

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

CASE NO: 2012CA011639XXXXMB
CIRCUIT CIVIL DIVISION AE

DAVID GARTEN, ESQ

Plaintiff,

V

SKENDER HOTI,

Defendant,

**DEFENDANT SKENDER HOTI'S MOTION TO DISMISS PLAINTIFF'S
APPLICATION FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND ALTERNATIVELY FOR A STAY-
CONTINUANCE AND TO APPEAR BY TELEPHONE AND OTHER RELIEF**

COMES NOW, Skender Hoti, pro se, who respectfully shows this Court and pleads as follows:

1. I am the Defendant in this case and and appear pro se.
2. I make this Motion for several forms of relief and request to appear by Telephone at the Specially Set Hearing scheduled for Feb. 17, 2017 at 11 am EST in Courtroom 9a before Judge Gillen and my phone number to be reached is 561-385-6390.
3. I have previously made several requests to the Walton, Lantaff law firm representing attorney and Officer of the Court David Garten to **Cease and Desist** the continuing actions in this Court seeking to collect "Attorney's Fees" as further acts of fraud upon a fraudulent billing scheme and have further requested this law firm and the Plaintiff to withdraw all motions in this regard before the Court and discontinue the action and attempts to wrongfully collect fees from myself and my properties.

4. Last week on Feb. 10, 2017 I filed a DEMAND Motion with the 4th DCA to perform Mandatory Duties and Obligations under law and I have attached a Filed copy of this motion which was served on the Plaintiff's law firm as Exhibit A.
5. I apologize to the Court for my late submission of the request to appear by telephone but my entire life and business have been "under siege" for multiple years as a direct cause from the false and fraudulent Billing scheme by Plaintiff David Garten and now his law firm at Walton, Lantaff amounting to a scheme to generate and collect "Fees upon Fees" for Fees which were never due and owed in the first instance.
6. I now respectfully request this Court to issue a Stay and Continuance pending Decision and action by the 4th DCA on my attached DEMAND to Perform Mandatory Duties under law.
7. I further respectfully suggest to this Court that actions to proceed and award further fees to the Plaintiff and Plaintiff's law firm are acts outside and beyond the jurisdiction as there is no proper Judgement or Order awarding the original fees in the first instance as shown to the 4th DCA in the attached DEMAND motion.
8. As this Court is or may be aware, this case began upon hiring David Garten after what was later found to be a "scheme" at play involving Palm Beach Attorney Hazeltine who was found to be working with one Betsy Savitt who turned out to be married to Palm Beach Judge Martin Colin but used her prior name "Savitt" allegedly as a way of hiding the fact that she was married to Judge Colin while working in Guardianship cases and taking large fees often not approved by any Court before doing so.
9. My case became the lightning rod for a series of Investigative articles by the Palm Beach Post which are still ongoing.

10. As shown in this April 2015 article by John Pacenti titled **“Professional guardian’s lawyer empties man’s home”**, “One afternoon three years ago, Skender Hoti received an unusual call from a neighbor asking whether he was moving out of his Lake Worth home.
11. Hoti rushed to the house to find a moving truck packed with furniture, heirlooms and valuables owned by him and the elderly woman he called mom. The lock on his front door was bashed in and the house ransacked.
12. But this wasn’t breaking and entering by a street thug. This was an attorney operating under a court-ordered guardianship.”
13. Still further according to the article and factual background for this case, “*Court records shows that there was no legally required examination of Batson within five days of the appointment of temporary guardians to determine whether she was incapacitated by Alzheimer’s disease.*(emphasis added).”
14. Further, In a court pleading, “Hoti said that Hazeltine mocked him in his home. “She was laughing and waving the house key in the air stating, ‘I have a key and a court order. I come into this house anytime I want.’ ”
15. **Deputies ordered Hazeltine, against her strenuous objections, to return all the items taken from Hoti’s home after he proved he had title to the house, according to an offense report. Hoti claims many of the valuables are still missing and there were at least three confrontations between the parties at the home.”** (emphasis added).
16. “The strategy didn’t work. Circuit Judge James Martz overturned Colin’s previous ruling finding Batson incapacitated and appointing Davis as emergency temporary guardian. Martz interviewed Batson, finding her to “be delightful.” according to the article.

17. Lastly, "Hoti's former attorney Debra Rochlin of Fort Lauderdale was also highly critical of Hazeltine, saying the elder law attorney "just made up stuff as she went along."
18. "It was a miracle the judge (Martz) saw the light and saw what was going on. He understood. He was upset," *she said. "I think what happened to Skender was a crime."* See, Palm Beach Post April 2015.
<http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/professional-guardian-lawyer-empties-man-home/Ks1BZu5Aq0pEohOWiKZYiO>
19. Upon information and belief, the Palm Beach Post Investigative articles relating to these cases continue and here is just one other article from Jan. 2016, "Chief judge investigating Post's findings on Colin, Savitt", See
<http://www.mypalmbeachpost.com/news/chief-judge-investigating-post-findings-colin-savitt/EZIEUntckLFsLboCn86YvL/>.
20. In the midst of all this, came David Garten, the Plaintiff in this case and an attorney who was paid \$35,000 which is shown in Checks already in the Record of these case and yet the Fraud and scheme continues by Garten and now his attorneys at Walton, Lantaff which must be Stayed and stopped.
21. As shown to the 4th DCA in the other case on Appeal from the alleged "Fraudulent Transfer" case 4D16-0444, "Because of the complete lack of Substantial and Competent Evidence to Support any Award of fees to Appellee in the underlying fee dispute claim beyond possibly \$6,413.35 as shown by the Records on Appeal in Case No. D16-0444 (1244 Pages) and Case No.4D14-4826 (1353 Pages), the 4th DCA is Demanded to Perform it's Mandatory duty to Reverse and Vacate All Orders, Decisions and Judgments against Appellant in both cases and issue sanctions against

Appellee and attorneys.” See, 4th DCA Case No. D16-0444 Appellant’s Reply Brief of 9-27-16. Exhibit B.

22. Thus, in 2597 Pages (Two-Thousand-Five hundred and Ninety-seven pages) of Records DAVID GARTEN AND HIS ATTORNEYS STILL HAVE NOT PRODUCED ANY COMPETENT OR SUBSTANTIAL EVIDENCE to justify ANY fees beyond \$6,413.35 and yet has been permitted in this Billing Scheme of Fraud to attack me and litigate for years, putting Liens on properties and harassment and interference with basic civil rights and human life.
23. This must now be stopped and Stayed and the Judgements and Orders voided and at least Stayed pending action by the 4th DCA on the DEMAND to perform Mandatory Duties under law and if necessary further action by WRIT and proper process. specifically demanded to perform its mandatory duties and obligations under Miller v. First American Bank and Trust, 607 So. 2d 483 (Fla. 4th Dist. Ct. App. 1992).
24. Just like the Miller case above, this Court is duly demanded to perform mandatory duties in this case as follows from Miller: “On the face of it, the order embodies an unacceptable, even incredible result. No court is obliged to approve a judgment which so obviously offends even the most hardened appellate conscience and which is so obviously contrary to the manifest justice of the case. Indeed, it is obliged not to. Florida Nat’l. Bank v. Sherouse, 80 Fla. 405, 406, 86 So. 279, 279 (1920) (“If a decree is manifestly against the weight of the evidence, or contrary to the legal effect of the evidence, then it becomes the duty of the appellate court to reverse the same.”); Newman v. Smith, 77 Fla. 633, 650, 82 So. 236, 241 (1918) (“Where the finding of a trial judge is contrary to the legal effect of the evidence on the issues made

the appellate court should reverse the finding even though the trial judge personally saw and heard the witnesses testify, and even though there were conflicts in the testimony, and there was some evidence tending to support the finding."). Accord *Howell v. Blackburn*, 100 Fla. 114, 129 So. 341 (1930); *Boyd v. Gosser*, 78 Fla. 64, 82 So. 758 (1918); *Fuller v. Fuller*, 23 Fla. 236, 2 So. 426 (1887); *John D.C. v. State*, 16 Fla. 554 (1878); *Uhley v. Tapio Constr. Co., Inc.*, 573 So.2d 390 (Fla. 4th DCA), rev. denied, 583 So.2d 1037 (Fla. 1991); *C.M. Life Ins. Co. v. Ortega*, 562 So.2d 702 (Fla. 3d DCA 1990), rev. denied, 576 So.2d 289 (Fla. 1991). See, *Miller v. First American Bank & Trust* 607 So.2d 483 (4th DCA 1992).

25. Just like in the *Miller* case this 15th Judicial Circuit Court is demanded to perform its duties and find in this case, "The appellees claim that, in effect, we have no choice but to affirm the judgment as within the trial court's discretion, particularly since the fact that the record contains no transcript of the fee hearing requires the conclusion that the order is supported by competent evidence. See *Applegate v. Barnett Bank*, 377 So.2d 1150 (Fla. 1979). *We strongly disagree.*"
26. Just like in the *Miller* case above, "*This is especially true with respect to attorney's fees, with which the profession and the courts must be particularly concerned, see Florida Patient's Compensation Fund v. Rowe*, 472 So.2d 1145 (Fla. 485*485 1985),[4] and even more so since the case involves the notorious "billable hours" syndrome, with its multiple evils of exaggeration, duplication, and invention." *Mercy Hosp., Inc. v. Johnson*, 431 So.2d 687 (Fla. 3d DCA), pet. for review denied, 441 So.2d 632 (Fla. 1983); *In re Estate of Simon*, 402 So.2d 26 (Fla. 3d DCA 1981), appeal after remand, 427

So.2d 235 (Fla. 3d DCA 1983); see also Browne v. Costales, 579 So.2d 161 (Fla. 3d DCA) (abuse of "unit billing"), rev. denied, 593 So.2d 1051 (Fla. 1991)."

27. Just like in the Miller case above, "Nor are we precluded from reaching this result by the fact that, under Applegate, we must presume that someone testified that the hours in question were actually employed and that an "expert" opined that they and the fee awarded were "reasonable." [5] The existence of such evidence does not require that we abandon our own expertise, much less our common sense."

28. **"Competent evidence includes invoices, records and other information detailing the services provided as well as the testimony from the attorney in support of the fee."**

Brewer v. Solovsky, 945 So.2d 610, 611 (Fla. 4th DCA 2006) (citations omitted)." See, Diwakar v. Montecito Palm Beach Condominium, No. 4D13-915. 143 So.3d 958 (2014).

Yet, NONE of this proof has ever been provided by David Garten nor his attorneys at Walton, Lantaff and these parties must now be Stopped and Stayed from pursuing any further fees at this time.

29. As shown to this Court herein and by the Attached Exhibit A to the 4th DCA **"Thus, as factually shown by the Record on Appeal at pages 000007-000011 the only Billing Statement for any fees in the Original Complaint seeking \$32,952.32 are some alleged factual details for the Bill totalling \$6,413.35.**

30. But even for this alleged amount, there is No Sworn Testimony from David Garten in the Record on Appeal, No full Invoice or Account History in the Record on Appeal of David Garten, and absolutely NO Factual basis in the Record on Appeal whatsoever to claim **anything more than the \$6, 413.35.**

31. In fact, even for this amount the Record on Appeal and documents from this 15th Judicial case have no Sworn Testimony, and **no copies of Any of the work Garten allegedly did even for this amount.**
32. The Bill refers to several “Draft motions” and “Draft emails” but **none of these items are contained anywhere in the Record on Appeal as these items were not provided in the proceedings below.”**
33. As further shown to the 4th DCA in the June 21, 2016 motion for Rehearing, **“Thus, not only is there absolutely NO Facts in the Record nor in the original Complaint filed before Judge Lucy Brown to claim the additional \$26,137.38 claimed as “Prior Balance” but even the amount where there is a Billing Statement is significantly in question.”**
34. There are No Invoices for the \$26,137.38 in the Record on Appeal, No Sworn Testimony from David Garten in the Record on Appeal or documents in this 15th Judicial for this amount, No Invoice Notices or Proof of Sending Invoices in the Record on Appeal, no Proof of when I allegedly received such Bills in the Record on Appeal, no documents or records to show what was done for the \$26,137.38 such as Motions or Hearings, nothing other than an attorney claiming he is owed some amount.
35. Nowhere in the Record on Appeal of this Case or documents in the 15th Judicial are there any Exhibits or Transcripts or Sworn Testimony to support the Arbitrator’s Award found at pages Record on Appeal 00153-00158.
36. Nor are any of these items contained anywhere in this Record on Appeal to support the original Order of Judge Lucy Brown upholding the Arbitrator’s Award which has to be an Abuse of Discretion under the standards established by the 4th DCA and District

Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court in Florida and this must now be reversed and vacated on appeal.”

37. As further shown to the 4th DCA in the June 21, 2016 motion for Rehearing, “The long line of cases from the 4th DCA and other District Courts of Appeal in Florida further make it clear that, ***“Generally, when an attorney's fee or cost award is appealed and the record on appeal is devoid of competent substantial evidence to support the order, the appellate court will reverse the award without remand.”*** *Rodriguez v. Campbell*, 720 So. 2d 266, 268 (Fla. 4th DCA 1998); *Cooper v. Cooper*, 406 So. 2d 1223 (Fla. 4th DCA 1981); *Warner v. Warner*, 692 So. 2d 266, 268 (Fla. 5th DCA 1997); *Brake v. Murphy*, 736 So. 2d 745 (Fla. 3d DCA 1999). See, *FAIRCLOTH, v BLISS*, No. 4D04-2761, 917 So. 2d 1005 (2006) District Court of Appeal of Florida, Fourth District. January 4, 2006.”
38. And further shown to the 4th DCA and now to this Court, “As stated by this Court in *Faircloth v Bliss*, 917 So. 2d 1005 (2006). **“Here, the record is devoid of any competent evidence regarding the number of hours reasonably expended, the reasonable hourly rate or details of the services performed. We, therefore, reverse the fee award without remand.”**
39. Thus, this Court must find the underlying Judgments for attorney’s fees against me as Defendant VOID and without force and effect and therefore there is No proper Appeal upon which Attorney’s fees may be granted.
40. Alternatively this Court should STAY and CONTINUE these matters until the 4th DCA rules on the DEMAND to Perform Mandatory obligations as set out in Exhibit A and for such time as actions by WRIT may be taken and further for time to file a Motion with this Court under Florida Rules 1.540(b)(4).

41. As the 4th DCA said in Tannebaum v Shea, No. 4D13-1368 (4th DCA 2014), **“A void judgment is so defective that it is deemed never to have had legal force and effect.”**

Sterling Factors Corp. v. U.S. Bank Nat'l Ass'n, 968 So.2d 658, 665 (Fla. 2d DCA 2007).

As legally ineffective and a nullity, **“[a] void judgment may be attacked” pursuant to Rule 1.540(b)(4) “at any time because the judgment creates no binding obligation on the parties.”** Fisher v. State, 840 So.2d 325, 331 (Fla. 5th DCA 2003) (emphasis added).

42. Defendant Hoti further reserves any and all rights to attack the underlying Judgments and Orders herein on lack of Subject Matter jurisdiction grounds for actions by David Garten violating the Arbitration agreement and other subject matter jurisdiction grounds.

WHEREFORE, Defendant Hoti respectfully requests that this Court DISMISS the application for Attorney's Fees on Appeal and Vacate the underlying Judgments and Orders herein or alternatively STAY and CONTINUE such actions herein pending determination by the 4th DCA upon a DEMAND to PERFORM MANDATORY OBLIGATIONS UNDER LAW TO REVERSE AND VACATE THE ORDERS ON APPEAL AND UNDERLYING JUDGMENTS AND ORDERS HEREIN and further Staying and Continuing the matters until Action by Writ may be taken if necessary and or alternatively fully briefed motion to this Court to VACATE all Judgments, Orders and Liens awarding David Garten and his Attorneys any fees and rights against myself and properties under Florida Rules of Civil Procedure 1.540(b)(4), granting Defendant Hoti opportunity to appear today by Telephone and for such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Feb. 17, 2017

/s/ Skender Hoti

Skender Hoti

3103 Drew Way

Palm Springs, Florida 33406

Telephone: (561) 385-6390

skendertravel@hotmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been served via Electronic mail to Walton Lantaff Schroeder & Carson LLP 110 E. Broward Blvd. Suite 2000 Fort Lauderdale, Fl 33301-3503 on this 17th day of February, 2017.

/s/ Skender Hoti

Skender Hoti

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Palm Springs, Florida 33406

Telephone: (561) 385-6390

skendertravel@hotmail.com

Exhibit A - 4th DCA CASE NO., 4D14-4826 DEMAND to PERFORM MANDATORY OBLIGATIONS FILED

FEB. 10, 2017

NOT A CERTIFIED COPY

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

CASE NO. 4D14-4826

LOWER TRIBUNAL NO. 2012CA011639XXXXMB AJ

SKENDER HOTI,

Appellant,

v,

DAVID M. GARTEN,

Appellee,

**APPELLANT SKENDER HOTI'S DEMAND FOR FOURTH DISTRICT
COURT OF APPEALS TO PERFORM MANDATORY DUTIES AND
OBLIGATIONS UNDER LAW**

Comes now Skender Hoti, Appellant herein, who respectfully shows this Court and makes Demand upon the Fourth District Court of Appeals to perform mandatory duties and obligations under law as follows:

1. I am the Appellant Skender Hoti pro se.

2017 FEB 10 PM 1:56
CLERK
DISTRICT COURT OF APPEALS
FOURTH DISTRICT

2. This Court can take judicial notice of the facts and background of the case herein from the Docket and Records filed under CASE NO. 4D14-4826 including Appellant's Motion for Rehearing and other relief filed with this Court on June 21, 2016.
3. This Court was petitioned by Appellant by a Motion for Rehearing also seeking other relief for a Written opinion on June 21, 2016 with Appellant petitioning this Court to perform mandatory duties and obligations under law concerning the underlying action of David Garten, attorney and attorney's on his behalf acting in the 15th Judicial Circuit Court under Lower Tribunal NO. 2012CA011639XXXXMB AJ.
4. Appellant prayed for relief from this 4th District Court of Appeals where Appellant, "respectfully prayed for an Order vacating all of these Court's Orders issued May 19, 2016 including the per curiam Affirmance and further reversing the Order, Decision and Judgements below as an abuse of discretion without remand for David Garten to prove any further fee or alternatively limiting any remand solely to fees no greater than \$6, 413.35 and striking and enjoining David Garten and any attorney acting on his behalf from pursuing any fees beyond that amount in this case herein" and other relief therein.

5. This Court issued an Order denying the Rehearing and other relief on July 12, 2016 and a Mandate on July 29, 2016.
6. Appellee David Garten and his attorneys continue to not only pursue a fraudulent billing scheme contrary to law in the 15th Judicial Circuit but are seeking to obtain further fraudulent fees on Appeal at a hearing set at the 15th Judicial Circuit court in the underlying case on Feb. 17, 2017.
7. Appellant has duly demanded of attorney Garten and the attorneys acting on his behalf at Walton Lantaff Schroeder & Carson LLP to withdraw the actions and discontinue seeking the fraudulent billing fees.
8. Appellee David Garten and his attorneys at Walton Lantaff Schroeder & Carson LLP continue to disregard the demands of Appellant to cease and desist such actions.
9. This 4th District Court of Appeals is now duly demanded to perform its mandatory duties and obligations under law knowing and actually knowing that there is no substantial and competent evidence under law to support the continued fraudulent billing scheme by Appellee David Garten and his employees.
10. This 4th District Court of Appeals is specifically demanded to perform its mandatory duties and obligations under *Miller v. First American Bank and Trust*, 607 So. 2d 483 (Fla. 4th Dist. Ct. App. 1992).

11. Just like the Miller case above, this Court is duly demanded to perform mandatory duties in this case as follows from Miller: "On the face of it, the order embodies an unacceptable, even incredible result. No court is obliged to approve a judgment which so obviously offends even the most hardened appellate conscience and which is so obviously contrary to the manifest justice of the case. **Indeed, it is obliged not to. Florida Nat'l. Bank v. Sherouse, 80 Fla. 405, 406, 86 So. 279, 279 (1920) ("[I]f a decree is manifestly against the weight of the evidence, or contrary to the legal effect of the evidence, then it becomes the duty of the appellate court to reverse the same."); Newman v. Smith, 77 Fla. 633, 650, 82 So. 236, 241 (1918)** ("Where the finding of a trial judge is contrary to the legal effect of the evidence on the issues made the appellate court should reverse the finding even though the trial judge personally saw and heard the witnesses testify, and even though there were conflicts in the testimony, and there was some evidence tending to support the finding."). Accord *Howell v. Blackburn*, 100 Fla. 114, 129 So. 341 (1930); *Boyd v. Gosser*, 78 Fla. 64, 82 So. 758 (1918); *Fuller v. Fuller*, 23 Fla. 236, 2 So. 426 (1887); *John D.C. v. State*, 16 Fla. 554 (1878); *Uhley v. Tapio Constr. Co., Inc.*, 573 So.2d 390 (Fla. 4th DCA), rev. denied, 583 So.2d 1037 (Fla. 1991); *C.M. Life Ins. Co. v. Ortega*, 562 So.2d 702 (Fla. 3d DCA 1990),

rev. denied, 576 So.2d 289 (Fla. 1991). See, Miller v. First American Bank & Trust
607 So.2d 483 (4th DCA 1992).

12. Just like in the Miller case this 4th DCA is demanded to perform it's duties and find in this case, "The appellees claim that, in effect, we have no choice but to affirm the judgment as within the trial court's discretion, particularly since the fact that the record contains no transcript of the fee hearing requires the conclusion that the order is supported by competent evidence. See Applegate v. Barnett Bank, 377 So.2d 1150 (Fla. 1979). *We strongly disagree.*"

13. Just like in the Miller case above, "*This is especially true with respect to attorney's fees, with which the profession and the courts must be particularly concerned, see Florida Patient's Compensation Fund v. Rowe, 472 So.2d 1145 (Fla. 485*485 1985).[4] and even more so since the case involves the notorious "billable hours" syndrome, with its multiple evils of exaggeration, duplication, and invention.* Mercy Hosp., Inc. v. Johnson, 431 So.2d 687 (Fla. 3d DCA), pet. for review denied, 441 So.2d 632 (Fla. 1983); In re Estate of Simon, 402 So.2d 26 (Fla. 3d DCA 1981), appeal after remand, 427 So.2d 235 (Fla. 3d DCA 1983); see also Browne v. Costales, 579 So.2d 161 (Fla. 3d DCA) (abuse of "unit billing"), rev. denied, 593 So.2d 1051 (Fla. 1991)."

14. Just like in the Miller case above, "Nor are we precluded from reaching this result by the fact that, under Appellate, we must presume that someone testified that the hours in question were actually employed and that an "expert" opined that they and the fee awarded were "reasonable." [5] The existence of such evidence does not require that we abandon our own expertise, much less our common sense."
15. "Competent evidence includes invoices, records and other information detailing the services provided as well as the testimony from the attorney in support of the fee." *Brewer v. Solovsky*, 945 So.2d 610, 611 (Fla. 4th DCA 2006) (citations omitted)." See, *Diwakar v. Montecito Palm Beach Condominium*, No. 4D13-915. 143 So.3d 958 (2014).
16. As previously shown to this Court in the Motion for Rehearing of June 21, 2016, "Thus, as factually shown by the Record on Appeal at pages 000007-000011 the only Billing Statement for any fees in the Original Complaint seeking \$32,952.32 are some alleged factual details for the Bill totalling \$6,413.35.
17. But even for this alleged amount, there is No Sworn Testimony from David Garten in the Record on Appeal, No full Invoice or Account History in the Record on Appeal of David Garten, and absolutely NO Factual basis in the Record on Appeal whatsoever to claim *anything more than the \$6, 413.35.*

18. In fact, even for this amount the Record on Appeal has no Sworn Testimony, and

no copies of Any of the work Garten allegedly did even for this amount.

19. The Bill refers to several “Draft motions” and “Draft emails” but **none of these**

items are contained anywhere in the Record on Appeal as these items were not provided in the proceedings below.”

20. As further shown in the June 21, 2016 motion for Rehearing, “Thus, not only is there absolutely NO Facts in the Record nor in the original Complaint filed before Judge Lucy Brown to claim the additional \$26,137.38 claimed as “Prior Balance” but even the amount where there is a Billing Statement is significantly in question.

21. There are No Invoices for the \$26,137.38 in the Record on Appeal, No Sworn Testimony from David Garten in the Record on Appeal for this amount, No Invoice Notices or Proof of Sending Invoices in the Record on Appeal, no Proof of when I allegedly received such Bills in the Record on Appeal, no documents or records to show what was done for the \$26,137.38 such as Motions or Hearings, nothing other than an attorney claiming he is owed some amount.

22. Nowhere in the Record on Appeal are there any Exhibits or Transcripts or Sworn Testimony to support the Arbitrator’s Award found at pages Record on Appeal 00153-00158.

23. Nor are any of these items contained anywhere in this Record on Appeal to support the original Order of Judge Lucy Brown upholding the Arbitrator's Award which has to be an Abuse of Discretion under the standards established by the 4th DCA and District Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court in Florida and this must now be reversed and vacated on appeal."

24. As further shown to this Court in the June 21, 2016 motion for Rehearing, "The long line of cases from the 4th DCA and other District Courts of Appeal in Florida further make it clear that, ***"Generally, when an attorney's fee or cost award is appealed and the record on appeal is devoid of competent substantial evidence to support the order, the appellate court will reverse the award without remand."*** *Rodriguez v. Campbell*, 720 So. 2d 266, 268 (Fla. 4th DCA 1998); *Cooper v. Cooper*, 406 So. 2d 1223 (Fla. 4th DCA 1981); *Warner v. Warner*, 692 So. 2d 266, 268 (Fla. 5th DCA 1997); *Brake v. Murphy*, 736 So. 2d 745 (Fla. 3d DCA 1999). See, *FAIRCLOTH, v. BLISS*, No. 4D04-2761, 917 So. 2d 1005 (2006) District Court of Appeal of Florida, Fourth District. January 4, 2006."

25. And further shown previously to this Court, "As stated by this Court in *Faircloth v. Bliss*, 917 So. 2d 1005 (2006). ***"Here, the record is devoid of any competent evidence regarding the number of hours reasonably expended, the reasonable***

hourly rate or details of the services performed. We, therefore, reverse the fee award without remand.”

26. This 4th DCA is now duly Demanded to mandatorily Vacate the prior Orders on Appeal and Judgment below without remand or alternatively stay and limit any claim and action in the Lower Tribunal by David Garten and his attorneys to no greater than \$6, 413.35 with Appellant being afforded the right to offset all such amounts by claims of damages from the multi-year false and fraudulent billing scheme herein,

27. This Court is further duly demanded to perform its mandatory obligations and duties under fraud upon the Court standards and the Statewide Court Fraud policy.

WHEREFORE, this 4th DCA is duly demanded to perform its mandatory duties and obligations under law herein under Miller v. First American Bank and Trust, 607 So. 2d 483 (Fla. 4th Dist. Ct. App. 1992) by vacating the Orders on Appeal and Mandate, reversing and vacating the Judgements below without remand, correcting the manifest injustice in this case and for such other and further relief as is just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Feb. 10, 2017


/s/ Skender Hoti

Skender Hoti

3103 Drew Way

Palm Springs, Florida 33406

Telephone: (561) 385-6390

skendertravel@hotmail.com

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been served via regular mail to Walton Lantaff Schroeder & Carson LLP 110 E. Broward Blvd. Suite 2000 Fort Lauderdale, Fl 33301-3503 on this 10th day of February, 2017.


/s/ Skender Hoti

Skender Hoti

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Palm Springs, Florida 33406

Telephone: (561) 385-6390

skendertravel@hotmail.com

Exhibit B - 4th DCA Case No. D16-0444 Appellant's Reply Brief of 9-27-16.

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

CASE NO.: 4D16-0444
LOWER TRIBUNAL NO.: 502013CA012409XXXXMB

SKENDER & BEBA HOTI,

APPELLANT,

V.

DAVID GARTEN,

APPELLEE.

REPLY BRIEF OF APPELLANT SKENDER HOTI

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I. Appellee has failed to bring forward competent and substantial evidence to show a fraudulent transfer while Appellant's showed exempt transfer and fraud by Appellee and thus the Lower Court abused it's Discretion and must be vacated and reversed.	7
II. Because of the complete lack of Substantial and Competent Evidence to Support any Award of fees to Appellee in the underlying fee dispute claim beyond possibly \$6,413.35 as shown by the Records on Appeal in Case No. D16-0444 (1244 Pages) and Case No.4D14-4826 (1353 Pages), the 4th DCA is Demanded to Perform it's Mandatory duty to Reverse and Vacate All Orders, Decisions and Judgments against Appellant in both cases and issue sanctions against Appellee and attorneys.	10
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TABLE OF CITATIONS AND AUTHORITIES

TABLE OF CASES:

Farish v. Lum's Inc., 267 So. 2d 325, 327-8 (Fla. 1972),

Florida Nat'l. Bank v. Sherouse, 80 Fla. 405, 406, 86 So. 279, 279 (1920)

Newman v. Smith, 77 Fla. 633, 650, 82 So. 236, 241 (1918)

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Uhley v. Tapio Constr. Co., Inc., 573 So.2d 390 (Fla. 4th DCA), rev. denied, 583 So.2d 1037 (Fla. 1991)

Mercy Hosp., Inc. v. Johnson, 431 So.2d 687 (Fla. 3d DCA), pet. for review denied, 441 So.2d 632 (Fla. 1983)

In re Estate of Simon, 402 So.2d 26 (Fla. 3d DCA 1981), appeal after remand, 427 So.2d 235 (Fla. 3d DCA 1983)

Browne v. Costales, 579 So.2d 161 (Fla. 3d DCA) (abuse of "unit billing"), rev. denied, 593 So.2d 1051 (Fla. 1991).

CONGRESS PARK OFFICE CONDOS II LLC v. FIRST CITIZENS BANK TRUST COMPANY Florida, Fourth District Court of Appeals. No. 4D11-4479. (January 16, 2013)

Shahar v Green Tree, DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA (January 2013)

Ocean View Towers, Inc. v. First Fid. Sav. & Loan Ass'n, 521 So. 2d 325, 326 (Fla. 4th DCA 1988)

PROGRESSIVE EXPRESS INSURANCE COMPANY v. DONALD SCHULTZ, Case No. 5D06-444. District Court of Appeal of Florida, Fifth District (2007)

Florida Patient's Compensation Fund v. Rowe, 472 So. 2d 1145, 1150 (Fla. 1985)

Ziontz v. Ocean Trail Unit Owners Ass'n, 663 So. 2d 1334 (4th DCA 1996)

In re Estate of Lopez, 410 So.2d 618 (Fla. 4th DCA 1982);

STATUTES:

CHAPTER 726

FRAUDULENT TRANSFERS

726.101 Short title.

726.102 Definitions.

726.103 Insolvency.

726.104 Value.

726.105 Transfers fraudulent as to present and future creditors.

726.106 Transfers fraudulent as to present creditors.

726.107 When transfer made or obligation incurred.

726.108 Remedies of creditors.

726.109 Defenses, liability, and protection of transferee.

726.110 Extinguishment of cause of action.

Other Authorities:

Bankruptcy Code, 11 U.S.C. Sec. 101, et seq.17,22

Title 11 of the United States Code, 11U.S. C.A. Sec. 101-t532

RULES:

Florida Statewide Court Fraud Policy

INTRODUCTION

Skender and Beba Hoti are referred to as the Appellants herein. Attorney David Garten is referred to the Appellee. Appellant has filed a supplemental Appendix with this Reply brief to Supplement the Record on Appeal. The Supplemental Appendixes consist of Appellant's Motion for Rehearing in the related underlying Fee dispute Case, Appellee's Answer in response, and the Record on Appeal from the underlying Fee Dispute Case under 4th District Court of Appeals CASE NO. 4D14-4826, LOWER TRIBUNAL NO. 2012CA011639XXXXMB AJ. References to Appellants' Initial Brief are made as "IB".

STATEMENT OF THE CASE AND FACTS

As the Court should be aware, this Appeal of an alleged "fraudulent transfer" arose after a "Billing case" by one David Garten who had been retained by Appellant in relation to the unlawful detention and taking into "Guardianship" of his adopted mother Gwendolyn Batson by one Elizabeth Savitt and others working in concert with Elizabeth Savitt, the new wife of 15th Judicial Circuit Judge Martin Colin

who originally presided over the case where David Garten was retained but later was removed. The related Appeal under Case No. 4D-14-4826 is raised herein. As shown herein, not only is the Record on Appeal devoid of any competent, substantial evidence by Appellee to show intent to delay or hinder for purposes of fraudulent transfer, but the Appellants have been insolvent at all times and any transfer at issue was done at the direction of licensed counsel from an Attorney who works in real estate with the transfers exempt and protected under FS 726.109(b) as “made in the ordinary course of business or financial affairs of the debtor and the insider”.

Further, because Appellant adequately showed the lower tribunal the Fraud on the Court and unlawful “billing scheme” by Appellee and his attorneys, it was an abuse of discretion for the Lower Court to strike Appellants’ pleadings, Answers, affirmative defenses and issue Final Judgment voiding transfers of several properties and issuing fee awards.

Because the Fraud on the Court is clearly shown by the utter lack of proper, substantial, competent evidence to support the underlying Fee award in the Fee dispute case, this Court has a mandatory duty to Reverse and Vacate All Orders and Judgments against Appellants in both appeals with sanctions against Appellee David Garten and his attorneys issued in favor of Appellants.

ARGUMENT

- I. Appellee has failed to bring forward competent and substantial evidence to show a fraudulent transfer while Appellant's showed exempt transfer and fraud by Appellee and thus the Lower Court abused its Discretion and must be vacated and reversed.**

Appellee's brief and the Record on Appeal are wholly lacking in showing any fraudulent intent or fraudulent transfer by Appellants while to the contrary, Appellant showed the lower court Fraud on the Court and a false Billing scheme and good faith transfers advised by licensed counsel.

Appellee filed the underlying Fee dispute case in June of 2012. (R. 63-64).

Appellant contested and filed a counterclaim for legal malpractice. (R. 72).

Appellee's fee dispute claimed approximately \$32,000 in fees after being

Discharged by Appellant for cause and achieving no results for Appellant.

Appellant's transfer of properties was only to include his wife on the properties

and was done on or around October of 2012 over 3 months after the Billing case

started while there was no judgment against Appellant, nor injunction or

restraining Order. See Record on Appeal, devoid of injunction or restraining order

against Appellant.

Appellant's filed an Answer and Affirmative Defenses in Nov. of 2013 against the alleged fraudulent transfer charges. Record on Appeal pages 154-157. These defenses showed adequate proof that no fraudulent intent was present. Further, that any such transfer was exempt under FS 726.109 "Defenses, liability, and protection of transferee.—(b) If made in the ordinary course of business or financial affairs of the debtor and the insider"

Appellants' further filed an Emergency Motion to Stop Harassing and Extorting Money by Appellee David Garten which not only claimed and showed these actions as a "bill padding" case, but further attached the Actual proof of payments to Appellee for several checks over a several month period totalling \$35,000.00 made by Appellant. See Record on Appeal 204-213.

A review of Appellee's "complaint" for fees in the fee dispute case shows a conclusory claim to fees, no Payment history, no Account history, no proof of Notice of the Bills to the Appellant, and no documentation to support the work done. This Complaint was entered into the Record on Appeal in this case. See Record on Appeal pages 371-381.

Appellant had filed a Motion to Dismiss this Fraudulent Transfer case which included the factual allegations that Appellee wholly failed to attach or provide any supporting documentation or exhibits to support his fee award. See Record on Appeal pages 396-397.

Appellants filed further motions showing fraud on the Court, abusive discovery and objections to any judgment by motions found at Record on Appeal pages 398-402; 981-984; 1218-1222 and others.

The Record on Appeal is Devoid of any competent, substantial evidence to show the Appellant's were not sufficiently solvent in Oct. of 2012 to satisfy any alleged claim for Attorney's Fees in the amount of approximately \$32,000.00 although only Fees in the amount of \$6,413.35 have any remote support in the Record in the Fee case or in the Record on Appeal in this case.

Under FS Sec. 726.108(1)(a) avoidance of any transfer that can be shown to be fraudulent nonetheless is only allowed **"to the extent necessary to satisfy the creditor's claim"**. Both the Record on Appeal in this case as well as the fee dispute case are devoid of any competent, substantial evidence remotely beyond the amount of \$6,413.35 and yet even with this amount, the Record in both cases is filled with Abuse of Civil process and civil fraud and torts by Appellee against the Appellants to offset even such amount of \$6,413.35. Thus, if anything, it is the Appellee and his attorneys who should be setting aside properties and assets to satisfy the Appellants

.

The lower tribunal had ample evidence in the Record below to have halted Appellee and make Appellee prove his claim. Instead, what has been allowed is an abuse of process, Scheme to generate fees by “invention” and creation.

All Judgments and Orders of the Lower Tribunal must now be reversed. See, Farish v. Lum's Inc., 267 So. 2d 325, 327-8 (Fla. 1972).

II. Because of the complete lack of Substantial and Competent Evidence to Support any Award of fees to Appellee in the underlying fee dispute claim beyond possibly \$6,413.35 as shown by the Records on Appeal in Case No. D16-0444 (1244 Pages) and Case No.4D14-4826 (1353 Pages), the 4th DCA is Demanded to Perform it's Mandatory duty to Reverse and Vacate All Orders, Decisions and Judgments against Appellant in both cases and issue sanctions against Appellee and attorneys.

The 2,597 Pages of Records on Appeal from the 2 Cases show the “Virus is Loose” again as the 4th DCA noted in 1996 with respect to Billing Schemes; Appellee has had nearly 2600 Pages of Appellate Records to Demonstrate the Basis for the Original Fees and has Failed to Do So; the 4th DCA is Mandated to Act to Vacate the Fraud and Stop the “Virus”

Attached as Appendix 1 is Appellant's Motion for Rehearing in the Fee Dispute Case that clearly demonstrated that the Appellee had showed an utter lack of competent and substantial evidence to justify his original claim for Fees in the underlying case. In fact, even on such a motion, in response Appellee still did not bring forward any proof to justify his original claim to fees of approximately \$32,000 by an answer filed with this Court in Case No. 4D14-4826 on July 5, 2016. See Appendix 2. The entirety of the Record on Appeal from Case No. 4D14-4826 shows no competent, substantial evidence to justify the original fees. See, Appendix 3 ROA Case No. 4D-4826. Nor is there any competent, substantial proof in the Record on Appeal in this case.

As this Court noted in *Miller v First American Bank and Trust*, "On the face of it, the order embodies an unacceptable, even incredible result. **No court is obliged to approve a judgment which so obviously offends even the most hardened appellate conscience and which is so obviously contrary to the manifest justice of the case. Indeed, it is obliged not to.** *Florida Nat'l. Bank v. Sherouse*, 80 Fla. 405, 406, 86 So. 279, 279 (1920) ("**If a decree is manifestly against the weight of the evidence, or contrary to the legal effect of the evidence, then it becomes the duty of the appellate court to reverse the same.**"); *Newman v. Smith*, 77 Fla. 633, 650, 82 So. 236, 241 (1918) ("Where the finding of a trial judge is contrary to the legal effect of the evidence on the issues made the appellate court

should reverse the finding even though the trial judge personally saw and heard the witnesses testify, and even though there were conflicts in the testimony, and there was some evidence tending to support the finding."). Accord *Howell v. Blackburn*, 100 Fla. 114, 129 So. 341 (1930); *Boyd v. Gosser*, 78 Fla. 64, 82 So. 758 (1918); *Fuller v. Fuller*, 23 Fla. 236, 2 So. 426 (1887); *John D.C. v. State*, 16 Fla. 554 (1878); *Uhley v. Tapio Constr. Co., Inc.*, 573 So.2d 390 (Fla. 4th DCA), rev. denied, 583 So.2d 1037 (Fla. 1991); *C.M. Life Ins. Co. v. Ortega*, 562 So.2d 702 (Fla. 3d DCA 1990), rev. denied, 576 So.2d 289 (Fla. 1991). See, *Miller v. First American Bank and Trust*, 607 So. 2d 483 - Fla: Dist. Court of Appeals, 4th Dist.

Appellant Demands the 4th DCA comply with it's duty to reverse and vacate the Judgements and Decisions and Orders from the 2 cases herein and report appropriately under the Statewide Court Fraud policy:

As this Court said in *Miller*, "The appellees claim that, in effect, we have no choice but to affirm the judgment as within the trial court's discretion, particularly since the fact that the record contains no transcript of the fee hearing requires the conclusion that the order is supported by competent evidence. See *Applegate v. Barnett Bank*, 377 So.2d 1150 (Fla. 1979). **We strongly disagree.**"

The *Miller* case goes on to note, "This is especially true with respect to attorney's fees, with which the profession and the courts must be particularly concerned, see *Florida Patient's Compensation Fund v. Rowe*, 472 So.2d 1145

(Fla. 485*485 1985),[4] and even more so since the case involves the notorious "billable hours" syndrome, with its multiple evils of exaggeration, duplication, and invention. Mercy Hosp., Inc. v. Johnson, 431 So.2d 687 (Fla. 3d DCA), pet. for review denied, 441 So.2d 632 (Fla. 1983); In re Estate of Simon, 402 So.2d 26 (Fla. 3d DCA 1981), appeal after remand, 427 So.2d 235 (Fla. 3d DCA 1983); see also Browne v. Costales, 579 So.2d 161 (Fla. 3d DCA) (abuse of "unit billing"), rev. denied, 593 So.2d 1051 (Fla. 1991).”

The Cases by Appellee herein are by “Invention” , a “Virus”and fraud on the Court and must be Vacated and Reversed:

As this Court noted in Ziontz v Ocean Trail, “We cannot let this occasion pass without commenting on what we perceive to be the source of fee awards such as this one. Since the Florida Supreme Court's decision in Florida Patient's Compensation Fund v. Rowe, 472 So.2d 1145 (Fla. 1985), there seems to be a virus loose in Florida. As Judge Schwartz said in Miller, the obsession with hours and hourly rates required by Rowe has spawned among lawyers moving for court awarded fees the "multiple evils of exaggeration, duplication, and invention." Miller, 607 So.2d at 485.

The use of lawyers as expert witnesses to justify the fees sought as reasonable seems to have lead only to more exaggeration and invention. Perhaps it is quixotic to expect the lawyer witnesses who actually testify at fee hearings to do anything

but justify the fee claimed, for if they do not they simply would not be called to testify. Opposing expert witnesses may not be much of a reliable check on the claimant's lawyers, because lawyers in general profit from the patina of authority given to one's own fees by a court award of a similar one. Hence, the obsession to justify hours and rates now seems to riddle the fee process with an air of mendacity.

This obsession with hours and rates has apparently caused judges and lawyers to lose sight of a truth they formerly accepted almost universally: viz., that there is an economic relationship to almost every legal service in the market place. The value of any professional service is almost always a function of its relationship to something else — i.e., some property or other right. In this case, for example, no business could long expect to spend \$60,000 to collect \$100 accounts. Trial judges and lawyers used to accept a priori the idea that, no matter how much time was spent or how good the advocate, the fair price of some legal victories simply could not exceed — or, conversely, should not be less than — some relevant sum not determined alone by hours or rates. Since Rowe, that all seems lamentably forgotten.

This case appears to exemplify what has gone wrong. Fees of the kind awarded here threaten to make the respect of nonlawyers for judicial control of fees — indeed, for the very legal system itself — a thing of the past. Because

of the manifest justice rule in this instance, however, and not out of any

disagreement with Rowe, we conclude that this fee award must be set aside.”

See, Ziontz v. Ocean Trail Unit Owners Ass'n, 663 So. 2d 1334 (4th DCA 1996).

As shown by Paragraphs 12-23 in Appendix Exhibit 1 herein, Appellant's motion for Rehearing in the 4D14-4826 case,

“12. Thus, as factually shown by the Record on Appeal at pages 000007-000011 the only Billing Statement for any fees in the Original Complaint seeking \$32,952.32 are some alleged factual details for the Bill totalling \$6,413.35.

13. But even for this alleged amount, there is No Sworn Testimony from David Garten in the Record on Appeal, No full Invoice or Account History in the Record on Appeal of David Garten, and absolutely NO Factual basis in the Record on Appeal whatsoever to claim anything more than the \$6, 413.35.

14. In fact, even for this amount the Record on Appeal has no Sworn Testimony, and no copies of Any of the work Garten allegedly did even for this amount.

15. The Bill refers to several “Draft motions” and “Draft emails” but none of these items are contained anywhere in the Record on Appeal as these items were not provided in the proceedings below.

16. The Billing Statement does give this Court a strong insight into the actions of attorney David Garten, however, as seen on Record on Appeal Page 00009 where David Garten “bills” myself as Appellant on 6-5-12 \$85.00 for calling my Wife who he did NOT have a Retainer Agreement with to talk to her about me Paying his alleged Bill and then goes on 6-8-12 to Bill both of us \$425.00 to have a Conference on Paying his Bill and then proceeds on Record on Appeal Page 000010 to Bill in excess of another \$500 plus total AFTER he had received notice that I discharged him.

17. Thus, not only is there absolutely NO Facts in the Record nor in the original Complaint filed before Judge Lucy Brown to claim the additional \$26,137.38 claimed as "Prior Balance" but even the amount where there is a Billing Statement is significantly in question.

18. There are No Invoices for the \$26,137.38 in the Record on Appeal, No Sworn Testimony from David Garten in the Record on Appeal for this amount, No Invoice Notices or Proof of Sending Invoices in the Record on Appeal, no Proof of when I allegedly received such Bills in the Record on Appeal, no documents or records to show what was done for the \$26,137.38 such as Motions or Hearings, nothing other than an attorney claiming he is owed some amount.

19. Nowhere in the Record on Appeal are there any Exhibits or Transcripts or Sworn Testimony to support the Arbitrator's Award found at pages Record on Appeal 00153-00158.

20. Nor are any of these items contained anywhere in this Record on Appeal to support the original Order of Judge Lucy Brown upholding the Arbitrator's Award which has to be an Abuse of Discretion under the standards established by the 4th DCA and District Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court in Florida and this must now be reversed and vacated on appeal.

21. The Arbitrator's Award says nothing other than a conclusory statement based upon alleged Testimony which is **NOT shown to be sworn and in fact does not even Exist in the Record on Appeal** that somehow the case was "complex" but there are no Facts, no motions, no records to show this as a factual matter.

22. Nowhere in the Record on Appeal does it show that David Garten provided these missing invoices or records in his motions to Confirm the Arbitrator's award and in fact David Garten did not even claim that these records exist or try to provide them to this Court in response when I filed the June 3, 2016 Motion for Extension of time.

23. In fact the Record on Appeal makes it crystal clear that all David Garten did was provide further Bills to the Lower Court charged **after the Retainer Agreement was**

cancelled to then Bill Appellant to collect Fees which had not justified in the first instance.” See, Appendix Exhibit 1.

As the Third DCA noted citing several 4th DCA cases, “The court should review the nature of the services rendered and the necessity for their performance, along with the reasonableness of the charges. Lyle v. Lyle, 167 So.2d 256 (Fla. 2d DCA), cert. denied, 172 So.2d 601 (Fla. 1964). **Johnson's failure to present detailed evidence of his services is fatal to his claim. In re Estate of Lopez, 410 So.2d 618 (Fla. 4th DCA 1982); Cohen v. Cohen, 400 So.2d 463 (Fla. 4th DCA 1981); Nevins v. Nevins, 312 So.2d 201 (Fla. 2d DCA 1975). The opinion of an expert witness does not constitute proof that the facts necessary to support the conclusion exist. Arkin Construction Co. v. Simpkins, 99 So.2d 557 (Fla. 1957).**” See, Mercy Hosp., Inc. v. Johnson, 431 So.2d 687 (Fla. 3d DCA), pet. for review denied, 441 So.2d 632 (Fla. 1983)

In both the underlying fee case and this case, Appellee has wholly failed to bring forward proof detailing his claim or any details at all on the alleged Prior Balance and **no Payment history to show the clear \$35,000.00 actually paid. There are no Transcripts of what any alleged Expert testified to and nothing but a conclusory statement that the underlying garden variety Habeus Corpus / Release from Guardianship case was complex while Appellee has pursued abusive civil process for years. See Appendix Exhibit 2, 3.**

As the 5th DCA noted, "*Lawyers are officers of the court. The court is an instrument of society for the administration of justice. Justice should be administered economically, efficiently, and expeditiously. The attorney's fee is, therefore, a very important factor in the administration of justice, and if it is not determined with proper relation to that fact[,] it results in a species of social malpractice that undermines the confidence of the public in the bench and bar. It [sic] does more than that; it brings the court into disrepute and destroys its power to perform adequately the function of its creation.*" See, PROGRESSIVE EXPRESS INSURANCE COMPANY v. DONALD SCHULTZ, Case No. 5D06-444. DCA Fifth District (2007)

This Court must now perform its mandatory duty to Vacate and Reverse all such Decisions, Orders and Judgments herein against Appellants from this case and the 4D-4826 case.

III. Appellee Came into the Fraudulent Transfer Case with Unclean Hands; the Judgments against Appellants must now be Vacated and Reversed.

This court has previously concluded that unclean hands, if sufficiently pled, may be asserted as an affirmative defense to a mortgage foreclosure action. See, e.g., Quality Roof Servs., Inc. v. Intervest Nat'l Bank, 21 So. 3d 883, 885 (Fla. 4th DCA 2009); cf. Congress Park Office Condos II, LLC v. First-Citizens Bank &

Trust Co., No. 4D11-4479 (Fla. 4th DCA Jan. 16, 2013) (finding that an unclean hands affirmative defense in a mortgage foreclosure case was not pled with sufficient facts).

This court has described unclean hands as follows: “It is certainly beyond question that “one who comes into equity must come with clean hands else all relief will be denied him regardless of the merits of his claim. **It is not essential that the act be a crime; it is enough that it be condemned by honest and reasonable men.**”

Ocean View Towers, Inc. v. First Fid. Sav. & Loan Ass’n, 521 So. 2d 325, 326 (Fla. 4th DCA 1988) (quoting Roberts v. Roberts, 84 So. 2d 717, 720 (Fla. 1956)). Recently, this court found that unclean hands is tantamount to “[u]nscrupulous practices, overreaching, concealment, trickery or other unconscientious conduct.” Congress Park Office Condos II, No. 4D11-4479 at 6-7 (citation omitted). See, Shahar v Green Tree, DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA (January 2013)

The nearly 2600 PAGES of CERTIFIED Appeal Records from both cases certified by Clerk Bock shows the Appellee has come into the fraudulent transfer case with Unclean hands as 4 years later and still no proof to support the original fee claim. See ROA Case No. 4D-16-0444 and Appendix Exhibit 3, ROA Case No. 4D14-4826.

CONCLUSION

All Orders, Judgments and Decisions against Appellant must now be vacated and reversed.

WHEREFORE, Appellants respectfully pray for an Order vacating and reversing all Decisions, Orders and Judgments in Cases No. 4D-16-0444 and 4D-4826, sanctions to issue against Appellee and his attorneys, and for such other and further relief as may be just and proper,

Dated: Sept. 27, 2016

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Skender Hoti

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing has been served via email to

dfitzgerald@waltonlantaff.com on Walton Lantaff Schroeder & Carson LLP 110

E. Broward Blvd. Suite 2000 Fort Lauderdale, Fl 33301-3503 on this 27th day of

September, 2016.

/s/ Skender Hoti

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APPENDIX EXHIBIT 1 FROM CASE NO. 4D-4826

06/21/2016 Motion For Rehearing

APPENDIX EXHIBIT 2 FROM CASE NO. 4D-4826

07/05/2016 Response TO MOTION FOR REHEARING, ETC.

APPENDIX EXHIBIT 3 FROM CASE NO. 4D-4826

05/28/2015 Brief/Record Records EIGHT (8) VOLUMES

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