

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
FOURTH DISTRICT

CASE NO. 4D16-222

ELIOT BERNSTEIN

L.T. CASE NOS. 2014CP003698XXXXNB
2011CP000653XXXXNB

Appellant,

v.

TED S. BERNSTEIN, AS TRUSTEE,
et al.

Appellee.

**APPELLEE'S, TED S. BERNSTEIN, AS SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE,
RESPONSE TO APPELLANT'S RESPONSE TO SHOW CAUSE AND
REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO FILE INITIAL BRIEF**

Appellee, Ted S. Bernstein, as Successor Trustee of the Shirley Bernstein Trust ("Trustee"), responds to the *Appellant's Response to Show Cause; Request for Extension to File Initial Brief* filed and served April 12, 2016, and states:

1. The *pro se* Appellant, who already has filed at least two petitions for extraordinary relief which have been denied (4D15-3849 and 4D16-64), has been found by the trial court in one of the related proceedings before Judge Phillips to have "a history of vexatious litigation and public disrespect for and disobedience to the judicial system and its officers." (Attached Order at ¶3) Indeed, in his Petition filed in this Court in Case 4D16-64, the *pro se* Appellant included a "Warning: Potential

Conflicts of Interest" questioning whether any court in the State of Florida can be fair and impartial in this matter because he has sued numerous Florida judges, including all or most members of the Florida Supreme Court. In addition, many of the claimed "genuine and substantial merits to the instant appeal based upon US and State Constitutional principles such as denial or procedural and substantive Due Process" (Response to Order to Show Cause, ¶3), already were raised in the two prior Petitions. It is anticipated that much of the forthcoming Initial Brief in this case will simply be a cut-and-paste from the prior Petitions, both of which were 50 pages.

2. Regardless, there is no explanation or good cause shown for the Appellant's failure to timely file a brief and appendix as provided in Rule 9.170. This was a one-day trial to determine the validity of two Wills and three trust documents; it is a narrow issue based upon evidence at the trial; and Appellant has had possession of the trial transcript since January 7, 2016. There is no excuse or good cause stated in the Response, nor is there any showing upon which this Court could make a finding of a reasonable excuse for the Appellant's non-compliance.

3. The Trustee requests that this appeal be dismissed for the failure to file the Initial Brief within the original deadline or within the time allowed by the Court in its show cause order. In the event the Court is inclined to grant a further

enlargement, the Trustee requests that no more than 15 additional days after the current show cause deadline of April 15th be granted.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been furnished to parties listed on attached Service List by: Facsimile **and** U.S. Mail; U.S. Mail; E-mail Electronic Transmission; FedEx; Hand Delivery this 14th day of April, 2016.

MRACHEK, FITZGERALD, ROSE, KONOPKA,
THOMAS & WEISS, P.A.
505 South Flagler Drive, Suite 600
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
(561) 655-2250 Telephone / (561) 655-5537 Facsimile
email: arose@mrachek-law.com
Attorneys for Ted S. Bernstein

By: /s/ Alan B. Rose
Alan B. Rose (Fla. Bar No. 961825)

SERVICE LIST - CASE NO. 4D16-222

Eliot Bernstein, individually
and Eliot and Candice Bernstein,
as Parents and Natural Guardians of
D.B., Ja. B. and Jo. B, Minors
2753 NW 34th Street
Boca Raton, FL 33434
(561) 245-8588 - Telephone
(561) 886-7628 - Cell
(561) 245-8644 - Facsimile
Email: Eliot I. Bernstein
(iviewit@iviewit.tv)

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@jmorrisseylaw.com)
Counsel for Molly Simon, Alexandra
Bernstein, Eric Bernstein, Michael
Bernstein

Lisa Friedstein
2142 Churchill Lane
Highland Park, IL 60035
lisa@friedsteins.com
Individually and as trustee for her
children, and as natural guardian for
M.F. and C.F., Minors

Peter M. Feaman, Esq.
Peter M. Feaman, P.A.
3695 W. Boynton Beach Blvd., Suite 9
Boynton Beach, FL 33436
(561) 734-5552 - Telephone
(561) 734-5554 - Facsimile
Email: service@feamanlaw.com;
mkoskey@feamanlaw.com
Counsel for William Stansbury

Pam Simon
303 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 2725
Chicago, IL 60601
psimon@stpcorp.com

Robert Spallina, Esq.
Donald Tescher, Esq.
Tescher & Spallina
925 South Federal Hwy., Suite 500
Boca Raton, Florida 33432

Jill Iantoni
2101 Magnolia Lane
Highland Park, IL 60035
jilliantoni@gmail.com
Individually and as trustee for her
children, and as natural guardian for
J.I. a minor

Brian M. O'Connell, Esq.
Joielle A. Foglietta, Esq.
Ciklin Lubitz Martens & 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;
jfoglietta@ciklinlubitz.com;
service@ciklinlubitz.com;
slobdell@ciklinlubitz.com

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

RECEIVED MAR 04 2016

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.

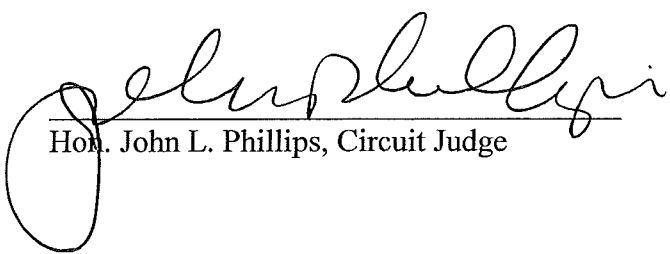
7. Oppenheimer and the guardian *ad litem* shall confer in good faith regarding a resolution of this matter and/or a timeframe within which to try any unresolved issues.

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

9. ^{The pending Motion for Contempt as to} Eliot and Candice Bernstein ~~are also held to be in contempt of court~~ for their ^{in most} 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

3-1-, 2016.


Hon. John L. Phillips, Circuit Judge

Copies furnished to:

Steven A. Lessne, Esq.
Gunster, Yoakley & Stewart, P.A.
4855 Technology Way, Suite 630
Boca Raton, FL 33431

Eliot and Candice Bernstein
2753 N.W. 34th Street
Boca Raton, FL 33434