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

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1
                              APPEARANCES
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      Attorney at Law
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      2815 NW 13th Street, Suite 200E
      Gainesville, Florida
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      Neil Gillespie
      Pro Se
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1	Thereupon, the following proceedings commenced:
2	THE COURT: In Gillespie versus Barker, Rodems &
3	Cook, P.A., and William J. Cook, we have a motion to
4	withdraw from the Plaintiff's attorney.
5	Have we heard from the other side, from the
6	defense?
7	MR. BAUER: I'm sorry. The defense is not
8	objecting to the withdrawal.
9	THE COURT: Oh, okay. So they won't be here then,
10	probably.
11	MR. BAUER: No, Your Honor.
12	THE COURT: All right. Okay. And, Mr. Gillespie,
13	I know that you filed a response.
14	Did you get a copy of this?
15	MR. BAUER: I just received that, Your Honor.
16	THE COURT: Okay.
17	MR. BAUER: I was looking at it.
18	THE COURT: I haven't looked at it either, so in
19	any event, I know the motion to withdraw had been filed
20	last year, actually, not quite a year ago, but now it's
21	been set for a hearing.
22	MR. GILLESPIE: Judge, I'm not objecting to the
23	motion to withdraw.
24	THE COURT: You're not?
25	MR. GILLESPIE: No.

1	THE COURT: Oh, okay. Then
2	MR. GILLESPIE: He was aware of that before this
3	meeting.
4	THE COURT: Well, I don't know whether he was or
5	he wasn't. He certainly is now.
6	MR. BAUER: There was confusion, Your Honor, as to
7	at one point, I believe it was, and then he wanted to
8	appear at the hearing and has filed a motion in
9	response to it. I'm not really
10	THE COURT: Or a response.
11	MR. BAUER: He has filed a response.
12	THE COURT: That's okay. Anyway, he's announced
13	on the record he doesn't object.
14	Now the next question is if you've got somebody
15	else already lined up, then we can press forward, but
16	if you're going to need some time to try to find
17	another lawyer, which we certainly will give you a
18	reasonable time
19	And you didn't talk to the Defendant's lawyer to
20	see what kind of time they might be expecting, did you?
21	MR. BAUER: No, Your Honor.
22	THE COURT: There's nothing set in this case, is
23	there, other than this?
24	MR. GILLESPIE: I believe that's it.
25	THE COURT: Any hearings or trials?

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	1	MR. GILLESPIE: No. If we go to Page 5, I have
	2	three items there that address that. I am moving the
	3	Court for a 60 days' stay to find replacement counsel.
	4	THE COURT: Okay. Granted.
	5	MR. GILLESPIE: I'm moving the Court for leave to
	6	submit a Plaintiff's first amended complaint.
	7	THE COURT: Okay. Well, now see, if you get a
	8	stay, that's not a one-way stay. You know what I mean?
	9	MR. GILLESPIE: Yes.
	10	THE COURT: So if the case is stayed, the case
	11	will be stayed for 60 days, which means the other side
	12	can't set you down for a deposition next week or send
	13	you interrogatories or set hearings and so forth, but
	14	on the other hand, neither can you. You see what I'm
	15	saying?
	16	MR. GILLESPIE: The thing is we're into our fourth
	17	year on this case.
	18	THE COURT: I understand.
	19	MR. GILLESPIE: And we still are working on the
	20	Plaintiff's pro se complaint
	21	THE COURT: Right.
	22	MR. GILLESPIE: which is really sort of
	23	outrageous.
	24	THE COURT: Right. Now what I would suggest that
	25	you do, because I'm granting your first request and you
- 1	I	

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.

1	MR. GILLESPIE: There's going to be some new
2	defendants, and I know you'll be happy to get it off
3	your docket.
4	THE COURT: Well, I mean, whatever. I mean, I
5	actually enjoy this job, and a lot of cases are
6	interesting, and this is fairly an unusual one, at
7	least for me. So I mean, whichever way it goes, I'll
8	be ready to
9	MR. GILLESPIE: I would have been more prepared
10	today, but my mother died two weeks ago.
11	THE COURT: Oh. Sorry to hear that.
12	MR. GILLESPIE: Thank you. And that kind of put
13	things off.
14	The last thing I was asking for was a stay on the
15	judgement. Mr. Bauer neglected to file a timely motion
16	to stay that judgement, and that caused a lot of
17	problems. I guess you were away on vacation when that
18	came to fruition last year, and that really set the
19	case off track. So what I wanted to do is get a stay
20	in place. The 2nd District Court of Appeal has not yet
21	ruled on that matter. I'm still waiting to hear from
22	them.
23	THE COURT: Okay. Well, there will certainly be a
24	60-day stay. Now if that order has been appealed
25	It has?

THE COURT: There's not -- it's not necessarily

automatically stayed. If there's a judge -- if there's

MR. BAUER:

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a money judgement, under our rules of appellate

procedure, the party that has a judgement -- a money

judgement entered against them can post what's called a

supersedeas bond in X amount of dollars. It's usually

Yes, Your Honor.

8 the amount of the judgement plus a certain percentage.

MR. GILLESPIE: Yes. That's correct, Your Honor, but I don't qualify for that.

THE COURT: Right. Well, again, I'm not going to rule on anything else after having granted your first request, which is staying everything, which would include collection on this judgement, for the 60-day period you've asked for.

MR. GILLESPIE: Thank you, Judge.

THE COURT: And, again, that's another item that if you want to call up the other side and say, Look. Not only do I want to amend my complaint, but I'd like to have this sanction judgement stayed while it's on appeal, and they'll say, Yeah. No problem, or say, Well, hey, either post a bond or file a motion with the judge, you know, after the 60-day period that I've just ordered.

MR. GILLESPIE: Thank you, Judge. I appreciate

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           that.
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                 THE COURT:
                             So can you do an order on this?
 3
                            Yes, Your Honor.
                MR. BAUER:
                 THE COURT:
                            And then get it to me, and why don't
 5
           you run it by opposing counsel and also Mr. Gillespie
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           before you send it on to me, and then we'll sign it.
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                MR. BAUER: Yes, Your Honor.
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                 THE COURT: Okay. All right. Thank you.
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                 (The hearing concluded at 10:37 a.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	STATE OF FLORIDA
3	COUNTY OF HILLSBOROUGH
4	
5	I, Penny M. Appleton, Court Reporter for the
6	Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of the
7	State of Florida, in and for Hillsborough County,
8	DO HEREBY CERTIFY, that I was authorized to and
9	did, report in shorthand the proceedings and evidence in the
10	above-styled cause, as stated in the caption hereto, and
11	that the foregoing pages constitute a true and correct
12	transcription of my shorthand report of said proceedings and
13	evidence.
14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand in
15	the City of Tampa, County of Hillsborough, State of Florida
16	this 14th day of October, 2009.
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24	Penny M. Appleton, RPR
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