

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
FIFTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN
AND FOR PALM BEACH COUNTY,
FLORIDA.

CASE NO. 502012CP004391XXXXSB
CP - Probate

IN RE:

ESTATE OF SIMON L. BERNSTEIN,
_____ /

AFFIDAVIT OF DONALD R. TESCHER

STATE OF FLORIDA)
)
COUNTY OF PALM BEACH)

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally appeared Donald R. Tescher, upon being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I am over the age of eighteen years, sui juris, and have personal knowledge of the facts set forth herein.
2. Tescher & Spallina, P.A. ("Firm") were counsel to Shirley Bernstein and Simon L. Bernstein while they were alive. They had five children borne of their long-time marriage, Ted Bernstein, Pamela Simon, Eliot Bernstein, Lisa Friedstein and Jill Iantoni. Simon was the natural father and Shirley was the natural mother of each of these children. Simon and Shirley also had ten living grandchildren, each of whom was a direct and natural descendant of one of the children. Thus, Simon and Shirley had fifteen lineal descendants.
3. After consultations with Robert L. Spallina and myself or solely with Robert L. Spallina, a Will and Trust was created for each of Simon and Shirley, as amended. I am aware of the final estate plan of each, as expressed in their final testamentary documents, specifically:



- a. Will of Shirley Bernstein dated May 20, 2008 (Exhibit A);
- b. Shirley Bernstein Trust Agreement dated May 20, 2008 (Exhibit B), as Amended on November 18, 2008 (Exhibit C);
- c. Will of Simon L. Bernstein dated July 25, 2012 (Exhibit D); and
- d. Simon L. Bernstein Amended and Restated Trust Agreement dated July 25, 2013 (Exhibit E).

4. The attached five documents are the final documents signed by each of Shirley and Simon, respectively, during their lives. The originals of the Wills were retained in our Firm's safe deposit box (or "vault") until the times of their deaths.

5. It is my understanding and belief that, during their lifetimes, neither Shirley nor Simon shared copies of their testamentary documents with their children. None of the five children were involved in the estate planning process, nor did any of them attend any meetings with myself as counsel.

6. When Shirley died on December 8, 2010, her testamentary documents provided that Simon be given any tangible personal property in her name, other than anything disposed of in a separate written memorandum. The residue of her estate was devised to the Shirley Trust. After her death, the beneficiary of the Shirley Trust was Simon during his life, with the assets disposed of after his death through a limited power of appointment, empowering Simon to transfer the assets to or for the benefit of one or more of their lineal descendants and their spouses.¹

7. Our Firm prepared the July 2012 Amended and Restated Trust Agreement and the Will for Simon Bernstein. Those are the final documents that our Firm prepared and the final documents I am aware of Simon having signed prior to his death in September, 2013. Our Firm

¹ There is an alternate disposition of the assets upon the death of Simon if he did not exercise his power of appointment, but in my view that is irrelevant.

retained the originals of those documents in our safe deposit box until Simon's death. There are no later executed testamentary documents for Simon L. Bernstein.

8. Simon exercised his limited power of appointment in Article II of the July 2012 Will, which specifically references Shirley's Trust and the power given to him under subparagraph E.1 of Article II of Shirley's Trust. Pursuant to that power of appointment, Simon directed Shirley's Trustee to divide the remaining trust assets into equal shares for his then living grandchildren to be added to trusts established for the ten grandchildren under Simon's Trust. Because Simon exercised his power of appointment, the assets in the Shirley Trust were distributed according to Simon's direction, and did not pass under the Shirley Trust to Shirley's default beneficiaries.

9. Under these testamentary documents, neither Ted, Pam, Eliot, Lisa or Jill is a beneficiary of any of their Trusts and Estates. With the sole exception of possibly some specific items of tangible personal property not relevant to the estate and trust administration, Shirley and Simon effectively disinherited all five of their children, and none of them take anything from either of their Trusts or Wills.

10. While he was alive, Simon was the Personal Representative of the Estate of Shirley Bernstein and was the Trustee of the Shirley Bernstein Trust. After Simon's death, under the terms of the Will and Trust, Ted S. Bernstein became the Successor Personal Representative and Successor Trustee. Prior to that time, Ted had not been involved in the administration of Shirley's Estate or Trust. As far as I am aware, Ted was not aware that he would be the successor to Simon until after Simon's death.

11. Upon Ted assuming his fiduciary role as Successor Personal Representative and Successor Trustee, Ted retained our Firm to represent him as a fiduciary. From that point in time until our withdrawal from representing Ted, which was approved by the Court in February 2014, Ted was a responsive client who listened to and followed my advice. At no time did Ted take any action which I advised him would be improper or a breach of his fiduciary duty. In my view, at all times Ted acted as a fiduciary based upon the facts and circumstances and information available to him at that time.

12. At some point after Simon died, a significant asset of Shirley's Trust (a condominium) was sold, and the decision was made to make a partial interim distribution to all of the beneficiaries of the Shirley Trust. In connection with the decision to make an interim distribution, I participated in consulting with Ted and his siblings (other than Eliot) as his counsel. I engaged in a call with various members of the family (other than Eliot). Among those children who participated in the phone call, there was a general consensus that it was appropriate to make an interim partial distribution. I assisted in the mechanics of making these distributions, including providing tax identification numbers and instructions to open a bank account for each of the grandchildren's trusts.

13. At no time did I advise Ted that it would be a violation of his fiduciary duty to make the interim distribution to the trusts for the ten living grandchildren of Simon. I did not advise Ted at any time that there was any question concerning the proper beneficiaries of the Trust, nor was Ted aware of any issue concerning the effectiveness of the exercise of the power of appointment until I advised him and others of that fact in mid-January, 2014.


14. In my view, during the time I was counsel for Ted as fiduciary, it is my opinion that he fulfilled his fiduciary duties and acted in a reasonable and appropriate manner. I am aware of

no facts that would give a court cause to be concerned about whether Ted could continue to fulfill his fiduciary duty in those capacities, or serve as Personal Representative of Simon's Estate.

15. Upon my resignation as Trustee of the Simon Trust, I concluded that the appointment of Ted as Successor Trustee would be consistent with Simon's wishes and would be in the best interest of the family. Under the terms of Simon's Trust, he gave the power to appoint a successor trustee to the last resigning trustee. In this case, for a variety of reasons I concluded that Ted was the logical choice for Successor Trustee, including the following: Ted's knowledge of the facts and of these estate matters; his current service in similar capacities in Shirley's Trust and Estate; his knowledge of the pending litigation with a creditor, William Stansbury; the fact that he is not a beneficiary of or seeking monies from any of the Trusts or Estates; and the fact that I believe him to be a reasonable and competent business person capable of fulfilling his fiduciary duties. Accordingly, after Robert Spallina resigned, I exercised the power given to me by Simon to appoint Ted S. Bernstein as Successor Trustee of the Simon Bernstein Trust.

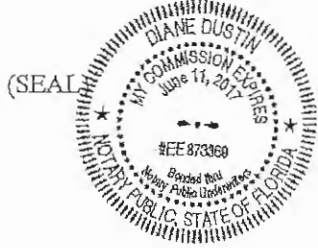
16. The last person Simon would want to serve in any fiduciary capacity is Eliot. Simon did not want Eliot to have any role in any of these matters.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.



DONALD R. TESCHER

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4 day of March, 2014, by Donald R. Tescher, who is personally known to me and who did take an oath.



Diane Dustin

Notary Public
My commission expires:

To avoid duplication:

**See Tabs 1 - 5 for Exhibits "A" - "E" to
Affidavit of Donald R. Tescher**