

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

JOHN WILLIAM LICCIONE,

Petitioner,

v.

CASE NO.: SC2025-0242

Judge Thomas Ramsberger'

Respondent.

Lower State Tribunal Nos.: 2D2025-0297;

522024CA002994XXCICI;

522024CA003939XXCICI

Related Federal Tribunal No.:

8:24-cv-02005-SDM-NHA

EMERGENCY PETITION FOR ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE

COMES NOW, Petitioner, John William Liccione, and files this Emergency Petition to Show Cause why Respondent Judge Thomas Ramsberger should not be held in contempt for willful disobedience of this Court's February 25, 2025, order divesting him of jurisdiction over Case No. 522024CA002994XXCICI and transferring the matter to the 6th Circuit Court in Clearwater. In support of this Petition, Petitioner states as follows:

I. JURISDICTION

1. This Court has jurisdiction to enforce its orders and to hold individuals, including judicial officers, in contempt for willful disobedience of its directives

pursuant to Article V, Section 3(b) of the Florida Constitution and applicable Florida law.

II. BACKGROUND FACTS

2. On February 25, 2025, this Court issued an order removing jurisdiction from Judge Thomas Ramsberger over Case No. 522024CA002994XXCICI and transferring the case to the 6th Circuit Court in Clearwater. (EXHIBIT A)

3. Judge Ramsberger was electronically served with this Court's order on February 25, 2025, and was therefore fully aware of the divestiture of his jurisdiction.

4. Despite this, on February 27, 2025, Judge Ramsberger issued a written order (EXHIBIT B) sua sponte dismissing the case after what was supposed to have been non-dispositive case management hearing held on February 24th, an action taken without jurisdiction and in direct violation of this Court's order. An inspection of the written order shows that Judge Ramsberger applied his "wet signature." The acts of signing the order, and having it entered, after knowing he had been divested of jurisdiction, demonstrates a willful disregard for this Court's order.

5. Additionally, Judge Ramsberger reaffirmed in the Order that he will be holding a previously scheduled criminal contempt show-cause hearing on April 10, 2025, further exercising jurisdiction over a case he no longer had authority to preside over. On page two of the order, the Judge stated: "*This Court shall retain*

jurisdiction over any ancillary matters, including but not limited to the Order to Show Cause pending against the Plaintiff which is currently set for hearing on April 10, 2025.”

6. Then, Judge Ramsberger went on to deny Petitioner’s ore tenus Motion for Stay, and his ore tenus Motion for Recusal in the order.

III. LEGAL BASIS FOR CONTEMPT

6. Contempt proceedings require proof of willful disobedience of a court order. A judicial officer’s intentional disregard of a higher court’s directive constitutes contempt.

7. The Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration mandate that judges must comply with orders from higher courts and refrain from taking actions that exceed their jurisdiction.

8. Judge Ramsberger’s actions—issuing and signing and entering a written dismissal order on February 27, 2025, re-affirming a previous order for a criminal contempt show-cause hearing on April 10, 2025, and denying Petitioner’s motions for stay and recusal after having been divested of jurisdiction—constitute a willful and deliberate violation of this Court’s February 25, 2025, order.

IV. ARGUMENT

9. **Willful Disobedience:** Judge Ramsberger's conduct demonstrates clear and intentional defiance of this Court's authority. The timeline of events establishes that he was aware of the divestiture of jurisdiction yet proceeded to act in the case after he was divested of jurisdiction.

10. **Obstruction of Justice:** By dismissing the case sua sponte after being divested of jurisdiction and scheduling a contempt hearing, Judge Ramsberger obstructed the judicial process and undermined the integrity of this Court's review.

11. **Precedent and Judicial Accountability:** While judges are afforded discretion in their judicial functions, willful disobedience of a higher court's order is not protected by judicial immunity and warrants contempt proceedings to uphold the rule of law.

V. RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Petitioner respectfully requests that this Court:

- A. Issue an order to show cause requiring Judge Thomas Ramsberger to explain why he should not be held in contempt for willfully violating this Court's February 25, 2025, order;

- B. Hold Judge Ramsberger in contempt for his actions, including the sua sponte written dismissal of the case and the scheduling of a contempt hearing after being divested of jurisdiction;
- C. Impose appropriate sanctions to address the willful disobedience and deter future violations of this Court's authority; and
- D. Grant any other relief this Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ John W. Liccione
John W. Liccione, Pro Se
6800 Gulfport Blvd S., Ste 201-116
South Pasadena, FL 33707
jliccione@gmail.com
443-698-8156

List of Exhibits:

Exhibit A: Supreme Court's February 25, 2025 Order Transferring the Case to the 6th Circuit Court in Clearwater

Exhibit B: Judge Ramsberger's February 27, 2025 Order Dismissing Lawsuit

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this 6th day of March 2025, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Emergency Petition for Contempt has been e-served on Respondent Judge Thomas Ramsberger, Judge Patricia Muscarella, on Defendants the Pinellas Democratic Executive Committee, Jennifer Griffith, Michael Sherosky through their attorney George Thurlow; Defendant Julie Marcus through her attorney Kirby Kreider, and on Defendant Cathy Salustri through her attorney James Lake, via the Court's e-file and serve system and via email.

/s/ John W. Liccione

Supreme Court of Florida

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025

John William Liccione,
Petitioner(s)

v.

Pinellas Democratic Executive
Committee, et al.

Respondent(s)

SC2025-0242

Lower Tribunal No(s):

2D2025-0297;

522024CA002994XXCICI;

522024CA003939XXCICI

The petition for writ of prohibition is hereby transferred to the Circuit Court of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, in and for Pinellas County, Florida, for consideration in the context of case numbers 522024CA002994XXCICI and 522024CA003939XXCICI. The transfer of this case should not be construed as an adjudication or comment on the merits of the petition, nor as a determination that the transferee court has jurisdiction or that the petition has been properly denominated as a petition for writ of prohibition. The transferee court should not interpret the transfer of this case as an indication that it must or should reach the merits of the petition. Any determination concerning whether a filing fee shall be applicable to this case shall be made by the transferee court. Any and all pending motions in this case are hereby deferred to the transferee court.

Any future pleadings filed regarding this case should be filed in the above mentioned circuit court at 14250 49th Street North, Clearwater, FL 33762.

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO FILE REHEARING MOTION
AND, IF FILED, DETERMINED.

A True Copy
Test:

EXHIBIT A

CASE NO.: SC2025-0242

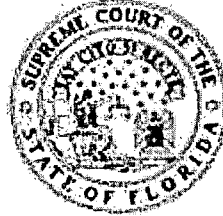
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John A. Tomasino

Clerk Supreme Court

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KS

Served:

2DCA CLERK

PINELLAS CLERK

KIRBY ZOE KREIDER

JOHN WILLIAM LICCIONE

HON. PATRICIA ANN MUSCARELLA

HON. THOMAS M. RAMSBERGER

GEORGE ALBERT DOYLE THURLOW

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE SIXTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN AND FOR PINELLAS COUNTY, FLORIDA
CIVIL DIVISION**

JOHN WILLIAM LICCIONE,
Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 24-002994-CI

COMPANION WITH:

PINELLAS DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE
COMMITTEE,
MICHAEL JOHN SHEROSKY,
JENNIFER W. GRIFFITH,
Defendants.

Case No. 24-003939-CI

ORDER DISMISSING LAWSUIT

THIS CAUSE, having come before this Court on February 24, 2025 at a duly noticed Case Management Conference, and this Court, having heard argument from Plaintiff *Pro Se* and counsel for Defendants, and being otherwise fully and duly advised in its premises, the Court hereby finds as follows:

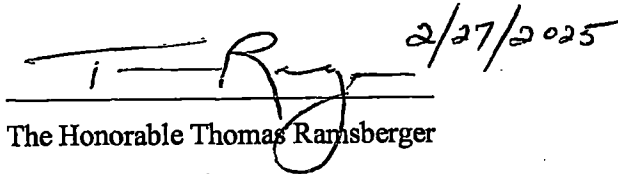
1. On December 20, 2024, this Court entered an Order (Doc # 64) requiring Plaintiff to replead Counts I and II in an amended pleading, if Plaintiff so desired, dismissing Counts III, IV, VI, and VII without prejudice, and dismissing Counts V and VIII with prejudice. The Order set a deadline of December 30, 2024 for Plaintiff to file an amended complaint.
2. The Plaintiff subsequently filed a Motion for Clarification of the December 20, 2024 Order (Doc # 64) on December 21, 2024 and a Motion for Extension of Time to File Second Amended Complaint (Doc # 65) on December 30, 2024. The Court held a hearing on these motions on January 28, 2025 (Doc # 66)
3. On January 31, 2025, the Court entered an Order (Doc # 68) denying Plaintiff's Motion for Clarification and Motion for Extension of Time, setting a deadline for Plaintiff to file a Second Amended Complaint of February 4, 2025 at 4:00pm local time.
4. As of February 24, 2025, Plaintiff had not filed an amended complaint and indicated as such on the record at the Case Management Conference.

5. On February 3, 2025, this Court entered an Order to Show Cause against the Plaintiff, John William Liccione (Doc #69) which was amended on February 11, 2025 (Doc #75) for the purposes of changing the hearing date to April 10, 2025.
6. At the Case Management Conference, Plaintiff made *ore tenus* motions to stay this action pending the outcome of a petition he filed with the Supreme Court of Florida and to ask for the recusal of Judges Ramsberger and Muscarella based upon his verbal allegations that they are either fact witnesses or victims to the acts Plaintiff is alleging.

Based on the foregoing, this Court hereby **ORDERS AND ADJUDGES** as follows:

- (1) Based on the December 20, 2024 and January 31, 2025 orders of this Court and that the Plaintiff has not filed an Amended Complaint, this case (24-002994-CI and 24-003939-CI as it pertains to Defendant Jennifer Griffith) is **DISMISSED** without prejudice. The Clerk of Court is directed to close the case file. This Court shall retain jurisdiction over any ancillary matters, including but not limited to the Order to Show Cause pending against the Plaintiff which is currently set for hearing on April 10, 2025.
- (2) Plaintiff's *ore tenus* Motion for Stay is **DENIED**.
- (3) Plaintiff's *ore tenus* Motion for Recusal is **DENIED**. The Court notes that recusals are voluntary and that the proper vehicle for a litigant to judicially seek the removal of a presiding judge is through a Motion to Disqualify, which must be filed in writing.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers, St. Petersburg, Pinellas County, Florida.


The Honorable Thomas Ramsberger
Circuit Court Judge

Copies to:

John William Liccione, Plaintiff *Pro Se* (jliccione@gmail.com)

George A.D. Thurlow, Counsel for Defendants (gthurlow@rahdertlaw.com)