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

WALTER E. SAHM and
PATRICIA SAHM, Plaintiffs,
VS.
CASE NO 502018CA002317XXXXMB
BERNSTEIN FAMILY REALTY, LLC, BRIAN O'CONNELL, AS SUCCESSOR
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ESTATE OF SIMON L. BERNSTEIN;
ALEXANDRA BERNSTEIN, ERIC BERNSTEIN,
MICHAEL BERNSTEIN, MOLLY SIMON,
PAMELA B. SIMON, JILL IANTONI, MAX FRIEDSTEIN, LISA FRIEDSTEIN, INDIVIDUALLY AND TRUSTEES OF
THE SIMON L. BERNSTEIN REVOCABLE
TRUST AGREEMENT DATED MAY 20, 2008, AS AMENDED AND RESTATED;
ELIOT BERNSTEIN, AND CANDICE
BERNSTEIN, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS
NATURAL GUARDIANS OF MINOR
CHILDREN JO., JA. AND D. BERNSTEIN;
AND ALL UNKNOWN TENANTS.
Defendants.


PRESIDING: THE HONORABLE JOHN S. KASTRENAKES

## APPEARANCES:

ON BEHALF OF THE PLAINTIFF:
ROBERT SWEETAPPLE, ESQ.
4800 N. Federal Highway
Ste. D306
Boca Raton, FL 33431
ON BEHALF OF THE RESPONDENT:
LESLIE ANN FERDERIGOS, ESQ.
941 N. Orange Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789
Dawn LeRoy Court Reporting (561) 602-7283

1 November 22, 2021
Palm Beach County Courthouse
Room 9D West Palm Beach, FL 33401 10:25-10:44 a.m.




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ARGUMENT

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| SWEETAPPLE | 4,10 |
| FERDERIGOS | 8,15 |

BE IT REMEMBERED THAT the foregoing matter was taken on November 22, 2021, before the Honorable John S. Kastrenakes, Circuit Court Judge, Palm Beach County, Florida, and this is a transcription of the stenograph notes from said hearing:

THE BAILIFF: All rise.
THE COURT: Okay. Everybody have a seat, everyone.

Okay. This is -- we all ready to go?
Sahm versus Bernstein Family Realty. And it's the Plaintiff's motion for final summary judgment.

And representing the Plaintiff is Mr.
Sweetapple.
Who represents the Bernstein Family Realty?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: There was -- Your Honor, there was a default entered against that entity.

THE COURT: Right. Right. Well, there
was -- there was some individual defending it.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Yes. Mr. and Mrs.
Bernstein have been defaulted.
THE COURT: Right. And how about the --
Dawn LeRoy Court Reporting (561) 602-7283
the -- the -- you're seeking summary judgment against whom?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: It's actually -- it's actually a final judgment on a default. However, we have prepared it as a summary final judgment specifying that we're not seeking to remove anyone. The relief we're seeking is foreclose on the note and to get a money judgment.

We recognize that any -- the Court's
going to defer any sale or any removal issues until after the moratorium is lifted.

THE COURT: The moratorium is lifted.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Oh, has it been lifted?
THE COURT: Sure.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Okay. When -- when was
it lifted?
THE COURT: Well, I've been selling property that --

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Oh.
THE COURT: -- that's secured by notes for a while now.

MR. SWEETAPPLE: I'm saying to remove -to remove people from their homes I understood there --

THE COURT: Well, it depends on whether there's a -- a valid rental agreement that would, of course -- if there is one --
arm's-length rental agreement --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right.
THE COURT: -- that would trump the -- the person who would buy it at a forecloser sale would be subject to that.

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right. Right. So --
THE COURT: If it's not a valid
arm's-length --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right.
THE COURT: -- rental agreement that's
another matter entirely. So --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Yeah. I stand corrected.
I stand corrected. The motion sets forth we're not seeking -- I should say not seeking possession --

THE COURT: Yeah.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- against anybody
claiming --
THE COURT: But you're seeking to foreclose on the original promissory note --

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right.
THE COURT: -- from when? A hundred and
ten thousand dollars it looks like --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right. But there have been no -- no --

THE COURT: -- from 2009 or '10?
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right. Yeah.
And I will tell the Court that my
associate totaled up all of the monies owed, but didn't get it to me until like 6:00 --

THE COURT: Yeah. I didn't get an
affidavit on that.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Yeah. And so -- and I've
been dealing with Mr. Rose before the second mortgage was assigned. And I told him, obviously, I would have him review any numbers before I submitted the judgment to the Court because the second mortgagor/mortgagee is going to, you know, be impacted by my numbers. So I want to give him an opportunity to make sure and --

THE COURT: So --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- recalculate everything before I --

THE COURT: Yeah, I mean the evidence that you utilize for a summary final judgment has to be filed forty days in advance of the
hearing --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right.
THE COURT: -- under the new rule.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right. But this is a default. This is just a final judgment on a default. So really I'm going to ask just for --

THE COURT: On -- on a note that's liquid.
You know, liquidated damages on the note, right?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right. Right. So --
THE COURT: Have they -- is there anything
from the Defense on this?
And, ma'am, you are representing?
MS. FERDERIGOS: I -- I'm representing Jacob, Joshua and Daniel.

THE COURT: Okay.
MS. FERDERIGOS: We are all -- and we -we consider them indispensable parties in this. I'm newer to this case.

THE COURT: Yeah.
MS. FERDERIGOS: I just got on.
THE COURT: I haven't seen you here before.

MS. FERDERIGOS: Yeah.

THE COURT: They were pro se as I recall before --

MS. FERDERIGOS: Yeah.
THE COURT: -- were they not?
MS. FERDERIGOS: I believe so. Yes. Yes.

## But I --

THE COURT: And your name is?
MS. FERDERIGOS: I'm Leslie Ferderigos.
THE COURT: Okay.
MS. FERDERIGOS: Would -- would you like me to stand up there, Your Honor?

THE COURT: No. You can sit --
MS. FERDERIGOS: Okay.
THE COURT: -- if you'd like. If you feel
more comfortable.
MS. FERDERIGOS: Sure.
THE COURT: Sweetapple just likes to stand, you know. So...

MS. FERDERIGOS: Yeah.
But our -- our position is that my
clients are indispensable parties so -- and
the -- the process was not properly
effectuated. They were -- they all -- they
were all adults when service and process was
made. And I believe it was only made on the

[^0]mother claiming that the connection --
THE COURT: This was all litigated last -over a year ago.

MS. FERDERIGOS: Okay.
THE COURT: There was a default entered.
There was a motion to set aside the default.
We had argument on it. I believe I denied the motion to set aside the default. I mean what's --

MS. FERDERIGOS: Well --
THE COURT: -- your defense to the --
MS. FERDERIGOS: To the summary judgment?
THE COURT: Yeah.
MS. FERDERIGOS: Basically that there's --
I mean I don't believe that you can do a summary judgment when there's not jurisdiction over my clients. So I mean that's -- that's really our main argument. In that to simply just take my clients off of the lawsuit, I don't believe that's possible because they're indispensable parties.

THE COURT: Okay. So who -- who is the Plaintiff seeking final summary judgment against to enforce this promissory note?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Let me be candid with the

Court as to what the argument is so you fully understand it for purpose of making any decision that's appropriate. We sued Mrs.

## Bernstein --

THE COURT: Right.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- understanding that these -- these children were minors.

There's been some statement that they're -- they weren't minors -- they're not minors now or maybe they weren't minors at the time. They live there. They've lived there now for years without anyone paying.

What has happened is we got a default for unknown tenants as well. So anyone living there is subject to this judgment. Now, if there's as you said a lease, that would present us -- or even someone living there I guess could come in and say "you can't remove us". But this isn't time or place for that. We make it clear in our motion, which you should really deem as just a motion for -- for final judgment that -and it was done more than forty days. It was filed in August and noticed -- noticed in November.

THE COURT: And who are -- who is the signatory on the note that you're seeking? MR. SWEETAPPLE: The president Simon Bernstein, who is the president of the maker.

So we have a -- we got -- and it's a dissolved entity. So what happened is he died. He made the note. The family members live there and have not made payments. And while there was a -- a motorium, you know, we didn't do anything and -- and it's languished and so --

THE COURT: So you're seeking a money judgment against?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Against the dissolved entity.

THE COURT: Right.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: And then which will only be collected from the proceeds of the sale.

We won't be able to go after them for any deficiency, were there one. And we're seeking a -- a sale. But we understand that possession is something we're going to have to look into and see whether or not there's a lease, whether or not they are tenants now, or what the nature of their -- their rights
to possession are.
THE COURT: What's the amount of money judgment given?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: According -- according to
calculations, and subject to Mr. Rose
scrutinizing them, there is a principal a
hundred and ten.
THE COURT: Correct.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: There's interest of -- of
two hundred and sixty five. Taxes that were paid of forty eight thousand. My clients paid the taxes this whole time. Taxes that are due we believe -- and we're trying to verify it -of seven thousand eight forty four twenty eight. And the attorney's fees are forty six thousand seven seventy three. The total is four seventy nine.

But -- but, as I said, Mr. Rose needs
to go through and make sure we did the interest right. And he -- he agrees -- we're going to file an affidavit for our fees. If he doesn't agree, then obviously we'll -we'll --

THE COURT: We'll have a hearing on the fees.

MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- have a -- no, probably
just -- I'll probably just agree to whatever.
You know, if he thinks something is not
reasonable, I'll take it out of our request.
THE COURT: Okay.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: We have that kind of relationship. We've litigated quite a bit.

And if he's got a -- if there's some
objection Alan has to my fees it's because they're not recoverable. There might be travel. There might be whatever.

THE COURT: And -- and the -- and the note itself requires or -- is a -- let me see -does it include fees?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: It was a balloon -- a
balloon note. Yes, I believe it requires a copy of it.

THE COURT: Enforcement of the note. I
mean you're going to have to refer to the entitlement, I guess.

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Yeah. Let me look at the note.

THE COURT: I only have the original note not the whole --

MR. SWEETAPPLE: I have the note right
here.
Um, yes, it says "Placed in the hands of an attorney for collection and --

THE COURT: "All the costs included and reasonable attorneys fees."

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right.
THE COURT: Okay. So you're going to be entitled to the attorney fees in an amount to be determined later. Right?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Right.
We'll submit an affidavit after I --
after I speak with Mr. Rose. And I'll
request the amount will be less than the affidavit if he objects.

THE COURT: All right. So let me turn to counsel for the Defendant.

MS. FERDERIGOS: Yes, Your Honor. I -- I
know that I'm limited to my representation --
THE COURT: I know.
MS. FERDERIGOS: -- with the -- the
children but -- and I'm not sure -- again
'cause like I said I'm new -- or I don't know
if this was already dealt with. I didn't see it, but I could be wrong. In regards to the service on the actual agent of Bernstein Family

[^1]Realty, from my understanding the agent that service was -- was originally perfected on was a former agent who had resigned prior to the service. So that's really our -- our big argument is that service wasn't --

THE COURT: And so the person who signed the note as -- as the borrower/manager, he's deceased, right? And so the people that are residing at the residence secured by this note are -- are his family members, right?

MS. FERDERIGOS: Correct.
THE COURT: And including what? His grandson and his son? Is that who we have here at the house?

MS. FERDERIGOS: Um, I believe so. Is it -- Yes.

MR. BERNSTEIN: Um-hmm.
THE COURT: Okay. And other than this
note and the -- what other encumbrances are on this residence? Is there -- is there -- is there a bank loan or no?

MS. FERDERIGOS: I am not sure.
MR. BERNSTEIN: There's a second to the --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: This is the -- this is the first.

MS. FERDERIGOS: Yeah.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: I know there's a second that the -- that Mr. Rose's client has.

THE COURT: Okay. Well, you have an attorney here.

MR. BERNSTEIN: I don't.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: But I don't --
MR. BERNSTEIN: My children do.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- believe this counsel
represents the entity, Your Honor. I -- I think she's just here on -- she's appeared on behalf of the --

THE COURT: The tenants?
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- grandsons.
MR. BERNSTEIN: I just wanted to note to the Court that the person who accepted service resigned from service due to fraud on the Court where he submitted fraudulent estate documents to the Court. We're going to be bringing all this up in a much bigger push to get the corruption that's going on here. But Mr. Don Tescher was suspended from law practice. He resigned from all Bernstein family matters.

Mr. Rose and Mr. Sweetapple both were aware of that. He illegally accepted that service.

THE COURT: Okay.
MR. BERNSTEIN: So BFR has never been
properly served.
THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. Appreciate it.

THE COURT REPORTER: Can I get your name,
sir? Can I get your name?
MR. BERNSTEIN: Eliot Bernstein.
THE COURT REPORTER: Thank you.
MR. BERNSTEIN: One I. One t.
MS. FERDERIGOS: Your Honor, he is pro se.
THE COURT: Right. Right. Right.
MS. FERDERIGOS: I just wanted to point that out.

THE COURT: We -- I know. I remember.
MS. FERDERIGOS: Yes.
THE COURT: They could have -- he could have been sitting with you at the counsel table --

MS. FERDERIGOS: Yes.
THE COURT: -- if he wanted to.
MR. BERNSTEIN: Oh.
THE COURT: All right.
MR. BERNSTEIN: I'm all right.
THE COURT: The Court has had an
opportunity to review the information provided by the Plaintiff here. The Court believes that summary judgment is appropriate.

The Plaintiff is entitled to reasonable
attorney's fees.
I'm -- you want me to -- no, I'm not
going to set a sale date 'til I get your
affidavit -- finalized affidavit. When you
submit that to court. Did you want me to set
a sale date?
MR. SWEETAPPLE: No. I'll let the Court
do that as it's pleasure because I don't --
THE COURT: Well you --
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- know how long --
THE COURT: Yeah.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- it's going to take me
to have Alan review my fees to make sure he's comfortable.

THE COURT: Okay. But once I get the order that is uploaded, you want me to set a sale date --

MR. SWEETAPPLE: Yes.
THE COURT: -- in the order?
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Yes, I do.
THE COURT: So I want to give the

Bernsteins a chance, if they wish, to work out some arrangement with your client.

I can set a sale date down the road if you want to work this out?

MS. FERDERIGOS: That -- that would be great.

MR. BERNSTEIN: Yes.
MS. FERDERIGOS: So I could have, you
know, time to --
THE COURT: I mean it's only been going on for over a decade, you know. So I mean there's -- somebody owes somebody money, right? Okay.

So I -- I can set them out as far as a hundred twenty days.

MR. SWEETAPPLE: That's fine. That's fine.

THE COURT: So when I -- that's, of course, a hundred twenty plus when I get the order from Mr. Sweetapple which will contain the affidavit of indebtedness. All right?

MS. FERDERIGOS: Um-hmm.
THE COURT: All right. When I get that, I
will upload an order. And the order will
indicate that I'll set a sale date a hundred
and twenty days down the road, which is four months. And gives everybody a chance if you can work it out with the Plaintiff who's owed money, right? And if -- if you can work out an arrangement so you can stay at the house, great. I want people to be able to stay at their homes; but they have to pay, you know, pay whoever they owe the money to. I assume on the -- on the -- is it a condo? Is that what we're talking about? Is it a condominium? It's in a -- it's in an association though?

What's the second mortgage holder on this?

MR. BERNSTEIN: My father's estate or now the trust. And that was an illegal transfer as well.

THE COURT: All right.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: And as I understand it they haven't sought a -- a foreclosure. I don't know whether --

THE COURT: Yeah. So they're not seeking payment. So the only person that's seeking payment here --

MR. BERNSTEIN: Is Mr. --
THE COURT: -- is Mr. Sahm?

MR. BERNSTEIN: Yep.
THE COURT: Yeah. So work out whatever you can, if you can. If you can't, then I'll have to have the property sold to a third-party after a hundred and twenty days.

MR. BERNSTEIN: Yep.
THE COURT: Okay. And then after that, if it's sold to someone and you have to leave the premises and find your own place to live, you're going to have to do that. Okay. All right.

MR. SWEETAPPLE: And my understanding is that Mr. Rose and the Bernsteins have had a mediation last year and they've been attempting to work out the second mortgage. And I have let them know that we're more than happy to -to -- to work with them --

THE COURT: Okay.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- if we can.
THE COURT: All right. The motion for summary judgment is granted. And I'll wait for your order and affidavit.

Don't forget to attach the affidavit to the order of -- of indebtedness. Okay.

MR. SWEETAPPLE: We'll do that.

THE COURT: All right.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Thank you, Your Honor.
THE COURT: All right.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Thanks for hearing this.
THE COURT: How long you think? About a week or two?

MR. SWEETAPPLE: It'll be a week. No more. No more. I had put a call into Alan.

And Naomi --
THE COURT: All right.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: -- is doing the affidavit
now.
THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
You all have a great Thanksgiving. It was nice to meet you all.

MS. FERDERIGOS: Thank you.
MR. SWEETAPPLE: Thank you.
THE COURT: Good luck.
(Whereupon, the hearing was concluded.)

## 3

## CERTIFICATE

## THE STATE OF FLORIDA,

 COUNTY OF PALM BEACH.I, DAWN M. LeROY, Notary Public, State of Florida at large, do hereby certify that the preceding pages, numbered 1 through 24, inclusive, are a true and accurate transcription of my stenotype notes taken at said proceeding.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I have no personal nor financial interest in this action or a party thereto.

THE FOREGOING CERTIFICATION of the transcript does not apply to any reproduction of the same by any means unless under the direct control and/or direction of the court reporter. The reproduction and/or distribution and/or receipt of said transcript unless directly authorized by the court reporter in writing in any manner is theft.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my seal and signature this 26th day of December, 2021.


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| 9D [1] $2 / 2$ | /15 16/8 | Bernsteins [2] 20/1 | 17/9 18/18 | 15/22 17/6 17/7 19/1 |
| A | 16/10 16/19 | 2/13 | COUNTY [4] 1/2 2/1 | 21/20 22/23 |
| $\begin{array}{ll} \text { a.m [1] } 2 / 3 \\ \text { able [2] } 12 / 1921 / 6 \end{array}$ | argument [5] 3/1 <br> 10/7 10/18 11/1 16/5 | big [1] 16/4 <br> bigger [1] 17/20 | course [2] 6/3 20/19 <br> court [14] $1 / 14 / 3$ | down [2] 20/3 21/1 <br> due [2] 13/12 17/17 |
| $23 / 5$ | arm's [2] 6/4 6/11 arm's-length [2] | bit [1] 14/7 <br> Boca [1] 1/2 | $\begin{aligned} & 67 / 1511 / 117 / 1 \\ & / 1717 / 19171 / 25 \end{aligned}$ | E |
| $\begin{aligned} & \text { accepted [2] } 17 / 16 \\ & 17 / 25 \\ & \text { according [2] } 13 / 4 \end{aligned}$ | $\left\lvert\, \begin{aligned} & \text { 6/11 } \\ & \text { arrangement [2] } \\ & 20 / 2 \text { 21/5 } \end{aligned}\right.$ | borrower [1] 16/7 borrower/manager [1] 16/7 | $\begin{aligned} & \text { 19/2 19/9 19/11 } 24 / 14 \\ & \text { 24/16 } \\ & \text { Court's [1] } 5 / 10 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline \text { effectuated [1] } \\ & \text { eight [3] } \\ & 13 / 23 \\ & 13 / 15 \end{aligned}$ |



Naomi [1] 23/9
NATURAL [1] $1 / 13$
nature [1] 12/25
needs [1] $13 / 18$
never [1] 18/2
new [2] $8 / 315 / 22$
newer [1] $8 / 20$
nice [1] $23 / 15$
nine [1] $13 / 17$
no [12] $1 / 57 / 37 / 3$
9/12 14/1 16/21 19/6
19/11 23/7 23/8 24/9
24/23
not [19] 5/6 6/10 6/17 6/17 9/4 9/22
10/16 11/9 12/8 12/23 12/24 14/3 14/10
14/24 15/21 16/22
19/6 21/21 24/12
Notary [2] 24/4 24/22
note [17] 5/8 6/23
8/8 8/9 10/24 12/2
12/7 14/12 14/16
14/18 14/22 14/23
14/25 16/7 16/9 16/19 17/15
notes [3] 4/5 5/21 24/7
noticed [2] 11/24 11/24
November [3] 2/1
4/2 11/25
now [7] 5/22 11/10
11/12 11/16 12/24
21/14 23/12
numbered [1] 24/6 numbers [2] 7/14 7/17

## 0

O'CONNELL [1] $1 / 6$
objection [1] 14/9
objects [1] 15/14
obviously [2] 7/14
13/22
off [1] 10/19
Oh [3] 5/14 5/20 18/22
Okay [20] 4/8 4/10
5/16 8/17 9/9 9/13
10/4 10/22 14/5 15/7
16/18 17/4 18/1 18/4
19/19 20/13 22/7
22/10 22/18 22/24
once [1] 19/19
one [4] 6/3 12/20
18/10 18/10
only [5] 9/25 12/17
14/23 20/10 21/22
opportunity [2] 7/18 19/1
Orange [1] $1 / 24$
order [7] 19/20 19/23 principal [1] 13/6 20/20 20/24 20/24 prior [1] 16/3 22/22 22/24 pro [2] 9/1 18/11 original [2] $6 / 23$ probably [2] 14/1 14/23 originally [1] $16 / 2$ proceeding [1] 24/8 other [2] 16/18 16/19 proceeds [1] 12/18 our [8] $9 / 209 / 20$ process [2] 9/22 9/24 10/18 11/20 13/21 promissory [2] 6/23 14/4 16/4 16/4 out [9] 14/4 18/14 20/1 20/4 20/14 21/3 21/4 22/2 22/15 over [3] 10/3 10/17 20/11
owe [1] 21/8 owed [2] 7/7 21/3 owes [1] 20/12 own [1] 22/9
 4/3 24/3
PAMELA [1] $1 / 9$
Park [1] 1/25
parties [3] 8/19 9/21 10/21
party [2] 22/4 24/10 PATRICIA [1] $1 / 4$ pay [2] 21/7 21/8 paying [1] 11/12 payment [2] 21/22 21/23
payments [1] $12 / 8$
people [3] 5/24 16/8 21/6
perfected [1] 16/2
person [4] 6/7 16/6 17/16 21/22 personal [2] 1/7 24/9
place [2] 11/20 22/9
Placed [1] 15/2
PLAINTIFF [6] $1 / 19$ 4/14 10/23 19/2 19/4 21/3
Plaintiff's [1] 4/12
Plaintiffs [1] $1 / 4$ pleasure [1] 19/12 plus [1] 20/19 point [1] 18/13 position [1] 9/20 possession [3] 6/18 12/22 13/1
possible [1] 10/20 practice [1] 17/22 preceding [1] 24/6 premises [1] 22/9 prepared [1] 5/5 present [1] 11/17 president [2] 12/3 12/4
PRESIDING [1] $1 / 17$ requires [2] 14/13
17/10
reproduction [2]
24/12 24/14
request [2] 14/4
15/13

14/16
residence [2] 16/9 16/20
residing [1] 16/9
resigned [3] 16/3
17/17 17/23
RESPONDENT [1]
1/23
RESTATED [1] $1 / 11$
review [3] 7/14 19/1
19/17
REVOCABLE [1] $1 / 10$ right [41]
rights [1] $12 / 25$
rise [1] $4 / 7$
road [2] 20/3 21/1
ROBERT [1] $1 / 20$
Room [1] 2/2
Rose [6] 7/12 13/5
13/18 15/12 17/24 22/13
Rose's [1] 17/3 rule [1] $8 / 3$

## S

SAHM [4] 1/3 1/4 4/11 21/25
said [6] $4 / 511 / 16$
13/18 15/22 24/8 24/15
sale [9] $5 / 116 / 7$
12/18 12/21 19/7
19/10 19/21 20/3
20/25
same [1] 24/12
say [2] 6/17 11/18
saying [1] $5 / 23$
says [1] 15/2
scrutinizing [1] $13 / 6$
se [2] $9 / 118 / 11$
seal [1] $24 / 19$
seat [1] $4 / 8$
second [6] 7/12 7/16
16/23 17/2 21/12
22/15
secured [2] 5/21
16/9
see [3] 12/23 14/13 15/23
seeking [12] $5 / 15 / 6$
5/7 6/17 6/17 6/22
10/23 12/2 12/12
12/21 21/21 21/22
seen [1] $8 / 23$
selling [1] $5 / 18$
served [1] 18/3
service [8] 9/24
15/25 16/2 16/4 16/5 17/16 17/17 17/25
set [8] 10/6 10/8 19/7
19/9 19/20 20/3 20/14
20/25
sets [1] 6/16
seven [2] 13/14
13/16
seventy [2] $13 / 16$ 13/17
she's [2] 17/11 17/11
should [2] 6/17 11/21
signatory [1] 12/2
signature [1] 24/19
signed [1] 16/6
SIMON [5] 1/7 1/8
1/9 1/10 12/3
simply [1] 10/18
sir [1] $18 / 7$
sit [1] $9 / 12$
sitting [1] 18/18
six [1] $13 / 15$
sixty [1] $13 / 10$
sold [2] 22/4 22/8
some [4] $4 / 22$ 11/8 14/8 20/2
somebody [2] 20/12
20/12
someone [2] 11/17
22/8
something [2] 12/22
14/3
son [1] 16/13
sought [1] $21 / 19$
speak [1] $15 / 12$
specifying [1] 5/6
stand [4] 6/15 6/16
9/11 9/18
STATE [2] 24/2 24/4
statement [1] 11/8
stay [2] 21/5 21/6
Ste [1] 1/21
stenograph [1] 4/4
stenotype [1] 24/7
subject [3] 6/8 11/15 13/5
submit [2] 15/11
19/9
submitted [2] 7/15
17/18
SUCCESSOR [1] $1 / 6$
sued [1] 11/3
summary [9] 4/12
5/1 5/5 7/24 10/12
10/16 10/23 19/3
22/21
sure [7] 5/15 7/18
9/16 13/19 15/21
16/22 19/17
suspended [1] 17/22
SWEETAPPLE [6]
1/20 3/3 4/15 9/17
17/24 20/20

## T

table [1] 18/19
take [3] 10/19 14/4

19/16
taken [2] 4/2 24/8
talking [1] 21/10
taxes [3] 13/10 13/12 13/12
tell [1] 7/6
ten [2] 7/1 13/7
tenants [4] 1/14
11/14 12/24 17/13
Tescher [1] 17/22
than [4] 11/23 15/13 16/18 22/16
Thank [6] 18/4 18/9
23/2 23/13 23/16 23/17
Thanks [1] 23/4 Thanksgiving [1] 23/14
that [54]
that's [13] 5/21 6/13 8/8 10/17 10/17 10/20 11/3 16/4 17/21 20/16 20/16 20/18 21/22
theft [1] 24/17
their [4] 5/24 12/25
12/25 21/7
them [6] 8/19 12/19 13/6 20/14 22/16 22/17
then [4] 12/17 13/22
22/3 22/7
there [24] 4/18 4/19
4/21 4/22 5/25 6/3 7/2
8/12 9/11 10/5 10/6
11/11 11/12 11/15
11/18 12/8 12/9 12/20
13/6 14/10 14/11
16/20 16/20 16/21
there's [11] 6/2
10/14 10/16 11/8
11/16 12/23 13/9 14/8
16/23 17/2 20/12
thereto [1] 24/10
these [2] 11/7 11/7
they [15] 8/12 9/1
9/4 9/23 9/23 9/23
11/9 11/10 11/11
12/24 18/17 20/1 21/7 21/8 21/19
they're [5] 10/20
11/9 11/9 14/10 21/21
they've [2] 11/11 22/14
think [2] 17/11 23/5
thinks [1] 14/3
third [1] 22/4
third-party [1] 22/4
this [25]
though [1] 21/11
thousand [4] 7/1
13/11 13/14 13/16
three [1] 13/16
through [2] 13/19 24/6
time [4] 11/11 11/19
13/12 20/9
told [1] 7/13
total [1] 13/16
totaled [1] 7/7
transcript [2] 24/11 24/15 transcription [2] 4/4 24/7
transfer [1] 21/15 travel [1] 14/11 true [1] 24/7 trump [1] 6/6
trust [2] $1 / 1121 / 15$
TRUSTEES [1] $1 / 10$
trying [1] $13 / 13$ turn [1] 15/15
twenty [5] 13/14 20/15 20/19 21/1 22/5 two [2] 13/10 23/6

## U

Um [4] 15/2 16/15
16/17 20/22
Um-hmm [2] 16/17
20/22
under [2] 8/3 24/13
understand [3] 11/2 12/21 21/18 understanding [3]
11/6 16/1 22/12
understood [1] 5/24 unknown [2] 1/14 11/14
unless [2] 24/13 24/15
until [2] 5/12 7/8
up [3] 7/7 9/11 17/20
upload [1] 20/24
uploaded [1] 19/20
us [2] 11/17 11/19
utilize [1] $7 / 24$
V
valid [2] 6/2 6/10
verify [1] 13/13
versus [1] 4/11
W
wait [1] 22/21
WALTER [1] $1 / 3$
want [7] 7/18 19/6
19/9 19/20 19/25 20/4
21/6
wanted [3] 17/15
18/13 18/21
was [25]
wasn't [1] 16/5
we [21] $4 / 105 / 55 / 10$
8/18 8/18 8/19 10/7
11/3 11/13 11/20 12/5
12/5 12/9 12/19 12/21
13/13 13/19 14/6
16/13 18/15 22/19
we'll [5] 13/22 13/23
13/24 15/11 22/25
we're [10] 5/6 5/7
6/16 12/20 12/22
13/13 13/20 17/19
21/10 22/16

We've [1] $14 / 7$
week [2] 23/6 23/7
well [8] 4/21 5/18 6/1
10/10 11/14 17/4
19/13 21/16
were [8] 9/1 9/4 9/23 9/24 11/7 12/20 13/10 17/24
weren't [2] 11/9
11/10
West [1] $2 / 2$
what [7] $11 / 1$ 11/13
12/6 12/25 16/12
16/19 21/9
what's [3] 10/9 13/2 21/12
whatever [3] 14/2 14/11 22/2
when [9] 5/16 5/16
6/25 9/24 10/16 19/8
20/18 20/19 20/23
where [1] $17 / 18$
WHEREOF [1] 24/18
Whereupon [1]
23/19
whether [4] 6/1
12/23 12/24 21/20
which [4] $11 / 21$
12/17 20/20 21/1
while [2] 5/22 12/9
who [11] 4/16 6/7
10/22 10/22 12/1 12/1
12/4 16/3 16/6 16/13
17/16
who's [1] 21/3
whoever [1] 21/8
whole [2] 13/12 14/24
whom [1] 5/2
will [6] 7/6 12/17
15/13 20/20 20/24
20/24
Winter [1] $1 / 25$
wish [1] 20/1
without [1] $11 / 12$
WITNESS [1] 24/18
won't [1] $12 / 19$
work [7] 20/1 20/4
21/3 21/4 22/2 22/15 22/17
would [9] 6/3 6/6 6/7
6/8 7/14 9/10 9/10 11/17 20/5
writing [1] $24 / 16$
wrong [1] 15/24

Yeah [16] 6/15 6/19
7/5 7/9 7/11 7/23 8/21
8/25 9/3 9/19 10/13
14/21 17/1 19/15
21/21 22/2
year [2] 10/3 22/14
years [1] 11/12
Yep [2] 22/1 22/6
yes [12] 4/23 9/5 9/5
14/16 15/2 15/17
16/16 18/16 18/20
19/22 19/24 20/7
you [43]
you'd [1] 9/14
you're [7] 5/1 6/22
12/2 12/12 14/19 15/7
22/10
your [14] 4/18 9/7
9/11 10/11 15/17
17/10 18/6 18/7 18/11
19/7 20/2 22/9 22/22
23/2


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