

Subject: Fw: The hearing

From: Candace Curtis <occurtis@sbcglobal.net>

Date: 11/7/2019, 11:59 AM

To: Rik Munson <blowintough@att.net>

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X-Mozilla-Status2: 00000000

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Sent: Thursday, November 7, 2019, 11:48:41 AM PST

Subject: The hearing

I felt it necessary to vent a bit about the treatment I received from the attorneys yesterday. I realize they hate Pro Se litigants but I have just as much right to be in the courtroom as they do trying to defend my part of the trust. What I don't do is speak to them unprofessionally. What I get in return is the cold shoulder, rude comments, sighs and eye rolling.

Yesterday the mediation became the butt of all jokes. Corey was asked if he knew about "the mediation" to which he commented that he had but wanted to make it clear to everyone that they would not be participating in any mediation until an executor was appointed. AND that we needed to understand that if their case was not dismissed on summary judgement, which they are confident will happen, their offer to settle this case is ZERO. We as a family can decide to accept ZERO or go to trial ...take your pick. Spielman at that time started to tell Corey why he was wrong about his proposal but the judge walked in and the conversation stopped.

After the judge left the courtroom the jokes regarding the mediation continued. Mostly the fact that we are not all meeting in A ROOM seems to really bother them all. Other comments were this mediation does not stand a chance and who mediates over the phone.

After speaking with several attorneys at work I found out that this type of mediation is not uncommon but due to the fact that the attorneys involved in this case are all well into their late 60's or even 70+ they are having a difficult time embracing anything new and want to hold on to the old way of doing things including their respect and treatment of women.

I worked very hard trying to get this mediation off the ground as this was going nowhere. I have nothing but respect for Judge Seymore who could have thrown up his hands and walked away by now but is sticking with it. I am sure the joking about the mediation was at my expense so I politely asked them to please stop making fun of the mediation as I worked hard to get it this far. At that point one of the attorneys whipped his chair around and told me he will laugh at whatever he wants to and maybe I need to grow a set. When he realized what he said to me he changed it to I need to get thicker skin. As I was about to respond Judge Comstock who heard the exchange stopped it by asking everyone to confirm the time of the new mediation.

The mere fact that I attend every hearing and deposition in a room full of attorneys who collectively have 100 + years of law experience over me should show that my skin is pretty thick. I HATE going but will continue to go to represent myself until this is over. I guess this

type of behavior is just a Probate lawyer thing. I don't know if any of you knew what it was like even pitching this mediation to your attorneys and all the flack I took for that. In the end the decision to mediate is YOURS as the beneficiary not your attorneys but after leaving the courtroom yesterday I realized the attorneys have total control over if this mediation ever happens or is successful and I have no power to change that.

So in closing I am going to prepare for the next hearing on Dec 12th by growing a set and working on that thicker skin because I will probably need it.

Regards

Carole