



NAILAH K. BYRD
CUYAHOGA COUNTY CLERK OF COURTS
1200 Ontario Street
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Court of Common Pleas

BRIEF IN OPPOSITION
December 14, 2023 15:47

By: SUBODH CHANDRA 0069233

Confirmation Nbr. 3040915

GEORGEANNA M. SEMARY

CV 23 984974

vs.

Judge: ANDREW J. SANTOLI

LESLIE ANN CELEBREZZE, ET AL.

Pages Filed: 56

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

GEORGEANNA M. SEMARY, <i>Plaintiff,</i> v. LESLIE ANN CELEBREZZE, ET AL., <i>Defendants.</i>	Case No. CV-23-984974 Judge Andrew J. Santoli
PLAINTIFF GEORGEANNA SEMARY’S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO THIRD-PARTIES MARK E. DOTTORE AND THE DOTTORE COMPANIES, LLC’S MOTION TO STRIKE PORTIONS OF SUBPOENA SERVICE RETURNS FROM THE RECORD	

Plaintiff Georgeanna M. Semary respectfully opposes Mark E. Dottore and The Dottore Cos., LLC’s (collectively, “Dottore”s) motion to strike her two subpoena service returns and order redaction of the portion of requests number 1 from those subpoenas. Those requests seek all communications between Celebrezze and Dottore, including “any communications of a sexual or romantic nature, including, but not limited to, the text on or about August 6, 2008, at 7:30 am, in which Celebrezze texted Dottore.” That subpoena language then specifies a particular text message that Dottore must not omit producing—specificity he now demands be redacted: “I know its [sic] early but my house is still quiet. I know your [sic] stressed out. You need to make love to me this week I feel safe when I am in your arms.”

That text message’s existence directly proves what Celebrezze persists in denying as a factual-background predicate for some claims here: that she carries on an illicit sexual affair with the supposedly neutral receiver she regularly appoints, and to whom she has diverted at least hundreds of thousands of dollars in divorcing couples’ assets. As shown below and in the attached exhibits, there is not just good ground to support the subpoena requests. There is—contrary to Dottore’s insinuation—hard testimonial and documentary *evidence*.

I. ISSUE PRESENTED

Civ. R. 45 requires parties to file subpoena service returns. Sup.R. 44–45 require court records be open except under narrow circumstances that don’t apply here. These rules effect the First Amendment right of access to court records and Ohio Const. Art. 1, § 16’s open-courts requirement. Violations invite writs of mandamus and prohibition. Should this Court defy this law and hide from public access subpoena language Dottore doesn’t like?

II. ARGUMENT

Dottore’s motion asking this Court to distort the docket is light on legal arguments and heavy on garment rending. The subpoenas were lawfully issued. And complete returns were lawfully filed. The Court’s record and clerk’s docket must reflect proper and complete returns, and there is no legal basis for this Court or any other to distort the record to protect Dottore’s sensibilities by striking, sealing, or redacting it. Indeed, as shown below with controlling authority Dottore chose not to disclose to this Court,¹ doing so would violate the Ohio Rules of Superintendence, the Ohio Constitution, and the First Amendment right of access to Court records.

A. Dottore objects to subpoenas he protests are too specific—after spurning previous versions that weren’t as specific.

The specificity in the subpoenas was added to give Dottore no quarter for escape or a later claim of mistake—and to send him the message that Ms. Semary’s counsel know that Defendant Celebrezze sent him this text message proving their illicit entanglement and he had better produce it. After all, Dottore had rejected in their entirety prior iterations of the subpoenas.² He made inherently baseless broad objections to the requests—including attorney-client privilege—when the

¹ The Court should consider whether the failure to cite controlling authority in the motion is sanctionable. *See, e.g.*, Prof.Cond.R. 3.3(a)(2) (“A lawyer shall not *knowingly* do any of the following: ... (2) fail to disclose to the tribunal legal authority in the controlling jurisdiction known to the lawyer to be directly adverse to the position of the client....”) The principles of and law about open-court records are so blackletter that litigators cannot credibly claim to not have known about this authority.

² Letter from T. Collins to S. Chandra dated Nov. 7, 2023 (attached as **Ex. 6**) (broadly objecting in their entirety to the subpoenas whose returns were filed on September 9 and 27, 2022, and failing to produce even communications between Celebrezze and Dottore *about Ms. Semary*).

subpoenas expressly disclaimed any interest in communications between him and his counsel. Leslie Ann Celebrezze, the judge who appointed him to receiverships, couldn't have possibly been his counsel. Dottore refuses to produce anything. Even in response to the current subpoenas.³

B. Civ.R. 45(B) requires the subpoena return to be filed on the docket.

Civ. R. 45(B) mandates that “[t]he person responsible for serving the subpoena shall file a return of the subpoena with the clerk.” The rule says nothing about redacting subpoena returns to please a non-party. And so counsel filed the returns on the docket.

C. Dottore cites no law providing that what a discovery subpoena seeks have a preexisting evidentiary foundation because no such law exists—but as long as he’s insisting, we attach the evidence here.

Dottore cites no law for what he implies—that the content of a subpoena must have evidentiary foundation.⁴ That’s because what he wishes is not the law. Lawyers need not have preexisting evidentiary “foundation” for what they seek in discovery, or discovery could never occur. Perhaps what he means is “belief there is good ground to support” the document signed by counsel under Civ.R. 11, but it’s hard to tell.

In any event, it so happens that the subpoena-request language to which Dottore projects umbrage is undergirded by both belief there is good ground to support the request *and* evidentiary foundation: a randy text message Defendant Celebrezze sent Mark Dottore on August 6, 2008. In that text message, Celebrezze summoned him to come over and make love to her: **“I know it is early but my house is still quiet. I know your stressed out. You need to make love to me this**

³ Letter from T. Collins to S. Chandra dated Dec. 1, 2023 (attached as **Ex. 7**) (repeating the boilerplate sweeping objections to the latest subpoenas and failing to produce even communications between Celebrezze and Dottore *about Ms. Sema.y*). Counsel have met and conferred, so this will be the subject of a forthcoming motion to compel unless the Court prefers a conference first.

⁴ Dottore Mtn. Strike at 2, ¶ 3.

week I feel safe when I am in your arms.” (*Sic.*) Dottore’s ex-wife Lisa Moran saw Celebrezze’s text message his Dottore’s phone.⁵

Ms. Moran’s testimony and contemporaneous notes about the Celebrezze/Dottore affair is corroborated by more recent accounts by three witnesses beyond Ms. Moran and Ms. Semaury. After Dottore belatedly told Celebrezze he was tired and wouldn’t meet up with her at Ms. Semaury’s February 2022 birthday party, these witnesses saw Celebrezze weeping inconsolably all evening.⁶ Defendant Celebrezze herself admits she was expecting Dottore and that he canceled.⁷ Ms. Semaury will testify that she herself didn’t invite him—because he was no friend of hers.

So Dottore was Celebrezze’s date.

And testimony from Georgia Semaury tracking the Complaint’s allegations will corroborate Ms. Moran’s evidence about the illicit affair. Ms. Semaury knew about the Celebrezze/Dottore affair that ultimately led to Celebrezze’s retaliation against her—perhaps with Dottore’s encouragement.

While insisting that Semaury’s “‘belief” about Celebrezze’s message and the affair “is questionable and lacks foundation,”⁸ Dottore deftly avoids flat-out denying that such a message exists or existed. This wordsmithing by lawyers trying to avoid violating Prof.Cond.R. 3.3 (Candor to the Tribunal) may be misleading, but it’s an admission.

D. Dottore lacks standing.

Dottore’s motion fails to establish his standing to seek such relief. Injury must be concrete and go beyond his desire to hide court records from public scrutiny. And, as shown below, even if

⁵ Aff. of Lisa Moran at ¶¶ 3 (quoting text message she saw and memorized), 5 (authenticating contemporaneous notes she wrote that same day) (attached as **Ex. 1**).

⁶ See Aff. of Alejandro Semaury at ¶¶ 6–10 (attached as **Ex. 2**); Aff. of Nicole Wilson at ¶¶ 4–6 (attached as **Ex. 3**); Aff. of Sandra Wolf at ¶¶ 5–8 (attached as **Ex. 4**).

⁷ Def. Celebrezze’s Responses to Plaintiff Semaury’s Requests for Admissions, Response to Req. Nos. 58 and 59 at p. 11 (attached as **Ex. 5**).

⁸ Dottore Mtn. Strike at 2, ¶ 2.

he were a defendant with standing to claim diminished prospects of a fair trial—and he isn’t—that wouldn’t help him because federal and Ohio open-courts principles are bedrock.

E. Dottore asks this Court to violate the U.S. Constitution’s First Amendment right of access to Court records, which exists, in part, to enable courts’ own performances to be publicly scrutinized.

While courts maintain supervisory authority over the papers entrusted to them, those powers, the Sixth Circuit has held, are “circumscribed by a long-established legal tradition” of permissive access, not only to ensure fairness in court proceedings and to promote factfinding, but to place “a check on courts.”⁹ Thus, as the U.S. Supreme Court has held, the “presumption of openness may be overcome only by an overriding interest based on findings that closure is essential to preserve higher values and is narrowly tailored to serve that interest.”¹⁰

The constitutional standards at play raise the public’s own interest in self-protection far above any other interest. Any redaction order by the Court would prevent the public from evaluating its own interests based on what the Court ordered redacted. The demanded redactions would go down the road of thwarting public scrutiny not only of Defendant Celebrezze’s conduct but the Court’s own performance sitting in judgment of a fellow Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court judge. These filings’ striking or sealing would thwart the public’s interest in evaluating the work of its elected officials. This includes judicial officeholders weighing the danger to the public presented by Judge Calabrese’s conduct alleged here.

Dottore discloses none of this authority. And this Court should decline his invitation to violate the First Amendment right of access to court records.

⁹ *Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. v. F.T.C.*, 710 F.2d 1165, 1177–78 (6th Cir. 1983).

¹⁰ *Press-Ent. Co. v. Superior Court of California, Riverside Cty.*, 464 U.S. 501, 510, 104 S.Ct. 819, 78 L.Ed.2d 629 (1984). *See also In re Providence Journal Co.*, 293 F.3d 1, 10–15 (1st Cir. 2002) (First Amendment violated when court sealed documents); *United States v. Kravetz*, 706 F.3d 47, 56–59 (1st Cir. 2013) (First Amendment violated when public denied access to advocacy memoranda and attached supporting evidence).

F. Dottore also invites this Court to violate open-courts principles established in Ohio Const. Art. I, § 6 and Sup.R. 44 and 45—which would trigger writs of mandamus and prohibition.

Dottore’s motion cites no authority establishing any power of this Court or the clerk to redact or replace the subpoenas to Dottore and alter the Court’s docket and record. Indeed, again, he fails to disclose controlling authority on this topic. Were the Court to distort the record and hide portions of it from public view, its actions would violate the principles of open-court records established in the Ohio Constitution, and the Ohio Rules of Superintendence that implement them.

Providing even greater explicit protection than the federal Constitution, Article I, Section 16 of the Ohio Constitution broadly guarantees that “All courts shall be open.” *See, e.g., State ex rel. Cincinnati Enquirer v. Shanahan*, 166 Ohio St.3d 382, 2022-Ohio-448, 185 N.E.3d 1089, ¶ 31.

To effect this mandate, Sup.R. 44(c) broadly defines “court record.” (The definition would include these subpoena returns.) Sup.R. 45(A) mandates: “Court records are presumed open to public access.” And then Sup.R. 45(e)(2) establishes narrow criteria for redacting court records to overcome that presumption of public access, only based on a showing of “*clear and convincing evidence* that the presumption of allowing public access is outweighed by a higher interest” and under narrow circumstances:

- (2) A court shall restrict public access to information in a case document or, if necessary, the entire document, if it finds by clear and convincing evidence that the presumption of allowing public access is outweighed by a higher interest after considering each of the following:
 - (a) Whether public policy is served by restricting public access;
 - (b) Whether any state, federal, or common law exempts the document or information from public access;
 - (c) Whether factors that support restriction of public access exist, including risk of injury to persons, individual privacy rights and interests, proprietary business information, public safety, and fairness of the adjudicatory process.

Sup.R. 45(e)(2) (emphasis added).

None of these exceptions apply here:

- (a) Public policy is not served by restricting public access. Indeed, as shown in the First Amendment discussion and Ohio legal citations above and below, public policy favors scrutiny of misconduct allegations against public officials, adjudicated by public officials.
- (b) No state, federal, or common law exempts the document or information from public access.
- (c) No factors supporting restriction of public access exist. This includes
 - risk of injury to persons, individual privacy rights and interests (this is a matter of great public interest given the alleged conduct of a judge and court-appointed receiver involved);
 - proprietary business information (unless direct evidence of Dottore's illicit affair with Judge Celebrezze is to be considered a proprietary trade secret to his success as a receiver);
 - public safety (there's no evidence, much less clear-and-convincing evidence, that Dottore is not safe); and
 - fairness of the adjudicatory process (Dottore is a non-party with no standing on this issue, but in any case, one clause in subpoena returns won't affect the fair adjudication of this case months from now).

Dottore doesn't even disclose or argue these factors and shouldn't be permitted to do so for the first time on reply. Simply put, there are far more salacious things in Court records and the parties and non-parties just must deal with. Celebrezze and Dottore have their own conduct, and litigation conduct, to thank for why this information is now in not just two but multiple public court records.

Several general principles guide courts in deciding whether to restrict public access to court records. Prominently, those seeking access to them need not demonstrate an injury from sealing of the records—the only real question is whether the rule requires that the records “must be accessible to the public.”¹¹ And “conclusory, speculative assertions” that some factor justifies keeping court

¹¹ *Shanahan*, 166 Ohio St.3d 382, 2022-Ohio-448, 185 N.E.3d 1089, at ¶ 27.

documents secret will not meet the burden to establish clear-and-convincing evidence supporting a sealing order. *State ex rel. Vindicator Publishing Co. v. Woelfel*, 132 Ohio St.3d 481, 2012-Ohio-3328, 974 N.E.2d 89, at ¶ 34. Thus, conjecture about personal safety and the prospects for a fair trial if certain information reached the public have been insufficient justifications for concealment in Ohio courts. *Shanahan* at ¶ 23–26; *Woelfel* at ¶ 33–35.

Finally, and above all else, the purpose of keeping court proceedings public should not be lost in the shuffle:

This Court operates as a public forum, not as a private dispute resolution service, *United States v. Ford*, 830 F.2d 596, 599 (6th Cir. 1987), that, in deciding whether to allow civil litigants to file records under seal, must consider “the rights of the public, an absent third party” to which the Court ultimately is accountable, *Wilson v. Am. Motors Corp.*, 759 F.2d 1568, 1570 (11th Cir. 1985).

Solitt v. KyCorp, No. 1:09-CV-43, 2009 WL 485031, at *2 (N.D. Ohio Feb. 26, 2009).

These exacting requirements are necessary both for discharging the federal- and state-constitutional requirements for open courts and minimizing the burdens imposed on the judicial system when filings are ordered to be sealed. As a practical matter, such directives require the clerks to not only remove such materials from public on-line dockets, but also to ensure that hard copies are locked away in a secure location. Whether in digital or paper format, access to the concealed records must be limited to specifically authorized individuals who have been properly identified. And orders requiring judicial submissions to be sealed necessarily invite contentious claims of violations and demands for sanctions throughout the litigation (and potentially beyond), that courts must ultimately resolve. Such relief should never be granted casually, which is what Dottore asks for his own selfish purposes of hiding from public scrutiny Celebrezze’s (and his) misconduct.

Defying these bedrock open-court principles would open this Court to writs of mandamus and prohibition.¹²

Dottore's motion purports to rest on the inherent power of trial courts to manage their own dockets. Yet Dottore doesn't ask for management—he asks for corruption and distortion of the court record: “The motion does not address the scope of the materials requested in the subpoenas... This motion simply addresses whether Request 1 in the Subpoenas should remain visible on the public docket...”¹³

The Court should decline the invitation.

G. Dottore's irrelevant tangents complain about litigation conduct that Rule 3.6(B) of the Ohio Rules of Professional Conduct governing trial publicity expressly protects.

Claiming clairvoyance about Plaintiff Georgeanna Sema's intentions in crafting specific requests and filing subpoena returns, Dottore insists: “The subpoena service returns are improper, serve no purpose other to harass the Dottore parties and to taint the jury pool...”¹⁴ He then takes a personal shot at Ms. Sema's counsel's website media release about the Complaint, which calls for information from the public to assist with the case.

¹² See, e.g., *State ex rel. Cincinnati Enquirer v. Forstbofel*, 170 Ohio St.3d 292, 2022-Ohio-3580, ¶ 21, 23–25 (Supreme Court of Ohio ordering that trial court hiding Josh Mandel's divorce records from public view must stop).

¹³ Dottore Mtn. Strike at 2, ¶ 1.

¹⁴ Dottore Mtn. Strike at 2, ¶ 3.

Such activity is expressly projected by certain applicable safe harbors in Prof.Cond.R. 3.6(b)

(Trial Publicity):

- (b) *Notwithstanding* division (a) of this rule¹⁵ that and if permitted by Rule 1.6, a lawyer may state any of the following:
- (1) the claim, offense, or defense involved and, except when prohibited by law, the identity of the persons involved;
 - (2) information contained in a public record;
 - (3) that an investigation of a matter is in progress;
 - (4) the scheduling or result of any step in litigation;
 - (5) a request for assistance in obtaining evidence and information necessary thereto;
 - (6) a warning of danger concerning the behavior of a person involved when there is reason to believe that there is the likelihood of substantial harm to an individual or to the public interest.

(emphasis added). All these factors are at play in the media release Dottore complains about—and inexplicably hyperlinks and attaches to his motion to publicize it even more.¹⁶

And the word “notwithstanding” in subdivision (b) means a lawyer is protected even from speech that would violate subdivision (a)’s bar on “extrajudicial statement[s] that the

¹⁵ Prof.Cond.R. 3.6(a) provides:

- (a) A lawyer who is participating or has participated in the investigation or litigation of a matter shall not make an extrajudicial statement that the lawyer *knows* or *reasonably should know* will be disseminated by means of public communication and will have a *substantial* likelihood of materially prejudicing an adjudicative proceeding in the matter.

(Emphasis in original.) But then Division (b) then provides exceptions to and safe harbors from most of the Rule.

¹⁶ See Streisand Effect, Wikipedia, available at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Streisand_effect (publicizing something in protest of the prospect of publicity only draws more attention to what one was protesting—named after an incident involving Barbara Streisand’s protests over a website’s publication of overheard photos of her Malibu home, which resulted in countless more people seeing the photos).

lawyer *knows* or *reasonably should know* will be disseminated by means of public communication and will have a *substantial* likelihood of materially prejudicing an adjudicative proceeding in the matter.”¹⁷

This speech is also protected by the U.S. Supreme Court’s holdings about lawyer speech and the First Amendment.¹⁸

In any case, Dottore’s personal invective gives Ms. Sema’s counsel far-too-much credit for devious strategy: “...Plaintiff’s counsel’s transparent attempt to taint the jury pool and get unsupported evidence into the public record any way he could. This attempt to harass a judge and a prominent local businessman is unacceptable.”¹⁹ The subpoena return was not evidentiary. It was just a subpoena return that sought to specify for Dottore what he must produce to make his obligations inescapable.

III. Conclusion

Dottore’s proposed order that the clerk “strike” the subpoena returns is lawless. (He seems to mean place them under seal, because the clerk of courts can’t “strike” anything.) Dottore’s proposed order that the Court control the content of the subpoena returns on the docket by mandated redaction is just as lawless.

¹⁷ See *Gentile v. State Bar of Nevada*, 501 U.S. 1030, 1048, 111 S. Ct. 2720, 115 L.Ed.2d 888 (1991).

¹⁸ *Id.* at 1034, 111 S. Ct. 2720, 115 L.Ed.2d 888 (1991) (lawyer “speech critical of the exercise of the State’s power lies at the very center of the First Amendment”; reversing restrictions on attorney pretrial speech); *id.* at 1035 (“The judicial system, and in particular our criminal justice courts, play a vital part in a democratic state, and the public has a legitimate interest in their operations.”); *id.* (“Public awareness and criticism have even greater importance where... they concern [corruption] allegations....”); *id.* at 1035–36 (citing *Nebraska Press Assn. v. Stuart*, 427 U. S. 539, 427 U. S. 606 (1976) (Brennan, J., concurring in judgment) (“[C]ommentary on the fact that there is strong evidence implicating a government official in criminal activity goes to the very core of matters of public concern”).

¹⁹ Dottore Mtn. at 2, ¶ 3.

Thanks to Dottore's motion and argument that the request is without foundation, the evidence establishing ample foundation for the text being sought is now in the record in the form of Lisa Moran's affidavit. And three more witness affidavits corroborate it.

Will Dottore now move to strike and seal those, hiding even more Court proceedings from public view? Will he move to strike this response quoting both the subpoena return and Lisa Moran's affidavit—which was needed to make the record clear in response to his vague memorandum that failed to specify what he wanted to hide? Will he keep trying to shield not only Celebrezze's and his own conduct, but hide from public scrutiny courts' and clerks' handling of the record and case?

At what point does such costly frivolity cease? As more and more evidence comes in, at what point do Celebrezze and Dottore give up on denying their ethically fraught affair²⁰—which at least Celebrezze sought to retaliate against Semary to cover up? As much as Dottore may have become accustomed to viewing the judiciary as his personal fiefdom, these are public proceedings. And this, too, thanks to his motion, is a public filing.

Dottore's failure to comply with the subpoenas and cover-up efforts, along with Celebrezze's parallel failure to produce her messages with Dottore and admission that she communicated with him about Semary,²¹ increasingly suggest that Celebrezze conspired with Dottore to retaliate against and intimidate Ms. Semary.

This makes it even more imperative that the Court act with the transparency required by Rules of Superintendence 44–45 and not act to distort the record here. The Court should also order

²⁰ Celebrezze and Dottore's counsel must realize that enabling false and fraudulent client denials is ethically perilous. Prof.Cond.R. 3.3(a)(1), (b), and (c) (Candor Toward the Tribunal). Celebrezze is now committed on the record in denying the affair in the face of mounting evidence.

²¹ Def. Celebrezze's Responses to Plaintiff Semary's Requests for Admissions, Response to Req. No. 110 at p. 20 (attached as **Ex. 5**).

Mark Dottore and The Dottore Cos. to produce the records. That will be the subject of a forthcoming motion to compel and for discovery sanctions.

For all the above reasons, the Court should deny the motion and not enter the proposed order.

December 14, 2023

/s/ Subodh Chandra

Subodh Chandra (0069233)

Donald P. Screen (0044070)

THE CHANDRA LAW FIRM LLC

1265 West 6th Street, Suite 400

Cleveland, Ohio 44113

216.578.1700 (p) / 216.578.1800 (f)

Subodh.Chandra@ChandraLaw.com

Don.Screen@ChandraLaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff Georgeanna M. Semary

Certificate of Service

I certify that my office served a copy of this filing through the Court's electronic-filing system and sent courtesy copies to counsel for Mark E. Dottore and Dottore Cos. along with defense counsel.

/s/ Subodh Chandra

One of the attorneys for Plaintiff Georgeanna M. Semary

Affidavit of Lisa Moran

I, **Lisa Moran**, being duly sworn according to law, testify as follows:

1. I am over the age of 18, I have personal knowledge of and am competent to testify regarding the matters set forth in this Affidavit.
2. I was married to Mark Dottore from November 27, 1987 to January 6, 2020.
3. At 7:30 am on August 6, 2008, while I was at home in our bedroom, I saw a text message from Leslie Ann Celebrezze (hereinafter "Celebrezze") appear on the screen of Mark's iPhone. His phone was on the nightstand and he was outside watering flowers. I read the message, which said: "I know it is early but my house is still quiet. I know your stressed out. You need to make love to me this week I feel safe when I am in your arms." I read the text three times.
4. I had previously seen Mark receive texts and telephone calls from Celebrezze. He would respond to her.
5. I was upset to see Celebrezze's text message on Mark's phone, which is why I read it three times to sear it into my memory. Later that day, I transcribed on a notecard, word-for-word, what Celebrezze wrote to my husband. A true and correct copy of my transcription is attached.
6. My additional contemporaneous notes, which I also wrote August 6, 2000 underneath the transcription for context, read as follows:

SAME DAY CHARLES TOLD ME THAT HE PICKED UP TEXTS
WHILE WE WERE IN NEMACOLIN – SHE CALLED HIM

THE NIGHT OF HIS SURPRISE PARTY SHE WAS SO INCREDIBLY
RUDE TO ME I GOT SUSPICIOUS – SHE HAD TO LEAVE EARLY
AND SHE TEXT HIM AGAIN "DON'T BE MAD" SEEMS SHE
KNEW HIM BETTER THAN ME.

7. Charles is my son Charles. Nemacolin is a resort in Farmington, Pennsylvania. The "she" I was referring to was Celebrezze. Our vacation at Nemacolin and the surprise birthday party for Mark (July 9, 2008) were events that led up to the text on August 6, 2008, after which I asked Mark Dottore to "pack a bag" and leave our house. I wanted to document these events to remind myself of the hurt and anger Mark Dottore and Celebrezze caused me and to create a record in case something happened to me.
8. I do not have access to Mark Dottore's phone anymore. I cannot obtain the original text message. He changed phones since 2008 multiple times.

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

1

Electronically Filed 12/14/2023 15:47 / BRIEF / CV 23 984974 / Confirmation Nbr. 3040915 / CLDLJ

Lisa Moran Dottore

12/2/23

)

) SS.

)

2nd day of December,

Sharon A. Kirkunt

My commission expires: No Expiration Date

SHARON A. SKIRBUNT, ATTORNEY AT LAW
NOTARY PUBLIC-State of Ohio
My Commission has no expiration date
Section 147.03 R.C.

8/6/08 7:30 AM. TEXT

I KNOW ITS EARLY BUT
MY HOUSE IS STILL QUIET.
I KNOW YOUR STRESSED
OUT. YOU NEED TO MAKE
LOVE TO ME THIS WEEK
I FEEL SAFE WHEN I AM
IN YOUR ARMS.

SAME DAY CHARLES TOLD
ME THAT HE PICKED UP
TEXTS WHILE WE WERE IN
MEMPHIS - SHE CALLED HIM

THE NIGHT OF HIS SURPRISE
PARTY SHE WAS SO
INCREDIBLY RUDE TO ME
I GOT SUSPICIOUS - SHE HAD
TO LEAVE EARLY AND SHE
TEXT HIM AGAIN "DON'T
BE MAD" SEEMS SHE
KNEW HIM BETTER THAN
ME.

Affidavit of Alejandro Semaury

I, Alejandro Semaury, having been duly sworn, state the following to the best of my knowledge and recollection:

1. I am over the age of 18. I reside in Cleveland, Ohio. I have personal knowledge of and am competent to testify about the matters discussed in this affidavit. My nickname is "Alex."
2. My mother is Georgeanna ("Georgia") Semaury.
3. I recommended my mother have a party at the All Saints Pub for her 50th birthday party in February 2022.
4. I attended the party with my girlfriend, Nicole Wilson. We arrived late, after the other attendees had already arrived.
5. Because it was cold, I dropped off Nicole at the front of the pub before parking the car. At the time, my mother was smoking outside with at least Judge Leslie Ann Celebrezze and Sandra Wolf.
6. Leslie, who I've known for many years, was visibly upset and appeared distressed. This stood out to me because, from my experience, Leslie tended to be a happy and up-beat person.
7. By the time I parked the car, everyone had gone inside.
8. Later that evening, the party moved to Parkview. Leslie's demeanor was unchanged—she still seemed distraught and defeated, and she remained quiet for the rest of the evening. Her demeanor reminded me of a pouting child. While I don't know how exactly how much alcohol Leslie consumed over the course of the party, I remember her being notably intoxicated that night.
9. Seeing Leslie this upset, I assumed it had something to do with Mark Dottore. My mother and Leslie were close friends, and my mother would sometimes talk with me about work, which included details about Leslie's affair with Mark, her favoritism toward him, and her overprotective nature toward him, always looking out for Mark and his interests.
10. I did not speak with Leslie directly about why she was upset during the party. But I confirmed with my mother that Leslie was upset about Mark during the party. My mother told me that Mark had stood-up Leslie by not coming to the party as planned.
11. Similar incidents occurred over the course of my mother's friendship with Celebrezze. While I can't recall the exact date, I remember Leslie being upset at my stepfather's bar, Memphis Tavern (where Leslie has been approximately three-to-five times), because Mark did not join her there. At the time, Leslie's demeanor reminded me of her demeanor during my mother's birthday party in February.
12. Over the course of my mother's friendship with Leslie, I grew to perceive Leslie as someone who tried to control or change people using high-school-bullying tactics. And, if those people resisted and remained principled, she would change her approach toward them.

13. Leslie also exhibited a coldness toward her husband. My mother, Nicole, and I passed out candy during the Fourth of July parades in Parma to help Leslie's campaign. At these events, Leslie and her husband would not even walk together. I noted their behavior and way of communicating with each other while visiting their home to pick up furniture—it gave me the impression that something was wrong in their relationship. Leslie appeared completely checked out during their interactions, and they never displayed physical affection. Not even holding hands.

I declare the preceding facts to be true under penalty of perjury.

Dated: November 3, 2023

Affiant

State of Ohio)

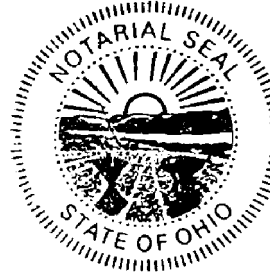
) SS.

County of Cuyahoga)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of November, 2023.

Notary Public, State of Ohio

My commission expires: May 20, 2026



DYLYN BAYZL HAZEN
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF OHIO
Comm. Expires
05-20-2026

Affidavit of Nicole Wilson

I, Nicole Wilson, having been duly sworn, state the following to the best of my knowledge and recollection:

1. I am over the age of 18. I reside in Cleveland, Ohio. I have personal knowledge of and am competent to testify about the matters discussed in this affidavit.
2. My boyfriend is Alejandro ("Alex") Semary. His mother is Georgeanna ("Georgia") Semary. Through my relationships with Alex and Georgia, I have known Leslie Ann Celebrezze for years, during which time I engaged with her socially many times. I volunteered during Leslie's campaign for Judge and attended a birthday party at her home.
3. In February 2022, Alex and I attended Georgia's 50th birthday party. Leslie, being a close friend of Georgia's, also attended the party, which began at All Saints Public House.
4. Alex dropped me off in front of the pub, where Georgia was smoking with at least Leslie and Sandra Wolf. At the time, Leslie was crying and visibly upset. I was confused because I did not know what was going on but stood outside with them for a minute or two before going inside because it was cold.
5. I never had a one-on-one conversation with Leslie about what was upsetting her, but I asked Georgia about it during the party. Georgia told me that Leslie was having a hard time with her husband. Georgia also told me that Leslie was having an affair with Mark Dottore, who was supposed to meet her at the party.
6. Later that night, the party moved to Parkview Nite Club. Leslie remained upset and continued to mope the entire evening.

I declare the preceding facts to be true under penalty of perjury.

Dated: November 3, 2023

Nicole Nielsen
Affiant

State of Ohio)
) SS.
County of Cuyahoga)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 3 day of November, 2023.

B. H. H. H.
Notary Public, State of Ohio

My commission expires: May 20, 2023



DYLYN BAYZL HAZEN
 NOTARY PUBLIC
 STATE OF OHIO
 Comm. Expires
 05-20-2026

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

3

Affidavit of Sandra Wolf

I, Sandra Wolf, having been duly sworn, state the following to the best of my knowledge and recollection:

1. I am over the age of 18. I reside in North Royalton, Ohio. I have personal knowledge of and am competent to testify about the matters discussed in this affidavit.
2. Georgeanna (“Georgia”) Semary is my first cousin and one my best friends.
3. Over the years, I encountered Leslie Ann Celebrezze several times when would visit Georgia at work. I know that Leslie and Georgia were close friends and not just coworkers.
4. Celebrezze and I attended Georgia’s 50th birthday party in February 2022, which began at All Saints Public House.
5. During the party, Georgia and I stepped outside to smoke. Celebrezze joined us—she appeared upset and said she was waiting for a man, who was getting off a flight, to join them at the bar. She remained upset after we returned inside.
6. Celebrezze, Georgia, and I stepped outside to smoke again, and I asked Celebrezze if her friend was still coming. Celebrezze indicated that the man was not coming—I recall her saying she was “pissed off,” and “screw it.”
7. Celebrezze grew more upset as the party went on. At the next bar, Parkview Nite Club, Celebrezze was visibly crying and grew sick from how much she had been drinking. I remember thinking she looked like “a hot mess.”
8. Later that night, when I asked Georgia why Leslie had been so upset during the party, I learned from her about Celebrezze’s affair with Mark Dottore, and that Leslie was upset that Mark hadn’t shown up.

I declare the preceding facts to be true under penalty of perjury.

Dated: November 10, 2023

Affiant

State of Ohio

)

) SS.

County of Cuyahoga

)

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 10 day of November, 2023.

Notary Public, State of Ohio

My commission expires: Aug 3, 2028



SHANNON MURACH
Notary Public
State of Ohio
My Comm. Expires
August 3, 2028

**IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO**

GEORGEANNA M. SEMARY,	:	Case No. CV-23-984974
Plaintiff,	:	
v.	:	Judge Andrew J. Santoli
LESLIE ANN CELEBREZZE, et al.	:	
Defendants.	:	DEFENDANT JUDGE LESLIE ANN CELEBREZZE'S RESPONSES TO GEORGEANNA M. SEMARY'S REQUESTS FOR ADMISSIONS

Comes now Defendant Judge Leslie Ann Celebrezze and, for her Responses to Plaintiff's First Set of Admissions, states as follows:

1. You met Plaintiff Georgeanna "Georgia" M. Semaury in about 2007, when you were a magistrate at Cleveland Municipal Court, and Ms. Semaury worked in central scheduling.

RESPONSE: Admit

2. Ms. Semaury worked on your campaign to be a judge in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas Domestic Relations Division.

RESPONSE: Admit

3. After you won election in 2008, you asked Ms. Semaury to be your judicial assistant.

RESPONSE: Admit

4. Before April 28, 2023, you were a close personal friend of Ms. Semaury.

RESPONSE: Admit we were close personal friends until sometime in the spring of 2022. Deny the remaining assertions in this request.

5. You were a close personal friend of Ms. Semary until April 28, 2023, when you learned she gave a reporter access to a court file containing a record about Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Deny. See response to Request No. 4.

6. By April 28, 2023, Mark Dottore was someone whom you had appointed as the receiver in multiple cases assigned to you.

RESPONSE: Admit

7. By April 28, 2023, you had developed a romantic relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Deny

8. By April 28, 2023, you had had a romantic affair with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Deny

9. By April 28, 2023, you had had sexual intercourse with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Deny

10. Before April 28, 2023, you had told Ms. Semary that you had a romantic relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Deny

11. Before April 28, 2023, you knew that Ms. Semary knew that you had been having a romantic relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Deny

12. On April 28, 2023, you learned via text message from Ms. Semary that reporter Mark Puente had come to chambers to request case information.

RESPONSE: Admit

13. On April 28, 2023, you spoke with Court Administrator Defendant James Zak about Ms. Semary's text message.

RESPONSE: Admit I spoke with Mr. Zak, in part, about the text on that date.

14. On April 28, 2023, James Zak told you that Ms. Semary had told him that the reporter had accessed and requested from Ms. Semary one or more case-file documents about Mark Dottore's billing as a receiver you had appointed.

RESPONSE: Admit Mr. Zak told me that Ms. Semary told him that a reporter was sent upstairs by the clerk's office to see a file; the reporter asked to see the file, she gave him the file, and she made copies of portions of the file for him. Deny the remaining assertions in this request.

15. Before April 28, 2023, you had known that reporter Mark Puente of the Marshall Project was investigating your relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Admit that on or around May 2, 2023, I received an email from Mark Puente stating, in part, that he had been "trying to contact [me] about my relationship with Mark Dottore and his company." Prior to receiving the email, I was aware that Puente had called Susan Sweeney, although I do not recall knowing what, specifically, he was calling about. I do not specifically recall knowing "that reporter Mark Puente of the Marshall Project was investigating [my] relationship with Mark Dottore" before April 28, 2023.

16. On April 28, 2023, you learned that reporter Mark Puente of the Marshall Project was investigating your relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: See Response to Request No. 15.

17. On or about April 28, 2023, you at least inferred that reporter Mark Puente of the Marshall Project was investigating your relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: See Response to Request No. 15.

18. Before April 28, 2023, Ms. Semaury helped you on your campaigns.

RESPONSE: Admit

19. Before April 28, 2023, you sometimes confided in Ms. Semaury about personal and family matters.

RESPONSE: Admit

20. Before April 28, 2023, you spent time with Ms. Semaury outside of work.

RESPONSE: Admit

21. Before April 28, 2023, you went on a camping trip with Ms. Semaury and your respective children.

RESPONSE: Admit

22. On at least one occasion before April 28, 2023, you went with Ms. Semaury to the Cedar Point amusement park.

RESPONSE: Admit

23. On at least on occasion before April 28, 2023, you went to Ms. Semaury's neighborhood for swimming and to attend a cookout at her neighbor's place.

RESPONSE: Admit

24. On at least one occasion before April 28, 2023, you went to Ms. Semary's neighborhood with your children for a "Santa Claus" visit she had arranged.

RESPONSE: Admit

25. On at least one occasion before April 28, 2023, you visited a shooting range with Ms. Semary and worked to obtain your concealed-carry licenses together.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is impermissibly compound. Without waiving this objection, admit.

26. On at least one occasion before April 28, 2023, you and Ms. Semary attended each other's children's graduations.

RESPONSE: Admit

27. On at least one occasion before April 28, 2023, you and Ms. Semary attended each other's birthday parties, including Ms. Semary's 50th birthday party in February 2022.

RESPONSE: Admit

28. When Ms. Semary had surgery in December 2022, you brought her groceries and spent time with her.

RESPONSE: Admit

29. In 2021, you were slated to attend, with Ms. Semary, a "girls' trip" with friends in Miami, which you ultimately didn't attend because your mother suddenly had a serious health issue.

RESPONSE: Admit that, in 2021, I was planning to attend a girls trip with

Ms. Searny and others to Miami, Florida, and did not attend; I told her that my mother had recently had a heart attack. Deny remaining assertions in this request.

30. Before April 28, 2023, you often took smoking breaks with Ms. Searny at work and talked about personal matters.

RESPONSE: Admit

31. On smoking breaks with Ms. Searny, you sometimes discussed your relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Objection to the form of the question. "Relationship" is not defined in the request. If defining "relationship" as being close personal, family friends, I admit that during smoking breaks, I sometimes discussed my relationship with Mark Dottore with Ms. Searny.

32. In your most recent, November 2022 performance evaluation of Ms. Searny, a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Ex. A**, which you personally signed, you rated her with the highest rating, as "exceed[ing] expectations," on all five criteria: Quality of Work, Initiative, Communication and Teamwork, Decision Making and Problem Solving, and Public Service Skills—a perfect score.

RESPONSE: Admit Ms. Searny received a Rating of 3, Exceeds Expectations, on each of the categories identified.

33. In a November 21, 2022, letter to Ms. Searny, a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Ex. B**, you told her:

I want to congratulate you on your successful 2022 Annual Performance Evaluation. Your hard work to make the Cuyahoga County Domestic Relations Court a safe and efficient operation for the citizens we serve is very much appreciated. A review of the overall evaluation indicates that you met or exceeded expectations. I am pleased to let you know that your efforts have merited a performance bonus. This one-time lump sum payment is based on merit and will not be added to your base rate of pay.

RESPONSE: Admit this is part of what was stated in the November 21, 2022, letter, attached to the Requests as Exhibit B, and every employee of the Domestic Relations Division received the same letter and a merit-based

performance bonus.

34. Likewise, in a 2012 performance evaluation, a true and correct copy of which is attached as **Ex. C**, you rated Ms. Semary at the highest “Well Above Standard” rating across all 18 criteria—a perfect score.

RESPONSE: Admit Ms. Semary received a “Well Above Standard” rating on the 18 criteria included in the 2012 performance evaluation, attached to the Requests as Exhibit C.

35. On top of regular salary increases, you ensured that Ms. Semary received at least one bonus in 2022 for exceptional performance.

RESPONSE: Deny. Every employee received a merit-based performance bonus in 2022.

36. Until May 3, 2023, four days after she afforded a reporter access to one of your case files, Ms. Semary never received oral counseling or a reprimand from you in her assignment to you.

RESPONSE: Admit that, prior to May 3, 2023, Ms. Semary did not receive a written reprimand, but deny the remaining assertions in the request.

37. On at least five occasions, you appointed Mark Dottore (or his daughter) as the receiver of parties’ assets and finances on cases on your docket.

RESPONSE: Admit

38. You knew by April 28, 2023 that, as a result of your appointments of them as receivers, Mark Dottore or his daughter had charged fees across those cases totaling at least \$100,000.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence. Without waiving this objection, prior to April 28, 2023, deny for lack of knowledge. I never calculated the total amount of fees Mark Dottore or his daughter charged across the cases they had before me. I have made reasonable inquiry into

what I knew at the relevant time (prior to April 28, 2023) and, based on the information known to me, I cannot truthfully admit or deny knowing the total amount charged by the identified receivers prior to April 28, 2023.

39. You have known Mark Dottore since you were about seven years old.

RESPONSE: Admit

40. You know that your father, as a domestic-relations judge, had appointed Mark Dottore as a receiver on several cases.

RESPONSE: Admit

41. By April 28, 2023, you knew that Ms. Semary, since 2011, had seen you and Mark Dottore attend several political events together.

RESPONSE: Deny for lack of knowledge. I do not know what Ms. Semary knew nor can I speak to what she saw between 2011 and April 28, 2023.

42. In about 2011, you told Ms. Semary that you liked Dottore (in a romantic sense).

RESPONSE: Deny

43. Once, before Dottore's divorce began in 2018, you entered your offices crying, and told Ms. Semary upon her concerned inquiry that Dottore's then-wife had caught you "making out" with Dottore outside of his office.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence. Without waiving this objection, deny.

44. You told Ms. Semary that Dottore's wife was upset and called you and Dottore names.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to

the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence. Without waiving this objection, deny.

45. In about November 2018, Lisa Dottore (now Lisa Moran) filed for a divorce from Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence. Without waiving this objection, deny for lack of knowledge. I have made reasonably inquiry and based on the information known to me or readily attainable by me, I can state that I do not know, specifically, when Lisa Dottore filed for divorce from Mark Dottore.

46. Sometime in 2018 or early 2019, you told Ms. Semary that you were considering divorcing your husband.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

47. Sometime in 2018 or early 2019, you told Ms. Semary that you had consulted a domestic-relations attorney.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

48. Sometime in 2018 or early 2019, you told Ms. Semary that you had consulted domestic-relations attorney Joseph Stafford.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

49. After Mark Dottore's divorce, on at least one occasion, you called and raised your voice at Dottore because of other people he was dating.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

50. On at least one smoke break, you complained to Ms. Semary about Dottore's other girlfriends.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

51. On at least one smoke break, you remarked to Ms. Semary, referring to another woman in Dottore's life, "Fuck that bitch!"

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

52. You told Ms. Semary that you got one woman to stop calling you whenever you were with Dottore by stopping your location-sharing on a phone app.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

53. In about September 2021, Ms. Semary invited you on a "girls' trip" to Miami.

RESPONSE: Admit

54. You told Ms. Semary that Mark Dottore would try to join you for the weekend in Miami.

RESPONSE: Deny

55. On a smoke break, you joked to Ms. Semary about what she and Dottore would do together in Miami, saying, "What happens in Miami stays in Miami!"

RESPONSE: Deny.

56. You ultimately canceled going to Miami because of your mother developed a serious health condition.

RESPONSE: Deny; see Response to Request No. 29.

57. In February 2022, Ms. Semaury invited you to her 50th birthday party, which took place on a Friday night.

RESPONSE: Admit

58. You told Ms. Semaury that Dottore was planning to attend the birthday party to meet up with you.

RESPONSE: Admit telling Ms. Semaury that Mr. Dottore was planning to attend the birthday party. Further answering, deny any remaining statements contained in this request.

59. You told Ms. Semaury that Dottore canceled plans to attend her party by telling you he had just arrived back from travel and was too tired to attend.

RESPONSE: Admit

60. On learning that Dottore was no longer attending Ms. Semaury's birthday party, you wept in front of Ms. Semaury's friends and family.

RESPONSE: Deny

61. Around that same time, Ms. Semaury invited you outside for a smoke break, which you did with her and a close friend of hers.

RESPONSE: Admit taking a smoke break with Ms. Semaury and a friend at her birthday party. Further answering, deny any remaining statements contained in this request.

62. Ms. Semaury told you while out smoking that she did not trust Dottore and that she believed you could do better.

RESPONSE: Admit that, during a smoke break with Ms. Semaury, she told me she did not trust Dottore. Further answering, I don't recall any additional comments or conversation.

63. Upset by Ms. Sema's comment, you mulled it over the weekend.

RESPONSE: Deny

64. The following Monday, you asked Ms. Sema to go outside for a smoke and asked her about her comments about not trusting Dottore.

RESPONSE: Admit

65. After that conversation, you became more cautious about sharing information about Dottore with her.

RESPONSE: Admit at some point in early 2022, I became more cautious about sharing any information I did not want disclosed to others with Ms. Sema. Further answering, deny any remaining statements contained in this request.

66. In about the last year or so, when divorce lawyer Joe Stafford in court criticized Dottore's actions as a receiver, you came into chambers and told the bailiff to "Get that motherfucker Joe Stafford out of my courtroom. How dare he talk to Mark that way!?" or used words to that effect.

RESPONSE: Admit that after Attorney Joe Stafford attempted to use my courtroom to attend a telephone pretrial, I came into my chambers and told the bailiff to "Get that motherfucker out of my courtroom." Deny that this was in response to Stafford criticizing Dottore's actions as a receiver; deny saying "How dare he talk to Mark that way;" and further deny any remaining statements contained in this request.

67. You once told Ms. Sema that when you and Dottore were in a bar together, you jumped between Dottore and a man and "got in the man's face," almost fighting with him.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

68. Regarding that incident, you told Ms. Semaury that you had been worried about getting red wine on your white coat.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

69. You have an Instagram account entitled @undertherobes (available at <https://www.instagram.com/undertherobes/>) on which you post daily, morning, fashion selfies at home.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

70. You brand your Instagram account “Daily fashion from a sitting judge.”

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

71. Before public attention in 2023 to your relationship with Mark Dottore, you had made this Instagram account open to the public.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

72. Before public attention in 2023 to your relationship with Mark Dottore, Dottore would click the “love” button on your posts almost daily.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

73. After public attention to your relationship with Mark Dottore, Dottore stopped clicking the love button in response to your posts.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence.

74. You told at least one other judge of the Domestic Relations Court that you love Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Admit stating to another Domestic Relations Court judge something along the lines of “I love Mark, he’s my best friend.” I have also referred to loving other friends, both male and female. Further answering, deny any remaining statements contained in this request.

75. You told a former judge of the Domestic Relations Court that you are in a romantic relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Deny

76. When you appointed Mark Dottore and his daughter as receivers, you never disclosed to any of the parties or attorneys the nature of your relationship with Dottore.

RESPONSE: Objection to form. “Relationship” is not defined. With the understanding that “relationship” is defined as being close personal, family friends, admit that I never disclosed to any of the parties or attorneys that I have a personal relationship with Dottore.

77. You knew that if you disclosed the nature of your relationship with Dottore, parties would likely object to your handing over their assets to someone with whom you had such a relationship.

RESPONSE: Deny

78. You never disallowed Mark Dottore’s or his daughter’s billing to litigants on cases to which you appointed them.

RESPONSE: Objection; this request is overbroad it is overbroad and burdensome. Without waiving this objection, deny for lack of knowledge. I do not recall every case I have handled involving Dottore or his daughter, nor can I specifically recall allowing or disallowing billing to litigants on cases.

79. Case No. DR-20-380393 on your docket, *Braxton v. McDonald*, to which you appointed Mark Dottore a receiver, is not an abuse, neglect, or dependency case.

RESPONSE: Admit

80. On April 28, 2023, you had no personal notes in the *Braxton v. McDonald* file.

RESPONSE: Deny

81. On April 28, 2023, nothing in the *Braxton v. McDonald* case file was marked as being under seal or confidential.

RESPONSE: Deny

82. Before April 28, 2023, you never directed, instructed, or advised Ms. Semary, your judicial assistant of about 15 years, to redact juvenile names and birthdates from case files before making them available for public access.

RESPONSE: Admit I do not recall personally directing, instructing, or advising Ms. Semary to redact juvenile names and birthdays from case files before making them available for public access, but I did expect her to follow the Court's policies and procedures.

83. Before April 28, 2023, you never directed, instructed, or advised anyone at the courthouse, including your chambers staff, to redact juvenile names and birthdates from case files before making them available for public access.

RESPONSE: Admit I do not recall personally directing, instructing, or advising court staff to redact juvenile names and birthdays from case files before making them available for public access, but I did expect court staff to follow the Court's policies and procedures. The reference to "anyone at the courthouse," is unclear, and therefore that portion of the request is denied.

84. Before April 28, 2023, you never requested that the Cuyahoga County Clerk of Courts redact juvenile names and birthdates before making case files in its possession available for public access.

RESPONSE: Admit. The Clerk of Courts is part of the executive branch and not under my control.

85. Before April 28, 2023, you never personally directed Ms. Semaury to route all requests for case files to central court administration.

RESPONSE: Admit I do not recall personally directing Ms. Semaury to “route requests for case files to central court administration,” but I did expect her to follow the Court’s policies and procedures.

86. Before April 28, 2023, over the 15 years that Ms. Semaury worked for you, you knew that she made case files available to those who came to chambers and requested access.

RESPONSE: Deny as stated. My bailiff and possibly Ms. Semaury had occasion to allow attorneys deciding whether to represent parties to view the complaint and answer while sitting in a location where that review could be monitored.

87. Before April 28, 2023, over the 15 years that Ms. Semaury worked for you, you knew that making case files available to those who came to chambers and requested access was part of her job responsibilities, as expected by you.

RESPONSE: Deny

88. You knew that, before April 28, 2023, Ms. Semaury had provided court records to members of the public seeking access and copies.

RESPONSE: Deny with the exception stated in response to Request No. 86.

89. Before April 28, 2023, you never objected to Ms. Semaury making case files available to people seeking to access them.

RESPONSE: Admit I never objected because, before April 28, 2023, that was the bailiff’s job and only as described in response to Request No. 86.

Before April 28, 2023, the attorneys for the parties in the *Braxton v. McDonald* case, Paul Daiker and Dean Colovas, had neither redacted juvenile names and birthdates nor moved to place that information under seal.

RESPONSE: Admit

90. You know that the Supreme Court of Ohio's domestic-relations forms do not include instructions to redact juvenile names and birthdates.

RESPONSE: Admit

91. The Dottore billing documentation in the *Braxton v. McDonald* case file was neither confidential nor under seal.

RESPONSE: Without seeing the specific billing documentation to which this request refers, I cannot admit or deny.

92. The Dottore billing documentation in the *Braxton v. McDonald* case file was a court record open to public access.

RESPONSE: Without seeing the specific billing documentation to which this request refers, I cannot admit or deny.

93. On April 28, 2023, Ms. Semaery texted you the business card of reporter Mark Puente of the Marshall Project with this message: "This guy stopped by the office asked if you can give him a call it's about several of your cases he said" [*sic*].

RESPONSE: Admit

94. You did not respond to Ms. Semaery's message.

RESPONSE: Admit

95. Instead of responding to Ms. Semaury, you contacted James Zak.

RESPONSE: Admit

96. James Zak reported to you that Ms. Semaury had given Dottore billing records to reporter Mark Puente.

RESPONSE: Admit Mr. Zak told me that Ms. Semaury told him that a reporter was sent upstairs by the clerk's office to see a file; the reporter asked to see the file, she gave him the file, and she made copies of portions of the file for him. Deny Zak mentioned billing records.

97. It would not have been reasonable for Ms. Semaury to delay direct access to a single court file in response to Mr. Puente's request for direct access.

RESPONSE: Deny

98. Ms. Semaury would have had no basis to deny or delay Mr. Puente's access to the *Braxton v. McDonald* case file on April 28, 2023.

RESPONSE: Deny

99. The DR Court, under your leadership as administrative judge, had no clear policy or rule requiring court staff like Ms. Semaury to inspect open court files for juvenile names and birthdates and redact them before affording direct access to the public.

RESPONSE: Deny

100. On or about April 28, 2023, you learned from James Zak that Ms. Semaury had told him that Mr. Puente had come to her office after visiting the clerk's office.

RESPONSE: Admit

101. From April 28, 2023 through your receipt of these requests for admission, you have never inquired or investigated whether clerk's office employees gave Mark Puente access to case files containing juvenile names and birthdates.

RESPONSE: Admit. The Clerk of Courts is part of the executive branch and not under my control.

102. From April 28, 2023 through your receipt of these requests for admission, you have neither asked the clerk of courts, nor requested court administration ask the clerk, to discipline clerk's office employees who gave Mr. Puente or any other member of the public access to case files containing juvenile names and birthdates.

RESPONSE: Admit. The Clerk of Courts is part of the executive branch and not under my control.

103. From April 28, 2023 through your receipt of these requests for admission, you have never asked the clerk of courts, or requested court administration ask the clerk, to direct or train clerk's office personnel to redact juvenile names and birthdates before making case files available to the public.

RESPONSE: Admit. The Clerk of Courts is part of the executive branch and not under my control.

104. Before April 28, 2023, you did not know whether any clerk's office staff knew anything about the nature of your relationship with Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Objection to form. "Relationship" is not defined. With the understanding that "relationship" is defined as being close personal, family friends, I admit that I did not know, before April 28, 2023, if any clerk's office staff knew of the nature of my relationship with Mr. Dottore.

105. On the afternoon of April 28, 2023, Ms. Semaery texted you again and said:

I'm sorry I didn't know who he was he made it seem like he was a runner for an attorney and said the clerks told him to come upstairs if he wanted to review a file he didn't give me his card till after cuz I asked if he was working for an attorney and that's when he handed me the card and said he was working on several cases [sic].

RESPONSE: Admit

106. You didn't respond to this additional text from Ms. Semaury.

RESPONSE: Admit

107. Ms. Semaury then tried calling you on April 28, 2023, on your mobile phone, but you didn't answer.

RESPONSE: Admit

108. Your nonresponsive behavior toward Ms. Semaury on April 28, 2023, was not normal for you in your relationship with her.

RESPONSE: Deny

109. You communicated with Mark Dottore at some point between April 28–May 3, 2023 about reporter Mark Puente's investigation.

RESPONSE: Admit I communicated with Mark Dottore about Mr. Puente's "investigation" around this time period, but I cannot specifically recall that it was during that time period.

110. You communicated with Mark Dottore at some point between April 28–May 3, 2023 about Ms. Semaury.

RESPONSE: Admit I communicated with Mr. Dottore about Ms. Semaury around this time period, but I cannot specifically recall that it was between those dates.

111. At some point between April 28 and May 3, 2023, Mark Dottore recommended or advised arranging for the discipline of Ms. Semaury.

RESPONSE: Deny

112. On April 28, 2023, Ms. Semary texted, “Please call me I’m sick over this and scared now I didn’t know Leslie and I figure if the clerks sent him up it was ok please call me” [sic].

RESPONSE: Admit

113. You saw Ms. Semary’s text but chose again not to respond to her directly.

RESPONSE: Admit

114. On April 28, 2023, you texted your bailiff, Roberto Discenza, directing him to tell Ms. Semary that you and Ms. Semary would talk the next week about Mr. Puente’s visit.

RESPONSE: Admit

115. You were angry and upset about Ms. Semary’s interaction with reporter Mark Puente.

RESPONSE: Admit I was disappointed with Ms. Semary about, among other things, the fact that she conducted herself in contravention of Court policies and procedures by giving unsupervised access to a file to someone whose identity she did not know. Deny the remaining assertions in this request.

116. At some point between April 28, 2023, and May 3, 2023, you conferred with James Zak and other administrators about what to do to with Ms. Semary.

RESPONSE: Admit I conferred with James Zak and other administrators about Ms. Semary between April 28, 2023, and May 3, 2023.

117. On May 1, 2023, you were at work but ignored Ms. Semary all day.

RESPONSE: Deny

118. In your 15 years of working together and being close friends, you had never before April May 1, 2023, ignored Ms. Semary all day when you were in the workplace

together.

RESPONSE: Objection. This request is compound, unclear, and incapable of response under Rule 36.

119. On May 2, 2023, you largely ignored Ms. Semaury and did not speak to her until she asked you something.

RESPONSE: Deny

120. You noticed other employees ignoring Ms. Semaury on May 2, 2023.

RESPONSE: Deny

121. On May 2, 2023, you saw Ms. Semaury crying on and off.

RESPONSE: Admit I occasionally saw Ms. Semaury crying at work and was aware her friend was dying, but I cannot recall whether she was crying on May 2, 2023.

122. On May 2, 2023, Ms. Semaury asked you if she would be fired.

RESPONSE: I do not recall.

123. In response to Ms. Semaury's May 2, 2023 question asking if she would be fired, you shrugged and said nothing.

RESPONSE: I do not recall.

124. Ms. Semaury then asked you on May 2, 2023 if you would just talk to her.

RESPONSE: I do not recall.

125. You didn't say a word in response to Ms. Semary's May 2, 2023 question about whether you would just talk to her, and shook your head no.

RESPONSE: I do not recall.

126. By refusing to communicate with Ms. Semary, you were sending her a message that you were angry and upset with her about her interaction with reporter Mark Puente.

RESPONSE: Deny

127. On May 3, 2023, Ms. Semary passed you as she was leaving James Zak's office area and asked if she could try to move up a scheduled meeting with administrators.

RESPONSE: Deny. Ms. Semary said to me, "You need to tell Jim he needs to have that fucking meeting now."

128. Upon hearing Ms. Semary's May 3, 2023, question, you just ignored her.

RESPONSE: Objection. This request is vague. To the extent it refers to the alleged question referenced in Request No. 128, deny.

129. You knew in advance that, on May 3, 2023, Defendant Zak was going to give Ms. Semary a "Written Counseling" document alleging she shared confidential information with reporter Mark Puente.

RESPONSE: Admit I knew in advance that, on May 3, 2023, Defendant Zak was going to give Ms. Semary a "Written Counseling" document about the events of April 28, 2023, because her actions violated Court policy. Deny the remainder of this request.

130. This Written Counseling document was given to Ms. Semary with your approval.

RESPONSE: Admit

131. You did nothing to ensure the material accusations in this document were true.

RESPONSE: Deny

132. DR Court judges, including you, before April 28, 2023, often put juvenile names in your judgment entries, which were not confidential or withheld from the public.

RESPONSE: Admit that, as a domestic relations court judge, before April 28, 2023, I often included juvenile's names in judgment entries. Further answering, deny any remaining assertions in this request.

133. Nothing Ms. Semary did was of such a serious magnitude that it justified you as her close friend and boss—the administrative judge of the DR Court—ostracizing her and not speaking with her.

RESPONSE: Objection to the characterization of my actions. Without waiving the foregoing objection, deny.

134. By August 2023, you were aware that Susan K. Sweeney had prepared purported notes of the May 3, 2023, administrators' meeting with Ms. Semary.

RESPONSE: Admit that I was aware Ms. Sweeney had taken contemporaneous notes during the May 3, 2023, meeting. Further answering, deny any remaining assertions in this request.

135. On May 3, 2023, upon returning to the office from the meeting with Defendants Zak and Sweeney, Ms. Semary told you about the stress the situation had caused her, including losing several nights of sleep.

RESPONSE: Deny

136. When Ms. Semaury told you she had lost sleep from stress, you expressed no sympathy to her.

RESPONSE: Objection to the representations incorporated in this request. Without waiving the foregoing objection, deny.

By May 26, 2023, you had communicated with reporter Mark Puente in connection with his investigation of the relationship between you and Mark Dottore.

RESPONSE: Admit that by May 26, 2023, I had spoken with Mark Puente, but deny the categorization of his “investigation.”

137. By May 26, 2023, you had gathered from your communications with Mr. Puente that he was investigating whether you had an inappropriately close relationship with Dottore.

RESPONSE: Admit that I understood that Mr. Puente was investigating what he believed, incorrectly, was an inappropriately close relationship with Dottore.

138. By May 26, 2023, you knew that court administrators were going to demote Ms. Semaury.

RESPONSE: Admit that by May 26, 2023, I knew the court administrators were going to tell Ms. Semaury she was being transferred out of my chambers, with my approval and at my direction.

139. The demotion of Ms. Semaury was with your knowledge and approval.

RESPONSE: See Response to Request 140.

140. The demotion of Ms. Semaury was at your direction.

RESPONSE: See Response to Request 140.

141. Before 2023, you had never punished, approved punishment for, or sought punishment for an employee more than once for the same alleged offense.

RESPONSE: Objection; this request is vague and incapable of being answered.

142. Court staff, with your authorization and approval, demoted Ms. Semary and cut her salary by about \$20,000 because of her interaction with reporter Mark Puente.

RESPONSE: Admit court staff relayed to Ms. Semary, with my authorization and approval, that she was being transferred out of my chambers and her salary was being reduced to the salary range of the other schedulers in her new role, effective October 13, 2023. Admit that Ms. Semary was transferred because I no longer had any trust or confidence in her. Deny any remaining assertions in this request

143. You personally decided that Ms. Semary should not only be demoted but have her salary cut by about \$20,000 annually.

RESPONSE: Admit I personally decided that Ms. Semary should be transferred out of my chambers for the reasons stated in response to Request No. 144; admit I agreed that her salary should be commensurate with the other schedulers in her new department.

144. On June 1, 2023, at about 5:00 pm, The Marshall Project published the article, “A Judge, a Kiss, and \$450,000-plus in Court Work.” Mark Puente, *A Judge, a Kiss, and \$450,000-plus in Court Work*, The Marshall Project, June 1, 2023, at <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2023/06/01/divorce-judge-kiss-court-work> (copy attached and incorporated as **Ex. D**).

RESPONSE: Admit, although I do not know what time the article was published.

145. On or about June 1, 2023, you read the Marshall Project article, “A Judge, a Kiss, and \$450,000-plus in Court Work.”

RESPONSE: Admit

146. The Marshall Project article, “A Judge, a Kiss, and \$450,000-plus in Court Work,” by Mark Puente, upset you.

RESPONSE: Admit

147. The video accompanying the June 1, 2023, article in which you are depicted cupping Mark Dottore’s chin and kissing him on the lips outside of Delmonico’s Steakhouse in Independence on March 22, 2023, accurately depicts that moment.

RESPONSE: Deny the video accurately depicts the moment. Further, it does not contain audio.

148. The article reported: “Celebrezze and Dottore deny a romantic relationship. ‘I’m Italian,’ Celebrezze said in an emailed statement to The Marshall Project – Cleveland ..., “and I frequently kiss my family and friends on the lips when I greet them or say goodbye.”

RESPONSE: Admit

149. The article also quoted Dottore as saying, in response to the private investigator’s video: “She kisses everybody. I kiss everybody.”

RESPONSE: Deny this is an accurate quote, but those two sentences are quoted separately in the article.

150. The “I’m Italian” quote from you by the Marshall Project is accurate.

RESPONSE: Admit

151. When you used “I’m Italian” as an excuse for kissing Dottore on the lips, that was misleading because your kisses of Dottore on the lips were romantic.

RESPONSE: Deny

152. You do not kiss all your friends and professional colleagues on the lips.

RESPONSE: Admit I do not kiss “all” of my friends and professional colleagues on the lips, but I do frequently kiss friends and colleagues on the lips, both male and female.

153. You know that your receivership appointments for Dottore and his daughter have resulted in his billing hundreds of thousands of dollars to parties seeking divorces in your courtroom.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence; it is overbroad and burdensome and cannot be answered through information known or readily obtainable through reasonable inquiry by Judge Celebrezze.

154. Dottore served as your campaign treasurer when you ran for your judgeship in 2008.

RESPONSE: Admit

155. Your campaign headquarters is listed as Dottore’s business address.

RESPONSE: Deny I have campaign headquarters. Further answering, I do not know what listing this request is referring to.

During some periods in 2023, you met with Dottore at his office, home, and restaurants as often as three to four times each week.

RESPONSE: Objection; this request is vague and not capable of being

answered.¹

156. On or about June 1, 2023, you read the Marshall Project article's allegation that Dottore claimed he met with you at his home on Fridays to work on "court programs" and "special projects."

RESPONSE: Admit

157. There were no "court programs" or "special programs" that would have justified you and Mark Dottore spending so much time together in 2023.

RESPONSE: Deny

158. On or before June 5, 2023, you communicated with Defendant Zak about cutting Ms. Semary's salary.

RESPONSE: Admit I communicated with Mr. Zak, on or before June 7, 2023, about making Ms. Semary's salary commensurate with other schedulers in her new department.

159. On or before June 5, 2023, you directed Defendant Zak and one or more other co-Defendants to cut Ms. Semary's salary.

RESPONSE: Deny

160. On or before June 5, 2023, you authorized Defendant Zak and one or more other co-Defendants to cut Ms. Semary's salary.

RESPONSE: Admit that, on or before June 7, 2023, I authorized Mr. Zak to make Ms. Semary's salary commensurate with other schedulers in her new department.

¹ This Request was not numbered in the original document.

On or before June 5, 2023, you knew that court administrators would have to communicate to Ms. Semary that her salary would be cut.

RESPONSE: Admit that I knew, on or before June 7, 2023, court administrators would communicate with Ms. Semary that her salary would be commensurate with other schedulers in her new department beginning October 13, 2023.

161. You knew that cutting Ms. Semary's then-current salary as your judicial assistant would ultimately reduce the long-term pension benefits she likely would have otherwise received based on future anticipated increases to that current salary.

RESPONSE: Objection; this request poses a hypothetical and requests Judge Celebrezze to assume things which may or may not occur in the future. Without waiving, deny.

162. Other judges of the Domestic Relations Court have asked you to step down as administrative judge.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence. Without waiving the foregoing objection, admit Judge Goldberg and Judge Reali asked me to step down as administrative judge. Deny the remaining assertions of this request.

163. You have refused a request by other judges of the Domestic Relations Court to step down as administrative judge.

RESPONSE: Objection; this question is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of relevant, admissible evidence. Without waiving the foregoing objection, admit I did not step down as administrative judge after Judge Goldberg and Judge Reali asked.

164. By June 5, 2023, you believed that if your affair with Mark Dottore were exposed, the propriety of all your acts of appointing him as a receiver and permitting him to

receive fees and expenses would be subject to scrutiny and question.

RESPONSE: Objection to the characterization of my friendship with Dottore as an “affair.” Without waiving the foregoing objection, deny.

165. By June 5, 2023, you believed that if your affair with Mark Dottore were exposed, it would prompt questions and investigations about what personal benefits you may have received directly or indirectly from Dottore including and beyond the affair.

RESPONSE: Objection to the characterization of my friendship with Dottore as an “affair.” Without waiving the foregoing objection, deny.

166. By June 5, 2023, you believed that if Ms. Semaey was not silenced about her knowledge of the nature of your personal relationship with Mark Dottore, your judicial office was at risk.

RESPONSE: Deny

167. By June 5, 2023, you believed that if Ms. Semaey was not silenced about her knowledge of the nature of your personal relationship with Mark Dottore, your law license would be at risk.

RESPONSE: Deny

168. You know that the Supreme Court of Ohio’s disciplinary counsel is inquiring into your relationship with Dottore.

RESPONSE: Objection; the Rules of the Supreme Court of Ohio require that disciplinary counsel’s investigations are confidential. See Gov. Bar R. 8.

169. When considering and discussing potential adverse employment actions against Ms. Semary, you knew that she could be a witness for any disciplinary proceeding against you as a judge and lawyer.

RESPONSE: Deny

170. You know that, in the wake of her demotion and salary cut, and your silent treatment of her, Ms. Semary submitted her resignation, to be effective September 8, 2023.

RESPONSE: Admit that, following her transfer, Ms. Semary submitted her resignation, effective September 8, 2023. Further answering, deny any remaining assertions contained in this request.

171. From knowing Ms. Semary, you knew that, when she was demoted and her salary cut by \$20,000, it was likely that she would resign.

RESPONSE: Deny

172. You wanted Ms. Semary to resign.

RESPONSE: Deny

173. You were happy when Ms. Semary submitted her resignation.

RESPONSE: Deny

174. After May 3, 2023, you communicated with Mark Dottore about Ms. Semary.

RESPONSE: Admit

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Linda L. Woeber

Linda L. Woeber (OH 0039112)

Lisa M. Zaring (OH 0080659)

MONTGOMERY JONSON LLP

600 Vine Street, Suite 2650

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

(513) 768-5239 / lwoeber@mojolaw.com

(513) 768-5207 / lzaring@mojolaw.com

*Attorneys for Defendant Judge Leslie Ann
Celebrezze*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

Pursuant to Civ. R. 5(B)(2)(f), I served a copy of the foregoing via email upon the following on this 20th day of October 2023:

Subodh Chandra (OH 0069233)

Donald Screen (OH 0044070)

THE CHANDRA LAW FIRM LLC

The Chandra Law Building

1265 W. 6th Street, Suite 400

Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1326

216.578.1700 Phone

216.578.1800 Fax

Subodh.Chandra@ChandraLaw.com

Donald.Screen@ChandraLaw.com

*Attorneys for Plaintiff Georgeanna
M. Semaury*

Brendan D. Healy (0081225)

Matthew T. Fitzsimmons, IV (0093787)

Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office

The Justice Center, Courts Tower

1200 Ontario Street, 8th Floor

Cleveland, Ohio 44113

216.443-8071 Phone

bhealy@prosecutor.cuyahogacounty.us

mfitzsimmons@prosecutor.cuyahogacounty.us

*Attorneys for Defendants James Zak, Susan
K. Sweeney, Justin Seeton, and Serpil Ergun*

/s/ Linda L. Woeber

LINDA L. WOEBER (0039112)



**THRASHER
DINSMORE
& DOLAN**

A LEGAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
WWW.TDDLAW.COM

DALE H. MARKOWITZ
JOSEPH R. ZNIDARSIC
HEIDI M. CISAN
TODD C. HICKS*
MATTHEW J. DOLAN
J. JAREDD FLYNN
EZIO A. LISTATI
KELLY A. SLATTERY
JOHN R. LIBER, II**
BRANDON D. R. DYNES
LEO M. SPELLACY, JR.
TIM L. COLLINS***

BRIDEY MATHENEY
CHRISTOPHER A. HOLECEK
TANJA M. HOLECEK
ELIZABETH E. COLLINS
RACHEL C. DODDS
SAMUEL T. O'LEARY
CHRISTOPHER R. ELKO
S. DREW GITTINS
RAY K. THRASHER (1906-1973)
JAMES W. DINSMORE (1916-1975)
LAWRENCE J. DOLAN (RETIRED)
DAVID E. LOWE (1937-2019)

OF COUNSEL:
RANDOLPH L. KNAVEL
MATTHEW D. WHEELLOCK
JAMES P. VITALE

*ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK
** ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA
*** ALSO ADMITTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

TCOLLINS@tddl.com

November 7, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Subodh.Chandra@ChandraLaw.com

Subodh Chandra, Esq.
The Chandra Law Firm LLC
The Chandra Law Building
1265 W. 6th Street, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Re: Georgeanna M. Semary v. Leslie Ann Celebrezze, et al.
Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas, Case No. CV 23 984974

Dear Mr. Chandra:

Further to my letter of October 30, 2023, I understand that a Motion to Dismiss was filed by Judge Celebrezze recently. While neither of us know the outcome of that motion practice, it seems economical for all concerned to wait before undertaking an expensive effort to proceed with discovery, especially by third-parties with no other participation in the pending dispute. Please be sure to keep me posted when the trial court has ruled on the Motion to Dismiss, so we can know the scope of the litigation which remains, which will thereby define the scope of discovery relevant to your case.

If you have any questions or concerns, please advise.

Very truly yours,

THRASHER, DINSMORE & DOLAN, LPA


Tim L. Collins

cc Elizabeth E. Collins, Esq.

PLEASE REPLY TO: CLEVELAND OFFICE

100 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 150, CHARDON, OHIO 44024 • PHONE: (440) 285-2242 • FAX: (440) 285-9423

Electronically Filed 12/14/2023 15:47 BRIEF CV-23-984974 Confirmation No. 30409157 CLD

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

6



THRASHER
DINSMORE
& DOLAN

A LEGAL PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION
WWW.TDDLAW.COM

DALE H. MARKOWITZ
JOSEPH R. ZNIDARSIC
HEIDI M. CISAN
TODD C. HICKS*
MATTHEW J. DOLAN
J. JAREDD FLYNN
EZIO A. LISTATI
KELLY A. SLATTERY
JOHN R. LIBER, II**
BRANDON D. R. DYNES
LEO M. SPELLACY, JR.
TIM L. COLLINS***

BRIDEY MATHENEY
CHRISTOPHER A. HOLECEK
TANJA M. HOLECEK
ELIZABETH E. COLLINS
RACHEL C. DODDS
SAMUEL T. O'LEARY
CHRISTOPHER R. ELKO
S. DREW GITTINS
RAY K. THRASHER (1906-1973)
JAMES W. DINSMORE (1916-1975)
LAWRENCE J. DOLAN (RETIRED)
DAVID E. LOWE (1937-2019)

OF COUNSEL:
RANDOLPH L. KNAVEL
MATTHEW D. WHEELOCK
JAMES P. VITALE

*ALSO ADMITTED IN NEW YORK
**ALSO ADMITTED IN FLORIDA
***ALSO ADMITTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

TCOLLINS@tddl.com

December 1, 2023

VIA EMAIL

Subodh.Chandra@ChandraLaw.com

Subodh Chandra, Esq.
The Chandra Law Firm LLC
1265 W. 6th Street, Suite 400
Cleveland, Ohio 44113

Re: Subpoena to Dottore Companies, LLC
Mark E. Dottore

Dear Mr. Chandra:

As you know, this office represents both the Dottore Companies, LLC and Mark E. Dottore with regard to amended subpoenas you have issued on November 16, 2023 in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas case known as Semary v. Leslie Ann Celebrezze, et al., which bears Case No.: CV-23-984974.

I have reviewed the subpoenas which appear to be identical except for the addressee. Accordingly, please accept this letter as an objection to both subpoenas on identical grounds which are:

1. The subpoenas seek information which seeks to invade the attorney-client privilege and work product immunity.
2. The subpoenas seek information which is overbroad to the point of being unenforceable.
3. The subpoenas purport to pose requests but in actuality assume and assert facts that are not in evidence, and are argumentative.
4. The subpoenas purport to pose requests but are vague and ambiguous.
5. The subpoenas are overburdensome to third parties who are not parties to the litigation.

PLEASE REPLY TO: CLEVELAND OFFICE

100 7TH AVENUE, SUITE 150, CHARDON, OHIO 44024 • PHONE: (440) 285-2242 • FAX: (440) 285-9423

1282 WEST 58TH STREET, CLEVELAND, OHIO 44102 • PHONE: (216) 255-5431 • FAX: (216) 255-5450

Electronically Filed 12/14/2023 15:47 / BRIEF / CV 23 984974 / Confirmation Nbr. 3040915 / CLDLJ

PLAINTIFF'S
EXHIBIT

7

6. The subpoenas seek to impose discovery requests to third parties disproportionate to the needs of the underlying case.

7. The subpoenas seek information that is irrelevant to the underlying case.

8. Some of the information sought by the subpoenas is available on publicly available sources, at equal burden to both plaintiff and these respondents, hence no burden of research and production for those materials may be imposed upon these respondents.

9. Some or all of the information requested by the subpoenas is confidential and is not discoverable without a protective order.

10. Some or all of the information requested by the subpoena is designed to annoy, embarrass and oppress, and therefore is not proper.

11. The subpoenas are premature, as the Court has before it a Motion to Dismiss, and your client has indicated she will file an amended Complaint, hence the issues in the case have yet to be established which materially impact the scope of discovery herein.

12. The respondents reserve the right to amend their objections and responses to the subpoenas.

As a result of the identified deficiencies, Dottore Companies, LLC and Mark E. Dottore object to the amended subpoenas and decline to make production as a result. The respondents suggest that the parties negotiate a protective order, which should include a provision allowing Attorney Eyes Only designations where appropriate, should they wish to obtain any information from the respondents.

Additionally, I am informed that medical records of Mr. Dottore's children were produced to you by his ex-wife. Given the financial responsibility Mr. Dottore has taken for these medical treatments, accept this as a demand for production of those records. If you have some privilege or immunity basis for declining to produce same, please provide me with a privilege or immunity log of the records so my client may know the scope and impact of what you are talking about.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

Tim L. Collins

Tim L. Collins

cc: Elizabeth E. Collins, Esq.