IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA, IN AND FOR HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CIVIL DIVISION

NEIL J. GILLESPIE,
Plaintiff,
CASE NO: 05-CA-007205
vs.
DIVISION: "C"
BARKER, RODEMS \& COOK, P.A.,
a Florida corporation; and
WILLIAM J. COOK,
Defendants.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BEFORE:
THE HONORABLE JAMES M. BARTON, II Circuit Court Judge

TAKEN AT:
Hillsborough County Courthouse Tampa, Florida

DATE AND TIME: October 1, 2009
10:30 a.m.

REPORTED BY:
Penny M. Appleton, RPR

Berryhill \& Associates, Inc.
501 E. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 775
Tampa, Florida 33602 (813) 229-8225

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5 Neil Gillespie
    Pro Se
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Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced:
THE COURT: In Gillespie versus Barker, Rodems \& Cook, P.A., and William J. Cook, we have a motion to withdraw from the Plaintiff's attorney.
Have we heard from the other side, from the defense?
MR. BAUER: I'm sorry. The defense is not objecting to the withdrawal.
THE COURT: Oh, okay. So they won't be here then, probably.
MR. BAUER: No, Your Honor.
THE COURT: All right. Okay. And, Mr. Gillespie, I know that you filed a response.
Did you get a copy of this?
MR. BAUER: I just received that, Your Honor.
THE COURT: Okay.
MR. BAUER: I was looking at it.
THE COURT: I haven't looked at it either, so in any event, I know the motion to withdraw had been filed last year, actually, not quite a year ago, but now it's been set for a hearing.
MR. GILLESPIE: Judge, I'm not objecting to the motion to withdraw.
THE COURT: You're not?
MR. GILLESPIE: No.
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THE COURT: Oh, okay. Then --
MR. GILLESPIE: He was aware of that before this meeting.

THE COURT: Well, I don't know whether he was or he wasn't. He certainly is now.

MR. BAUER: There was confusion, Your Honor, as to at one point, $I$ believe it was, and then he wanted to appear at the hearing and has filed a motion in response to it. I'm not really --

THE COURT: Or a response.
MR. BAUER: He has filed a response.
THE COURT: That's okay. Anyway, he's announced on the record he doesn't object.

Now the next question is if you've got somebody else already lined up, then we can press forward, but if you're going to need some time to try to find another lawyer, which we certainly will give you a reasonable time --

And you didn't talk to the Defendant's lawyer to see what kind of time they might be expecting, did you?

MR. BAUER: No, Your Honor.
THE COURT: There's nothing set in this case, is there, other than this?

MR. GILLESPIE: I believe that's it.
THE COURT: Any hearings or trials?

MR. GILLESPIE: No. If we go to Page 5, I have three items there that address that. I am moving the Court for a 60 days' stay to find replacement counsel.

THE COURT: Okay. Granted.
MR. GILLESPIE: I'm moving the Court for leave to submit a Plaintiff's first amended complaint.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, now see, if you get a stay, that's not a one-way stay. You know what $I$ mean?

MR. GILLESPIE: Yes.
THE COURT: So if the case is stayed, the case will be stayed for 60 days, which means the other side can't set you down for a deposition next week or send you interrogatories or set hearings and so forth, but on the other hand, neither can you. You see what I'm saying?

MR. GILLESPIE: The thing is we're into our fourth year on this case.

THE COURT: I understand.
MR. GILLESPIE: And we still are working on the Plaintiff's pro se complaint --

THE COURT: Right.
MR. GILLESPIE: -- which is really sort of outrageous.

THE COURT: Right. Now what $I$ would suggest that you do, because I'm granting your first request and you
have a 60-day stay of the case, that means everything is locked in place on this case. Nothing, at least of record, will be done. Now the parties on their own can certainly stay in their offices or wherever they work on their files and think about the case and do memos to themselves and investigate the case.

And on the other hand, if you call up this lawyer for the Defendant and say, Look. I want to file an amended complaint. I've got it ready to go. Can I just send it in with a proposed order for the judge saying we all agree that $I$ can file this? And then he'll say, Sure. Go ahead, or he'll say, No. Wait a minute. After the 60 days is up, you can file your motion to file an amended complaint. You know what I mean?

MR. GILLESPIE: Yes, Your Honor.
THE COURT: You're free to give this guy a call and see what he says.

MR. GILLESPIE: Judge, one thing I think you'll be happy about is I'm trying to get this case off your docket at the end of the 60 days.

THE COURT: Sure.
MR. GILLESPIE: We're going to transfer it to federal court.

THE COURT: Oh, okay.

MR. GILLESPIE: There's going to be some new defendants, and $I$ know you'll be happy to get it off your docket.

THE COURT: Well, I mean, whatever. I mean, I actually enjoy this job, and a lot of cases are interesting, and this is fairly an unusual one, at least for me. So I mean, whichever way it goes, I'll be ready to --

MR. GILLESPIE: I would have been more prepared today, but my mother died two weeks ago.

THE COURT: Oh. Sorry to hear that.
MR. GILLESPIE: Thank you. And that kind of put things off.

The last thing $I$ was asking for was a stay on the judgement. Mr. Bauer neglected to file a timely motion to stay that judgement, and that caused a lot of problems. I guess you were away on vacation when that came to fruition last year, and that really set the case off track. So what $I$ wanted to do is get a stay in place. The 2nd District Court of Appeal has not yet ruled on that matter. I'm still waiting to hear from them.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, there will certainly be a 60-day stay. Now if that order has been appealed --

It has?


| 1 | that. |
| :---: | :---: |
| 2 | THE COURT: So can you do an order on this? |
| 3 | MR. BAUER: Yes, Your Honor. |
| 4 | THE COURT: And then get it to me, and why don't |
| 5 | you run it by opposing counsel and also Mr. Gillespie |
| 6 | before you send it on to me, and then we'll sign it. |
| 7 | MR. BAUER: Yes, Your Honor. |
| 8 | THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you. |
| 9 | (The hearing concluded at 10:37 a.m.) |
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C ERTI T I CATE
STATE OF ELORIDA
COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH

I, Penny M. Appleton, Court Reporter for the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Elorida, in and for Hillsborough County,

DO HEREBY CERTIEY, that $I$ was authorized to and did, report in shorthand the proceedings and evidence in the above-styled cause, as stated in the caption hereto, and that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct transcription of my shorthand report of said proceedings and evidence.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand in the City of Tampa, County of Hillsborough, State of Florida this 14th day of October, 2009.


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