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

CASE NO. 4D16-1449 Consolidated with Case Nos. 4D16-1476 and 4D16-1478

#### ELIOT IVAN BERNSTEIN

L.T. CASE NOS. 2014CP003698XXXXNB

Appellant,

v.

TED S. BERNSTEIN, AS TRUSTEE, et al.

Appellee.

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## APPELLEE'S, TED S. BERNSTEIN, AS TRUSTEE, JOINDER IN APPELLEE OPPENHEIMER'S RESPONSE TO APPELLANT'S MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME AND TO STAY PROCEEDINGS ETC.

Appellee, Ted S. Bernstein, as successor Trustee of the Shirley Bernstein Trust ("Trustee"), joins in Appellee's Oppenheimer *Response to Appellant's Motion for Extension of Time and to Stay Proceedings and Grant an Extension* filed October 24, 2016.

1. The Trustee joins in Oppenheimer's Response opposing the latest motion

for an extension or stay filed by Appellant, Eliot Ivan Bernstein ("Eliot").

2. While the undersigned remains sympathetic to any legitimate need for more time, Eliot has abused and continues to abuse that privilege, having already

been granted several extensions, and having ignored or disregarded this Court's most recent Order dated September 22, 2016:

Appellant shall file the initial brief within twenty (20) days from the date of this order. No motions or other filings shall toll the time to file the initial brief, and no further extensions shall be granted absent a showing of extraordinary circumstances where, if a further extension is not granted, irreparable and material harm will result to the litigant.

3. The orders under review appointed former circuit and probate judge Diana Lewis to serve as Guardian ad Litem, to represent the interests of Eliot's three children. The Order was entered after Judge Phillips determined Eliot was an inadequate representative of his children's interests and, indeed, was acting adverse and destructive to their interests. Thus, Eliot could no longer serve as their representative in these various trust and estate matters.

4. There are two key points which must be made. First, there is no showing of extraordinary circumstances or irreparable and material harm will result *to Eliot*. His children are beneficiaries of the trusts at issue in these consolidated appeals; Eliot himself is not a beneficiary. Second, these filings demonstrate vividly that Eliot is in no position to adequately represent the beneficial interests of his children in the trusts, nor to act in the best interests of his children.

5. These continued delays by Eliot prevent the Trustee and the trial court from administering the trusts and making distributions to beneficiaries, including into

the trusts for each of Eliot's children. These issues, although important, are simple and straightforward, and potentially delay or undermine the work of the court-appointed Guardian ad Litem. It is not Eliot who suffers harm, per this Court's admonition; rather, it is the ten true beneficiaries of these trusts, including Eliot's children, who are suffering irreparable and material harm by the continued delay in these proceedings.

WHEREFORE, the Trustee respectfully requests the Court deny the pending Motion.

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been served by e-mail on all parties listed on the attached service list, this 24th day of October, 2016.

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

### SERVICE LIST - CASE NO. 4D16-1478

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