Fill in this information to identify the case:			
Debtor	Borrego Community Health Foun	dation	
United States Bankruptcy Court for the: Southern District of California (State)			
Case number	22-02384		

Official Form 410

Proof of Claim 04/22

Read the instructions before filling out this form. This form is for making a claim for payment in a bankruptcy case. Do not use this form to make a request for payment of an administrative expense. Make such a request according to 11 U.S.C. § 503.

Filers must leave out or redact information that is entitled to privacy on this form or on any attached documents. Attach redacted copies or any documents that support the claim, such as promissory notes, purchase orders, invoices, itemized statements of running accounts, contracts, judgments, mortgages, and security agreements. **Do not send original documents;** they may be destroyed after scanning. If the documents are not available, explain in an attachment.

A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.

Fill in all the information about the claim as of the date the case was filed. That date is on the notice of bankruptcy (Form 309) that you received.

P	Identify the Clair	n		
1.	Who is the current creditor?	Anna Navarro Name of the current creditor (the person or entity to be paid for this claim) Other names the creditor used with the debtor		
2.	Has this claim been acquired from someone else?	No Yes. From whom?		
3.	Where should notices and payments to the creditor be sent? Federal Rule of Bankruptcy Procedure (FRBP) 2002(g)	Where should notices to the creditor be sent? Anna Navarro c/o Small Law PC 501 West Broadway, Suite 1360 SAN DIEGO, CA 92101, United States	different) rro Law PC roadway, Suite 1360	
		Contact phone Contact email Contact email Contact email Contact email Elly@smalllawcorp.com Uniform claim identifier for electronic payments in chapter 13 (if you use of the contact email)	Contact phone Contact email Dine):	
4.	Does this claim amend one already filed?	✓ No✓ Yes. Claim number on court claims registry (if known)	Filed on	
5.	Do you know if anyone else has filed a proof of claim for this claim?	No Yes. Who made the earlier filing?		

Official Form 410 Proof of Claim

Dart 2	Give Information About the Claim as of the Date the Case Was Filed
Part 2:	Give information About the Claim as of the Date the Case was Filed

6.	Do you have any number	☑ No
	you use to identify the debtor?	Yes. Last 4 digits of the debtor's account or any number you use to identify the debtor:
7.	How much is the claim?	\$ 526,368.84
		Yes. Attach statement itemizing interest, fees, expenses, or other charges required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c)(2)(A).
8.	What is the basis of the claim?	Examples: Goods sold, money loaned, lease, services performed, personal injury or wrongful death, or credit card. Attach redacted copies of any documents supporting the claim required by Bankruptcy Rule 3001(c). Limit disclosing information that is entitled to privacy, such as health care information. Services Performed, Wrongful Termination, Age Discrimination
9.	Is all or part of the claim secured?	Ves. The claim is secured by a lien on property. Nature or property: Real estate: If the claim is secured by the debtor's principle residence, file a Mortgage Proof of Claim Attachment (Official Form 410-A) with this Proof of Claim. Motor vehicle Other. Describe: Basis for perfection: Attach redacted copies of documents, if any, that show evidence of perfection of a security interest (for example, a mortgage, lien, certificate of title, financing statement, or other document that shows the lien has been filed or recorded.) Value of property:
10.	Is this claim based on a lease?	✓ No ✓ Yes. Amount necessary to cure any default as of the date of the petition.
11.	Is this claim subject to a right of setoff?	✓ No Yes. Identify the property:

Official Form 410 Proof of Claim

12. Is all or part of the claim	№ No		
entitled to priority under 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)?	Yes. Chec	ek all that apply:	Amount entitled to priority
A claim may be partly priority and partly	— ☐ Dome	estic support obligations (including alimony and child support) under S.C. § 507(a)(1)(A) or (a)(1)(B).	¢
nonpriority. For example, in some categories, the law limits the amount		\$3,350* of deposits toward purchase, lease, or rental of property vices for personal, family, or household use. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(7).	\$
entitled to priority.	days	es, salaries, or commissions (up to \$15,150*) earned within 180 before the bankruptcy petition is filed or the debtor's business ends, lever is earlier. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(4).	\$
	☐ Taxes	s or penalties owed to governmental units. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(8).	\$
	Contr	ibutions to an employee benefit plan. 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)(5).	\$
	Other	Specify subsection of 11 U.S.C. § 507(a)() that applies.	\$
	* Amounts	are subject to adjustment on 4/01/25 and every 3 years after that for cases begun	on or after the date of adjustment.
13. Is all or part of the claim pursuant to 11 U.S.C. § 503(b)(9)?	days befo	ate the amount of your claim arising from the value of any goods rece re the date of commencement of the above case, in which the goods ry course of such Debtor's business. Attach documentation supportin	have been sold to the Debtor in
Part 3: Sign Below			
The person completing this proof of claim must sign and date it. FRBP 9011(b). If you file this claim electronically, FRBP 5005(a)(2) authorizes courts to establish local rules specifying what a signature is. A person who files a fraudulent claim could be fined up to \$500,000, imprisoned for up to 5 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 157, and 3571.	I am the trus I am a guara I understand that a the amount of the I have examined t	ditor. ditor's attorney or authorized agent. tee, or the debtor, or their authorized agent. Bankruptcy Rule 3004. Intor, surety, endorser, or other codebtor. Bankruptcy Rule 3005. In authorized signature on this <i>Proof of Claim</i> serves as an acknowledge claim, the creditor gave the debtor credit for any payments received to the information in this <i>Proof of Claim</i> and have reasonable belief that the enalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.	ward the debt.
	/s/Kelly Ann Signature Print the name o Name Title Company Address	f the person who is completing and signing this claim: Kelly Ann Tran First name Middle name Last no Attorney Small Law PC Identify the corporate servicer as the company if the authorized agent is a servicer.	
	Contact phone	Email	



Official Form 410 Proof of Claim

KCC ePOC Electronic Claim Filing Summary

For phone assistance: Domestic (866) 967-0670 | International (310) 751-2670

Debtor:			
22-02384 - Borrego Community Health Foundation			
District:			
Southern District of California, San Diego Division			
Creditor:	Has Supporting Documentation:		
Anna Navarro		ng documentation successfully uploaded	
c/o Small Law PC	Related Document Statement:		
501 West Broadway, Suite 1360	Notatou 2004mont otatomont		
,	Has Related Claim:		
SAN DIEGO, CA, 92101	No		
United States	Related Claim Filed By:		
Phone:	F::: B .		
6194304795	Filing Party:		
Phone 2:	Authorized ag	ent	
Fax:			
Email:			
kelly@smalllawcorp.com			
Other Names Used with Debtor:	Amends Claim:		
	No		
	Acquired Claim:		
	No		
Basis of Claim:	Last 4 Digits:	Uniform Claim Identifier:	
Services Performed, Wrongful Termination, Age Discrimination	No		
Total Amount of Claim:	Includes Interest or Charges:		
526,368.84	No No		
Has Priority Claim:	Priority Under:		
No	•		
Has Secured Claim:	Nature of Secured Amount:		
No	Value of Property:		
Amount of 503(b)(9):			
No	Annual Interest Rate	:	
Based on Lease:	Arrearage Amount:		
No	Basis for Perfection:		
Subject to Right of Setoff:	Amount Unsecured:		
No	Amount onsecured:		
Submitted By:			
Kelly Ann Tran on 18-Nov-2022 1:28:36 p.m. Eastern Time			
Title:			
Attorney			
Company:			
Small Law PC			



May 24, 2022

WILLIAM F. SMALL III DIRECT DIAL: (619) 430-4796 EMAIL: WILL@SMALLLAWCORP.COM

VIA PRIORITY MAIL

Borrego Community Health Foundation Attn: Edgar Bulloch, MD Interim Chief Executive Officer 587 Palm Canyon Dr., Suite 208 Borrego Springs, CA 92004

PRIVILEGED SETTLEMENT COMMUNICATION; INADMISSIBLE FOR ANY PURPOSE

Re: Anna Navarro

Dear Dr. Bulloch:

Our office represents Anna Navarro in connection with legal issues arising from her employment with Borrego Community Health Foundation ("BCHF" or "the Company").

This correspondence seeks to open a dialogue with BCHF to attempt to resolve legal claims arising from Ms. Navarro's employment and termination therefrom. Please forward this letter to BCHF's legal counsel as well as to any applicable insurers that might provide coverage for the claims outlined herein.

I. SUMMARY

Ms. Navarro was the Chief Human Resources Officer ("CHRO") at BCHF. She was wrongfully terminated on June 13, 2021. Our investigation has determined that the termination was because of Ms. Navarro's age and in retaliation for her participation in a government investigation of BCHF regarding improper billing practices by the facility. By this action, BCHF discharged Ms. Navarro in violation of California law and caused her significant damages.

II. BACKGROUND

BCHF is a "non-profit 501(c)(3) Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) and a Federal Tort Claims Act Deemed (FTCA) facility" that provides primary health care to Riverside, San Diego, and San Bernardino counties. (https://www.borregohealth.org/why-borrego-health)

Ms. Navarro began working for BCHF in October 2006 as its Director of Human Resources. Prior to working as BCHF's CHRO, Ms. Navarro was a member of the BCHF Board of Directors from 2001 to 2006. Ms. Navarro had been a Human Resources Director at her prior employer, where she was employed for over 17 years before she left to join BCHF. Thus, Ms. Navarro was an experienced, well-qualified and successful human resources professional.

In January 2016, Ms. Navarro became BCHF's CHRO. Prior to the events that give rise to the claims discussed in this letter, Ms. Navarro successfully worked alongside two Chief Executive Officers at BCHF without any issues. The former CEOs were respectful of her decisions and her role. Ms. Navarro was never the subject of any performance issue or discipline.

A. BCHF is Investigated by the FBI

In or around October 2020, BCHF was subject to a raid by the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), which was investigating potential Medi-Cal fraud at BCHF. Ms. Navarro was the only BCHF officer present during the FBI raid at the BCHF administration office in Borrego. When Ms. Navarro arrived at the office the morning of the raid, the FBI was already at the Borrego location. Ms. Navarro cooperated with the FBI, answering questions asked of her and allowing them to access the documents they sought pursuant to their search warrant, which they showed her.

Following the raid, Sandra Hanzberger criticized Ms. Navarro for interacting with the FBI, answering their questions and providing access to records. Moreover, the BCHF Board of Directors began to treat her negatively immediately after she complied with the FBI's investigation.

B. Ms. Navarro Was an Exemplary Employee Who Enforced Company HR Policies

In 2019, BCHF sent a memo to its employees stating it was going to freeze all merit-based raises, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In or around October 2020, Edgar Bulloch, MD, was appointed as BCHF's Interim CEO. Despite the freeze on raises, Dr. Bulloch asked Ms. Navarro to increase the salaries of certain employees. Ms. Navarro declined these requests. She reiterated that BCHF published a memo stating it was freezing all merit-based raises, and that providing merit-based raises to a select few employees of Dr. Bulloch's choosing would breach company policy as it could potentially open the company up to discrimination claims under State and Federal law. Ms. Navarro told Dr. Bulloch to speak with the company's legal counsel if he had questions as to why he could not unilaterally change certain employees' compensation.

Dr. Bulloch further refused to follow company human resource policies when hiring employees, further putting BCHF at risk. For example, Dr. Bulloch would require Ms. Navarro to on-board employees that he hired "through the back door." In other words, Dr. Bulloch filled open job positions before Ms. Navarro or the BCHF Human Resources Department had the opportunity to post the positions on the company website. Some of Dr. Bulloch's hires began working at BCHF before completing pre-requisite requirements, such as background checks and qualification vetting.

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Ms. Navarro complained to Pam Sime, the Chief Human Resources Officer, about Dr. Bulloch's behavior.

C. Ms. Navarro is Wrongfully Terminated

On or about June 13, 2021, Dr. Bulloch terminated Ms. Navarro, claiming "restructuring" of the organization as the reason for termination. BCHF released a press release after Ms. Navarro's termination stating "additional changes announced today to ensure long term sustainability of our clinical services are the: elimination or realignment of other top leadership positions, and a significant number of administrative positions not directly related to patient care." (https://www.borregohealth.org/press-release-reorganization.)

Nonetheless, Ms. Navarro is informed and believed that she was replaced with an outside consultant who was hired before her termination and that this consultant has now been hired to be the CHRO (or is in the process of being hired to that fulltime position).

In addition, Ms. Navarro is informed and believes that she is the only officer of BCHF who was laid off during this "restructuring." Ms. Navarro is further informed and believes that the roles and responsibilities – and compensation – of the "realigned" positions are one and the same.

III. BCHF'S LIABILITY

A. Retaliation in Violation of Labor Code § 1102.5

BCHF violated California's Labor Code by retaliating against Ms. Navarro for cooperating with the FBI during its raid, including answering questions asked of her during the raid and providing access to documents.

California's Labor Code § 1102.5(b) states:

An employer, or any person acting on behalf of the employer, shall not retaliate against an employee for disclosing information, or because the employer believes that the employee disclosed or may disclose information to a government or law enforcement agency, to a person with authority over the employee or another employee who has the authority to investigate, discover, or correct the violation or noncompliance, or for providing information to, or testifying before, any public body conducting an investigation, hearing, or inquiry, if the employee has reasonable cause to believe that the information discloses a violation of state or federal statute, or a violation of or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation, regardless of whether disclosing the information is part of the employee's job duties.

In addition, Labor Code § 1102.5(c) provides that "an employer, or any person acting on behalf of the employer, shall not retaliate against an employee for refusing to participate in an activity that

would result in a violation of state or federal statute, or a violation of or noncompliance with a local, state, or federal rule or regulation." (Emphasis added.)

The statute reflects California's "broad public policy interest in encouraging workplace whistleblowers to report unlawful acts without fearing retaliation." *Green v. Ralee Eng. Co.* (1998) 19 Cal.4th 66, 77.

The statute applies regardless of whether reporting illegal activities or violations or regulations are within the normal course and scope of the employee's duties. *McVeigh v. Recology San Francisco* (2013) 213 Cal.App.4th 443, 469 (holding an employee's report of illegal activity can constitute protected conduct even if employee "was simply doing her job" in making the report). Moreover, if the employee has a reasonable suspicion that a violation of a statutory or regulatory provision has occurred, the employee's motivation for reporting the conduct is irrelevant to whether the disclosure is a protected activity. *Mize-Kurzman v. Marin Comm. College Dist.* (2012) 202 Cal.App. 832, 850-852.

When making a claim for violation of California's Labor Code § 1102.5, the employee must establish a prima facie case of retaliation by a preponderance of the evidence. To do so, the employee must show each of the following:

- 1. the employee engaged in a protected activity;
- 2. the employer subjected the employee to an adverse employment action; and
- 3. there is a causal link between the two.

McVeigh v. Recology San Francisco (2013) 213 Cal. App. 4th 443, 468.

The causal link may be established by an inference derived from circumstantial evidence such as the employer's knowledge that the employee engaged in protected activities and the proximity in time between the protected action and allegedly retaliatory employment decision. *Morgan v. Regents of Univ. of Calif.* (2000) 88 Cal.App.4th 52, 69-70.

Once a plaintiff establishes a prima facie case of violation of Labor Code § 1102.5 by a preponderance of the evidence, "the employer shall have the burden of proof to demonstrate **by clear and convincing evidence** that the alleged action would have occurred for legitimate, independent reasons even if the employee had not engaged in activities protected by Section 1102.5." Labor Code § 1102.6 (emphasis added). If that is established, then the plaintiff must prove those stated reasons for the termination are pretextual. See *Bowen v. M. Caratan, Inc.* (E.D. Calif. 2015) 142 F.Supp.3d 1007, 1031.

The California Supreme Court recently issued an important decision that clarified "Section 1102.6 provides the governing framework" for whistleblower retaliation claims brought under Section 1102.5, and a "plaintiff need not satisfy" the *McDonnell Douglas* burden-shifting framework to establish a claim for whistleblower retaliation. *Lawson v. PPG Architectural Finishes* (2022) 12 Cal.5th 703, 718.) Under the McDonnell Douglas standard applicable to most discrimination and retaliation claims, if an employer identifies a legitimate nondiscriminatory basis for an adverse employment action, the burden falls on the employee to identify evidence of pretext to establish a claim and

RE: Anna Navarro May 24, 2022

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avoid an employer's motion for summary judgment. However, for claims arising under Section 1102.5, the employee need only demonstrate that the whistleblowing activity was a "contributing factor" in the employer's decision to establish a basis for liability, thereby placing the burden on the employer to establish by clear and convincing evidence that it would have made the decision for legitimate, independent reasons.

In this case, Ms. Navarro will be able to establish a prima facie case for violation of California's Labor Code § 1102.5 due to the close proximity in time between the FBI raid and her termination and the fact that BCHF's management immediately expressed displeasure to Ms. Navarro after the raid. Moreover, there is a complete absence of facts to support a legitimate, independent reason for Ms. Navarro's termination. Despite the claimed "restructuring," Ms. Navarro was the only officer let go, and she was immediately replaced, belying any claim that her duties were obsolete or unnecessary.

Accordingly, BCHF violated California's Labor Code § 1102.5 and will be liable for damages that it proximately caused as a result.

B. Age Discrimination

Although there is a clear violation of California Labor Code § 1102.5, we are also extremely concerned that Ms. Navarro was terminated because of her age.

The California Fair Employment and Housing Act ("FEHA") and the federal Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 ("ADEA") prohibit discrimination and retaliation by an employer based on an employee's age. Remedies in court actions include compensatory and punitive damages and attorneys' fees as well as back pay and injunctive relief.

Under FEHA, it is unlawful for employers with more than five employees to discriminate against individuals over the age of 40 on the basis of age, in disciplining or dismissing from employment.

In order to establish a prima facie case of age discrimination under the FEHA, a plaintiff must present circumstantial evidence that a reasonable inference of age discrimination arises. Such a reasonable inference arises when plaintiff can show each of the following:

- plaintiff is over the age of 40,
- plaintiff suffered an adverse employment action,
- plaintiff was performing satisfactorily at the time of the adverse action, and
- plaintiff suffered the adverse action under circumstances giving rise to an inference of unlawful discrimination.

(Sandell v. Taylor-Listug, Inc. (2010) 188 Cal.App.4th 297, 321 (trial court erred in granting employer's motion for summary adjudication on employee's age discrimination claim, where employee presented prima facie case through evidence he was satisfactorily performing and within short period of time he was replaced by someone considerably younger, where employee presented sufficient evidence that employer's proffered reasons for terminating his employment were untrue and pretext for discrimination, and where employee presented other evidence of discriminatory animus).)

Here, Ms. Navarro was 52 years old when she was terminated. She was an experienced HR professional who was making more than \$200,000 a year plus benefits.

Moreover, Ms. Navarro never received a negative performance review or disciplinary action. Rather, Ms. Navarro was – at a minimum – a satisfactory performer, who was essential to the functioning of the HR Department at BCHF.

But Ms. Navarro was the only officer who was let go during the "restructuring" and she was immediately replaced by a consultant. Consequently, it appears likely that Ms. Navarro's termination was due to her age.

IV. DAMAGES

Ms. Navarro has been and will continue to be damaged as a result of experiencing age discrimination and pre-textual wrongful termination.

<u>Past, present, and future wage loss</u>: Ms. Navarro is entitled to all wages she would have earned were she not wrongfully terminated. Ms. Navarro was planning to retire from her job at BCHF. She was terminated when she was 52.

At the time of her termination, Ms. Navarro's annual salary was \$208,494.00. She was also in line to receive a bonus of 12% of her salary (\$25,019.28) and she had benefits including medical insurance, a 401k retirement plan and six weeks vacation. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Ms. Navarro's annual salary was \$257,400 per year.

Ms. Navarro has been unable to find a new job since her termination. She has applied to at least six jobs and been interviewed twice, but she has been told she is overqualified and was not offered any position.

Emotional Distress: The extreme and outrageous actions by BCHF and Dr. Bulloch have caused Ms. Navarro severe emotional distress and anxiety for which she would be entitled to significant damages. Ms. Navarro worked extremely hard for BCHF and did a good job for her employer; to have her dedication rewarded with a discriminatory firing based on complying with a government investigation and her age has been traumatic. Ms. Navarro has been unable to sleep regularly since her termination, embarrassed by BCHF's actions and fearful and anxious that over the possibility that she will never find a similar, full-time job with benefits due to her age.

<u>Punitive damages & Attorneys' fees</u>: FEHA provides for recovery of attorneys' fees and costs to prevailing plaintiffs. Were this matter to be filed and prosecuted, the fees and costs would eclipse the six-figure mark in short order. Moreover, we believe there is a significant potential for punitive damages given the intentional nature of the conduct discussed above.

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V. <u>DEMAND FOR EMPLOYMENT RECORDS AND PRESERVATION OF DOCUMENTS</u>

Further, this correspondence also serves as a demand for documents. The failure to timely comply with the demands may subject BCHF to civil penalties.

California Labor Code § 226 requires that upon demand that BCHF furnish Ms. Navarro with her itemized wage statements for each pay period reflecting hours worked, rate of pay, and gross wages earned. Demand is hereby made for production of all of Ms. Navarro wage statements within twenty-one (21) days of receipt of this letter.

California Labor Code § 432 requires that upon demand BCHF furnish Ms. Navarro with all documents she executed, signed, or otherwise agreed to related to obtaining or holding her employment including application for employment, employee handbook, arbitration agreement, and company policy details and acknowledgements. Demand is hereby made for production of all of these documents within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

California Labor Code § 1198.5 requires that upon demand BCHF furnish all of Ms. Navarro's personnel records "related to employee's performance or to any grievance concerning the employee," including performance reviews, disciplinary notes, and complaints about or from the employee. Demand is hereby made for production of all of Ms. Navarro's personnel records within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.

All the aforementioned documents should be sent to the attention of the undersigned at this office. A signed authorization form by Ms. Navarro will be provided upon request.

This correspondence also serves as notice to BCHF of its legal obligation to preserve all evidence related to our client's employment and termination. Failure to do so could result in sanctions in favor of my client.

VI. <u>CONCLUSION</u>

In summary, we are confident that BCHF is liable for violation of California law on several grounds, and the damages to Ms. Navarro are significant. We are reaching out to BCHF, however, to determine if the company wishes to mediate these claims in an effort to resolve them without litigation. We would ask for the company to pay for the costs of mediation, but we would be willing to consider any mediators the company proposes. Having said that, we would suggest the following mediators: Denise Asher, Jill Sperber, Kim Deck, and Gail Glick.

RE: Anna Navarro May 24, 2022 Page 8

We look forward to your response to this letter on or before June 3, 2022. If BCHF would like to discuss this matter by phone at any time, we welcome that opportunity.

Sincerely,

William F. Small III

Whi Sha

WFS

CC: Client

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¹ Although we sincerely hope to avoid any protracted dispute over these issues, this letter also serves as notice to BCHF of its legal obligation to preserve all documents and evidence related to our client's employment and her termination.

Anna Navarro INVOICE

P.O. Box# 1340 Borrego Springs, CA 92004 Phone: (760) 580-4913

INVOICE #20220127 DATE: 01/27/2022

TO:

Borrego Health C/O Steven Benson P.O. Box 2369 Borrego Springs, CA 92004 FOR:

HR Consulting Service

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	RATE	AMOUNT
September 2021- Discussion w/Rob Wilson LP matter	2	\$150.00	\$300.00
October 2021- Discussion w/Rob Wilson LP matter	2	\$150.00	\$300.00
November 2021- Discussion w/Rob Wilson LP matter	2	\$150.00	\$300.00
December 01, 2021- Discussion w/Hailey LP matter	30 min	\$150.00	\$75.00
January 27, 2022- Discussion w/Josh Teal LP matter	1	\$150.00	\$150.00
		TOTAL	¢4 425 00
		TOTAL	\$1,125.00

Make all checks payable to Anna Navarro