

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
In The Court of Appeals

APPEAL FROM CHARLESTON COUNTY
Court of Common Pleas

The Honorable
T.J. Rode, Circuit Court Judge

Case No. 2025-CP-10-06746

RECEIVED

AUG 28 2026

SC Court of Appeals

MICHEAL CHRISTOPHER FORD,
Appellant, *pro se*

v.

MILLER, DAWSON, SIGAL & WARD, LLC; RYAN MILLER, ESQ.;
BRANDON DAWSON, ESQ.; RYAN SIGAL, ESQ.; JEFFREY WARD, ESQ.;
AMY MCLAREN, ESQ.; AND PHILLIP ABSHIRE, ESQ.
Respondent(s).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

TO THE RESPONDENTS ABOVE-NAMED AND THEIR ATTORNEYS OF RECORD:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Plaintiff-Appellant, Micheal Christopher Ford, hereby appeals to the South Carolina Court of Appeals from two Orders of the Honorable T.J. Rode, Presiding Judge; the first Order being entered in this action on the 31st day of July 2026 [EXHIBIT "A"] and the second Order being entered in this action on the 21st day of August 2026 [EXHIBIT "B"].

The first Order entered on July 31, 2026, denied without prejudice, Plaintiff-Appellant's Emergency Motion to Adjudicate and/or Quash Attorney's Lien. The second, subsequent Order entered on August 21, 2026, denied Plaintiff-Appellant's timely Motion for Reconsideration of the Circuit Court's previous Order entered on July 31, 2026.

This Notice of Appeal is filed as a protective measure to timely preserve the Appellant's right to appeal the Orders and have the Circuit Court's rulings reviewed by the South Carolina Court of Appeals.

Appellant asserts that the Order entered on July 31, 2026, was the result of a clear error of law and fact; and the result of fraud upon the court, including a Respondent's false affidavit, perjury, and defense counsel's material misrepresentations and false statements intentionally designed to mislead the Circuit Court.

Appellant further asserts that state court proceedings, including the running of appellate deadlines, are stayed pursuant to the automatic stay provisions of 11 U.S.C. § 362, which arose from the Appellant's filing of a Chapter 13 bankruptcy petition on August 7, 2026 (U.S. Bankruptcy Court, D.S.C., Case No. 26-03654).

Furthermore, Appellant asserts that the Order of August 21, 2026, is void *ab initio* as a violation of the automatic stay.

This appeal is taken from orders concerning the validity and enforceability of an attorney's lien asserted by Respondents Miller Dawson, Sigal & Ward, LLC and its attorneys. All other defendants in the underlying action are not parties to this appeal.

Respectfully submitted,



Micheal Christopher Ford, Appellant, pro se

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Date: August , 2026

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 28 day of August 2026, I have served a true and correct copy of the foregoing NOTICE OF APPEAL upon all defense counsel of record in the state court proceeding, and upon the Chapter 13 Trustee, the Office of the United States Trustee, and the Clerk of the Charleston County Court of Common Pleas, by placing the same in the United States Mail, first-class postage prepaid, and addressed as follows:

For the Chapter 13 Trustee:

Trustee: James M. Wyman
P.O. Box 997
Mount Pleasant, SC 29465-0997

For the Court of Common Pleas:

The Honorable Julie J. Armstrong,
Charleston County Clerk of Court
100 Broad Street, Suite 106
Charleston, SC 29401

For Defendant Progressive Direct Insurance Co.:

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For Defendant John Doe:

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For the United States Trustee:

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Strom Thurmond Federal Building
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For Defendant Liberty Surplus Insurance Corp.:

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For the Uber Defendants:

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For the MDS&W, LLC Law Firm Defendants:

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Micheal Christopher Ford

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