSEP AKOPCHIKYAN
6		ALO OVSEF AROFCIIIRIAN
7	For the Appellant:	IHAB ABDELMALEK
8	ror the Apperrant:	A. KAMEL
9		
10	For the Respondent:	STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TAX AND
11		FEE ADMINISTRATION
12		RAVINDER SHARMA
13		CHRISTOPHER BROOKS
14		RANDY SUAZO
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1	FRESNO, CALIFORNIA; THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2022
2	1:45 P.M.
3	-000-
4	JUDGE ALDRICH: This is Judge Aldrich. We are opening
5	the record in the appeal of Joy & Joshua Enterprises,
6	Inc., doing business as Superior Used Cars, before the
7	Office of Tax Appeals, OTA case number 21078274.
8	Today's date is Thursday, September 29th, 2022,
9	and it's approximately about 1:45 in the afternoon.
10	This hearing is being conducted in Fresno,
11	California, and it's also being live streamed on OTA's
12	YouTube channel.
13	The hearing is being heard by a panel of three
14	administrative law judges. My name is Josh Aldrich.
15	I'm the lead judge for purposes of conducting the
16	hearing.
17	I'm joined by Judges Keith Long and Judge
18	Ovsep Akopchikyan. Excuse me.
19	During the hearing, panel members may ask
20	questions or otherwise participate to ensure that we
21	have all information we need to decide this appeal.
22	After the conclusion of the hearing we three will
23	deliberate and decide the issues presented.
24	As a reminder, the Office of Tax Appeals is not a

court. We are an independent appeals body. Also a

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reminder, the panel does not engage in ex parte communications with either party. Our opinion will be based on the arguments, evidence and relevant law. And we have read the parties' submissions and are looking forward to hearing arguments.

So at this time I'd like to ask who's present for Appellant. The Appellant's representative, if you could identify yourself.

MR. ABDELMALEK: This is Bob Abdelmalek and I'm the representative.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Thank you.

2.4

MR. KAMEL: And my name is Atif Kamel and I'm the owner of Superior Used Cars, Joshua Enterprises.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Thank you.

And for CDTFA who is present?

MR. SHARMA: Ravinder Sharma, hearing representative.

17 MR. BROOKS: Christopher Brooks, Tax Counsel for 18 CDTFA.

MR. SUAZO: Randy Suazo, hearing representative for CDTFA.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Thank you, everyone.

So the September 12, 2022, minutes and orders has been distributed to the parties. It listed three issues. In the interest of time I'm not going to be restating the issues that were summarized there.

1 However, I wanted to ask the parties were the issues 2 summarized on the minutes and orders correctly 3 summarized? Mr. Bob? 4 MR. ABDELMALEK: I was supposed to get a link for the 5 audit of December, I think, '21 or something like that. 6 I have not got this link. 7 JUDGE ALDRICH: So you are saying that the link attached to the minutes and orders didn't function for 8 9 you? 10 MR. ABDELMALEK: (Shakes head) JUDGE ALDRICH: And when did you discover that? 11 12 MR. ABDELMALEK: The day they sent me the email. 13 don't remember when. 14 JUDGE ALDRICH: So -- okay. Thank you. 15 But going back to the issue statements, are those 16 correct? 17 MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah. 18 JUDGE ALDRICH: Yeah? Close enough? 19 And the department? 20 This is Ravinder Sharma. That is MR. SHARMA: 21 correct. Thank you. 22 MR. ABDELMALEK: Actually, it opened, but did not have 23 the exhibit. 2.4 JUDGE ALDRICH: So you are saying the file for the 25 minutes and orders opened, but the link did not? Or the

1 | link opened, but there was --

2.4

MR. ABDELMALEK: The link opened and it had the minutes, but it did not have the files for the audit that -- the one I never received. I think it was, like, December 2021 or something like that.

JUDGE ALDRICH: I think it was December 21st, 2021, something around that time.

Okay. Let me see. So I guess I wanted to ask the department, you know, Appellant is claiming that they didn't receive the department's exhibits that were submitted on December 22nd, 2021. I guess I wanted to know where were those exhibits sent? Were they submitted via mail? Email?

MR. SHARMA: This is Ravinder Sharma. We uploaded that to Safe -- would be a response brief.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So I guess it would have been more conducive to let us know that you hadn't received them ahead of time. So I wanted to clarify and see -- are you requesting them? Are you requesting additional time? What would you like?

MR. ABDELMALEK: We submitted all the records we have. If anything other than this record it cannot be a correct record. So I think we submitted all the correct records. I just wonder if there's any difference than this one or not.

JUDGE ALDRICH: So let me see if I understand what you are saying.

You are saying that you submitted all these records. And I did receive PDFs of approximately 1,200 pages; there was a little bit more than that. And your position is that if it's different than what those records reflect, it's incorrect.

MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah.

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JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. Well, that sounds like part of the dispute about the audit. I guess, to clarify, are you saying that -- are you objecting to the admission of CDTFA's proposed exhibits?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah. The audit was done incorrectly from the first place.

JUDGE ALDRICH: I understand that's your argument, but right now we're focused on whether or not to admit exhibits into evidence.

And so the department, they submitted Exhibits A through F, I believe, through the briefing process. And then we attached that link that you say that you didn't -- weren't able to access. I guess I'm wondering what remedy would you like? Are you asking for something?

MR. KAMEL: We just wanted to see what --

MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah. We want to see to see what's

wrong. How did they come up with the \$35,000 if we submitted to them the actual information? And actual information he would not owe this money.

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JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So this is -- that's going back into the arguments about there's errors in the re-audit. I'm more focused at this time on whether or not to admit exhibits into the evidence.

So if you are saying that you didn't receive those exhibits ahead of time, one option might be that we can hold it open for you to comment on those exhibits, but I guess I'm curious as to how you wanted to handle that.

If you are making the objection because you didn't receive them -- do you have a request?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Probably we need to receive them and study them to see what go wrong, so maybe it's a continuation. But at this time we need to make sure it's received.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So I guess, how long -- if we were to hold the record open, provide you -- make sure that you receive those documents, how long would you need to look over those documents? A month?

Two months?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Probably a month would be sufficient.

October usually is a busy time for me, but I will make
the time for it, yes.

1 For CDTFA, I'm sure you -- if you'd JUDGE ALDRICH: 2 like to respond to their response you probably need about a month; is that correct? 3 4 MR. SHARMA: That's correct. 5 JUDGE ALDRICH: So we'll handle it after -- well, we'll allow for submissions after the hearing. 6 7 ensure that, once again, you get a copy of the proposed 8 exhibits. For now, I'm going to go ahead and admit the 9 Exhibits A through F from the department. And you are 10 objecting to them, but the reason I'm doing that is because I'm giving you an opportunity to respond to them 11 after the hearing. All right? 12 13 MR. ABDELMALEK: Okay. 14 (Department Exhibits A-F were admitted by the 15 Administrative Law Judge.) JUDGE ALDRICH: And then -- so we had talked during 16 17 the pre-hearing conference about Appellant's exhibits. 18 In anticipation of the pre-hearing conference there was 19 a 10-page schedule submitted. 20 CDTFA, do you have any objection to that schedule? 21 MR. SHARMA: This is Ravinder Sharma. The department 22 has no objection to that. 23 JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. And subsequently --2.4 MR. ABDELMALEK: I'm sorry, what was that? The 25 admission from us or --

JUDGE ALDRICH: Right. So you proposed exhibits for us to consider into -- to be placed into evidence so we can consider them in making our opinion, and so I was asking the department what the position was with respect to that exhibit. So -- and that was the one that was attached to your pre-hearing conference email.

MR. ABDELMALEK: Okay.

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JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay? And so, subsequently, you submitted an email with attachments on September 14th, 2022. So that was timely. Okay?

And I wanted to ask the department if they had any objections to those submissions.

MR. SHARMA: This is Ravinder Sharma. Department has no objection to that either.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So all the exhibits -- proposed exhibits have now been admitted into evidence, and that -- but I wanted to go ahead and label those a little bit, since I didn't receive an exhibit index.

So attached to the email there were 12 files labeled by quarter, beginning with the second quarter of 2012, through the first quarter of 2015. And there was also a file labeled as letters and a file labeled as monthly taxes.

So in the absence of an exhibit index, we'll refer to the files attached to Appellant's email as exhibits 1

1 through 14. For example, second quarter of 2012 will be 2 Exhibit 1. And through 12 chronologically. Letters -the file labeled "letters" will be Exhibit 13. 3 The file labeled "monthly taxes" will be Exhibit 14. 4 5 10-page schedule attached to the email that was received prior to the pre-hearing conference will be Exhibit 15. 6 7 So this is just for purposes of identifying them if we need to reference them later. 8 9 (Appellant's Exhibits 1-15 were admitted by 10 the Administrative Law Judge.) 11 JUDGE ALDRICH: Do you have a question? 12 MR. KAMEL: Yes, your Honor. I think that we started 13 from April 1st, so that's three quarters in 2012, not 14 the second quarter. Oh, yeah, you are right, the second 15 quarter. The files from one --16 MR. ABDELMALEK: 17 JUDGE ALDRICH: I have --18 MR. ABDELMALEK: Which one is number 15, I'm sorry? 19 JUDGE ALDRICH: 15 is the 10-page schedule that you 20 attached to your pre-hearing conference email. So the 21 one that was sent prior to our first conference 22 That's Exhibit 15, excuse me. together. 23 Does that work for you, Appellant? 2.4 MR. KAMEL: Yes, please. 25 JUDGE ALDRICH: Sounds good.

1 And so 1 through 15 for Appellant have been 2 admitted. A through F for department has been admitted 3 subject to additional briefing after the hearing. 4 So for -- we plan for the hearing to proceed as 5 follows: Appellant representative or Appellant is going to be presenting for approximately 30 minutes. 6 7 department will then have approximately 20 minutes. There will be a period of time for questions from the 8 panel members, and then we'll give Appellant the last 5 9 10 to 10 minutes to form a rebuttal or comment. And if you 11 need additional time, please let me know. We might be able to make adjustments. 12 13 And then, just to be clear, so the owner of 14 Superior Used Cars is here, but you are not planning on 15 testifying? 16 MR. KAMEL: I'm going to say something for the time we 17 have. 18 JUDGE ALDRICH: So you are going to be presenting 19 argument? 20 MR. KAMEL: Yes. JUDGE ALDRICH: 21 Okay. That's fine. 22 Any further questions before we move to 23 presentations? 2.4 MR. ABDELMALEK: I need to make sure we receive these

exhibits in a very way -- it cannot be argued. So is it

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1 going to be by mail or email or --2. JUDGE ALDRICH: What would you prefer? 3 MR. ABDELMALEK: I can work with everything. 4 what's the easiest way? 5 JUDGE ALDRICH: So what we'll do is, since there's a -- currently there's a time limit of 30 days I want to 6 7 afford you that opportunity to review those files. We'll send it to you in email as an attachment with a 8 PDF and then we'll also sent it in a hard copy. 9 10 MR. ABDELMALEK: Perfect. That would be wonderful. 11 This way there's no --12 JUDGE ALDRICH: Yeah. I understand. 13 MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah. 14 JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay? 15 MR. ABDELMALEK: Okay. That sounds good. All right. So if you are ready to 16 JUDGE ALDRICH: 17 proceed with your presentation -- do you need a second 18 or are you ready to go? 19 MR. KAMEL: Well, who is going to start first, the 20 department or us? 21 JUDGE ALDRICH: Yeah, so just like I mentioned in the 22 pre-hearing conferences and the minutes and orders, 23 you'd be starting first, and you have 30 minutes. Are 2.4 you asking for a change in the order or is that okay? 25 MR. ABDELMALEK: That's fine for me. Is it okay with

1	you?
2	MR. KAMEL: I'm fine.
3	MR. ABDELMALEK: What's the timeframe? When are they
4	going to send us the email and the actual you know,
5	how long will it take to send us this information?
6	JUDGE ALDRICH: How long?
7	MR. ABDELMALEK: Yes.
8	JUDGE ALDRICH: You know, I can work with support
9	staff at OTA to get that done quickly.
10	MR. ABDELMALEK: Okay. Because I don't want to be
11	like 10, 15 days
12	MR. KAMEL: Having enough time to review it.
13	MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah, to review it.
14	JUDGE ALDRICH: Right. I acknowledge that, and that's
15	why I proposed to send it via PDF link and then also in
16	hard copy format.
17	MR. ABDELMALEK: All right. Okay. That sounds good.
18	Thank you. So you want to say something?
19	MR. KAMEL: I'm going to say
20	MR. ABDELMALEK: Okay.
21	
22	PRESENTATION
23	MR. KAMEL: So dear your Honors, it's my pleasure to
24	stand in front of you and your court to talk about my
25	case and how much impacted my business and my personal

life.

2.4

It was beyond my dreams to stand in a court without paying any attorney's fees, which I don't have. This makes my -- makes me believe more and more in our justice system, so please hear me out.

I came to this country in 1992 with big dreams. I came to live American dream. I started business in 1995 as a small car dealer, but things didn't go quite well. In November '96, I was driving my wife to the hospital to deliver our second child and we got in a car accident in our way to the hospital and I lost my life wife and unborn baby.

I was fortunate to manage my business and being a single parent for a 14 months old daughter for seven years. I continue with my business. After seven years I was blessed with a wonderful wife and two more children.

It was never new to me to know that I'm having severe depression disorder. I learned at young age to overcome my weaknesses and keep up with my life, trying to survive on my own and take care of my family.

2008 came with all kind of financial difficulties, but I managed to survive. I had my first audit in 2012 from Board of Equalization charging me 28,000 between penalties and late fees, but not one unreported sales

tax. I paid this amount in full just because I had the money then. And I'm sure they didn't consider my bad debts too. But the most important question I ask the auditor, how to do it right? So I won't be in the future having problems with your department.

Keep in mind, your Honor, I'm just an average guy.

I'm not an accountant, so -- plus Board of Equalization

didn't give me classes to -- how to figure these numbers

out.

I hired a third party, Gentry's Registration, to do my DMV and sales tax, with an instruction of 2012 auditor. Also by the end of 2012 or 2013 I had an IRS auditor. This time he came to me, to my car lot, and told me that I didn't file 2008 taxes. I told him that I filed every year and my CPA filed it to me. He told me "you need to go to IRS building and resolve this matter."

I went. They said 2008 was not completely filed.

I was missing a form. And the tax return will not -was about \$24,000. I told them, "Let me sign this
missing form so I can receive my tax refund." They
said, "It doesn't work this way. It doesn't work this
way. You need to pay in full what you owe," without
counting any dime from the money they had already. I
said fine. I began with \$10,000 up in the front and the

rest in payments, with the total close to \$24,000 or something very close.

2.4

I was hoping to get my money back so I would break even, then I got the shocking answer after I paid: The statute of limitation would stop me from getting the money back. Your Honor, everything I said is truth and my accountant can prove this in detail.

I still managed to survive in my business with a great struggle, but I didn't have money to fight. Now I'm standing in the front of you about audit from April 1st, 2012, to March 31st, 2015.

I had Mr. Iqbal from Board of Equalization charge me \$35,000. Mr. Iqbal is no longer working for the department. In my personal opinion, he was doing the audit incorrectly to recommend me to different accountant from his friends. In return I might hardly owe any money in the audit. When I refused he changed and without considering any legit credit, like bad debts.

So my accountant tried to complain several times, but the department didn't take any action, so my accountant had to report him to his district manager, Mr. Juarez. Then, after the department investigation, the auditor is no longer working in the department. But the strange thing, the department is still using the

wrong reports. Not even that, but they want to charge me 10 percent extra for negligence.

It was recommended several times to redo the audit by several CDTFA and OTA employees. For seven years I requested the department to redo the audit several times, to redo the audit and done correctly, but nothing happened. In my opinion, the department refused to do it correctly. Now, after a very long seven years I owe close to \$60,000; penalties and late fees. I'm still waking up in the middle of the night afraid that the State of California will lien on my house.

I forgot to mention I had another audit after from Board of Equalization in 2018 and went fine.

Your Honor, I was working so hard for 25 years, six days a week, no vacation, no retirement. I was paying myself \$1,500 a month, which is less than minimum wage, to stay in business and make ends meet. Now I'm not even paying myself because I cannot afford it.

The last car I bought to sell was in January 2020, almost three years ago. I stopped buying cars or selling cars. I closed my business, which is my main income for long-time livelihood.

I still have my dealer license. I still paying rent. I still having my car lot insurance and bond current and all other expenses hoping to resolve this

matter. I try to force myself to work, but every time I go to work all kind of negative feelings, anger, anxiety and losing hope, hit me, so I leave work right away. So I had to go to treatment; medication lately. Please see the letter I submitted to you.

2.4

Your Honor, in the past I survived to manage all my hardship all my life, and they were really hard, but this time for first time in my life I feel defeated, helpless and losing any interest to work. I know I have high rates or repos in my business just because I'm a small buy here, pay here car lot and one-man show. I buy. I sell. I finance.

Helping unfortunate people, it make me feel good. It was my therapy. I like to help people to have wheels to go to work. These people cannot go to big car lots because of bad debts or bad credit. I was giving them chance to make their living, plus it was easier for me for my struggle mental status than trying to go with my financing companies or banks because they needed more paperwork, which I wasn't good at it.

I was working with poor people. They had lots of challenges. One of many stories I still remember:

Juan Guerrero. He was a nice Hispanic guy. He bought a Nissan truck from me -- a Nissan Titan truck from me.

He was doing birthday parties, event rentals, like

setting up chairs, tables and jumpers in people back yards and charging a few bucks. He was paying me on time, but he came to me and said his payment is too high because his business slow down. I told him that I can refinance just the principal without charging any finance charge to help him out.

2.4

After a few months his poor wife and his 17 years old son, they came to me. She came to me telling me with her broken English that Juan have passed away of a heart attack at the age of 45. And she had to keep doing her late husband's business so her kids wouldn't be live in the street.

I cried. I released the title to her for the truck. And I remember when my father passed away when I was four years old and my mom was biggest struggle to raise the four of us on her own.

I have many -- I have so many stories just like

Juan. Poor people keep working and they don't complain,

just like me, suffering in silence and keep working.

Your Honor, after 27 years in business with all my hard work I lost my business because it was too painful to continue. Now my wife, who had two strokes back-to-back in 2016, and me, we clean toilets, wash and clean sheets to make beds for our property to rent it for Airbnb to make our hard work living. This is our

only income. No retirement; just a small security after 65 years old.

2.4

I have two kids. I'm still raising them; one in college and the other one in sophomore high school, and my older daughter is still living at home.

I'm content and happy, but when I see other car dealers who did bankruptcies and operated under their kids' names or who flee the country with millions of tax payers' money and come back to California and still selling cars I don't know how. I feel really sad, but because I didn't do that I deserve to be punished from State of California. Now this, but the State of California might lien my on my house for my debt and lose it, which I feel I don't owe it.

Your Honor, a few days ago I bought a car to go back in business after almost three years of not buying cars. If you help me out to stay in business I will be grateful for life. If not, I will let my wife drive this car instead of her 2005 Toyota Sienna -- She's driving it for 17 years straight -- and probably surrender my dealer license.

I know I do some mistakes, but in life I don't cheat. I try to do everything correct. I need to stay in business, so please hear me out.

Your Honors, thank you for listening to me and may

God bless you.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Thank you.

Mr. Bob, do you plan on adding to that?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Just something, and I will make very quick, because I know we took some time.

I start looking for Mr. Jeff's paper when that audit started. And when we met with Mr. Iqbal it was -- he will come to my office, tell me something, go to his office, send me an email totally different, totally different. I talked with the supervisor, Mr. Richard, and it's like, "I need another one. He's doing that."

Until July 12th -- it's my kids' birthday; I have twins -- July 12, 2016, so I will never forget this date, I get a phone call from Mr. Jeff's wife that the auditor was there and he told her they will go to jail because of their accountant. They need to change him and he can help her with that. And she get the second stroke immediately and she had to be rushed to the hospital.

Then I did call Richard at that time. I was at the pet store; I was buying my kids' birthday present. I remember that as if it's a movie right in front of my eye. He said he will make sure everything went fine. He will be checking this audit all the time. So I start

CC him in all the e-mails proving that the auditor will come to my office, will say something and will go to his office to write an email to document totally different thing.

2.4

Then, when we close the audit he came to my office and he said, "I have good news. Your guy doesn't owe anything; maybe a little bit, because he miscalculated the bad debt. He put the whole amount, but with the other credit he owes only under \$2,000." So we agreed about that. He said, you know, "something wrong with my computer. I cannot send you the email with that. So let me go to the office and I'll send it to you immediately." By the end of the day he went to the office and he sent me totally different audit that Mr. Jeff owes a lot of money.

Then, that's when I contacted Mr. Juarez and the supervisor in Bakersfield. They said they would reopen the audit. There's -- an accountant contacted me and he came. He asked for all the paper; we had an appointment, then he disappeared. I learned later that he moved to Sacramento.

Then we start doing the appeals. With the appeal, the first one, it was recommended to redo the whole audit because it's done wrong. Then the supervisor did not want to redo the audit. And to come to this

decision from the appeal officer we had to give some samples. We did the samples. They said "okay. We have to redo the whole audit."

Then CDTA (sic) never opened it. They gave us appointment. They never showed up and they -- they did not show up. They -- I contacted Mr. Juarez again and he was in San Diego and he said, "I'll be in the office in one day. I will take care of it." Monday it was the COVID and there was --

MR. KAMEL: The lockdown.

2.4

MR. ABDELMALEK: The lockdown.

Then we get -- they opened the audit. They took the samples that we gave to give the decision to reopen the audit. And it was wrong. It was on the wrong report. They did not contact us. They never sent us the paper. It's just being for seven years at least three accountants and three, four auditors and OTA -- several people and every single person recommended that the report was done wrong and it needs to be redone. The department never did that. So that is the story about this audit.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So instead of asking questions from the Appellant or Appellant's representative immediately we're going to reserve those for after the department makes their presentation.

And so Department, are you ready to proceed with your opening and closing?

This is Ravinder Sharma. That's correct, MR. SHARMA: we are ready. Thank you.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Go ahead.

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PRESENTATION

MR. SHARMA: Appellant is a corporation that operated a used car dealership in Bakersfield, California, since January 2006, doing business as Superior Used Cars.

The department performed an audit examination for the period of April 1, 2012, through March 31, 2015. Appellant reported total sales of approximately \$1.1 million, claimed deductions of \$77,000, resulting in reported taxable sales of \$1.03 million for the audit period. Exhibit A, page 7 to 8.

Appellant provided dealer jackets, sales reports and monthly sales summaries for the audit period. department obtained Department of Motor Vehicles -that's DMV -- data from its data analysis section.

The department used Appellant's sales records and DMV data to determine audited taxable sales of \$1.48 million for the audit period. Exhibit A, pages 16 to 28. The department also noted duplicates sales of approximately \$18,000. That is Exhibit A page 15.

During the audit process, the department noted that Appellant started leasing vehicles in June 2014. The department used tax collector amount to determine taxable measures of \$30,000 for the audit period. Exhibit A, page 29 and 30.

The department examined Appellant's books and records. Those records revealed that Appellant purchased two vehicles, for a total of \$11,000, for personal use after issuing a sales certificate. Exhibit A, page 38.

The department also determined that Appellant had unclaimed bad debts of little more than \$11,000 for the audit period. Exhibit A page 36 and 37.

Based on the above audit procedures and reported taxable sales of \$1.03 million, the department determined unreported taxable sales of \$458,000 for the audit period.

During the audit process, the department noted that Appellant did not report district taxes. The books and records show unreported district taxes on taxable measures of \$39,000 for the audit period. Exhibit A, page 31 to 35.

The department assessed a 10 percent negligence penalty because Appellant's vehicle sales reported to the DMV substantially exceeded reported taxable sales to

the department. These others are similar to the others for the prior audit.

2.4

The department notes that Appellant's understatement increases from 12 percent in the prior audit to 44 percent in the current audit. The negligence penalty is appropriate.

Appellant has not provided any documentary evidence to show that audited taxable sales establish based on sales reports and DMV data is not correct; however, for prehearing conference Appellant submitted a 10-page sales report dated September 2, 2022, for the audit period.

To verify the accuracy of the 10-page sales report, the department randomly selected five quarters; second quarter 2012, third quarter 2012, fourth quarter 2012, first quarter 2014 and first quarter 2015. In those five selected quarters the 10-page report lists sales of 65 cars, as compared to Appellant's previously submitted sales of 100 cars, based on dealer jackets, sales reports and DMV data.

Further analysis shows that the 10-page sales report contains the additional sales of four cars which were not part of the previously submitted documents.

See Appellant's sale report dated September 2nd, 2022, pages 2, 6 and 7, for stock number 300043R1, second

2.4

MR. KAMEL: Can you repeat them?

JUDGE ALDRICH: If you can direct your question to me.

MR. ABDELMALEK: Can we get a copy of this report? Is it possible to get a copy of that? Because there's a lot of numbers and I could not write all of it.

JUDGE ALDRICH: How about we ask Mr. Sharma just to speak a little bit slower? The other thing is that this, like I said, is being live streamed on YouTube.

You'll be able to hear it again on YouTube.

Department, did you have a report that you wanted to submit or is this just part of your argument?

MR. SHARMA: Yes, part of the argument.

We analyzed the 10-page report submitted by Appellant and we just selected five quarters to verify the accuracy.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. Hold on.

So going back to you, since they haven't submitted it as additional evidence, I guess we can have the option of you can view it on YouTube. Shortly after the hearing -- I'm not sure how long the stenographer needs to prepare the transcript, but it would be available on the transcript, which will be posted to our website as well, so you can double -- or cross-reference the numbers there. Does that answer your question?

1 MR. ABDELMALEK: Sure. 2. JUDGE ALDRICH: So-so? 3 MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah. 4 JUDGE ALDRICH: You need more clarification? 5 MR. ABDELMALEK: No. I have the clarification, but I don't know how much doable to gather all this 6 7 information, you know. That's fine. Well, did you miss a number on one of 8 JUDGE ALDRICH: the stocks? 9 10 MR. ABDELMALEK: It's most of the numbers -- it's big 11 numbers and I'm trying to write those things, you know. Mr. Sharma, could you start over with 12 JUDGE ALDRICH: 13 those stock numbers and speak a little bit slower when 14 you say them? 15 Yeah, definitely. MS. SHARMA: I will restart from the four cars. 16 17 Further analysis shows that the 10-page sales 18 report contains the additional sales of four cars which 19 were not part of previously submitted documents. That's 20 Appellant's sales report dated September 2nd, 2022. 21 Reference of the page sales report is page number 2 --Take it a little bit slower. 22 JUDGE ALDRICH: 23 MR. SHARMA: Okay. Appellant's sales report dated 2.4 September 2, 2022, page number 2, 6 and 7. Stock number

is, first car, 300043R1. Second, 33004.

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1 320023R1. Fourth, 330059. 2 JUDGE ALDRICH: Did you get all that? 3 MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah. 4 JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. 5 MR. KAMEL: Do you have dates for -- can we get the 6 dates, your Honor? 7 JUDGE ALDRICH: Do you understand that they are pulling this information off of the report that you 8 submitted as evidence? 9 10 MR. KAMEL: All right. 11 MR. SHARMA: Thank you. Total differences of the 39 missing car sales and 12 13 four additional car sales amounts to \$276,000 for 14 five quarters. The department submits that all 39 cars 15 which are not part of the sales report dated September 2nd, 2022, were determined to be valid sales 16 17 by examining Appellant's dealer jackets, sale journal, 18 report of sales and by examining DMV data. 19 reference, Exhibit A, pages 17 to 28. 20 Based on the above analysis, the department 21 determined that Appellant's 10-page sales report dated September 2nd, 2022, is incomplete and unreliable. 22 Appellant contends that notice of determination 23

was not issued timely. In response, the department submits that it has issued a timely notice of

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determination on February 10, 2017, which was supported by a series of properly executed and signed waivers of limitation extending the statute of limitation to April 30, 2017. Exhibit B, pages 53 to 57.

2.4

Appellant contends that it's eligible for additional bad debts and submitted a packet of 1,205 pages in support of its claim. In response, the department submits that it has reviewed the packet and noted that its contents do not provide all the information needed to support any unclaimed amounts of bad debts.

For example, Appellant failed to provide any summary schedule to determine the amount of claimed bad debts for every car repossessed. They failed to provide the value of repossessed cars. There are no worksheets showing allocation of all payments to taxable and non-taxable items, and others as required by Appendix 1 of Regulation 1642.

Critically, Appellant failed to provide any evidence that claimed amount of bad debts has been charged off for income tax purposes. Based on the above analysis, the department determined that submitted documents are incomplete and do not support any additional adjustments for bad debts.

During the prehearing conference, Office of Tax

Appeals asked the department to provide answers to the following questions: How did the auditor calculate the vehicle sales price based on the California Department of Motor Vehicles -- DMV report of sales data? For example, was the vehicle license vehicle used to assign the lowest estimated sales price within the range of \$200?

In response, the department submits that auditor used dealer jackets, sales journal and DMV data to determine the sales price for every car. Based on review of Schedule 12b-1 to 12b-2, the following procedure was used: All scheduled sales price for car with stock number or report of sales numbers are based on examination of dealer jackets, sales journal and represent actual sales price, document fees and sales tax.

All scheduled sales price for cars without stock number are based on DMV data because dealer jackets were not available. Generally, when dealer jackets or other sales records are not available, the department uses vehicle license fee codes to assign the lowest estimated sales price within the range of \$200.

In the present case, since the department had access to most of the dealer jackets and all sales data, the auditor used dealer jacket or sales data for a

similar car to assign estimated sales price for cars without stock number.

2.

For example, if the DMV data shows lowest estimated sales price of \$5,800 for a range of \$5,800 to \$6,000, but Appellant's records show a sales price of \$5,995 for a similar car, then the department used estimated sales price of \$5,995. The department used this process on a total of nine cars. The estimated sales price for each of these nine cars is still within the range of \$200, but not the lowest estimated sales price.

As stated above, the department has fully explained the basis for deficiency based on the available books and records. Further, the department has used approved audit methods to determine the deficiency. Therefore, based on the evidence presented, the department requests that Appellant's appeal be denied.

This concludes my presentation and I'm available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Thank you, Mr. Sharma. So we're going to be asking questions at this point.

I do have a couple of questions. So for the Appellant representative, Mr. Bob, you've reiterated a few times that you think that the audit was done

incorrectly. Was it the methodology? Was it the source? What exactly are you saying? What was wrong with the audit, according to your view?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Okay. After we agreed about the audit he changed all the numbers and more cars it's not for sale. The DMV record was not correct. The price of the cars it's -- depends on the quality of the car. So the same car, you can sell it for two different prices.

So it's everything -- he did change the full report. He showed me a report to my office, went to his office, emailed totally different report. So everything looks correct. So the 39 cars we did talk about it with him and we proved they did get though the DMV and that was wrong information. He was supposed to clear it, that these cars are not ours or there's a duplicate. So there's -- the DMV report it's not reliable one.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So your argument is that of the 39 cars some of those are duplicates or they weren't actually sold by you?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Exactly.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay.

2.4

MR. ABDELMALEK: And that's known about the DMV for all the audits. I can give so many examples the DMV and auction, they have wrong information.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So your position is that the

DMV provided the department incorrect data or the auction house provided incorrect data.

2.4

Are you still arguing about bad debts deduction?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Yeah. We provide all the bad debts.

That's when Mr. Jeff will owe couple thousand dollars or less. That's what we determined. And we submit all the bad debt in the file to Exhibit 14, I believe. I think it's Exhibit 14.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Yeah. So in regards to Exhibit 14, will I find the value of the car on the date of repossession?

MR. ABDELMALEK: That's the reason for the difference of the 2,000, but we can fix that if -- you know, just to try to go see what's the value of the car, because when car is removed is very much a very old value. But we can go through them one by one and we can fix that.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. And another question I had: If these bad debt deductions occurred, why weren't they claimed, if they weren't claimed on the federal income tax returns as bad debts?

MR. ABDELMALEK: It was claimed.

JUDGE ALDRICH: It was claimed?

MR. ABDELMALEK: And I showed the department that when they issued this one with the first appeal, that's -- there's two ways as the supervisor Mr. Richard said it,

and the department. You could put the amount of sales as the full amount, minus the debts or you can deduct it from the sales amount and you put the numbers of the sales without the bad debt.

JUDGE ALDRICH: So on the federal income tax returns you were netting the bad debts out?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Yes, as of my memory, but -- right.

I'm -- difficult. I think that's we what agreed about us and the department and the first appeal.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. And just as a point of clarification, has your email address changed during the audit or through the appeal?

MR. ABDELMALEK: No.

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JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. Because I was looking at some of the exhibits and it looks like you had signed an electronic agreement to receive electronic data. And, so for example, on the decision it looks like it was sent to you and the Appellant electronically. And it listed an email address. And -- so that's true of a few of these -- or I haven't gone through extensively at the time that we've been at the hearing, but it's true of most of those exhibits.

So I guess I'm just a little bit confused as to the argument that you haven't received them, but we've already addressed it. We're going to hold it open and

allow for some additional time.

2.4

But -- so there has been an issue regarding the statute of limitations. So is it still your position that notice of determination wasn't issued within the statute of limitations?

MR. ABDELMALEK: No, no. That's the position that Mr. Jeff talked about. That has nothing to do with this one.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So for today's hearing it's whether or not the --

MR. KAMEL: We didn't know that was even -- I was not aware there is day making. Because we have -- because in the emails going back and forth we're supposed to have another auditor come to the office to check the files, the ones we were talking about.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay.

MR. KAMEL: And for some reason the auditor said, "You are supposed to come to me," but we have -- an email was sent to him prior to this that he's supposed to come to the office; that's why we're waiting to meet him in the office. So that's why we're waiting to discuss what we have wrong and we can talk about it. I see in here when you are talking about estimate --

JUDGE ALDRICH: So I don't think you are answering my question. And you will have an opportunity to talk in a

1 second. 2 But with respect to the first issue, the timeliness of the NOD's, that's not at issue anymore? 3 4 Is that what you're saying? Which one, I'm sorry? 5 MR. ABDELMALEK: The first issue is whether or not the 6 JUDGE ALDRICH: notice of determinations was timely issued, whether it's 7 And we had included that on the minutes and 8 valid. 9 orders, and we had discussed that during the prehearing 10 conference, and we confirmed that at the beginning of the hearing, but it sounds like that's not a dispute or 11 12 is it? 13 MR. ABDELMALEK: It is. I never get it. I don't know -- it was not emailed. 14 15 JUDGE ALDRICH: You never get it? 16 MR. ABDELMALEK: No. What is "it" in this situation? 17 JUDGE ALDRICH: 18 MR. ABDELMALEK: The one for December of '21. 19 JUDGE ALDRICH: The opening brief. 20 No, the opening -- for the last time MR. ABDELMALEK: 21 I'm not understanding. I'm sorry. 22 JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. So on the minutes and orders 23 that memorialized our conversation of the prehearing 2.4 conference we listed three issues, so three things that

we have to determine in our opinion. Okay? And the

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first of those was with respect to the timeliness or the validity of the notice of determination. So the bill that was sent as a result of the audit. Is that being disputed still or not?

2.4

MR. ABDELMALEK: I got the email for the minutes for the meeting we had last time, but I did not get the link -- or I couldn't open the link or it was empty, the link for the department appeal.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. That's fine. We can move on. There's more questions. Actually, that was all the questions I had.

So at this time I'm going to refer to the other panel members if they have any questions for either of the parties.

So, Judge Long, did you have any questions for either of the parties?

JUDGE LONG: Yes. This question is for Appellant.

With respect to the audit being done wrong, can you point to any transactions in the audit or re-audit specifically? I understand that your position is that a completely different set of papers were issued after you agreed upon the audit. But with respect to the actual schedules them self can you point to something in the schedule and also point to a place in your exhibits where we can see that those numbers are either incorrect

or differ in some ways so that they might not be taxable or to prove your point?

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MR. ABDELMALEK: I don't have a stock number, but DMV report was not correct and we filter it with the correct amount. There was a bad debt. We proved it's a bad debt. It was not in that report that this number has been changed. There's a credit for guess it was not there.

Very of the cars -- some cars was reported by the DMV for different number. We challenged that. DMV report had duplicate cars. We did challenge that. So we challenged everything it was brought that we did a mistake.

So that's part of what went wrong, you know. I don't have in front of me each car by itself.

JUDGE LONG: So with respect to the audit and the re-audit are we to understand that every car that is found to have been subject to unreported taxable sales is incorrect?

MR. ABDELMALEK: Yes. Not -- every car they've had fund for it we had an answer for it. And that's why we said to reopen the -- redo the audit, not to reopen it. That's why it was all the recommendation, because there was so many mistakes they had in the audit --

JUDGE LONG: And you don't have any --

1 MR. ABDELMALEK: -- at the time, yes. 2 JUDGE LONG: And you don't have any examples? 3 MR. ABDELMALEK: Right now? 4 JUDGE LONG: Yeah. 5 MR. ABDELMALEK: No, I don't. 6 MR. KAMEL: Your Honor, I'm gonna say how car sales 7 Sometimes I'm a buy here, pay here place, which work. is a lot of people buy the car. When they buy the car, 8 9 before even 30 days they default giving me down payment. 10 I go repo the car. And this car is like unwind it, because they failed -- they failed from the get-go. 11 12 Some people give me down payment and the check would 13 bounce and I had to go repo the car and sell it again. 14 Maybe in DMV what I do -- I sent the reported sale 15 I say "and this car is being repoed" so they would consider it back to my inventory. If they didn't 16 consider it as repoed it would be duplicates, because I 17 18 resold it. And at the same time it will show that I'm 19 having high number of sales when the actual I'm having. 20 That's one thing. 21 The other thing I am having -- if I buy a car back

The other thing I am having -- if I buy a car back or if I repo a car, or sometime I have some cars really damaged and I cannot sell them, sometime I sell these cars with a statement of fact that this car sold as junk. "This car needs major repair or could use for

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parts."

2.4

And I have the customer sign for it. And I hand them -- as a customer demand title, so I charge them for the price of the vehicle very cheap, because the car is not running right. And I charge them just the sales tax and I write a statement of fact. "This car -- the buyer understand this car is not smogged. Is not safety. Is not running" so he won't come back to me. The car is -- has major things wrong. And I charge them cheap amount of money. He gets the title. It's up to him to go to DMV or not, but I send the reported sale for how much I paid this vehicle.

When I write it down I write it for this amount. So they cannot come and say I have estimate value of some cars for these cars. They couldn't find it or something, because these cars, some of them -- big number of cars they are like -- sometime people don't pay for the car when it's broken. We're talking a buy here, pay here people. Okay? So when the car broke it, come and get your car.

I can get in the car broken and sometimes to tow it to auction. Some of these cars I sell it to copart. Some of them I sell them to, like, some little auction. And some cars I sell to public which is the DMV allow me if I am selling it as junk or for parts or has major

1 | things wrong and I hand the title.

2.4

JUDGE LONG: Right. I'm sorry, I don't necessarily want to interrupt, but what I'm trying to ask is this: You submitted a little over 1,200 pages of exhibits. And what -- and the audit measure is in dispute, the amount of unreported taxable sales is in dispute. And what I'm really looking for is specifics as to which cars are disputed. An example of a -- an example of where in the audit work papers you believe there to be an incorrect transaction.

MR. KAMEL: We don't know, your Honor. We didn't have a report from Board of Equalization say "you are doing this wrong and this wrong and this wrong" so we can talk. We were wait for somebody to come and talk to us, but nobody did.

MR. ABDELMALEK: I think when we get the report we will know which cars are in the report. It's not on the -- in our report.

JUDGE LONG: Okay. Thank you. I don't have anymore questions.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Judge Akopchikyan, do you have any questions?

JUDGE AKOPCHIKYAN: Ovsep Akopchikyan speaking. I have no questions. Thank you.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Okay. At this time you have five to

10 minutes to make a rebuttal, or if some there's something else that you'd like to add. Or are you done?

MR. ABDELMALEK: I'm done.

2.4

MR. KAMEL: I'm just -- what I'm trying to say the difference between the DMV reports and the reported for the Board of Equalization, what the difference is. Some of the cars was bought back from the get-go. Some cars, like, say, people promise me to give me 500 next week and you see them running away, I got to chase them to get my car back.

If this car showed I pay all the sales tax for it, I can't, because it was just like a no deal. That's what makes a lot of differences in amount of DMV and Board of Equalization. That's why I would like to see where -- what I submitted is everything I have. Every stock number, that's why I submitted. And in every page or every car I sold I write my bad debt, "this amount." So at least they can see how much bad debt I'm having. But if they are claiming that because of timely manner I cannot claim bad debts, nobody has talked to me about it. I would love to.

MR. ABDELMALEK: Just -- I want to submit the DMV report. And I can get example of that that has human mistake due to adding some cars with the wrong dealer number. And we had this problem with other dealers and

it was corrected.

Sometimes the name, it seems similar, but it has dealer ID number or -- so they are located in their computer with the wrong dealer ID number. So what we will do, we'll go through the DMV report and the actual ones and everyone it's not ours we will bring it. What kind of proof to prove it's not ours? We will contact the auction, you know. So that's what we'll -- how we'll prove it, you know. So our report came from the computer, not as it was found by the department. It's unreliable report. That's the actual report. The other report is the unreliable one.

JUDGE ALDRICH: Thank you.

So I think we have everyone's arguments on the record. Are there any final comments? I'm seeing a no from Judge Long. No? Okay.

Thank you, everyone, for your time. We're ready to conclude the hearing for this afternoon. The record is going to be held open. I'll issue some post-hearing orders to give clarification, but the general premise is that there's 30 days from today for Appellant's representative to, I guess, respond to the department's exhibits. And then the department will have 30 days thereafter to respond, as far as the briefing schedule goes.

So once those -- once the additional briefing period has concluded the 100 days in which we have to send out opinion will start then. I just wanted to thank everyone for your time this afternoon and I hope you have a wonderful afternoon. This concludes today's hearing calendar. (Proceedings concluded at 3:00 p.m.)

1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE			
2				
3	I, CYNTHIA P. HERNANDEZ, CSR NO. 13521, Certified			
4	Shorthand Reporter, certify;			
5	That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me			
6	at the time and place therein set forth.			
7	That the testimony of the witness, the questions			
8	propounded, and all objections and statements made were			
9	recorded stenographically by me and were thereafter			
10	transcribed;			
11	That the foregoing is a true and correct transcript			
12	f my shorthand notes so taken.			
13	I further certify that I am not a relative or			
14	employee of any of the parties, nor financially			
15	interested in the action.			
16	I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of			
17	fornia that the foregoing is true and correct.			
18	Dated this 23rd day of October, 2022.			
19				
20				
21				
22	CYNTHIA P. HERNANDEZ, CSR NO. 13521			
23				
24				

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