Part \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_ Parts

# In The Circuit Court for Baltimore City CIVIL

In the Matter of	
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NELSON S. WINTER, ET AL	
VS	
MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI, ETAL	

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	CASE NO	
DATE	DOCKET ENTRIES	NO.
3/22/90	COMPLAINT FOR CONSTRUCTION, EXHIBITS	1
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4-27-40	Stipulation of facts by all coursel	3
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	J. Pijanowski and Antoinette	
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#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY

CATEGORY \_\_\_\_OTHER

CASE NO. 90081076/CE110893 PAGE 1 of \_\_\_\_

**PARTIES** 

ATTORNEY(S)

059847 NELSON S. WINTER, ESQ.

NELSON S. WINTER, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED, LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY

VS

MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI

AUDREY A. BOENNING

DOROTHY M. BECHTEL /

Jacob matz 911688 Jerry T. Lambdin

JAMES D. StONE-389885 Robert R. Bowie, JR. 422631

referred to as the "Will") were both drafted by attorneys.

The Will was duly admitted to probate in the Orphans' Court
on September 9, 1989.

By Item II of the Will, Schoenhals gave her residuary estate to her husband, Walter Schoenhals, if he survived her. However, Schoenhals' husband died in 1969. Provision for such event was made in Item III of the Will, which is the subject of contention in this case. Item III provides as follows:

In the event my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, predeceases me, then, and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to MRS. AUDREY A. BOENNING, of Hyattsville, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. DOROTHY M. BECHTEL of Westport, Baltimore, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. GERTRUDE PIJANOWSKI of Baltimore, Maryland, who is my sister; and EDWARD LITWINSKI of White Marsh, Maryland, who is my brother; in equal shares. In the event that any one or more of the aforegoing legatees predeceases me, then, and in that event, the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, if she, he or they were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees. (Emphasis added).

Both Audrey A. Boenning ("Boenning") and Dorothy M. Bechtel ("Bechtel") are living at the present time. Gertrude Pijanowski died in September, 1980. She is survived by a son, Mitchell Pijanowski ("Pijanowski"). Edward Litwinski died in September, 1982, leaving no children. He is, however, survived by his

Charles Charles

# FILED

NELSON S. WINTER,
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ESTATE OF
ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED,
LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY,

IN THE

OCT 30 1990

CIRCUIT COURT

BALTIMORE CITY

Petitioner

FOR

BALTIMORE CITY

v •

MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI

and

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI

and

AUDREY A. BOENNING

and

DOROTHY M. BECHTEL,

Case No. 90081076/CE110893

Respondents

Respondenes

## MEMORANDUM OPINION AND ORDER

#### Hollander, J.

This is a Bill of Complaint for Construction of a Will.

The matter was submitted on an agreed stipulation of facts,

requiring solely the interpretation by this court of the residuary

clause of the Will of Anna A. Schoenhals.

#### I. Factual Summary

Anna A. Schoenhals ("Schoenhals" or "Testatrix") died in August, 1989. Her Last Will & Testament, dated June 7, 1960, and First Codicil thereto, dated November 24, 1979 (together

wife, Antoinette Litwinski ("Litwinski"). Boenning, Bechtels, Pijanowski and Litwinski are all Respondents in this action.

Boenning and Bechtel claim that Pijanowski and Litwinski are not entitled to any distribution under the Will. Pijanowski and Litwinski contend that, as the sole surviving family and heirs at law of Gertrude Pijanowski and Edward Litwinski, the predeceased legatees, they are entitled to share in the distribution of the estate under the Will. They argue that unless they share in the estate, all of the property will be distributed to the family of Schoenhals' husband, and Schoenhals' own family will be excluded. They urge that such a result would clearly be contrary to the intent of the Testatrix.

#### II. Scope of Review

The standards for construction of a will are well established. The paramount concern of the court in construing a will is to ascertain and effectuate the testator's expressed intent.

Emmert v. Hearn, 309 Md. 19, 23 (1987); Leroy v. Kirk, 262

Md. 276, 279 (1971); Marty v. First Nat'l Bank of Balt., 209

Md. 210, 216 (1956). "What must be sought is not what the testator meant as distinguished from what his words express, but '...simply what is the true meaning of his words' not merely what he meant, but what his words mean." Marty v.

First Nat'l. Bank of Balt., 209 Md. at 216, (citation omitted, emphasis in original). See also, Banghart v. Vieweg, 261

Md. 214 (1971) (effect must be given to testator's expressed intentions rather than indulgence in conjecture, however strong).

The intent of the testator ordinarily must be gathered from the four corners of the will. Reedy v. Barber, 253 Md.

141, 148 (1969). Moreover, the words of the will are given their "plain meaning and import." Leroy, 262 Md. at 280.

But the courts have emphasized that words having legal significance are to be construed in their ordinary sense unless the will clearly indicates otherwise. Patchell v. Groom, 185 Md. 10, 15 (1945). This is particularly true where, as here, a will is drawn by "one learned in the law and skilled in the use of its terminology." Judik v. Travers, 184 Md. 215, 225 Id. (1944). In such situations, "the words employed will be considered as having been deliberately chosen to express the testator's intention and will ordinarily be given their accustomed technical meaning."

#### III. Discussion

The essence of the contention of Respondents Pijanowski and Litwinski is that the term "survivors", as used in the clause at issue, should be construed to include the heirs at law of the legatees who predeceased the Testratix, and not merely the remaining members of the enumerated group of legatees. Respondents correctly point out that there have been different conclusions reached in various jurisdictions as to the meaning of the term "survivors". See generally,

l. Whether the words of a will are given their ordinary or legal meaning, however, "'[e]xtrinsic evidence should not be admitted to show that the testator meant something different from what his language imports.... What he meant to say must be gathered from what he did say.'" Emmert, 309 Md. at 23, quoting Fersinger v. Martin, 183 Md. 135, 138 (1944).

Annotation, Wills: Gift Over to "Survivors" of Class or Group of Designated Beneficiaries as Restricted to Surviving Members of Class or Group, or as Passing or Heirs of Representatives of Deceased Beneficiary, 54 A.L.R. 3d 280 (1973). However, in this State there exists no uncertainty as to the interpretation of the term "survivor" in a clause such as the one in issue here.

In <u>Saia v. Sain</u>, 73 Md. App. 322 (1987), the Court was asked to interpret a similar testamentary clause using the word "survivors." The <u>Saia</u> Court reached a conclusion contrary to that urged by Pijanowski and Litwinski concerning the meaning of this term. The analysis set out in <u>Saia</u> is dispositive in the case sub judice.

In <u>Saia</u>, the testatrix devised and bequeathed the residue of her estate "to the survivors of the following:" and proceeded to set forth the names of eight beneficiaries. 73 Md. App. at 324. <u>Saia</u> held that a bequest to "survivors" of a class or group of designated beneficiaries in the residuary clause of a will is not ambiguous, but is restricted to surviving members of the group. 73 Md. App. at 324. "'A survivor is one who continues to live after the death of those who comprise his group...'" <u>Id</u>. at 325 (quoting <u>Ross v. Safe Deposit & Trust Co.</u>, 168 Md. 65, 72-73 (1934).

Respondents Pijanowski and Litwinski argue that <u>Saia</u> is distinguishable and does not control in the interpretation of the clause before this court. They claim that the language and structure of the clause in <u>Saia</u> are materially different

from those at issue here. This court finds that argument unpersuasive. The attempt to distinguish <u>Saia</u> fails primarily for two reasons.

First, the holding in Saia was not so narrow as to depend solely on the exact position of words within the provision there analyzed. On the contrary, the Saia Court relied on cases containing slightly differing formulations of this phraseology in stating the preferable construction of "survivor". Indeed, the will in one case specifically directed a devise to enumerated legatees, "or their survivors or survivor, share and share alike." Estate of Carlson, 39 Ill. App. 3d 281, 350 N.E. 2d 306, 307-08 (1976). This language and structure is virtually identical to that found in Schoenhals' Will. Schoenhals' Will sets forth the names of certain legatees, and then provides, in the event one or more of them should predecease her, that the share that would have belonged to such legatee "shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees."

Second, the entire thrust of the <u>Saia</u> opinion was directed to the essential meaning and precise definition of the term "survivors" itself. The Court found that this term meant something distinct from the term "heirs," thus reaffirming the long-established rule in Maryland. What the Court said in Saia is certainly pertinent here:

When the term 'survivor' is used in conjunction with a gift to a group or class of beneficiaries, under the common law the survivorship clause of the will is deemed to indicate the intention of the testator that, should any member of the class predecease the testator, the share of the deceased beneficiary goes to the remaining named members

of the class, rather than to this [sic] children or issue of the predeceased beneficiary.

73 Md. App. at 327, quoting from Carlson, 350 N.E. 2d at 309.

Accord, Croft v. McKie, 235 S.C. 231, 111 S.E. 2d 210 (1959);

Holt v. Miller, 33 N.E. 2d 19 (Ohio App. 1937); In re Estate

of Gallop, 248 So. 2d 686 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1971). See

also, 4 Page, WILLS, Sec. 34.32 (4th ed. 1961 & Supp. 1986);

80 Am.Jur. 2d Wills Sec. 1228 (1975); 96 C.J.S. Wills Sec.

729 (1957); Miller, CONSTRUCTION OF WILLS, Secs. 272, 276

(1927).<sup>2</sup>

Pijanowski and Litwinski also rely on Item VI of the Will to support their construction of Item III. By the terms of Item VI of the Will, Schoenhals provided:

All of the directions of any sort or kind of this, my Last Will and Testament, contained for the payment of any sum or sums of money or the transfer of property, real, personal or mixed, shall be taken or made upon the expressed condition, in each and every instance, that such beneficiary, legatee or distributee shall take such sum or sums of money or property, real, personal or mixed, to which he or she may be entitled, the same to be paid or transferred directly to him or her, and also that the said beneficiary, legatee or <u>distributee</u> so taking shall be held by my Executor and his successors and assigns, free, clear and discharged of any and all debts, liens or judgments now standing or later recovered against him or her, and free and clear from any assignments or transfers of his or her interests, in this, my Last Will and Testament, levies, judgments, executions, attachments and sequestrations, and free and clear from any and all other processes of every kind, nature or description that may be instituted against such beneficiary,

<sup>2.</sup> These cases, contrary to the argument advanced by Pijanowski and Litwinski, do not depend on a narrow reading of the distinct factual circumstances they present. Rather, they set forth the general rule in those jurisdictions adopting the same interpretation of the term "survivors".

legatee or  $\underline{\text{distributee}}$  named in this, my Last Will and Testament.

(Emphasis added).

Pijanowski and Litwinski argue that the term "distributee" refers technically to a person who is entitled to share in the distribution of an estate of one who dies intestate, as an heir under a statute pertaining to intestacy. According to their argument, the decedent obviously never intended to die intestate. They assert that the only way in which there could be a 'distributee' under Testatrix's will would be in the case of an heir at law of one of the named legatees taking the share of a named legatee who predeceased Schoenhals by application of the statutes of descent and distribution.

"Such, clearly, is the 'distributee' which is anticipated unequivocally by Testatrix's repeated reference to 'distributees' in Item VI of the Will." Respondents' Joint Memorandum, at 8.

This court finds the position of respondents Boenning and Bechtel more persuasive as to Item VI. They characterize Item VI as part of a boilerplate spendthrift clause. The general intent of a testator is to prevail over minor discrepancies, omissions or contradictions. McElroy v. Mercantile-Safe Dep.

Co., 229 Md. 276, 283 (1962); the intention of the Testatrix is manifest in the residuary clause. Additionally, it would seem odd, indeed, if the Will at issue were construed so that a technical reading of the term "distributee" would have the indirect consequence of altering the well-settled meaning

of the term "survivors" -- a term utilized directly by Testatrix in the heart of the dispositive clause of her Will.

However harsh the result, the proper construction of the Will is that which is apparent from its face. No ambiguity is present in the residuary clause at issue, and any search for, or conjecture about, Testatrix's intention beyond the four corners of her Will is inappropriate under the circumstances. If Testatrix had meant to include the heirs at law of the class she designated under the residuary clause, she could simply have used the word "heirs," or made some other direct specification. In the instant case, the term "survivors" was employed by an attorney at law, and this Court has no choice but to give it the accepted and technical meaning. The term must be considered to have been deliberately chosen to express the intention of Testatrix. Schoenhals' Will shows her intention to devise her estate only to those members of the group specifically named who outlived her, which necessarily excludes the heirs at law of predeceased members of the group.

This court concludes that Boenning and Bechtel are the sole surviving legatees named in the Will of Anna A. Schoenhals, and that they are therefore entitled to the entire residuary estate.

Therefore, for the foregoing reasons, it is this  $27^{7}$  day of October, 1990, by the Circuit Court for Baltimore City,

ORDERED that distribution be made under the Last Will and Testament of Anna A. Schoenhals, to Boenning and Bechtel, in accordance with this Opinion.

Ellen L. Hollander, Judge

cc: Nelson S. Winter, Esquire
 Jacob S. Matz, Esquire
 Jerome T. Lambdin, Esquire
 James D. Stone, Esquire
 Robert R. Bowie, Jr., Esquire

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JUSCEM

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VI

9255 Page 497

This Deed, Made this

251

day of August.

<b>,</b>	
in the year one thousand nine hundred and	fifty-three by and between ow,
of the City of Caltimore,	in the State of Maryland, of the first part, and
of the second part.	

Witnesseth, That in consideration of the sum of Five Pollars (15.00) and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which is hereby schnowledged,

the said ADDA PARTETT

do es grant and convey unto the said RTT : WELLERER, her

personal representatives and assigns all that lot of ground situate Baltimore City aforesaid, and described as follows, that is to say: Beginning for the same on the southernmost side of Dudloy Avenue at the distance of four hundred ninety-three feet eight and three-querter inches eastwardly from the southeastermost corner of Budley and Mannasota Avenues, and running thence castwardly hinding on the southernmost side of Budley Avonue fifteen feet and four incles to a point in a line with the center of the partition wall erected between the house on the lot now being described and the house erected on the lat to the east thereof; thereo conthwordly along said line so drawn and passing through the center of said partition wall and continuing the same course in all one hundred and live foot to the northornmost side of a fifteen foot alley there situated; thence westwardly binding on said alley fifteen feet and four inches and thence northwardly and in the course passing through the center of the partition wall erected between the house on the lot now being described and the house erected on the lot adjoining thereto on the west in all one hundred and five feet to the place of beginning. The improvements thereon are known as 3419 Dudley Avenue.

# 9255 MADE 498

BEING the same lot of ground described in a deed, dated August 6, 1931 and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City in Liber S.C.L. 5240, folio 504 from Frank Novak to James L. Barnett and Anna Barnett, his wife, as tenants by the entireties; the said James L. Barnett having died May 2/, 1953.

Together with the buildings thereupon, and the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereto belonging, or in any wise appertaining.

To Have and To Hold the said described lot of ground and premises, unto and to the use of the said NUTLIMBERG, her

personal representatives

and assigns, for all the residue of the term of years yet to come and unexpired therein, with the benefit of renewal forever; subject to the payment of the annual rent of Sixty-four (200.00) Dollars, payable half-yearly on the first days of January and July in each and every year.

And the said part y of the first part hereby covenant s that she has not done or suffered to be done any act, matter or thing whatsoever, to encumber the property hereby conveyed; that she will warrant specially the property hereby granted; and that she will execute such further assurances of the same as may be requisite.

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor

Test:

Anna Parnett (SEAL

August.

State of Maryland, City of Baltimore

hyrtre Th. greenwood

to wit:

I HEDERY CERTIES. That on this

2 5な

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this 2.5<sup>th</sup> day of in the year one thousand nine hundred and fifty-three

before me, the subscriber,

a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for Baltinore City

aforesaid, personally appeared AMMA BARRETT,

the grantor named in the above Deed, and sh

acknowledged the aforegoing Deed to be

hon

act.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

----

.

REC'D FOR RECORD

2 P

2200

rtle M. Greenwood

M. & RECORDED IN THE LAND RECORDS OF P.GE 497 L. LUTHER PITTHAU, CLERK

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9255 PAGE 499

THIS DEED, made this 25th day of August, 1953 by RUTH WEILBERG, of the City of Baltimore, in the State of Laryland, of the first part, and AMEIA BARMETT of the said City and State of the second part.

(25.00) and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the said RUTH WEINBERG does hereby grant and assign unto ARMA PAREETT for and during the term of her natural life, with full power and authority unto the said ARMA PAREETT, at any time or times during her lifetime, to sell, mortgage, lease, convey, or otherwise dispose of the same (said power to extend to a sale, mortgage, lease, conveyance or other disposition of the remainder or remainders as well as her said life estate therein), and from and immediately after the death of the said ARMA BARRETT, as to so much thereof as shall not have been disposed of in execution of the aforesaid power, unto EDMARD LITHISFI, of the City and State aforesaid, his personal representatives and assigns, all that lot or percel of ground situate, lying and being in the City of Baltimore aforesaid, and described as follows, that is to say:

at the distance of four hundred minety-three feet eight and three-querter inches castwardly from the southeasternmost corner of Dudley and Mannasota Avenues, and running thence eastwardly binding on the southerrmost side of Dudley Avenue fifteen feet and four inches to a point in a line with the center of the partition wall creeted between the house on the let now being described and the house creeted on the let to the east thereof; thence southwardly along said line so drawn and passing through the center of said partition wall and continuing the same course in all one hundred and five feet to the northerrmost side of a fifteen feet and four inches and thence westwardly binding on said alloy fifteen feet and four inches and thence northwardly and in the course passing through the center of the partition wall erected between the house on the let now being described and the house erected on the let adjoining thereto on the west in all one hundred and five feet to the place of beginning. The improvements thereon are linear as 5419 Dudley Avenue.

# 9255 PAGE 500

BEING the same lot of ground described in a deed of even date and recorded or intended to be recorded simultaneously herewith among the Land Records of Baltimore City from Anna Barnett, widow, to the grantor herein.

INTIFIER with the buildings and improvements thereon and the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

and heroby intended to be conveyed unto and to the use of the said ANNA BARNETT for and during the term of her natural life, with full power and authority unto the saie ANNA BARNETT at any time or times during her lifetime, to sell, mortgage, lease, convey or otherwise dispose of the same (said power to extend to a sale, mortgage, lease, conveyance or other disposition of the remainder or remainders as well as her said life estate therein), and from and immediately after the death of the said ANNA BARNETT, as to so much thereof as shall not have been disposed of in execution of the aforesaid power, unto end to the use of the said EDMARD LITWINSKI, his personal representatives and assigns, for all the rest and residue of the term of years yet to come and unexpired therein with the benefit of renewal thereof forever, subject to the payment of the annual rent of Sixty-four Pollars (564.00) payable in equal half-yearly installments on the first days of January and July in each and every year.

WITHESS the hand and seal of said grantor.

Mythe M. Greenwood

Ruth Weinberg (SEAT

STATE OF MARYLAND, CITY OF BALTHORE, to wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that on this day of August, 1953, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Earyland, in and for the City of Baltimore aforesaid, personally appeared RUTH WEINBERG, the above named granter, and she acknowledged the aforegoin; deed to be her act.

AS WITHESS my hand and Motarial Seal.

AUG 25 1953

REC'D FOR RECORD

BARTIMORE CITY, LIBER M.L.P.

Mythe M. Chelliuson

M. & RECORDED IN THE LAND RECORDS OF PAGE 499 M. LUTHUR PITTMAN, CLERK

ASSIGNMENT-CODE-CITY OB COUNTY-SS
NO Title Examination
No Consideration
No Stamps Necessary

872 PAGE 534

This Deed,	Made this	24TH		day of	MAY		
in the year one tho	usand nine hun	dred and si	cty			by and bet	ween
	. <b></b>	ANNA SCHOE	NHALS				
	C Dalhimana		in the	State of Mass		Ctt	السما
of the City o	f Baltimore	,	in the	State of Mar	yiand, oi ti	ie nrst part	, and
	DORA BECKE	R, Unmarri	ed, of the	same City	and Sta	ite	
of the second part							•

Witnesseth, That in consideration of the sum of Five Dollars (\$5.00) and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, ANNA SCHOENHALS, acting under, by virtue and in pursuance of the power and authority contained in the deed hereinafter referred to, does hereby grant and convey unto DOMA BECKER, her personal representatives and assigns

thewaitk

dox grant/and/somvey/winte/fee/said

personal representatives and assigns all that lot

of ground situate

in the City of Baltimore

aforesaid, and described as follows, that is to say:

Beginning for the same on the southernmost side of Dudley Avenue at the distance of four hundred ninety-three feet eight and three-quarter inches eastwardly from the southeasternmost corner of Dudley and Mannasota Avenues, and running thence eastwardly binding on the southernmost side of Dudley Avenue fifteen feet and four inches to a point in a line with the center of the partition wall erected between the house on the lot now being described and the house erected on the lot to the east thereof; thence southwardly along said line so drawn and passing through the center of said partition wall and continuing the same course in all one hundred and five feet to the northernmost side of a fifteen foot alley there situated; thence westwardly binding on said alley fifteen feet and four inches and thence northwardly and in the course passing through the center of the partition wall crected between the house on the lot now being described and the house erected on the lot adjoining thereto on the west in all one hundred and five feet to the place of beginning. The improvements thereon are known as 3419 Dudley Avenue.

BEING the same lot of ground and premises which by deed, dated August 25, 1953, and recorded among the Land Records of Baltimore City in Liber M. L. P. No. 9255, folio 499, was granted and conveyed by Ruth Weinberg to Anna Barnett for life, with full power of sale or other dis-

872 PAGE 535

position, and in exercise of said power these presents are executed; Anna Barnett having married Walter Schoenhals on January 16, 1960, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Together with the buildings thereupon, and the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereto belonging, or in any wise appertaining.

of ground To Have and To Hold the said described lot and premises, unto and to the use of the said DORA BECKER, her

personal representatives

and assigns, for all the residue of the term of years yet to come and unexpired therein, with the benefit of renewal forever; subject to the payment of the annual rent of Sixty-four (861.00) - Dollars, payable half-yearly on the first days of January and July, in each and every year.

of the first part hereby covenants that she has And the said party not done or suffered to be done any act, matter or thing whatsoever, to encumber the property hereby conveyed; that she will warrant specially the property hereby granted; and that she will execute such further assurances of the same as may be requisite.

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor

Test:

ANNA SCHOENIVALS

, to wit: State of Maryland, City of Baltimore

24th I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this day of May

in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for the City of Baltimore ANNA SCHOENHALS aforesaid, personally appeared

the grantor named in the above Deed, and she acknowledged the foregoing Deed to be her act.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

REGID FOR RECORD MAY 25 1960 11.15 M. & RECORDED IN THE LAND RECORDS OF PAGE 53 4 JAMES V. CARREY, CLERE

ASSIGNMENT-CODE-CITY OR COUNTY No Title Examination No Consideration No Stamps Necessary

872 PAGE 536

This Deed, Made this

24th

day of Mav

in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty

by and between

---- DORA BECKER, Unmarried -----

of the City of Baltimore, in the State of Maryland, of the first part, and WALTER SCHOENHALS and ANNA SCHOENHALS, his wife, of the same City and State, of the second part.

Witnesseth, That in consideration of the sum of Five Dollars (\$5.00) and other good and valuable considerations, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged,

the said DORA BECKER

grant and convey unto the said WALTER SCHOENHALS and ANNA SCHOENHALS, his wife, as tenants by the entireties, the survivor of them, their assigns and the survivor's personal representatives and assigns all that lot

the City of Baltimore

of ground situate

aforesaid, and described as follows, that is to say: Beginning for the the same on the southernmost side of Dudley Avenue at the distance of four hundred ninety-three feet eight and three-quarter inches eastwardly from the southeasternmost corner of Dudley and Mannasota Avenues, and running thence eastwardly binding on the southernmost side of Dudley avenue fifteen feet and four inches to a point in a line with the center of the partition wall erected between the house on the lot now being described and the house erected on the lot to the east thereof; thence southwardly along said line so drawn and passing through the center of said partition wall and continuing the same course in all one hundred and five feet to the northernmost side of a fifteen foot alley there situated; thence westwardly binding on said alley fifteen feet and four inches and thence northwardly and in the course passing through the center of the partition wall erected between the house on the lot now being described and the house erected on the lot adjoining thereto on the west in all one hundred and five feet to the place of beginning. The improvements thereon are known as 3419 Dudley Avenue. distance of four hundred ninety-three feet eight and three-quarter

BEING the same lot of ground and premises which by deed of even date and recorded or intended to be recorded immediately prior hereto among the Land Records of Baltimore City was granted and conveyed by Anna Schoenhals to the said Dora Becker.

# 872 PAGE 537

Together with the buildings thereupon, and the rights, alleys, ways, waters, privileges, appurtenances and advantages thereto belonging, or in any wise appertaining.

To Have and To Hold the said described lot of ground and premises, unto and to the use of the said WALTER SCHOENHALS and ANNA SCHOENHALS, his wife, as tenants by the entireties, the survivor of them, their

assigns and the survivor's - - - - - - - - - - - - personal representatives and assigns, for all the residue of the term of years yet to come and unexpired therein, with the benefit of renewal forever; subject to the payment of the annual rent of Sixty-four (\$64.00) - Dollars, payable half-yearly on the first days of January and July, in each and every year

And the said party of the first part hereby covenants that she not done or suffered to be done any act, matter or thing whatsoever, to encumber the property hereby conveyed; that she will warrant specially the property hereby granted; and that she will execute such further assurances of the same as may be requisite.

Witness the hand and seal of said grantor.

Test:

REGINA M. COX

DORA BECKER

(SEAL)

State of Maryland, City of Baltimore , to wit:

I HEREBY CERTIFY, That on this 24th day of May in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixty, before me, the subscriber, a Notary Public of the State of Maryland, in and for the City of Baltimore aforesaid, personally appeared DORA BECKER,

the grantor named in the above Deed, and she acknowledged the foregoing Deed to be

her act.

AS WITNESS my hand and Notarial Seal.

My Commission expires May 1, 1961.

MAY 25 1960

BALTIMORE CITY, LIBER J. W. O.

M. & RECORDED IN THE LAND RECORDS OF

PAGE 536 JAMES F. CARMEY, CLERK

LAW OFFICES 528 EAST JOPPA ROAD

JACOB MATZ, P.A. TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

(301) 823-5805

August 13, 1990

Jecu's 8/13/90

Honorable Ellen L. Hollander Circuit Court For Baltimore City 100 North Calvert Street Room #420 Baltimore, Maryland 21202

> RE: Winter, et al vs. Pijanowski, et al Case No. 90081076/CE 110893

Dear Judge Hollander:

This joint response to the letter from Messrs. Stone and Bowie dated July 25, 1990, also supplements our letter dated July 20, 1990, in which the four deeds were sent to you and made a part of the record.

Prior to the hearing we had requested information from Nelson S. Winter, Esquire as to whether or not he knew if the late Walter Schoenhals had prepared a will prior to his death, Mr. Winter indicated that he had no knowledge one way or the other. Since the hearing before your Honor on July 19, 1990 we have located and obtained a copy of Walter Schoenhals' will dated June 7, 1960, recorded in Wills, Liber LCS No. 333, Folio 213 in the office of the Register of Wills for Baltimore City. A copy of the will is enclosed herewith and we request that it be made part of the record in this case.

On page two the letter of Messrs. Stone and Bowie dated July 25, 1990 reference was made to the Marty V. First National Bank of Maryland case. The Marty case also stated on pages 216 and 217 as follows:

". . . What the words express is to be interpreted according to their plain meaning and import. Stein V. Safe Deposit & Trust Co., 127 Md. 206. This expressed intention of a testator must be gathered from the language of the entire will, particularly, from the clause in dispute, read in the light of the surrounding circumstances at the

time the will was made." Chism V. Reese, 190 Md. 311; West V. Sellmayer, 150 Md. 478; Jones V. Holloway, 183 Md. 40; Robinson v. Mercantile Trust Co., 180 Md. 336; Hutton V. Safe Deposit & Trust Co., 150 Md. 539, 554." (Emphasis added).

In view of the enclosed Will and the four Deeds forwarded on July 20, 1990, it is apparent that the facts of this case are clearly distinguishable from the Saia case.

Anne and Walter Schoenhals were married on January 16, 1960 (See Deed dated May 24, 1960 in Liber 872 Folio 534). This was a second marriage in their later years. The apparent source of Anna Schoenhals' Estate was her home property on Dudley Avenue. These facts plus the enclosed Will of Walter Schoenhals, would we respectfully submit, clearly establish an intention on both of them that their joint estates should be divided into four equal parts.

It appears clear when reviewing all of the relevant documents that the testatrix, Anna Schoenhals, intended that her sister and brother, and their heirs, would take an equal one fourth share of her estate.

Respectfully,

Jacob Mata

Herry T. Lambdir

JTL: am

cc: James D. Stone, Esquire

Robert R. Bowie, Jr., Esquire

Nelson S. Winter, Esquire

Enclosure

INDEXED

1970 No. 11 Casa 1078

WILL

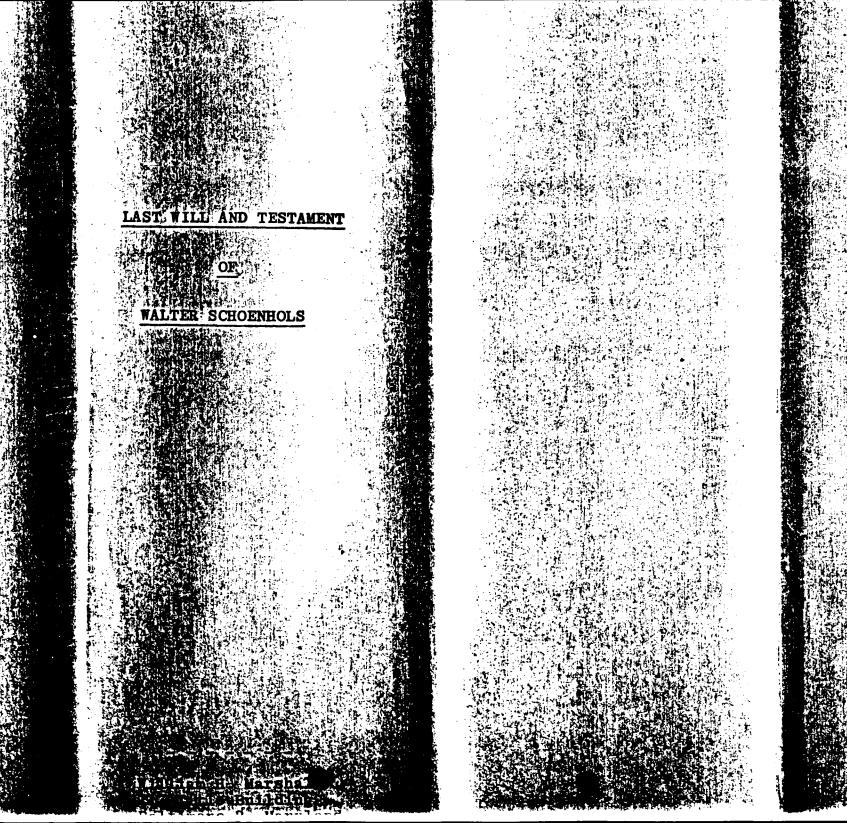
Walter Schoenhals

Small & state

Exhibited and filed on the 11th day of tel-

Small Estate Liter: Jolio:

\$10.50 No Copy Said



## LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF

#### WALTER SCHOENEALS

I, WALTER SCHOENHALS, of the City of Baltimore,
State of Maryland, being of lawful age and of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, and do hereby revoke any and all wills and codicils thereto heretofore made by me.

#### ITEM I.

I hereby authorize, empower and direct the Executor of my estate, hereinafter named, to pay all of my legal debts, funeral and burial expenses, the costs of procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave if none has been erected at the time of my death, and the costs of the administration of my estate out of the assets of my estate.

nection with my funeral and burial and procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave as aforesaid shall be in the sole and absolute discretion of the Executor of my estate, and any and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with my funeral and burial and procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave as aforesaid shall be chargeable against and paid out of the assets of my estate without regard to any limitation or restriction imposed by law and it shall not be necessary for the Executor of my estate to secure any order, approval or ratification of the Orphans' Court of Baltimore

City or any other court, commission, board or other agency to do so regardless of the amount of such costs and expenses.

#### ITEM II.

After the payment of all my legal debts, funeral and burial expenses and the costs of procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave as aforesaid and the costs of the administration of my estate, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to my wife, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, if she is living at the time of my death.

### ITEM III.

In the event my said wife, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, predeceases me, then, and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to MRS. AUDREY A. BOENNING of Hyattsville, Maryland, who is my daughter; MRS. DOROTHY M.

BECHTEL of Westport, Baltimore, Maryland, who is my daughter;

MRS. GERTRUDE PIANOWSKI of Baltimore, Maryland, who is a sister of my wife; and EDWARD LITWINSKI of White Marsh, Maryland, who is a brother of my wife, in equal shares. In the event that any one or more of the aforegoing legatees predeceases me, then, and in that event, the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, if she, he or they were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees.

#### ITEM IV.

Any and all property of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, which at the time of my death is owned by my said wife, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, and me in our joint names, or which upon my death will pass to my said wife by operation of law or under which my said wife is a beneficiary, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate or any interest therein, securities and life insurance policies, shall be the sole and separate property of my said wife, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, and shall not be subject to any of the terms and provisions of this written instrument.

#### ITEM V.

During the period of administration and settlement of my estate, my Executor is hereby granted full power and authority to pay over to my said wife, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, if she is living, out of the corpus of my estate or the income therefrom, such sums or sums of money from time to time as

my Executor may deem advisable or proper to provide for my said wife's proper and comfortable care, maintenance and support, but in each instance my Executor shall take into consideration all other sources of income and the financial resources of my said wife as the same may be known to my Executor and the standard of living to which my said wife has become accustomed.

#### ITEM VI.

All of the directions of any sort or kind of this, my Last Will and Testament, contained for the payment of any sum or sums of money or the transfer of property, real, personal or mixed, shall be taken or made upon the expressed condition, in each and every instance, that such beneficiary, legatee or distributee shall take such sum or sums of money or property, real, personal or mixed, to which he or she may be entitled, the same to be paid or transferred directly to him or her, and also that the said beneficiary, legatee or distributee so taking shall be held by my Executor and his successors and assigns, free, clear and discharged of any and all debts, liens or judgments now standing or later recovered against him or her, and free and clear from any assignments or transfers of his or her interests, in this, my Last Will and Testament, levies, judgments, executions, attachments and sequestrations, and free and clear from any and all other processes of every kind, nature or description that may be instituted against such beneficiary, legatee or distributee named in this, my Last Will and Testament.

#### ITEM VII.

In order to facilitate the settlement of my estate,
I hereby authorize and empower the Executor of my estate,
in his sole and absolute discretion, without any application
to, or any order of, the Orphans' Court of Baltimore City
or any other court, board, commission or agency, so to do,
and for such consideration as to my Executor shall seem proper,
to sell, lease, grant, assign, convey, transfer, exchange,
or in any other manner, conditionally or absolutely, to dispose of all or any part of my property, real, personal or
mixed, and to make, execute, acknowledge and deliver proper
deeds, conveyances and transfers therefor; and in the case
of any such sale or other disposition, it shall not be necessary for the purchaser or any other person so dealing with
my said Executor to see to the application of the purchase
money or other consideration.

#### ITEM VIII.

The full amount of any and all estate, inheritance, succession and transfer taxes, and governmental charges of every kind, which may be lawfully assessed by, or be or become due and payable to, the United States of America or any state or political subdivision thereof or any other taxing authority, as a result or in consequence of my death, shall be paid by my Executor out of the assets of my estate, and such taxes and charges shall be paid by my Executor before he distributes my estate, and such payment shall be made without any right of reimbursement therefor whatsoever from any person, corporation or other legal entity.

#### ITEM IX.

All provisions made under this, my Last Will and Testament, for the benefit of my wife, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, are contingent upon my said wife surviving me for a period of sixty (60) days; and in the event my said wife does not survive me for the said period of sixty (60) days, then the provisions of this, my Last Will and Testament, shall be applied and interpreted in the same manner as they would have been if my said wife had predeceased me.

#### ITEM X.

I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint as the Executor of this, my last Will and Testament, as herein set forth, WADE H. CRESWELL, of Baltimore, Maryland. event the said WADE II. CRESWELL predeceases me or for any other reason is not able or refuses to act as the Executor of my estate, I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint as the Executor of my estate, WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, ESQ., of the Baltimore Bar. In the event the said WILLIAM H. MARSHALL acts as the Executor of my estate, he is hereby authorized and empowered to fully and completely exercise any and all of the power and authority which I have vested in "ADE H. CRESWELL as the Executor of this, my Last Will and Testament, under the terms and provisions of this written instrument. Inasmuch as I have absolute confidence in the integrity of both the said WADE H. CRESWELL and WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, it is my wish and I hereby direct that the one acting as the

Executor of my estate be excused from the necessity of giving bond except to the extent required by law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal, this 7 day of June, in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and sixty.

Walter Schoenhals

Signed, sealed, published and declared by WALTER SCHOENHALS, the above named Testator, as and for his last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, who, at his request, in his presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Grand Grace Creswell 3376 Ravingon De.

July Brace Creswell 3376 Ravingon ilve.

July 113 Um. T. Manhall - It. Old Dita 2 11d.

Just clerk

SAMUEL D. HILL

JOSEPH L. JOHNSON

JOHN F. FOLEY, JR. JAMES D. STONE

EUGENE L. MILES, III

SAMUEL P. PIAZZA

CH+ Clks

LAW OFFICES

HILL, JOHNSON, FOLEY, STONE & MILES

6TH FLOOR, 29 W. SUSQUEHANNA AVENUE

TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

MORTON E. ROME STANLEY L. HOLMES

HAVRE DE GRACE, MD. OFFICE 412 GREEN STREET 21078 (301) 939-3456

(301) 828-1050 FAX (301) 828-4311

July 25, 1990

FILED

JUL 26 1990

Honorable Ellen L. Hollander Circuit Court for Baltimore City 100 North Calvert Street Room 420 Baltimore, Maryland 21202 CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY

Re: Winter, et al vs. Pijanowski, et al Case No. 90081076/CE 110893

Dear Judge Hollander:

Per your request in the hearing on the above case on July 19, 1990, we have conducted research regarding the nature and kind of evidence, if any, that may be admitted by the Court to ascertain the intention of a testator.

Generally, the Maryland courts have held that extrinsic evidence may be admitted to determine a testator's intent and the circumstances surrounding the drafting of the will. However, the admissibility of such evidence is limited to cases of uncertainty where the intent of the testator is not clear from the four corners of the will or where there is a latent ambiguity. Veditz v. Athey, 239 Md. 435, 449-50, 212 A.2d 115 (1964). In Veditz, the Court allowed evidence regarding the acquisition of the real estate in question, the strawman deed in connection therewith and the relationship of the parties to the testatrix. The Court excluded evidence of supposed oral declarations made by the testatrix that her intention in purchasing the property was to provide for one of the parties in dispute. Id.

It is important to note that where a will is drafted by a competent and experienced attorney, the customary technical meaning of these words will be applied. Scott v. Shaffler, 269 Md. 432, 436, 306 A.2d 531 (1972); Veditz v. Athey, 239 Md. at 444-445; Judik v. Travers, 184 Md. 215, 225, 40 A.2d 306 (1944). And as the Court stated in Veditz, "extrinsic evidence that something different was meant than

Honorable Ellen L. Hollander Page 2

that which the language imports is inadmissible." 239 Md. at 441.

Similarly, the Court stated the following principle of construction in Marty v. First National Bank of Baltimore, 209 Md. 210, 216-17, 120 A.2d 841 (1956) (quoted verbatim in Scott v. Shaffler, 269 Md. at 435; Leroy v. Kirk, 262 Md. 276, 279-80, 277 A.2d 611 (1971):

"In seeking to find what the testator meant, we adhere to the rules and guides which the cases have established. Intention is primary and paramount. This is not the presumed but the expressed intention of the testator. What must be sought is not what the testator meant as distinguished from what his words express, but \* \* \*simply what is the true meaning of his words; not merely what he meant, but what his words mean."

(Emphasis added).

The Court goes on to state that the intention of the testator must be discerned from the language of the clause in dispute as read in light of the entire will and "the surrounding circumstances at the time the will was made". Id. In other words, as is stated even more clearly in Hebden v. Keim, 196 Md. 45, 51, 75 A.2d 126 (1950) quoted verbatim in Banghort v. Vieweg, 261 Md. 214, 219, 274 A.2d 337 (1970):

. . . the Court, in construing a will, is governed, not by what the Court may think the testator wanted to say, but by what his words actually meant, because his words were designed to express his intention.

The Maryland Court of Appeals most recently applied these rules in Emmert v. Hearn, 309 Md. 19, 23, 522 A.2d 377 (1987), a case involving the construction of the term "personal property". Again, the Court stated that "extrinsic evidence should not be admitted to show that the testator meant something different from what his language imparts . . ." And as Banghort noted, this principle of construction dates back as far as 1853. See Walston v. White, 5 Md. 297 (1853).

Honorable Ellen L. Hollander Page 3

Additionally, we wish to state for the record that the Will in question is neither ambiguous nor uncertain. The term "survivor" has a specific technical meaning which has been established and followed in the Maryland case law for over 100 years. See our Joint Memorandum filed on behalf of Respondents Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel. And since testatrix's Will was drafted by an attorney, the technical meaning of the term should be applied. Thus, extrinsic evidence is unnecessary in the instant case to determine the intention of the testatrix in the use of the term "survivor" in Item III of the Will. In Saia v. Sain, 73 Md. App. 322, 333 A.2d 1336 (1987) which is controlling in this case, the Court held that where a testatrix bequeathed her estate to the "survivor" of a group of specifically named individuals, only those members of the group who outlived the testatrix should share in the legacy gift, excluding the heirs at law of predeceased members of the group.

During the above referenced hearing, Your Honor expressed concern that in construing the term "survivor" in accordance with the case law, no blood relative would take as a residuary legatee. However, in light of the deeds admitted into evidence on behalf of Respondents Antoinette Litwinski and Mitchell J. Pijanowski, as well as the language of the Will itself, it appears that the testatrix was well aware of the possibility of eliminating her blood relatives.

In 1960, the testatrix transferred real property recorded solely in her name, with Edward Litwinski as beneficiary of said property, to a tenancy by the entireties. As a tenancy by the entireties, testatrix's husband, his heirs and assigns, would take the property in the event testatrix predeceased her husband, thus eliminating any and all blood relatives. In this event, testatrix made no provision for her blood relatives.

Additionally, in her Will dated June 7, 1960, testatrix bequeathed her entire estate to her husband, and in the event he predeceased her, she included Item III, naming a class of residuary legatees. Testatrix's husband predeceased her in 1969 and for twenty years thereafter, she made no changes in her Will regarding Item III. Mrs. Pijanowski and Mr. Litwinski predeceased the testatrix by 9 and 7 years respectively, yet no effort was made on the part of the testatrix to amend her Will to insure that blood relatives were not excluded as residuary legatees of her estate.

Honorable Ellen L. Hollander Page 4

Taking into consideration the circumstances surrounding the drafting of the Will and First Codicil thereto as well as the body of case law regarding the construction of the term "survivor", it is clear that the testatrix intended the surviving members of the group alone to take, excluding heirs at law of predeceased members.

Respectfully,

James D. Stone RB

Robert R. Bowie, Jr.

JDS/ma

cc: Nelson S. Winter, Esquire Jacob Matz, Esquire Jerome Lambdin, Esquire

HAND DELIVERED TO COURT HOUSE

JACOB MATZ, P.A.

528 EAST JOPPA ROAD TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

(301) 823-5805

July 20, 1990

Hon. Ellen L. Hollander Circuit Court For Baltimore City 100 North Calvert Street Room 420 Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Winter, et al vs. Pijanowski, et al Case No.: 90081076/CE110893

Dear Judge Hollander:

Enclosed are four (4) deeds on property number 3419 Dudley Avenue referred to in the hearing on the above case on July 19, 1990, as follows:

- 1. Deed dated August 25, 1953 from Anna Barnett, widow, to Ruth Weinberg, recorded in liber M.L.P. 9255, folio 497;
- 2. Deed dated August 25, 1953 from Ruth Winberg to Anna Barnett, with full powers, recorded in liber M.L.P. 9255, folio 499;
- 3. Deed dated May 24, 1960 from Anna Schoenhals to Dora Becker, recorded in liber J.F.C. 872, folio 534;
- 4. Deed dated May 24, 1960 from Dora Becker to Walter Schoenhals and Anna Schoenhals, his wife, recorded in liber J.F.C. 872, folio 536.

As agreed between the Court and counsel these enclosures are being filed in this case.

Respectfully,

Jacob Matz

JM:js Enclosures

cc: Nelson S. Winter, Esquire
James D. Stone, Esquire
Robert R. Bowie, Jr., Esquire
Jerry T. Lambdin, Esquire

Hand Delivered to Courthouse

# FILED

JUL 13 1990

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY

NELSON S. WINTER IN THE

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ESTATE OF
CIRCUIT COURT

ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED:
LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY FOR

Petitioner BALTIMORE CITY

.

MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI IN EQUITY

and :

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI : Case: 90081076

and : CE110893

AUDREY A. BOENNING :

v.

and :

DOROTHY M. BECHTEL :

Respondents :

JOINT MEMORANDUM FILED ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENTS AUDREY A. BOENNING AND DOROTHY M. BECHTEL

#### Issue

Whether the Testatrix, in using the term "survivor" in Item III of her Last Will and Testament, intended to include only those members of the group who outlive the Testatrix and to exclude any and all issue and heirs at law of the predeceased residuary legatees?

#### Statement of Facts

Item III in the Last Will and Testament of Anna A. Schoenhals, dated June 7, 1960 and First Codicil thereto dated November 24, 1979, bequeaths the residue of her estate as follows:

In the event my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, predeceases me, then, and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to MRS. AUDREY A. BOENNING of Hyattsville, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. DOROTHY M. BECHTEL of Westport, Baltimore, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. GERTRUDE PIANOWSKI of Baltimore, Maryland, who is my sister; and EDWARD LITWINSKI of White Marsh, Maryland, who is my brother; in equal shares. In the event that any one or more of the aforegoing legatees predeceases me, then, and in that event, the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, if she, he or they

were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees.

The testatrix, a resident of Baltimore City, died on August 19, 1989. Testatrix's husband predeceased her in 1969. Mrs. Gertrude Pianowski died on September 12, 1980, and Edward Litwinski died on September 22, 1982, both predeceasing the testatrix. Mrs. Pianowski is survived by her son, Mitchell Pianowski, who is making a claim for his mother's share. Mr. Litwinski is survived by his wife, Antoinette Litwinski, who is likewise making a claim for her husband's share. Mrs. Boenning and Mrs. Bechtel make the claim that the residue of the estate be divided between them since it was the intention of the testatrix in using the term "survivor" in Item III to include only those members of the class who outlive the testatrix and to exclude any and all issue and heirs at law of the predeceased members of the group.

#### Analysis

To determine whether the testatrix, in using the word
"survivor" in Item III of her Last Will and Testament, intended to
include only those members of the group who outlive the
testatrix and to exclude any and all issue and heirs at law
of predeceased residuary legatees, it is necessary to examine
the relevant Maryland case law construing the term "survivor"
as well as commentary by the leading writers on the construction of wills.

In Maryland, the term "survivor" has generally been defined as "one who outlives another; one of two or more persons who lives after the other or others have died." Edgar G. Miller, Jr., The Construction of Wills in Maryland, §262 (1927). Once defined, determining who will take as a survivor depends upon the intention of the testator as discerned from the designations made in the Will. As the Court stated in Judik v. Travers, 184 Md. 215, 221, 40 A.2d 306, 309 (1944), "in construing wills the supreme law of every case is the intention of the testator, and when once that is ascertained, it must be given effect, insofar as it is lawful, and all other considerations whatsoever, must yield to it."

The construction of the term "survivor" has been a source of great difficulty in courts throughout the country, often leading to conflicting results. See generally Annot., "Wills: Gift Over to Survivors in Class or Group of Designated Beneficiaries as Restricted to Surviving Members of Class or Group, or as Passing to Heirs or Representatives of Deceased Beneficiary", 54 A.L.R. 3d 280 (1973 and Supp. 1989). However, in situations like the case at hand, the Maryland courts have been generally consistent and clear-cut in holding that where members of a group of beneficiaries or legatees outlive the testator, they alone will take and the issue and heirs at law of predeceased members of the group take nothing.

The Court of Appeals handed down this general rule in Demill v. Reid, 71 Md. 175; 17 A. 1014 (1889), and it has

been followed, with minor variations, since its inception in 1889:

It seems to us to be clear law, as well as good sense, that in a case like this where there is an ultimate limitation upon a contingency to a class of persons plainly described, and there are persons answering the description, in esse when the contingency happens, they alone can take. 71 Md. at 191.

Ross v. Safe Deposit and Trust, 168 Md. 65, 176 A. 483 (1934), in which case the term "survivors" was held to be limited to the testator's living daughters and sons as were still "cestuis que trust" under the will, and did not include the children of a predeceased son who were not explicitly provided for in the will. In so holding, the Court additionally defined a "survivor" as "one who continues to live after the death of those who comprise his group."

Most recently, the Court of Special Appeals in Saia v. Sain, 73 Md. App. 322, 333, A.2d 1336 (1987) reinforced these principles in a case factually analogous to the case at hand. In Saia, the testatrix in a residuary clause of her Will, bequeathed her estate to the "survivors" of a group of specifically named individuals. The issue in the case was whether such use of the term "survivor" was ambiguous and should render the residuary clause void,

thus allowing the heirs at law of predeceased members of the group to share in the estate. The Court held that, as a matter of law, "the word 'survivors' when used to limit a group, is not ambiguous but is subject to a precise definition", 73 Md. App. at 324. Relying primarily on Ross, along with various out-of-state opinions, the Court stated that the term "survivors" should be given its literal meaning - to outlive another. In this context, only those members of the group who outlived the testatrix should share in the gift, excluding the heirs at law of predeceased members of the group.

In the instant case, the testatrix similarly uses the term "survivor" in reference to those members of the group who should outlive her, stating that in the event any of the aforesaid legatees predeceases her, such share or shares "shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees". As in <u>Saia</u>, there is nothing ambiguous here about the use of the term survivor. It appears that the sole intention of the testatrix, in using the term, was to limit the group and as such, the remaining legatees who outlived the testatrix alone should share in the residuary estate, excluding the heirs at law of predeceased members of the group.

As a general rule, then, "the word 'survivors' when used of a class is limited to the individuals of such a class, and does not include their children." 4 Page, Wills, \$34.32 (4th ed. 1961 and Supp. 1986) as quoted in Saia, 73 Md. App. at 327. To determine whether a bequest is to a class or to individuals, one must ascertain the intention of the testator by examining the will as a whole. See

Newlin v. Mercantile Trust Co., 161 Md. 622, 158 A. 51 (1931).

A gift made to beneficiaries by name is not prima facie indication of a gift to individuals if it can be discerned that the intention of the testator is to clarify class membership. See Evans v. Safe Deposit & Trust Co., 190 Md. 332, 58 A.2d 649 (1947). Similarly, class distinction can be inferred where the group of beneficiaries or legatees are subject to the addition or deletion of members. See 4 Page, Wills, §35.3 (4 ed. 1961). In light of the foregoing analysis, Item III of the will in question bequeathed the residuary estate to a class.

Although Maryland has passed a statute preventing lapse where an expressed legatee dies before the testator but after the execution of the will, thus passing on the legacy as if the predeceased legatee had owned the property either dying testate or intestate, this statute does not control in the case at hand. See Md. Estate & Trusts Code Ann. §4-403 (1974). Maryland has adopted the theory that such

statute preventing lapse only applies where there is a bequest to an individual beneficiary and not to a class. Where the bequest is to a class and members of the class die before the time for fixing the class, the legacy passes to those members of the class in being at the time for fixing the class and the heirs of the predeceased members of the class are not entitled to share in the legacy. See Stahl v. Emery, 147 Md. 123, 127 A. 760 (1925).

In the instant case, the time for fixing the class was at the death of the testatrix. At that time, two members of the class were in being, and as "survivors" of the testatrix, they should take the residuary legacy, excluding the heirs at law of the predeceased members of the class.

Furthermore, where a provision indicates that the residue of the estate goes to the <u>survivors</u> of the class, this is generally an indication that the testator's intention to exclude operation of a statute against lapse and thus the legacy would not pass to the heirs at law of the predeceased members of the class. See 4 Page, <u>Wills</u>, §35.18 (4th ed. 1961). In the case at bar, the expression, "the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, <u>if she</u>, he or they were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the <u>survivor</u> or <u>survivors</u> of the aforesaid legatees," (emphasis added), indicates the testatrix's intention to exclude operation of the statute.

Additionally, as stated in The Construction of Wills in Maryland, "Survivors, when not explained otherwise by other parts of the will, is to be interpreted according to its strict meaning and will be confined to its literal signification when it is possible to do so without violating the clear meaning of the rest of the will." Miller, §276. Here, there is nothing to indicate a contrary construction of the term The use of the boilerplate terms "beneficiaries, survivor. legatees or distributees" in Item VI is part of a spendthrift clause to prevent creditors from seizing the share of a beneficiary legatee or distributee. The use of these terms does not convey an intention on the part of the testatrix that the heirs at law of the predeceased members of the class should take or that the anti-lapse statute should be employed in interpreting the provisions of Item III.

Thus, Item III, when construed in light of the will as a whole, shows an intention on the part of the testatrix to follow the accepted principles of the construction of the term "survivor" and of wills generally as stated in the Maryland case law. As such, the residuary legatees in being at the time of the death of the testatrix should alone share in the residuary estate and the heirs of the predeceased members of the class should take nothing.

### Conclusion

In light of the relevant Maryland case law, the word "survivors" in Item III of the Will refers solely to the living residuary legatees, those members of the class in being at the time of the death of the testatrix. As such, they alone should share in the residuary estate, excluding those heirs of the two predeceased residuary legatees.

Respectfully submitted,

James D. Stone

Hill Johnson Foley Stone & Miles

Suite 600

29 West Susquehanna Avenue

Towson, Maryland 21204

(301) 828-1050

Robert R. Bowie, Jr.

Suite 600

29 West Susquehanna Avenue

Towson, Maryland 21204

(301) 583-2400

Attorneys for Respondents Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on July 12, 1990, a copy of the foregoing Joint Memorandum was mailed, postage prepaid, to Nelson A. Winter, Esquire, 7814 Ruxway Road, Towson, Maryland 21204, attorney for the Estate, and to Jacob Matz, Esq., 582 E. Joppa Road, Towson, Maryland 21204, attorney for Respondent Mitchell J. Pijanowski, and to Jerry T. Lambdin, Charles Chlan & Associates, 428 Eastern Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21221, attorney for Respondent Antoinette V. Litwinski.

James D. Stone

LAW OFFICES

JACOB MATZ, P.A.

528 EAST JOPPA ROAD TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

(301) 823-5805

FILED

JULY a 1000

July 9, 1990

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY

Sincerely

acob Matz

Nelson S. Winter, Esquire 7814 Ruxway Road Towson, Maryland 21204

Re: Winter, et al vs. Pijanowski, et al. - CE 110893/90081076

Dear Nelson:

Enclosed is a copy of the Joint Memorandum filed on behalf of the Respondents, Mitchell J. Pijanowski and Antoinette V. Litwinski.

With copies of this letter I am likewise sending a copy to James D. Stone, Esq. and Robert R. Bowie, Jr., Esq., counsel for the remaining Respondents.

JM:is

CC: Jerry D. Lambdin, Esquire
Clerk of Circuit Court For Baltimore City
James D. Stone, Esquire
Robert R. Bowie, Jr., Esquire

# FILED

JUL 8 1990

NELSON S. WINTER
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ESTATE OF
ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED
LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY

\*

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

· ·

FOR

Petitioner

BALTIMORE CITY

v. \* IN EQUITY

MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI Case: 90081076

CE110893 \*

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI \*

and

AUDREY A. BOENNING \*

and

DOROTHY M. BECHTEL \*

Respondents \*

JOINT MEMORANDUM FILED ON BEHALF OF RESPONDENTS' MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI AND ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

The testatrix, Anna A. Schoenhals, died a resident of
Baltimore City on August 18, 1989. Testatrix's husband, Walter
Schoenhals, predeceased testatrix in 1969.

By Item III of her will, dated June 7, 1960, testatrix devised and bequeathed the residue of her estate as follows:

In the event my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, predeceases me, then, and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to MRS. AUDREY A. BOENNING of Hyattsville, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. DOROTHY M. BECHTEL of Westport, Baltimore, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; Mrs. Gertrude Pianowski of Baltimore, Maryland, who is my sister; and EDWARD LITWINSKI of White Marsh, Maryland, who is my brother; in equal shares. event that any one or more of the foregoing legatees predeceases me, then, and in that event, the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, if she, he or they were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees.

(Emphasis added.)

By the terms of Item VI of her will, the testatrix provided as follows:

All of the directions of any sort or kind of this, my Last Will and Testament, contained for the payment of any sum or sums of money or the transfer of property, real, personal or mixed, shall be taken or made upon the expressed condition, in each and every instance, that such beneficiary, legatee or <u>distributee</u> shall take such sum or sums of money or property, real,

personal or mixed, to which he or she may be entitled, the same to be paid or transferred directly to him or her, and also that the said beneficiary, legatee or distributee so taking shall be held by my Executor and his successors and assigns, free, clear and discharged of any and all debts, liens or judgments now standing or later recovered against him or her, and free and clear from any assignments or transfers of his or her interests, in this, my Last Will and Testament, levies, judgments, executions, attachments and sequestrations, and free and clear from any and all other processes of every kind, nature or description that may be instituted against such beneficiary, legatee or distributee named in this, my Last Will and Testament.

## (Emphasis added.)

On November 24, 1979, the testatrix executed a codicil to the above-quoted will, which did not effect any substantive change in the dispositive provisions set forth above.

Two of the residuary legatees named in Item III of testatrix's will, as set forth above, predeceased the testatrix.

The remaining two residuary legatees under Item III of testatrix's will assert that they are entitled to the entire residuary estate, to the exclusion of the surviving families of the two residuary legatees who predeceased testatrix. The surviving son of one of the predeceased residuary legatees, and the surviving wife of the other predeceased legatee, as the sole surviving family and heirs at law of the predeceased legatees, claim that they are entitled to share in the distribution of the testatrix's estate, under the language of testatrix's will.

Maryland law is controlling.

#### **QUESTION PRESENTED**

Under the terms of testatrix's will are the surviving heirs at law of the two residuary legatees who predeceased testatrix entitled to share in the distribution of testatrix's estate with the two living residuary legatees, or are the two living residuary legatees entitled to the entire residuary estate?

#### CONCLUSION

Construing testatrix's will as a whole, in light of applicable legal principles and authorities, the surviving heirs at law of the two predeceased residuary legatees are entitled to share equally in the distribution of the testatrix's estate with the two living residuary legatees.

#### DISCUSSION OF AUTHORITY

Under well-settled principles of testamentary construction, the primary and paramount goal in the construction of a will is to find the intention of the testator. See Leroy v. Kirk, 262 Md. 276, 277 A.2d 611 (1971). In applying this familiar rule of will construction, the Maryland Court of Special Appeals has recognized that the intention of a testator must be determined from a reading of the will at issue as a whole, and from pertinent circumstances surrounding the testator at the time of execution of the will. See Reedy v. Barber, 253 Md. 141, 251 A.2d 882 (1969). In construing the will so as to divine the

testator's intent from the four corners of the will, the words of the will are given their plain meaning and import, but words having legal significance are construed in that sense, unless the will clearly indicates a contrary intent on the part of the See Emmert v. Hearn, 309 Md. 19, 522 A.2d 377 (1987). Moreover, in determining the meaning of a particular clause in a will, the entire will must be examined, in order to give effect to every part of the will as far as possible. See Newlin v. Mercantile Trust Co. of Baltimore, 161 Md. 622, 158 A. 51 (1932). In this regard, a reviewing court will attempt to harmonize apparently conflicting provisions in a will, so as to carry out the testator's general intent. See Duering v. Brill, 127 Md. 104, 96 A. 269 (1915). However, where there is an irreconcilable conflict between two clauses in the will, the latter clause must prevail as being the latest expression of the testator's intention. See Scholtzhauer v. Kummer, 149 Md. 583, 132 A. 53 (1926).

The appellate courts of the several states have reached widely divergent results in cases where a construction of the term "survivor" has been sought, but the decisions which appear to have addressed this issue evidently have applied the general rule that a will must be construed as whole and that each case must be determined with particular attention to the specific language and the peculiar facts involved in the case before the court, rather than by application of any blanket doctrine, in

resolving this issue in various contexts. See generally Annot., "Wills: Gift Over to 'Survivors' in Class or Group of Designated Beneficiaries as Restricted to Surviving Members of Class or Group, or as Passing to Heirs or Representatives of Deceased Beneficiary," 54 A.L.R.3d 280 (1973 & Supp. 1989). Several appellate decisions have held, on the facts presented, that the term "survivor," as used in a will to modify the designation of beneficiaries, includes the heirs at law of any predeceased beneficiaries, while other courts have held that the term does not include such surviving heirs at law, but includes only beneficiaries who have not predeceased the testator. Id.

In <u>In re Barr's Estate</u>, 2 Pa. 428 (1846), where the testator directed that his residuary estate be divided among his brothers and sisters, "or their survivors," the Pennsylvania Supreme Court held that the term "survivors" included the heirs at law of the brothers and sisters of testator who predeceased the testator, and that such heirs at law were entitled to share in the distribution of testator's residuary estate under the residuary clause of testator's will. Likewise, in <u>In re Will of Leroy</u>, 54 Misc. 2d 33, 281 N.Y.S.2d 287 (1967), the court held that where the testator directed that the residue of his estate be divided between three named beneficiaries, "or to the survivor or survivors thereof," that the heirs at law of the named beneficiaries who had predeceased the testator were entitled to

share in the distribution of the residue of the estate, under the terms of the residuary clause of the will set forth above.

By contrast, where a will provides that if certain named beneficiaries should die without issue their testamentary share should pass to the "survivors," appellate courts have generally held that such language indicates that the testator intended that the named beneficiaries who outlived the testator should take the shares of the named beneficiaries who predeceased testator, leaving no issue. See, e.q., Ross v. Safe Deposit & Trust Co., 116 Md. 65, 176 A. 43 (1934); Croft v. McKie, 235 S.C. 231, 111 S.E.2d 210 (1959). Likewise, at least one appellate court has held that the term "survivor" does not include heirs, where the term "survivor" is used solely for the purpose of setting forth measuring lives, rather than designating any ultimate testamentary legatee or devisee. See Holt v. Miller, 33 N.E.2d 19 (Ohio Ct. App. 1937). Also, where a testamentary bequest has been made to certain named beneficiaries or "their survivors, share and share alike," such language has been held to support the conclusion that "survivors" in such a context does not include heirs at law of the named beneficiaries. See In re Estate of Carlson, 39 Ill. App. 3d 281, 350 N.E.2d 306 (1976).

The term "distributee" has long been recognized as having a distinct legal connotation, which is defined in <a href="Black's Law">Black's Law</a>
<a href="Dictionary">Dictionary</a> as follows:

An heir; a person entitled to share in the distribution of an estate. This term is admissible to denote one of the persons who are entitled, <u>under the statute of distributions</u>, to the personal estate of one who is dead intestate.

(Citations omitted; emphasis added); see Black's Law Dictionary, 597 (3d ed. 1933). The definition of "distributee" in the more recent 5th edition of Black's Law Dictionary is virtually identical to the definition set forth above. See Black's Law Dictionary 426 (5th ed. 1979).

Applying the above authorities to the facts of the instant case, and construing the testatrix's will as a whole, it is evident that the term "survivors," as used in testatrix's will, was intended by testatrix to include the heirs at law of any of the named residuary legatees who predeceased testatrix. The plain language of Item III of the will clearly indicates that the testatrix intended the surviving family of any named residuary legatee who predeceased testatrix to share in the distribution of testatrix's residuary estate. The term "legatee," as used in this clause, clearly refers to the named residuary beneficiaries as individuals rather than as members of a group. And it is to the "survivors" of each of these named individual "legatees" that the will directs distribution of the testatrix's residuary estate.

The above conclusion is rendered inescapable when considered in conjunction with the fact that later in her will, in Item VI, testatrix repeatedly referred to the "beneficiaries, legatees, or

distributees" under the will (emphasis added). Under the definition of "distributee," set forth above, a distributee is not a legatee or devisee, but derives his or her status solely from the statutes pertaining to intestacy. Inasmuch as the testatrix clearly did not intend to die intestate, as evidenced by her execution of her will, the only manner in which there could be a "distributee" under testatrix's will would be in the case of an heir at law of one of the named legatees taking the share of a named legatee who predeceased testatrix, by application of the statutes of descent and distribution. Such, clearly, is the "distributee" which is anticipated unequivocally by testatrix's repeated references to "distributees" in Item VI of the will.

To the extent that the case of <u>Saia v. Sain</u>, 73 Md. App.

315, 533 A.2d 1336 (1987), indicates a contrary result, that case is easily distinguishable from the instant case on its facts, and is accordingly not determinative of the instant controversy. In <u>Saia v. Sain</u>, <u>supra</u>, the testatrix devised and bequeathed the residue of her estate "to the survivors of the following:" and then proceeded to set forth the names of eight beneficiaries. No other evidence from the other clauses of the will or otherwise was presented to the court for its determination of the issue as to who was entitled to the residuary shares of certain named legatees who predeceased the testatrix. The Maryland Court of Special Appeals held that the specific language employed by the

testatrix, in the absence of any other evidence of contrary intent, indicated that the testatrix intended the predeceased residuary legatees' shares to pass to the named residuary legatees who outlived the testatrix, to the exclusion of the heirs at law of the predeceased named legatees.

The facts of Saia v. Sain, supra, are clearly inapposite to the facts of the instant case. In Saia, the will at issue provided only for a residuary bequest to the survivors of certain named legatees; by contrast, in the instant case, the will at issue first sets forth the names of certain legatees, and then provides that the share of any such named legatee who predeceased the testatrix shall go to the survivors of that legatee, with no indication that testatrix intended such residuary shares to pass to the survivors of the group of named legatees rather than to the intestate survivors of the individual legatees. Moreover, in the Saia case, the will at issue contained no other language which might indicate that the testatrix had intended the shares of predeceased legatees to pass to the heirs at law of those predeceased legatees. By contrast, in the instant case the language of Item VI of testatrix's will clearly indicates that testatrix contemplated that if any named residuary legatee were to predecease her, such named legatee's share should pass, under the laws of descent and distribution, to such legatee's heir at law, as a "distributee" under testatrix's will.

Finally, all of the cases cited by the Maryland Court of Special Appeals in its decision in Saia v. Sain, supra, are easily distinguishable from the facts of the instant case, and so provide no further support for the proposition that the instant residuary legacy should pass solely to the named residuary legatee who outlived the testatrix, to the exclusion of the heirs at law of the predeceased legatees. For instance, in Ross v. Safe Deposit & Trust Co., supra, the dispositive clause of the will at issue provided for a gift over to "survivors" of certain named beneficiaries, but only if those named beneficiaries were to die without issue. Clearly, the testamentary provision regarding death without issue militated towards the finding that the will in that case should not be construed as passing property to heirs at law, where the will elsewhere provided for the passing of property to heirs at law of the beneficiaries in question, so long as such heirs at law were also issue of the beneficiaries; in such a situation, it was evidently not difficult for the court to determine that the testator fully intended to provide for certain heirs at law, as long as such heirs at law were also issue, but, conversely, that testator clearly did not intend to provide for heirs at law who were not issue, which would have been the result had the court ruled that "survivors" in that case included heirs. The same situation obtained in Croft v. McKie, supra, where, as in Ross v. Safe Deposit & Trust Co., supra, the will at issue provided for a

bequest to "survivors" of certain beneficiaries, but only if those beneficiaries should die without issue. Under those circumstances, the appellate court held that the term "survivors" did not include heirs at law of the named beneficiaries. v. Miller, supra, the appellate court construed the term "survivor" not to include heirs at law of the named beneficiaries; yet, in that case, the term "survivor" was used to designate a measuring of the life of an intervening estate prior to distribution of the remainder interest, rather than to designate any substantive beneficial interest under the will. In In re Estate of Carlson, supra, the court reached its conclusion that the term "survivors" did not include heirs at law of the named beneficiaries, largely because elsewhere in the will at issue the testator had made specific bequests of \$1,000 apiece to each of the three named beneficiaries, without making any bequests or reference to the issue, children, or heirs of those three persons, and the court held that this factor alone was strong enough indication of the testator's intent not to provide for such others to warrant the court's finding that the term "survivors" did not include heirs at law in that case.

As the foregoing clearly indicates, the will here at issue clearly passes an interest in testatrix's residuary estate to the heirs at law of the named residuary legatees who predeceased testatrix, as manifested by the dispositive clause itself, and the other provisions of the will which clearly indicate that

testatrix anticipated that the heirs at law of the residuary legatees, as "distributees," would take a share of the residuary estate in the event that the residuary legatees predeceased the testatrix. Furthermore, as the above review indicates, the cases which might superficially indicate a contrary result are, upon close inspection, factually quite distinct from the instant case. Accordingly, based upon a construction of the will as a whole, in light of the above authorities, it would appear that the heirs at law of the residuary legatees who predeceased the testatrix are entitled to share in the residuary estate with the named residuary legatees who are still living.

Respectfully submitted,

acob Matz

528 East Joppa Road Towson, Maryland 21204

(301) 823-5805

Attorney for Respondent Mitchell J. Pijanowski

Jørry T. Lambdin

Charles Chlan & Associates

428 Eastern Avenue

Baltimore, Maryland 21221

(301) 682-5900

Attorney for Respondent, Antoinette V. Litwinski

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

We hereby certify that on July, 1990, a copy of the aforegoing Joint Memorandum was mailed, postage prepaid, to Nelson A. Winter, Esquire, 7814 Ruxway Road, Towson, Maryland 21204, Attorney for the Estate, and to James D. Stone, Esquire, and Robert R. Bowie, Jr., Esquire, 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue, Suite 600, Towson, Maryland 21204, attorneys for Respondents, Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel.

Jacob Matz

Jerry T. Lambdin

6/40

# STEPHEN C. WINTER AND ASSOCIATES ATTORNEYS AT LAW

606 BOSLEY AVENUE TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204 301-321-6222

Telecopier FAX (301) 339-7742

STEPHEN C. WINTER
CHRISTOPHER M. MAY, JR.

NELSON S. WINTER
COUNSEL

June 15, 1990

FILED

JUN 19 1990

Mr. Robert J. Ignatowski
Assignment Commissioner
Circuit Court for Baltimore City
Clarence M. Mitchell Jr. Courthouse
100 North Calvert Street
Room 219
Baltimore, Maryland 21202

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY.

Re: Nelson S. Winter etc., v. Mitchell J. Pijanowski, et al.

Case No.: 90081076CE110893

Dear Mr. Ignatowski:

Answers have been filed to my Bill of Complaint and we are now ready to set a date for a hearing on the merits of the case. Will you please put this case on the trial docket. If possible all counsel would prefer a hearing on Thursday, July 19, 1990.

Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Thanking you.

Sincerely,

Nelson S. Winter

NSW:slb

cc: James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue 6th Floor Towson, MD 21204

> Jacob Matz, Esquire 528 E. Joppa Road Towson, MD 21204

Jerome T. Lambdin, Esquire 426 Eastern Avenue Essex, MD 21224

vs.

\*NELSON S. WINTER, Personal Representative of the Estate of ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, Deceased, Late of Baltimore City IN THE

BALTIMORE CHTY

Petitioner

FOR

BALTIMORE CITY

CIRCUIT COURT

IN EQUITY

Case No: 90081076 CE 110893

MITCHELL PIJANOWSKI, et al

Respondents

### JOINT ANSWER TO BILL OF COMPLAINT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Respondents, Audrey A. Boening and Dorothy M. Bechtel, by their counsel James D. Stone and Hill, Johnson, Foley, Stone and Miles, answers Petitioner's Bill of Complaint for Construction as follows:

- Respondents admit Paragraphs 1-10 and 12-15. 1.
- 2. Respondents deny Paragraph 11.

James D. Stone.

Hill, Johnson, Foley Stone & Miles

29 W. Susquehanna Avenue

Suite 600

Towson, Maryland 21204

**(301)** 828-1050

Robert R. Bowie, Jr.

Law Offices of Robert R. Bowie, Jr.

29 W. Susquehanna Avenue

Suite 600

Towson, Maryland 21204

(301) 583-2400

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY on this \_\_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 1990 that a copy of the aforegoing Joint Answer to Bill of Complaint for Construction was mailed to Jacob Matz, Equire, 528 E. Joppa Road, Towson, Maryland 21204, Attorney for Mitchell Pijanowski; Nelson S. Winter, Esquire, 606 Bosley Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204, Attorney for Estate; and Jerome T. Lambdin, Esquire, 426 Eastern Avenue, Essex, Maryland 21228, Attorney for Antoinette V. Litwinski.

7 mustane

James D. Stone Attorney for Respondents, Audrey Boening and Dorothy Bechtel JACOB MATZ, P.A.

528 EAST JOPPA ROAD
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204

(301) 823-5805

FILED

Manaya 201990 CIRCUIT COURT FC BALTIMORE CITY

Clerk's Office Circuit Court For Baltimore City 111 North Calvert Street Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Re: Case No.: 90081076/CE110893

Nelson S. Winter, Pers. Rep., etc. vs. Pijanowski, et al.

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Enclosed for filing in the above captioned case is the Joint Answer To Bill of Complaint For Construction on behalf of Mitchell J. Pijanowski and Antoinette V. Litwinski.

Copies of this pleading have this date been sent to Mr. Winter and Mr. Stone.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely

Jacob Matz

JM:je

Encls.

cc: Nelson S. Winter, Esquire
James D. Stone, Esquire

Jerry T. Lambdin, Esquire

NELSON S. WINTER PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ESTATE OF ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED, LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY

Petitioner

v.

MITCHELL J. PIJANOVSKI

and

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI

AUDREY A. BOENNING

and

DOROTHY R. DECUMEL

Respondents

CIRCUIT COURT

FOR

\*

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BALTIMORE CITY

IN EQUITY

Case: 90081076

CE110893



# JOINT ANSWER TO BILL OF COMPLAINT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Mitchell J. Pijanowski and Antoinette V. Litwinski, by Jacob latz, Jerry T. Lambdin and Charles M. Jakan their attorneys, for Answer to the Bill of Complaint For Construction states as follows:

- That the Respondents admit the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4.
- That the Respondents lack sufficient knowledge or facts to admit or deny the allegations contained in paragraph number 5.
- That the Despondents admit the allegations contained in paragraph numbers 6, 7, and 8.
  - That the Respondents, in answer to paragraph number 9,

and

admit that the decedent's residuary estate became distributable under and as directed by both Items III and VI of her Last Will and Testament, dated June 7, 1960.

- 5. That the Respondents admit the allegations contained in paragraphs numbered 10 and 11.
- 6. Answering paragraph number 12, the Respondents deny that Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy . Pechtel, notwithstanding their claims, are entitled to the entire residuary estate, but aver that upon the reading of the entire will of Anna A. Schoenhals, along ith Item VI of said will, that the entire residuary estate should be distributed equally, share and share alike, to:

Audrey A. Boenning, stepdaughter

Dorothy M. Bechtel, stepdaughter

Mitchell J Pijanowski, son of the late Gertrude Pijanowski, and Antoinette V. Litwinski, wife of the late Edward Litwinski.

Under the terms of Item VI of her will, the testatrix provided as follows:

### ITEM VI

All of the directions of any sort or kind of this, my Last Will and Testament, contained for the payment of any sum or sums of money or the transfer of property, real, personal or mixed, shall be taken or made upon the expressed condition, in each and every instance, that such beneficiary, legatee or distributee shall take such sum or sums of money or property, real, personal or mixed, to which he or she may be entitled, the same to be paid or transferred directly to him or her, and also that the said beneficiary, legatee or distributee so taking shall be held by my Executor and his successors and assigns, free, clear and discharged of any and all debts, liens or judgments now standing or later recovered against him or her, and free and clear from any assignments or transfers of his or her interests, in this, my Last Will and Testament, levies, judgments, executions, attachments and

sequestrations, and free and clear from any and all other processes of every kind, nature or description that may be instituted against such beneficiary, legatee or distributee named in this, my Last Will and Testament.

7. That the Respondents admit the allegations contained in paragraph numbers 13, 14, and 15.

WHEREFORE, your Respondents pray the following relief.

- A. That this Honorable Court interpret the Last Will and Testament of Anna A. Schoenhals, and, in particular, Items III and VI of said will, to determine the proper distribution under said provisions.
- B. That the Respondents Antoinette V. Litwinski and Mitchell J. Pijanovski be, and they are entitled to share in the residuary estate on an equal basis, as they are survivors of two of the named. legatees, and as distributees, and survivors, would take a share of the Residuary Estate in the event the Residuary Legatees predeceased the Testatrix.
- C. That your Respondents may have such other and further relief as the nature of their cause may require.

Jacob Hatz

528 East Joppa Road

Towson, Maryland 21204

(301)/823-5805

erry T. Lambdin

CHARLES E. CHLAN & ASSOCIATES

anda

428 Eastern Boulevard

Baltimore, Maryland 21221

(301) 682-5900

Attorneys for Respondents, Mitchell J. Pijanowski and Antoinette V. Litwinski.

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY certify that on this 2, day of May, 1990, a copy of the aforegoing Joint Answer to Bill of Complaint for Construction was mailed postage prepaid to Melson A. Winter, Esquire, 606 Bosley Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204, and James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue, Towson, Maryland 21204.

acollatz

erry T. Lambdin

FILED

IN THE

APR 27 1990

CIRCUIT COURT

CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE CITY

FOR

BALTIMORE CITY

IN EQUITY

Docket:

Folio:

Case: 90081076CE110893

NELSON S. WINTER,
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ESTATE OF
ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED,
LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY
606 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

Petitioner

v.

MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI c/o Jacob Matz, Esquire 528 East Joppa Road Towson, Maryland 21204

and

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI c/o Jerome T. Lambdin, Esquire\* 426 Eastern Avenue Essex, Maryland 21221 \*

and

AUDREY A. BOENNING c/o James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue 6th Floor Towson, Maryland 21204

and

DOROTHY M. BECHTEL c/o James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue 6th Floor Towson, Maryland 21204

Respondents

#### STIPULATION OF FACTS

1. Anna A. Schoenhals, of Baltimore City died 8/18/89. Her Last Will & Testament dated June 7, 1960 and First Codicil thereto dated November 24, 1979, were duly admitted to probate in the Orphans' Court of Baltimore City.

- 2. By Item 1 of the First Codicil to decedent's Will, Nelson S. Winter, Petitioner, in this case was named Personal Representative. Mitchell J. Pijanowski, Antoinette V. Litwinski, Audrey A. Boenning & Dorothy M. Bechtel are the Respondents.
- 3. By Item II of the decedent's Will, she gave her residuary estate to her husband, Walter Schoenhals, (who died 10/11/69) if he survived her.
  - 4. That Item III of the Will provides as follows:

In the event my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, predeceases me, then, and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to MRS. AUDREY A. BOENNING of Hyattsville, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. DOROTHY M. BECHTEL of Westport, Baltimore, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. GERTRUDE PIJANOWSKI of Baltimore, Maryland, died 9/12/80, who is my sister; and EDWARD LITWINSKI of White Marsh, Maryland, died 9/22/82, who is my brother; in equal shares. In the event that any one or more of the aforegoing legatees predeceases me, then, and in that event, the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, if she, he or they were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees.

5. That Walter Schoenhals, having predeceased, his wife, Anna A. Schoenhals, the provisions of Item III of the Will became effective and the decedent's residuary estate became distributable to the following in equal shares:

Audrey A. Boenning, stepdaughter
Dorothy M. Bechtel, stepdaughter (incorrectly called
Dorothy M. Burrit in the Bill of Complaint).
Gertrude Pijanowski, sister
Edward Litwinski, brother

6. Gertrude Pijanowski died 9/12/80, her husband, Mitchell Pijanowski, have predeceased her on 10/11/53. She had a son, Mitchell J. Pijanowski, who is living and one of the Respondents. He is claiming as a survivor of his mother, the share she would have received if living.

- 7. Edward Litwinski, died 9/22/82, having had no children, but survived by his wife, Antoinette V. Litwinski. She is claiming as a survivor of her husband, the share he would have received if living.
- 8. The only question before this court is the interpretation of Item III of the decedent's Will.
- (a) If the Court finds that the decedent intended that the four (4) named legatees in Item III of the Will were a class of persons closed by the Will, then the surviving members of that class, namely Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel, are entitled to take the decedent's residuary estate in equal shares, or
- (b) If the Court finds that the distribution of the residuary estate should be made to the four named legatees or their respective survivors then the residuary estate should be distributed in equal shares to the following:

Audrey A. Boenning Dorothy M. Bechtel Mitchell J. Pijanowski Antoinette V. Litwinski

> Jacob Matz, Esq. V 528 East Joppa Road

Towson, Maryland 21204

Attorney for Mitchell J. Pijanowski

Erome T. Lambdin, Esq.

426 Eastern Avenue

Essex, Maryland 21228

Attorney for Antoinette v. Litwinski

Jun Dan

James D. Stone, Esq.

29 W. Susquehanna Ave., 6th Fl.

Towson, Maryland 21204

Attorney for Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel

821 413) Nelson S. Winter 606 Bosley Avenue Towson, Maryland 21204 Telephone: (301) 321-6222 Personal Representative of Estate of Anna A. Schoenhals

and Petitioner

D:NSW\Schoen.STP slb/der/clr 3/29/90 (3)

FILED

APR 20 1990

CIRCUIT COURT FOR

BALTIMORE CITY

NELSON S. WINTER,
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE ESTATE OF
ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED,
LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY
606 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204

BALTIMORE CITY

CIRCUIT COURT

MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI c/o Jacob Matz, Esquire 528 East Joppa Road Towson, Maryland 21204

Folio:

Docket:

IN EQUITY

IN THE

FOR

Case: 90081076CE110893

and

Petitioner

v.

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI c/o Jerome T. Lambdin, Esquire\* 426 Eastern Avenue Essex, Maryland 21221 \*

and

AUDREY A. BOENNING c/o James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue 6th Floor Towson, Maryland 21204

and

DOROTHY M. BECHTEL c/o James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue 6th Floor Towson, Maryland 21204

Respondents

#### AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

I hereby certify under the penalties of perjury that on March 22, 1990, I did forward by certified mail, return receipt requested, to the Respondents in care of their respective counsel a copy of the Bill of Complaint for Construction filed in this case.

United States Post Office, return receipts are attached hereto signed by the following counsel for the Respondents:

Jacob Matz, Esq. 528 East Joppa Road Towson, Maryland 21204 Counsel for Mitchell J. Pijanowski Service made on March 26, 1990

Jerome T. Lambdin, Esq. 426 Eastern Avenue Essex, Maryland 21221 Counsel for Antoinette V. Litwinski Service made on March 26, 1990

James D. Stone, Esq. 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue, 6th Floor Towson, Maryland 21204 Counsel for Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel Service made on March 27, 1990

Nelson S. Winter

Counsel and Personal Representative of Estate of Anna A. Schoenhals

NSW/clr C2:SCHOEN.AFF 4/17/90 (1)

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SENDER INSTRUCTIONS
Print your name, address, and ZIP Code
in the space below.

• Complete items 1, 2, 3, and 4 on
the reverse.

 Attach to front of article if space permits, otherwise affix to back of

Endorse article "Return Receipt

Requested" adjacent to number.





PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

RETURN TO

article.

Print Sender's name, address, and ZIP Code in the space below.

Stephen C. Winter

1006 Bosiey Avenue, St.C

TOWSON, MB 21204

SENDER: Complete items 1 and 2 when additional services are desired, and complete items 3 and $\ell$ .			
Put your address in the "RETURN TO" space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for additional service(s) requested.			
1. Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's address. 2. Restricted Delivery.			
3. Article Addressed to: Jerome T. Lambdon Esq. 426 Easkern Avenue  + 55ex MD 21221	4. Article Number P 1/7/ 328 52.3		
426 Easkin	Type of Service:		
FSSEX MD 212	Registered Insured Cortified COD		
L'olla Wallin	Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.		
5) Signatule – Addressee	8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid)		
6. Signature — Agent			
X	1		
7. Date of Delivery			
PS Form 3811, Feb. 1986 /	DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT		

# UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SENDER INSTRUCTIONS
Print your name, address, and ZIP Code
in the space below.

• Complete items 1, 2, 3, and 4 on
the reverse.
• Attach to front of article if space

permits, otherwise affix to back of

• Endorse article "Return Receipt

Requested" adjacent to number.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

RETURN TO

article.

Print Sender's name, address, and ZIP Code in the space below.

STEPHEN C. W. C. CONTES
606 BOSLEY AVENUE
TOWSON, MARYLAND 21204
(301) 321-6222

SENDER: Complete items 1 and 2 when additional servi	ces are desired, and complete items 3 and 4.	
Put your address in the "RETURN TO" space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for additional service(s) requested.		
1. Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's addre	ss. 2. Restricted Delivery.	
James D Stone, Esq.	4. Article Number PU7/ 388 523 Type of Service:	
29 W. Susque hanna A	Registered Insured COD Express Mail	
Towson, MD 21204	Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.	
5. Signature — Addressee	8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid)	
6. Signature Agent  X Dm. Mustur  7. Description		
7. Date of Delivery MAR 2 7 1990		
PS Form 3811, Feb. 1986	DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT	

## UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE OFFICIAL BUSINESS

SENDER INSTRUCTIONS
Print your name, address, and ZIP Code
in the space below.
• Complete items 1, 2, 3, and 4 on

the reverse.

Attach to front of article if space permits, otherwise affix to back of

article.
Endorse article "Return Receipt Requested" adjacent to number.



PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300



Print Sender's name, address, and ZIP Code in the space below.

Grephen C. Winter

606 Bosky Ave. Suite C

Touson Mis 21204

SENDER: Complete items 1 and 2 when additional services are desired, and complete items 3 and 4.		
Put your address in the "RETURN TO" space on the reverse side. Failure to do this will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide you the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for additional service(s) requested.  1. Show to whom delivered, date, and addresses's address.  2. Restricted Delivery.		
2. Autista Automata		
Tarob Mat Z ES2.	671 388 524	
INO E TIPPA ROL	Type of Service:	
Jacob Mat Z ESE.  528 E. Joppa Rd  Towson, ME 21204 -	Registered Insured Certified COD Express Mail	
	Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and <u>DATE DEL!VERED</u> .	
5. Signature – Addressee	8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid)	
x & M Zohual-	requestion and yes panely	
6. Signature - Agent		
x C.S.		
7. Date of Delivery 3/26/90		
PS Form 3817, Feb. 1986	DOMESTIC RETURN RECEIPT	

WRIT OF SUMMONS

Case Number <u>90081076CE110893</u>

STATE OF MARYLAND,

#### CTPY OF BALTIMORE TO WIT:

Certified Mail

TOMitchell J. Pijanowski c/o Jacob Matz, Esq. 528 E. Joppa Rd. Towson, Md. 21204

You are hereby summoned to file a written response by pleading or motion in this Court to the attached
Complaint filed by Nelson S. Winter, etc. 606 Bosley Avenue (Name & Address)
Towson Md. 21204
within 30 days after service of this summons upon you.
WITNESS the Honorable Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Maryland.
Sandre & Bull & Company
Date Issued 03/23/90
Clerk
TO THE PERSON SUMMONED. Circuit Court for Balto. City . 1983

- O THE PERSON SUMMONED:
  - 1. PERSONAL ATTENDANCE IN COURT ON THE DAY NAMED IS NOT REQUIRED.
  - 2. FAILURE TO FILE A RESPONSE WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED MAY RESULT IN A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT OR THE GRANTING OF THE RELIEF SOUGHT AGAINST YOU.

#### SHERIFF'S RETURN

Person Served		Time	Date
Person Served		Time	Date
Non Est (Reason)			
Fee \$	Sheriff		

- 1. This summons is effective for service only if served within 60 days after the date it is issued
- 2. Proof of service shall set out the name of the person served, date and the particular place and manner of service. If service is not made, please state the reasons.
- 3. Return of served or unserved process shall be made promptly and in accordance with Rule 2-126.
- 4. If this summons is served by private process, Process server shall file a seperate affidavit as required by Rule 2-126 (a).



WRIT OF SUMMONS

Case Number <u>90081076CF110893</u>

STATE OF MARYLAND,

#### CITY XOFX BAIX THMORE XIXX WIT:

Certified Mail

TO: Antoinette V. Litwinski

c/o Jerome T. Lambdin, Esq. 426 Eastern Avenue Essex Md. 21221
You are hereby summoned to file a written response by pleading or motion in this Court to the attached
Complaint filed by Nelson S. Winter etc. 606 Bosley Avenue (Name & Address)
Towson Md. 21204
TOWOGH THE ETEC
within $\frac{30}{1000}$ days after service of this summons upon you.
WITNESS the Honorable Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Maryland.
Date Issued 03/23/90 Sundra & Banks CLERK
TO THE PERSON SUMMONED:  Clerk Circuit Court for Balto. City
1. PERSONAL ATTENDANCE IN COURT ON THE DAY NAMED IS NOT REQUIRED:

2. FAILURE TO FILE A RESPONSE WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED MAY RESULT IN A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT OR THE GRANTING OF THE RELIEF SOUGHT AGAINST YOU.

#### SHERIFF'S RETURN

Person Served Time Date	
Non Est (Reason)	
Fee \$ Sheriff	

- 1. This summons is effective for service only if served within 60 days after the date it is issued
- 2. Proof of service shall set out the name of the person served, date and the particular place and manner of service. If service is not made, please state the reasons.
- 3. Return of served or unserved process shall be made promptly and in accordance with Rule 2-126.
- 4. If this summons is served by private process, Process server shall file a seperate affidavit as required by Rule 2-126 (a).



WRIT OF SUMMONS

Case Number 9008 1076 CE 1 10893

STATE OF MARYLAND.

#### CNTY XOFXBANXIXMORE ATOXWITX

Certified Mail

TO: Audrey A. Boenning c/o James D. Stone, Esq. 29 W. Susquehana Ave. 6th fl. Towson Md. 21204

You a	are hereby summoned to file a written response by pleading or motion in this Court to the attache	:d
Complaint f	filed by <u>Nelson S. Winter etc. 606 Bosley Avenue</u> (Name & Address)	
	Towson Md. 21204	
within3(	O days after service of this summons upon you.	
WITNESS th	he Honorable Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Maryland.	
	Sandra E. Banks (ST) FOR BALTING	

TO THE PERSON SUMMONED:

Date Issued \_\_03/23/90

Clerk
Circuit Court for Balto. City

1. PERSONAL ATTENDANCE IN COURT ON THE DAY NAMED IS NOT REQUIRED.

2. FAILURE TO FILE A RESPONSE WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED MAY RESULT IN A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT OR THE GRANTING OF THE RELIEF SOUGHT AGAINST YOU.

#### SHERIFF'S RETURN

Person Served	Time Date
Person Served	Time Date
Non Est (Reason)	
Fee \$	Sheriff

- 1. This summons is effective for service only if served within 60 days after the date it is issued
- 2. Proof of service shall set out the name of the person served, date and the particular place and manner of service. If service is not made, please state the reasons.
- 3. Return of served or unserved process shall be made promptly and in accordance with Rule 2-126.
- 4. If this summons is served by private process, Process server shall file a seperate affidavit as required by Rule 2-126 (a).

WRIT OF SUMMONS

Case Number 900810760F110893

STATE OF MARYLAND.

**CITY XOFX BALKTHMORE XIXX WIT:** 

Certified Mail

TO:Dorothy M. Bechtel c/o James D. Stone, Esq. 29 W. Susquehana Avenue 6th Fl. Towson, Md. 21204

You are hereby summoned to file a written response by pleading or motion in this Court to the attached

Complaint filed by Nelson S. Winter etc. 606 Bosley Avenue

(Name & Address)

Baltimore Md. 21204

within 30 days after service of this summons upon you.

WITNESS the Honorable Chief Judge of the Eighth Judicial Circuit of Maryland.

Date Issued 03/23/90

CLERK

- 1. PERSONAL ATTENDANCE IN COURT ON THE DAY NAMED IS NOT REQUIRED.
- 2. FAILURE TO FILE A RESPONSE WITHIN THE TIME ALLOWED MAY RESULT IN A JUDGMENT BY DEFAULT OR THE GRANTING OF THE RELIEF SOUGHT AGAINST YOU.

#### SHERIFF'S RETURN

Person Served	Time Date
Person Served	Time Date
Non Est (Reason)	
Fee \$	Sheriff

- 1. This summons is effective for service only if served within 60 days after the date it is issued
- 2. Proof of service shall set out the name of the person served, date and the particular place and manner of service. If service is not made, please state the reasons.
- 3. Return of served or unserved process shall be made promptly and in accordance with Rule 2-126.
- 4. If this summons is served by private process, Process server shall file a seperate affidavit as required by Rule 2-126 (a).

90081076 (E110893

## FILED

MAR 22 1990 IN THE

NELSON S. WINTER, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF

THE ESTATE OF

CIRCUIT COURT FOR IRCUIT COURT

ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, DECEASED BALTIMORE CITY

LATE OF BALTIMORE CITY

606 Bosley Avenue

Towson, Maryland 21204

BALTIMORE CITY

Petitioner

IN EQUITY

v.

MITCHELL J. PIJANOWSKI c/o Jacob Matz, Esquire 528 East Joppa Road

Towson, Maryland 21204 Docket:

Folio:

FOR

Case:

and

ANTOINETTE V. LITWINSKI c/o Jerome T. Lambdin, Esquire

426 Eastern Avenue

Essex, Maryland 21221

9:17AM03/23/90 002#2431 A \*\*\*\*

#0900310

#0000076 \$80.00

CIVIL LIBRA \$10.00

\$90.00 ##TTL

CHECK \$90.00

CHNG \$0.00

and

AUDREY A. BOENNING c/o James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue 6th Floor

Towson, Maryland 21204

and

DOROTHY M. BECHTEL c/o James D. Stone, Esquire 29 W. Susquehanna Avenue 6th Floor Towson, Maryland 21204

Respondents

#### BILL OF COMPLAINT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Petitioner, Nelson S. Winter, Esquire, Personal Representative of and Attorney for the Estate of Anna A. Schoenhals, petitions



this Honorable Court for a construction of the Last Will and Testament of the decedent, Anna A. Schoenhals, saying:

- 1. That Anna A. Schoenhals, late of Baltimore City, died on August 18, 1989.
- 2. That subsequent to the death of the said Anna A. Schoenhals, your Petitioner offered for probate with the Orphans' Court of Baltimore City, a Last Will and Testament of said decedent, dated June 7, 1960, Anna A. Schoenhals, and a First Codicil thereto dated November 24, 1979. Copies of said documents are attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.
- 3. That the said First Codicil to the said Last Will and Testament named your Petitioner as Personal Representative.
- 4. That Letters of Administration were granted to your Petitioner by the Register of Wills for Baltimore City in administrative probate, under Estate Number A30661.
- 5. That after the sale of assets and payment of expenses, the estate consists of interest-bearing checking and money market accounts of approximately \$50,000.
- 6. That the aforesaid Will and First Codicil dated June 7, 1960 and November 24, 1979, respectively, are presently in the estate file maintained by the Register of Wills for Baltimore City in Estate Number A30661.
- 7. That the decedent by Item II of her said will dated June 7, 1960, gave her residuary estate to her husband, Walter Schoenhals, who died on October 11, 1969, if he survived her.
  - 8. That Item III of the Will provided that, if Walter

Schoenhals predeceased her (Anna A. Schoenhals) all the rest, residue and remainder of her property and estate would be distributed to four named legatees, in equal shares. In the event that one or more of the said legatees predeceased Anna A. Schoenhals, then such share or shares "shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees."

That for clarification the provisions of Item II and III of the decedent's will read as follows:

#### ITEM II.

"After the payment of all my legal debts, funeral and burial expenses and the costs of procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave as aforesaid and the costs of the administration of my estate, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to my husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, if he is living at the time of my death.

### ITEM III.

In the event my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, predeceases me, then, and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to MRS. AUDREY A BOENNING of Hyattsville, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. DOROTHY M. BECHTEL of Westport, Baltimore, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. GERTRUDE PIANOWSKI of Baltimore, Maryland, who is my sister; and EDWARD LITWINSKI of White Marsh, Maryland, who is my brother;

in equal shares. In the event that any one or more of the aforegoing legatees predeceases me, then, and in that event, the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, if she, he or they were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees."

- 9. That the said Walter Schoenhals, having predeceased his wife, Anna A. Schoenhals, on October 11, 1969, the decedent's residuary estate became distributable as directed by Item III of her Last Will and Testament, dated June 7, 1960.
- 10. That the persons named to take the residuary estate by Item III of the will and their relationship to the testatrix are as follows:

Audrey A. Boenning, stepdaughter Dorothy M. Burrit, stepdaughter Gertrude Pijanowski, sister (spelled in will "Pianowski") Edward Litwinski, brother

Gertrude Pijanowski died September 12, 1980, her husband Mitchell Pijanowski, having predeceased her on October 11, 1953. She had one child, a son, Mitchell J. Pijanowski, who is living and one of the named Respondents.

Edward Litwinski died September 22, 1982, having had no children, but survived by his wife, Antoinette V. Litwinski, one of the named Respondents.

Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel are living and are named as Respondents.

11. That Respondents, Mitchell J. Pijanowski and Antoinette V. Litwinski, have informed your Petitioner that they believe they

are entitled to the shares of the residuary estate of Anna A. Schoenhals which were bequeathed to Gertrude Pijanowski and Edward Litwinski by Item III of the Last Will and Testament of Anna A. Schoenhals.

- 12. That Respondents Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel claim that because of the deaths of Gertrude Pijanowski and Edward Litwinski they are the sole surviving legatees named in the will and are therefore entitled to the entire residuary estate.
- 13. That it is not possible to properly administer and close the estate of Anna A. Schoenhals, deceased, until such time as the resolution of the issue of the proper distribution under Item III of the Last Will and Testament is resolved.
- 14. That all of the Respondents are represented by counsel and have authorized that service of process be made on their counsel.
- 15. That your Petitioner files herewith copies of the death certificates of:

Walter S. Schoenhals, 10/11/69 (DOD)

Gertrude Pijanowski, 9/12/80 (DOD)

Edward Litwinski, 9/22/82 (DOD)

which he prays be made a part hereof.

WHEREFORE, your Petitioner prays the following relief:

A. That this Honorable Court interpret the Last Will and Testament of Anna A. Schoenhals, and, in particular, Item III of said will, to determine the proper distribution under said provision.

B. That your Petitioner may have such other and further relief as the nature of his cause may require.
AND AS IN DUTY BOUND, ETC.

NELSON S. WINTER

Personal Representative of the Estate of Anna A. Schoenhals 606 Bosley Avenue

Towson, Maryland 21204

#### ATTESTATION

THE UNDERSIGNED, Nelson S. Winter, does hereby solemnly declare and affirm under the penalties of perjury that the contents of the aforegoing Bill of Complaint for Construction are true and correct to the best of his knowledge, information and belief.

Nelson S. Winter

#### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this And day of March, 1990, a copy of the foregoing Bill for Construction was sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, to:

Jacob Matz, Esq.
Attorney for Mitchell J. Pijanowski
528 East Joppa Road
Towson, Maryland 21204

Jerome T. Lambdin, Esq. Attorney for Antoinette v. Litwinski 426 Eastern Avenue Essex, Maryland 21228

James D. Stone, Esq.
Attorney for Audrey A. Boenning and Dorothy M. Bechtel
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Towson, Maryland 21204 Telephone: (301) 321-6222

CMM/NSW:clr L2/Shoenhals.boc

## LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF

## ANNA A. SCHOENHALS

I, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, of the City of Baltimore, State of Maryland, being of lawful age and of sound and disposing mind, memory and understanding, do hereby make, publish and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament, and do hereby revoke any and all wills and codicils thereto heretofore made by me.

## ITEM I.

I hereby authorize, empower and direct the Executor of my estate, hereinafter named, to pay all of my legal debts, functial and burial expenses, the costs of procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave if none has been erected at the time of my death, and the costs of the administration of my estate out of the assets of my estate.

nection with my funeral and burial and procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave as aforesaid shall be in the sole and absolute discretion of the Executor of my estate, and any and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with my funeral and burial and procuring and erecting a suitable marker at my grave as aforesaid shall be chargeable against and paid out of the assets of my estate without regard to any limitation or restriction imposed by law and it shall not be necessary for the Executor of my estate to secure any order, approval or ratification of the Orphans' Court of Baltimore

City or any other court, commission, board or other agency to do so regardless of the amount of such costs and expenses.

## ITEM II.

After the payment of all my legal debts, funeral and brial expenses and the costs of procuring and creeting a suitable marker at my grave as aforesaid and the costs of the administration of my estate, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to my husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, if he is living at the time of my death.

## ITEM III.

In the event my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, predeceases me, then, and in that event, I give, devise and bequeath, absolutely, all of the rest, residue and remainder of my property and estate of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, and wheresoever the same may be situate, and whether in my possession or in expectancy, or to which I may be entitled at the time of my death, or to which I may have any right or power of testamentary appointment or disposition, to MRS. AUDREY A. BOENNING of Hyattsville, Maryland, who is a daughter of my husband; MRS. DOROTHY M. BECHTEL of Westport, Baltimore, Maryland,

of Caltimore, Maryland, who is my sister; and EDWARD LITWINSKI of White Marsh, Maryland, who is my brother; in equal shares. In the event that any one or more of the aforegoing legatees predeceases me, then, and in that event, the share or shares which any one or more of the aforesaid legatees who predeceases me would be entitled to receive under the provisions of this paragraph of this written instrument, if she, he or they were living, shall be distributed in equal shares to the survivor or survivors of the aforesaid legatees.

## ITEM IV.

Any and all property of every kind, character and description, whether real, personal or mixed, which at the time of my death is owned by my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, and me in our joint names, or which upon my death will pass to my said husband by operation of law or under which my said husband is a beneficiary, including, but not limited to, bank accounts, real estate or any interest therein, securities and life insurance policies, shall be the sole and separate property of my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, and shall not be subject to any of the terms and provisions of this written instrument.

## ITEM V.

During the period of administration and settlement of my estate, my Executor is hereby granted full power and authority to pay over to my said husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, if he is living, out of the corpus of my estate or the income therefrom, such sum or sums of money from time to time as

my Executor may deem advisable or proper to provide for my said husband's proper and comfortable care, maintenance and support, but in each instance my Executor shall take into consideration all other sources of income and the financial resources of my said husband as the same may be known to my Executor and the standard of living to which my said husband has become accustomed.

## ITEM VI.

All of the directions of any sort or kind of this, my Last Will and Testament, contained for the payment of any sum or sums of money or the transfer of property, real, personal or mixed, shall be taken or made upon the expressed condition, in each and every instance, that such beneficiary, legatee or distributee shall take such sum or sums of money or property, real, personal or mixed, to which he or she may be entitled, the same to be paid or transferred directly to him or her, and also that the said beneficiary, legatee or distributee so taking shall be held by my Executor and his successors and assigns, free, clear and discharged of any and all debts, liens or judgments now standing or later recovered against him or her, and free and clear from any assignments or transfers of his or her interests, in this, my Last Will and Testament, levies, judgments, executions, attachments and sequestrations, and free and clear from any and all other processes of every kind, nature or description that may be instituted against such beneficiary, legatee or distributee named in this, my Last Will and Testament.

## ITEM VII.

In order to facilitate the settlement of my estate,

I hereby authorize and empower the Executor of my estate,
in his sole and absolute discretion, without any applicatime to, or any order of, the Orphans' Court of Daltimore
City or any other court, board, commission or agency, so
to do, and for such consideration as to my Executor shall
seem proper, to sell, lease, grant, assign, convey, transfer,
exchange, or in any other manner, conditionally or absolutely,
to dispose of all or any part of my property, real, personal
or mixed, and to make, execute, acknowledge and deliver
proper deeds, conveyances and transfers therefor; and in
the case of any such sale or other disposition, it shall
not be necessary for the purchaser or any other person so
dealing with my said Executor to see to the application of
the purchase money or other consideration.

## TTEM VIII.

The full amount of any and all estate, inheritance, succession and transfer taxes, and governmental charges of every kind, which may be lawfully assessed by, or be or become due and payable to, the United States of America or any state or political subdivision thereof or any other taxing authority, as a result or in consequence of my death, shall be paid by my Executor out of the assets of my estate, and such taxes and charges shall be paid by my Executor before he distributes my estate, and such payment shall be made without any right of reimbursement therefor whatsoever from any person, corporation or other legal entity.

## ITEM IX.

All provisions made under this, my Last Will and Testament, for the benefit of my husband, WALTER SCHOENHALS, are contingent upon my said husband surviving the for a period of sixty (60) days; and in the event my said husband does not survive me for the said period of sixty (60) days, then the provisions of this, my Last Will and Testament, shall be applied and interpreted in the same manner as they would have been if my said husband had predeceased me.

## ITEM X.

I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint as the Executor of this, my Last Will and Testament, as herein set forth, WADE II. CRESWELL, of Baltimore, Maryland. In the event the said MADE I. Chassishe predecesses me or for any other reason is not able or refuces to act as the Executor of my estate, I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint as the Executor of my estate, WILLIAM H. MARSHALL, ESO., of the Baltimore Bar. In the event the said WILLIAM H. MARSHALL acts as the Enecutor of my estate, he is hereby authorized and empowered to fully and completely exercise any and all of the power and authority which I have vested in WADE H. CRESWELL as the Executor of this, my hast Will and Testament, under the terms and provisions of this written instrument. Inasmuch as I have absolute confidence in the integrity of both the said WADE H. CRESWELL and MILLIAM II. MARSUALL, it is my wish and I hereby direct that the one acting as the Executor of my estate be excused

from the necessity of giving bond except to the extent required by law.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal, this 7th day of June in the year of Our Lord, nineteen hundred and sixty.

Anna A. Schoenhals

Signed, sealed, published and declared by ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, the above named Testatrix, as and for her last Will and Testament, in the presence of us, who, at her request, in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereunto subscribed our names as witnesses.

Grace Crisice (6 13326 Ravenuovod WE

- Want Manhall 717 Ett Bly Batt. 2/11.

## FIRST CODICIL

TO

## LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT

OF

## ANNA A. SCHOENHALS

I, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, of the City of Baltimore, State of Maryland, being of sound and disposing mind, memory, and understanding, do make, publish, and declare this as and for a First Codicil to my Last Will and Testament dated June 7, 1960.

ITEM 1. I hereby revoke Item X of my said Will and substitute in lieu thereof the following;

I nominate, constitute, and appoint NELSON S. WINTER to be Persoanl Representative of my Estate.

If the said NELSON S. WINTER predeceases me or is unable or unwilling to act then I appoint his son, STEPHEN C. WINTER as my Personal Representative.

I direct my Personal Representative shall not be required to give a bond for the faithful performance of his duties.

In addition to the powers and authorities given fiduciaries by law, I authorize and empower my Personal Representative to sell any part of my Estate that he deems proper and to compromise any matter in favor of or against my Estate and his decision in respect thereto shall be final and binding upon all persons interested in my Estate.

ITEM 2. As herein modified, I hereby confirm and LAW OFFICES republish my said Last Will and Testament.

& DICICCO, P. A. TOWSON, MD. 27:204

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this V4 day of November, 1979.

Consul CholmalysEAL)
ANNA A. SCHOENHALS

SIGNED, SEALED, PUBLISHED, and DECLARED by the above named, ANNA A. SCHOENHALS, as and for a First Codicil to said Last Will and Testament dated June 7, 1960, in our presence, who, at her request, in her presence, and in the presence of each other, have hereinto subscribed our names as witnesses this L4 day of Mouenter, 1979.

Address

Grace Creswell

Address

ASKEW, WILSON & DICICCO, P. A.

VÄLID ONLY WITH IMPRESSED SEAL I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE COPY OF A RECORD ON FILE IN THE DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS.

DATE ISSUED:

AU6 29 1991

STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL RECORDS

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VALID CNLY WITH IMPRESSED SEAL I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ATTACHED IS A TRUE COPY OF A RECORD ON FILE IN THE DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS.

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DATE ISSUED:

AUG 2 9 1989

STATE REGISTRAR OF VITAL RECORDS

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From: Jennifer Hafner

To: Ray Connor, Doris Byrne, Sheila Simms, Edward Papenfuse

Date: Monday, February 01, 2010 9:55:48 AM

Subject: MSA SC 5458-82-150

I have added five additional cases to this work order which need to be pulled and scanned. They are -

DUMBELLS ASSCS,ETAL V CONSUMER PROTECTION Box 739 Case No. 90059044 [MSA T2691-3376, OR/11/12/24]

File should be named msa\_sc5458\_82\_150\_[full case number]-####

WINTER, ETAL VS PIJANOWSKI, ETAL Box 783 Case No. 90081076 [MSA T2691-3420, DL 2-1-10 OR/11/12/68]

File should be named msa\_sc5458\_82\_150\_[full case number]-####

POINDEXTER VS ALEXANDER & ALEXANDER Box 927 Case No. 90164037 [MSA T2691-3564, OR/11/14/44]

File should be named msa\_sc5458\_82\_150\_[full case number]-####

LEBSON MD VS BOARD OF MUNICIPAL Box 959 Case No. 90184037 [MSA T2691-3596, OR/11/14/76]

File should be named msa\_sc5458\_82\_150\_[full case number]-####

HARRINGTON VS SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY Box 969 Case No. 90190075 [MSA T2691-3606, OR/11/15/2]

File should be named msa\_sc5458\_82\_150\_[full case number]-####