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Reply to: Tampa

February 9, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC AND U.S. MAIL

(lhoshihara@ngnlaw.com)

Florida Courts E-Filing Authority Board
c/o Ms. Lynn Miyamoto Hoshihara,
General Counsel
Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson
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Dear Authority Board:

As you likely recall, we represent Courthouse News Service (“CNS”). In anticipation of the board’s February 16, 2023, meeting where we understand CNS’ e-notification request will be discussed, we wanted to share some additional information with you.

When we wrote in December to thank you for the swift implementation of the public filings access system, CNS’ journalists had only been using the system for one month. The system continues to operate well and enables more timely and detailed coverage of circuit civil complaints filed in Florida.

We recently reviewed statistics on usage for the month of January 2023. In that month alone, 480 unique users accessed the system a total of more than 11,500 times. While still new, the public filings access system has already proven beneficial to a wide variety of users.

With respect to e-notifications themselves, they are an extremely valuable tool for staying abreast of litigation in the court system. Essentially, in CNS’ experience, they function like “cc”s to those who have signed up for email notifications, notifications that are already going out to the lawyers in the case. They facilitate timely reporting on case developments and are much more efficient than repeatedly checking dockets for new filings in matters. E-notifications benefit lawyers and members of the public monitoring cases as well. Often, for example, lawyers with interest in an issue or case are eager to know when an order has been entered. Again, e-notifications would prevent lawyers and their staff from having to repeatedly check dockets to see if filings of interest have occurred.

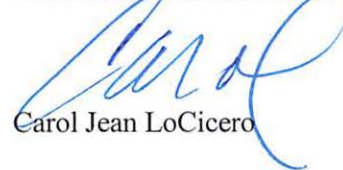
We have attached a sampling of newsworthy cases throughout the state that have generated news media interest. These are the types of cases where e-notifications of recent filings would be extremely useful.

Again, we are grateful to the board and Portal staff for the public filings access system and your willingness to consider providing e-notifications. I am assured that, hands down, the addition of e-notifications to Florida's public filings access system would make Florida the most open court system in our nation.

We are available for any assistance the board or staff might find useful.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS & LoCICERO PLLC



Carol Jean LoCicero

CJL/tmg

enclosure

Sampling of Newsworthy Cases Where E-Notifications Would Assist Reporting

Broward County

1. 2022 CA 003265: *State of Florida v. DuPont de Nemours, Inc.*

The State sued DuPont in Broward County (and Hillsborough County) last year over ground water PFAS (polyfluoridated substances) contamination.

Leon County

2. 2022 CA 000912: *Planned Parenthood of Southwest & Central Florida v. State of Florida*

Plaintiffs sued the State over the implementation of House Bill 5 regulating abortion services.

3. 2022 CA 001681: *Pizzo v. Ron DeSantis, in his official capacity as Governor*

Plaintiff filed a lawsuit against Florida's Chief Financial Officer, the Department of Transportation, and the Governor for the transport of migrants from Texas to Massachusetts.

4. 2022 CA 000666: *Black Voters Matter Capacity Building Institute v. Laurel M. Lee, in her official capacity*

Plaintiffs have filed a lawsuit against the State of Florida regarding redistricting.

Miami-Dade County

5. 2022 CA 23661: *Velardo vs. the McClatchy Company, LLC, et al.*

An Italian citizen is suing the *Miami Herald* (and others) for alleged defamation, including over an article entitled, "Men tied to Italian mob money-laundering case still able to snap up South Florida properties."

Orange County

6. 2023 CA 000662 : *Triece v. Orange County Public Schools*

A mother is suing the Orange County school district for not letting her volunteer with students on school grounds because of racy posts through her OnlyFans account.

Pasco County

7. 2022 CA 002366: *Council on American-Islamic Relations v. Pasco County Sheriff Chris Nocco*

Civil rights group sued the Pasco County Sheriff's Office to obtain public records linked to the county's predictive policing program.

Sarasota County

8. 2022 CA 001128:

The parents of slain 22-year-old Gabby Petito sued her fiancé's family. The case is set for trial in August of 2023.