

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

08 CIV 5914

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Probate Proceeding, Miscellaneous and
Accounting Proceedings in the Estate of

08cv _____
(Surrogate Court/West.
Index No. 2239/2003)

MARGARET A. MCKEOWN,
Deceased.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL

-----X
*For referral to the Hon. Shira A. Scheindlin
as related to 08cv2391 (SAS)*

To: Clerk, United States Court for the
Southern District of New York
United States Court House
500 Pearl Street
New York, New York 10007

Clerk, Surrogates Court of
Westchester County
111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
White Plains, New York

Michael Mason Smith
192 Mica Hill Road,
Durham, Connecticut 06422

Daniel Gerard Walsh, Esq.,
DelBello Donnellan, et al.
One North Lexington Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Frank W. Streng, Esq.
McCarthy Fingar LLP
11 Martine Avenue,
White Plains, New York 10606

Mr. Charles A. Giuliani, Jr., Esq.
and Christine Giuliani, Esq.,
Giulini & Giuliani,
274 Madison Avenue, Suite 402
New York, New York 10016

Deborah S. Smith,
5 North Edgewood Road
Niantic, Connecticut 06357



Patricia Bave-Planell, Esq.,
Wilson, Bave, Conboy, Cozza & Couzens, LLP
Two Williams Street, White Plains, New York 10601

Thomas K. Lindgren, Esq.,
Poyner & Spruill, LLP,
3600 Glenwood Avenue
Raleigh, North Carolina 27612

Joseph F. McQuade, Esq.,
McQuade & McQuade
104 East 40th Street,
New York, New York 10016

The Charities Bureau of The NYS Attorney General
120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10271

State of Texas Attorney General
Attention: Ronald R. Del Vento, Assistant Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548, Austin, Texas 78711-2548

Peter J. Creedon, Esq.
Creedon & Gill
24 Bellemeade Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Our lady of Perpetual Help Church
555 Pelham Manor Road,
Pelham Manor, New York, New York 10803

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that Respondent in the above captioned proceedings,

Kevin McKeown, hereby removes all matters in the Estate of Margaret A. McKeown to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York (Foley Square) pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446, the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651(a), *inter alia*.

Timeliness of the Notice - This notice is timely under 28 U.S.C. §1446(b) as three (3) orders, dated June 16, 2008, June 19, 2008 and one undated, but submitted June 13, 2008, set forth removable federal claims which triggered the thirty-day removal period. (See attached Exhibit "A")

Nature of the Claims to be Removed - As the removed Estate matters are currently the underlying subject of a federal action in the Southern District of New York (Foley Square) before the Honorable Shira A. Scheindlin (08cv2391) (SAS) involving 28 U.S. C. § 1331, 28 U.S. C. §§ 1343(3), 42 U.S.C. §1983 and the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution, and as the three actions are alleged to have been advanced under the color of law ~~W~~Within the preceding 30 days, removal is timely and appropriate.

Under the color of law, the Surrogate's Court of Westchester County, and state actors, have acted without Jurisdiction in the estate since November 4, 2003, as the lack of the proper substitution of a party in an action renders all subsequent orders null and void as the court lacks jurisdiction (*see, Bossert v Ford Motor Co.*, 140 AD2d 480; *Silvagnoli v Consolidated Edison Employees Mut. Aid Socy.*, 112 AD2d 819). Accordingly, each and every order in the Estate of Margaret A. McKeown since November 4, 2003 is VOID as a matter of law (*see, Byrd v Johnson*, 67 AD2d 992). (See also, CPLR 1015, 1021). This action is separable as the herein respondent is the only respondent to advance the required action, *inter alia*. (See Exhibit "A")

When a federal court has jurisdiction over its case in chief, as does the district court here, the All-Writs Act grants it ancillary jurisdiction to issue writs "necessary or appropriate in aid of" that jurisdiction. Even before a federal judgment is reached, however, the preservation of the federal court's jurisdiction or authority over an ongoing matter may justify an injunction against actions in state courts. Such "federal injunctive relief may be necessary to prevent a state court from so interfering with a federal court's consideration or disposition of a case as to seriously impair the federal court's flexibility and authority to decide that case." Atlantic Coast Line R.R. Co. v. Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, 398 U.S. 281, 295, 90 S.Ct. 1739, 1747, 26 L.Ed.2d 234 (1970) (dicta)(Anti-Injunction Act). Additionally, the recent 3 actions under the color of law grants jurisdiction to this federal district court. See also In re Diet Drugs, 282 F.2d 220, 231-232 (3d Cir.

2001), as to the notice of removal base on §1651(a), as immediately stripping the state court of jurisdiction, equivalent to a notice based on 28 U.S.C. §§1441 and 1446(d); see also Neuman v. Goldberg, 159 B.R. 681, 685 (S.D.N.Y., 1993); United States v. City of New York, 972 F.2d 464, 469 (2d Cir. 1992). The critical interest to be served here by removal is preservation of the District Court's own jurisdiction. Thus, the All Writs Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1651 provides a sufficient basis for removal.

CONCLUSION

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully suggested following removal per Local Civil Rule 1.6, the Clerk should assign this matter to the Hon. Shira A. Scheindlin (08cv2391)(SAS).

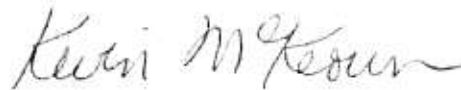
WHEREFORE, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1446 and 1651, Respondent hereby removes all matters in The Estate of Margaret A. McKeown (West. Surrogate's Court Index # 2239/2003) to the United State District Court for the Southern District of New York (Foley Square).

DECLARATION UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY

The undersigned declares under penalty of perjury that he is the ^{Kevin} plaintiff in the above action, that he has read the above 1st amended complaint and that the information contained in the complaint is true and correct, 28 U.S.C. § 1746; 18 U.S.C § 1621.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: New York, New York
June 30, 2008



Kevin McKeown
P.O. Box 616
New York, New York 10156
212-591-1022 tel
212-591-6022 fax

Denied for the reasons stated in the
Decision of this Court dated

SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

February 25, 2008



Probate Proceeding, Miscellaneous and
Accounting Proceedings in the Estate of

MARGARET A. MCKEOWN,

Deceased.

NOTICE OF MOTION

File No.: 2239/2003

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that upon the annexed Affidavit of Kevin McKeown, sworn to on June 13, 2008, and upon all papers and proceedings heretofore had herein, the undersigned will move this Court before the Honorable Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr., Surrogate, in the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Blvd, White Plains, New York on **July 2, 2008**, at 9:30 A.M., or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, for

1. an Order substituting Michael Mason Smith, as administrator of the Estate of Ronald P. McKeown, Jr., as party in the herein action; and
2. granting such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that pursuant to CPLR 2214 (b) Answering affidavits, if any, shall be served at least seven (7) days before the return date.

Dated: New York, New York
June 13, 2008



Kevin McKeown
P.O. Box 616
New York, NY 10156
212-591-1022 (tel)

To:

Michael Mason Smith
192 Mica Hill Road,
Durham, Connecticut 06422

Daniel Gerard Walsh, Esq.,
DelBello Donnellan, et al.
One North Lexington Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Frank W. Streng, Esq.
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White Plains, New York 10606

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and Christine Giulini, Esq.,
Giulini & Giulini,
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104 East 40th Street,
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The Charities Bureau of The NYS Attorney General
120 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10271

State of Texas Attorney General
Attention: Ronald R. Del Vento, Assistant Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548, Austin, Texas 78711-2548

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Creedon & Gill
24 Bellemeade Avenue, Smithtown, New York 11787

Our lady of Perpetual Help Church
555 Pelham Manor Road,
Pelham Manor, New York, New York 10803

SURROGATE'S COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Probate Proceeding, Miscellaneous and
Accounting Proceedings in the Estate of

MARGARET A. MCKEOWN,

Deceased.

**AFFIDAVIT IN
SUPPORT
OF MOTION**

File No.: 2239/2003

STATE OF NEW YORK)
) ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

KEVIN McKEOWN, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am a distributee of the above named Decedent, Margaret A. McKeown ("Decedent"), a legatee under the Last Will and Testament of said Decedent, and the nominated co-Executor under said Last Will. I am familiar with the facts and I make this Affidavit in support of my Motion for an Order substituting Michael Mason Smith, as administrator of the Estate of Ronald P. McKeown, Jr., as party in the herein action, and for such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

BACKGROUND

2. On September 4, 2003, Preliminary Letters Testamentary were issued to Petitioner, Kevin McKeown, and his sister, Mary M. Virga. That submission was prepared, executed and filed by New York attorney Joseph McQuade, who had been jointly and formally retained, and paid, by the two named co-executors. Initially, proper service, notice and attorney appearances were filed by the decedent's four interested children: the herein petitioner ("Kevin"), Mary Virga ("Mary"), Ronald P. McKeown, Jr. ("Ronald") and Thomas J. McKeown, Sr. ("Thomas").

3. Kevin McKeown's Preliminary Letters were temporarily suspended by an *ex parte* Order dated the 8th day of October, 2003, upon a verified petition that had been prepared, executed, notarized and filed in court by my own co-retained attorney, Joseph McQuade. To be clear, on October 8, 2003, attorney Joseph McQuade, and while simultaneously representing co-clients Kevin and Mary, he (McQuade) filed *ex parte* papers on behalf of one co-client (Mary) against another co-client (Kevin) in the same matter (the herein estate).

4. Upon presentation of public records, *inter alia*, showing Mary Virga's status as a convicted felon, her authority was suspended on October 28, 2003 by order of this court. (Note: Kevin McKeown is not a convicted felon) Later, Ms. Virga replaced attorney McQuade with Mr. Thomas K. Lindgren, Esq., and who subsequently filed a Notice of Appearance on behalf of Ms. Virga. While represented by attorney Thomas Lindgren, Ms. Virga formally advised the court through filings that she was formally withdrawing any and all desire to be a co-fiduciary of the herein estate.

5. At all relevant times, Ronald and Thomas were jointly represented by the same attorney, first Magdalen Gaynor, Esq., and subsequently, and by proper substitution, McCarthy Fingar, LLP, and as formerly known in these proceedings as McCarthy, Fingar, Donovan, Drazen & Smith, LLP.

Prior to November 4, 2003

6. Prior to November 4, 2003, the court through filings, and all attorneys of record, by proper copy and service of all pleadings, were knowledgeable that Ronald P. McKeown, Jr. had "...a \$250,000.00+ Federal tax lien filed against him... and a [then] \$492,158.00 judgment... [**\$1,618,482.84 as of December 10, 2007**] by the State of Texas and filed in [his, Ronald's] home state of Connecticut." The attorneys were also informed that Ronald was then out on bail after being arrested for allegations involving his theft of over \$140,000.00 in 9/11 American Red Cross funds and had, as a result, pending claims against him by the American Red Cross, as well as the State of

Connecticut. Also, all parties interested herein, and their attorneys, were knowledgeable of the fact that Ronald had been under in-patient and out-patient psychiatric care, pursuant to a criminal court order, for the then-preceding year. (See Kevin McKeown *Affidavit in Opposition of Removal/Suspension*, filed October 16, 2003)

November 4, 2003

7. On November 4, 2003, Ronald P. McKeown, Jr. committed suicide. To date, and now over four years later, a proper substitution of Ronald's interest as a party in the herein estate, has never been made. This defect was brought to my attention on Thursday, January 18, 2008.

Without the Proper Substitution of a Party, This Court Lacks Jurisdiction

8. I was advised that it is well settled that the lack of the proper substitution of a party in an action renders all subsequent orders null and void as the court lacks jurisdiction (*see, Bossert v Ford Motor Co.*, 140 AD2d 480; *Silvagnoli v Consolidated Edison Employees Mut. Aid Socy.*, 112 AD2d 819) The Surrogate's Court of Westchester County has not had jurisdiction in my mother's estate since November 4, 2003, except as to the never properly adjudicated issues concerning the proper substitution of Ronald as an interested party.

There was a Filing, But Not a Party Substitution

9. It is uncontested that within days after Ronald's death on November 4, 2003, the attorney of record for Ronald prior to his (Ronald's) death, presented for filing in the Surrogate's Court a purported, **and heavily contested by me**, assignment of interest in the herein estate. I have been recently informed that Ronald's death terminated his attorney's power to act on his behalf (*Wisdom v Wisdom*, 111 AD2d 13). Alarming, just days before Ronald's death, the purported assignment had been prepared for, and executed by, Ronald- an assignor known to have attempted suicide numerous times within the previous year. And despite the attorney's knowledge that his authority to act as attorney on behalf of the assignor upon his (the assignor's) death, that attorney caused the assignment to be presented to this court within days of his death. Notably, and as a result

of Ronald's death, the herein estate proceedings were stayed as a matter of law on November 4, 2003, but improperly not in practice, pending the substitution of a legal representative (*Weber v Bellinger*, 124 AD2d 1009). Accordingly, each and every order in the Estate of Margaret A. McKeown since November 4, 2003 is VOID as a matter of law (*see, Byrd v Johnson*, 67 AD2d 992).

Another Filing but Still Not a Proper Party Substitution

10. On or about December 16, 2003, Charles A. Giulini, Jr., Esq., of Giulini & Giulini, filed a *Notice of Appearance* on behalf of the purported assignee of Ronald's purported assignment. In fact, Ronald's purported assignment was filed in the Westchester County Surrogate's Court as an attachment to attorney Charles A. Giulini's December 16, 2003 *Notice of Appearance* on behalf of the assignee, Ronald's widow. However, and though the assignment at issue was paid for and presented to the court in November of 2003, it was, by way of a court "administrative oversight" not formally entered in this court until July of 2007 (*see, Court Clerk's July 2007 dated letter*). At all times relevant, the Giulini attorneys advanced their fraud upon this court, the second department appellate division and the estate.

11. While I believe relief from damages caused me by the outrageous acts meant to defraud me, this court, the States of Connecticut and Texas, The American Red Cross and my mother's intentions are warranted, they are for another day in subsequent proceedings. I simply wish to note here that the clear purpose of the assignment was to improperly prefer the assignee over the known laws of New York and the claims of legitimate creditors. In fact, the assignee avoided filing Ronald's will for probate in Connecticut even though she was the sole beneficiary under that will (Note: she was NOT the named executor of Ronald's will). The attempt to conceal a will is a criminal act under Connecticut law. The East Lyme Connecticut Probate Court created, by decree signed December 9, 2004, an estate in the name Ronald P. McKeown, Jr. - 13 months after his

death, and only upon MY application. Even then, a proper substitution was never filed in these proceedings. In addition, the assignor's will was not produced until almost ten months after his death and, again, only **after** I petitioned the Connecticut Probate Court for a Connecticut administrator to be appointed. Only then did the will get presented. (Section 18 of the Connecticut Probate Law *requires* that a will be presented for filing within 30 days of death. Connecticut General Statutes section 45-165 makes it a crime to conceal any testamentary instrument after death.) **Notably, New York attorney Christine Giuliani, and who has improperly and actively appeared in herein estate proceedings after November 4, 2003, was, at all times relevant, also admitted to practice law in the state of Connecticut and fully familiar with estate filing requirements in both states.**

12. The purported assignment is not valid as it was drafted, executed, filed and relied upon to defraud known creditors in violation of New York Debtor & Creditor Law 273 and 273-a, *inter alia*. By law, it is not a valid instrument to be relied upon. Deborah Smith's standing as a purported assignee has always been improper, contrary to law, and not in the best interest of the Estate of Margaret McKeown. The improper presence of Deborah Smith McKeown *as assignee* has only been a detriment to the herein proceedings. Michael Smith as fiduciary of Ronald's Connecticut estate has always had standing in the herein estate, but he has chosen to neglect his obligation where there is a clear conflict between seeing his sister gain through the fraudulent assignment, or honoring his duty to gather assets in NY for deposit into the CT estate and where creditors claims should be paid.

13. To date, no proper party substitution has ever been made by: (a) the assignee Deborah Smith; (b) Ronald's estate's administrator, Michael Smith; (c) New York attorney Charles A. Giuliani, Jr.; (d) New York and Connecticut admitted attorney Christine Giuliani; (e) former estate attorney Joseph McQuade; (f) The Public Administrator, George Lambert; (g) The Public Administrator's attorney Daniel Walsh; or (h) **Robert A. Korren, Esq., who at all times relevant was the attorney for the Public Administrator, and who advised me in February of 2008 that he, in fact, knew that Ronald's death stayed all estate proceedings and that no orders should have been made**

until a proper party was substituted. I believe the public administrator and his law firm's collective failure to insure proper party substitution **DEMANDS** their immediate and permanent disassociation with the herein estate, and proper referral to appropriate agencies for investigation and action.

14. **The current application is essential to the long-overdue administration of my mother's estate.** In *Brown v Konczeski*, 242 A.D.2d 847, that court, while firm in the lower court's lack of jurisdiction pending proper party substitution, commented that, "[w]e note that the application on appeal was not a motion to dismiss for failure to substitute a personal representative within a reasonable time made on notice to the persons interested in the estate (see, CPLR 1015, 1021)" I, acting without an attorney at all times relevant, only became aware of this deficiency on Thursday, January 17, 2008, and have been severely prejudiced, harmed and damaged by the numerous and purported orders issued since November 4, 2003. Once the required proper party substitution of party is made, I intend to seek appropriate redress as constitutionally guaranteed.

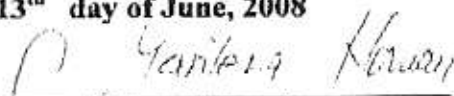
15. The well-known intention of my mother, right up until the moment she died, to see that the American Red Cross monies taken by Ronald be repaid, **DEMANDS** long-awaited justice in these proceedings. I have been severely harmed by not going along with the intended criminal acts of those who advanced the fraudulent assignment and who knowingly failed to file required on-notice substitution of party papers. I have no other adequate remedy of law.

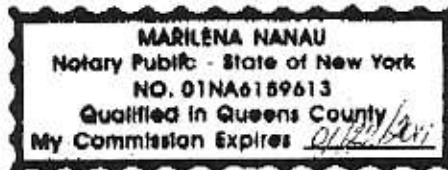
WHEREFORE, your deponent respectfully prays that the Court enter an Order substituting Michael Mason Smith, as administrator of the Estate of Ronald P. McKeown, Jr., as party in the herein action, and for such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Dated: June 13, 2008
New York, New York


Kevin McKeown

Sworn to before me
this 13th day of June, 2008


Notary Public



At the Surrogate's Court of the
State of New York, Westchester
County, at the Courthouse
located at 111 Dr. Martin Luther
King, Jr. Blvd., White Plains,
New York 10601, on the 19
day of June, 2008

STATE OF NEW YORK
SURROGATE'S COURT: COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
Present: HONORABLE GERALD E. LOEHR, A.J.S.C.

-----X
In the Matter of the Accounting By
Mary McKeown Virga as the Preliminary
Executrix of the Estate of

File No. 2239/2003

MARGARET A. McKEOWN
a/k/a MARGE McKEOWN

ORDER

Deceased
-----X

Petitioner Mary Virga, by and through her counsel, having made application to the Court by Notice of Motion for an Order (i) striking the Answer and Objections to the Preliminary Accounting filed by Respondent Kevin McKeown, or (ii) precluding Kevin McKeown from producing any evidence at trial pursuant to Rule 3042 and 3126 of the CPLR, and (iii) directing that Kevin McKeown waived his right to conduct a deposition of Mary McKeown Virga,

NOW, upon reading the Notice of Motion dated May 16, 2005, the Affidavit of Patricia Bave-Planell, Esq. dated May 16, 2008 and the Exhibits annexed thereto, and upon all of the papers and proceedings heretofore had herein, and the Motion having regularly come on to be heard and the parties or their attorneys, having appeared on May 30, 2008, the return date for the Motion, and no opposition to the Motion having been submitted and Kevin McKeown having failed to appear or otherwise oppose the Motion,

NOW on Motion of Wilson, Bave, Conboy, Cozza & Couzens, P.C., attorneys for Mary McKeown Virga, it is hereby

Ordered and Adjudged that the Answer to Petition and Objections to Accounting of Kevin McKeown, dated October 30, 2007, submitted in response to the Preliminary Accounting filed by Mary McKeown Virga are stricken by reason of Kevin McKeown's willful and continued failure to comply with the Court's Preliminary Conference Order.

ENTER,



HONORABLE GERALD E. LOEHR,
A.J.S.C.

TO: CLERK OF THE COURT

KEVIN McKEOWN
P.O. Box 616
New York, NY 10156

McQUADE & McQUADE
104 E. 40 Street
New York, NY 10016

MCCARTHY FINGAR
11 Martins Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

POYNER & SPRUILL LLP
3600 Glenwood Avenue
P.O. Box 10096
Raleigh, NC 27612-0096

DEBBIE MCKEOWN SMITH
5 North Edgwood Road
Niantic, CT 06357

DELBELLO DONNELLAN WEINGARTEN WISE & WIEDERKEHR LLP
1 North Lexington Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

At the Surrogate's Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, at the Courthouse located at 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., White Plains, New York 10601, on the 22 day of June, 2008

PRESENT: HON. GERALD E. LOEHR, A.J.S.C.
ACTING SURROGATE

-----X
ACCOUNTING BY GEORGE J. LAMBERT

As the Administrator CTA of
the ESTATE OF

ORDER

File No. 2239/2003(B)

MARGARET A. McKEOWN,
A/K/A MARGE McKEOWN,

Deceased.

-----X

Petitioner, George J. Lambert, Westchester County Public Administrator, having made application by Notice of Motion for an Order striking the Answer and Objections to Accounting filed by Respondent Kevin McKeown, dated March 14, 2008, in the within proceedings, or, in the alternative, for an Order precluding Respondent Kevin McKeown from producing any evidence at trial, pursuant to Rule 3042 and Section 3126 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules.

NOW, upon reading the Notice of Motion dated May 19, 2008, the Affirmation of Daniel G. Walsh, Esq., dated May 16, 2008, and the Exhibits annexed thereto, and upon all of the papers and proceedings heretofore had herein, and the motion having regularly come on to be heard on May 30, 2008 at 9:30 a.m., and the attorneys for the parties appearing in the within proceedings having appeared on May 30, 2008 and not opposed the aforesaid motion, and Respondent Kevin McKeown having failed to appear on May 30, 2008 or otherwise oppose the aforesaid motion,

NOW, on motion of DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, attorneys for Petitioner, George J. Lambert, Westchester County Public Administrator, it is hereby

ORDERED, that the Answer to Petition and Objections to Accounting, dated March 14, 2008, filed by Respondent Kevin McKeown in the within proceedings, be and hereby are stricken, by reason of Respondent Kevin McKeown's willful and continued failure to provide a Verified Bill of Particulars in response to Petitioner's Demand for Verified Bill of Particulars or to comply with the Court's Preliminary Conference Order.

ENTER:



HON. GERALD E. LOEHR, A.J.S.C.