

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
)
 COUNTY OF CHARLESTON)
)
 WINDSWEPT VILLAS III HORIZONTAL)
 PROPERTY REGIME)
 Petitioner/ Judgment Creditor,)
)
 vs.)
)
 ELAINE DEVLIN PEERY A/K/A)
 ELAINE D. PEERY,)
)
)
 Respondent/ Judgment Debtor.)

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
 FOR THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
 CASE NO.: 09-CP-10-5799

FILED
 2014 JUN 30 PM 3:14
 JULIE J. ANTONIANG
 CLERK OF COURT

**ORDER ON JUDGMENT
 CREDITOR'S MOTION FOR A RULE
 TO SHOW CAUSE AND ORDER OF
 CONTEMPT**

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JUL 25 2014

SC Court of Appeals

This matter came before me on June 20, 2014. Present were counsel for the Petitioner, Katie Fowler Monoc, Esquire, and counsel for the Respondent, John R. Cantrell, Esquire and Vernee C. Hancock, Esquire. Also present was Lydia P. Davidson, Esquire, who represented Petitioner in the underlying matter.

The Petitioner/Judgment Creditor (hereinafter "Windswept") initiated these Supplemental Proceedings by a Motion to the Court on October 22, 2013 wherein Windswept sought to recover on its judgment against the Respondent/Judgment Debtor (hereinafter "Peery") in the amount of \$27,034.02 plus reasonable attorneys' fees, costs of collection, and interest at the legal rate from March 27, 2012, the date of judgment, until such time that all amounts owed are paid in full. An Order of Reference was executed by The Honorable R. Markley Dennis, Jr. on October 28, 2013 and filed on October 31, 2013. The Order of Reference required Peery to personally appear at the January 13, 2014 hearing on Supplemental Proceedings as well as to provide documents set forth in the Order. Although service had not been effected as of the

January 13, 2014 hearing, Peery's attorney, John Cantrell, Esquire, appeared on her behalf that day.¹ At the hearing, it was determined that the base judgment amount owed by Peery (\$27,034.02) had been identified and was being held in trust for Elaine Peery at the law firm of Thurmond, Kirchner, Timbes & Yelverton, PA. The Court ordered that these Supplemental Proceedings be continued and that those funds held in trust remain in trust subject to this Court's jurisdiction until such further notice and Order from this Court.

Counsel for Windswept then attempted to obtain the discovery ordered in the Court's October 31, 2013 Order to no avail. For this reason, a second hearing on Supplemental Proceedings was held April 21, 2014. Peery was properly noticed yet failed to appear. Because Peery failed to comply with the ordered discovery and failed to appear at Supplemental Proceedings, Windswept filed a Motion for Rule to Show Cause and for an Order of Contempt. Although Counsel for Peery was properly served with Windswept's Motion, Peery was not personally served.

Notwithstanding, this Court has the inherent power to punish for contempt. Such power "is essential to the preservation of order in judicial proceedings, and to the enforcement of the judgments, orders and writs of the courts, and consequently to the due administration of justice." Ex parte Cannon, 385 S.C. 643, 660-61, 685 S.E.2d 814, 824 (Ct. App. 2009).

Contempt results from the willful disobedience of a court order, and before a court may find a person in contempt, the record must clearly and specifically reflect the contemptuous conduct. A willful act is one ... done voluntarily and intentionally with the specific intent to do something the law forbids, or with the specific intent to fail to do something the law requires

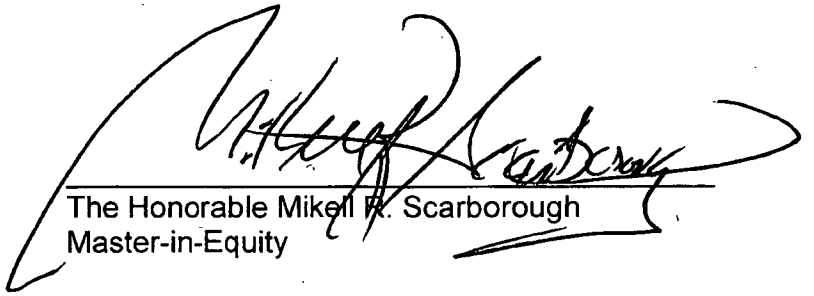
¹ An additional attorney, Vernee Hancock, Esquire, appeared on behalf of Peery on March 20, 2014.

to be done; that is to say, with bad purpose either to disobey or disregard the law.

Id. (internal citations omitted). The record demonstrates that Peery failed to comply with the Court-ordered discovery and failed to personally appear at Supplemental Proceedings to answer questions under oath as ordered by the Court. Nor did she or her counsel cooperate with Windswept's counsel to submit to a deposition. Peery and her counsel specifically failed to do what the law required to be done – namely, to participate in discovery and Supplemental Proceedings. I find that Peery has been on notice of these proceedings and the applicable discovery requests set forth in the Court's October 31, 2013 Order since late 2013 yet has failed to comply with the same and has failed to appear at a single hearing. For these reasons, I find that Peery is in contempt of Court and subject to sanctions; specifically, Peery's contempt provides an additional ground for the Judgment Creditor to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs (previously awarded in this Court's Order on Supplemental Proceedings on other grounds).

An additional hearing on the matter shall be set for August 29, 2014 at 10 a.m. The Judgment Creditor is to personally serve the Judgment Debtor, Elaine Peery, with notice of the August 29, 2014 hearing wherein Peery must show cause as to why she failed to appear at these Supplemental Proceedings and respond to discovery as required by the Court's October 31, 2013 Order. Should Elaine Peery fail to appear at the August 29, 2014 10 a.m. hearing, she will be subject to arrest and imprisonment. The Court will at that time also rule on additional attorneys' fees and costs that may be owed by Peery.

IT IS SO ORDERED!



The Honorable Mikel R. Scarborough
Master-in-Equity

This 26th day of June, 2014
Charleston, South Carolina