

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

No.: 502014CP003698XXXXNB
Probate Division IA

TED BERNSTEIN, as Trustee of the
Shirley Bernstein Trust Agreement Case
dated May 20, 2008, as amended,

Plaintiff,

v.

ALEXANDRA BERNSTEIN; ERIC BERNSTEIN;
MICHAEL BERNSTEIN; MOLLY SIMON;
PAMELA B. SIMON, Individually and as Trustee
f/b/o Molly Simon under the Simon L. Bernstein
Trust Dtd 9/13/12; ELIOT BERNSTEIN,
individually, as Trustee f/b/o D.B., Ja. B. and Jo. B.
under the Simon L. Bernstein Trust Dtd 9/13/12, and
on behalf of his minor children D.B., Ja. B. and Jo.
B.; JILL IANTONI, Individually, as Trustee f/b/o J.I.
under the Simon L. Bernstein Trust Dtd 9/13/12, and
on behalf of her Minor child J.I.; MAX
FRIEDSTEIN; LISA FRIEDSTEIN, Individually,
as Trustee f/b/o Max Friedstein and C.F., under the
Simon L. Bernstein Trust Dtd 9/13/12, and on behalf
of her minor child, C.F.,

Defendants.

/

EXHIBIT 1 FILED IN
CASE NO.: 50-2018-CA-002317
Sahm Foreclosure v BFR, LLC et al

SWORN STATEMENT OF WILLIAM J. STANSBURY

EXHIBIT

CASE NO.: 50-2018-CA-002317

Sahm Foreclosure v BFR, LLC et al

SWORN STATEMENT OF WILLIAM J. STANSBURY

NOT A CERTIFIED COPY

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 15TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, IN AND FOR
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

CASE NO.: 50-2018-CA-002317

WALTER E. SAHM and
PATRICIA SAHM,

Plaintiffs,

v.

BERNSTEIN FAMILY REALTY, LLC and
ALL UNKNOWN TENANTS.

Defendants

SWORN STATEMENT OF WILLIAM E. STANSBURY
WALTER AND PATRICIA SAHM PROPERTY SALE

1. My name is William E. Stansbury and I make this Statement under oath about matters within my own personal knowledge and belief about the circumstances of the sale of real property by Walter and Patricia Sahm involving Simon Bernstein and related parties.
2. I live in Boynton Beach, Florida where I have resided for approximately 16 years.
3. I have worked as a professional in the Life Insurance industry for approximately 45 years which is how I came to know Walter Sahm and

Simon Bernstein and their respective wives Patricia Sahm and Shirley Bernstein.

4. I came to know the Plaintiffs Walter and Patricia Sahm quite a few years before meeting and working with Simon Bernstein, first meeting Walter Sahm around 1984. Prior to meeting Walt, I had been appointed as the Agency Manager for John Hancock Insurance Company covering Palm Beach, Martin, Indian River, and St. Lucie Counties. Prior to this appointment, I was employed by John Hancock in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. My new job required me to relocate to Boca Raton, Fl. I had recently earned the Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU) and Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) professional designations from the American College. Walt was the General Agent for Transamerica Insurance Company and a member of the Palm Beach County CLU, ChFC Association and he invited me to join the professional organization. I accepted his invitation to join, and we remained friends and professional colleagues ever since. This organization is now known as the Society of Financial Service Professionals, and it was my honor to serve two years as president.

5. For personal family reasons, I retired in 2000 from my position as John Hancock's Director of Agency Operations for the southeastern United States. By 2002 my family crisis had resolved, and I began looking for

something to do that would be in the field of insurance and estate planning.

In 2003, I had lunch with Ted Bernstein, and he shared with me that his father, Simon Bernstein, was in the insurance business, and had been introduced to a new estate planning strategy developed by the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis in Chicago. Ted asked me if I would like to speak with him about it. Simon and I met several times and we agreed that I would start working with his company – Life Insurance Concepts (LIC) located on Congress Avenue in Boca Raton, Fl. We generally enjoyed a strong and profitable relationship that ultimately resulted in me having a partnership interest in the business. Over time, I got to know his wife Shirley and learn things about their family through our business relationship.

6. In around 2007, Walt Sahm decided to retire from the position of General Agent for Transamerica. Walt had several long-term, key employees in his agency that he was concerned about if he left. LIC was doing very well and was looking for additional underwriting staff. I suggested that Walt and Simon meet to see what we could do at LIC for his staff. Walt discussed and finally agreed with Simon to move his staff to the same building and floor where LIC was located in Boca Raton. It was a win-win for both parties and, during this process, they got to know each other better. Walt mentioned to Simon that he would be selling his Boca Raton home and moving to the

Villages in Central Florida. At that same time, Simon and Shirley were looking to secure a home for their son Eliot to come live in with his wife Candice and three boys Joshua, Jacob, and Danny Bernstein. In addition to the layout of the house being perfect for the family, the home borders the St. Andrews School which Simon and Shirley thought would be a great choice for their grandchildren to attend. Simon agreed to facilitate the purchase of the house from Walt and Pat Sahm.

7. I recall how happy Shirley Bernstein was to know that her son Eliot and wife Candice and grandchildren would be living nearby, and it was always my understanding and belief from Simon that his son Eliot and his family would have that home to live in for as long as they ever chose.
8. By this time in 2008 I had developed a position of trust and respect with Simon Bernstein to such a degree that Simon Bernstein made me a named Successor Trustee in both his Irrevocable Trust of 2008 and his Revocable Trust of 2008, and I had also become a Trust Protector for Simon Bernstein's Delaware Asset Protection Trust.
9. While I did not know the "ins and outs" of what was going on with Eliot Bernstein and his Technology interests at that time, I knew enough from Simon Bernstein to know that he had a direct concern about protecting the home for his son Eliot Bernstein and family including Eliot's sons, the

grandchildren Josh, Jake, and Danny. The entire transaction for the purchase of the Sahm property was set up by Simon Bernstein as asset protection for the benefit of Eliot Bernstein and family - his wife Candice, and their sons.

10. Simon Bernstein shared with me that he had sufficient assets at that time to pay for the Sahm home in full. Both the Note and Mortgage to Walt and Pat Sahm for \$110,000.00 and the "Second Mortgage" from BFR, LLC back to Simon Bernstein were done specifically and only as asset protection to create an additional layer to protect the property against potential adversaries or creditors against Eliot. My recollection is that Walt and Pat agreed to accept interest only on the mortgage for a period of time and then the terms would be renegotiated.
11. Since I was Simon's business partner and friend, I knew from direct conversation with Simon that he had the more than enough assets to pay off in full the Note and Mortgage to the Sahms. I asked Simon directly what I was supposed to do if I was acting as Trustee regarding the 2 mortgages. I was instructed by Simon that, upon his death, to immediately pay off the Sahms in full plus applicable interest. I was also instructed to "tear up" the Second Mortgage as this was only created as an asset protection vehicle and no repayment or consideration was ever expected.

12. I further knew from direct conversations with Simon Bernstein that neither the payoff in full to the Sahms on the Note and Mortgage nor the "paper tiger" Second Mortgage were in any way to reduce or diminish the amounts Eliot Bernstein and Family would receive from the respective Estates and inheritance from Shirley or Simon Bernstein.

13. I asked Simon if I were no longer willing or able to serve as Trustee should I appoint one of his children, or spouses of children, as the successor trustee. Simon told me that under no circumstances was I to appoint any of his children, or their spouses, to have anything to do with any aspect of his estate. He told me that if that ever happened his family would be ruined forever.

14. My lawyer, Peter Feaman, filed a document in one of the court proceedings showing that Simon had drafted language to reflect this into his testamentary documents. Based upon the documents, it appears that none of Simon's children should be acting as a Fiduciary over certain Trusts not only because they were considered predeceased in the documents, but because it was against his stated wishes.

15. I have no personal knowledge that either Shirley or Simon's Estates or Trusts have even been properly accounted for to this day.

16. I have no knowledge that Simon Bernstein ever intended to change his Trust or Will to add back in Pam Simon or Ted Bernstein or their children. Neither Simon Bernstein nor his legal counsel ever came to me to advise me that I was being removed as Successor Trustee in any of his Trusts. I came to learn that Simon Bernstein revised his trust in July 2012 – approximately 2 months before he passed away. The revised document removed me as a successor trustee and added Donald Tescher and Robert Spallina. I was surprised to see this as I recall Simon telling me that he didn't care much for them. In retrospect it appears that Simon had good instincts. I believe that they were introduced to Simon Bernstein by Ted Bernstein.

17. I do know from direct office experience working with Simon Bernstein and his son Ted Bernstein that there did come a time in 2012 when the “tensions in the office” between Simon and Ted started to grow and I could hear loud heated arguments between the two.

18. Ultimately, from what I understand, these disputes between Ted and Simon grew to such an elevated level that Simon moved out of the office space he shared with Ted in the weeks before his passing.

19. These difficulties between Ted and Simon, I believe, also contributed to difficulties in me getting paid proper commissions and, ultimately, I

resigned my position in May 2012. Simon and I never had any discussions to that point that changed anything that I was instructed to do at his passing.

20. I was directly aware that Eliot's sons Joshua, Jacob and Danny's Trusts were the sole and only Members of BFR, LLC which owned the home and, while I am not a lawyer, I would understand clearly that the sons were beneficial owners of the property.

21. It is impossible to imagine that Walt Sahm did not know this and can only speculate that somehow his new counsel may not have filed papers correctly or share with Walt the actions being taken in the mortgage foreclosure action.

22. I do have knowledge just from conversation with Eliot Bernstein about how he had tried to get proper release of funds and assets so the Plaintiffs, Walt and Pat Sahm, could be satisfied and again from what I knew about the monies and assets held by Simon Bernstein at the time of his passing that this Note and Mortgage could have been paid off in full to the Sahms' years ago leaving Eliot, his wife and 3 boys in the home free and clear as his parents wished with an asset with equity value due to the location of the home near St. Andrews school in Boca Raton.

23. I make this Statement under oath to the best of my personal knowledge and have not been promised or threatened in any way to make this statement and do so willingly and voluntarily in a hope to shed light and clarity so proper resolution of interests may occur.

Dated: 3/7/2022

William E. Stansbury

William E. Stansbury

Sworn to before me this 7th day of
March, 2022.

St. Paul

NOTARY PUBLIC



STEVENS MILORD
Commission # HH 133331
Expires September 9, 2025
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services