

FOR PUBLICATION

**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

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4 In re:)
5 JASPAL DEOL) Case No. 18-23885-C-7
6 _____ Debtor.)
7 PRABHAKAR GOEL, GOEL FAMILY) Adv. Pro. 18-02155
8 VENTURES I LP, a Limited)
9 Partnership, and ECONERGY, INC.,)
10 a California Corporation,)
11 v.)
12 JASPAL DEOL,)
13 _____ Defendant.)

OPINION*

In this cross-border US-India arbitration dispute the defense counsel captured its essence with his assertion that: "At its core, this case was nothing more than a breach of contract dispute gone wild." The problem is that defendant is the one who "went wild" and dug his own grave.

Applicable rules of issue preclusion arising from an arbitration that complied with basic elements of adjudicatory procedure doom the defendant regarding exception to discharge under 11 U.S.C. §§ 523(a)(2) and 523(a)(4). Independent evidence dooms the defendant to exception to discharge under 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(6).

*This Opinion replaces the Memorandum entered October 16, 2024.

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The Dispute

The dispute between Jaspal Deol on the one hand and Prabhakar Goel and Goel Family Ventures I LP (“GFV”) on the other hand involved Loan and Co-Development Agreements for a solar power plant project by their corporation Econergy, Inc., near the village of Boparai Kalan, District of Ludhiana, State of Punjab, India.

Deol and Goel are California residents, and GFV is a California entity. The agreements were negotiated and executed in California, with an express California choice of law provision. The agreements were construed as a single contract in JAMS Arbitration Case No. 1110016365. The loans and financing occurred primarily in California. Project construction and performance occurred in India.

Pursuant to the agreements, GFV obtained 49% of the shares of Econergy, Inc. Deol retained 51% of the shares. Both Deol and Goel were Directors of Econergy.

During construction, both Deol and Goel were involved in on-site supervision and both traveled between California and Punjab on multiple occasions.

Deol was in control of the solar power project when it was completed and producing power into the electric grid.

At some point, Deol, in effect, froze Goel out, even though Goel was a Director of the corporation and had funded a substantial portion of the construction. Deol rejected GFV’s exercise of an option to purchase one-half of the project real estate.

Among other things: Deol without notice to Goel replaced the

1 accountant for the joint project with an accountant answerable
2 only to Deol; did not distribute to Goel, or account to Goel for,
3 project revenues; without notice to Goel filed tax returns for
4 Econergy in California and in India claiming he was the sole
5 owner of the project; and transferred Econergy revenues to
6 himself.

7
8 Procedure

9 Goel demanded arbitration. Deol counterclaimed. Initial
10 proceedings pursuant to JAMS Comprehensive Arbitration Rules
11 occurred over eleven days in 2016.

12 The JAMS Arbitrator was a seasoned California jurist, Hon.
13 Robert A. Baines, Retired Judge of the Superior Court. The
14 arbitration decision, which comprises 88 single-spaced pages,
15 bears the indicia of a conventional, fully-litigated lawsuit in a
16 bench trial in which the arbitrator applied basic California law
17 with explanations for each ruling based on evidence and legal
18 reasoning.

19 The JAMS arbitration decision in favor of Goel for monetary
20 relief of \$1,466,564, together with injunctive relief, and
21 monetary relief of \$787,648 in favor of Deol, was confirmed by
22 the Santa Clara County California Superior Court.

23 On Deol's appeal, the California Sixth District Court of
24 Appeal affirmed with an agreed modification reducing the Goel
25 parties' award by \$352,309 on a theory of double counting.

26 The California Supreme Court denied Deol's Petition for
27 Review.

28 JAMS Arbitration Case No. 1110016365 was resolved by a

1 series of awards:

2 Partial Final Award. 6/21/2017.
3 Order Enjoining Actions Undertaken by Jaspal Singh Deol in
4 Violation of Orders Issued in this Proceeding. 8/16/2017.
5 Further Partial Final Award Determining Value of Jaspal
6 Deol's Interest in Econergy, Inc., and Value of Ludhiana
7 Land. 2/20/2018.
8 Further Injunctive Orders Directed to Jaspal Singh Deol.
9 2/20/2018.
10 Further Injunctive Orders Directed to Jaspal Singh Deol.
11 2/20/2018. [second order of same date]
12 Further Partial Final Award. 4/30/2018.
13 Order on Attorneys' Fees, Costs, and Interest on
14 Distributions. 11/16/2018.
15 Final Award. 11/16/2018.

16 The JAMS arbitrator noted at the end of the April 30, 2018,
17 Further Partial Final Award, "As of the writing of this Further
18 Partial Award, Deol has not fully complied with the above-
19 described orders. Enforcement through the courts appears needed."
20 Further Partial Award at 65.

21 Deol filed a chapter 13 case in this Court on June 20, 2018.
22 This Court by order entered October 31, 2018, granted Goel's
23 motion for relief from the automatic stay to permit completion of
24 the JAMS arbitration as to which fees, costs, and interest were
25 not yet resolved.

26 Following the grant of stay relief, the JAMS Arbitrator
27 entered his determination of fees, costs, and interest and his
28 Final Award November 16, 2018. The award of reasonable attorneys
fees was \$985,788.72. Costs totaled \$232,869.66. The Final Award
also included injunctive relief.

The Santa Clara County Superior Court confirmed the JAMS
Final Arbitration Award on January 10, 2019. Deol appealed.

The Sixth District Court of Appeal affirmed in a 28-page
opinion filed February 10, 2022. Deol petitioned for Supreme
Court review.

1 The California Supreme Court denied Deol's Petition For
2 Review on May 11, 2022.

3 The Deol bankruptcy case was converted from chapter 13 to
4 chapter 11 by order entered June 21, 2019. After three years of
5 protracted but fruitless mediation, a chapter 11 trustee was
6 appointed November 2, 2022, thereby ousting Deol from Debtor in
7 Possession status.

8 The case was converted to chapter 7 at the recommendation of
9 the chapter 11 trustee effective December 15, 2023.

10
11 Adversary Proceeding

12 In the bankruptcy case, Prabhakar Goel, Goel Family Ventures
13 I LP, and Econergy, Inc. filed a Complaint commencing adversary
14 proceeding 2018-02155 on October 1, 2018. In addition to
15 requesting declarations that the then-incomplete JAMS Arbitration
16 rulings are binding on Deol, the Complaint alleged Deol's debts
17 to them are excepted from discharge on three counts: 11 U.S.C.
18 § 523(a)(2) for Actual Fraud; § 523(a)(4) Defalcation in a
19 fiduciary Capacity; and § 523(a)(4) Embezzlement and Larceny.

20 The evidentiary phase of the trial occurred October 24-25,
21 2019. At the close of the plaintiff's evidence, a fourth count
22 under § 523(a)(6) Willful and Malicious Injury was added to
23 conform to evidence on a theory of implied consent pursuant to
24 Civil Rule 15(b)(2). Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(b)(2), incorporated by
25 Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7015.

26 The parties subsequently presented their closing arguments
27 in writing. (Dkts. 52, 54 & 57). They also have filed Proposed
28 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law. (Dkts. 198 & 200).

1 The parties requested that this Court defer decision pending
2 completion of contested arbitration confirmation proceedings in
3 state court, which completion did not occur until the California
4 Supreme Court denied a Petition to Review the order of the Sixth
5 District Court of Appeal.

6 Thereafter, the parties continued to participate in
7 voluntary mediation discussions with another judge of this court.
8 Those efforts having come to naught, the adversary proceeding is
9 now ripe for decision.

11 Jurisdiction

12 Jurisdiction is founded on 28 U.S.C. § 1334(b). This is a
13 core proceeding that a Bankruptcy Judge may hear and determine.
14 28 U.S.C. § 157(b) (2) (I). To the extent it may ever be determined
15 not to be a core proceeding, the parties are nevertheless agreed
16 it may be heard and determined by a bankruptcy judge.

18 Record

19 As noted the arbitration award comprising 88 single-spaced
20 pages bears the indicia of a conventional, fully-litigated
21 lawsuit in a bench trial in which the arbitrator applied basic
22 California law based on evidence with legal reasoning explaining
23 each ruling.

24 This Court has carefully reviewed the entire award and notes
25 that it stands as admirable and persuasive judicial craftsmanship
26 by a seasoned jurist performing in the same fashion as a trial
27 judge in a bench trial.

28 The arbitration satisfied all aspects of judicial-like

1 adjudicatory procedure as prescribed by JAMS rules. The JAMS
2 comprehensive arbitration rules were applied. Parties could
3 subpoena witnesses and present documentary evidence. Witnesses
4 testified under oath before an impartial arbitrator regarding a
5 single set of facts. The arbitrator adjudicated the dispute in a
6 detailed reasoned decision.

7 The JAMS comprehensive arbitration rules are consistent with
8 the requirements of the Restatement(Second) of Judgments § 83(2)
9 and § 84(3).

10 The key Restatement concept is that there have been an
11 "adjudicative determination" based on the "essential elements of
12 adjudication," including: (1) adequate notice to persons to be
13 bound; (2) right of parties to present and rebut evidence and
14 argument; (3) formulation of issues of law and fact; (4) rule of
15 finality specifying when presentations are terminated; and (5)
16 such other procedural elements as may be necessary for the
17 proceeding to be deemed a sufficient means of conclusively
18 determining the matter in question, having regard for its
19 magnitude and complexity. Restatement(Second) of Judgments
20 § 83(2) ("Adjudicative Determination by Administrative Tribunal")
21 (1982).

22 Valid and final arbitration awards, in general, are entitled
23 to the same effects under preclusion rules as a judgment of a
24 court so long as the procedure leading to the award satisfied
25 "the elements of adjudicatory procedure prescribed in § 83(2)."
26 Restatement(Second) of Judgments § 84 ("Arbitration Award")
27 (1982).

28 As described by the JAMS arbitrator,

1 this was a detailed, convoluted, and hard-fought matter. It
2 involved claims of several million dollars and a battle for
3 control of a corporation and a solar power plant in India.
4 The underlying events spanned several years, and their
5 recounting involved witnesses from the U.S., India, and
6 Spain.

7 Order on Attorneys Fees, at 7-8.

8 The Plaintiffs have Proposed Findings of Fact and
9 Conclusions of Law (Dkt. 200), which this Court has carefully
10 reviewed in conjunction with the arbitration record and concludes
11 that it is accurate.

12 Subject to the comments set forth herein, this Court ADOPTS
13 the Plaintiffs' Proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law
14 as its own and incorporates them in this decision.

15 Analysis

16 The five counts in this adversary proceeding, two of which
17 are subject to issue preclusion, will be addressed in reverse
18 order.

19 I

20 Declaratory Judgment Dispute Moot

21 The Count Four request for a Declaratory Judgment that Deol
22 must obey the rulings of the JAMS arbitrator has been rendered
23 moot by the subsequent entry of a Final Award and a judgment
24 confirming the arbitration Final Award that has been confirmed,
25 tested on appeal, and is now final in all respects under
26 applicable nonbankruptcy law.

27 The Declaratory Judgment court was pled when the JAMS
28 arbitration was in an interlocutory status before there was a
Final Award.

1 During the pendency of this adversary proceeding: a Final
2 Award was entered; the Final Award was confirmed by a California
3 Superior Court in a manner that elevated the Final Award to the
4 status of a civil judgment; a California Court of Appeal modified
5 the monetary aspect of the Final Award and affirmed the Superior
6 Court in all other respects; and the California Supreme Court
7 denied a Petition for Review.

8 Accordingly, the JAMS arbitration award has been elevated to
9 the status of a judgment that after full appellate review is now
10 final and enforceable in all respects.

11 It being beyond cavil that Deol is bound to obey the final
12 judgment, the request for Declaratory Judgment in the Complaint
13 has been overtaken by events and is now MOOT.

14
15 II

16 Issue Preclusion

17 The Complaint alleged three counts of exception to discharge
18 under 11 U.S.C. § 523(a): Actual Fraud, § 523(a)(2); Defalcation
19 in Fiduciary Capacity, § 523(a)(4); Embezzlement and Larceny,
20 § 523(a)(4).

21 All three counts are eligible for application of the
22 discretionary doctrine of issue preclusion under California law.

23 Since the confirmation of the JAMS arbitration award has the
24 status of a judgment, federal courts must, as a matter of full
25 faith and credit, be afforded the same preclusive consequences as
26 would be afforded in California courts. Caldeira v. County of
27 Kauai, 866 F.2d 1175, 1177-78 (9th Cir. 1989); Khaligh v. Hadaegh
28 (In re Khaligh), 338 B.R. 817 (9th Cir. BAP 2006).

1 The basic features of California issue preclusion law were
2 restated by the California Supreme Court in Lucido v. Superior
3 Ct., 51 Cal.3d 335, 341-43 (1990). An additional qualification
4 regarding arbitration was introduced by the state Supreme Court's
5 decision in Vandenberg v. Superior Ct., 21 Cal.4th 815, 824
6 (1999). See Khaligh, 338 B.R. at 824.

7 Six basic elements must be satisfied before a court may
8 exercise its discretion to apply issue preclusion, five of which
9 are "threshold" requirements: (1) identical issue; (2) actually
10 litigated in the former proceeding; (3) necessarily decided in
11 the former proceeding; (4) former decision final and on the
12 merits; and (5) party against whom preclusion sought either the
13 same, or in privity with, party in former proceeding.

14 The sixth California element is a mandatory "additional"
15 inquiry into whether imposition of issue preclusion would be fair
16 and consistent with sound public policy. Lucido, 51 Cal.3d at
17 341-43; Khaligh, 338 B.R. at 824. The relevant public policies
18 include preserving integrity of judicial system, of judicial
19 economy, protection of litigants from harassment by vexatious
20 litigation. Lucido, 51 Cal.3d at 341-43; Khaligh, 338 B.R. at 824
21 n.2.

22 For arbitrations, the California Supreme Court sharpened the
23 point on the pencil in Vandenberg: "we adopt, for California
24 purposes, that rule that a private arbitration award cannot have
25 nonmutual collateral estoppel [i.e. issue preclusive] effect
26 unless the arbitral parties so agree." Vandenberg, 21 Cal.4th at
27 836-37 (emphasis supplied).

28 The state Supreme Court explained, whether any arbitration

1 is "fair and consistent with public policy in a particular case
2 depends in part upon the character of the forum that first
3 decided the issue later sought to be foreclosed." Courts consider
4 the "judicial nature of the prior forum, i.e. its legal
5 formality, the scope of its jurisdiction, and its procedural
6 safeguards, particularly including the opportunity for judicial
7 review of adverse rulings." Vandenberg, 21 Cal.4th at 829.

8 In that connection, California courts apply the same
9 standards used to determine whether an administrative proceeding
10 should have issue preclusive effect. See Restatement(Second) of
11 Judgments, §§ 83(2) & 84(3)(b) (1982); Vandenberg, 21 Cal.4th at
12 829 (citing administrative proceeding decisions); Givens v. CBS
13 Broadcasting, Inc., 291 F.3d 1173, 1178 (9th Cir. 2002)
14 (California law).

15 As noted, the JAMS comprehensive arbitration rules are
16 consistent with the standard of Restatement(Second) of Judgments,
17 §§ 83(2) & 84(3)(b).

18 Since the present case is not an instance of nonmutual issue
19 preclusion, the Vandenberg qualification does not apply to this
20 confirmed JAMS arbitration.

21
22 A

23 Nondischargeable "Actual Fraud" under § 523(a)(2) denotes
24 any fraud that involves moral turpitude or intentional wrong,
25 including deception and trickery that is done with wrongful
26 intent. Thus, it includes fraudulent conveyance schemes and
27 actions that can be effected without false representation, such
28 as by acts of concealment. Husky Int'l Electronics, Inc. v.

1 Ritz, 136 S.Ct. 1581, 1586-87 (2016); DZ Bank AG Deutsche Zentral-
2 Genossenschaft Bank v. Meyer, 869 F.3d 839, 842 (9th Cir. 2017).

3 The record establishes that Deol wrongfully seized the
4 property of Econergy, made unauthorized payments and
5 distributions all without notice to Goel.

6 This conduct was deceptive.

7 Deol engaged in multiple affirmative acts to conceal his
8 unauthorized payments and distributions.

9 Deol filed false tax returns reflecting he was sole
10 shareholder of Econergy.

11 Deol transferred Econergy funds to his own account.

12 Deol refused to provide information to Goel and GFV
13 regarding his actions and refused to provide information.

14 These actions demonstrate that Deol knew that what he was
15 doing was wrongful.

16 These same actions establish intention by Deol to deceive
17 and to defraud.

18 According to the arbitrator:

19 "Deol summarily fired Econergy's accountant, Vijay Goel,
20 C.A., in May of 2013, and took the corporation's accounting
21 work to his own accountant, Neelkant Gargya of Sanjay Arora,
22 C.A. However, in doing so, he did not tell Gargya about GFV
23 being a co-director and a 49% owner of the corporation, or
24 of Goel's loan of nearly \$1M to Econergy. Rather, Deol told
25 Gargya that he was the sole shareholder. As such, Gargya
26 filed an Indian 2012 tax return (for the fiscal year ending
27 March 31, 2012) that made no mention of Goel or GFV. Gargya
28 testified in his deposition that Deol never told him of the
existence of Goel or GFV or the loan."

Further Partial Final Award at 23-24.

Deol's concealment of his activities lulled the Goel parties
into proceeding on the assumption that all was well. Their
reliance was justifiable reliance within the meaning of that

1 concept.

2 Damages, measured by the JAMS arbitration award were
3 incurred in as a result of Deol's fraud.

4 As the JAMS arbitrator noted regarding Deol's secret
5 withdrawals, he "considers Deol's conduct with regard to these
6 distributions as primarily tortious." Hence, he concluded Civil
7 Code § 3288 applied to permit an award of interest and cited
8 Nordahl v. Franzalla, 48 Cal. App. 3d 657, 665 (1975): "when, by
9 virtue of fraud or breach of fiduciary duty of the defendant
10 plaintiff has been deprived of the use of his money or property
11 and is obligated to resort to litigation to recover it, the
12 inclusion of interest in the award is necessary in order to make
13 the plaintiff whole." Order on Attorneys' Fees at 11-12.

14 In short, this Court exercises its discretion to impose
15 issue preclusion against Deol on the issue of Actual Fraud under
16 § 523(a)(2).

17

18 B

19 Nondischargeable Defalcation while Acting in Fiduciary
20 Capacity under § 523(a)(4) was also alleged in the Complaint.

21 The JAMS arbitrator ruled that Deol engaged in actions that
22 violated his fiduciary duties to Goel and to Econergy:

23 Subsequent to his takeover, and except when challenged
24 by Goel's attorneys or ordered by the undersigned
25 [arbitrator], Deol appears to have continued to treat
26 Econergy as a solely owned business and his personal funding
27 source" and Deol "has moved Econergy funds to other bank
28 accounts within his exclusive control, both in India and the
U.S., and in the past has transferred Econergy's money to
one or more of his other solar ventures.

Further Partial Final Award at 48.

Similarly,

1 the amount Deol took out of Econergy's Indian bank accounts
2 and out of repatriated funds was clearly known to him; he
3 was the one making the withdrawals. He also knew that those
4 withdrawals were done without the co-owner's involvement or
5 consent. Deol also knew that GFV was a 49% owner of
6 Econergy, and entitled to 49% of any distributions made by
7 the corporation to its shareholders.

8 Order on Attorneys' Fees at 11.

9 This constitutes Defalcation while Acting in Fiduciary
10 Capacity within the meaning of § 523(a)(4).

11 In short, this Court exercises its discretion to impose
12 issue preclusion against Deol on the issue of Defalcation While
13 Acting in Fiduciary Capacity under § 523(a)(4).

14 C

15 Nondischargeable Embezzlement or Larceny under § 523(a)(4)
16 is also alleged in the Complaint.

17 The JAMS arbitrator ruled that

18 Subsequent to his takeover, and except when challenged by
19 Goel's attorneys or ordered by the undersigned Deol appears
20 to have continued to treat Econergy as a solely owned
21 business and his personal funding source" and Deol "has
22 moved Econergy funds to other bank accounts within his
23 exclusive control, both in India and the U.S., and in the
24 past has transferred Econergy's money to one or more of his
25 other solar ventures.

26 Further Partial Final Award at 48.

27 Similarly,

28 the amount Deol took out of Econergy's Indian bank accounts
and out of repatriated funds was clearly known to him; he
was the one making the withdrawals. He also knew that those
withdrawals were done without the co-owner's involvement or
consent. Deol also knew that GFV was a 49% owner of
Econergy, and entitled to 49% of any distributions made by
the corporation to its shareholders.

Order on Attorneys Fees at 11.

This adds up to Embezzlement or Larceny. Deol lawfully had
control over Econergy funds and misappropriated them to his

1 personal use in violation of the rights of Econergy.

2 In short, this Court exercises its discretion to impose
3 issue preclusion against Deol on the issue of Embezzlement or
4 Larceny under § 523(a)(4).

5

6 III

7 Nondischargeable Willful and Malicious Injury under
8 § 523(a)(6) was added to the Complaint as a fourth count at the
9 close of the Plaintiffs' case pursuant to Civil Rule 15(b)(2) on
10 the basis that the issue was tried by implied consent. Fed. R.
11 Civ. P. 15(b)(2), incorporated by Fed. R. Bankr. P. 7015.

12 The evidence of Deol's willfulness and malice consists
13 primarily of his contemptuous defiance of injunctive relief
14 ordered by the arbitrator.

15 As set forth in the Further Partial Final Award of April 30,
16 2018:

17 The June 21, 2017, Partial Final Award ordered Deol to
18 perform on the personal guarantee he had given to Goel as
19 part of the Loan Agreement. Although Deol was already in
20 default on this guarantee by the time of the June 21, 2017,
21 Partial Final Award, that Award gave him an additional
22 thirty days to perform on his guarantee.

23 Deol, however, refused to make the monetary payment,
24 and thus the undersigned ordered Deol to turn over to Goel
25 the property he had pledged as part of that guarantee (his
26 shares in Econergy and his land underlying the Econergy
27 solar farm).

28 Deol has not complied with the August 16, 2017, orders
and has also pursued litigation in India, on behalf of both
Econergy and himself, seeking to relitigate the matters
arbitrated and ruled upon in this proceeding.

As a result, the undersigned has issued subsequent and
more specific orders requiring Deol to comply with his
obligations in this matter (including turning over to Goel
the operations of the solar plant and the land thereunder),
and to refrain from attempting to collaterally attack the
rulings herein by way of legal action in India.

As of the writing of this Further Partial Final Award,
Deol has not fully complied with the above-described orders.
Enforcement through the courts appears needed.

1 Further Partial Final Award at 65.

2 Deol's course of contemptuous disdain of the arbitration
3 award continued once he commenced his bankruptcy case.

4 On multiple occasions, evidence was presented in this
5 Bankruptcy Court that Deol had caused surrogates in India to
6 pursue civil and criminal litigation in the nature of collateral
7 attacks on the arbitration award.

8 Deol's course of conduct before and after the filing of this
9 case was "willful" for purposes of § 523(a)(6) and inflicted
10 "deliberate or intentional injury" in the form of inflicting
11 additional expense on Goel and undermining respect for the
12 judicial system by way of his collateral attacks. Kawaauhau v.
13 Geiger, 523 U.S. 57, 61 (1998).

14 This Court finds as fact that Deol had a subjective intent
15 to inflict the injury. Deol knew or should have known that the
16 injury was substantially certain to occur as a result of his
17 strategy of collateral attack in India. Ormsby v. First American
18 (In re Ormsby), 591 F.3d 1199, 1207 (9th Cir. 2010); Petralia v.
19 Jercich (In re Jercich), 238 F.3d 1202, 1208 (9th Cir. 2001).

20 This Court finds as fact and law that Deol's conduct
21 constituted "malicious injury." His acts were wrongful, done
22 intentionally, necessarily caused injury, and were done without
23 just cause or excuse. Carillo v. Su (In re Su), 290 F.3d 1140,
24 1146-47; Jercich, 238 F.3d at 1209.

25 Intentional torts fall within the ambit of § 523(a)(6). The
26 JAMS arbitrator noted, "The undersigned considers Deol's conduct
27 with regard to these distributions as primarily tortious." Order
28 on Attorneys' Fees at 11. The aggressive foreign collateral

1 attack strategy being pursued by Deol was essentially tortious,
2 as well as contemptuous. Lockerby v. Sierra, 535 F.3d 1038 (9th
3 Cir. 2008).

4 It is also relevant that the public policy considerations
5 entailed in California's mandatory "additional" considerations
6 regarding whether imposing issue preclusion would be fair and
7 consistent with sound public policy - i.e., preserving integrity
8 of judicial system, of judicial economy, protection of litigants
9 from harassment by vexatious litigation - all apply to condemn
10 Deol's strategy of resistance and collateral attack in India.

11 Actions that offend the integrity of the judicial system,
12 that offend judicial economy, and that constitute harassment by
13 vexatious litigation may, as here, qualify as "willful and
14 malicious" pursuant to § 523(a)(6). Deol is culpable on all three
15 counts.

16 Hence, as an adequate, independent basis for a judgment of
17 nondischargeability, Deol's debts to Goel and GFV are excepted
18 from discharge pursuant to § 523(a)(6).

19

20 Conclusion

21 The count in the Complaint seeking declaratory judgment will
22 be DISMISSED AS MOOT.

23 Judgment will be entered on all other counts determining the
24 debts Defendant Jaspal Deol to Plaintiffs Prabhakar Goel and Goel
25 Family Ventures I LP determined in JAMS Arbitration Case No.
26 1110016365 are excepted from discharge pursuant to adequate,
27 independent theories of: 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(2)(A) Actual fraud;
28 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(4) Fraud or Defalcation While Acting in

1 Fiduciary Capacity; 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(4) Embezzlement or
2 Larceny; 11 U.S.C. § 523(a)(6) Willful and Malicious Injury by
3 the Debtor to Another Entity or to the Property of Another
4 Entity.

5 This Opinion contains findings of fact and conclusions of
6 law.

7 An appropriate Judgment shall be entered in a separate
8 document.

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10 Dated: October 18, 2024

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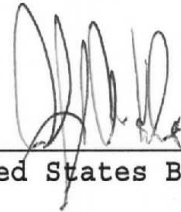
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United States Bankruptcy Judge