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8 **IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
9 **FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA**

10 Don ADDINGTON; John BOSTIC; Mark  
BURMAN; Afshin IRANPOUR; Roger  
11 VELEZ; and Steve WARGOCKI,

12 Plaintiffs,

13 vs.

14 US AIRLINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION,  
US AIRWAYS, INC.,

15 Defendants,

16 Don ADDINGTON; John BOSTIC; Mark  
BURMAN; Afshin IRANPOUR; Roger  
17 VELEZ; and Steve WARGOCKI,

18 Plaintiffs,

19 vs.

20 Steven H. BRADFORD, Paul J. DIORIO,  
Robert A. FREAR, Mark. W. KING,  
Douglas L. MOWERY, and John A.  
STEPHAN,

21 Defendants.  
22

Case No. 2:08-cv-1633-PHX-NVW  
(Consolidated)

**DEFENDANT’S MEMORANDUM OF  
LAW IN OPPOSITION TO  
PLAINTIFFS’ RESERVED RULE 50  
MOTION (DOC. # 446) ON ISSUE II. D.**

Case No. 2:08-cv-1728-PHX-NVW

1 **I. BACKGROUND.**

2 On May 7, 2008, after the evidence was closed, Plaintiffs filed their “Rule 50  
3 Motion For Directed Verdict On Four Points Of Law” (Doc. # 446). Plaintiffs’ fourth  
4 partial directed verdict request was this:

5 “Revisiting the seniority dispute could not (and was not expected to)  
6 benefit the bargaining unit as a whole.”

7 Plaintiffs’ argument for this 4th ruling was presented in § II. D. (Doc. # 446).

8 On May 8, the Court reserved its ruling on Plaintiffs’ motion for directed verdict.  
9 (Doc. # 449). With respect to Plaintiffs’ § II. D. argument, the Court noted that it was  
10 “rather strongly disposed to deny that . . .” (Tr. 5/8/09 1813:17).

11 On May 13, the jury returned a verdict in favor of Plaintiffs. (Doc. # 460). To  
12 date, no judgment has been entered and no injunction has been ordered.

13 On May 18, despite a jury verdict in favor of Plaintiffs, the Court ordered that  
14 Defendant file a response confined to “issue II. D.” of Plaintiffs’ Rule 50 motion, by  
15 May 28. (Doc. # 468).

16 **III. ARGUMENT.**

17 **1) Plaintiffs’ Rule 50 Motion Is Mooted By The Jury Verdict.**

18 It is within the discretion of a district court to reserve decision on a Rule 50  
19 motion for judgment as a matter of law. *Marfia v. T.C. Ziraat Bankasi, New York*  
20 *Branch*, 147 F.3d 83, 87 (2d Cir. 1988). In fact, reserving ruling on Rule 50 motions  
21 made at the close of evidence and sending the case to the jury has been described as  
22

1 “customary, and indeed recommended.” *Oviedo v. Jones*, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS  
2 16773 at \*3 (N.D. Ill. Aug. 20, 2004) (citing *Shaw v. Edward Hines Lumber Co.*, 249  
3 F.2d 434, 437 (7th Cir. 1957)).

4 The Advisory Committee’s Notes to the 1991 Amendments to the Federal Rules  
5 of Civil Procedure explained why reserving judgment on Rule 50 motions made at the  
6 close of evidence is, as *Oviedo* characterized, “customary and recommended.”

7 Often it appears to the court or to the moving party that a motion for  
8 judgment as a matter of law made at the close of the evidence should be  
9 reserved for a post-verdict decision. This is so because **a jury verdict for  
the moving party moots the issue** and because a preverdict ruling  
10 gambles that a reversal may result in a new trial that might have been  
11 avoided.

12 Fed. R. Civ. P. 50 Advisory Committee’s Note (1991) (emphasis added). *See also Lyon*  
13 *Development Co. v. Business Men’s Assurance Co. of America*, 76 F.3d 1118, 1122  
14 (10th Cir. 1996) (Rule 50 “does not permit a party in whose favor the verdict was  
15 rendered to renew its motion because a jury verdict for the moving party moots the  
16 issue.”).

17 Federal courts have consistently applied this reasoning, and denied Rule 50  
18 motions as moot after jury verdicts were returned in favor of the moving party. *EMI*  
19 *Music Marketing v. Avatar Records, Inc.*, 364 F. Supp. 2d 337, 342 (S.D.N.Y. 2005) (“a  
20 jury verdict for the moving party moots the issue raised in a motion for judgment as a  
21 matter of law”); *Kennedy v. McCarty*, 803 F. Supp. 1470, 1478 n.6 (S.D. Ind. 1992)  
22 (“The court ultimately dismissed the Motion for Directed Verdict as moot after the jury  
returned its Verdicts in favor of both Defendants.”); *Kikalos v. United States of*

1 *America*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 31100, at \*2 (N.D. Ind. Apr. 11, 2008); *Bourbeau v.*  
2 *Pierce*, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 9783, at \*4 (S.D. Ill. Feb. 11, 2008) (As a result of a jury  
3 verdict in favor of Defendants the court “denied as moot the balance of Defendants’  
4 Rule 50 motion”); *Oviedo*, 2004 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 16773, at \*\*3-4.

5 Plaintiffs filed their Rule 50 motion at the close of evidence on May 7, 2009  
6 (Doc. # 446), and this Court reserved ruling on that motion the following day (Doc. #  
7 449). The jury returned a verdict in favor of Plaintiffs on May 13, 2009. (Doc. # 460).  
8 On this basis alone, consistent with the authorities set forth herein and as a result of the  
9 jury verdict in their favor, Plaintiffs’ Rule 50 motion should now be denied as moot.

10 2) **Plaintiffs’ Motion Is Contrary To Established Law That Unions Are Always**  
11 **Free To Revisit Seniority, Even After An Arbitration “Settled” It.**

12 Plaintiffs argue that there is something wrong with “starting” from the premise  
13 that date of hire benefits the bargaining unit. As a matter of law, this is twice flawed:

14 First, Plaintiffs’ argument flies into the headwinds of decades of case law that  
15 reflect a key value of the labor movement in history: the establishment of seniority as an  
16 arbiter of benefits in the workplace. Unlike the Nicolau Award or any particular  
17 preferential scheme,<sup>1</sup> USAPA’s constitutional objective and its proposal are grounded in  
18 the court-recognized gold-standard seniority principle of date of hire. *Laturner v.*  
19 *Burlington Northern, Inc.*, 501 F.2d 593, 599 (9th Cir. 1974); *Truck Drivers & Helpers,*  
20 *Local Union 568 v. National Labor Relations Board*, 379 F.2d 137, 143 n. 10 (D.C. Cir.

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>1</sup> Date of hire, like the rain, falls equally on all.

1 1967). No union has *ever* been held to violate its duty of fair representation by  
2 negotiating seniority integration on this basis. *Humphrey v. Moore*, 375 U.S. 335  
3 (1964); *Winston v. Teamsters Local 89*, 93 F.3d 251 (6th Cir. 1996); *Rakestraw*, 981  
4 F.2d 1524, 1533 (7th Cir. 1992), *cert. denied sub nom.*, *Hammond v. Air Line Pilots*,  
5 510 U.S. 861 (1993); *Borowiec v. Boilermakers Local 1570*, 889 F.2d 23 (1st Cir.  
6 1989), *aff'g* 626 F. Supp. 296, 303 (D. Mass. 1986); *Ratkosky v. United Transp. Union*,  
7 843 F.2d 869 (6th Cir. 1988); *Teamsters Local 42 v. NLRB*, 825 F.2d 608, 611-14 (1st  
8 Cir. 1987), *enforcing* 281 N.L.R.B. 974 (1986); *Baker v. Newspaper & Graphic Comm.*  
9 *Local 6*, 628 F.2d 156, 166-67 (D.C. Cir. 1980), *aff'g* 461 F. Supp. 109 (D.D.C. 1978);  
10 *King v. Space Carriers, Inc.*, 608 F.2d 283 (8th Cir. 1979); *Ekas v. Carling Nat'l*  
11 *Breweries, Inc.*, 602 F.2d 664, 668 (4th Cir. 1979), *cert. denied*, 444 U.S. 1017 (1980);  
12 *Bell V. IML Freight, Inc.*, 589 F.2d 502 (10th Cir. 1979); *Walters v. Roadway Express,*  
13 *Inc.*, 557 F.2d 521, 525 (5th Cir. 1977); *Morris v. Werner Continental, Inc.*, 466 F.2d  
14 1185, 1190 (6th Cir. 1972); *Price v. Teamsters*, 457 F.2d 605 (3d Cir. 1972); *Fuller v.*  
15 *Teamsters Local 107*, 428 F.2d 503 (3d Cir 1970); *Teamsters Local 568 v. NLRB*, 379  
16 F.2d 137 (D.C. Cir. 1967); *In re ABF Freight Sys., Inc.*, 988 F. Supp. 556 (D. Md.  
17 1997), *aff'd per curiam sub nom. Gorge v. Carey*, 166 F.3d 1209 (4th Cir. 1998).

18 Second, Plaintiffs claim that a “settled dispute” was reopened to the detriment of  
19 the bargaining unit, but this is wrong as a matter of law. The Nicolau Award did not  
20 and could not, as a matter of law under the RLA, create seniority rights that would  
21 interfere with a union’s statutory right to bargain. Both ALPA (at some point) and  
22

1 USAPA remained free to revisit the issue of seniority rights in contract negotiation –  
2 even in the face of a prior arbitration ruling. This would be the case whether the  
3 arbitration were a ‘private’ one internal to the union or between the company and the  
4 union. This is what courts have consistently held for decades:

5 Seniority rights do not vest beyond the collective bargaining agreement: *Hass v.*  
6 *Darigold Dairy Prod. Co.*, 751 F.2d 1096, 1099 (9th Cir. 1985); *Wightman v.*  
7 *Springfield Terminal Railway Co.*, 100 F.3d 228, 232 (1st Cir. 1996); *Rakestraw v.*  
8 *United Airlines, Inc.*, 981 F.2d 1524, 1535 (7th Cir. 1992); *United Food & Commercial*  
9 *Workers Int’l Union v. Gold Star Sausage Co.*, 897 F.2d 1022, 1026 (10th Cir. 1990);  
10 *Shamblin v. General Motors Corp.*, 743 F.2d 436, 438-39 (6th Cir. 1984); *Johnson v.*  
11 *Air Line Pilots Ass’n*, 650 F.2d 133, 136-37 (8th Cir. 1981); *Burchfield v. Steelworkers*,  
12 577 F.2d 1018, 1020 (5th Cir. 1978); *Hiatt v. New York Cent. RR Co.*, 444 F.2d 1397  
13 (2d Cir. 1971).

14 Unions are free to re-visit arbitrated seniority decisions, even where they agreed  
15 that they would be final and binding, where the union has a principled objection to the  
16 arbitration result. *Barton Brands, Ltd. v. NLRB*, 529 F.2d 793, 800 (7th Cir. 1976)  
17 (citing *Associated Transport, Inc.*, 185 N.L.R.B. 631 (1970)). This latter point is not a  
18 surprising one when considered in the context of contract enforcement. An individual  
19 employee or employees are free, for example, to bring grievances seeking to adjust their  
20 individual seniority and often do so for a variety of contract-based reasons (*e.g.*, an  
21 employee may have claim to restoration of seniority under a provision governing  
22

1 employees who are promoted to management and then return to the unit at a later date).  
2 But the union is always free to re-write the 'rules' governing seniority. In this sense it is  
3 well said that arbitrations are merely part of the CBA. They may and do govern the  
4 terms of an extant CBA but they do not hinder the union and the company from  
5 bargaining changes to those terms. Indeed, the very theory of collective bargaining  
6 precludes individual bargaining. *See e.g., Railway & Steamship Clerks v. Florida E.C.*  
7 *Ry.*, 384 U.S. 238 (1966) (RLA prohibits a carrier from negotiating directly with  
8 employees over matters subject to collective bargaining).

9 Plaintiffs claim that USAPA (or the company) had a pre-existing legal obligation  
10 to implement the Nicolau List into a final CBA. This is a conclusion that is belied by  
11 the rights provided in Section XII.B and XII.E of the Transition Agreement, which  
12 enable the *company and union* to modify or terminate the Transition Agreement at any  
13 time. Furthermore, as discussed above, Plaintiffs' conclusion is one that can only be  
14 reached by turning settled labor law under the RLA on its head. On this basis alone the  
15 motion should be denied.

16 **3) Plaintiffs' Analysis Is Flawed: Sufficient Evidence Shows That The Entire**  
17 **Bargaining Unit Benefited Because Date Of Hire Is A Court-Approved**  
18 **'Gold Standard' And Because USAPA's Modified Proposal Broke The**  
**Impasse And Promoted Solidarity – A Check-Point On The Way To Non-**  
**Seniority Benefits.**

19 First, as a threshold matter, it remains to be seen whether the injunctive relief to  
20 be issued by this Court will produce a benefit to the bargaining unit. Indeed, the  
21 injunctive relief as proposed by the Plaintiffs may likely have the effect of producing a  
22

1 stalemate to the detriment of the entire bargaining unit.

2       Second, Plaintiffs’ argument based on the law of germane expenses that stems  
3 from the law governing charges to non-members is not only out of left field, but is  
4 deeply flawed in that the *Ellis* and *United Food Workers* decisions do not “determine”  
5 what benefits a bargaining unit “for the purpose of DFR analysis.”<sup>2</sup> Those cases do not  
6 say that and no cases that cite them say that. Actually there is no need to ignore  
7 controlling precedent as Plaintiffs do. What determines benefit to the bargaining unit  
8 has been clear for decades. The United States Supreme Court has made it clear in cases  
9 that apply the duty of fair representation. The standard is simply rationality subject to  
10 good faith *as determined by* the presumably elected union bargaining agent. Rather  
11 than *Ellis*, Plaintiffs should try: *Ford Motor Co. v. Huffman*, 345 U.S. 330 (1953)  
12 (“wide range of reasonableness must be allowed a statutory bargaining representative in  
13 serving the unit it represents”); *Humphrey v. Moore*, 375 U.S. 335, 349 (1964) (“wide  
14 range of reasonableness”); *Air Line Pilots Ass’n v. O’Neill*, 499 U.S. 55, 67 (1991)  
15 (applying *Ford Motor* “wide range of reasonableness” to the “factual and legal  
16 landscape at the time of the unions actions” and specifically “including contract  
17 negotiation”); *Conkle v. Jeong*, 73 F.3d 909, 916 (9th Cir. 1995) (*citing Vaca*, 386 U.S.  
18 at 191) (holding that a union’s decision is arbitrary if it lacks a rational basis);

19 \_\_\_\_\_  
20 <sup>2</sup> The issue of germane versus non-germane expenses will be arbitrated between  
21 USAPA and pilot dues objectors in a matter of months. Any indulgence by this Court  
22 of Plaintiffs’ misguided attempt to analogize and apply the law of germane expenses in  
this matter runs the serious risk of interfering with that arbitration process.



1 *Rakestraw*, 981 F.2d at 1533. (“workers generally decide by majority vote where their  
2 interests lie.”).

3 Third, Plaintiffs rely on a district court ruling later reversed by the 7th Circuit in  
4 *Rakestraw* (there were two cases reviewed; the “United” case concerning the strikers  
5 was reversed) for the proposition that preferring one group over another in allocating  
6 seniority is a ‘zero sum’ game. But this is misplaced. In the first instance, it bears  
7 repeating in any discussion about *Rakestraw* that the central holding in that case was  
8 that a union’s duty of fair representation under the RLA does *not* block the union from  
9 adjusting seniority in a way known to favor some employees over others. *Id.* at 1525.  
10 And one need look no further than a few pages inside *Rakestraw* to see that in affirming  
11 the other district case reviewed, that the Seventh Circuit applied the familiar notion that  
12 date of hire is the gold standard. *Id.* at 1533. (“dovetailing [date of hire] ... serves the  
13 interests of labor *as a whole* ... the propriety of dovetailing, treating the two groups  
14 identically, follows directly.”).<sup>3</sup>

15 But even putting *Rakestraw* aside for the sake of argument, seniority is *always* a  
16 “zero sum game.” Hence that argument is a bright red herring because it does not  
17 change the analysis one bit. *See e.g., Ford Motor Co. v. Huffman*, 345 U.S. 330, 342  
18 (1953) (reshuffling seniority rights to give veterans a preference upheld because the  
19 union was free to “promote the long-range social or economic welfare of those it

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20  
21 <sup>3</sup> Defendant sought to offer expert testimony to explain why, as *Rakestraw* described,  
22 date of hire serves the interests of labor *as a whole*, but the Court excluded that  
testimony in its entirety.

1 represents”). Indeed, the high court observed that:

2 variations acceptable in the discretion of bargaining representatives,  
3 however, may well include differences based upon such matters as the unit  
4 within which seniority is to be computed, the privileges to which it shall  
5 relate, the nature of the work, the time at which it is done, the fitness,  
6 ability or age of the employees, their family responsibilities, injuries  
7 received in course of service, and time or labor devoted to related public  
8 service, whether civil or military, voluntary or involuntary.

9 *Id.* at 338. *See also Alvey v. General Electric*, 622 F.2d 1279, 1289 (7th Cir. 1980) (a  
10 union can lawfully follow the “dictates of the majority if they determined in good faith  
11 that the decision reflected a proper resolution of conflicting but legitimate interests”).

12 Fourth, as explained above-herein (§ 2), Plaintiffs are wrong to claim that  
13 USAPA re-opened a seniority dispute that was “settled.” Rather, all that was settled  
14 was a bargaining proposal for a predecessor union, ALPA.<sup>4</sup> After reasonably  
15 defending this proposal, in face of the impasse that was shown by the evidence<sup>5</sup>, even  
16 ALPA was free to “re-open” for the reason that there are no vested seniority rights, and  
17 unions (and employers) have a right to adjust contract terms in bargaining, including  
18 seniority. Indeed, the *evidence* is that all of ALPA’s efforts post-Nicolau were an

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19 <sup>4</sup> Plaintiffs’ Counsel admitted, in his opening statement, that the Nicolau Award was  
20 only ALPA’s “bargaining proposal.” (4/28/09 Tr. at 188:13-16). Plaintiffs’ witness  
21 Russell Payne testified in a similar manner. (4/30/09 Tr. at 787:17-19).

22 <sup>5</sup> The record is overflowing with uncontroverted testimony from Plaintiff and Defendant  
witnesses proving the existence of the impasse. (Kenneth Stravers: Tr. at 473:14-17;  
Mark Burman: Tr. at 509:13-14; Russell Payne: Tr. at 830:12-15, 18-23; Steve  
Wargocki: Tr. at 1329:21-23; Chesley Sullenberger: Tr. at 956:5-8; Jack Stephan: Tr. at  
1016:10-11; Jeffrey Skiles: Tr. at 1361:25-1362:15; Scott Theuer: Tr. at 1382:9;  
Randall Mowrey: Tr. at 1587:20-21.).

1 attempt to modify the Nicolau Award in order to achieve labor solidarity; the idea that  
2 ALPA could have put the Nicolau Award, as contained in a single CBA, out for a  
3 successful ratification vote on the other hand is not based on evidence, rather it is pure  
4 speculation in spite of the evidence and stipulated facts.

5 Fifth, Plaintiffs do not challenge, or simply ignore, admitted evidence that  
6 USAPA acted consistently with its constitutional objective when it proposed date of hire  
7 with conditions and restrictions. Because it is uncontested that the objective and the  
8 proposal were grounded in date of hire or the dovetailing methodology, USAPA is  
9 entitled to rely on the plethora of cases rejecting DFR claims because date of hire is the  
10 ‘gold standard.’ (*See above*, herein, § 2). By definition, promoting a date of hire based  
11 seniority proposal was in the unit’s best interest. Plaintiffs’ claim to the contrary is  
12 wrong on the facts and on the law, neither of which are meaningfully addressed in their  
13 motion.

14 Sixth, Plaintiffs dispute it, but there can be no doubt that there is ample evidence  
15 in the record that both ALPA and USAPA faced an impasse created by the Nicolau  
16 Award. Under ALPA, both East and West were in a position to perpetually veto the  
17 other, thus creating an impasse.<sup>6</sup> The evidence from multiple witnesses described  
18 ALPA’s extensive and unsuccessful mediatory efforts including the Rice Committee,  
19 the Blue Ribbon Committee, the Denver Summit and the Wye River Lockdown. The

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21 <sup>6</sup> *See* Admitted Trial Exhibit 1092 at ADD0000703-704. (Captain John Prater: “This  
22 means that both sides have effective veto authority on any such agreement.”).

1 point is that ALPA faced an impasse and USAPA inherited one.<sup>7</sup> But USAPA's  
2 formation created at least the potential to break the impasse because it would allow a  
3 unit-wide ratification and because USAPA proposed a solution that was potentially  
4 acceptable to the majority (because date of hire based) and potentially acceptable to the  
5 minority (because of conditions and restrictions and the opportunity to secure non-  
6 seniority benefits). In a word, USAPA made solidarity a possibility, and seeking  
7 solidarity benefits the whole unit. Under the particular facts, the company had  
8 expressed that increased benefits would accompany a new, single CBA, and the general  
9 fact, uncontested, is that a labor union's leverage with management at the bargaining  
10 table is only as strong as the solidarity of its members.

11 The benefit of solidarity to the bargaining unit *as a whole* was one of the  
12 important lessons taken from *Rakestraw*.

13 Unions legitimately may try to advance the interests of labor at the  
14 expense of investors and consumers. Success in this endeavor requires  
15 concerted action. . . . Whatever undercuts concert among labor reduces the  
16 effective wage unions can secure. Managers try to undermine labor's  
17 position by divide-and-conquer tactics. . . . To say that the union acts in  
18 "bad faith" or "discriminatorily" when it attempts to shore up the  
19 solidarity of labor . . . is to curb an important tool by invoking a slogan.

17 *Rakestraw*, 981 F.2d at 1532-33. Plaintiffs argue that USAPA's actions "did nothing to  
18 strengthen the union's leverage with the Airline." (Doc. # 446 at 10:1). This argument  
19 ignores the value of solidarity, which is the foundation upon which a union's leverage is

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20  
21 <sup>7</sup> It is dishonest for Plaintiffs to deny outright or by implication that the majority of East  
22 pilots strongly rejected the Nicolau preference scheme because Plaintiffs *stipulated* to  
the contrary (Doc. # 417 at ¶ 17).

1 built. To accept this argument would, as *Rakestraw* warned, “curb an important [union]  
2 tool by invoking a slogan.” 981 F.2d at 1533.

3 **4) Plaintiffs’ Motion Fails To State With Specificity Any Supporting Grounds**  
4 **Thereby Depriving Defendant Of Any Opportunity To Cure.**

5 Rule 50(a)(2) requires that a movant must “specify the judgment sought and the  
6 law and the facts that entitle the movant to judgment.”

7 The rule that fact and legal grounds be *specifically* stated is important to allow  
8 the non-movant the opportunity to correct any deficiency in evidence. *Canny v. Dr.*  
9 *Pepper/Seven-Up Bottling Group*, 439 F.3d 894, 901 (8th Cir. 2003) (“articulation for  
10 the grounds of judgment as a matter of law affords the non-moving party the  
11 opportunity to cure the defects which may preclude the jury from considering his  
12 case”); *Duro-Last, Inc. Custom Seal, Inc.*, 321 F.3d 1098 (Fed. Cir. 2003); *Morrison*  
13 *Knudsen Corp. v. Fireman’s Fund Ins. Co.*, 175 F.3d 1221 (10th Cir. 1999) (interests of  
14 justice require that non-moving party be apprised of need to supplement their proof at  
15 time of pre-verdict Rule 50 motion).

16 Rule 50’s specificity proviso is mandatory. *P.R. Chunk, Inc. v. Martin, Marietta*  
17 *Materials, Inc.*, 170 Fed. Appx. 288 (4th Cir. 2006); *Karam v. Sagemark Consulting,*  
18 *Inc.*, 383 F.3d 421 (6th Cir. 2004).

19 And a failure to state the specific grounds relied upon is in itself a sufficient basis  
20 for denial of the motion. *Wallace v. City of San Diego*, 479 F.3d 615 (9th Cir. 2007);  
21 *Gierlinger v. Gleason*, 160 F.3d 858 (2d Cir. 1998); *Guest House Motor Inn. Inc. v.*  
22

1 *Duke*, 384 F.2d 927 (5th Cir. 1967).

2 Moreover, the Ninth Circuit has held that under Rule 50 a District Court must  
3 apprise parties of the deficiencies in their proof and give them the opportunity to present  
4 further evidence on the dispositive facts before granting judgment as a matter of law  
5 against them. *Waters v. Young*, 100 F.2d 1437, 1442 (9th Cir. 1996). Compliance with  
6 the rule in *Waters* is mandatory. *Id.* at 1442.

7 Here Plaintiffs' motion identifies *no* specific factual grounds whatsoever. The  
8 argument is simply predicated on a bad analogy from inapplicable case law. The two  
9 cases Plaintiffs cite for their analogy argument, *Ellis v. Brotherhood of Railway, Airline*  
10 *and Steamship Clerks*, 466 U.S. 435 (1984) and *United Food and Commercial Workers*  
11 *Union, Local 1036 v. NLRB*, 307 F.3d 760 (9th Cir. 2002), have *absolutely nothing* to  
12 do with the duty of fair representation, nothing to do with the law of bargaining under  
13 the RLA, and nothing to do with seniority rights. They apprise Defendant of no specific  
14 legal grounds, let alone any factual ones. Plaintiffs' motion is devoid of any discussion  
15 of the evidence and in particular ignores the overwhelming evidence of an impasse.  
16 Apart from the foregoing arguments, on this basis alone Plaintiffs' motion should be  
17 denied.

18 **IV. RELIEF REQUESTED.**

19 Defendant respectfully requests, for the reasons set forth herein, that Plaintiffs'  
20 Rule 50 Motion (Doc. # 446) be denied.

1 Respectfully Submitted,

2 Dated: May 28, 2009

By: /s/ Nicholas P. Granath, Esq.

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21 *US Airline Pilots Association*  
22

1 **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

2 This is to certify that on the date indicated herein below true and accurate copies  
3 of the foregoing documents and their attachments, *to wit*,

- 4 • Defendant’s Memorandum Of Law Opposition To Plaintiffs’ Reserved Rule 50  
5 Motion (Doc. # 446) On Issue II. D. (and any attachments thereto)
- 6 • Certificate of Service

7 were electronically filed with the Clerk of Court using the CM/ECF system, which  
8 will send notification of such filing to all admitted counsel who have registered with  
9 the ECF system, including but not limited, to:

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Kelly J. Flood	Katie Brown	
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10 Further, I certify that paper hard copies shall be provided to The Honorable Neil  
11 V. Wake, District Court Judge, 401 W. Washington Street, SPC 52, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

12 On May 28, 2009, by:

13 **/s/ Nicholas Paul Granath, Esq.**