No. 6:04cv/14

In The United States District Court Eastern District of Texas Tyler Division

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### Udo Birnbaum Plaintiff

VS.

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#### VERIFIED COMPLAINT

### Hon. Paul Banner

Individually and is his official capacity as judge assigned to the Texas 294<sup>th</sup> District Court of Van Zandt County, Texas

### G. David Westfall

#### **Christina Westfall**

Stefani (Westfall) Podvin Defendants

# **COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY RELIEF**

Plaintiff pro se, Udo Birnbaum ("Birnbaum") hereby files this complaint for

Declaratory Relief from an unlawful unconditional (not coercive) \$62,855

sanction (Exhibit "A"), imposed on him through purely civil process, to punish him

for having made, as a defendant and nearly two years ago, a court pleading under

the anti-racketeering statute, 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c), ("civil RICO").

"In assessing the [\$62,885] <u>sanctions</u>, the Court has taken into consideration that although Mr. Birnbaum may be <u>well-intentioned</u> and may believe that he <u>had</u> some kind of real claim as far as RICO there <u>was</u> nothing presented to the court in any of the proceedings since I've been involved <u>that suggest</u> he <u>had</u> any basis in law or in fact to support his [civil RICO] suits against the individuals<sup>1</sup>". Sanctions hearing July 30, 2002, Exhibit "B", line 5.

All <u>completed</u> acts, making the sanction purely <u>punitive</u>, not "<u>coercive</u>". <u>Due Process</u> issue. Also <u>First</u> <u>Amendment</u> issue (access to the courts). Also, I had asked for trial by <u>jury</u>, NOT weighing of the evidence by the <u>judge</u>. <u>Due Process</u> issue. Detail below.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> My civil RICO claim (as cross and third-party plaintiff, same "enterprise", same "scheme") had been against "the individuals", and "the individuals" <u>only</u>, NOT against their Law Office "enterprise" they were using to sue me.

# JURISDICTIONAL BASIS

1. Plaintiff claims federal jurisdiction pursuant to Article III § 2 which extends the jurisdiction to cases arising under the U.S. Constitution.

Plaintiff brings this suit pursuant to Title 42 U.S. Code 1983 for violations of certain protections guaranteed to him by the First, Fifth, and Fourteenth Amendment of the federal Constitution, by all defendants in concert with Hon.
 Paul Banner under color of law in his capacity as a Texas district judge.

# **PARTIES**

3. Plaintiff pro se Udo Birnbaum ("Birnbaum") is a natural person residing in Van Zandt County, with a mailing address of 540 VZCR 2916, Eustace, Texas 75124.

Birnbaum was the defendant in an underlying suit<sup>2</sup> claiming an unpaid OPEN ACCOUNT for "legal services", where a "The Law Offices of G. David Westfall, P.C." ("Law Office") was suing for an additional \$18,121.10 (in addition to having received a <u>non-refundable</u> prepayment of \$20,000, and the lawyer retainer plainly stating, *"We reserve the right to terminate ..... for ...... Your [Birnbaum] non-payment of fees or costs."* (Clearly NOT an open account!)

Birnbaum can be reached at (903) 479-3929, phone and fax.

4. Defendant **Hon. Paul Banner** ("Judge Banner") is a Texas Senior judge, sitting by special assignment to the 294<sup>th</sup> District Court of Van Zandt County, Texas. He resides at 24599 CR 3107, Gladewater, Texas 75647. He conducts business through the 294<sup>th</sup> District Court, 121 E. Dallas Street, Canton, Texas

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Law Offices of G. David Westfall, P.C. vs. Udo Birnbaum, Texas 294<sup>th</sup> District Court, No. 00-00619

75103. He may also be reached at First Administrative Judicial Region, 133 N. Industrial LB50, Dallas, Texas 75207.

Judge Banner was the trial judge in the underlying proceedings.

5. Defendant attorney **G. David Westfall, deceased (**"Westfall") through "Law Office" was claiming an unpaid OPEN ACCOUNT for legal fees of \$18,121.10 (on top of a non-refundable prepayment of \$20,000.00) supposedly due from Birnbaum for "legal services" in suing then 294<sup>th</sup> district judge, Tommy Wallace, Van Zandt district attorney Leslie Dixon, three more ex district judges, several attorneys, and assorted court personnel, in the Dallas federal court<sup>3</sup> under the anti-racketeering statute ("civil RICO"), in response to a suit in the 294<sup>th</sup> district court against Birnbaum over a BEAVER dam<sup>4</sup>.

6. Defendant **G. David Westfall, deceased** ("David Westfall") was the ONLY attorney and ONLY officer ("director") and ONLY shareholder at the "Law Office".

He still speaks (as does the "Law Office") through attorney Frank C. Fleming, 6611 Hillcrest, PMB 305, Dallas, Texas 75205-1301. Phone (214) 373-1234. Fax (214) 373-3232 or (214) 265-1979.

7. Defendant **Christina Westfall** is the wife of G. David Westfall, and was the bookkeeper at the "Law Office". Judge Banner fined ("sanctioned") Birnbaum \$62,885, to be paid jointly to Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin (below), stating that *"Mr. Birnbaum may be <u>well-intentioned</u> and may believe that he had* 

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Udo Birnbaum v. Richard Ray, et al, Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, No. 3-99CV0696-R

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> William B. Jones v. Udo Birnbaum, Texas 294th District Court of Van Zandt County, No. 95-63

*some kind of real claim as far as RICO"*, but that he did not see the evidence as showing Mr. Birnbaum's civil RICO claim. (Birnbaum had of course asked for determination by jury).

Christina Westfall is still represented in the underlying case by attorney Frank C. Fleming. (See above)

8. Defendant **Stefani [Westfall] Podvin** is the attorney daughter of G. David Westfall, and represents to the Texas Secretary of State that she is the ONLY shareholder of the Law Office PC, and documents show her as appointing G. David Westfall as "director" of the Law Office ten years in a row.

Stefani [Westfall] Podvin is still represented in the underlying case by attorney Frank C. Fleming. (See above)

# **STATEMENT OF CASE**

9. PLAINTIFF The Law Offices of G. David Westfall, P.C. ("Law Office") filed suit<sup>5</sup> against me in the 294th District Court of Van Zandt County, Texas, claiming an UNPAID OPEN ACCOUNT for "legal services" in the amount of \$18,121.10.

10. There of course <u>never was an open account</u>, not with a \$20,000 NON-REFUNDABLE prepayment "for the purpose of <u>insuring our availability</u>", and the lawyer reserving the "right to <u>terminate</u>" for "your [Birnbaum] <u>non-payment</u> of fees or costs".

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Law Offices of G. David Westfall, P.C. v. Udo Birnbaum, 294th District Court of Van Zandt County, Texas, cause no 00-00619

11. What had first brought me into the 294<sup>th</sup> District Court was when I was sued in 1995 over a BEAVER DAM<sup>6</sup>. The \$20,000 prepayment had been for suing then 294<sup>th</sup> district judge Tommy Wallace and other state judges in the Dallas Federal Court<sup>7</sup> for racketeering (18 U.S.C. § 1964(c) "civil RICO") regarding their beaver dam scheme. Then long after I terminated him, Westfall brought this supposed "open account" case, claiming I <u>owed</u> him an additional \$18,121.00.
12. I asserted defenses of FRAUD, and counter-claimed under the Texas Deceptive Trade Practices Act (DTPA), and made cross and third party claims under 18 U.S.C. § 1964(c) ("civil RICO") against three (3) persons associated with the "Law Office" (G. David Westfall, Christina Westfall, and Stefani [Westfall] Podvin, "The Westfalls"), and asked for trial by jury. I also moved for appointment of an auditor per RCP Rule 172 to investigate and report on the alleged OPEN ACCOUNT.

13. Judge Banner DENIED my motion for an <u>auditor</u> (Exhibit C, page 2),
DENIED my evidence (Exhibit C), ruled <u>summary judgment</u> (Exhibit D) on my
civil RICO claim, DENIED my DTPA jury question of <u>no-worth</u> (judges are
immune from liability, the suit against the judges had no worth!), DENIED my
jury question of <u>excused</u>, because the lawyer had not done what he had promised <sup>8</sup>.
14. Then, THREE months AFTER the trial, Judge Banner comes back <sup>9</sup> <u>again</u> to
weigh my civil RICO case (I of course had asked for weighing by JURY), and
FINES me \$62,885 (Exhibit A) for having made such claim TWO years earlier

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> William B. Jones v. Udo Birnbaum, No. 95-63, 294<sup>th</sup> District Court of Van Zandt County, 1995. Case still active.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Udo Birnbaum v. Richard L. Ray, et al, No. 3:99-CV-0696-R, Dallas Federal Court, 1999.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> I asked for the **excused** issue to the jury when the lawyer framed his jury issues as a <u>breach of contract</u>, which he of course <u>had not even pleaded!</u>)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> The first time he <u>weighed</u> it was when he granted summary judgment against my civil RICO claim (Exhibit D)

(having long ago granted summary judgment on it), stating (Exhibit "B", page 7, line 5) that I may have been "well-intentioned", just that <u>he did not see a civil</u> **RICO case**:

"Mr. Birnbaum may be <u>well-intentioned</u> and may believe that he had some kind of real claim as far as RICO there was nothing presented to the court in any of the proceedings since I've been involved that suggest he had any basis in law or in fact to support his [civil RICO] suits against the individuals<sup>10</sup>". (all completed acts, making the sanction purely punitive, not "coercive") Sanctions hearing July 30, 2000 (Exhibit "B", page 7, line 5)

\* \* \* \* \*

For those not real familiar "with civil RICO", some key law:

"It shall be unlawful for any person employed by or associated with any enterprise engaged in, or the activities of which affect, interstate or foreign commerce, to conduct or participate, directly or indirectly, in the conduct of such enterprise's affairs through a pattern of racketeering activity or collection of unlawful debt." <u>18</u> <u>U.S.C. § 1962(c)</u> (Part of 18 U.S.C. § 1961 et seq. "RICO")

"Any person injured in his business or property by reason of a violation of section 1962 of this chapter may sue therefor in any appropriate United States district court and shall recover threefold the damages he sustains and the cost of the suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee." <u>18 U.S.C. § 1964(c)</u> "civil RICO"

Note: State courts have concurrent jurisdiction to consider civil claims arising under RICO. <u>Tafflin v. Levitt, 493 U.S. 455 (1990)</u>. U.S. SUPREME COURT

Sec. 1341. - Frauds and swindles: <u>Whoever</u>, having devised or intending to devise any <u>scheme or artifice to defraud</u> ..... <u>places in any post office</u> or authorized depository for mail matter, <u>any matter or thing whatever</u> to be sent or delivered by the Postal Service ... ... <u>or takes or receives therefrom</u> ... ... shall be fined not more than \$1,000,000 or imprisoned not more than 30 years, or both. <u>18 U.S.C. §1341</u> (mail fraud)

Definition: "For the purposes of this chapter, the term "<u>scheme or artifice to defraud</u>" includes <u>a scheme or artifice to **deprive** another of the intangible right of honest</u> <u>services</u>". <u>18 U.S.C. § 1346</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> My civil RICO suit had been against "the individuals", and "the individuals" ONLY, not against "Law Office".

"There are three essential elements in a private action under this chapter: <u>a</u> violation of this chapter; direct injury to plaintiffs from such a violation; and <u>damages</u> sustained by plaintiffs." <u>Wilcox Development Co. v. First Interstate Bank</u> of Oregon, N.A., D.C.Or. 1983, 97 F.R.D. 440.

"Congress did not limit scope of this chapter to those persons involved in what traditionally has been thought of as "organized crime," but, rather, **any\_"person"** as term is broadly defined in this chapter, whether associated with organized crime or not, can commit violation, and **any person injured** in his business or property by such violation may then sue violator for damages in federal court." *Lode v. Leonardo*, D.C.Ill.1982, 557 F.Supp. 675.

"Material issues of genuine fact existed with respect to existence of an enterprise as defined by this chapter, association of defendant printing company with such enterprise, association of the alleged enterprise with organized criminal activity, the intent and knowledge of defendant concerning the underlying predicate acts and the existence of injury caused by alleged violation of this chapter, <u>precluding</u> <u>summary judgment</u> in favor of defendant in action alleging the kickback scheme. <u>Estee Lauder, Inc. v. Harco Graphics, Inc., D.C.N.Y.1983, 558 F.Supp.83.</u>

"[A] Congressional objective [in enacting civil RICO with treble damages] of encouraging civil litigation not merely to compensate victims but also to turn them into private attorneys general, supplementing Government efforts by <u>undertaking</u> <u>litigation in the public good</u>". <u>Rotella v. Wood et al.</u>, 528 U.S. 549 (2000) U.S. SUPREME COURT

\* \* \* \* \*

# THE \$62,255.00 "SANCTION" JUDGMENT IS UNLAWFUL

The sanction is CRIMINAL in nature, for it is for a COMPLETED act (for making a civil RICO defense and claim TWO years earlier)

15. First, this sanction is patently UNLAWFUL because it is not a <u>civil</u> sanction at all, but a CRIMINAL sanction, imposed on me <u>without full due criminal</u> process, including a finding beyond a reasonable doubt:

Whether a contempt is <u>civil</u> or <u>criminal</u> turns on the "character and <u>purpose</u>" of the <u>sanction</u> involved. Thus, a contempt <u>sanction</u> is considered <u>civil</u> if it "is <u>remedial</u>, and for the benefit of the complainant. But if it is for <u>criminal</u> contempt the sentence is <u>punitive</u>, to <u>vindicate the authority of the court</u>. **U.S. Supreme Court** in <u>United Mine Workers v</u>. Bagwell, 512 U.S. 821 (1994)

The distinction between <u>civil</u> and <u>criminal</u> contempt has been explained as follows: The purpose of <u>civil contempt</u> is <u>remedial</u> and <u>coercive</u> in nature. A judgment of <u>civil</u> contempt exerts the judicial authority of the court to <u>persuade</u> the contemnor <u>to obey</u> some order of the court where such <u>obedience</u> will benefit an opposing litigant. Imprisonment is conditional upon obedience and therefore the <u>civil contempt when one</u> may procure his release by compliance with the provisions of the order of the court. Criminal contempt on the other hand is <u>punitive</u> in nature. The sentence is not conditioned upon some promise of future performance because the contemnor is being <u>punished</u> for some <u>completed act</u> which <u>affronted</u> the dignity and authority of the court. The **Texas Court of Criminal Appeals**, No. 73,986 (June 5, 2002)

16. <u>So what had I done</u>? There was never a warning. The sanction <u>Order</u> (Exhibit "A") does not even <u>hint</u> at wrongs (details below). RCP Rule 13 of course <u>prohibits</u> sanctions *"except for good cause, the <u>particulars</u> of which <u>must</u> be stated in the sanction order". The only clue comes from the transcript of the sanctions hearing<sup>11</sup> at which the trial judge certainly made no finding of "bad faith":* 

"In assessing the sanctions, the Court has taken into consideration that although Mr. Birnbaum may be <u>well-intentioned</u> and may believe that he <u>had</u> some kind of real claim as far <u>as RICO</u> there <u>was</u> nothing presented to the court in any of the proceedings since I've been involved that suggest he <u>had</u> any basis

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Transcript of 7-30-02 "frivolous lawsuit" sanction hearing. (Exhibit B, "page 7" lines 5 through 12)

<u>in law or in fact</u> to support his suits against the individuals<sup>12</sup>, and I think -- can find that such sanctions as I've determined are appropriate." Sanctions hearing, Exhibit "B", page 7, line 5.

17. The answer is that I was <u>sanctioned</u> because I "<u>had</u>" made a <u>civil RICO</u> <u>counterclaim</u> in the case TWO years ago, a long ago <u>completed</u> act, that somehow now suddenly "<u>affronted</u>" the judge, making the sanction a CRIMINAL sanction, imposed on me without full criminal process. (Note: They file counterclaims all the time, but not <u>civil RICO</u>. I was the <u>first</u>.)

18. Without "any basis in law or in fact"? Then why did the trial judge not dismiss on the pleadings instead of granting summary judgment by weighing the evidence? ("nothing ... involved that suggests") And is not civil RICO the law? And Judge Banner is again weighing the evidence at the sanction hearing! His belief that I may be "well-intentioned" and "may believe that he [Birnbaum] had some kind of real claim" surely did not weigh on Judge Banner heavily as he assessed sanctions of \$62,885.00 on the "frivolous v. racketeering" issue, an issue I had asked to be determined by jury.<sup>13</sup> And appointing an auditor under RCP Rule 172 surely would have determined early on whether Birnbaum or David Westfall was the one who was acting in "bad faith".

- 19. Rule 13, Rules of Civil Procedure, states:
   "Courts <u>shall</u> presume that pleadings, motions, and other papers are filed in good faith. No sanctions under this rule may be imposed except for good cause, <u>the particulars</u> of which must be stated in the sanction order."
- 20. So what particulars does the "Sanction Order" state? NOTHING!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> My civil RICO claim (as cross and third-party plaintiff, same "enterprise", same "scheme") had been against "the individuals", and "the individuals" <u>only</u>, NOT against their Law Office "enterprise" they were using to sue me.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> My civil RICO claim. All civil RICO defendants of course always cry "frivolous".

"Based upon the pleadings of the parties, the evidence presented at trial and the evidence presented at the sanctions hearing and the arguments of counsel and by the pro se defendant, the Court is of the opinion that the Movants, Christina Westfall and Stefani Westfall are entitled to prevail on their claim for sanctions against the Defendant, Udo Birnbaum." NOTHING MORE!<sup>14</sup> NOTHING!

20. My *Motion to Reconsider* showed that the Westfalls had <u>no standing</u> on the date they <u>moved</u> for "frivolous lawsuit sanction", and had <u>no standing</u> in the trial court to get anything other than <u>what they already got</u> when they were granted summary judgment! That <u>I did not bring this suit</u>. That the court was required to appoint an auditor. That I am entitled to free speech (my claim in court) on an <u>issue of great public importance</u>, i.e. the Westfalls' abuse of the judicial system. That civil RICO defendants <u>always</u> claim "frivolous".

21. That I had cried for the trial judge to call on the U.S. Justice Department. That the trial judge was no more entitled to <u>weigh the evidence</u> to make a finding that there was <u>no</u> RICO violation, and sanction me, than he was entitled to find that there <u>was</u> a RICO violation, and throw the Westfalls in jail. Hence my call for the U.S. Justice Department.

22. My *Request for Findings* asked Judge Banner to please put down on paper, per RCP Rule 296, just <u>exactly what he found</u> that I did <u>that was so wrong</u> to incur a \$62,885.00 sanction. I asked the judge to reduce to writing just how he arrived at his version of the "frivolous" vs. "bona-fide racketeering" issue. I asked him to rule specifically on the "sanctionable facts" in the Westfalls' motion for sanctions. I pleaded with the judge that this was the <u>second</u> suit in which I had been run over by lawyers and judges in this trial court, that I had become the victim of Official Oppression for having spoken out on corruption in this court. I pleaded with him that I did not bring this suit, and that I did not bring the other one either.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Order On Motions For Sanctions, Exhibit A, page 1, near bottom of first page

23. The record is replete with the trial judge letting the Westfalls run amuck. Again and again they obstructed discovery, moved for unwarranted sanctions against me, and the trial judge did <u>nothing</u> except let the clock tick and the Westfalls run up "legal fees". It is elementary that had the Court duly appointed an Auditor this whole case would not have expanded as it did.

24. How could the Court now suddenly find that the <u>RICO issue</u>, on which it had allowed and <u>ordered discovery</u> (Appendix E, handwritten by judge Banner), now suddenly was so frivolous, when the Court, upon hearing, had <u>ordered the discovery</u>?

25. Also, Rule 13 requires the trial court to examine the <u>acts or omissions of a</u> <u>party</u> or counsel, <u>not the legal merit</u> of a party's pleadings. *McCain*, 856 S.W.2d at 757. As quoted in *Rawles v. Builders Structural Services*, Texas 5th No. 05-96-00467-cv.

26. I never disobeyed any order, for there were none, and as judge Banner himself said, I was "well-intentioned", just that he did not see a civil RICO case, and <u>punished</u> me \$62,855 for having made a civil RICO claim!

27. The sanction is CRIMINAL in nature, for it is for a COMPLETED act, namely for making a civil RICO defense and claim TWO years ago. It is patently UNLAWFUL because it was imposed on me <u>without full due criminal</u> <u>process</u>, including a finding beyond a reasonable doubt.

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# <u>COUNT I</u>

# Claim for Deprivation of First Amendment Right Of Speech and Confrontation without Fear of Oppression And Retaliation Under Color of Official Right

28. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 27 as if fully stated herein.

29. The \$62,855 sanction imposed on Birnbaum is a deprivation of his First

#### Amendment Right:

"It was, however, clearly established that <u>filing a lawsuit</u> was <u>constitutionally protected</u> <u>conduct</u>. See Milhouse v. Carlson, 652 F.2 d 371, 37 3-74 (3d C ir. 1981); see also California Motor Transport Co. v. Trucking Unlimited, 404 U.S. 508, 510 (1972) (access to courts is one aspect of the First Amendment right to petition the government for grievances). Moreover, it was also clearly established that the government cannot retaliate against someone for engaging in constitutionally protected activity in a way that would chill a reasonable person in the exercise of the constitutional right. See *Rutan v. Republican Party of Illinois.*", 497 U.S. 62, 73, 76 n.8 (1990). U.S. SUPREME COURT

## COUNT II

Claim for Deprivation of Fifth Amendment Right to Due Process

30. Plaintiff realleges paragraphs 1 through 27 as if fully stated herein.

31. The \$62,855 sanction imposed on Birnbaum is a deprivation of his Fifth Amendment Right to due process. <u>Punishment</u>, no matter how designated, of course requires <u>full criminal process</u>, including a finding of "beyond a reasonable doubt". It also does not matter how Judge Banner got there, this sanction is <u>unlawful</u> by <u>civil</u> process.

"These distinctions lead to the fundamental proposition that <u>criminal penalties</u> may not be imposed on someone who has not been afforded the protections that the **Constitution** requires of criminal proceedings, including the requirement that the offense be proved beyond a reasonable doubt." Pp. 631-635. *Hicks v. Feiock*, 485 U.S. 624 (1988) (emphasis added) U.S. SUPREME COURT

# <u>PRAYER</u>

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this court:

(a) declare that the \$62,855 Order on Motion for Sanctions is contrary to law;

(b) direct that Judge Banner conform to such declaration within 30 days by rescinding the Order;

(c) retain jurisdiction over this action in the event that Judge Banner fails to conform with such declaration;

(d) issue other relief as this Court deems appropriate and just.

Respectfully submitted,

Aldo Bornbaum

UDO BIRNBAUM, pro se 540 VZCR 2916 Eustace, Texas 75124 (903) 479-3929

#### VERIFICATION

#### STATE OF TEXAS COUNTY OF VAN ZANDT

Before me, a notary public, on this day personally appeared Udo Birnbaum, known to me to be the person whose name is subscribed to above, and being by me first duly sworn, declared that all the statements in the above complaint are true and correct to the best of his ability, and that the attached exhibits are true and correct copies of the originals (except for obvious mark-ups).

<u>o Bernbaum</u>



Given under my hand and seal of office this 19 day of March, 2004

Notary in and for The State of Texas

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RT

I certify this to be a t and exact copy of th original on file in the District Clerk's Offic Van Zandt County, Tex Candi Sort

### THE LAW OFFICES OF G. DAVID WESTFALL, P.C.

Plaintiff

v.

**UDO BIRNBAUM** 

**Defendant/Counter-Plaintiff** G. David Westfall, Christina Westfall, and§ Stefani Podvin,

**Counter-Defendants** 

### 294<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

# VAN ZANDT COUNTY, TEXAS

#### **ORDER ON MOTIONS FOR SANCTIONS**

No. 00-00619

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On July 30, 2002, came on to be heard, Motions for Sanctions filed by G. David Westfall Christina Westfall, and Stefani Podvin, as well as to be heard Motions for Sanctions filed by Udo Birnbaum. The plaintiff, The Law Office of G. David Westfall, P.C. (the "Plaintiff"), appeared in person by representative and by attorney of record. The defendant, Udo Birnbaum, appeared in person. pro se. The counter-defendant, G. David Westfall, appeared by representative and by attorney of record. The counter-defendants, Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin appeared in person and by attorney of record. All parties announced ready for a hearing on all the pending motions for sanctions currently on file in this matter at the time of the hearing.

Based upon the pleadings of the parties, the evidence presented at trial and the evidence presented at the sanctions hearing, and the arguments of counsel and by the pro se defendant, the Court is of the opinion that the Movants, Christina Westfall and Stefani Westfall are entitled to prevail on their claim for sanctions against the Defendant, Udo Birnbaum.

156/83

Exhibit

**Order on Sanctions** PAGE 1 of 2

westfall/udo/pleadings/order on sanctions

It is therefore, **ORDERED**, **ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** that the Counter-Defendants, Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin are awarded damages as a sanction against and to be paid by defendant, Udo Birnbaum, to Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin as follows:

A. Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin are awarded jointly and severally the amount of \$50,085.00 as reimbursement for their joint attorney's fees.

**B.** Christina Westfall is awarded actual damages for her personal inconvenience in the amount of \$1,000.00, and she is further awarded punitive damages for the harassment caused to her in the amount of \$5,000.00.

C. Stefani Podvin is awarded actual damages for her personal inconvenience in the amount of \$1,800.00, and she is further awarded punitive damages for the harassment caused to her in the amount of \$5,000.00.

**D.** The Court denies the request for a finding of any sanctions to be awarded in favor of G. David Westfall, individually.

E. The Court denies the request for a finding of any sanctions to be awarded in favor of Udo Birnbaum.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the judgment here rendered shall bear interest at the rate of ten percent (10%) from July 30, 2002, until paid.

All other relief regarding any motions for sanctions on file in this matter not expressly granted in this order is hereby denied.

THIS JUDGMENT RENDERED ON JULY 30, 2002, AND SIGNED 771 day 2002. of

JUDGE PRESIDING

Order on Sanctions PAGE 2 of 2 damages, \$5,000.00 in punitive and the joint and several \$50,085.00 in attorneys' fees. Mr. Birnbaum's sanctions as against Mr. Fleming or against the P.C. is denied and nothing is ordered.

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In assessing the sanctions, the Court has taken into consideration that although Mr. Birnbaum may be well-intentioned and may believe that he had some kind of real claim as far as <u>RICO</u> there was nothing presented to the court in any of the proceedings since I've been involved that suggest he had any basis in <u>law or</u> in <u>fact</u> to support his suits against the individuals, and I think -- can find that such sanctions as I've determined are appropriate. And if you will provide me with an appropriate sanctions order, I will reflect it.

Now, as far as relief for sanctions on behalf of Mr. Westfall, individually, that is specifically denied. Any relief sought by any party by way of sanctions which have not been specifically addressed either by the granting or the denial of same -- such is denied. Okay. How soon can I expect an order because

I gather this matter will go up to whatever appropriate appeals court for review?

MR. FLEMING: I will give Mr. Birnbaum the statutory three days. I'll submit it to him. And if I don't hear back from him, I'll submit it to you after. \$62,000 punishment for well-intentioned? Unconditional - makes if Criminal burnishment?

Excerpt from Hearing Held 7-30-02

7

Exhibit B

Now, I am told that this Court 1 THE COURT: should not engage in the discussion of why the Court did or 2 didn't do something. The testimony, as I recall before the 3 jury, absolutely was that Mr. Birnbaum entered into a 4 contract, which the signature is referred to, agreed that he 5 would owe some money that -- for attorneys' fees. 6 Mr. Westfall, on behalf of the P.C., testified to the same. 7 There was no dispute as to the contract or its terms. 8 What was in dispute is whether or not Mr. Westfall's P.C. would 9 have been entitled to any residual amount. That's what was 10 submitted to the jury. The jury resolved that issue and 11 found a figure. And therefore, I think what was submitted to 12 the jury is appropriate and subject to review. And that's 13 it. This Court stands in recess. 14 MR. FLEMING: Thank you, Your Honor. 15 16 was not submitted to the jury No! 17 18 Jury guestions souvaled in breach of contract. 19 20 (Not pleaded, Not proved ) Judge did not allow my "excused" ime that HE hed not live 21 to any agreement? 22 Department of 23 24 25 Excerpt from Hearing Held 7-30-02

8

No. 00-00619 THE LAW OFFICES OF IN THE DISTRICT X G. DAVID WESTFAL )( 294<sup>th</sup> VS. JUDICIA **UDO BIRNBAUM** VAN ZANDT COUNTY CORETRIAL ORDER ANDT

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001 came on to be heard the above-styled and numbered cause for various matters and motions pending for pretrial. All parties appeared either in person or by and through their attorney of record and announced ready to proceed.

The court proceeded to first hear the objections of The Law Offices of G. David Westfall,

P.C., G. David Westfall, Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin's to the summary judgment

evidence of Udo Birnbaum. The court was of the opinion that the objections were well founded

and should be in all things sustained.

### IT IS ACCORDINGLY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that:

- (1) objections 1-10 of the Law Offices of G. David Westfall, P.C. objections to summary judgment evidence of Udo Birnbaum be sustained;
- (2) objections 1-24 of G. David Westfall's objections to summary judgment evidence of Udo Birnbaum be in all things sustained;
- (3) objections 1-23 of Christina Westall's objections to summary judgment evidence of Udo Birnbaum be in all things sustained; and
- (4) objections 1-23 of Stefani Podvin's objections to summary judgment evidence of Udo Birnbam be in all things sustained.

### IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Udo Birnbaum's

Motion to Compel Depositions be in all things denied.

see page 2 for Motion to appoint under RCR Rule 172 uditer PreTrial Order - 1

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that Udo Birnbaum's

Motion for Appointment of Auditor is in all things denied.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that G. David Westfall's

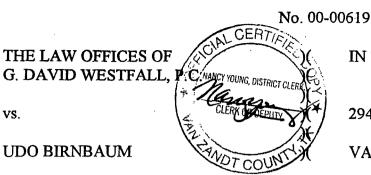
Objections to Defendant's First Set of Interrogatories Nos. 5, 6, and 7 be in all things sustained

and that the objection to Interrogatory No. 14 be in all things overruled.

day of November SIGNED this the 2001

JUDGE PRESIDING

PAUL BANNER SENIOR JUDGE 196TH DISTRICT COURT SITTING BY ASSIGNMENT



IN THE DISTRICT COURT

294<sup>th</sup> JUDICIAL DISTRICT

VAN ZANDT COUNTY, TEXAS

### **ORDER SUSTAINING MOTIONS FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> day of September 2001 came on to be heard the Motions for Summary Judgment of The Law Offices of G. David Westfall, P.C. G. David Westfall, Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin in the above-styled and numbered cause. The court having read the Motions together with the responses thereto, having ruled on the objections to the summary judgment evidence and having heard the argument of counsel and of the pro se parties is of the opinion that the Motions are well taken and should be in all things granted.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED and DECREED that the Motions for

Summary Judgment of The Law Offices of G. David Westfall, P.C. be sustained as to RICO claims and that the Motion for Summary judgment of G. David Westfall be in all things sustained and that the Motions for Summary Judgment of Christina Westfall and Stefani Podvin be in all

things sustained.

VS.

SIGNED this the 3 day of Nove 2001

JUDGE PRESÍDING

PAUL BANNER SENIOR JUDGE **196TH DISTRICT COURT** SITTING BY ASSIGNMENT

Exhibit D

OrderSustaining Motions for Summary Judgment - 1

FROM : FAX NO. : 9034793929 Jun. 27 2001 04:28PM P4 903-479-3929 FAN west fall instfell -741-4746 7-6 Pep-DL 7-6 Pep-DL 214373-3232 - Q westful .93 OPC " Westfull 930 Darith 7-- 2-0 -@ (a)( 9<sup>3</sup>/<sup>0</sup> (2) w: 7 7-2 Mid Keg 8ms 8-17 9-5-Pl Plud MST Hairs 9-7 14- Dy Pl C 10-1 PT 12 ~ -2na -----Exhibit . . .

#### WAIVER OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

TO:

Udo Birnbaum

(NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY OR UNREPRESENTED PLAINTIFF)

I, PAUL BANNER, ackin (DEFENDANT NAME)

, acknowledge receipt of your request

that I waive service of summons in the action of Uclo Birnbaum v. Paul Banner et al , (CAPTION OF ACTION) which is case number 6:04 cv 114 (DOCKET NUMBER) in the United States District Court District of Texas, Tyler Division Eastern for the

I have also received a copy of the complaint in the action, two copies of this instrument, and a means by which I can return the signed waiver to you without cost to me.

I agree to save the cost of service of a summons and an additional copy of the complaint in this lawsuit by not requiring that I (or the entity on whose behalf I am acting) be served with judicial process in the manner provided by Rule 4.

I (or the entity on whose behalf I am acting) will retain all defenses or objections to the lawsuit or to the jurisdiction or venue of the court except for objections based on a defect in the summons or in the service of the summons.

I understand that a judgment may be entered against me (or the party on whose behalf I am acting) if an answer or motion under Rule 12 is not served upon you within 60 days after Mar. 29, 2009, (DATE REQUEST WAS SENT)

or within 90 days after that date if the request was sent outside the United States.

LZU (SIGNATURE) MAY 10, 2004 (DATE) M CANCE ORTOJ Printed/Typed Name: As AITORNEM of DEFENDANT RANNER (TITLE) (CORPORATE DEFENDANT)

#### Duty to Avoid Unnecessary Costs of Service of Summons

Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires certain parties to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and complaint. A defendant located in the United States who, after being notified of an action and asked by a plaintiff located in the United States to waive service of summons, fails to do so will be required to bear the cost of such service unless good cause be shown for its failure to sign and return the waiver.

It is not good cause for a failure to waive service that a party believes that the complaint is unfounded, or that the action has been brought in an improper place or in a court that lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action or over its person or property. A party who waives service of the summons retains all defenses and objections (except any relating to the summons or to the service of the summons), and may later object to the jurisdiction of the court or to the place where the action has been brought.

A defendant who waives service must within the time specified on the waiver form serve on the plaintiff's attorney (or unrepresented plaintiff) a response to the complaint and must also file a signed copy of the response with the court. If the answer or motion is not served within this time, a default judgment may be taken against that defendant. By waiving service, a defendant is allowed more time to answer than if the summons had been actually served when the request for waiver of service was received.

#### WAIVER OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

TO: Uclo Binbaum	
I, Christing Westfall	KI) PLAINEFF)
I, <u>CHRISTING</u> Westtell	, acknowledge receipt of your request
that I waive service of summons in the action of Birubauw	v. Baunev et al
which is case number <u>6:04cu(14</u>	(CAPTION OF ACTION) in the United States District Court
for the Eastery District of Tex	

I have also received a copy of the complaint in the action, two copies of this instrument, and a means by which I can return the signed waiver to you without cost to me.

I agree to save the cost of service of a summons and an additional copy of the complaint in this lawsuit by not requiring that I (or the entity on whose behalf I am acting) be served with judicial process in the manner provided by Rule 4.

I (or the entity on whose behalf I am acting) will retain all defenses or objections to the lawsuit or to the jurisdiction or venue of the court except for objections based on a defect in the summons or in the service of the summons.

I understand that a judgment may be entered against me (or the party on whose behalf I am acting) if an

answer or motion under Rule 12 is not served upon you within 60 days after

Mav. 26, 2004 (DATE REQUEST WAS SENT)

or within 90 days after that date if the request was sent outside the United States.

4.2604	Ohr	istina Wie	stril
(DATE)		(SIGNATURE)	( ) $( )$
	Printed/Typed Name:	Christina	tte-stall
	As	lo	4
		TTLD	(CORPORATE DEPENDANT)

#### Duty to Avoid Unnecessary Costs of Service of Summons

Rule 4 of the Foderal Rules of Civil Proceeders contains catterin parties to cooperate in saving unconstanty cases of astrice of the management and complaint. A defendant located in the United States who, after being matified of an action and asked by a plaintiff located in the United States to waive service of summonts, fails to the cost of such service unless good cause be shown for its failure to sign and remay the waiver.

h is not good cause for a failure to wrive service that a party believes that the completial is enfounded, or that the school has been brought in an improper place or to a count that leaks jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action or over its person or property. A party who warves service of the summons remains all defenses and objections (except any relating to the summons or to the service of the summons), and many later object to the jurisdiction of the court or the place where the action has been brought.

A defendent who waives service must within the time specified on the waiver form serve on the plaintiff's stormey (or comparisoned plaintiff) a response to the complaint and runst also file a signed copy of the response with the court. If the same or motion is not served within this time, a default judgment may be taken against that defendent. By waiving service, a defendant is allowed more time to answer than if the same had been actually reveal when the request for waiver of service was received.

NAO 399

(Tur, 10/95)

Mar. 26 2004,

#### WAIVER OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS

TO:	Ucle Bivnbaum	
_	(NAME OF PLAI	AINTIFF'S ATTORNEY OR UNREPRESENTED PLAINTIFF)
I,	Stefaui Podving	e, acknowledge receipt of your request
that I w	raive service of summons in the action of	Birubulli V. Baunevelal,
which i	s case number <u>6:04CU(14</u>	in the United States District Court
		CT
for the	Izastevia	District of / 2X QCS

I have also received a copy of the complaint in the action, two copies of this instrument, and a means by which I can return the signed waiver to you without cost to me.

I agree to save the cost of service of a summons and an additional copy of the complaint in this lawsuit by not requiring that I (or the entity on whose behalf I am acting) be served with judicial process in the manner provided by Rule 4.

I (or the entity on whose behalf I am acting) will retain all defenses or objections to the lawsuit or to the jurisdiction or venue of the court except for objections based on a defect in the summons or in the service of the summons.

I understand that a judgment may be entered against me (or the party on whose behalf I am acting) if an

answer or motion under Rule 12 is not served upon you within 60 days after

or within 90 days after that date if the request was sent outside the United States.

4-26-04	Stepane Podvin			
(DATE)	Printed/Typed Name:	(signature) STEFANI	PODVIN	
	As(TTTLE)	of	(CORPORATE DEFENDANT)	

#### Duty to Avoid Unnecessary Costs of Service of Summons

Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires certain parties to cooperate in saving unnecessary costs of service of the summons and complaint. A defendant located in the United States who, after being notified of an action and asked by a plaintiff located in the United States to waive service of summons, fails to do so will be required to bear the cost of such service unless good cause be shown for its failure to sign and return the waiver.

It is not good cause for a failure to waive service that a party believes that the complaint is unfounded, or that the action has been brought in an improper place or in a court that lacks jurisdiction over the subject matter of the action or over its person or property. A party who waives service of the summons retains all defenses and objections (except any relating to the summons or to the service of the summons), and may later object to the jurisdiction of the court or to the place where me action has been brought.

A defendant who waives service must within the time specified on the waiver form serve on the plaintiff's attorney (or unrepresented plaintiff) a response to the complaint and must also file a signed copy of the response with the court. If the answer or motion is not served within this time, a default judgment may be taken against that defendant. By waiving service, a defendant is allowed more time to answer than if the summons had been actually served when the request for waiver of service was received.

#### ∞JS 44 (Rev. 3/99)

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### **CIVIL COVER SHEET**

The JS-44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

	(a) PLAINTIFFS				DEFENDAN	•	
Birnbaum, Udo H.			Banner, Paul				
•	(b) County of Residence of (EX	First Listed Plaintiff Va CEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF	n Zandt	Tex	NOTE: IN LANI	ce of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASE O CONDEMNATION CASES. US NVOLVED.	
-	(c) Attorney S (Firm Name Uclo Bivy EUSTACE, 9	ibaum, S	140 VECK 203) 479-		3	w <b>д</b> }	
-	II. BASIS OF JURISD	PICTION (Place an "X"	în One Box Only)		TIZENSHIP OF P Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL PARTIES	(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)
	I U.S. Government Plaintiff	Federal Question (U.S. Governme	ent Not a Party)		en of This State		PTF DEF Principal Place 4 4
	2 U.S. Government Defendant	☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citiza in Item III)	enship of Parties	Citiz	en of Another State		Principal Place 5 5 Another State
		,		1	en or Subject of a 🛛 🗍	3 3 Foreign Nation	06 06
	IV. NATURE OF SUT			<u> </u>		·	T
	CONTRACT          110 Insurance         120 Marine         130 Miller Act         140 Negotiable Instrument	PERSONAL INJURY PERSONAL INJU 310 Airplane 362 Personal Injury- t 315 Airplane Product Med. Malpractic le Instrument Liability 365 Personal Injury-	t¥ [] - [] - []	<ul> <li>620 Other Food &amp; Drug</li> <li>625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881</li> </ul>	BANKRUPTCY           422 Appeal 28 USC 158           423 Withdrawal           28 USC 157	OTHER STATUTES  400 State Reapportionment 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking 450 Commerce/ICC Rates/etc.	
	150 Recovery of Overpayment     & Enforcement of Judgment	320 Assault, Libel & Slander	Product Lizbility 368 Asbestos Persons	1	630 Liquor Laws 640 R.R. & Track	PROPERTY RIGHTS	460 Deportation 470 Racketeer Influenced and
đ	]     151 Medicare Act     []     330 Federal Employers'     Inj       []     152 Recovery of Defaulted     Liability     Lis       Student Loans     []     340 Marine     PERSON       (Excl. Veterans)     []     345 Marine Product     []     370 Oct	Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY	650 Airline Regs. 660 Occupational Safety/Health 690 Other	820 Copyrights     330 Patent     840 Trademark	Corrupt Organizations Bill Selective Service Sto Securities/Commodities/ Exchange 875 Customer Challenge		
	of Veteran's Benefits i60 Stockholders' Suits 190 Other Contract 195 Contract Product Liability	<ul> <li>350 M otor Vehicle</li> <li>355 M otor Vehicle</li> <li>Product Liability</li> <li>360 Other Personal Injury</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>380 Other Personal</li> <li>Property Damage</li> <li>385 Property Damage</li> <li>Product Liability</li> </ul>		LABOR 710 Fair Labor Standards Act 720 Labor/Mgmt. Relations	SOCIAL SECURITY	12 USC 3410 891 Agricultural Acts 892 Economic Stabilization Act 893 Environmental Matters
	REAL PROPERTY	CIVIL RIGHTS	PRISONER PETITI	IONS	730 Labor/Mgmt.Reporting	🗇 864 SSID Title XVI	<ul> <li>894 Energy Allocation Act</li> <li>895 Freedom of Information Act</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>210 Land Condemnation</li> <li>220 Foreclosure</li> <li>230 Rent Lease &amp; Ejectment</li> <li>240 Torts to Land</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>441 Voting</li> <li>442 Employment</li> <li>443 Housing/ Accommodations</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>510 Motions to Vaca Sentence Habeas Corpus:</li> <li>530 General</li> </ul>		& Disclosure Act 740 Railway Labor Act 790 Other Labor Litigation	FEDERAL TAX SUITS	<ul> <li>900 Appeal of Fee Determination</li> <li>Under Equal Access to</li> <li>Justice</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>240 Torts to Land Accommodations</li> <li>245 Tort Product Liability</li> <li>290 All Other Real Property</li> <li>440 Other Civil Rights</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>550 General</li> <li>550 Cath Penalty</li> <li>540 Mandamus &amp; Other</li> <li>550 Civil Rights</li> <li>555 Prison Condition</li> </ul>	her 🗆	791 Empl. Ret. Inc. Security Act	or Definidant)	950 Constitutionality of Star-Slamfes     890 Other Statutory Actions	
	V. ORIGIN (PLAC	CE AN "X" IN ONE BO	X ONLY)		Transf	erred from	Appeal to District
	I Original 2 R	tate Court	Appellate Court	Reo	anothe stated or 5 (specif pened	r district	
•	<b>VI.</b> CAUSE OF ACTI 42 U.S.C,		inte under which you are fil al statutes unless diversity 010101010		e brief statement of cause. Cev EQIM	protection	s under Constitution
	VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:	CHECK IF THI UNDER F.R.C.	8 IS A CLASS ACTIO P. 23	DN D	EMANDS NONE	CHECK YES only JURY DEMAND	if demanded in complaint: : I Yez I No
	VIII. RELATED CAS IF ANY	E(S) (See instructions)	JUDGE			DOCKET NUMBER	
$\sim$	$\frac{DATE}{3 - 19 - 20}$	304	SIGNATURE OF A	0 (X	, Birnb	aun	····
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