

IN THE TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
MCHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

PAUL DULBERG, Individually, and
the PAUL R. DULBERG REVOCABLE
TRUST,

Plaintiffs,

VS

THOMAS W. GOOCH, SABINA SERSHON,
EDWARD X. CLINTON, JULIA WILLIAMS,
ALPHONSE TALARICO, GEORGE FLYNN,
THOMAS J. POPOVICH, HANS MAST,
THE GOOCH FIRM, CLINTON LAW FIRM,
LLC, LAW OFFICE OF ALPHONSE A.
TALARICO,

Defendants.

NO. 2025 LA 360

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS of the hearing before the
Honorable JUDGE JOEL D. BERG, commencing on
February 26, 2026.

APPEARANCES:

PAUL DULBERG, (via Zoom)
Self-Represented Litigant;

ATTORNEY THOMAS GOOCH,
Self-Represented Litigant;

ATTORNEY SABINA SERSHON, (via Zoom)
Self-Represented Litigant;

RECORDING TRANSCRIBED BY:
Heather Voska Hartwig, CSR
Official Court Reporter

1 APPEARANCES (CONTINUED):

2
3 ATTORNEY KAVI MODI, (via Zoom)
4 On behalf of Thomas J. Popovich and Hans Mast;

5 ATTORNEY MICHAEL ABLE, (via Zoom)
6 On behalf of Alphonse A. Talarico;

7 ATTORNEY GEORGE FLYNN, (via Zoom)
8 Self-Represented Litigant.

9 ATTORNEY CAMILLE EVANS, (via Zoom)
10 On behalf of Clinton Law Firm.

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1 THE COURT: Dulberg against Gooch, et al. Be patient.
2 I've got some people still in there. Okay. There we go.
3 Now we're admitting.

4 MR. GOOCH: I don't see the plaintiff, Judge.

5 THE COURT: Plaintiff's right there.

6 MR. GOOCH: Oh.

7 THE COURT: On the left. See, there? On the second
8 row right below --

9 MR. GOOCH: Yeah.

10 THE COURT: -- Ms. Pritchard.

11 MR. GOOCH: For the record, Your Honor, Thomas Gooch,
12 G-O-O-C-H, appearing on his own behalf.

13 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Gooch.

14 MR. DULBERG: Good morning, Your Honor. Paul Dulberg,
15 plaintiff.

16 THE COURT: Good morning, Mr. Dulberg.

17 MS. SERSHON: Good morning, Your Honor.

18 MR. ABLE: Good morning (indiscernible).

19 MS. SERSHON: Sabina Sershon on behalf of myself.

20 THE COURT: Good morning.

21 MR. ABLE: Good morning, Judge. Michael Able for
22 defendants Alphonse Talarico and the Law Office of
23 Alphonse Talarico.

24 THE COURT: Good morning.

1 MR. MODI: Good morning. Kavi Modi for defendants
2 Hans Mast and the Law Offices (audio distortion -
3 indiscernible) Popovich.

4 THE COURT: Good morning.

5 MS. EVANS: And good morning, Your Honor. Camille
6 Evans on behalf of the Clinton defendants.

7 THE COURT: Good morning.

8 MR. FLYNN: Good morning, Your Honor. George Flynn on
9 behalf myself.

10 THE COURT: Good morning.

11 Ladies and gentlemen, a motion to reconsider
12 Judge Costello's decision on the motion for substitution
13 of judge for cause has been filed.

14 Judge Costello this week is at Ed Con. Yeah. I
15 know.

16 So my thoughts are to put this in front of him
17 next week to set the hearing date and to do it next week,
18 to move on this matter. Everybody okay with that?

19 MR. DULBERG: Yes, Your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Can we please --

21 MR. GOOCH: For the record, I'm fine with it, Your
22 Honor.

23 THE COURT: I thank you.

24 MS. EVANS: And us, Your Honor.

1 THE COURT: I thank you all very much. If anyone is
2 not okay, I would like you to please tell me now. I am --
3 I am sincerely --

4 MR. MODI: No objection, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: -- asking. I don't know what your
6 calendars look like.

7 Sir, you said?

8 MR. MODI: No objection, Your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Okay. Sweet. Can we go, please, one week
10 from today, which I believe is March 5?

11 How is that looking?

12 THE CLERK: For -- Oh, for Judge Costello?

13 THE COURT: Judge Costello. I should have looked this
14 up.

15 THE CLERK: That's okay.

16 THE COURT: And I sincerely apologize. Please be
17 patient, ladies and gentlemen.

18 THE CLERK: I'm pretty sure he's open in March. So
19 let me just double check.

20 MR. GOOCH: Judge, I have --

21 THE CLERK: Yeah, he is.

22 MR. GOOCH: I have a bunch of stuff up on the 5th. If
23 we could have like 9:30, I can work it out.

24 THE COURT: Well, let me ask you. Does the 6th work

1 better for you or the 4th?

2 MR. GOOCH: The 4th would be a better day, Judge.

3 THE COURT: Thank you very much. March 4 to everyone.

4 MS. SERSHON: March 4th is better for me, too, Judge.

5 THE CLERK: That's a good date.

6 MR. FLYNN: Judge, I actually have several matters up
7 that morning. I don't really have a -- a position on --
8 on that motion, but I do have a motion that I had noticed
9 for today.

10 THE COURT: And what is that, please?

11 MR. FLYNN: And that is a motion for an extension of
12 time to answer or otherwise plead. It's a -- probably one
13 of the more extensive motions for an extension that you've
14 ever seen. I do plan and have indicated in the motion for
15 extension on asking for a longer time than -- than typical
16 to answer or otherwise plead.

17 THE COURT: Hold tight.

18 MR. FLYNN: As the (indiscernible) --

19 THE COURT: Mr. Flynn. Mr. Flynn.

20 MR. FLYNN: Sorry?

21 THE COURT: I'm going to tell you right now --

22 MR. FLYNN: Yeah?

23 THE COURT: I'm going to tell you right now what we're
24 going to do on this, sir. If you -- If you're not worried

1 about their motion for substitution of judge for cause,
2 you don't worry about the time to answer or otherwise
3 plead because we don't know yet who the judge is.

4 If I were to grant you anything right now,
5 anything while this is pending and unresolved, it is
6 potentially void.

7 MR. FLYNN: Fair enough.

8 THE COURT: Not voidable. Void. So I -- Let's please
9 not even get involved in the middle of this mess. Let's
10 go ahead and get it shipped straight back to him.

11 If you don't wish to be there, the other counsel
12 will hopefully remind Judge Costello next week that you
13 have no dog in the hunt and are not worried. And I'll put
14 the matter --

15 MR. FLYNN: Well --

16 THE COURT: Yes?

17 MR. FLYNN: I appreciate that, Judge. If there are
18 other -- the other motions may be heard at that time,
19 though. I would like to be present.

20 THE COURT: They -- They can't because remember the
21 only thing this goes to Judge Costello for is the motion
22 to reconsider. That's it.

23 MR. FLYNN: Okay.

24 THE COURT: Because it's just the motion to reconsider

1 the motion to SOJ for cause. That is it. Okay? So
2 nothing else can be heard. So you don't worry. You're --
3 You're officially --

4 MR. FLYNN: Fair enough.

5 THE COURT: -- in the limbo. I think they call it in
6 the bardo, so.

7 MR. ABLE: Judge, I guess similar situation. We had a
8 mile -- a motion up for today for -- to motion to quash.
9 We're going to withdraw that and just ask for time to file
10 a responsive pleading. So same thing then? We're just
11 going to --

12 THE COURT: Hold tight on -- Hold tight on
13 issuing --

14 MR. ABLE: Okay.

15 THE COURT: There's no sense in issuing any order,
16 doing anything remotely substantive in this matter until
17 the motion to SOJ for cause has been ruled upon.

18 MR. ABLE: Understood.

19 THE COURT: Okay?

20 MR. MODI: And, Judge, so I see on the docket that we
21 are up again for a conference on March 5th before you.
22 Should that date be stricken?

23 THE COURT: I'm going to take care of this order, my
24 friend. Though, I do sincerely appreciate you raising

1 that to the Court's attention.

2 That is what we will please do, ladies and
3 gentlemen. March 5 before this Court is please stricken.

4 MR. MODI: Thank you, Judge.

5 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Dulberg, March 4 at
6 9:00 a.m. It works for you, sir?

7 MR. DULBERG: Yes, sir. Yes, sir.

8 THE COURT: It will be -- Everyone -- Everyone, it
9 will be in the room 2-0-4 on March 4 at 9:00 a.m. I will
10 do the order myself because it has to go through Court
11 Admin and be signed by the chief judge for the
12 reassignment. I will take care of it.

13 There's nothing else we can do on anything else.
14 Okay. So don't worry about it. It's all out there, and
15 it'll be ruled upon once this motion is ruled upon. Okay?

16 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you all very much for
17 your time. Please be well. Have yourselves an amazing
18 day.

19 MR. GOOCH: Good morning, George (indiscernible).

20 MS. SERSHON: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 A VOICE: Thank you, Your Honor.

22 A VOICE: Thank you, Judge.

23 THE COURT: What George were you saying hi to?

24 MR. GOOCH: George Flynn. I --

1 THE COURT: Oh.

2 MR. GOOCH: I haven't seen George for a while.

3 MR. FLYNN: Hey, Tom.

4 MR. GOOCH: He -- He has less hair than the last time
5 I saw him.

6 THE COURT: I think you -- I think it's a beau --

7 MR. FLYNN: You said that -- You said that last time I
8 saw you.

9 THE COURT: I think it's a beautiful head of hair,
10 sir. I think it's a lovely head of hair.

11 MR. FLYNN: Thanks, Judge. See you, Tom.

12 MR. MODI: Your Honor, will the hearing on March 4th
13 be in person? I just want to make sure.

14 THE COURT: No. No. No. No. Everything is via
15 Zoom, and that's just -- I don't even know. He'll
16 probably set a briefing schedule. Okay?

17 MR. MODI: Okay. Thank you, Judge.

18 THE COURT: Thank you, all.

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21 (Which were all the proceedings
22 had in the above-entitled cause
23 this date.)

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I, Heather Voska Hartwig, an Official Court Reporter for the Twenty-Second Judicial Circuit of Illinois, do hereby certify that the foregoing Report of Proceedings was electronically recorded and is a true, correct, and complete transcript so taken at the time and place hereinabove set forth to the best of my ability based on the quality of the electronic recording.

Heather Voska Hartwig
Official Court Reporter

Dated this 16th day of March, 2026.