

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF CHARLESTON

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CIVIL ACTION NO.: 2018-CP-10-4206

Richard Roe,

Plaintiff,

v.

The Bishop of Charleston, a Corporation Sole,
and the Bishop of the Diocese of Charleston,
in his official capacity,

Defendants.

ORDER

RECEIVED

OCT 18 2019

SC Court of Appeals

THIS MATTER came before the Court on Defendants' Motions for Disqualification of Plaintiff's Counsel, Motion to Dismiss, and Motion for Entry of Confidentiality Order. These motions are **DENIED**.

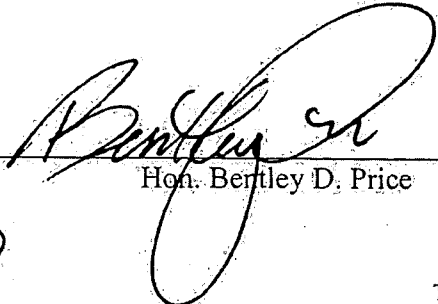
The Court has considered the briefing of the parties, the testimony of Defendant's expert witness, Professor Greg Adams, and the arguments made by the attorneys and, having considered the evidence, rules as follows.:

1. Defendant's Motion to Disqualify is **DENIED**. Parties have the right to select their own counsel, and the Court finds that the Rules of Professional conduct do not prohibit Mr. Richter's undertaking this representation. The Court does not believe Mr. Richter is conflicted in representing both the Plaintiff here and the class of victims. As such, he may continue to represent this Plaintiff.

2. Defendant's Motion for Entry of a Confidentiality Order is likewise **DENIED**. At this point, the Court does not believe an entry of a Confidentiality Order is appropriate.

3. Finally, Defendant provided to the Court for *in camera* review documents bates labeled CONFIDENTIAL ROE (4206) 000001 – 0000787 together with a redaction log reflecting information, such as names of victims of sexual abuse and attorney work product. The Diocese takes the position that these victims, most of whom aired their claims as much as 25 years ago, and who have confidentiality provisions in various settlement agreements, should not have their identities revealed. Additionally, the Diocese contends that South Carolina's courts are protective of victims of sexual abuse and, for that reason also, these victims' identities should remain shielded. Plaintiff's counsel has indicated his belief that other victims may be witnesses with discoverable information and has indicated his intent to contact the other victims and interview them. Having reviewed the redacted documents, the Court **ORDERS** Defendant to produce the documents without redaction of victim names. The only information that may be redacted is that which is attorney/client privileged or attorney work product. All information regarding victims of sexual abuse or potential victims within the document range provided to the Court should be produced to the Plaintiff.

IT IS SO ORDERED.



Hon. Bentley D. Price

BD

13th day of October, 2019
Charleston, South Carolina

Circuit Court Judge

B.P.