

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA FOURTH  
DISTRICT,  
1525 PALM BEACH LAKES BLVD., WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33401

CASE NO.: 4D16-0222  
L.T. No.: 2011CP000653XXXXSB  
2014CP003698XXXXNB

ELIOT IVAN BERNSTEIN,

Appellant / Petitioners,

**Appellant's Response to Show Cause;  
Request for Extension to File Initial Brief**

v.

TED BERNSTEIN, AS TRUSTEE, ET AL.

Appellee / Respondent(s)

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Appellant-Petitioner Eliot I. Bernstein, respectfully says and moves this Court as follows:

1. I am the Appellant and Petitioner herein and am responding to this Court's Order to Show Cause regarding the dismissal of the Appeal for lack of prosecution and respectfully request this Court grant a reasonable extension of time to allow me to file and serve my Initial Brief and am requesting no less than an additional 15 days from April 15, 2016 and ideally 30 days in the Court's discretion.
2. This is an Appeal of a "one-day" "Validity" Trial before Judge John Phillips relating to the validity of certain Wills and Trust instruments in a complex case that has at least 6 related Cases involved, although procedurally and substantively the cases have not been treated as a "complex" case under the Rules of Civil Procedure in the Probate Court and Courts below.

3. There are genuine and substantial merits to the instant appeal based upon US and State Constitutional principles such as denial of procedural and substantive Due process, failure to comply with the Rules of Civil Procedure and Pre-Trial and Trial procedural due process, abuse of discretion, Discovery abuses, best evidence and spoliation - loss of evidence issues, and related meritorious claims on appeal.
4. On April 4th, 2016 just 3 days after Appellee's attorney Alan Rose had filed the motion to Dismiss the Appeal for lack of Prosecution, I wrote to Alan Rose by email seeking voluntary consent to an Order granting at least 15 additional days after April 15th, 2016 but this was rejected by the Appellee and his attorney.
5. I also noted in this email as follows: *"Also, unless I have not received some form of Electronic or hard copy mail, I am not aware that the Clerk of the Lower Court has filed the Record as required and notice that you had not raised this issue in your motion."*
6. And further noted in the email, *"Thus a motion under 9.200(e) is required as well which you could have raised which provides: "Duties of Appellant or Petitioner. The burden to ensure that the record is prepared and transmitted in accordance with these rules shall be on the petitioner or appellant. Any party may enforce the provisions of this rule by motion."*
7. Appellees knew that such Record had not been produced by the Clerk of the Court as of the time of the motion to dismiss but did not raise this issue with this Court.
8. Just 2 days after my Email to Alan Rose of April 4, 2016, the Clerk of the lower Court suddenly filed the Index and Record with this Court from 2 of the Cases in the lower Court below being the Shirley Bernstein Estate and Trust cases.

9. However, the Court's Order and Judgment that is on Appeal also involves the validity of instruments from the Simon Bernstein Trust and Simon Bernstein Estate cases under Case Numbers 502015CP001162XXXXSB and 502012CP004391XXXXSB and I contacted the Clerk of the Court on Monday April 11, 2016 and spoke with a Corine(sp) who indicated she would have to speak to her Supervisor to find out how long it would take to produce the Index and Record from the other 2 cases.
10. This Clerk called back and despite the fact that the Clerk's Office had already produced and filed the Index and Record with this Court from the Shirley cases and despite this Court having on file in the Docket an approval of my Indigency Status which appears in this Court's docket as filed on Jan. 20, 2016, I am now being told I have to re-apply for Indigency and that it will take the lower Court Clerk at least 3-5 days after Indigency is "re-approved" to produce and complete the Index and Record from each of these other cases.
11. There should be no reason to have to "re-apply" for Indigency status as my family remains on Food Stamps / Welfare having received no distributions from the Trusts and inheritances in the 4-5 years the respective cases have been in the Palm Beach courts.
12. Further, as it relates to timeliness, I was forced to expend substantial time repeatedly responding to motions below where I had already filed Unavailability, was under medication - treatment during a significant period of this time, repeatedly responding to motions by several attorneys as a pro se litigant who is indigent, have had periods of time where my entire internet and phone system have been suddenly "out" right around the times of deadlines below, and still have the related ongoing federal litigation for Life

Insurance proceeds which Ted Bernstein and related parties filed for in Illinois to address as well.

13. I am respectfully seeking a substantial and reasonable extension of time to complete the filing of the initial brief in this Court's own discretion taking into consideration the time delay that it will take the Clerk of the lower Court to produce the other cases as well and seek the lower court to be directed to waive the necessity of re-applying for indigency as such indigency was just recently approved by said Court in January of 2016, 3 months ago.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed for an Order granting an extension of time to file the initial brief upon reasonable terms no less than 15 days from April 15, 2016 and such greater period of time as in this Court's discretion is just and proper.

Dated: April 12, 2016

**/s/Eliot Ivan Bernstein**

Eliot Ivan Bernstein  
2753 NW 34th St  
Boca Raton, FL 33434  
561-245-8588  
[iviewit@iviewit.tv](mailto:iviewit@iviewit.tv)

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished to parties listed on attached Service List by E-mail Electronic Transmission; Court ECF; this 12th day of April, 2016.

**/s/ Eliot Ivan Bernstein**

Eliot Ivan Bernstein  
2753 NW 34th St.  
Boca Raton, FL 33434  
561-245-8588  
[iviewit@iviewit.tv](mailto:iviewit@iviewit.tv)

**SERVICE LIST - CASE NO. SC15-1077 & LOWER CASES DEFENDANTS,  
RESPONDENTS, COUNTER DEFENDANTS**

<p>John P. Morrissey, Esq. 330 Clematis Street, Suite 213 West Palm Beach, FL 33401 (561) 833-0766-Telephone (561) 833-0867 -Facsimile Email: John P. Morrissey (john@jmoiTisseylaw.com)</p>	<p>Lisa Friedstein 2142 Churchill Lane Highland Park, IL 60035 lisa@friedsteins.com</p>
<p>Peter M. Feaman, Esq. Peter M. Feaman, P.A. 3695 West Boynton Beach Blvd., Suite 9 Boynton Beach, FL 33436 (561) 734-5552 -Telephone (561) 734-5554 -Facsimile Email: service@feamanlaw.com: mkoskey@feamanlaw.com</p>	<p>Jill Iantoni 2101 Magnolia Lane Highland Park, IL 60035 jilliantoni@gmail.com</p>
<p>Gary R. Shendell, Esq. Kenneth S. Pollock, Esq. Shendell &amp; Pollock, P.L. 2700 N. Military Trail, Suite 150 Boca Raton, FL 33431 (561)241-2323 - Telephone (561)241-2330-Facsimile Email: gary@shendellpollock.com ken@shendellpollock.com estella@shendellpollock.com britt@shendellpollock.com grs@shendellpollock.com</p>	<p>Counter Defendant Robert Spallina, Esq. Donald Tescher, Esq. Tescher &amp; Spallina 925 South Federal Hwy., Suite 500 Boca Raton, Florida 33432</p>
<p>Brian M. O'Connell, Esq. Joielle A. Foglietta, Esq. Ciklin Lubitz Martens &amp; O'Connell 515 N. Flagler Dr., 20th Floor West Palm Beach, FL 33401 561-832-5900-Telephone 561-833-4209 - Facsimile Email: boconnell@ciklinlubitz.com; ifoglietta@ciklinlubitz.com; service@ciklinlubitz.com; slobdell@ciklinliibitz.com</p>	<p>Counter Defendant John J. Pankauski, Esq. Pankauski Law Firm PLLC 120 South Olive Avenue 7th Floor West Palm Beach, FL 33401 courtfilings@pankauskilawfirm.com john@pankauskilawfirm.com</p>

<p>Counter Defendant  Mark R. Manceri, Esq., and  Mark R. Manceri, P.A.,  2929 East Commercial Boulevard  Suite 702  Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308  mrmlaw@comcast.net</p>	<p>Counter Defendant  Donald Tescher, Esq.,  Tescher &amp; Spallina, P.A.  Wells Fargo Plaza  925 South Federal Hwy Suite 500  Boca Raton, Florida 33432  dtescher@tescherspallina.com</p>
<p>Theodore Stuart Bernstein  880 Berkeley  Boca Raton, FL 33487  tbernstein@lifeinsuranceconcepts.com</p>	<p>Counter Defendant  TESCHER &amp; SPALLINA, P.A..  Wells Fargo Plaza  925 South Federal Hwy Suite 500  Boca Raton, Florida 33432  dtescher@tescherspallina.com</p>
<p>Theodore Stuart Bernstein  Life Insurance Concepts, Inc.  950 Peninsula Corporate Circle  Suite 3010  Boca Raton, FL 33487  tbernstein@lifeinsuranceconcepts.com</p>	<p>Counter Defendant  Alan B. Rose, Esq.  PAGE, MRACHEK, FITZGERALD, ROSE,  KONOPKA, THOMAS &amp; WEISS, P.A.  505 South Flagler Drive, Suite 600  West Palm Beach, Florida 33401  561-355-6991  arose@pm-law.com  arose@mrachek-law.com</p>
<p>Pamela Beth Simon  950 N. Michigan Avenue  Apartment 2603  Chicago, IL 60611  psimon@stpcorp.com</p>	<p>Counter Defendant  L. Louis Mrachek, Esq.  PAGE, MRACHEK, FITZGERALD, ROSE,  KONOPKA, THOMAS &amp; WEISS, P.A.  505 South Flagler Drive, Suite 600  West Palm Beach, Florida 33401  561-355-6991  lmrachek@mrachek-law.com</p>
<p>Jill Iantoni  2101 Magnolia Lane  Highland Park, IL 60035  jilliantoni@gmail.com</p>	<p>Counter Defendant  Pankauski Law Firm PLLC  120 South Olive Avenue  7th Floor  West Palm Beach, FL 33401</p>
<p>Lisa Sue Friedstein  2142 Churchill Lane  Highland Park, IL 60035  lisa.friedstein@gmail.com  lisa@friedsteins.com</p>	<p>Dennis McNamara  Executive Vice President and General Counsel  Oppenheimer &amp; Co. Inc.  Corporate Headquarters  125 Broad Street  New York, NY 10004  800-221-5588  Dennis.mcnamara@opco.com  info@opco.com</p>

<p>Dennis G. Bedley  Chairman of the Board, Director and Chief Executive Officer  Legacy Bank of Florida  Glades Twin Plaza  2300 Glades Road  Suite 120 West – Executive Office  Boca Raton, FL 33431  info@legacybankfl.com  DBedley@LegacyBankFL.com</p>	<p>Hunt Worth, Esq.  President  Oppenheimer Trust Company of Delaware  405 Silverside Road  Wilmington, DE 19809  302-792-3500  hunt.worth@opco.com</p>
<p>James Dimon  Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer  JP Morgan Chase &amp; CO.  270 Park Ave. New York, NY 10017-2070  Jamie.dimon@jpmchase.com</p>	<p>Neil Wolfson  President &amp; Chief Executive Officer  Wilmington Trust Company  1100 North Market Street  Wilmington, DE 19890-0001  nwolfson@wilmingtontrust.com</p>
<p>William McCabe  Oppenheimer &amp; Co., Inc.  85 Broad St Fl 25  New York, NY 10004  William.McCabe@opco.com</p>	<p>STP Enterprises, Inc.  303 East Wacker Drive  Suite 210  Chicago IL 60601-5210  psimon@stpcorp.com</p>
<p>Charles D. Rubin  Managing Partner  Gutter Chaves Josepher Rubin Forman Fleisher Miller  PA  Boca Corporate Center  2101 NW Corporate Blvd., Suite 107  Boca Raton, FL 33431-7343  crubin@floridatax.com</p>	<p>Ralph S. Janvey  Krage &amp; Janvey, L.L.P.  Federal Court Appointed Receiver  Stanford Financial Group  2100 Ross Ave, Dallas, TX 75201  rjanvey@kjllp.com</p>
<p>Kimberly Moran  Tescher &amp; Spallina, P.A.  Wells Fargo Plaza  925 South Federal Hwy Suite 500  Boca Raton, Florida 33432  kmoran@tescherspallina.com</p>	<p>Lindsay Baxley aka Lindsay Giles  Life Insurance Concepts  950 Peninsula Corporate Circle  Suite 3010  Boca Raton, FL 33487  lindsay@lifeinsuranceconcepts.com</p>
<p>Gerald R. Lewin  CBIZ MHM, LLC  1675 N Military Trail  Fifth Floor  Boca Raton, FL 33486</p>	<p>CBIZ MHM, LLC  General Counsel  6480 Rockside Woods Blvd. South  Suite 330  Cleveland, OH 44131  ATTN: General Counsel  generalcounsel@cbiz.com</p>

	(216)447-9000
Albert Gortz, Esq. Proskauer Rose LLP One Boca Place 2255 Glades Road Suite 421 Atrium Boca Raton, FL 33431-7360 agortz@proskauer.com	Heritage Union Life Insurance Company A member of WiltonRe Group of Companies 187 Danbury Road Wilton, CT 06897 cstroup@wiltonre.com
Estate of Simon Bernstein Brian M O'Connell Pa 515 N Flagler Drive West Palm Beach, FL 33401 boconnell@ciklinlubitz.com	Counter Defendant Steven Lessne, Esq. Gray Robinson, PA 225 NE Mizner Blvd #500 Boca Raton, FL 33432 steven.lessne@gray-robinson.com
Byrd F. "Biff" Marshall, Jr. President & Managing Director Gray Robinson, PA 225 NE Mizner Blvd #500 Boca Raton, FL 33432 biff.marshall@gray-robinson.com	Steven A. Lessne, Esq. Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A. 777 South Flagler Drive, Suite 500 East West Palm Beach, FL 33401 Telephone: (561) 650-0545 Facsimile: (561) 655-5677 E-Mail Designations: slessne@gunster.com jhoppel@gunster.com eservice@gunster.com
T&S Registered Agents, LLC Wells Fargo Plaza 925 South Federal Hwy Suite 500 Boca Raton, Florida 33432 dtescher@tescherspallina.com	David Lanciotti Executive VP and General Counsel LaSalle National Trust NA CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY, as Successor 10 South LaSalle Street Suite 2750 Chicago, IL 60603 David.Lanciotti@ctt.com
Joseph M. Leccese Chairman Proskauer Rose LLP Eleven Times Square New York, NY 10036 jleccese@proskauer.com	Brian Moynihan Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer 100 N Tryon St #170, Charlotte, NC 28202 Phone:(980) 335-3561