

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF GREENWOOD

EIGHTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Patrick Lee Booker,)
Appellant,)
)
 V)
)
Local Finance of Greenwood,)
Respondent.)

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD
2023-CP-24-00645

October 23, 2023
Greenwood, South Carolina

B E F O R E:

The Honorable Frank R. Addy, Jr., Judge

A P P E A R A N C E S:

ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF:

Patrick Booker, Appellant, appeared Pro Se

ATTORNEY FOR DEFENDANT:

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Apr 23 2024
SC Court of Appeals

Tara T. Scott, CVR
Official Court Reporter

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(NO EXHIBITS INTRODUCED DURING THIS HEARING)

1 THE COURT: We're going to go on the record. I believe
2 this is another appeal of a Magistrate's Court judgement in
3 favor of, I believe, Local Finance, in the amount of
4 \$655.09. Mr. Booker is the Appellant in this case.

5 Mr. Booker, I got the brief that you filed. Like I
6 said earlier, I'm only here to correct errors of law as it
7 relates to the judgement that was ordered against you and, I
8 mean -- I'm just being honest, Mr. Booker. I don't know
9 that you cite anything in your brief that is grounded in the
10 law that I know. But, what's this about and why are you
11 appealing?

12 MR. BOOKER: Yes, Your Honor. This is a financial
13 transaction case where I entered into a contract with the
14 Defendant, with Local Finance and I paid payments on it most
15 of the time. And around the end, I discovered South
16 Carolina law. It's the Negro Law of South Carolina, wherein
17 in 1740 I found that the State of South Carolina, through
18 its General Assembly, enacted a law that stated that, "All
19 Negroes, who now are or shall hereafter be in this Province,
20 and all their issue and offspring born or to be born, shall
21 be and they are hereby declared to be and shall forever
22 remain absolute slaves." And I have also too an act of the
23 Legislature that states that, "A Bill which has passed both
24 bodies of the General Assembly, been enrolled, ratified,
25 signed by the Governor or passed over the Governor's veto or

1 becomes law without his signature and printed. It is a
2 permanent measure, having the force of law until repealed.”

3 Your Honor, based on my legal research -- I am a
4 Certified Paralegal, legal assistant -- but, based on my
5 legal research this Act has never been repealed. And it
6 would be my argument that it has the force of law even until
7 this very day, so much so that I would not have the inherent
8 legal ability to enter into any contract with Local Finance.
9 Because, based on the law of South Carolina, my legal status
10 -- my inherent legal status, by me being born in the State
11 of South Carolina, would make me an absolute slave under
12 South Carolina law.

13 THE COURT: That is a very interesting argument. Mr.
14 Booker, my compliments to you, in the sense that I have
15 never heard that raised before.

16 MR. BOOKER: Your Honor, I want to state that -- real
17 quick. I didn't want to cut you off.

18 THE COURT: Sure.

19 MR. BOOKER: I did interpose this as a legal defense,
20 an affirmative legal defense, in defense to the claim that
21 was made by Local Finance. So, my legal defense -- my first
22 and primary legal defense, was that I don't have the legal
23 capacity, because of my inherent legal status based on South
24 Carolina law. So, the judge, or the magistrate who was to
25 hear the matter did not rule on it. He heard my second

1 defense. My second defense was a factual defense that said
2 that on the facts I would acknowledge that I am in default
3 and I do owe the Local Finance.

4 But, on my legal argument, which would override it, is
5 that based on South Carolina law that I have not found any
6 statute to say that it has ever been repealed. The
7 Legislature -- I'm thirty-eight years old. In my thirty-
8 eight years I've never seen a Legislator or a Representative
9 go inside of that Hall of Justice, so-called justice, and
10 declare that that body that declared my people -- that
11 declared black people or Negroes -- and it defined the term
12 "Negro" and it separates from Moores and Egyptians. It
13 brings -- the ones that was brought over here in 1619 on the
14 slave ships to be absolute slaves and that they shall
15 forever remain absolute slaves, all their issue, including
16 their descendants.

17 So, even if we was to go on a legal academia and say
18 that when there was in 1865 or 1868 when they abolished
19 slavery, the institution of slavery, that this act so-called
20 went away. Even if we were to do that, based on the terms
21 of the act itself when it said that all of their issue and
22 their descendants are absolute slaves. What that would do
23 is that will put you at over 100 years plus. That would put
24 you at over a century of people that was born that was
25 absolute slaves as they all were and all of their issue, all

1 of their offspring. So, all of the descendants that came
2 after. And that would put us well and beyond this day and
3 time as still being absolute slaves under South Carolina
4 law.

5 So, if I'm an absolute slave, based on South Carolina
6 law, I would not have the legal capacity to enter into a
7 contract. It would be just the equivalent of a minor. A
8 minor does not have the legal capacity to enter into a
9 contract and can avoid any contract after reaching the age
10 of majority. In this instance, until the South Carolina
11 Legislature go in there, formally repeal it, issue a sincere
12 apology, then we're going to argue this all the way up the
13 United State's Supreme Court. I will pay all the fees, pay
14 all the money, just not to pay that \$600 or whatever it is I
15 owe y'all. Less than \$1,000. I will take it all the way up
16 to the court. I will pay \$3,000 if it takes it to get
17 there. We're going to get this matter resolved.

18 THE COURT: Mr. Booker, I genuinely appreciate your
19 position and I'm happy to inform you that your understanding
20 of the law is in serious error. Thankfully, very
21 thankfully, what you maintain to be the law simply is not.
22 Thankfully, the intervening events of 1860 turned out the
23 way that they did. Thankfully, the events of the 1960s
24 turned out as they did. And, at this moment in time, sir,
25 everyone is equal before the law regardless of where they

1 came from, what they look like, the color of their skin, the
2 God that they pray to, none of that matters to this Court.
3 That is the current state of the law.

4 So, I appreciate your position, Mr. Booker. I will be
5 affirming the findings of the Magistrate though, sir.

6 MR. BOOKER: Oh, very well. I know you will be
7 affirming the findings. I'm going to appeal that.

8 THE COURT: That's fine.

9 MR. BOOKER: As you see inside the record, I put a
10 picture of the Honorable, or the so-called, Honorable Donald
11 Beatty, Chief Justice of the State of South Carolina.

12 THE COURT: My boss.

13 MR. BOOKER: Yes, sir. A black man just like me. Based
14 on South Carolina law, he is nothing but an absolute slave.
15 Under South Carolina law. Under South Carolina law. This
16 was done under South Carolina law. Your Honor, John Belton
17 O'Neill is the one that wrote this book right here. This
18 book, the South Carolina law called the Negro Law of South
19 Carolina. There's nothing in here that shows this was ever
20 formally repealed, so we will appeal your affirmation of the
21 affirmative, affirming the Magistrate error. We appeal it
22 all the way up, and in between that we'll get this sorted
23 out. The South Carolina Legislature will go back in session
24 during my lifetime and they will apologize about this law
25 for declaring my people to be property. And, until I see it

1 declared as we ain't property, I'm going to maintain that
2 under South Carolina law my inherent legal status is a slave
3 even though the Fourteenth Amendment says that all persons
4 born in the United State's are citizens of the United
5 States. I will say that I'm a citizen slave. My slave
6 status comes before any other status. That's just something
7 that stacks on top of it.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Booker, I appreciate your position.
9 You are invited to appeal. I would strongly recommend that
10 you not suggest to Justice Beaty that he is a slave, because
11 in all likelihood you'll be met with a fist to the face.
12 Even though he is a heck of a nice guy. But, thankfully the
13 law is -- very thankfully, like I said earlier, thankfully
14 the law is not what you say it is.

15 MR. BOOKER: I didn't say it. South Carolina said it.
16 Caucasoids. Racist Caucasoids. In 1740, wasn't nothing but
17 white men in power then, so it wasn't nobody black. So,
18 back then there were racist Caucasoids that said it.
19 Patrick Booker didn't say it. Patrick Booker found it.
20 Patrick Booker is litigating it, and Local Finance will be
21 the one that help it get up there unless they drop it.
22 Unless they drop it. It's all in the hands of Local
23 Finance. Unless they drop this, they're fixing to open
24 something up that's going to show and prove that if I'm a
25 property, based on South Carolina law, I don't pay taxes.

1 Property don't pay taxes. Property incur taxes. So, all
2 black people born in South Carolina -- they got one in
3 Georgia too, sir. They got one in Georgia that says the
4 same thing.

5 When they went inside the halls of justice and declared
6 black people to be nothing but absolute slaves and that they
7 shall forever remain absolute slaves forever, they messed
8 up. It's called irreparable injury. You can stop the
9 bleeding, but what about all these people based on the force
10 of law that was created during that time period when the law
11 was the law? All those people that was deemed absolute
12 property, absolute slaves, you can't just take it away by
13 signing law and saying oh, that don't happen no more.

14 And when you look at Dred Scott, what the United
15 State's Supreme Court said that was never overturned, never
16 abrogated. It was just that it was so-called, won on the
17 battlefield, which it really wasn't won, because the
18 President gave everybody amnesty, let everybody go. That
19 case right there for the United States Supreme Court said
20 that all of the enslaved African people who was brought over
21 here are nothing but slaves and property.

22 So, we're going to litigate this issue. So, I would
23 ask that your affirmation contain specific findings of fact
24 and conclusions of law with respect to the issue. That's
25 what I'm asking for in order to be able to have a

1 intelligent appeal.

2 THE COURT: I will endeavor to make that happen, Mr.
3 Booker.

4 MR. BOOKER: Very well. Thank you.

5 THE COURT: Yes, sir. Have a nice day.

6 ***END OF REQUESTED TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD)***

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Certificate of Reporter

I, the undersigned, Tara T. Scott, CVR, Official Court Reporter for the Eighth Judicial Circuit of the State of South Carolina, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, accurate, and complete transcript of record of all the proceedings had and evidence introduced in the trial/hearing of the captioned case, relative to appeal, in the Court of Common Pleas for Greenwood County, South Carolina, on the 23rd day of October, 2023.

I do further certify that I am neither of kin, counsel, nor interest to any party hereto.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tara T. Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Tara T. Scott, CVR

Official Court Reporter

April 12, 2024