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SC Court of Appeals

**Gwendolyn Jones Dennis
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April 6, 2022

Matthew A. Williamson
Shuler-Killen Law Firm
1 Law Range, Suite B
Sumter, SC 29150

Re: Mirlene Witherspoon v. Heirs of Thomas Jefferson Witherspoon, et al.
2022-CP-14-00074

Dear Sir,

My name is Gwendolyn Jones Dennis, the grand-daughter of Thomas Jefferson Witherspoon, and I'm speaking on behalf of myself, Mr. Witherspoon's daughter, Kathleen Witherspoon and his great grand-daughter, Nakisha M. Christian.

In response to your certified mail dated March 17, 2022, we are opposed to the suggestion stated in said document to divide the property.

As Ms. Mirlene Benjamin was told in Baltimore, Maryland by the Honorable Kathleen O'Malley, when she attempted to confiscate several properties after one year of marriage to Mr. Witherspoon, she has no say about the property because she is not on the deed. She honestly believes that because she was married to Mr. Witherspoon that she "owns" the land in South Carolina and the real estate in Baltimore.

We here in Baltimore suggest the property be sold and divided amongst those who are on the deed as is. No one other than those should be added because that's not what Mr. Witherspoon wanted.

Furthermore, I, Kathleen nor Nakisha never resided in the state of South Carolina and we weren't aware that we were included in the estate until last year when I received a letter from South Carolina Department of Revenue stating that taxes were owed.

Since I was a very young child, I recall writing checks to Manning, South Carolina for land owned by my great grandfather, William Witherspoon, but I had no idea the origin of the land and how it was passed down to Thomas Witherspoon. I actually thought that the only persons entitled to the land were Thomas Witherspoon and his sister, Pearl, thanks for educating me about my ancestors.

As far as Ms. Mirlene paying the taxes on the land, my grandfather left her very well off where she should have had no problem paying since Mr. Witherspoon was so generous to her. Mr. Witherspoon only left property here in Baltimore; Ms. Mirlene received all monies, including money from a settlement from an automobile accident that resulted in the death of my Grandmother, Connie Witherspoon, Thomas Witherspoon's first wife for over forty years.

Since Ms. Mirlene paid the taxes after my Grandfather's death, and I do believe he truly cared about her, if and when the property is sold, we feel that the settlement should be shared equally by those who are "currently" on the deed and Ms. Mirlene.

I hope this letter is sufficient in how we feel about the situation at hand and we honestly believe this will be the fair thing to do so my Grandfather may rest in peace.

I'm looking forward to your response. Please feel free to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Gwendolyn Jones Dennis

cc: The South Carolina Department of Revenue

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