

13 MR. MANCERI: But before I make my
14 presentation, I would just like to apologize
15 for Mr. Tescher's absence. He's out of town
16 for the holiday.

17 THE COURT: Okay. Who are the PR's that
18 you represent?

19 MR. MANCERI: Well, Shirley Bernstein
20 there is no technically any PR because we had
21 the estate closed.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 MR. MANCERI: And what emanated from
24 Mr. Bernstein's 57-page filing, which falls
25 lawfully short of any emergency, was a petition

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1 to reopen the estate, so technically nobody has
2 letters right now.

3 Simon Bernstein, your Honor, who died a
4 year ago today as you heard, survived his wife,
5 Shirley Bernstein, who died December 10, 2010.
6 Simon Bernstein was the PR of his wife's
7 estate.

8 As a result of his passing, and in attempt
9 to reopen the estate we're looking to have the
10 estate reopened. So nobody has letters right
11 now, Judge. The estate was closed.

12 THE COURT: So you agree that in Shirley's
13 estate it was closed January of this year,
14 there was an order of discharge, I see that.
15 Is that true?

16 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: I don't know.

17 THE COURT: Do you know that that's true?

18 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: Yes, I believe.

19 THE COURT: So final disposition and the
20 order got entered that Simon, your father --

21 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: Yes, sir.

22 THE COURT: -- he came to court and said I
23 want to be discharged, my wife's estate is
24 closed and fully administered.

25 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: No. I think it

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1 happened after --

2 THE COURT: No, I'm looking at it.

3 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: What date did that
4 happen?

5 THE COURT: January 3, 2013.

6 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: He was dead.

7 MR. MANCERI: That's when the order was
8 signed, yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: He filed it, physically came
10 to court.

11 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: Oh.

12 THE COURT: So let me see when he actually
13 filed it and signed the paperwork. November.
14 What date did your dad die?

15 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: September. It's
16 hard to get through. He does a lot of things
17 when he's dead.

18 THE COURT: I have all of these waivers by
19 Simon in November. He tells me Simon was dead
20 at the time.

21 MR. MANCERI: Simon was dead at the time,
22 your Honor. The waivers that you're talking
23 about are waivers from the beneficiaries, I
24 believe.

25 THE COURT: No, it's waivers of

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1 accountings.

2 MR. MANCERI: Right, by the beneficiaries.

3 THE COURT: Discharge waiver of service of
4 discharge by Simon, Simon asked that he not
5 have to serve the petition for discharge.

6 MR. MANCERI: Right, that was in his
7 petition. When was the petition served?

8 THE COURT: November 21st.

9 MR. SPALLINA: Yeah, it was after his date
10 of death.

11 THE COURT: Well, how could that happen
12 legally? How could Simon --

13 MR. MANCERI: Who signed that?

14 THE COURT: -- ask to close and not serve
15 a petition after he's dead?

16 MR. MANCERI: Your Honor, what happened
17 was is the documents were submitted with the
18 waivers originally, and this goes to
19 Mr. Bernstein's fraud allegation. As you know,
20 your Honor, you have a rule that you have to
21 have your waivers notarized. And the original
22 waivers that were submitted were not notarized,
23 so they were kicked back by the clerk. They
24 were then notarized by a staff person from
25 Tescher and Spallina admittedly in error. They

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1 should not have been notarized in the absentia
2 of the people who purportedly signed them. And
3 I'll give you the names of the other siblings,
4 that would be Pamela, Lisa, Jill, and Ted
5 Bernstein.

6 THE COURT: So let me tell you because I'm
7 going to stop all of you folks because I think
8 you need to be read your Miranda warnings.

9 MR. MANCERI: I need to be read my Miranda
10 warnings?

11 THE COURT: Everyone of you might have to
12 be.

13 MR. MANCERI: Okay.

14 THE COURT: Because I'm looking at a
15 formal document filed here April 9, 2012,
16 signed by Simon Bernstein, a signature for him.

17 MR. MANCERI: April 9th, right.

18 THE COURT: April 9th, signed by him, and
19 notarized on that same date by Kimberly. It's
20 a waiver and it's not filed with The Court
21 until November 19th, so the filing of it, and
22 it says to The Court on November 19th, the
23 undersigned, Simon Bernstein, does this, this,
24 and this. Signed and notarized on April 9,
25 2012. The notary said that she witnessed Simon

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1 sign it then, and then for some reason it's not
2 filed with The Court until after his date of
3 death with no notice that he was dead at the
4 time that this was filed.

5 MR. MANCERI: Okay.

6 THE COURT: All right, so stop, that's
7 enough to give you Miranda warnings. Not you
8 personally --

9 MR. MANCERI: Okay.

10 THE COURT: Are you involved? Just tell
11 me yes or no.

12 MR. SPALLINA: I'm sorry?

13 THE COURT: Are you involved in the
14 transaction?

15 MR. SPALLINA: I was involved as the
16 lawyer for the estate, yes. It did not come to
17 my attention until Kimberly Moran came to me
18 after she received a letter from the Governor's
19 Office stating that they were investigating
20 some fraudulent signatures on some waivers that
21 were signed in connection with the closing of

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22 the estate.

23 THE COURT: What about the fact, counsel,
24 let me see who signed this. Okay, they're all
25 the same as to -- so let me ask this, I have a

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1 document where Eliot, you're Eliot, right?

2 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: Yes, sir.

3 THE COURT: Where you purportedly waived
4 accounting, agreed to a petition to discharge
5 on May 15th, and you signed that. Do you
6 remember doing that? Do you remember that or
7 not? I'm looking at it.

8 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: I remember signing
9 it and sending it with a disclaimer that I was
10 signing it because my father was under duress
11 and only to relieve this stress that he was
12 being --

13 THE COURT: Well, I don't care -- I'm not
14 asking you why you signed it.

15 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: I also signed it
16 with the expressed -- when I signed it I was
17 coned by Mr. Spallina that he was going to send
18 me all the documents of the estate to review.
19 I would have never lied on this form when I
20 signed it. It's saying that I saw and I never
21 saw --

22 THE COURT: Let me ask you --

23 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: I lied.

24 THE COURT: Did you have your signature
25 notarized?

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1 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: No.

2 THE COURT: Kimberly Moran never signed or
3 notarized his signature?

4 MR. MANCERI: Yes, your Honor, and that's
5 been addressed with the Governor's office.

6 THE COURT: You need to address this with
7 me.

8 MR. MANCERI: I am going to address it
9 with you.

10 THE COURT: Here's what I don't understand
11 because this is part of the problem here, is
12 that Shirley has an estate that's being
13 administered by Simon.

14 MR. MANCERI: Correct.

15 THE COURT: There comes a time where they

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16 think it's time to close out the estate.

17 MR. MANCERI: Correct.

18 THE COURT: Waivers are sent out, that's
19 kind of SOP, and people sign off on that.

20 MR. MANCERI: Right.

21 THE COURT: And why are they held up for
22 six months, and when they're filed it's after
23 Simon is already deceased?

24 MR. MANCERI: They were originally filed
25 away, your Honor, under the signature of the

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1 people.

2 THE COURT: No, they weren't filed, that's
3 the whole thing. I'm looking at the file date,
4 filed with The Court.

5 MR. MANCERI: No, they were returned by
6 the clerk because they didn't have
7 notarization. We have affidavits from all
8 those people, Judge.

9 THE COURT: Well you may have that they
10 got sent up here.

11 MR. MANCERI: We have affidavits from all
12 of those people.

13 MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: Including Simon?

14 THE COURT: Slow down. You know how we
15 know something is filed? We see a stamp.

16 MR. MANCERI: It's on the docket sheet, I
17 understand.

18 THE COURT: So it's stamped in as filed in
19 November. The clerk doesn't have -- now, they
20 may have rejected it because it wasn't
21 notarized, and that's perhaps what happened,
22 but if in the meantime waiting cured the
23 deficiency of the document, two things happen
24 you're telling me, one, Simon dies.

25 MR. MANCERI: Correct.

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1 THE COURT: And when those documents are
2 filed with the clerk eventually in November
3 they're filed and one of the documents says, I,
4 Simon, in the present.

5 MR. MANCERI: Of Ms. Moran.

6 THE COURT: No, not physically present, I
7 Simon, I would read this in November Simon
8 saying I waive -- I ask that I not have to have
9 an accounting and I want to discharge, that

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request is being made in November.

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MR. MANCERI: Okay.
THE COURT: He's dead.
MR. MANCERI: I agree, your Honor.
THE COURT: Who filed that document?
MR. MANCERI: Robert, do you know who
filed that document in your office?
MR. SPALLINA: I would assume Kimberly
did.
MR. MANCERI: Ms. Moran.
THE COURT: Who is she?
MR. MANCERI: She's a staff person at
Teschler and Spallina.
THE COURT: When she filed these, and one
would think when she filed these the person who
purports to be the requesting party is at least

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alive.
MR. MANCERI: Understood, Judge.
THE COURT: Not alive. So, well -- we're
going to come back to the notary problem in a
second.
MR. MANCERI: Okay.
THE COURT: In the meantime, based upon
all that I discharge the estate, it's closed.
Here's what I don't understand on your
side, you're representing yourself, but the
rules still apply. You then file, Eliot
Bernstein, emergency petitions in this closed
estate, it's closed.
MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: You reopened it.
THE COURT: When did I reopen it?
MR. MANCERI: No, it hasn't been reopened,
your Honor.
THE COURT: There's an order that I
entered in May of 2013 denying an emergency
petition to freeze assets. You filed this one
in May. Do you remember doing that?
MR. ELIOT BERNSTEIN: I believe so.
THE COURT: And what you said was there's
an emergency in May, you want to freeze the
estate assets appointing you PR, investigate

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the fraud documents, and do a whole host of
other things, and the estate had been closed.
The reason why it was denied among other