# TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A.

BOCA VILLAGE CORPORATE CENTER I 4855 TECHNOLOGY WAY, SUITE 720 BOCA RATON, FLORIDA 33431

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January 14, 2014

# VIA U.S. MAIL AND EMAIL

Ted S. Bernstein 880 Berkeley Street Boca Raton, FL 33487

Pamela B. Simon 950 North Michigan Ave. Suite 2603 Chicago, IL 60606 Eliot Bernstein 2753 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street Boca Raton, FL 33434

Jill Iantoni 2101 Magnolia Lane Highland Park, IL 60035 Lisa S. Friedstein 2142 Churchill Lane Highland Park, IL 60035

#### Re: Estates and Trusts of Shirley Bernstein and Simon Bernstein

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen:

It has been brought to my attention that a document was prepared in our office that altered the disposition of the Shirley Bernstein Trust subsequent to Simon Bernstein's death. Information provided to me appears to indicate that there were two versions of the First Amendment to the Shirley Bernstein Trust Agreement, both executed on November 18, 2008. Under one version the children of Pam Simon and Ted Bernstein would not be permissible appointees of Simon Bernstein's exercise of the power of appointment while under the second version that restriction was removed. As you all know, Simon Bernstein's dispositive plan, expressed to all of you during his lifetime on a conference call, was to distribute the Estate to all ten of his grandchildren. That was the basis upon which the administration was moving forward.

Under the Shirley Bernstein Trust, there is a definition of children and lineal descendants. That definition excluded Pam Simon, Ted Bernstein and their respective children from inheriting. The document also contained a special Power of Appointment for Simon wherein he could appoint the assets of the Trust for Shirley's lineal descendants. Based upon the definition of children and lineal descendants, the Power of Appointment could not be exercised in favor of Pam Simon, Ted Bernstein or their respective children, although we believe it was Simon Bernstein's wish to provide equally for all of his grandchildren.

On November 18, 2008, it does appear from the information that I have reviewed that Shirley Bernstein executed a First Amendment to her trust agreement. The document as executed appears to make only one relatively minor modification to her trust disposition by eliminating a specific gift to Ted

Attorneys Donald R. Tescher Robert L. Spallina Lauren A. Galvani SUPPORT STAFF DIANE DUSTIN KIMBERLY MORAN SUANN TESCHER Bernstein Family January 14, 2014 Page 2

Bernstein's stepson. In January of 2013 a First Amendment to the Shirley Bernstein Trust Agreement was provided to Christine Yates, Esq. who, at that time, was representing Eliot Bernstein. The document provided contained a paragraph number 2 which modified the definitional language in Shirley's document so as to permit, by deleting the words "and their respective lineal descendants" from the definition, an exercise of the power of appointment by Simon Bernstein over the Shirley Bernstein Trust to pass equally to all ten grandchildren rather than only six of the grandchildren.

By virtue of The Florida Bar Rules of Professional Conduct, I am duty bound to provide this information to you. Obviously, as a result of the issues and ramifications raised by the allegations, my firm must resign from further representation in all matters relating to the Estates and Trusts of Simon Bernstein and Shirley Bernstein. Furthermore, it is my intent, and I assume also the intent of Robert Spallina, to tender our resignations as personal representatives of the Simon Bernstein Estate and as trustees of the Simon Bernstein Trust. If the majority of the Bernstein family is in agreement, I would propose to exercise the power to designate a successor trustee by appointing Ted Bernstein in that capacity. With regard to the Simon Bernstein Estate, the appointment of the successor would require a court proceeding.

I am obviously upset and distraught over this chain of events and will do all that I reasonably can to correct and minimize any damages to the Bernstein family. As I believe you know, to date there has only been a modest funding of some, but not all, of the continuing trusts for the grandchildren emanating from Shirley's Trust assets.

Very/truly yours, DONALOR. TESCHER

DRT/km cc: Alan Rose, Esq.

IN RE: ESTATE OF SIMON L. BERNSTEIN,

Deceased,

ELIOT IVAN BERNSTEIN, PRO SE

Petitioner

vs.

. . .

TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A., (and all parties, associates and of counsel); ROBERT L. SPALLINA (both personally and professionally); DONALD R. TESCHER (both personally and professionally); THEODORE STUART BERNSTEIN (as alleged personal representative, trustee, successor trustee) (both personally and professionally); et. al.

**Respondents.** 

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#### PETITION FOR RESIGNATION AND DISCHARGE

Petitioners, Donald R. Tescher and Robert L. Spallina, as co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Simon L. Bernstein, hereby file their Petition for Resignation and Discharge and state;

1. Donald R. Tescher and Robert L. Spallina are the named co-Personal Representatives

under the Last Will and Testament of Simon L. Bernstein admitted to probate on October 2, 2012,

with Letters of Administration issued on that same day.

2. As a result of irreconcilable differences with the children and grandchildren of Simon

L. Bernstein, it is necessary for the Petitioners to resign, and the Petitioners hereby seek leave to resign pursuant to § 733.502 of the Florida Statutes. The family members have indicated that they are amenable to this voluntary resignation of the co-Personal Representatives.

3. The interests of the estate will not be jeopardized by the resignation of the co-Personal Representatives.

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PROBATE DIVISION

CASE NO. 502012CP004391XXXXSB

**DIVISION: IY (COLIN)** 

4. The Petitioners will co-operate with the duly appointed successor Personal Representative or court-appointed curator pending appointment of a successor Personal Representative pursuant to § 733.5061 of the Florida Statutes and will immediately make available all relevant documents and materials, subject to retaining such access as necessary to permit the Petitioners to fulfill their accounting obligations under § 733.5061 and § 733.508 of the Florida Statutes.

5. Upon rendering a final accounting and fulfilling their obligations and responsibilities outlined in § 733.502, § 733.5035, § 733.5036, § 733.508, and § 733.509 of the Florida statutes, as well as related Probate Rules, the Petitioners request that this Court discharge the Petitioners as co-Personal Representatives.

WHEREFORE, Petitions request this court issue an Order accepting their resignation as co-Personal Representatives and revoking their Letters of Administration pursuant to § 733.502 of the Florida Statutes, reserving any and all issues as to discharge pending the rendering of their final accounting and the fulfillment of such other responsibilities outlined herein pursuant to the Florida Statutes.

DATED this *V* day of January, 2014. Respectfully Submitted TESCHER & SPALINA, P.A. By: ROBERT SPALLINA, ESQUIRE Florida Bar No. 497\$81 4855 Technolog Way, St. 720 Boca Raton, FL 334 Telephone: 561-997-7008 rspallina@tescherspallina.com kmoran@tescherspallina.com

ROBERT I SPAILLINA, Petitioner

DONALD R. TESCHER, Petitioner

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by e-mail to the designated address(es) and U.S. Mail, as noted, to all parties on the following Service List, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2014.

Robert L. Spallina, Esq.

#### SERVICE LIST

Theodore Stuart Bernstein (e-mail) Life Insurance Concepts 950 Peninsula Corporate Circle, Suite 3010 Boca Raton, Florida 33487 Alan B. Rose, Esq. (E-mail) Page Mrachek Fitzgerald Rose Konopka & Dow PA 505 S Flagler Dr Ste 600 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Eliot Bernstein (U.S. Mail) 2753 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street Boca Raton, Florida 33434

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Lisa Sue Friedstein (U.S. Mail) 2142 Churchill Lane Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Pamela Beth Simon (U.S. Mail) 950 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2603 Chicago, Illinois 60611

Jill Iantoni (U.S. Mail) 2101 Magnolia Lane Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Donald R. Tescher (E-mail) 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720 Boca Raton, Florida 33431

IN RE: ESTATE OF PROBATE DIVISION SHIRLEY BERNSTEIN, File No.502011CP000653XXXXSB Deceased.

#### MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL

COME NOW, Robert L. Spallina, Esq., and Tescher & Spallina, P.A., pursuant to Rule 2.505 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration, hereby file this Motion to Withdraw as Counsel and, in support thereof, state as follows:

1. TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A. was retained by Ted S. Bernstein as successor Personal Representative (hereinafter, the "Client") to represent him in these proceedings.

2. ROBERT L. SPALLINA, ESQ. of TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A. was the attorney responsible for rendering services to the Client.

3. Irreconcilable differences have arisen which prevent the continued representation of the Client.

4. The mailing address, e-mail address and telephone number of the Client are as follows:

Mailing Address:	950 Peninsula Corporate Circle, Suite 3010
	Boca Raton, Florida 33487
E-Mail Address:	tbernstein@lifeinsuranceconcepts.com
Telephone Number:	(561) 988-8994

WHEREFORE, TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A. and ROBERT L. SPALLINA, ESQ., hereby respectfully request that this Honorable Court enter an Order consistent with the relief requested herein allowing TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A. and ROBERT L. SPALLINA, ESQ. to withdraw and any other relief this Honorable Court deems just, equitable and proper.

18-5 , 2014. Signed on

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TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A.

By:

ROBERT L. SPALLINA, ESQUIRE Florida Bar No. 49738 4855 Technology Way, St. 720 Boca Raton, FL 33431 Telephone: 561-997-7008 rspallina@tescherspallina.com kmoran@tescherspallina.com

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by e-mail to the designated address(es) and U.S. Mail, as noted, to all parties on the following Service List, this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of January, 2014.

Robert L. Spallina, Esq.

#### SERVICE LIST

Theodore Stuart Bernstein (e-mail) Life Insurance Concepts 950 Peninsula Corporate Circle, Suite 3010 Boca Raton, Florida 33487

Eliot Bernstein (U.S. Mail) 2753 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street Boca Raton, Florida 33434

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Pamela Beth Simon (U.S. Mail) 950 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2603 Chicago, Illinois 60611

Jill Iantoni (U.S. Mail) 2101 Magnolia Lane Highland Park, Illinois 60035 Alan B. Rose, Esq. (E-mail) Page Mrachek Fitzgerald Rose Konopka & Dow PA 505 S Flagler Dr Ste 600 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

IN RE: ESTATE OF SIMON L. BERNSTEIN,

Deceased.

ELIOT IVAN BERNSTEIN, PRO SE

Petitioner

vs.

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TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A., (and all parties, associates and of counsel); ROBERT L. SPALLINA (both personally and professionally); DONALD R. TESCHER (both personally and professionally); THEODORE STUART BERNSTEIN (as alleged personal representative, trustee, successor trustee) (both personally and professionally); et. al.

**Respondents.** 

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# CONSENT AND JOINDER TO MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL OF RECORD

I, ROBERT L. SPALLINA, ESQ., as co-personal representative of the above-referenced estate, as counsel for the co-personal representative, Donald R. Tescher, and as a respondent, both personally and professionally, hereby consent to and join in the Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record filed by Mark R. Manceri, Esq. and Mark. R. Manceri, P.A., on January 10, 2014, which motion has been set for hearing on January 23, 2014, at 8:45 a.m.

DATED this Adday of January, 2014.

TESCHER & SPAI By:

ROBERT-L. SPALIINA, ESQUIRE Florida Bar No. 497381 4855 Technology Way, St. 720 Boca Raton, FL 33431 Telephone: 561-997-7008 rspallina@tescherspallina.com kmoran@tescherspallina.com

PROBATE DIVISION

CASE NO. 502012CP004391XXXXSB

**DIVISION: IY (COLIN)** 

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by e-mail to the designated address(es) and U.S. Mail, as noted, to all parties on the following Service List, this day of January, 2014.

Robert L. Spallina, Esq. SERVICE LIST

Theodore Stuart Bernstein (e-mail) Life Insurance Concepts 950 Peninsula Corporate Circle, Suite 3010 Boca Raton, Florida 33487 Alan B. Rose, Esq. (E-mail) Page Mrachek Fitzgerald Rose Konopka & Dow PA 505 S Flagler Dr Ste 600 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Eliot Bernstein (U.S. Mail) 2753 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street Boca Raton, Florida 33434

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Pamela Beth Simon (U.S. Mail) 950 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 2603 Chicago, Illinois 60611

Jill Iantoni (U.S. Mail) 2101 Magnolia Lane Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Donald R. Tescher (E-mail) 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720 Boca Raton, Florida 33431

# IN RE: ESTATE OF SHIRLEY BERNSTEIN,

Deceased.

**ELIOT IVAN BERNSTEIN, PRO SE** 

Petitioner

vs.

TESCHER & SPALLINA, P.A., (and all parties, associates and of counsel); ROBERT L. SPALLINA (both personally and professionally); DONALD R. TESCHER (both personally and professionally); THEODORE STUART BERNSTEIN (as alleged personal representative, trustee, successor trustee) (both personally and professionally); et. al.

**Respondents.** 

# CONSENT AND JOINDER TO MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL OF RECORD

I, ROBERT L. SPALLINA, ESQ., as counsel for the successor personal representative, Ted S. Bernstein, and as a respondent, both personally and professionally, hereby consent to and join in the Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record filed by Mark R. Manceri, Esq. and Mark. R. Manceri, P.A., on January 10, 2014, which motion has been set for hearing on January 23, 2014, at 8:45 a.m.

DATED this  $\partial \partial$  day of January, 2014.

**TESCHER & SP** By:

ROBERT L. SPALLINA, ESQUIRE Florida Bar No. 497381 4855 Technology Way, St. 720 Boca Raton, FL 3343 Telephone: 561-997-7008 rspallina@tescherspallina.com kmoran@tescherspallina.com

PROBATE DIVISION

CASE NO. 502011CP000653XXXXSB

**DIVISION: IY (COLIN)** 

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by e-mail to the designated address(es) and U.S. Mail, as noted, to all parties on the following Service List, this day of January, 2014.

Robert L. Spallina, Esq.

## SERVICE LIST

Theodore Stuart Bernstein (e-mail) Life Insurance Concepts 950 Peninsula Corporate Circle, Suite 3010 Boca Raton, Florida 33487 Alan B. Rose, Esq. (E-mail) Page Mrachek Fitzgerald Rose Konopka & Dow PA 505 S Flagler Dr Ste 600 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Eliot Bernstein (U.S. Mail) 2753 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street Boca Raton, Florida 33434

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Jill Iantoni (U.S. Mail) 2101 Magnolia Lane Highland Park, Illinois 60035

Donald R. Tescher (E-mail) 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720 Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Filing # 9051696 Electronically Filed 01/10/2014 05:12:14 PM

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

#### WILLIAM E. STANSBURY,

# CIVIL DIVISION

Plaintiff,

# CASE NO: 502012CA013933 MB AA

**DIVISION: BLANC** 

vs.

TED S. BERNSTEIN; DONALD TESCHER and ROBERT SPALLINA, as Co-Personal Representatives of the ESTATE OF SIMON L. BERNSTEIN and as Co-Trustees of the SHIRLEY BERNSTEIN TRUST AGREEMENT dated May 20, 2008; LIC HOLDINGS, INC.; ARBITRAGE INTERNATIONAL MANAGEMENT, LLC, f/k/a ARBITRAGE INTERNATIONAL HOLDINGS, LLC; BERNSTEIN FAMILY REALTY, LLC,

Defendants.

MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL OF RECORD

COME NOW, Mark R. Manceri, Esq., and Mark R. Manceri, P.A., pursuant to Rule 2.505 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration and hereby file this their Motion to Withdraw as Counsel of Record and in support thereof state, as follows:

1. MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. was retained by Donald R. Tescher and Robert L.

Spallina, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Simon Bernstein; and Bernstein Family

Realty LLC (hereinafter the "Clients") to represent them in these proceedings.

2. MARK R. MANCERI, ESQ. of MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. was the attorney

responsible for rendering the legal services to the Clients.

3. Professional consideration(s) has arisen which prevent(s) the continued

- 1 -

# FILE NO.:502012CA013933 MB AA

representation of the Clients.

4.

The mailing and e-mail addresses and the telephone numbers of the Clients are

as follows:

Donald R. Tescher, Co-Personal Representative, 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, e-mail: dtescher@tescherspallina.com; telephone number (561) 997-7008.

Robert L. Spallina, Co-Personal Representative, 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, e-mail: rspallina@tescherspallina.com; telephone number (561) 997-7008.

Bernstein Family Realty, LLC, c/o Janet Craig, CTFA, Senior Vice President & Compliance Office, Oppenheimer Trust Company, 18 Columbia Turnpike, Florham Park, NJ 07932, e-mail: Janet.Craig@opco.com: telephone number (973) 245-4635.

WHEREFORE, MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. and MARK R. MANCERI, ESQ., hereby

request that this Honorable Court enter an Order consistent with the relief requested herein

allowing MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. and MARK R. MANCERI, ESQ. to withdraw and any

other relief this Honorable Court deems just, equitable and proper.

MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. Attorney for Donald R. Tescher and Robert L. Spallina, as Co-Personal Representatives and Bernstein Family Realty, LLC 2929 East Commercial Blvd., Suite 702 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308 Telephone: (954) 491-7099 E-mail: <u>mrmlaw@comcast.net</u> mrmlaw1@gmail.com

Bv/ n Coll

Mark R. Manceri, Esq. Florida Bar No. 444560

# 502012CA013933 MB AA

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by

e-mail to the designated address(es) to all parties on the following Service List, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of

January, 2014.

Mark R. Manceri, Esq.

#### SERVICE LIST

Peter M. Feaman, Esq.Peter M. Feaman, P.A.3615 West Boynton Beach Blvd.Boynton Beach, Florida 33436

Alan B. Rose, Esq. Page, Mrachek, Fitzgerald, et.al. 505 South Flagler Drive, Suite 600 West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Donald R. Tescher, Co-Personal Representative 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720 Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Robert L. Spallina, Co-Personal Representative 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720 Boca Raton, Florida 33431

Bernstein Family Realty, LLC c/o Janet Craig, CTFA Senior Vice President & Compliance Office Oppenheimer Trust Company 18 Columbia Turnpike Florham Park, NJ 07932

PROBATE DIVISION FILE NO.: 502012CP004391XXXXSB IY DIVISION: COLIN

IN RE: ESTATE OF

SIMON BERNSTEIN

Deceased.

# MOTION TO WITHDRAW AS COUNSEL OF RECORD

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1. MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. was retained by Donald R. Tescher and Robert L.

Spallina, as Co-Personal Representatives of the Estate of Simon Bernstein (hereinafter the "Clients") to represent them in these proceedings.

2. MARK R. MANCERI, ESQ. of MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. was the attorney responsible for rendering the legal services to the Clients.

3. Professional consideration(s) has arisen which prevent(s) the continued representation of the Clients.

4. The mailing and e-mail addresses and the telephone numbers of the Clients are as follows:

# FILE NO.: 502012CP004391XXXXSB IY

Donald R. Tescher, Co-Personal Representative, 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, e-mail: dtescher@tescherspallina.com; telephone number (561) 997-7008.

Robert L. Spallina, Co-Personal Representative, 4855 Technology Way, Suite 720, Boca Raton, Florida 33431, e-mail: rspallina@tescherspallina.com; telephone number (561) 997-7008.

WHEREFORE, MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. and MARK R. MANCERI, ESQ., hereby

request that this Honorable Court enter an Order consistent with the relief requested herein

allowing MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. and MARK R. MANCERI, ESQ. to withdraw and any

other relief this Honorable Court deems just, equitable and proper.

MARK R. MANCERI, P.A. Attorney for Donald R. Tescher and Robert L. Spallina, as Co-Personal Representatives 2929 East Commercial Blvd., Suite 702 Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33308 Telephone: (954) 491-7099 E-mail: mrmlaw@comcast.net mrmlaw1@gmail.com

marcera: By:

Mark R. Manceri, Esq. Florida Bar No. 444560

# FILE NO.: 502012CP004391XXXXSB IY

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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List, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2014.

Mark R. Manceri, Esq.

#### SERVICE LIST

Peter M. Feaman, Esq. (e-mail)Peter M. Feaman, P.A.3615 West Boynton Beach Blvd.Boynton Beach, Florida 33436

Eliot Bernstein (U.S. mail) 2753 NW 34<sup>th</sup> Street Boca Raton, Florida 33434

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