IN THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ESTATE OF SCOTT G. HUDSON, Deceased, By MATTHEW CARUSO, its SUCCESSOR ADMINISTRATOR and KYLE HUDSON, Plaintiffs-Appellants,)))) Circuit Court No. 15 L 12518) Trial Judge: Honorable William Gomolinski
vs. DOUGLAS C. TIBBLE and BROOKS, ADAMS & TARULIS, Defendants-Appellees))))))))))

Appeal from the Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division The Honorable William Gomolinski Presiding

BRIEF OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLANTS ESTATE OF SCOTT G. HUDSON, DECEASED, BY MATTHEW CARUSO, ITS SUCCESSOR ADMINISTRATOR AND APPENDIX TO BRIEF

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ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

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NATURE OF THE CASE

The Estate of Scott G. Hudson, Deceased, by Matthew Caruso, its Successor Administrator ("Estate") appeals the decision of the Circuit Court granting summary judgment on its complaint for legal malpractice in favor of defendants Douglas C. Tibble and his firm Brooks, Adams & Tarulis ("Defendants"). R. V. 2, C.311. Defendants were Estate's former counsel, and Estate alleged that they were both negligent in their handling of the Estate's affairs and conflicted through their representation personally of the former administrator Alma Leticia Hudson ("Letty") and of Chicago Mini Bus Travel, Inc. ("Bus Company"), the main disputed asset of the Estate. R. V. 1, C.170-77, 194.

Defendants moved for summary judgment, arguing that that as a matter of law they owed no duty to the Estate, only to Letty, the former administrator who retained them. R. V. 1, C.41-43. Estate disputed that argument, contending that under the law of Illinois the attorney for an estate owes a duty of care to the estate, and that Defendants could be sued by the current administrator for their malpractice. R. V. 1, C.156-60. The Circuit Court credited Defendant's argument, and granted summary judgment on May 27, 2016. R. V. 1, C.169.

On June 27, 2016, Estate filed a motion for reconsideration of the Circuit Court's summary judgment. R. V. 2, C.290-301. After full briefing and argument, the Circuit Court denied the motion to reconsider on August 30,

2016. R. V. 2, C.309-10; R. Tr.1-8. Estate filed its notice of appeal on September 20, 2016. R. V. 2, C.311-12.

JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

On May 27, 2016, the Circuit Court entered summary judgment in favor of Defendants. R. V. 1, C.169. On August 30, 2016, the Circuit Court denied Plaintiffs' motion to reconsider summary judgment in favor of Defendants. R. V. 2, C.309-10. The Notice of Appeal was filed on September 20, 2016. R. V. 2, C.311-12. Rule 303 confers jurisdiction over this appeal.

ISSUES PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

Did the Circuit Court err when it concluded that Defendants could not be sued for legal malpractice because they owed no duty to Estate?

STATEMENT OF FACTS

A. The Estate Of Scott G. Hudson

Decedent Scott G. Hudson ("Scott") was a successful businessman whose business activities included owning Bus Company. Letty was his wife. Kyle Hudson ("Kyle") was his son from a prior marriage. R. V. 1, C.44-45.

Scott Hudson died intestate on February 17, 2005. *Id.* A probate case was opened in the Circuit Court for the 18th Judicial Circuit in DuPage County. R. V. 1, C.35, 53. Letty, as Scott's widow, and Kyle, as Scott's son, were the only heirs. R. V. 1, C.44-45

Letty was appointed administrator of the Estate on February 28, 2005.

R. V. 1, C. 53. She, in turn, retained Defendants as counsel, and they appeared in the probate action in May 2005. R. V. 1, C. 90, 96.

A fundamental issue confronting the Estate was whether Bus Company belonged to the Estate or to Letty personally. R. V. 1, C.58, 104-06. This was an issue of enormous importance as Bus Company was a valuable business. If it belonged solely to Letty, she would own the company outright. If the Bus Company was an asset of the Estate, then the asset would be split 50/50 between Kyle and Letty. R. V. 1, C.36-37, 84.

Letty as administrator and Defendants took the position in the probate case that Bus Company belonged to Letty, and was not an asset of the Estate. R. V. 1, C.104-06. Kyle, in turn, intervened in the probate case and challenged this determination, as well as certain other aspects of the handling of the Estate. R. V. 1, C.54-81. Throughout the probate case, Defendants identified themselves as attorneys for the Estate. R. V. 2, C.253, 285. They also asserted an attorneys' lien against the assets of the Estate. R. V. 1, C.111, 134-35.

On July 26, 2007, after questions were raised in the probate case regarding Letty's propriety, qualifications, and actions as administrator, she agreed to resign as administrator and Plaintiff Matthew Caruso, Esq. was appointed as successor administrator. R. V. 1, C.109.

Letty's resignation as administrator was not the end of Defendants' involvement in the probate case. After Letty resigned, Defendants continued

order of Court on July 21, 2008. R. V. 1, C.111. Defendants also drafted documents stating that they represented Bus Company in the matter. R. V. 1, C.111, 196. The probate case was eventually resolved in early 2009, and Letty stipulated that Bus Company was an asset of the Estate. R. V. 1, C.37, 136.

B. The Proceedings In The Circuit Court.

On May 28, 2009, Plaintiffs commenced this action, alleging Defendants committed legal malpractice both by mismanaging the Estate and by placing themselves in a conflict of interest with the Estate. This conflict arose because, in addition to representing Letty, an heir, in her individual capacity; Defendants also represented the Estate itself. R. V. 1, C.83-85. Defendants exacerbated this conflict by also representing Bus Company, which was a disputed asset of the Estate. R. V. 1, C.111. As damages Plaintiffs sought reimbursement for 1) assets of the Estate that had been dissipated by Defendants' conduct, 2) taxes that were unnecessarily incurred, and 3) fees the Estate incurred in response to Defendants' negligence. R. V. 1, C.83-85.

Defendants later filed their Answer to Plaintiffs' Amended Complaint in which they admitted that they owed a duty of care to the Estate. R. V. 1, C.172 ("Defendants admit that they owed the Estate a duty of care arising from the attorney-client relationship....").

On March 14, 2016, Defendants presented to the Circuit Court their Motion for Summary Judgment and Memorandum in Support. R. V. 1, C.34.

In their motion Defendants focused solely on the issue of duty, contending that they did not owe a duty of care to the Estate, but only to Letty, who was the person who retained them. R. V. 1, C.38-39. Nor did it change the analysis that Michael Caruso, the successor administrator of the Estate, was prosecuting the claim; in Defendants' words they owed a duty only to the "Letty Administration," and not to the "Caruso Administration." R. V. 1, C.41-42. Estate responded by pointing to numerous Illinois cases noting that attorneys retained to administer an estate owe a duty to the Estate. R. V. 1, C.157-60. See, e.g., Gagliardo v. Caffrey, 344 Ill. App. 3d 219, 229 (1st Dist. 2003); Jewish Hospital v. Boatmen's Nat'l Bank, 261 Ill. App. 3d 750, 763 (5th Dist. 1994).

The Circuit Court granted Defendants' motion, concluding that they owed no duty to the Estate. R. V. 1, C.169. The Estate moved for reconsideration, which was denied on August 30, 2016. R. V. 2, C.309-10; R. Tr.1-8.

STANDARD OF REVIEW

This matter is before the Court after the Circuit Court granted summary judgment to Defendants under 735 ILCS 5/2-1005(c). This Court reviews de novo the Circuit Court's decision granting summary judgment. Seymour v. Collins, 2015 IL 118432 at ¶49.

In addition, whether a duty exists in a claim for legal malpractice is a question of law. *Jewish Hosp.*, 261 Ill. App. 3d at 759; *Marshall v. Burger King Corp.*, 222 Ill. 2d 422, 430 (2006). The Court exercises de novo review over

legal issues. Midstate Siding & Windows Co. v. Rogers, 204 Ill. 2d 314, 319 (2003).

ARGUMENT

- I. The Circuit Court Erred When It Granted Summary Judgment To Defendants.
 - A. The Standard For Granting Summary Judgment.

The Circuit Court granted summary judgment against Estate and in favor of Defendants. Summary judgment is a "drastic" measure that can be granted only if the movant "show[s] that there is no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to a judgment as a matter of law." 735 ILCS 5/2-1005(c). As the Supreme Court has noted, summary judgment is appropriate only when "the right of the moving party is clear and free from doubt." Loyola Academy v. S & S Roof Maintenance, Inc., 146 Ill. 2d 263, 271 (1992). Moreover, the evidence must be construed in Estate's favor.

In determining whether the moving party is entitled to summary judgment, the court must construe the pleadings, depositions and affidavits strictly against the movant and liberally in favor of the opponent... The court may draw inferences from the undisputed facts. However, where reasonable persons could draw divergent inferences from the undisputed facts, the issue should be decided by the trier of fact and the motion should be denied.

Id. at 271-72 (internal citations and quotes omitted). "[I]f the facts permit more than one conclusion or inference, including one unfavorable to the moving party, a summary judgment should be denied." Bellerive v. Hilton Hotels Corp., 245 Ill. App. 3d 933, 936 (2d Dist. 1993).

B. Defendants Owed A Duty Of Care To The Estate.

The elements of a legal malpractice claim are a duty on the part of the defendant, a breach of that duty, and injuries resulting from the breach. Kramer v. Dirksen, 296 Ill. App. 3d 819, 821 (1st Dist. 1998). When seeking summary judgment, Defendants did not dispute that their conduct caused damage to the Estate. Instead, they argued that they were not liable since they owed no duty to the Plaintiffs.

In taking this position, Defendants argue in the face both of the case law and of their own pleadings in the Circuit Court. In the Circuit Court, Defendants admitted in their answer that they owed a duty of care to the Estate. R. V. 1, C.172. In addition, numerous cases have held that the lawyer for an estate, like Defendants, owes a duty to the estate. People v. Franklin, 75 Ill. 2d 173, 177 (1979) (an attorney retained by an administrator has "a duty to maximize the assets of the estate."); Gagliardo, 344 Ill. App. 2d at 229 (the "attorney for the estate . . . owed a fiduciary duty to the estate."); Matter of Vail v. First of America Trust Company, 309 Ill. App. 3d 435, 441 (4th Dist. 1999) (the estate's attorney's allegiance is to the estate.); Jewish Hosp., 261 Ill. App. 3d at 763 (same); In re Estate of Kirk, 292 Ill. App. 3d 914, 921 (2d Dist. 1997) (Defendant's "duty as the attorney of the executor was to protect the estate."). The lawyer does not owe a duty to the administrator or representative in an individual capacity, unless the lawyer chooses to take on that responsibility. Rutkoski v. Hollis, 235 Ill. App. 3d 744, 751 (4th Dist. 1992).

To conclude that a lawyer for an estate owes a duty to the estate makes sense. The administrator is tasked by the court to maximize the assets of an estate and to distribute the proceeds to the beneficiary. Franklin, 75 Ill. 2d at 177. In playing that role, the administrator is liable to the estate for breaches of its duties. First of America Trust Co. v. First Illini Bancorp, Inc., 289 Ill. App. 3d 276, 282 (3d Dist. 1997). The lawyer who assists the administrator in this official duty is retained precisely for his or her expertise in completing these tasks, and is paid from estate assets. 755 ILCS 5/27-2, 5/28-8(g). Accordingly, the lawyer should have similar liability for negligent conduct that damages the estate.

At common law, four factors are examined when deciding whether a duty in negligence is present: the foreseeability of the possible harm, the likelihood of injury, the magnitude of guarding against the harm, and the consequences of placing the burden upon the defendant. Barnes v. Washington, 56 Ill. 2d 22, 29 (1973). All of these factors counsel in favor of existence of a duty from the lawyer to the estate. It is entirely foreseeable that harm could befall the estate if the lawyer is negligent. Indeed, because the lawyer is tasked with helping to administer the estate, if his or her conduct causes harm, that harm will necessarily fall on the estate and its assets. A duty of care to an estate would not place an especially great burden on a lawyer. In all engagements, a lawyer is obligated to provide reasonable advice and counsel, to act honestly and diligently, and to avoid conflicts of interest. See generally

Ill. R. Prof. Conduct 1.1, 1.3, 1.7, 1.8, 4.1. There is nothing about having an estate as a client that makes these everyday duties any more difficult to fulfill, or that should insulate a lawyer from liability if the lawyer fails to meet these standards. Moreover, an estate is administered through a court proceeding, and an estate must rely upon its attorney to navigate that process. This reliance on the attorney makes it imperative that the estate have an ability to seek redress from the lawyer when the lawyer's conduct falls short.

In addition, finding a duty of care in negligence is particularly appropriate here, as the successor administrator, Matthew Caruso, is the person bringing this suit against Defendants. A successor administrator may bring a legal malpractice claim against the former attorneys for an estate, even if they were retained by the prior administrator. *Bookman v. Davidson*, 136 So.3d 1276 (Fla. App. 2014).

Bookman presents a similar situation to this case. There, the administrator of an estate retained counsel, Davidson, who was paid from the estate. Subsequently, the administrator resigned, and Davidson was replaced as the estate's counsel. The successor administrator, Bookman, filed suit against Davidson for malpractice, contending, among other things, that assets had been improperly transferred from the estate. Davidson sought dismissal, arguing that Bookman, the successor administrator, did not retain him, and therefore could not bring a claim for legal malpractice. The trial court agreed with this argument, and dismissed the case. *Id.* at 1278-79.

The Florida court of appeal reversed. In reaching this decision, the court looked at the practicalities of the relationship between the current administrator and the former lawyers. There was no doubt that the former administrator could have sued the lawyers for malpractice that damaged the estate. Indeed, bringing suit on behalf of the estate is one of the duties of an administrator. Moreover, as the successor, Bookman took on the same duties as the former administrator and for all practical purposes stepped into her shoes. This included the right to sue lawyers for malpractice affecting the estate. The court concluded: "Appellant, as successor personal representative, has every right and duty under the Florida Probate Code to pursue legal action for malpractice against appellee on behalf of the estate." *Id.* at 1279-80.

The same reasoning holds in this case. Letty retained Defendants in her role as administrator, and it is beyond dispute that on behalf of the Estate she could have sued them for malpractice if they damaged the Estate. See Wells v. Enloe, 282 Ill. App. 3d 586 (5th Dist. 1996) (legal malpractice claim filed by estate of deceased person against its former counsel). As successor to Letty, Mr. Caruso fulfills the same role, and has the same duties, including the duty to bring claims on behalf of the Estate. See 755 ILCS 5/9-2, 5/14-1, 5/28-8. Accordingly, Mr. Caruso should have the same ability to bring a legal malpractice claim as Letty did.

Indeed, if Mr. Caruso were not able to bring this claim against Defendants, the effect would be that the claim could never be brought.

Although Letty hired Defendants, she would not be able to vindicate the harm they caused to the Estate, as she is no longer administrator, and has no authority to act on behalf of the Estate. 755 ILCS 5/9-2. Mr. Caruso is the current administrator, and he can represent the Estate. He did not, however, hire Defendants, and therefore (if Defendants are to be believed) cannot sue them for legal malpractice, even malpractice that harmed the Estate. The result would be that these claims would fall into a netherworld, where the proper plaintiff has no right to sue, and the person with the right to sue is not a proper plaintiff. This situation flies in the face of the fundamental principle that legal wrongs have legal remedies. See Ill. Const. Art. I, § 12 ("Every person shall find a certain remedy in the laws for all injuries and wrongs which he receives to his person, privacy, property or reputation. He shall obtain justice by law, freely, completely, and promptly"); Smith v. Mercy Hospital & Med. Ctr., 203 Ill. App. 3d 465, 473 (1st Dist. 1990). It frustrates the fundamental purpose of probate proceedings to collect all assets of the estate, for the benefit of creditors and beneficiaries. Moreover, it creates moral hazard, with the attorney for an estate recognizing that once the administrator resigns, the attorney would be free of potential malpractice liability.

C. The Arguments For Denying Plaintiffs' Their Day In Court Do Not Stand Up To Scrutiny.

Before the Circuit Court, Defendants' raised a number of arguments against finding a duty of care. These arguments do not stand up to scrutiny.

First, Defendants argued that the opinions of the Supreme Court and nearly every District of the Appellate Court that a lawyer for an estate owed a duty to an Estate did not mean what they said, but were mere "sound bites." R. V. 1, C.41. This argument ignores the weight of authority that exists. Gagliardo, 344 Ill. App. 2d at 229 (the "attorney for the estate . . . owed a fiduciary duty to the estate."); Matter of Vail, 309 Ill. App. 3d at 441 (the Estate's attorney's allegiance is to the estate.); Jewish Hosp., 261 Ill. App. 3d at 763 (same). It also disregards the fact that a lawyer for an estate is obligated to protect the estate. In re Estate of Kirk, 292 Ill. App. 3d at 921 (Defendant's "duty as the attorney of the executor was to protect the estate."). If the language Estate cites is a sound bite, it is one that accurately reflects the law.

Defendants also argue that they owed no duty to the Estate because the Estate is nothing more than "an intangible legal fiction incapable of acting [and]... being 'the client." R. V. 1, C.41. As an initial matter, something being "an intangible legal fiction" does not prohibit it suing for legal malpractice; both a corporation and an Estate are intangible, fictional, legal persons, Brush v. Gilsdorf, 335 Ill. App. 3d 356, 362 (3d Dist. 2002), and it is beyond dispute that a corporation has the ability to be the client and bring a suit for legal malpractice. E.g., Jackson Jordan, Inc. v. Leydig, Voit & Mayer, 158 Ill. 2d 240 (1994). Similarly, Illinois courts routinely decide legal malpractice actions filed by bankruptcy trustees, who act as the legal successor of the President and Board of Directors of a corporation. Grochocinski v. Mayer Brown, 719 F.3d

785 (7th Cir. 2013). "It is axiomatic that the [bankruptcy] trustee has the right to bring any action in which the debtor has an interest." Koch Refining v. Farmers Union Central Exchange, Inc., 831F.2d 1339, 1348 (7th Cir.1987); see also Aspling v. Ferrall, 232 Ill. App. 3d 758 (2d Dist. 1992) ("We interpret Koch Refining to mean that the bankruptcy trustee, as the proper party to bring general claims of the bankruptcy estate.").

Moreover, Mr. Caruso, as the court-appointed administrator of the Estate is prosecuting the claim on its behalf. Mr. Caruso is statutorily authorized to bring claims on behalf of the Estate, 755 ILCS 5/9-2, 5/14-1, 5/28-8, and is undoubtedly a proper person to do so. *Bookman*, 136 So.3d at 1279-80.

As a fallback position, Defendants argue that they cannot be liable to the Estate, as they were hired by Letty when she was administrator (the so-called "Letty Administration"), and not by her successor Matthew Caruso (of the "Caruso Administration"). According to Defendants, they only owed a duty to "the Letty Administration." R. V. 1, C.41-42. This argument ignores the fact that, like a corporation or a governmental unit, an estate is a distinct legal entity that is viewed as a person under the law. Brush, 335 Ill. App. 3d at 362. Moreover, it ignores the fact that Letty and Caruso had the same duties – to administer the Estate – and the same obligations, including to bring claims for damage to the Estate. For this reason, Caruso has the same right to sue for malpractice to the Estate that Letty did.

Finally, Defendants argue that no duty should exist in this case because the dispute is fundamentally nothing more than a difference of opinion over whether Bus Company should be part of the Estate. Defendants assert that they represented Letty and took the position that Bus Company was not part of the Estate. Caruso took a different view (which prevailed). Defendants should not have committed malpractice to Estate, however, over a simple disagreement. R. V. 1, C.41-42.

There are several problems with this argument. First, this is not a case about a simple disagreement. As discussed above, counsel for an estate work with the administrator in his or her official capacity, not personally as a beneficiary. *Rutkoski*, 235 Ill. App. 3d at 751. This is the rule because conflict is inherent between an administrator, whose duty is to the estate, and a beneficiary, whose interest is in receiving a bequest. Defendants here chose to represent the Estate AND Letty personally, which created a conflict. If the Bus Company was an asset, Estate was better off. If Bus Company was not an Estate asset, Letty was better off. Exacerbating the problem, Defendants also represented Bus Company, the primary asset.

Illinois Rule of Professional Conduct 1.13(b) states:

If a lawyer for an organization knows that an officer, employee or other person associated with the organization is engaged in action, intends to act or refuses to act in a matter related to the representation that is a violation of a legal obligation to the organization, or a crime, fraud or other violation of law that reasonably might be imputed to the organization, and that is likely to result in substantial injury to the organization, then the

lawyer shall proceed as is reasonably necessary in the best interest of the organization.

In addition, Illinois Rule of Professional Conduct 1.13(g) states, "A lawyer representing an organization may also represent any of its directors, officers, employees, members, shareholders or other constituents, subject to the provisions of Rule 1.7." Rule 1.7 requires that an attorney withdraw from concurrent representation of two (2) separate clients when (1) the representation of one client will be directly adverse to another client; or (2) there is a significant risk that the representation of one or more clients will be materially limited by the lawyer's responsibilities to another client, a former client or a third person or by a personal interest of the lawyer. Here, the Defendants represented two (2) organizational entities, the Estate and the Bus Company, in addition to Letty, in her personal capacity. Conflict here was inherent in the representation Defendants chose to undertake, and the Estate should be compensated for the damage Defendants caused.

But leaving aside that fact, Defendant's arguments are misplaced for another reason. The issue before the Court is one of duty: did the Circuit Court err when it found that Defendants owed no duty of care whatsoever to the Estate? Defendants, however, argue something else -- that they did nothing wrong, and this case is about nothing more than a reasonable difference of opinion. The Circuit Court credited this argument on reconsideration, concluding that there was no duty from Defendants to the Estate because at

bottom the case involved "a contested issue as to whether an asset belongs to an estate or it doesn't." R. Tr.6.

Defendants' arguments do not relate to the issue the Circuit Court ruled upon -- whether they owed a duty of care to the Estate. Instead, the arguments go to the merits of the dispute, and they concern whether the duty of care was met. Stated differently, the issue of duty addresses whether Defendants had any obligation to the Estate, or whether the Estate is a mere bystander in Defendant's engagement. This is an issue of law that can be decided by this Court. *Marshall*, 222 Ill. 2d at 430. Whether this case is merely about a difference of opinion relates to a subsequent question - whether Defendants breached the duty. This is a question of fact, and its resolution is reserved for the jury. *Id*.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, the decision of the Circuit Court should be reversed, and this case remanded for further proceedings.

Respectfully submitted,

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SUPREME COURT RULE 341 CERTIFICATION

I certify that this brief conforms to the requirements of Rules 341(a) and (b). The length of this brief excluding the pages containing the Rule 341 (d) cover, the Rule 341 (h) statement of Points and Authorities, the Rule 341 (c) Certificate of Compliance, the Certificate of Service, and those matters to be appended to the brief under Rule 342 (a) is 16 pages.

Edward X. Clinton, Jr.

IN THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

))) Circuit Court No. 15 L 12518
) Trial Judge:) Honorable William Gomolinski
)
))))

Appeal from the Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division The Honorable William Gomolinski Presiding

NOTICE OF FILING AND PROOF OF SERVICE

To: Daniel Konicek Michael J. Corsi

Konicek & Dillon, P.C. 21 W. State Street Geneva, IL 60134

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on this 5th day of May, 2017, I filed with the Clerk of the Appellate Court of Illinois, First Judicial District, **Plaintiff**-

Appellant's Brief, which is being served upon you electronically.

Edward X. Clinton, Jr.

APPENDIX

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IN THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

ESTATE OF SCOTT G. HUDSON, Deceased, By MATTHEW CARUSO, its SUCCESSOR ADMINISTRATOR and KYLE HUDSON,)))
) Circuit Court No. 15 L 12518
Plaintiffs-Appellants,	Trial Judge:Honorable William Gomolinski
vs.	
DOUGLAS C. TIBBLE and	'
BROOKS, ADAMS & TARULIS,)
Defendants-Appellees)

Appeal from the Circuit Court of Cook County, Law Division The Honorable William Gomolinski Presiding

APPENDIX TO BRIEF

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ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Mudson et al.

No. 15 L 12518

ORDER

This Martor Comina Before The Court Of Defendants Motion For Summary Indement, The Motion Being Fully Briefed AND The Court Majing Mears Oral Argument From Counger AND Being Fully Advised in The Promises; From Counger AND Being Fully Advised in The Promises; 4022

- 1) DEFENDANTS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY INDGMENT IS

 GRANTED AND JUDGMENT IS NERSBY ENTERED

 IN FAUR OF DOUGLAS TIBBLE AND BROOKS, ADAMS & TARMUS

 AND ACA, NOT THE COTAGE OF SLOTE G. MUDSON AND 4760

 ACA, NOT KYLE MUDSON.
- 3 By ACREONENT EACH PARTY TO BOR THOSE OWN SHOWLTORY
 CO'STS

Atty. No.: 37.99

Name: M. Corol Duron

Atty. for: Desal Dails

Address: 21 W State St

City/State/Zip: Gsasja 12 60134

Telephone: 630 -262-9655

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS #5 ORDER This cause coming to be heard on themotion of the Estate of Hudson by its Successor Administrator Reconsideration of Summery Judgment It is hereby ordered that: 1 Plaintiff's Motion is Denie

Attorney No.: 35893

Name: Clint. ENTERED: Circuit Court. 1973

Atty. for: Plaintiff Corus o

Address: Ill West-Washington Dated:

City/State/Zip: Chican FL60602

Telephone: 312-357-1515

Judge Judge's No.

DOROTHY BROWN, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

2374 (AAP) A.W.W. #35993

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	STATE OF ILLINOIS) SS. COUNTY OF COOK IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS NOTE: The county of the co
:	COUNTY OF COOK IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT, LAW DIVISION Retate of Scott G. Hudson,
; ;	Estate of Scott G. Hudson, deceased, by Matthew Caruso, its Successor Administrator, and Kyle Hudson,
3	Plaintiffs,) No. 15 L 12518
3	vs.) NO. 15 H 12510
o	Douglas C. Tibble and Brooks,) Adams & Tarulis,)
1	Defendants.)
2	Report of proceedings had at the motion in
1	the above-entitled cause before the HONORABLE WILLIAM E.
5	COMOTINSKI, Judge of said Court, commencing at
5	11:00 a.m. on the 30th day of August, A.D., 2016.
7	APPEARANCES:
3	THE CLINTON LAW FIRM, by MR. EDWARD CLINTON, JR. Plaintiffs;
3	On behalf of the real of the r
)	KONICEK & DILLON, P.C., by MR. MICHAEL CORSI
1	On behalf of the Defendants.
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MR. CLINTON, JR.: Good morning, your Monor. 1 Ed Clinton for plaintiff. 2 MR. CORSI: Good morning, your Honor. Michael 3

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Corsi for the defendants.

THE COURT: All right. This comes before me on your motion to reconsider.

MR. CLINTON, JR.: I just have a couple of comments, your Honor, because I think it's been briefed very well. The reason for the motion is I think from my perspective as the second lawyer on this case is to clarify a little bit the duty issue because there were two issues in the motion for summary judgment. Is there a duty to the beneficiary where there's an adversarial relationship? No question about it. And is there a duty to the estate itself? I had removed the issue of the beneficiary from this motion because I want to address that issue. That's the question. I think it may be in Illinois a question of first impression. That may - It may wall be based on what I can see from the cases. So I think that that - the way perhaps the 20 complaint was put together may possibly have created a 21 confused hybrid approach that may not have perhaps 22 served the plaintiff well. The party that's damaged 23 that suffers here is the estate. Because the estate is 24

the one that either owns this bus company or it doesn't. THE COURT: Or it doesn't.

MR. CLIMTON, JR.: Right. Simple as that. So the estate suffered. And I think -- And, again, I'm coming to this with hindsight. I want you to know I don't normally move to reconsider in every case. You know, I understand you made a ruling. But that's the key issue. I think there is a duty - and I've set that out in the brief -- to the estate. And I think the successor administrator can raise that. And I want to go through just a couple of points, I think just a couple of things.

As you can see from Mr. Tibble's engagement letter, he knows he owes a duty. He understands the difference between an individual and a corporation. There's a duty to the entity. He filed an appearance for the administrator. He doesn't file an appearance for personal -- personally. He seeks fees from the estate. Generally speaking, if you seek fees, you've got a duty. That's sort of the way it works in this state. They concede a duty in the answer.

THE COURT: But you can seek fees as an attornsy statutorily. You can seek fees based upon a sanction. You can seek fess based upon just quantum meruit

Page 4 depending upon - See, because when the administrator hires you --

MR. CLINTON, JR.: True.

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THE COURT: -- the administrator is representing the estate. The estate is what has the money. So where does the duty go? That's the real question, correct?

MR. CLINTON, JR.: Right. That is the question. THE COURT: Because the issue is is that we had an

8 estate, we have the administrator who is the person, and 9 then we have this contested company, this bus company. 10 And you say certain things in here, but you didn't give me the transcript from the last hearing, the entire 12 transcript. 13

MR. CLINTON, JR.: There is no transcript from the last hearing because we didn't have a reporter. So there is no transcript so -

16 THE COURT: Because I don't believe I held exactly 17 the way that you phrase it in your motion. 18

MR. CLINTON, JR.: Understood. I understand that.

19 THE COURT: I think I said that the lawyer 20 represented the administrator and that it couldn't -21 you couldn't purely represent the estate without the 22 administrator because the client is the administrator. 23

Because the lawyer has to seek direction and control

from somebody. And that person has to be the administrator. I understand your concept. But I don't 2 know how we practically put that into motion without 3 having a client who is the administrator. MR. CLINTON, JR.: The lawyer has a duty to - This lawyer had - He was basically on two sides. He also represented her personally. You know, if you look look at the summary judgment papers --

THE COURT: When we talk about the bus company. MR. CLINTON, JR.: And he represented her too. He had everybody involved. So you have a duty to resign. That's how the rule is, Rule 1.13 creates a duty to resign, a duty to withdraw.

THE COURT: But as we went through it -- And I do wish we had a court reporter at the last hearing because --16

MR. CLINTON, JR.: I agree.

THE COURT: With all due respect, here is the problem is that frequently we don't have a court reporter at the original hearing where we have fully briefed this. And I ask a million questions during the argument, which I did last time.

MR. CLIMTON, JR.: You did. No question about it. THE COURT: And when you do those things, I try an

AH



extract from you different answers based upon the questions that I asked that are garmane to the issues. And we lost all of that. And so we come here on this date today on a motion to reconsider and we don't have the benefit of that transcript from the very beginning. And all I have is my memory. Which after 1500 cases, it's more fresh in your mind - it's your case - than 7 it is --8

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MR. CLINTON, JR.: Fully understand. THE COURT: - mine. So I'm at a disadvantage. And I don't think that it is -- I know the briefs are well taken on both sides. And I know the reasons that I gave the first time. But I'm certainly not as articulate as I was upon the first hearing. And so I'm not sure that your motion to reconsider even raises any new facts or mistakes in the law so to speak. But I think it is a question of first impression also. And I think I said that in the first hearing. Go ahead. I didn't mean to interrupt you.

MR. CLIMTON, JR.: No. You're entitled. And I appreciate that. I think I've made my points. I wasn't here to harangue you. I'm just here to clarify the issue.

MR. CORSI: Our response took the form, first of

all, of a motion to strike for exactly the reasons that your Honor just articulated. In the absence of a transcript, there are procedures for that, to submit a bystandar's report. The parties can disagree. I just went through this process with Judge Martin who was in the Chancery Division. Had to go out to 26th and California, because he is now the Chief Judge of the Criminal Division, to present competing bystander's reports. And not surprisingly, he was unable to recall what happened a year ago. It's the nature of the parties. It's the nature of the Court. There's a lot going on. So to sit here now and say that this Court erroneously applied the law, how? Based on what? Based on what occurred? But I think your Honor definitely is right.

THE COURT: Well, of course you do. MR. CORSI: Because you also granted my motion as well. But to the point of -- Lawyers don't operate of their own volition. At least they shouldn't. I don't think that's been the practice for a long, long time. They operate at the direction of their clients. And a probate estate is simply not analogous to a corporation or a bankruptcy estate. It just isn't. Because it's an in rem proceeding. We are not here today to talk about

Page 8 a non-adversarial probate estate where the attorney and the administrator are not challenged in any of the decisions that they are making and, whoops, makes a mistake that affects the beneficiaries to the estate by diminishing the estate. That isn't the case we're here to talk about at all.

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THE COURT: Which is a significant difference. When we talk about the duty of a lawyer and how that duty can be imposed upon that lawyer and the differences lie therein. It's intricate. Because in that scenario, the lawyer certainly has a duty if it made a mistake that diminishes the estate to the fiduciary. On the other hand, when you have a contested estate where there are two competing people vying for -- to say whether the bus company is an asset or it's not an asset in every single transaction that they do, it's impossible for that attorney to have a dual duty and serve two people. And so what you've suggested is that that's when that person must withdraw.

MR. CLINTON, JR.: Correct.

THE COURT: And so -- And I find that overly broad and impractical because it would require in every contested estate for that attorney then to say, Well, wait a minute, I owe these people on the other side who

are fighting the administrator that hired me an equal duty to the person who hired me. And I don't believe that is ever represented or is meant to take place in these contested hearings.

MR. CLINTON, JR.: Slight - To interrupt counsel -- I apologize -- slightly different here because the general lay of the land is the lawyer had to gather up -- when you get involved in the estate, you've got to bring all the things into the party. You push it all into the hopper, so to speak, just as a bankruptcy trustee sometimes has to go out and sua a creditor or do whatever. So anything that deviates from that general idea, Rey, the farm isn't owned by the estate, the 13 business isn't owned by the estate, that puts a duty on 14 that lawyer. The higher duty is to the estate. And 15 here the lawyer was in a bad situation because he had 16 other clients too. So he was in a conflicting 17 situation. And that's -- You know, so I think here I 18 think I meet your test. I know you don't agree. But I 19 think I meet the test because of the conflict -20

THE COURT: But I understand -

21 MR. CLINTON, JR.: -- because he is representing 22 all of those people. 23

THE COURT: And I do understand your version of it

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I do. It's --

MR. CLIMON, JR.: Right.

THE COURT: It's senething that's ripe for appeal. I didn't mean to interrupt you. Go ahead.

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MR. CORSI: Well, I think to counsel's suggestion here, it's not the attorney that is responsible for gathering up the assets, regardless of whether it's adversarial or not. It's the administrator. And if the administrator is not doing their jeb, there are procedures in the probate litigation to deal with that. But it's the atterney's jeb to advise the administrator, to tell ber what her fiduciary duties are to the estate. And whother she does them or not is not the atterney's central. But if the disagrees, counsel is suggesting withdrawal. Well, then how does the case proceed?

THE COURT: So my question to you is simply this. The atterney is hired as the administrator -- or I'm SOTTY --

MR. CORSI: I get it.

THE COURT: - is hired by the edministrator to provide legal advice to the administrator. The administrator, pursuant to the Probate Ast, is empowered as the administrator to collect the assets. It would

appear to me that your argument is that if the attorney feels that what the edministrator is -- may not be doing an adequate jeb, that attorney would then under your version of her this would work would then eall up all the other beneficiaries and say, Wait a minute on because you're suggesting he case an equal or higher duty to the estate. And if that attorney owes an equal or higher duty to the estate, does he have an equal -or she have an equal or higher duty to call up the beneficiaries and say, Wait a minute, you know, this is wrong. Then you'd be -- you couldn't serve two masters and under your theory that's when you withdraw.

MR. CLINTON, JR.: I see that. I den't quite agree with that because you have a -- once you're involved with the estate, you have a duty -- you've got -- you have a duty of confidentiality. I think the lawyer has to give advice to her. And the advice to her was, You can't be the administrator and be fighting about the bus company. I think it's pretty simple advice to be given. And I think you have a duty to withdraw. I don't think you'd call up all the other beneficiaries and say, We should - let's all - Because I den't think that's Illinois law. I think that's clear on those other cases that we've gitted =-

THE COURT: It is.

MR. CLINTON, JR.: -- and discussed the last time. THE COURT: But you talk about an equal or higher duty to the estate.

Page 12

MR. CLINTON, JR.: Got to be a higher duty to the organization. Same thing if the president of the corporation is stealing or doing something bad, tells the lawyer to take a position, the lawyer -- You know, a corporation, I agree, is simpler and it's more well-settled and the case law is clearer. He has a duty to take it up with the Board of Directors. I agree here in an administrator situation, we don't have a Board of Directors. We have a problem. But it's the fiduciary stealing, you know, from a corporation. You've got to take it up. And I've lived in a big firm and - early in my career. And for the most part, when those things happened, they did the right thing.

THE COURT: But you equate a stealing, which is significantly different, as to whether there is a contested issue as to whether an asset belongs to an estate or it doesn't. And if it was as clear as stealing, I would see your obligation as an attorney to potentially bow out or say, I'm not going to be part of that. But if that's a contested issue, I still own my

Page 13 fiduciary duty to that administrator who hires me and not to what you call the organization which in this case is not an organization but is an estate. It's in rem. It's property. And I owe nothing potentially to those fiduciaries unless I cause that in rem estate less. But if there's this centested issue that is not frivolous under at least Supreme Court Rule 137, that person would never be able to get representation, meaning the administrator.

MR. CLINTON, JR.: Sure they could. They could get their own lawyer. They just have to have two lawyers. THE COURT: But then - So there's going to be --

So you want the administrator then to say, Wall --MR. CLIMTON, JR.: Yeah. There is a conflict here.

They have to do it.

THE COURT: I hear you. MR. CORSI: Row does the attorney for the administrator, even if there's assuming that there's a separate attorney for the individual who happens to also be the administrator, take any action in the actual probate case? The second that a beneficiary challenges what that administrator is doing, the attorney is then supposed to stop and say, Well, I can't go any further but you have this personal attorney so maybe talk with

Page 14 them. It doesn't work. It doesn't work at all. your Honor is absolutely right. This isn't some 2 discrete hidden thing where maybe the attorney has 3 knowledge that the administrator is --THE COURT: Or criminal in nature. MR. CORSI: Well, even just hidden. The more 6 important part is that it's hidden. Here we're talking 7 about a bus company. Nobody hid a bus company. 8 THE COURT: And we're talking about -- Your example 9 is theft comparative to whether an asset is included in 10 the estate or not included in the estate. So we know 11 the issues. I think the Appellate Court will know the 12 issues. You have some record now on this motion to 13 reconsider. As I said and I'll say it again, I wish we 14 had it at the very beginning because we fully vetted those ideas and we discussed them in great detail. And 16 the briefs are well-written. So motion is denied. 17 MR. CLINTON, JR.: I appreciate that, your Honor. 18 Thank you. 19 MR. CORSI: Thank you. 20 (Which were all the proceedings had 21 in the above-entitled cause.) 22 23 24 Page 15 STATE OF ILLINOIS 1 88. COUNTY OF COOK 2 3 Liana Rivera, being first duly sworn, on oath says that she is a Cortified Shorthand Reporter doing 8 business in the City of Chicago, County of Cook and the 6 7 State of Illinois; That she reported in shorthand the preceedings 8 had at the foregoing motion; 9 And that the foregoing is a true and correct 10 transcript of her shorthand notes so taken as aforesaid 11 and contains all the proceedings had at the said motion. 12 13 14 15 LIANA RIVERA, CSR 16 CSR No. 084-004417 17 SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO 18 before me this 19th day of 19 20 21 HOTARY PUBLIC 32 23

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ELECTRONICALLY FILED 9/20/2016 9:30 AM 2015-L-012518 CALENDAR: X PAGE 1 of 2 CIRCUIT COURT OF

APPEAL TO THE ILLINOIS APPELLATE COURT COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CLERK DOROTHY BROWN COUNTY DEPARTMENT, LAW DIVISION

ESTATE OF SCOTT G. HUDSON, deceased, And MATTHEW CARUSO, its Successor Administrator, and KYLE HUDSON,

16-2469

Plaintiffs,

Case No. 15 L 012518

٧.

Hon. Judge William J. Gomolinski

DOUGLAS C. TIBBLE and BROOKS, ADAMS & TARULIS,

Defendants.

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 303 and 307, Plaintiffs-Appellants, Estate of Scott G. Hudson, by and through its Successor Administrator, and Kyle Hudson, appeals from the (1) Order entered on May 27, 2016 granting Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment (Exhibit A, attached) and (2) Order entered on August 30, 2016 denying Plaintiff's Motion for Reconsideration of the May 27, 2016 Order Granting Defendants Summary Judgment Motion (Exhibit B) attached. This appeal is timely filed on September 20, 2016.

Plaintiffs/Appellants respectfully request that this Court reverse the judgment and remand this case to the Circuit Court of Cook County and for such other and further relief as may be deemed just and appropriate.

/s/ Edward X. Clinton, Jr.
One of Plaintiffs' Attorneys

Edward X. Clinton, Jr. The Clinton Law Firm, Atty No. 35893 111 W Washington Street, Suite 1437 Chicago, Illinois 60602 Phone: 312.357.1515

Edwardclinton@icloud.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Mary Winch, a non-attorney on oath certify that on September 20, 2016 I caused to be served one copy of the foregoing Notice Of Appeal upon the person listed below by electronic means and by enclosing a copy thereof by First Class Mail, Postage Prepaid in an envelope, addressed as shown below.

Daniel E. Konicek
Michael J. Corsi
Konicek & Dillon, P.C.
21 W. State Street
Geneva, IL 60134
mcorsi@konicekdilloniaw.com

/s/ Mary Winch

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Order

9/20/2016 9:30 AM
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PAGE 1 of 1
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COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
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·		Judge William D. Comelinski
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ESTATE OF SCOTT G. HUDSON, DECEASED AND MATTHEW CARUSO, ITS SUCESSOR ADMINISTRATOR, AND KYLE HUDSON

٧.

DOUGLAS C. TIBBLE AND BROOKS, ADAMS & TARULIS APPEAL NO. 16-2469

RECORD ON APPEAL

DOCKET NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
VOLUME 1		
C00001	08/302016	Placita-Appeals Transfer page
C00002-10A		Request to Renumber (2 copies)
C00011	12/11/2015	Order re removed from Bankruptcy
C00012	12/21/2015	Order striking Motion to Withdraw
C00013-15	12/22/2015	Boyton's Motion to Withdraw, Notice of Motion
C00016	01/12/2016	Order: Motion of Donald Johnson, Julie Boynton and John C. Dax to withdraw continued
C00017	01/14/2016	Case Management Order: Case Management Conference February 19, 2016 for presentation of Defendant's anticipated Summary Judgment motion
C00018	01/14/2016	Order: Motion of Donald Johnson, Julie Boynton and John C. Dax to withdraw granted
C00019-20	01/21/2016	Order setting matter for trial on September 19, 2016 (two copies)
C00021-22	01/25/2016	Notice of Stipulation to Dismiss Alma Leticia Hudson's Claims With Prejudice
C00023-24	01/25/2016	Stipulation to Dismiss Alma Leticia Hudson's Claims with Prejudice
C00025	02/01/2016	Order granting stipulation
C00026	02/19/2016	Case Management Order Status February 29, 2016
C00027	02/29/2016	Case Management Order Status March 14, 2016
C00028-111	02/29/2016	Notice of Filing, Defendants' Motion for Summary Judgment
C00112-113	04/15/2016	Motion To Extend the Briefing Schedule For Defendants' Motion For Summary Judgment
C00114	03/14/2016	Briefing Schedule Order
C00115-152	04/22/2016	Discovery Deposition of Matthew J. Caruso on August 31, 2012
C00153-167	04/22/2016	Plaintiffs' Response to Defendants' Motion For Summary Judgment
C00168	04/25/2016	Briefing Schedule Order
C00169	05/27/2016	Order Motion for Summary Judgment granted
C00170-214	06/27/2016	Defendants' Answer to Third Amended Complaint

C00215-249	06/27/2016	Notice of Filing, Estate's Response in Opposition To Supplement and Amendment to Petition For Issuance of Citation to Recover Assets
C00250	11/14/2016	Certification page
Volume 2		
C00251	08/30/2016	Placita Appeals Page
C00252-289	06/27/2016	NOF, Estate's Reply in Support of Its Motion To Strike
		and Dismiss Petition and Stay Discovery
C00290-301	0627/2016	Plaintiff Estate's Motion For Reconsideration of the
		Court's May 27, 2016 Order Granting Defendants
		Summary Judgment Motion
C00302	07/11/2016	Briefing Schedule Order
C00303-308	08/15/2016	Plaintiff Estate's Reply In Support of Its Motion For
		Reconsideration of the Court's May 27, 2016 Granting
		Defendants Summary Judgment Motion
C00309-310	08/30/2016	Order Denying Plaintiff's motion
C00311-312	09/20/2016	Notice of Appeal
C00313	11/07/2016	Request for Preparation of Record on Appeal
C00314	11/14/2016	Certification Page

ESTATE OF SCOTT G. HUDSON, DECEASED AND MATTHEW CARUSO, ITS SUCCESSOR ADMINISTRATOR, AND KYLE HUDSON

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DOUGLAS C. TIBBLE AND BROOKS, ADAMS & TARULIS APPEAL NO. 16-2469

SUPPLEMENTAL RECORD ON APPEAL

DOCKET NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION
VOLUME 1		
C00001	08/302016	Placita-Appeals Transfer page
C00002	03/27/2017	Stipulation For Preparation of Supplemental Record)
C0003	11/02/2016	File Stamped Report of August 30, 2016 Proceedings before Judge Gomolinksi
C0008	01/19/2017	Certification Page

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