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Jun 10 2024

SC Court of Appeals

THE STATE of SOUTH CAROLINA
In the Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM CHESTER COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

John C. Hayes, III, Circuit Court
Brian M. Gibbons, Circuit Court Judge
J. Mark Hayes, II, Circuit Court Judge

Appellate Case Nos. 2022-001312 and 2022-001390

Trial Court Case Nos. 2018CP1200117 and 2018CP1200074

Heidi Gersten, Ivanka Ayoub, Daniel Hubbard, Plaintiffs,

Of whom Heidi Gersten is the Appellant,

v.

Kevin Carter, Richard Davis, Joseph Tirbovich, Nationwide Insurance Company, Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Co, John Ammendola, Trustgard Insurance Company, Blackwell, SC Department of Public Safety, Chevrolet, GMC, Unknown John Does, Respondents.

Of whom Kevin Carter is the Respondent.

APPELLANT'S TITLE II of the AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT ("ADA")
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUEST to ACCEPT And GRANT
APPELLANT'S MOTION to Accept as Timely Filed with Leave of Court
the ORIGINAL RECORD on APPEAL And/or FINAL BRIEF

Heidi Gersten, Appellant
All Rights Reserved without Prejudice
1438 W. Lantana Rd. #330
Lantana, FL 33462
323-245-6142
hanginhangout@gmail.com

The Appellant Heidi Gersten (“GERSTEN”) in the above-captioned case, hereby requests this South Carolina Court of Appeals (“Court”), pursuant of/to Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”) Reasonable Accommodation Request, and Rules 240 and 263, SCACR, seeking a grant of her motion for extension of time to serve and file her original record on appeal and/or final brief before or on March 22, 2024.

The reasons for this motion are set forth in the attached memorandum in support.

Respectfully submitted this 21st of February 2024,

_____/S/Heidi Gersten
Heidi Gersten, Appellant, All Rights Reserved
1438 W. Lantana Rd. #330
Lantana, FL 33462
323-245-6142
hanginhangout@gmail.com

MEMORANDUM OF POINTS And AUTHORITIES in SUPPORT of “GERSTEN’S”
TITLE II of the AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT (“ADA”)
REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUEST to ACCEPT And GRANT
APPELLANT’S MOTION to ACCEPT as Timely Filed her SECOND AMENDED
ORIGINAL RECORD on APPEAL And/or FINAL BRIEF

1. On May 29, 2024, this “Court” issued an order stating, “Upon reviewing your record on appeal and motion to allow late filing, the following deficiency or deficiencies have been noted under the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules (SCACR), and any deficiency must be corrected within ten (10) days of the date of this letter or this matter will be dismissed, and your filing will not be considered: The record on. Appeal is improperly paginated. Specifically, the record on appeal did not contain a filing fee. The correct amount is \$50.00”
2. This request and motion are made before the expiration of time permitted under said order.
3. “GERSTEN” is paralyzed disabled as a result of the collision in controversy in this matter which causes her to be substantially limited on one or more of her major life activities and she is now a qualified individual of and protected under the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”). She has no caregiver, personal aid, or assistance to help her with daily functions. She lives under extreme hardship and extraordinary circumstances.
4. A “qualified individual with a disability” is defined as “an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity.” United States v. Georgia, 546 U.S. at 153– 54, 126 S.Ct. 877 (quoting 42 U.S.C. § 12131(2)).
5. Despite the previous, “GERSTEN” has been diligently working on perfecting her appeal as best as she can, while coping with secondary complications of paralysis, such as, an illness of multiple pressure wounds [One of which is located on her left buttocks that prevents her from sitting down for extended periods of time without further injury. (Pictures and video

available upon request; this is an offer of proof of evidence.)); in addition to others; as well as toes that have lost their nailbeds; coupled with managing bowels and incontinence issues that she has no control over. She experiences frequent diarrhea attacks, explosions, and accidents that include multiple unexpected bouts of urination throughout the day, as it takes “GERSTEN” between two to five hours to perform the task of extracting at least one bowel movement daily. Using the digital stimulation technique often leaves her fingers pruned and numb and causes her to feel exhausted afterwards. She changes her diaper multiple times a day. It takes her approximately 52 times longer to perform functions an abled body can do. For these reasons and more, additional time is required for her to file her original record on appeal and/or final brief.

6. “GERSTEN’s” disability of being paralyzed renders her incapable of asserting her claims or defenses in a timely manner. Under South Carolina law, “GERSTEN” is a “vulnerable adult” defined, in part, as a person eighteen years of age or older who has a physical or mental condition which substantially impairs the person from adequately providing for his or her own care or protection.

7. “GERSTEN” has spent much time on this instant appeal producing information which was voluminous and required her to scan thousands of documents, research, and type information into comprehensible and acceptable formats, which is challenging between lacking technological resources and a proper wheelchair to sit in and use, in addition to the litany of other previously stated misfortunes “GERSTEN” lives with, as she navigates through on her journey towards a single step; vindicating her rights in response to her victimization of paralysis and its secondary complications, including, but not limited to, her claims against Respondent Kevin Carter.

8. In addition to “GERSTEN’s” health crisis, she has other court matters in other states with deadlines within proximity of this case here.

9. Public policy advocates for appeals to be tried on their merits and the appellate courts often grant extensions of time at various stages.

10. The Respondent Kevin Carter and other Respondents are not prejudiced.

11. This request and motion are not made for the purposes of delay; rather in the interest and furtherance of justice and to prevent and avoid its miscarriage.

THEREFORE, having shown more than good cause; extraordinary circumstances, and for the previous reasons, the Appellant Heidi Gersten (“GERSTEN”) respectfully requests this “Court” to grant her Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act Reasonable Accommodation Request to accept and grant her motion for extension of time to accept her Second Amended Record on Appeal as timely filed.

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of June 2024,

_____/S/Heidi Gersten_____
Heidi Gersten, Appellant All Rights Reserved
1438 W. Lantana Rd. #330
Lantana, FL 33462
(323) 245-6142
hanginhangout@mail.com

Other Counsel of Record
Wesley Brian Sawyer, Esquire (SC Bar # 100229)
Murphy & Grantland, P.A.
4406-B Forest Drive
Columbia, SC 29206
P.O. Box 6648
Columbia, SC 29260
(803) 782-4100
wsawyer@murphygrantland.com
(Attorney for Respondents Kevin Carter and Richard Davis)

Pamela J. Larson, Esquire
WOMBLE BOND DICKINSON (US) LLP
5 Exchange St.

Charleston, SC 29401-2948
PO Box 999
Charleston, SC 29402
(843) 213-5519
(843) 720-4630
pamela.larson@wbd-us.com
(Attorney for Respondents Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Joseph Tirbovich)

Shelley S. Montague, Esquire
Jessica W. Laffitte, Esquire
Gallivan, White & Boyd, P.A.
P.O. Box 7368
Columbia, SC 29202
smontague@gwblawfirm.com
jlaffitte@gwblawfirm.com
(Attorneys for Respondents Trustgard Insurance Company and John Ammendola)

William H. Davidson, II, Esquire
Davidson, Wren & Plyler, P.A. & DeMasters
P.O. Box 8568
Columbia, SC 29202
wdavidson@dml-law.com
(803)806-8222
(Attorney for Respondents SC Dept. of Public Safety and Herbert Blackwell)

Reynolds Williams
P.O. Box 1909
Florence, SC 29503-1909
(843) 662-3258
reynolds@willcoxlaw.com
(Attorney for Respondent Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club)

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PROOF OR CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that service of a true and accurate copy of the APPELLANT’S TITLE II of the AMERICANS with DISABILITIES ACT (“ADA”) REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION REQUEST to ACCEPT And GRANT APPELLANT’S MOTION for EXTENSION of TIME to SERVE And FILE the ORIGINAL RECORD on APPEAL And/or FINAL BRIEF, and Cover Sheet [Total of 262 Pages including Cover Sheet] in the above-captioned cases was made upon all parties and counsel of record by email on June 10, 2024:

Wesley Brian Sawyer, Esquire
wsawyer@murphygrantland.com
(Attorney for Respondents Kevin Carter and Richard Davis)

Pamela J. Larson, Esquire
Pamela.larson@wbd-us.com
(Attorney for Respondent Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company and Joseph Tirbovich)

Shelley S. Montague, Esquire
Jessica W. Laffitte, Esquire
smontague@gwblawfirm.com
jlaffitte@gwblawfirm.com
(Attorneys for Trustgard Insurance Company and John Ammendola)

William H. Davidson, II, Esquire
wdavidson@dml-law
(Attorney for Respondents SC Dept. of Public Safety and Herbert Blackwell)

Reynolds Williams
reynolds@willcoxlaw.com
(Attorney for Respondent Interinsurance Exchange of the Automobile Club)

Email addresses listed sent by ctappfilings@sccourts.org

jcobb@gwblawfirm.com
pholland@gwblawfirm.com
dblack@murphygrantland.com
thumphries@willcoxlaw.com
carla.cerchione@wbe-us.com
nbouknight@dml-law.com

Respectfully submitted this 10th day of June 2024

 /S/Heidi Gersten
Heidi Gersten, Appellant, All Rights Reserved
1438 W. Lantana Rd. #330
Lantana, FL 33462
(323) 245-6142
hanginhangout@gmail.com

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Lantana, FL 33462
(323) 245-6142
hanginhangout@gmail.com

The Honorable Jenny Abbott Kitchings
Clerk of Court
SC Court of Appeals
1220 Senate St.
Columbia, SC 29301
ctappfilings@sccourts.org

Re: 2022-001312; 2022-001390

APPELLANT'S Title II of the Americans with Disabilities ("ADA") Reasonable Accommodation Request, Motion to Accept as Timely Filed, SECOND AMENDED RECORD on Appeal, Proof or Certificate of Service, and Cover Sheet

Dear Ms. Kitchings and/or to ALL CONCERNED:

Good day to you!

Enclosed for filing, please find a copy of the above stated Appellant's Title II of the "ADA" Reasonable Accommodation Request to grant the said motion to accept as timely filed the Second Amended Record on Appeal, along with its Certificate or Proof of Service. An original of the attached said document with the cover page color per applicable law and/or rules, as requested, will be sent via United States Postal Service regular mail postage prepaid and fixed to the envelope and addressed to this Court at the above stated address on the date of this letter or shortly thereafter, along with a check made payable to "SC Clerk of Court" in the amount of the requested \$50.00.

Please file stamp the documents with today's date of June 10, 2024, place in the court file, and email me a time-stamped copy.

Please call the above number or email me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and assistance regarding this matter.

Kind regards,

___/S/Heidi Gersten_____
Heidi Gersten, Appellant

HG/Enclosures/APPELLANT'S RECORD on APPEAL
Total Pages: 262 including this cover sheet