



CASE NO: A-24-888974-C  
Department 13

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7  
8 **EIGHTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA**

10 THE HINDU SOCIETY OF NEVADA, a  
non-profit religious organization,  
11  
12 Plaintiff,  
v.

Case No.:  
Dept. No.:

13 JAGDISH MEHTA, in his capacity as Active  
Trustee of The Hindu Society of Nevada;  
14 AMARATBHAI PATEL, in his capacity as  
Active Trustee of The Hindu Society of  
15 Nevada; NUTAN PARIKH, in his capacity as  
an Inactive Trustee of The Hindu Society of  
16 Nevada Board of Trustees; PRATIK  
DUDHIA, in his capacity as a general  
17 member of The Hindu Society of Nevada;  
SOMENDRA MUKHERJEE, in his capacity  
18 as a general member of The Hindu Society of  
Nevada; RAKESH PATEL, in his capacity as  
19 a general member of The Hindu Society of  
Nevada; BHARTI GUPTA, in her capacity as  
20 a general member of The Hindu Society of  
Nevada; DOES 1 through 20;  
21 ROE ENTITIES 21-30.

**COMPLAINT**  
**(Request for Business Court Assignment Pursuant to EDCR 1.61(a)(2)(ii))**  
**(Exempt from Arbitration – Equitable and Declaratory and Injunctive Relief Requested)**

22 Defendants.

23  
24 Plaintiff The Hindu Society of Nevada, a non-profit religious organization, hereby states  
25 as its complaint against Defendants Jagdish Metha, in his capacity as Active Trustee of the Hindu  
26 Society of Nevada Board of Trustees; Amaratbhai Patel, in his capacity as an Active Trustee of  
27 The Hindu Society of Nevada Board of Trustees; Nutan Parikh, in his capacity as an Inactive  
28 Trustee of The Hindu Society of Nevada Board of Trustees; Pratik Dudhia, in his capacity as a

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1 general member of The Hindu Society of Nevada; Somendra Mukherjee, in his capacity as a  
2 general member of The Hindu Society of Nevada; Rakesh Patel, in his capacity as a general  
3 member of The Hindu Society of Nevada; and Bharti Gupta, in her capacity as a general member  
4 of The Hindu Society of Nevada (collectively "Defendants") as follows:

5 **NATURE OF THE CASE**

6 1. This litigation arises from a tragic attempt to disrupt the affairs and complete a  
7 hostile takeover of The Hindu Society of Nevada ("Society") – a non-profit religious organization  
8 that owns and operates a Hindu and Jain religion, spiritual, social and cultural temple called the  
9 "Hindu and Jain Temple of Las Vegas" ("the Temple"). The Temple serves approximately  
10 5,000 people in the Las Vegas community.

11 2. A group of disgruntled members who lost a recent Temple election have purported  
12 to form a "Shadow Board" and are trying to wrestle the operation and financial control of the  
13 Temple away from the duly elected officers. The Shadow Board's actions have disrupted the  
14 Temple's affairs, caused conflict among members, and sown confusion in the public. The  
15 Shadow Board's election denialism has been catastrophic to the Society's democratic governance  
16 and its spiritual and cultural place in the community.

17 3. Thus, this action seeks declaratory and injunctive relief from the Court declaring  
18 the rightful office holders and enjoining the unauthorized acts of the Shadow Board.

19 **THE PARTIES**

20 4. The Hindu Society of Nevada ("Society") is a non-profit religious organization that  
21 owns and operates a multi-cultural temple called the "Hindu and Jain Temple of Las Vegas"  
22 ("Temple") which is located at 1701 Sageberry Drive, Las Vegas, Nevada, 89144.

23 5. Defendant Jagdish Mehta is sued in his capacity as an Active Trustee of the  
24 Society.

25 6. Defendant Amaratbhai Patel is sued in his capacity as an Active Trustee of the  
26 Society.

27 7. Defendant Nutan Parikh is sued in his capacity as an Inactive Trustee of the  
28 Society.



1           17.     Article VI further mandates "All actions and/or votes by the Board of Trustees  
2 shall include only active members of the Board of Trustees as defined in the Society's By-Laws."

3           18.     The Society is comprised of "Trustees" and "General Members."

4           19.     "Trustee" status is granted to individuals and couples that are nominated and  
5 approved by at least 75% of the Trustees at the time of the potential admission of the new Trustee  
6 and requires a payment of a donation of a minimum of \$50,000. Trustee status is a life position.  
7 Importantly, "[o]nly Active Trustees, as defined in Section 6.1 of these By-Laws shall be allowed  
8 to participate in and vote at meetings of the Board of Trustees."

9           20.     "General Members" are able to attend "the General Body Meeting" and "have  
10 voting rights for the General Body Meeting." Trustees also "have General Membership Status."

11          21.     "Trustee" status may be terminated for certain reasons, including resignation in  
12 writing submitted to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, "and as approved by a vote of three-  
13 fourths (75%) of the Board of Trustees."

14          22.     Under Article 6.1 of the By-Laws, "All Trustees shall be eligible to be a member  
15 of the Board of Trustees, but only Active Trustees shall be allowed to participate in and vote at  
16 meetings of the Board of Trustees."

17          23.     Further, under Article 6.1, "Active Members of the Board of Trustees are defined  
18 as qualifying Trustees under Section 1.2(a) of these By-Laws who have not resigned their active  
19 positions, have attended at least three (3) of the last five (5) consecutive meetings of the Board of  
20 Trustees and who reside in Clark County, Nevada."

21          24.     Trustees who do not attend three (3) of five (5) consecutive Board meetings are  
22 designated as "Inactive Trustees." An Inactive Trustee may request reinstatement to an Active  
23 Trustee by written request to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. Reinstatement to an  
24 Active Trustee requires "approval of a majority (51%) of the Board and a confirmed residence in  
25 Clark County, Nevada."

26          25.     As of December 10, 2023, there were nine (9) Active Trustees on the Board of  
27 Trustees.  
28

1           26.     The Board of Trustees meet quarterly and may holding meetings at other times as  
2 determined by the Chairperson. Notice of each meeting, specifying the date, time, place, and the  
3 agenda for the meeting, shall be in writing and mailed to all Trustees by the Chairperson at least  
4 ten (10) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting. A majority (51%) of the Active Members  
5 of the Board shall constitute a quorum. No proxy votes are allowed and no individual other than  
6 the voting Trustee shall be allowed to vote on matters requiring approval of the Board of Trustees.  
7 "Business shall be conducted by a majority vote (51%) of the Trustees present and voting,  
8 provided the quorum requirements specified" "shall have been met."

9           27.     The Constitution and By-Laws establish that only the *Active Trustees* hold the  
10 ultimate decision-making authority and power to hold elections and establish positions including  
11 a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and an Executive Committee comprised of a President,  
12 Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

13           28.     "A Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson shall be elected by the Board of Trustees  
14 from its membership on a bi-annual basis at the final quarterly meeting of the year to serve for the  
15 succeeding two years." The Chairperson, and in the Chairperson's absence, the Vice-Chairperson,  
16 shall preside over all meetings of the Board. Only an Active Trustee may be eligible to be a  
17 Chairperson or a Vice-Chairperson.

18           29.     The Society's Executive Committee is comprised of a President, Vice President,  
19 Treasurer, and Secretary, along with the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. The  
20 Executive Committee shall be elected by the Board of Trustees every two years, the terms of  
21 which shall be concurrent with those of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson of the Board of  
22 Trustees.

23           30.     The Nominations Committee consists of the Chairperson, as well as the President  
24 and Secretary of the Executive Committee. These three members shall serve as the election  
25 officers and supervise all such elections.

26           31.     All nominations for officers shall be submitted in writing to the Nominations  
27 Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the bi-annual Board of Trustees Meeting. The  
28

1 Nominations Committee shall prepare ballots with the names of the candidates, if necessary, and  
2 submit them to the Trustees for vote at the meeting.

3 32. The election of Officers shall be by a majority vote of the Active Trustees present  
4 at the bi-annual meeting of the Board of Trustees where a quorum is present.

5 33. The decision of the Nominations Committee shall be final unless appealed by a  
6 candidate, in which case any appeal shall be subject to review by the Board of Trustees. An  
7 appeal must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees within seven days after the  
8 announcement of the election results. The decision of the Board of Trustees as to any election  
9 appeal shall be final and not subject to review.

10 34. The Secretary is tasked with maintaining the minutes of the Executive Committee  
11 meetings which must be submitted and approved by the Executive Committee and the Board of  
12 Trustees. The Secretary is also required to maintain the minutes of all Board of Trustees meetings  
13 and send copies to the Board of Trustees for approval.

14 **The December 10, 2023 Bi-Annual Election of the Chairperson,  
15 Vice-Chairperson, and Executive Committee**

16 35. On November 6, 2023, Active Trustee and then Co-Chairman, Mr. Latpate,  
17 emailed a notice to all Trustees and announced the upcoming bi-annual election for the Executive  
18 Committee positions for the term commencing January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025. The  
19 notice provides that all nominations should be sent to the email box  
20 contactus@hindutemplelv.org. The notice also requested all nominations be submitted by no later  
21 than November 30, 2023 and that the Board "will convene during the second week of December  
22 to select the new Executive Committee members." A corresponding notice announcing the  
23 election was also published on the Temple's website.

24 36. On November 20, 2023, then-President Paresh Joshi circulated the agenda for the  
25 upcoming Board of Trustees meeting on December 10, 2023.

26 37. On November 30, 2023, Mr. Latpate sent a notice to all Trustees extending the  
27 deadline to submit nominations for the Executive Committee positions to December 6, 2023.

28

1 38. No Trustee or General Member objected to the extension of the nominations  
2 submission deadline which moved the deadline from November 30, 2023 to December 6, 2023.

3 39. On December 3, 2023, Trustee (and then-current Chairman) Jagdish Mehta  
4 emailed all Trustees indicating that Trustee Amaratbhai Patel had a "special request." Mr. Patel  
5 asked that all of the names and applications of the candidates who have expressed interest in  
6 applying for an Executive Committee position be circulated amongst the Trustees so that the  
7 Trustees could "know their characteristics ahead of time so we can do some appropriate research  
8 on them." Mr. Mehta continued that if "any new applications" were submitted that those "can be  
9 forwarded too."

10 40. At Mr. Patel and Mr. Mehta's request, on December 4, 2023, Mr. Latpate  
11 circulated the names and information of the candidates who had applied as of that date  
12 (December 4, 2023).

13 41. On December 10, 2023, the Board of Trustees conducted the bi-annual election.  
14 Eight of the nine Active Trustees<sup>1</sup> were present to vote in the election. Prior to taking the vote, the  
15 then-Executive Committee President Paresh Joshi interviewed each candidate in person. With a  
16 quorum established,<sup>2</sup> all Active Trustees present voted by a show of hands. The election results  
17 were as follows:

- 18 • Chairperson: Gopi Latpate (unanimous)
- 19 • Vice Chairperson: Dr. Savita Dixit (unanimous)
- 20 • Executive Committee:
  - 21 (1) Mohan Achanta (President) (5 out of 9 votes)
  - 22 (2) Pratik Dudhia (Vice President) (8 out of 9 votes)
  - 23 (3) Girish Kaimal (Secretary) (5 out of 9 votes)
  - 24 (4) Deepa Varatkar, CPA (Treasurer) (7 out of 9 votes)

25 <sup>1</sup> (1) Ranjit Jain, (2) Jaldeep Daulat, (3) Amaratbhai (Amrat) Patel, (4) Jagdish Mehta,  
26 (5) Ram Janga, (6) Gopi Latpate, (7) Ujwala Mahatme, and (8) Savita Dixit. Nutan Parikh, who  
27 was an Inactive Trustee at the time, requested and was allowed to vote in the election with the  
approval of the Active Trustees.

28 <sup>2</sup> Pursuant to the minutes, "There was a required quorum, and it was fulfilled by  
Seven Trustees that were physically present and two on the phone."

1           42.     On December 15, 2023, Pratik Dudhia sent an email to then-Chairman Mr. Mehta  
2 asking to "null and void the recent Hindu Temple Executive Committee election" claiming it was  
3 "highly irregular, and the Board of Trustees disregarded the Temple bylaws, to say the least."  
4 Specifically, Mr. Dudhia complained that the extension of the application deadline  
5 (November 30th to December 6th) was improper and that a nominations committee should have  
6 been formed and was not.

7           43.     Subsequently, on or about December 16, 2023, three Trustees (who were not  
8 election "candidates" and thus had no standing to appeal) sent an email to Mr. Mehta asking to  
9 "have a meeting of the nominating committee to select members from the applicants who have  
10 sent their applications by November 30, 2023," and "Perform a new election among candidates  
11 who have been selected by the nominated committee."

12           44.     On December 16, 2023, Mr. Mehta sent an email to the Trustees stating that out of  
13 "concern for the temple's legal well being" that he had decided to unilaterally cancel the election  
14 of the Executive Committee members to "correct our serious mistakes of not conducting  
15 nomination committee meeting and sticking to our deadline of November 30, 2023."

16           45.     Setting aside that there was no legitimate basis to invalidate the election in the first  
17 place, Mr. Mehta has no unilateral power to cancel the election under the By-Laws.

18           46.     Worse, Mr. Mehta also informed the Trustees that he planned to arrange a "quick  
19 election" to replace the December 10th Executive Committee members. Mr. Mehta purports to  
20 have created his own "nominating committee." Mr. Mehta asked for a response to his email as  
21 well as any objection to his proposals.

22           47.     On December 16, 2023, Mr. Latpate responded to Mr. Mehta's email rejecting any  
23 suggestion that there should be a "quick election." Mr. Latpate pointed out that first a Board of  
24 Trustees meeting should be held to discuss any election cancellation because the decision should  
25 be a collective decision by the Board of Trustees and not an individual one. In closing,  
26 Mr. Latpate stated that he decided to resign from his roles as Trustee and the future Chairman of  
27 the Board.

28

1           48.     Thereafter, certain Trustees requested to have an emergency meeting with the  
2 Board of Trustees to address these outstanding issues. On December 19, 2023, Trustee Ranjit Jain  
3 called for an emergency Board of Trustees meeting for January 7, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. and enclosed  
4 an agenda to discuss and review the bylaws, trustee resignations, Mr. Dudhia's election email  
5 dated December 15, 2023, as well as a discussion about whether the election would be voided.

6           49.     On December 27, 2023, certain Trustees decided to escalate the matter and  
7 threatened "legal action" if the January 7, 2024 emergency meeting went forward "or any other  
8 date in the future." Based upon the repeated and improper threat of "legal action," Mr. Jain  
9 cancelled the emergency meeting.

10          50.     On December 29, 2023, Mr. Latpate rescinded his resignation from the Board after  
11 further consideration and extended a proposal to discuss the issues with each Trustee to amicably  
12 resolve the conflict and avoid unnecessary legal expenditures.

13          51.     Upon information and belief, then-Chairman, Mr. Mehta, has since purported to  
14 organize his own "Shadow Board" to replace the December 10, 2023 elected officials. The  
15 unauthorized Shadow Board consists of: Defendants Amaratbhai Patel (for Chairman), Pratik  
16 Dudhia (for President), Bharti Gupta (for Vice President), Soumendra Mookerjee (for Secretary),  
17 Rakesh Patel (for Treasurer) (herein collectively the "Shadow Board").

18          52.     Upon information and belief, Mr. Mehta did not follow Society By-Laws, did not  
19 have a quorum necessary to conduct a Board of Trustees meeting much less elect a new Executive  
20 Committee, Chair or Vice-Chair of the Board of Trustees, and he had no authority to attempt to  
21 replace the December 10, 2023 duly-elected officials.

22          53.     The Defendants' and the Shadow Board's actions, and especially those erroneously  
23 taken by Mr. Mehta, have disrupted the Temple's affairs, caused significant conflict amongst  
24 members, and sown confusion in the public.

25          54.     For instance, the actions of the Shadow Board and its followers (Rao Gondy) have  
26 caused the Temple's bank account at Meadows Bank to be frozen due to the uncertainty  
27 surrounding the authorized officials. The Shadow Board has also spurred a dispute about  
28 collections and donations. Similarly, upon information and belief, the Shadow Board and its

1 followers (again, Rao Gondy) falsified Secretary of State filings which has exacerbated confusion  
2 and chaos amongst the Society and public.

3 55. The parties are at an impasse and require Court intervention to declare and confirm  
4 the validity of the December 10, 2023 election and the authority of the rightful officers.

5 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

6 **(Declaratory Relief)**

7 56. Plaintiff repeats and realleges the allegations set forth above as though fully set  
8 forth herein.

9 57. Under Nevada Revised Statute 30.030, "Courts of record within their respective  
10 jurisdictions shall have power to declare rights, status and other legal relations whether or not  
11 further relief is or could be claimed. No action or proceeding shall be open to objection on the  
12 ground that a declaratory judgment or decree is prayed for. The declaration may be either  
13 affirmative or negative in form and effect; and such declarations shall have the force and effect of  
14 a final judgment or decree."

15 58. Nevada Revised Statute 30.040(1) provides that "Any person interested under a  
16 deed, written contract or other writings constituting a contract, or whose rights, status or other  
17 legal relations are affected by a statute, municipal ordinance, contract or franchise, may have  
18 determined any question of construction or validity arising under the instrument, statute,  
19 ordinance, contract or franchise and obtain a declaration of rights, status or other legal relations  
20 thereunder."

21 59. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between and among the parties  
22 regarding their respective rights, status, authority to act, or other legal relations under the Temple  
23 Constitution and By-Laws.

24 60. The December 10, 2023 election was duly noticed on November 6, 2023 and the  
25 notice was delivered to all Trustees in accordance with Society By-Laws.

26 61. The November 6th notice provided the manner and deadline in which to submit a  
27 candidate's nomination to the Society's general email box.

28

1           62.    On November 30, 2023, the deadline to submit nominations was extended six  
2 additional days to December 6, 2023.

3           63.    The election took place on December 10, 2023. All candidates were interviewed  
4 by the Board of Trustees. Thereafter, the Active Trustees voted by a show of hands. The vote and  
5 election results were recorded in the minutes by the Secretary. The election itself was otherwise  
6 uneventful.

7           64.    No one objected to the manner or method of the election beforehand or during the  
8 election.

9           65.    Five days after the election, and only after learning the election results, a Trustee  
10 (and candidate) emailed Mr. Mehta asking to nullify the entire election citing issues with the  
11 nominations process including the six-day deadline extension.

12           66.    No appeal or challenge was made to the actual vote count.

13           67.    There is also no prohibition in the By-Laws for extensions and no objection was  
14 made by any Trustee at any time before the election date or even during the election date. Indeed,  
15 the subject candidate did not object at the time and instead participated in the election without  
16 complaint.

17           68.    To the extent there is any basis for the candidate's appeal, the objections were  
18 waived by failing to object at any point prior to the election and instead fully participating in the  
19 election.

20           69.    Notwithstanding the waiver and/or ratification issue, the election outcome would  
21 still be the same as no one is challenging the actual vote count which was transparently performed  
22 by a show of hands and recorded in the official minutes.

23           70.    Pursuant to NRS 30.040, Plaintiff therefore seeks a declaratory judgment from the  
24 Court declaring:

25           a.    The December 10, 2023 election was valid;

26           b.    The duly elected officers are: Gopi Latpate (Chairperson); Dr. Savita Dixit  
27                   (Vice Chairperson); Mohan Achanta (President); Pratik  
28

- 1 Dudhia (Vice President); Girish Kaimal (Secretary), and Deepa Varatkar,  
2 CPA (Treasurer) ("Duly Elected Officers");
- 3 c. The Duly Elected Officers are the only individuals with the authority to act  
4 on behalf of the Society and Temple as provided in the Constitution and  
5 By-Laws;
- 6 d. No other individuals have authority to act on behalf of the Society and  
7 Temple as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws; and
- 8 e. Any other declaration necessary to carry out the foregoing declarations.

9 71. As a result of the acts and omissions of Defendants, Plaintiff has been compelled  
10 to hire the services of an attorney to protect its interests and it is entitled to reimbursement of its  
11 attorneys' fees and costs incurred in the prosecution of this action.

12 **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

13 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays for judgment as follows:

- 14 1. For declaratory judgment as set forth herein;
- 15 2. For a temporary restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunctive relief  
16 prohibiting Defendants from acting without authority under the Society's Constitution and By-Laws;
- 17 3. For a necessary writ of quo warranto;
- 18 4. For an award of reasonable costs and attorneys' fees as provided by law, including  
19 those authorized under NRS Chapter 18; and,
- 20 5. Any additional relief this Court deems just, proper, and equitable.

21 Plaintiff reserves the right to amend this complaint to seek monetary damages.

22 DATED this 12th day of March, 2024.

23 PISANELLI BICE PLLC

24  
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