

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

PROBATE DIVISION

CASE NO.: 502014CP002815XXXXNB (IH)

OPPENHEIMER TRUST COMPANY
OF DELAWARE, in its capacity as
Resigned Trustee of the Simon Bernstein
Irrevocable Trusts created for the benefit
of Joshua, Jake and Daniel Bernstein,

Petitioner,

vs.

ELIOT AND CANDICE BERNSTEIN,
in their capacity as parents and natural
guardians of JOSHUA, JAKE AND
DANIEL BERNSTEIN, minors,

Respondents.

**ORDER APPOINTING GUARDIAN AD LITEM FOR MINORS,
JOSHUA, JAKE AND DANIEL BERNSTEIN**

THIS CAUSE came before the Court at an evidentiary hearing held on February 25, 2016 upon the *Omnibus Motion (I) To Appoint A Guardian Ad Litem For The Minor Beneficiaries Of The "Grandchildren Trusts;" (II) To Hold Eliot And Candice Bernstein In Contempt Of Court For Their Continued Violation Of A Court Order And Repeated Statements Assaulting The Dignity Of The Court; And (III) To Establish A Schedule And Protocol For Accounting And Turnover Proceedings* (the "Motion") filed by Petitioner, Oppenheimer Trust Company Of Delaware ("Oppenheimer"), in its capacity as the resigned trustee of three Irrevocable Trusts settled by Simon Bernstein on September 7, 2006 for the benefit of his grandchildren, minors, Joshua, Jake and Daniel Bernstein (the "Grandchildren Trusts"). Having considered the Motion

and the arguments of the parties, taken judicial notice of the matters requested in the Motion, and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, the Court rules as follows:

1. The sole beneficiaries of the Grandchildren Trusts, and the only real parties in interest in this litigation (other than Oppenheimer), are Joshua, Jake and Daniel Bernstein (the “Minor Beneficiaries”). Neither Eliot nor Candice Bernstein (the “Bernsteins”) were sued in their individual capacities by Oppenheimer, nor have they moved for, or been granted, permission to intervene in their individual capacities. They have been afforded standing in these proceedings, to date, solely as the parents and natural guardians of the Minor Beneficiaries.

2. The Bernsteins have been shown to have multiple conflicts of interest with the Minor Beneficiaries. For example, in their pleadings, they repeatedly allege that the trusts created for the Minor Beneficiaries’ benefit are fraudulent and that they, and not their children, are the true beneficiaries. *Counter-Complaint*, ¶¶ 44-50, 52-60, 65, 109-110, 186 and 253; *Objection to Oppenheimer Accountings*, pp. 1 and 20. In addition, the Bernsteins insist that their overarching goal in this litigation “is to bring about a change in the legal system in efforts to root out systemic corruption at the highest levels by a rogue group of criminals disguised as attorneys at law, judges, politicians and more.” *Counter-Complaint*, ¶ 212. No reasonable inference can be drawn that the Minor Beneficiaries have a similar interest or agenda, or that pursuing such an agenda at the risk of dissipating their own inheritance is in their best interest.

3. Eliot Bernstein also has a history of vexatious litigation and public disrespect for and disobedience to the judicial system and its officers, as detailed in Oppenheimer’s Motion. Eliot Bernstein was adjudicated a vexatious litigant by the United States District Court for the Southn Distreict of New York and enjoined from filing further specified claims in any court without its prior permission. Yet, Eliot Bernstein asserted those enjoined claims in his Counter-

Complaint in apparent violation of the injunction. The Bernsteins are in continued violation of a May 4, 2015 Order entered by Judge Martin Colin, which required compliance over nine months ago, and in recent filings with Florida appellate courts, the Bernsteins insist that all orders entered in this case “are void as a matter of law, and are of no legal force and effect.” *Petition for All Writs (dated January 29, 2016)*, ¶ 101. Further, the Bernsteins have repeatedly alleged that multiple judges have committed fraud in their official capacities in these proceedings and that all Florida judges have conflicts of interest which prohibit them from presiding over these proceedings. *Id.*, ¶ 106-107. All of the above, and certainly in combination, render the Bernsteins inappropriate and inadequate representatives for the Minor Beneficiaries in this litigation.

4. For the above reasons, the guardian *ad litem* appointed in Case No.: 502014CP003698XXXXNB shall be deemed appointed simultaneously as the guardian *ad litem* for the Minor Beneficiaries in this case, with sole and exclusive authority to represent the Minor Beneficiaries’ interests in this case. The guardian *ad litem* shall be entitled to petition for reasonable compensation for his/her services, to be paid out of the gross proceeds of any recovery, distributions or inheritance to be received by the Minor Beneficiaries from the Shirley Bernstein Trust u/a/d May 20, 2008, as amended, the Simon Bernstein Trust, and/or the Estates of Simon or Shirley Bernstein.

5. The Answer and Counter-Complaint filed by Eliot and Candice Bernstein (which they purport to file (i) “Individually, PRO SE;” (ii) “as the Natural Guardians of [the Minor Beneficiaries];” (iii) “as Guardians of the members of Bernstein Family Realty, LLC;” and (iii) “as beneficiaries of [sixteen (16) Trusts, two (2) Estates, and multiple] Corporate Entities set up by Simon and Shirley Bernstein”), and the “Objection to Final Accounting; Petition for Formal, Detailed Audited and Forensic Accounting and Document Production” (the “Objection”) filed by

Eliot and Candice Bernstein, “individually and on behalf of [their] minor children, who are alleged qualified beneficiaries of Settlor’s Estate and Trusts,” are hereby stricken.

6. The guardian *ad litem* shall have 45 days from his/her appointment within which to file a response to Oppenheimer’s Petition and objections, if any, to Oppenheimer’s accountings.

7. Oppenheimer and the guardian *ad litem* shall confer in good faith regarding a resolution of this matter and/or a timeframe within which to try any unresolved issues.

8. Neither Eliot nor Candice Bernstein shall take any action which interferes with the guardian *ad litem*’s duties.

9. Eliot and Candice Bernstein are also held to be in contempt of court for their willful violation of Judge Martin Colin’s May 4, 2015 Order. The Court withholds coercive sanctions based upon the appointment of a guardian *ad litem* and striking of the Bernsteins’ pleadings, which renders the Bernsteins’ compliance moot.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, Palm Beach County, Florida on _____, 2016.

Hon. John L. Phillips, Circuit Judge

Copies furnished to:

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