WASHINGTON COUNTY REPORTS

CONTAINING FOR TEMPORARY USE ADVANCE SHEETS OF THE DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES OF THE 27TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA AND THE OFFICIAL LEGAL NOTICES AND ADVERTISEMENTS OF THE SEVERAL COURTS OF THE COUNTY OF WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA. Established March 31, 1920 as the Official Legal Periodical for Washington County, Pennsylvania. Owned & Published since January 1, 1958 by the Washington County Bar Association, 119 S. College St., Washington, PA 15301

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Washington County Reports

MOTIONS COURT SCHEDULE		
CR#/Suite#	COURTS WILL BE CLOSED ON 7/4/2025 COMPLETE info @www.washingtoncourts.us/101/Judges	
Gilman, Gary (PJ) CR#7/1001	Tu & Th 9:15a. Copy of motion due before 12p the business day prior to scheduled presentation. Motions in person, may be remote upon approval.	
DiSalle, John CR#2/2002	Effective July 7, 2025, all Family Court motions presented on behalf of parties represented by counsel shall be handled remotely via email, fax or mail to chambers. Counsel for filing party must notify all necessary parties that the motion is being filed and shall clearly indicate to the court whether the motion is contested. Contested motions shall include a scheduling order. Pro Se motions and emergency motions (i.e. those involving the health, safety and welfare of a child or risk of flight) shall be presented on Tuesdays at 9:15a.m. in courtroom #2 with requisite five(5) days' notice to all necessary parties.	
Costanzo, Valarie CR#1/2001	Motions Tu & Th at 9:15a.m. Motions in person, with sign up at least 24 hours prior to presentation. Judge of the Term, Criminal: March, May, July, Sept, Nov. For complete Standard Operating Procedures: https://www.washingtoncourts.us/194/Valarie-Costanzo. NO MOTIONS 8/5-8/14. For emergency motions, contact Judge Costanzo's staff	
Lucas, Michael, CR#6/1006	Motions 1st-20th of each month on M 1:15p and Tu-Fri 8:45a Civil Judge of the Term, 1st-15th of each month. Motions Court is held in person. Motions sign-up in person, mail or email. Original motion to be filed with Prothonotary prior to presentation and copy of motion delivered to chambers to arrive by noon (12:00p) the business day prior to the scheduled presentation.	
Neuman, Brandon CR#4/3005	Tu, W & Th at 9:15a. Judge of the Term, Civil: 15th to the end of each month. Motions in person, with signup by Noon the business day prior to presentation; signup in-person, by mail, or by email. Motions submitted by mail or email: original to be filed with Prothonotary, copy to Judge's office. Uncontested motions dropped off or emailed to amber.ross, court.crier.neuman, or law.clerk.neuman all @washingtoncourts.us. NO MOTIONS 7/8, 7/9, 7/10	
McDonald, Traci CR#5/1004	Tu & Th 9:30a. Motions in person, with signup by Noon the business day prior to presentation. Judge of the Term, Criminal: Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., Dec. See Standard Operating Procedures at https://www.washingtoncourts.us/258/Traci-L-McDonald NO MOTIONS 7/15, 7/17	
Pettit, Jesse CR#3/2003	Tu & Th 9:15a. Motions in person, with signup for Tues. motions by Noon the Friday prior and signup for Thurs. motions by Noon the Monday prior. See Standard Operating Procedures: https://www.washingtoncourts.us/375/Jesse-D-Pettit-Judge.	

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OBITER DICTUM

From the ABA Journal Daily Newsletter: [1] The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that a federal appeals court used a too-narrow time frame to evaluate whether a police officer's fatal shooting of a fleeing man was reasonable under the Fourth Amendment. According to Justice Kagan, writing for the majority, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit had wrongly considered only two seconds of time, using its "moment of threat" test to evaluate the fatal shooting. The facts underlying the decision consists of the driver, Ashtian Barnes, being pulled over outside of Houston in April of 2016 for suspected summary violations. He opened his door but began to drive away after the officer ordered him to get out of his vehicle. The officer jumped on the doorsill and fired two shots into the car as it continued to move. The Barnes family sued for alleged excessive force in violation of the Fourth Amendment. The 5th Circuit considered the danger to the officer at the moment of the threat that led him to use deadly force, the two seconds that the officer was clinging to a moving car. Using that test, the appeals court found no constitutional violation. Justice Kagan determined that the 5th Circuit test conflicts with the Supreme Court's requirement that excessive force claims be considered from "the perspective of a reasonable officer at the scene." That inquiry analyzes reasonableness under the "totality of the circumstances" having no time limit. [2] The Nevada Supreme Court gave its blessing to a three-pronged bar exam - comprised of a 100 question closed book multiple-choice exam, a performance test and supervised practice - that will launch in February 2027. The new Nevada Comprehensive Licensing Examination will include a written closed book exam given four times a year in test centers that candidates can take after completing 42 JD credits; three 2-hour performance tests given after graduation; and 60 hours of supervised hands-on experience with clients via law school clinics or externships before admission to the Bar. [3] A prominent South Carolina lawyer allegedly identified himself as "Superman" and "God" when he was arrested for erratic behavior last week. William Mullins McLeod, Jr., of Charleston, South Carolina, was arrested May 15 after he was allegedly "yelling at the top of his lungs" while wearing only underwear and shoes in downtown Charleston, South Carolina. McLeod was charged with disorderly conduct. McLeod's lawyer attributed the incident to a mental health episode and exhaustion.

Note: O.D. does not necessarily reflect the views of the employees, officers, and/or members of the Washington County Bar Association. O.D. is not an editorial, it is a compilation of items about the law, attorneys, and related matters. It is not intended to endorse or promote any particular point of view.

COURT CALENDARS

Sheriff Sale Dates	Last Date to File w/Prothonotary
	April 25, 2025
	June 27, 2025

OPINION: Latkanich v Chevron

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA CIVIL DIVISION NO. 2022-6006

BRYAN LATKANICH, HUNTER LATKANICH, COLTON LATAKANICH, and RYAN LATKANICH, a minor By and through natural guardian BRYAN LATKANICH, PLAINTIFFS,

VS.

CHEVRON CORPORATION, CHEVRON U.S.A. INC., CHEVRON APPALACHIA, LLC, EQT CORPORATION, EQT PRODUCTION COMPANY, EQT PRODUCTION MARCELLUS, EQT CHAP LLC, and JOHN DOE DEFENDANTS, DEFENDANTS.

Synopsis

Plaintiffs, Pennsylvania residents, brought an action, in part, against a California Holding Company for injuries due to water and air pollution caused by drilling for oil and gas on Plaintiffs' property in Deemston Borough. Considering the evidence in a light most favorable to the Plaintiffs, the court found that (1) the plaintiffs' cause of action arose out of or related to the Holding Company's forum related contacts; (2) the Defendant Holding Company had purposefully directed its oil and gas related activities towards Southwestern Pennsylvania; and (3) the record evidence otherwise established that a Pennsylvania Court's exercise of specific in personam jurisdiction over the Holding Company is reasonable and fair. J. Lucas.

[1] Courts 106: Nature, Extent, and Exercise of Jurisdiction in General 106I:

Once the moving party supports its objections to personal jurisdiction, the burden of proving personal jurisdiction is upon the party asserting it. Courts must resolve the question of personal jurisdiction based on the circumstances of each particular case. Pa.R.C.P. 1028.

[2] Pretrial Procedure 307: Want of Jurisdiction

When deciding a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, a court must consider the evidence in the light most favorable to the non-moving party.

[3] Pleading 302:

When preliminary objections, if sustained, would result in the dismissal of an action, such objections should be sustained only in cases which are clear and free from doubt.

[4] Constitutional Law 92: Personal Jurisdiction in General

The Fourteenth Amendment's due process clause limits the personal jurisdiction of state courts. Pennsylvania courts may exercise in personam jurisdiction over a nonresident if jurisdiction is conferred under the state long-arm statute, and the exercise of jurisdiction would not offend the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. 42 Pa.C.S.A." § 5322(b).\

[5] Constitutional Law 92: Judgement or Other Determination

The due process of law clause does not contemplate that a state may make binding a judgment in personam against an individual or corporate defendant with which state has no contacts, ties or relations. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 14.

[6] Constitutional Law 92: Judgement or Other Determination

"Due process of law" requires only that in order to subject a defendant to a judgment in personam, if he be not present within territory of forum, he has certain minimum contacts with it such that maintenance of the suit does not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 14.

[7] Federal Courts 170: Related Contacts and Activities

The inquiry as to whether a forum state may assert specific jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant focuses on the relationship among the defendant, the forum, and the litigation.

[8] Constitutional Law 92: Non-residents in general

A state court may exercise personal jurisdiction over an out-of-state defendant who has certain minimum contacts with the State such that the maintenance of the suit does not offend traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.

[9] Federal Courts 170: Related Contacts and Activities

Where forum seeks to assert specific jurisdiction over an out-of-state defendant who has not consented to suit there, fair-warning requirement is satisfied if the defendant has purposefully directed his activities at residence of the forum and the litigation results from injuries that arise out of or relate to those activities.

[10] Courts 106: Corporations and Business Organizations

A court may assert general jurisdiction over foreign sister-state or foreign-country corporations to hear any and all claims against them when their affiliations with the State are so continuous and systematic as to render them essentially at home in the forum State.

[11] Courts 106: Determination of Questions of Jurisdiction in General

Courts must resolve the question of personal jurisdiction based on the circumstances of each particular case.

[12] Courts 106: Nature, Extent, and Exercise of Jurisdiction in General 106I:

To determine whether personal jurisdiction would be reasonable and fair under the third part of the test for specific personal jurisdiction, courts will consider the following factors: the burden on the defendant, the forum State's interest in adjudicating the dispute, the plaintiff's interest in obtaining convenient and effective relief, the interstate judicial system's interest in obtaining the most efficient resolution of controversies, and the shared interest of the several States in furthering fundamental substantive social policies.

[13] Courts 106: Corporations and business organizations

A court may assert general jurisdiction over foreign sister-state or foreign-country corporations to hear any and all claims against them when their affiliations with the State are so continuous and systematic as to render them essentially at home in the forum State. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 14.

[14] Courts 106: Related contacts and activities; specific jurisdiction

In contrast to general, all-purpose jurisdiction, specific jurisdiction is confined to adjudication of issues deriving from, or connected with, the very controversy that establishes jurisdiction. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 14.

[15] Courts 106: Related contacts and activities; specific jurisdiction

In order for a state court to exercise specific jurisdiction, the suit must arise out of or

relate to the defendant's contacts with the forum.

[16] Constitutional Law 92: Non-residents in general

For a suit to "relate to" a nonresident defendant's contacts with the forum States, for purposes of due process limits on specific personal jurisdiction, the phrase "relate to" incorporates real limits, as it must to adequately protect defendants who are foreign to a forum, but the specific jurisdiction inquiry does not always require proof of causation, i.e., proof that the plaintiff's claim came about because of the defendant's in-state conduct.

[17] Courts 106: Contacts with the forum state in general

A non-resident defendant purposefully establishes minimum contacts with a forum state, such that the forum state can exercise personal jurisdiction over the defendant, where its contacts with the forum state are such that the defendant could reasonably anticipate being called to defend itself in the forum.

[18] Constitutional Law 92: Non-residents in general

For the exercise of personal jurisdiction over a nonresident defendant to comport with the Due Process Clause, the plaintiff cannot be the only link between the defendant and the forum; rather, it is the defendant's conduct that must form the necessary connection with the forum state that is the basis for its jurisdiction over him. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 14.

[19] Federal Courts 170: Related contacts and activities; specific jurisdiction

A defendant's contacts with the forum state may be intertwined with his transactions or interactions with the plaintiff or other parties, but a defendant's relationship with a plaintiff or third party, standing alone, is an insufficient basis for specific jurisdiction over the defendant.

[20] Courts 106: Related contacts and activities; specific jurisdiction

In contrast to general, all-purpose jurisdiction, specific jurisdiction is confined to adjudication of issues deriving from, or connected with, the very controversy that establishes jurisdiction.

[21] Courts 106: Related contacts and activities; specific jurisdiction

Jurisdictional rules may not be employed in such a way as to make litigation so gravely difficult and inconvenient that a party is unfairly at a severe disadvantage in comparison to his opponent.

[22] Courts 106: Actions by or Against Nonresidents, Personal Jurisdiction In; "Long-Arm" Jurisdiction

In determining whether personal jurisdiction is present, a court must consider a variety of interests, including the interests of the forum state and of the plaintiff in proceeding with the cause in the plaintiff's forum of choice.

[23] Courts 106: Factors Considered in General

Burden on defendant, while always primary concern in determining jurisdiction of a nonresident defendant, will in appropriate case be considered in light of other relevant factors, including interest of forum state in adjudicating disputes, plaintiff's interest in obtaining convenient and effective relief, at least when such interest is not adequately protected by plaintiff's power to choose forum, interstate judicial system's interest in obtaining most efficient resolution of controversies, and shared interest of the several states in furthering fundamental, substantive, social policies.

[24] Courts 106: Purpose, Intent, and Foreseeability; Purposeful Availment

Notwithstanding determination that nonresident defendant purposefully established minimum contacts with forum, in personam jurisdiction may only be asserted over nonresident defendant when nature and quality of that defendant's activities are such as to make it reasonable and fair to require him to conduct his defense in state; factors to be considered include burden on defendant, forum state's interest in adjudicating dispute, plaintiff's interest in obtaining convenient and effective relief, interstate judicial system's interest in obtaining most efficient resolution of controversies, and shares interest of several states in furthering fundamental substantive social policies.

[25] Courts 106: Related contacts and activities; specific jurisdiction

For specific jurisdiction, a defendant's general connections with the forum are not enough.

[26] Courts 106: Related contacts and activities; specific jurisdiction

Where there is not an affiliation between the forum and the underlying controversy, specific jurisdiction is lacking regardless of the extent of a defendant's unconnected activities in the state.

[27] Courts 106: Factors Considered, in General

A defendant's relationship with a third party, standing alone, is an insufficient basis for jurisdiction, even when the third party can bring claims similar to those brought by the nonresident.

[28] Constitutional Law 92: Representatives of organizations; officers, agents, and employees

Courts 106: Jurisdiction of Agents, Representatives, or Other Third Parties Themselves

Exercise of specific jurisdiction over non-resident employer, in negligence action brought in Pennsylvania by motorist who was injured in a collision with employee driving an employer-owned vehicle, would comport with notions of fair play and substantial justice as required by due process, where the collision occurred in Pennsylvania, employer operated in the neighboring states of New Jersey and New York, Pennsylvania had an interest in protecting its residents from tortious conduct, and litigating the action in Pennsylvania would promote an efficient resolution of the controversies and shared interests of the several states involved. U.S.C.A. Const.Amend. 14.

[29] Courts 106: Corporations and Business Organizations

Relationship between corporate defendant and forum must be such that it is reasonable to require corporation to defend particular suit where it is brought.

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

Defendant, Chevron Corporation objects to the jurisdiction of this state trial court. The Plaintiffs, Mr. Latkanich and his sons, have filed a multi-count complaint against Chevron Corporation and two of its subsidiaries. The Latkanichs charge that Chevron Corporation engaged in unlawful, tortious and deceptive conduct that harmed the Latkanichs and their property. In particular, the Latkanichs allege that Chevron Corporation polluted their water and air while drilling for oil and gas on an elevated well pad located within 500 feet of the Latkanichs' home. The Latkanichs assert that they were unwittingly exposed to fracking fluids, radioactive waste and other toxins which has sickened them and caused numerous health conditions to include renal failure for Mr. Latkanich.

Chevron Corporation, a Delaware corporation that is headquartered in San Ramon, California, asserts that it is not "at home" in Pennsylvania. Further, Chevron Corporation maintains that the Latkanichs' claims do not arise out of or relate to any contacts Chevron Corporation may have with Pennsylvania.

Standard of Review

[1] [2] [3] This trial court is bound by a well-established standard of review. Once a moving party supports its objections to personal jurisdiction, the burden of proving personal jurisdiction is upon the party asserting it. Courts must resolve the question of personal jurisdiction based on the circumstances of each particular case. When deciding a motion to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, a court must consider the evidence in the light most favorable to the non-moving party. Further, such objections should be sustained only in cases which are clear and free from doubt. Seeley v. Caesars Entm't Corp., 206 A.3d 1129, 1133 (Pa. Super. 2019).

The parties have provided several sources of evidence. Such sources include the pleadings, factual stipulations, testimony and numerous exhibits. Viewing such evidence in a light most favorable to the non-moving party, the Latkanichs, those sources demonstrate the following.

The Circumstances of this Case

In 2009, despite the turbulence of the financial crisis, real property owners in Washington County, participated in a boom in leasing rights to drill, extract and produce oil and gas from the ground beneath them. Like many others, Plaintiff, Bryan Latkanich, leased his property. One property included 22.7 acres and the other 10.8 acres. Both tracts of land are located in Deemston Borough, which is tucked into the southeastern corner of Washington County.

Through two (2) separate, but nearly identical written leases, Mr. Latkanich authorized drilling operations to commence on his properties. Phillips Exploration, Inc. ("Phillips"), a Pennsylvania corporation, leased the oil and gas rights from Mr. Latkanich. Mr. Latkanich executed the leases on December 7, 2009. These leases were not recorded until February 22, 2010, and were not effective until March 19, 2010.

On June 29, 2011, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued well permits for "Latkanich Unit 1H and Latkanich Unit 2H." Chevron Appalachia, LLC ("Chevron Appalachia") undertook oil and gas operations on the Latkanich Property. Chevron Appalachia held oil and gas leases in the Appalachian region. In August of 2012, the DEP issued Well Completion Reports identifying Chevron Appalachia as the "Well Operator" for the Latkanich Units.

From 2011 through 2020, Chevron Appalachia encountered problems at the Latkanich Units. In December of 2012, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") determined that Chevron Appalachia unlawfully discharged radioactive waste onto the Latkanich Property. In September of 2018, the DEP concluded that Chevron Appalachia failed to comply with permit conditions.

In April of 2020, Chevron Appalachia plugged the Latkanich wells. In October of 2020, Chevron Appalachia entered into a Consent Order with the DEP. The Consent Order required Chevron Appalachia to pay a civil penalty in excess of \$31,000.00 and to take corrective action at the Latkanich well-site.

Also, in October of 2020, Chevron U.S.A, Inc. ("CUSA"), a wholly owned subsidiary of Chevron Corporation, sold Chevron Appalachia to EQT Aurora LLC ("EQT Aurora"). All of Chevron Appalachia's Pennsylvania oil and gas interests, to include the Latkanich Property, were part of the sale. Chevron Corporation was not a party to the

purchase and sale agreement to EQT Aurora. However, Chevron Corporation's Executive Committee maintained the authority to veto the sale.

Chevron Corporation's Presence in Southwestern Pennsylvania

Chevron Corporation is a publicly traded holding company that invests globally in business interests that relate to oil, gas and energy development. In 2010, Chevron Corporation entered into an "Agreement and Plan of Merger" with Atlas Energy, Inc ("Atlas Energy"). At that time Atlas Energy maintained a place of business in Moon Township, Pennsylvania. Part of the "Agreement and Plan of Merger" addressed oil and gas interests in Pennsylvania. The merger transaction closed in February of 2011.

Since 2011, Chevron Corporation has not been registered to do business in Pennsylvania. Instead, Chevron Corporation has been qualified to do business only in California and Delaware.

Nevertheless, several subsidiaries of the Chevron Corporation, maintained substantial and continuous ties to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. CUSA is a Pennsylvania Corporation, that includes a "division" known as the Appalachian Mountain Business Unit ("AMBU"). Chevron Appalachia, itself a Pennsylvania limited liability company, was part of AMBU and was owned by CUSA.

During 2011, Chevron Appalachia succeeded Atlas America, LLC, and commenced operations in Pennsylvania. Chevron Appalachia maintained a place of business in Moon Township, Allegheny County. It owned oil and gas assets in Pennsylvania. Such assets included the oil and gas interests in Mr. Latkanich's two (2) tracts of land.

In May of 2012, Chevron Corporation's CEO John Watson visited AMBU in Southwestern Pennsylvania. During this visit, Mr. Watson and other Chevron Corporation officials visited locations in Washington County that included the "Hambleton site" and a tour of a "hydraulic fracturing site." The agenda for this trip did not indicate that Chevron Corporation officials were visiting Pennsylvania subsidiaries Chevron Appalachia or CUSA or persons identified as directors, officers or employees of those subsidiaries. Indeed, in this agenda as well as others for similar visits one finds no mention of Chevron Appalachia or CUSA.

In late September of 2015, a majority of the Chevron Corporation board of directors visited Pennsylvania and conducted a board meeting in Moon Township, Allegheny County. In a September 23, 2015, letter to Chevron Corporation's Board of Directors, then Chairman and CEO, John Watson discussed their upcoming meeting in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Mr. Watson wrote "[d]uring the field tour, you will see firsthand the operating practices **we use in drilling and hydraulic fracturing** in Appalachia." Mr. Watson's letter did not describe such practices as being that of subsidiaries. Instead, he referred only to "our Appalachia/Michigan Business Unit (AMBU)."

When Mr. Watson and the Chevron Corporation Board arrived in Southwestern Pennsylvania, they met with several business and community leaders. At a reception with these community stakeholders, Mr. Watson touted the "deep roots" that Chevron has with the Pittsburgh region. He recalled Chevron's ancestry that included a merger in the mid 1980's with Gulf Oil, which was headquartered in Pittsburgh. He affirmed that Pittsburgh and the surrounding region were "important" to Chevron Corporation. He explained that in 2011, "opportunity presented itself" to Chevron "to begin natural gas exploration and production in the Marcellus and Utica Shales of Pennsylvania..."

For this Southwestern Pennsylvania audience, Mr. Watson also addressed community impacts and safety. He highlighted Chevron's best practices "in this region." He stated:

We design and drill our wells to prevent impacting groundwater...We work to mini-

mize the use of fresh water, and in 2014 we recycled 97 percent of our water... We are increasing the use of water pipelines to reduce truck traffic...On the industry side, we were a founding member of the Center for Sustainable Shale Development, CSSD.

Mr. Watson did not mention CUSA or Chevron Appalachia in his remarks.

Instead, Mr. Watson called attention to the many "Chevron" employees residing in the "Appalachian region." He discussed Chevron's strategic investments in education and economic development that included: employee volunteer hours that exceeded 1,000 hours annually; a 20 million dollar Appalachia Partnership Initiative aimed at a fostering STEM education and workforce development in Southwestern Pennsylvania; Chevron's work with the Allegheny Conference on Community Development and the Benedum Foundation among others; and its partnership with the Carnegie Science Center, the Allegheny Conference and Carnegie Mellon University.

As part of the visit, Chevron Corporation Board Members participated in a "Field Visit" that included trips to drilling, completion and reclaim sites in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Chevron Corporation's written overview for these visits stated "Chevron is a significant leaseholder in Pennsylvania, with more than one million total acres of leases in the Marcellus and Utica Shale." Chevron Corporation's Field Visit Overview included a brief description of its efforts to "minimize the impact to surface water, land and air." Chevron Corporation stated that such measures "often go beyond regulatory requirements and are always consistent with Chevron's operational excellence practices and values." In four (4) bullet points, Chevron Corporation stated:

We test freshwater wells before drilling to establish a baseline water quality sample.

We develop and implement erosion and sedimentation control plans to protect surface water.

We conduct pressure tests on our well casing periodically throughout the life of our wells to ensure the integrity of the operating system.

We design, construct and operate our wells to minimize air emissions and we monitor all of our well pads to maintain their integrity.

In 2016, Chevron Corporation published a document entitled "Corporate Responsibility Report highlights." This report demonstrated Chevron's use of one million gallon capacity water storage tanks in "our Marcellus operations in Pennsylvania." The same report touted Chevron's role in establishing the Appalachia Partnership Initiative to address education and workforce development in "Pittsburgh's Tri-State Area."

In 2017, prior to becoming Chevron Corporation's CEO, Mike Wirth travelled to Southwestern Pennsylvania on a "learning mission." The agenda for Mr. Wirth's mission included a "town hall" with "all employees." The agenda did not indicate that he was meeting with subsidiaries or their employees.

From 2018 to 2019, Chevron Corporation maintained membership in the Marcellus Shale Coalition, a trade association that engages in lobbying.

Chevron Corporation's Relationship with Pennsylvania Subsidiaries

By written agreement, subsidiaries like CUSA and Chevron Appalachia, among others, could receive services provided by or arranged for by Chevron Corporation. In doing so, Chevron Corporation shared subject matter experts and information with its subsidiaries.

The subject matter areas broadly include: treasury; governance; human resources; administrative services; contract and legal matters; preparation of budgets; purchasing and shipping; supplies and equipment; coordination of operations; the solution of technical

operational problems; geological and geophysical services; research; engineering and construction; shared facilities and related matters. For human resource matters services provided included recruitment, lending of personnel, employee relations, policy administration, employee benefits and termination. Administrative services encompassed medical services and records, insurance, tax and financial services, accounts payable, accounts receivable, bank reconciliations, financial reports, year-end adjustments, auditor interface and Form 990, and state tax preparation.

According to Kari Endries, Chevron Corporation's Assistant Secretary and Managing Counsel, Chevron Corporation did not provide all of the services listed in the written service agreements to CUSA and Chevron Appalachia. For instance, as to "downstream chemicals" and "midstream legal" matters, subsidiaries "involved" engage third party services on their own. Endries testified that Chevron Corporation did not provide services regarding oil and gas operations. She denied that Chevron Corporation engaged in any "wholesale-buy" of chemicals for use by its subsidiaries. In particular, Ms. Endries claimed that Chevron Corporation did not provide services to Chevron Appalachia with regard to the "Latkanich matter."

Chevron Corporation performed "corporate services" such as treasury, governance, tax, controller services for CUSA and Chevron Appalachia. As for governance services, Chevron Corporation's Secretary and Chief Governance Officer, Mary Francis, gave the following description:

We make sure that the various subsidiaries are incorporated properly in the right jurisdiction, that they have slates of directors and officers, that those subsidiaries are making timely, accurate, filings—there is a process to do that—that they conduct meetings, that they approve any consequential decisions made in the business unit, or that that entity should be minuted. So they provide the governance expertise to ensure that that's going on.

Secretary Francis explained the business purpose for this effort. She stated "we're a complex company and enterprise, so it provides role clarity as to who does what, who owns what decisions, who is authorized to make particular decisions."

Several Chevron Corporation Officers held high level positions with Chevron Appalachia. Kari Endries, herself, served as a Director for and as the Secretary of Chevron Appalachia. In that role, Endries performed governance related activities such as the taking of minutes, drafting of written consents, bylaws, certificates of formation, and operating agreements.

As to CUSA, six (6) of Chevron Corporation's officers are also officers for CUSA. Further, approximately a dozen Chevron Corporation employees are officers of CUSA. For instance, Kari Endries, who is an officer for Chevron Corporation, serves as an officer for and performs governance services for CUSA. Chevron Corporation's Corporate Secretary and Chief Governance Officer, Mary Francis, is an officer of CUSA. In those dual roles, she has possessed and acted under a power of attorney for CUSA in specific matters.

For instance, Secretary Francis along with other Chevron Corporation employees executed SEC Registration Statements for CUSA. In a Form S-3 Registration Statements, Chevron Corporation and CUSA are both identified as registrants having the same principal executive office address in San Ramon, California and the same telephone number. Chevron Corporation guaranteed public debt issued by CUSA. However, Secretary Francis explained that CUSA was not undercapitalized. She added that the guarantee was necessary because CUSA is not publicly traded.

Nevertheless, subsidiaries like Chevron Appalachia and CUSA, are required to follow the corporate policies of Chevron Corporation. Chevron Corporation's policies are communicated to subsidiary employees through the Chevron website that is shared on an "enterprise" level. All Chevron Corporation subsidiaries are required to comply with all Chevron Corporation policies.

Further, Chevron Corporation and CUSA use the same logo. Employees of CUSA use email addresses that end in "@Chevron.com." Ms. Francis explained that no specific agreement exists regarding the shared use of the logo, website and email addresses or telephone prefix. She stated that these matters served "administrative efficiency."

Additionally, in other areas Chevron Corporation and its subsidiaries coordinate on matters that could have a "broader enterprise impact." In particular, with regard to the Latkanich matter, those dealing with media, "external affairs" and legal matters worked together to respond to media inquiries and reports. In doing so, these individuals identified themselves as being representatives of Chevron Corporation.

In the Fall of 2020, Veronica Flores Paniagua, who is presently a Communications Advisor for CUSA, and "in house counsel" Alan Rosenthal, met with a "Chevron Toxicologist." During the meeting, they discussed toxicological testing reportedly done for the Latkanichs. During the deposition of Chevron Corporation's Corporate Designee in this matter, Mr. Rosenthal was identified as being "in-house counsel" for Chevron Corporation.

On the Latkanich matter, Ms. Flores Paniagua exchanged several emails both within and outside the Chevron enterprise. In many of those emails, which specifically dealt with claims that Chevron drilling operations harmed the Latkanichs' health, Ms. Flores Paniagua's signature line indicated that her title as "External Affairs Advisor- Americas **Chevron Corporation Corporate Affairs.**" Curiously, in an email exchange with a CNBC producer, Ms. Flores Paniagua's signature line identified her title as being an external affairs advisor for "**Corporate Affairs** Chevron North America E & P." However, during her testimony, Ms. Flores Paniagua maintained that she was employed by CUSA and her email signature lines simply were a "mistake."

This "mistake" appears to have been repeated by several other persons working for Chevron subsidiaries who were dealing with Latkanich related issues. With regard to CNBC's request for comment on several Latkanich related matters, Kent Robertson directed Ms. Flores-Paniagua "not to respond" until he, Ms. Flores-Paniagua's supervisor and Ms. Flores-Paniagua spoke together. Despite Ms. Flores-Paniagua's testimony to the contrary, the signature line for Mr. Robertson indicates that he held the position of "Manager Global External Affairs Chevron Corporation."

Similarly, Jospeh Miller, who identified himself as a Geopolitical Risk Analyst for CU-SA, testified that he used an incorrect signature block on his company emails for over 6 years. In email correspondence concerning research on a physician who diagnosed Mr. Latkanich's condition, Mr. Miller's signature line indicates that he is a "Intelligence and Risk Assessment Analyst Public Affairs **Chevron Corporation.**" Candidly, Mr. Miller confirmed that he used the same signature line until sometime in 2023, when he was "told not to."

In light of all record evidence and having observed the testimony of Ms. Flores-Paniagua, Ms. Francis and Mr. Miller, this court does not find that these signature line titles were coincidental mistakes. Instead, this court finds that these references demonstrate the degree of control that Chevron Corporation was exercising when it was coordinating a broad enterprise response to the Latkanich matter.

Personal Jurisdiction

[4] The Fourteenth Amendment limits the personal jurisdiction of state courts. <u>Bristol-</u>Myers Squibb Co. v. Superior Court of California, San Francisco Cnty., 582 U.S. 255,

- [5] [6] A state trial court may not issue a binding judgment "in personam" against an individual or corporate defendant with which the state has "no contacts, ties, or relations." Int'l Shoe Co. v. State of Wash., Office of Unemployment Comp. & Placement, 326 U.S. 310, 319, 66 S.Ct. 154, 160, 90 L.Ed. 95 (1945). However, a state court may exercise personal jurisdiction over an out-of-state defendant who has "certain minimum contacts with [the State] such that the maintenance of the suit does not offend 'traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice.' "326 U.S., at 316, 66 S.Ct. 154.
- [7] Thus, the primary focus of a court's personal jurisdiction inquiry is the defendant's relationship to the forum state. See <u>Walden v. Fiore</u>, 571 U.S. 277, 283–286, 134 S.Ct. 1115, 1121–1123, 188 L.Ed.2d 12 (2014); <u>Phillips Petroleum Co. v. Shutts</u>, 472 U.S. 797, 806–807, 105 S.Ct. 2965, 86 L.Ed.2d 628 (1985) as cited in <u>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. v. Superior Court of California</u>, San Francisco Cnty., 582 U.S. 262, 137 S.Ct. 1779.
- [8] With regard to personal jurisdiction, the United States Supreme Court has drawn a distinction between specific or case-linked jurisdiction and general or "all-purpose jurisdiction" and <u>BNSF Ry. Co. v. Tyrrell</u>, 581 U.S. 402, 413, 137 S.Ct. 1549, 1558, 198 L.Ed.2d 36 (2017).
- [9] In order for a state court to exercise specific jurisdiction, a lawsuit must arise out of or relate to the defendant's contacts with the state in which the lawsuit is filed, otherwise known as the forum. See <u>Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz</u>, 471 U.S. 462, 472–473, 105 S.Ct. 2174, 85 L.Ed.2d 528 (1985); and <u>Helicopteros Nacionales de Colombia</u>, S.A. v. Hall, 466 U.S. 408, 414, 104 S.Ct. 1868, 80 L.Ed.2d 404 (1984).
- [10] For purposes of general jurisdiction, a state court may assert its authority to hear any and all claims against a non-resident corporation when their affiliations with the State are so "continuous and systematic" as to render them essentially at home in the forum State. Goodyear Dunlop Tires Operations, S.A. v. Brown, 564 U.S. 915, 919, 131 S.Ct. 2846, 2851, 180 L.Ed.2d 796 (2011). Limited connections between the forum and a non-resident corporation are an inadequate basis for the exercise of general jurisdiction. Id.

Here, the Latkanichs claim that Pennsylvania possesses both specific and general jurisdiction over Chevron Corporation. They contend that Chevron Corporation purposefully availed itself "to Pennsylvania" by its participation in certain oil and gas matters. As for general jurisdiction, the Latkanichs argue that CUSA and Chevron Appalachia are essentially "alter egos" of Chevron Corporation.

[11] Because the question of personal jurisdiction must be determined on the basis of the circumstances of each particular case, this court will proceed first with a determination of the specific jurisdiction issue. <u>Gaboury v. Gaboury</u>, 988 A.2d 672, 675 (Pa.Super.2009).

Specific Jurisdiction

- [12] Courts have relied on the following three-part test to determine whether a defendant may be subjected to specific personal jurisdiction in a particular case:
- (1) Did the plaintiff's cause of action arise out of or relate to the out-of-state defendant's forum-related contacts?
- (2) Did the defendant purposely direct its activities, particularly as they relate to the

plaintiff's cause of action, toward the forum state or did the defendant purposely avail itself of the privilege of conducting activities therein?

(3) Would the exercise of personal jurisdiction over the nonresident defendant in the forum state satisfy the requirement that it be reasonable and fair?

Merino v. Repak, B.V., 286 A.3d 1249, 1256-57 (Pa. Super. 2022).

[13] [14] In other words, there must be "an affiliation between the forum and the underlying controversy, principally, [an] activity or an occurrence that takes place in the forum State and is therefore subject to the State's regulation." Goodyear, 564 U.S., at 919, 131 S.Ct. 2846 (internal quotation marks and brackets omitted). For this reason, "specific jurisdiction is confined to adjudication of issues deriving from, or connected with, the very controversy that establishes jurisdiction." *Ibid.* (internal quotation marks omitted). Bristol-Myers Squibb Co., 582 U.S. 262, 137 S.Ct. 1780.

Latkanich Cause of Action and Chevron Corporation's Forum Contacts

[15] [16] In order for a state court to exercise specific jurisdiction, the suit must "arise out of or relate to the defendant's contacts with the *forum*." <u>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.</u>, 582 U.S. 262, 137 S.Ct. 1780. However, this standard does not require "a strict causal relationship between the defendant's in-state activity and the litigation." <u>Ford Motor Co. v. Montana Eighth Judicial Dist. Court</u>, 592 U.S. 351, 362, 141 S.Ct. 1017, 1026, 209 L.Ed.2d 225 (2021). As Justice Kagan explained:

...if Audi and Volkswagen's business deliberately extended into Oklahoma (among other States), then Oklahoma's courts could hold the companies accountable for a **car's catching fire** there—even though the vehicle had been designed and made overseas and sold in New York. For, the Court explained, a company thus "purposefully avail[ing] itself" of the Oklahoma auto market "has clear notice" of its exposure in that State to suits arising from local accidents involving its cars.

Id. 592 U.S. 363, 141 S.Ct. 1027 (emphasis added).

According to the Third Amended Complaint, the Latkanichs' claims arise out of and relate to Chevron Corporation's contacts with Southwestern Pennsylvania, beginning in 2011 and continuing through 2020. The Latkanichs allege that during that same period of years they suffered harm due to water and air pollution from oil and gas drilling that occurred on their property in Washington County. The Latkanichs charge that Chevron Appalachia and CUSA "on behalf of" Chevron Corporation caused the pollution and concealed it.

Chevron Corporation denies that it participates in oil and gas drilling. It maintains that it is a holding company, that it has no "fossil fuel operations," and only conducted "high level" overviews of its operating subsidiaries and their activities in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

Viewed according to the standard of review, the record indicates otherwise. During this same period of time, Chevron's Corporation's highest-ranking official described the significant contacts that Chevron Corporation had with oil and gas drilling in Southwestern Pennsylvania. CEO and Chairman of the Board, John Watson, publicly acknowledged that starting in 2011, Chevron Corporation pursued an "opportunity" to commence natural gas exploration and production in the Marcellus and Utica Shales of Pennsylvania..." His statement was not qualified by indicating that Chevron Corporation, a holding company, was investing in companies engaged in natural gas exploration and production in Southwestern Pennsylvania.

To the contrary, CEO Watson's statement, and others he made, indicates that Chevron Corporation was deliberately reaching out beyond its home to participate in natural gas

exploration and production in Pennsylvania. Internally, to his Board of Directors, Mr. Watson discussed "the operating practices we use in drilling and hydraulic fracturing in Appalachia." Mr. Watson did not qualify his remarks by attributing these opportunities and efforts to Chevron Appalachia and or CUSA. Prior to the Chevron Corporation Board of Directors' meeting in Southwestern Pennsylvania in September 2015, CEO Watson did not mention either subsidiary in his letter to the Board. Instead, he discussed the upcoming meeting and "our Appalachia/Michigan Business Unit." He provided the Board with information regarding "our well design, our approach to protecting the environment and water resources..."

Similarly, CEO Watson did not mention either CUSA or Chevron Appalachia in remarks he made to Southwestern Pennsylvania community leaders. At that reception in late September 2015, CEO Watson touted Chevron Corporation's "deep roots" in the Pittsburgh region. The permissible inference one draws from Mr. Watson's public statements and his direct communication with the Board of Directors is that the "Chevron", the "we" and the "our" that he refers to in these statements, is Chevron Corporation. Mr. Watson's comments demonstrate that Chevron Corporation's contacts with Pennsylvania were not merely "random, fortuitous, or attenuated" contacts that occurred only through interactions with its Pennsylvania subsidiaries.

Instead, his statements show that Chevron Corporation had a broader enterprise level commitment to Pennsylvania, home to the Marcellus, which CEO Watson described as "the world's largest shale gas play based on production." His comments and board communications demonstrate that Chevron Corporation maintained a purposeful connection to Southwestern Pennsylvania through oil and gas exploration and production. Pursuant to Ford, such conduct is sufficient to demonstrate that the Latkanichs' lawsuit arises out of or relates to Chevron Corporation's contacts with Pennsylvania.

Chevron Corporation's Activities and the Latkanich claims

[17] The critical inquiry for determining purposeful contacts with a forum is whether the defendant could reasonably anticipate being called to court there. Schiavone v. Aveta, 2012 PA Super 68, 41 A.3d 861, 871 (Pa. Super. Ct. 2012), aff'd, 625 Pa. 349, 91 A.3d 1235 (2014) citing World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson, 444 U.S. 286, 297, 100 S.Ct. 559, 62 L.Ed.2d 490 (1980).

[18] [19] For instance, where a defendant's "relevant conduct" occurs entirely outside the forum state, the mere fact that such conduct affects plaintiffs with connections to the forum State, does not "suffice to authorize jurisdiction." Walden v. Fiore, 571 U.S. 277, 291, 134 S.Ct. 1115, 1126, 188 L.Ed.2d 12 (2014). In Walden, two airline travelers filed an action in Nevada against a Georgia Police Officer. They asserted that he illegally seized a large sum of cash from them as they attempted to board a flight from Atlanta to Las Vegas. Writing for a unanimous court, Justice Thomas concluded that the Georgia officer had formed "no jurisdictionally relevant contacts with Nevada" because none of his actions connected him to Nevada. "A defendant's relationship with a ... third party, standing alone, is an insufficient basis for jurisdiction." Walden, 571 U.S., at 286, 134 S.Ct., at 1123.

Here, the record provided to this trial court is different. Indeed, the record includes evidence that Chevron Corporation purposely directed its activities towards Southwestern Pennsylvania, particularly as those activities relate to the Latkanichs' cause of action.

In 2015, Board Chairman and CEO John Watson, told Southwestern Pennsylvania community leaders that as part of "our best practices in this region...We design and drill our wells to prevent impacting groundwater."

Only a few days earlier, Mr. Watson shared a "field visit brief" with the Chevron Corporation Board of Directors. In the "brief," Chevron Corporation Directors were in-

formed that "You will see firsthand what we do to develop and produce high-quality natural gas resources from the Marcellus...It runs beneath large swathes of New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and eastern Ohio." The brief states "[i]n the Appalachian Basin, we take numerous steps to minimize the impact to surface water, land and air. These measures often go beyond regulatory requirements..." The Chevron Board's brief then listed "Chevron's" practices as including:

- *the development and implementation of erosion and sediment control plans to protect surface water;
- * the conducting of periodic tests to ensure the integrity of a well's operating system and the design, construction: and
- * the operation of wells to "minimize" air emissions.

In their Third Amended Complaint, the Latkanichs allege that such practices were negligently and improperly performed on their Property. Unlawful discharges of radioactive waste occurred. Regulatory requirements regarding an erosion and sediment control plan were violated at the Latkanich #2 well. The Latkanichs allege that their groundwater was contaminated and they were exposed to radioactive waste and harmful toxins due to Chevron Corporation's oil and gas operations. The Latkanichs' claims involve the very matters that CEO Watson touted as examples of Chevron Corporation's best practices in the oil and gas fields of Southwestern Pennsylvania.

In reply, Chevron Corporation asserts that there is a lack of evidence showing its involvement with the specific wells at issue. Chevron Corporation points to stipulations that Chevron Corporation was not a party to the Latkanich leases and that Chevron Appalachia was the oil and gas "operator" on the Latkanich property.

However, such argument conflates a question of jurisdiction with a question of ultimate liability. The parties' stipulations do not foreclose the inference that Chevron Corporation exercised some actionable level of control over the operations at the Latkanich wells. The determination of agency and the related question of control at the Latkanich well sites are liability determinations.

[20] "Specific jurisdiction, ...depends on an 'affiliatio[n] between the forum and the underlying controversy,' principally, activity or an occurrence that takes place in the forum State and is therefore subject to the State's regulation. Goodyear Dunlop Tires Operations, S.A. v. Brown, 564 U.S. 915, 919, 131 S.Ct. 2846, 2851, 180 L.Ed.2d 796 (2011). Chevron Corporation's oil and gas activity in Pennsylvania, as described by its CEO, show its significant affiliation with practices at oil and gas drilling well sites in Southwestern Pennsylvania. Such conduct is properly subject to regulation by the Commonwealth.

Additionally, when the Latkanichs' claims came to the attention of the media, Chevron Corporation stepped in. It conducted a broad enterprise response to the media reports and inquiries regarding the Latkanichs. These matters were not simply referred to or left for officials at Chevron Appalachia or CUSA to handle. Instead, high level Chevron Corporation officials participated in and directed the coordinated response to print and television journalists. Those officials included media relations, ie. Mr. Robertson, and high-level legal officials, ie. Mr. Rosenthal, within Chevron Corporation. They were assisted by other specialists, such as Mr. Miller and Ms. Flores-Paniagua, who identified themselves as Chevron Corporation officials.

For these reasons, Chevron Corporation could reasonably anticipate being called into court in Southwestern Pennsylvania for this matter that concerns the environmental impact of its oil and gas drilling practices that occurred in Southwestern Pennsylvania between 2011 and 2020.

The Exercise of Jurisdiction is Reasonable and Fair

[21] Jurisdictional rules may not be employed in such a way as to make litigation "so gravely difficult and inconvenient" that a party unfairly is at a "severe disadvantage" in comparison to his opponent. The Bremen v. Zapata Off-Shore Co., 407 U.S. 1, 18, 92 S.Ct. 1907, 1917, 32 L.Ed.2d 513 (1972) as cited in <u>Burger King Corp. v. Rudzewicz</u>, 471 U.S. 462, 477–78, 105 S.Ct. 2174, 2184–85, 85 L.Ed.2d 528 (1985).

[22] [23] [24] In determining whether personal jurisdiction is present, a court must consider a variety of interests. <u>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.</u>, 582 U.S. 263, 137 S.Ct. 1780. These interests include:

- (1) the burden on the defendant,
- (2) the forum state's interest in adjudicating the dispute,
- (3) the plaintiff's interest in obtaining convenient and effective relief,
- (4) the interstate judicial system's interest in obtaining the most efficient resolution of controversies and
- (5) the shared interest of the several states in furthering fundamental substantive social policies.

<u>Burger King</u>, 471 U.S. at 477, 105 S.Ct. at 2184, 85 L.Ed.2d at 543 as cited in <u>Kubik v. Letteri</u>, 532 Pa. 10, 18, 614 A.2d 1110, 1114 (1992).

[25] [26] [27] [28] For instance, personal jurisdiction may not be exercised in circumstances where a plaintiff's claims have a weak connection with the forum state. <u>Bristol-Myers Squibb Co.</u>, 582 U.S. 264–66, 137 S.Ct. 1781–82. Justice Alito explained:

In today's case, the connection between the nonresidents' claims and the forum is even weaker. The relevant plaintiffs are not California residents and do not claim to have suffered harm in that State. In addition, as in *Walden*, all the conduct giving rise to the nonresidents' claims occurred elsewhere. It follows that the California courts cannot claim specific jurisdiction.

Id. In Pennsylvania, Courts "have generally been reluctant to extend specific personal jurisdiction to out-of-state medical providers for causing injury to Pennsylvania patients, even though the effects of the doctors' negligence may be felt in Pennsylvania." Mendel v. Williams, 53 A.3d 810, 824 (Pa. Super. 2012) citing Lebkuecher v. Loquasto, 255 Pa.Super. 608, 389 A.2d 143 (1978).

Here, the record is different. This is not a case of forum shopping. The Latkanichs are Pennsylvania residents who claim that they suffered harm in Washington County. They attribute that harm to air and water pollution that occurred in Washington County and was caused, in part, by Chevron Corporation. Pennsylvania certainly has an interest in adjudicating such a dispute brought by Pennsylvania residents. Pennsylvania has an interest in protecting its residents from tortious conduct of third parties that occur in this state. Schiavone v. Aveta, 41 A.3d 861, 871–72 (Pa. Super. 2012), affd, 625 Pa. 349, 91 A.3d 1235 (2014). Further, the exercise of jurisdiction in Pennsylvania, properly serves the Latkanichs' interest in obtaining convenient and effective relief.

Chevron Corporation has not established that it will suffer an undue burden by this court's exercise of personal jurisdiction. They point to no disadvantage, grave difficulty or inconvenience they will endure by litigating this action in Pennsylvania. Chevron Corporation has not demonstrated that the exercise of jurisdiction over Chevron Corporation in this case would be fundamentally unfair.

As for the fourth and fifth factors, the record evidence weighs in favor of jurisdiction in

Pennsylvania. Litigating the case in the forum where the alleged actionable conduct occurred and where the harm took place promotes an efficient resolution of the controversies for the interstate judicial system. Schiavone v. Aveta, 41 A.3d 872.

Based upon the record in this case, several states do not share an interest in furthering any fundamental substantive social policies that may be involved. Chevron Corporation's citizenship in Delaware and California, provides those states with merely a "tangential interest" in this dispute. Pennsylvania's interest is "substantial and paramount." Kubik v. Letteri, 532 Pa. 10, 21–22, 614 A.2d 1110, 1116 (1992)

Conclusion

18

[29] The relationship between the defendant and the forum must be such that it is "reasonable . . . to require the corporation to defend the particular suit which is brought there." World-Wide Volkswagen Corp. v. Woodson, 444 U.S. 286, 292, 100 S.Ct. 559, 564, 62 L.Ed.2d 490 (1980). Here, CEO Watson's admissions and other record evidence regarding Chevron Corporation's relationship with oil and gas drilling in Southwestern Pennsylvania, make it reasonable to require Chevron Corporation to defend a lawsuit regarding such matters in Pennsylvania.

ORDER

AND NOW, this 15th day of May, 2025, for the reasons set forth above, the personal jurisdiction objection of Defendant Chevron Corporation is OVERRULED.

BY THE COURT /s/ J. MICHAEL J. LUCAS

Copies: All Counsel of Record.

¹Third Amended Complaint № 160.

²Third Amended Complaint ₱ 161.

³Third Amended Complaint 161, and 163-171.

⁴Chevron Objections ¶ 14-21.

⁵Chevron Objections ¶ 24-29.

⁶Schiavone v. Aveta, 41 A.3d 861, 865-66 (Pa. Super. 2012), and citing <u>Gaboury v. Gaboury</u>, 988 A.2d 672, 675 (Pa. Super. 2009).

⁷Joint Exhibits 4 and 5.

⁸Id. and Joint Stipulation of Facts, ¶ 47.

⁹Joint Exhibits 4 and 5, which are leases with Phillips Exploration, Inc. ("Phillips"). The precise chain of title for the oil and gas leasing of the Latkanich property has not been provided to this court of record. For instance, the stipulations, exhibits and testimony this court received did not include any recorded assignment of interest from Phillips Exploration directly to an Atlas or a Chevron entity. This court will note, however, that the production of oil and gas lying within the Marcellus Shale has often involved assignments of leasing rights and consolidation of holdings by companies operating in that market.

¹⁰Joint Exs. 4 and 5 and Third Amended Complaint unmarked exhibits being the last eight pages of the pleading.

¹¹Third Amended Complaint ₱ 74.

¹²Joint Exhibits 7 and 8.

¹³H.T. 10/7/24, p. 144.

¹⁴Joints Exhibits 9 and 10.

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<sup>15</sup>Third Amended Complaint ₱ 95.
<sup>16</sup>Stipulation of Fact ₱ 54.
<sup>17</sup>Stipulated Exhibit P15.
<sup>18</sup>Stipulation of Fact ₱ 11.
19 Stipulation of Fact 13.
<sup>20</sup>H.T. 107/24 p. 64 and Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 152.
<sup>21</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, Testimony of Mary Francis p. 17 and 136; Deposition of Kari Endries,
12/6/23, p. 52.
<sup>22</sup>Joint Ex. 17.
<sup>23</sup>Joint Ex. 17, p. 89.
<sup>24</sup>Joint Ex. 17, p. 39-43.
<sup>25</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts ₱ 60.
<sup>26</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts 3 and H.T. 10/7/24, p. 147.
<sup>27</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts 2.
<sup>28</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts, ¶ 4-11, H.T. 10/7/24 p. 23.
<sup>29</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts, ¶ 10-12 and 39 and Joint Exhibit 17, p. 5/98.
<sup>30</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 150.
<sup>31</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts, ¶ 10-11 and Joint Exs. 10 and 11.
<sup>32</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts, ¶ 11. Mr. Latkanich's lease with "Phillips" was "ultimately"
held by Chevron Appalachia. Third Amended Complaint P 74. As discussed above in
footnote 6, the precise date of an assignment, however, has not been alleged or estab-
lished. The full chain of title for oil and gas leasing of the Latkanich Propery is not part
of the record.
<sup>33</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 14D.
<sup>34</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 14 D, H.T. 10/7/24 p. 116-118.
<sup>35</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 77, and Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 80-82.
<sup>36</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 14, "PL PJ Hearing 002641" (emphasis added).
<sup>37</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 14, "PL PJ Hearing 002640"
<sup>38</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 12 D (Pl_PJ Hearing 1748)
<sup>39</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 12 D (Pl PJ Hearing 1742-1751)
<sup>40</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 12 D (Pl PJ Hearing 1749-1750)
<sup>41</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 110-112.
<sup>42</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 14C "PL PJ Hearing 002647-002648"
<sup>43</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 15 (PL PJ Hearing 2687 and 2693).
<sup>44</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 119.
<sup>45</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 14 E.
<sup>46</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 20 PL PJ Hearing 2763-2766.
<sup>47</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 54.
<sup>48</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 48-50.
<sup>49</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries , 12/6/23, p. 77-78.
<sup>50</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 100.
<sup>51</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 75.
<sup>52</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 53.
<sup>53</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries , 12/6/23, p. 147-148.
<sup>54</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 141.
<sup>55</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 141-142.
<sup>56</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 60.
<sup>57</sup>Joint Stipulation of Facts, ¶ 20, 23 and 25.
<sup>58</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 31 -33, Plaintiff's Exs. 13A and 13B (Bates 2065-2066) and Defend-
ant's Ex. 20.
<sup>59</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 68 and Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 76.
<sup>60</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p. 84-85n and H.T. 10/7/24, p. 37.
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<sup>61</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 39, Plaintiff's Ex. 12 A (denoted PL PJ Hearing 1504)
<sup>62</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 12 A (denoted PL PJ Hearing 1504 and 1515)
<sup>63</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries , 12/6/23, p.68-69.
<sup>64</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 43.
<sup>65</sup>H.T., 10/7/24, p. 57-58.
<sup>66</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 58 and 61.
<sup>67</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 46.
<sup>68</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p.47-49.
<sup>69</sup>H.T. 10/7/24, p. 35.
<sup>70</sup>H.T. p. 199-200, Plaintiff's Ex. 11E 11C (PL PJ Hearing 0696-0697).
<sup>71</sup>Deposition of Kari Endries, 12/6/23, p.5 and 17.
<sup>72</sup>Plaintiff's Exs. 11C (PL PJ Hearing 1257), 11D (PL PJ Hearing 0649-0651), 11E
(PL PJ Hearing 0696-0697);
<sup>73</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 11K (PL PJ Hearing 0946-0947).
^{74}H.T. 10/7/24 p. 236-23\overline{7}.
<sup>75</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 11K (PL PJ Hearing 0946) and H.T. 10/7/24 p. 227-228.
<sup>76</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 10A and 10B (PL PJ Hearing 0467-468)
<sup>77</sup>H.T. 10/7/24 p. 248-249.
<sup>78</sup>Citing Daimler AG v. Bauman, 571 U.S. 117, 127, 134 S.Ct. 746, 754, 187 L.Ed.2d
624 (2014); Goodyear, 564 U.S. 919, 131 S.Ct. 2846, 180 L.Ed.2d 796; Helicopteros
Nacionales de Colombia, S.A., 466 U.S. 414, nn. 8, 9, 104 S.Ct. 1868, 80 L.Ed.2d 404.
<sup>79</sup>Third Amended Complaint ₱ 107-155 and 161-172.
<sup>81</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 12 D (Pl PJ Hearing 1746)
<sup>82</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 14, "\overrightarrow{PL} \overrightarrow{PJ} Hearing 002640-2641" (emphasis added).
<sup>83</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 12 D (PĪ PJ Hearing 1744).
<sup>84</sup>Plaintiff's Ex. 12 D (Pl PJ Hearing 1748).
85 Plaintiff's Ex. 14C "PL PJ Hearing 002647-002648"
<sup>86</sup>Third Amended Complaint ₱ 95 and b.
<sup>87</sup>Third Amended Complaint P 95c and d.
<sup>88</sup>Third Amended Complaint P 296-299.
<sup>89</sup>Chevron Corporation Post Hearing Brief p. 12, citing Stipulations of Fact P 58-59.
<sup>90</sup>This court does not reach the question of whether Chevron Corporation is subject to
the general personal jurisdiction of Pennsylvania Courts. This court made factual find-
ings relevant to the parties' "alter ego" argument. However, a ruling for that dispute is
unnecessary for the disposition of Chevron Corporation's personal jurisdiction objec-
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NOTICE

OF

JAMES ROMAN

Register of Wills and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division, Court of the Common Pleas, Washington, Pennsylvania

The following fiduciaries have filed their respective accounts in the Office of the Clerk of the Orphans' Court of Washington County

ACCOUNTS FILED IN THE REGISTER'S OFFICE TO JULY 18, 2025 AUDIT AUDIT LIST

63-2021-0146 Estate: CELIA T. BLACK

Accountant: JOHN G. BLACK, EXECUTOR Attorney: DOROTHY A. MILOVAC, ESQ.

63-2022-0885 Estate: MARY ANN YOHE

Accountant: PNC BANK, EXECUTOR Attorney: CHARLES B. HADAD, ESQ.

PARTIES INTERESTED ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT AN AUDIT LIST WILL BE MADE UP OF THE AFOREMENTIONED ACCOUNTS AND THAT SAID AUDIT IS JULY 18, 2025 AT 9:30 A.M., COURTROOM #4 BEFORE THE HONORABLE KATHERINE B. EMERY, JUDGE.

James Roman, Register and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Orphans' Court Division of the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County, Pennsylvania

Washington, Pennsylvania Audit Date: JULY 18, 2025

Publication Dates: JULY 03, 2025 &

JULY 10, 2025

WCR Vol 105 Issues 51,52

ESTATE NOTICES

FIRST PUBLICATION

Chabassol, Douglas

a/k/a Douglas Larry Chabassol a/k/a Douglas L. Chabassol Late of Cecil Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-00855

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executrix without delay.

Executrix: Linda Barsody a/k/a Linda Lee Barsody, 1504 Nine-Eighty Rd., Canonsburg, PA 15317 Attorney: Mark S. Riethmuller, Esq., Speakman, Riethmuller & Allison, 6 S. Main St., Ste. 614, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Crawford, Janis Lvnn

Late of Canton Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0730

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Marvin Dale Calvert c/o Attorney: Colin Adair Morgan, Esq., Julian Gray Assoc., 954 Greentree Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15220

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Dzubay, Donna J.

a/k/a Donna Dzubay Late of Finleyville Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0818

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Douglas Edward Dolton, 63 Pumpkin Center Rd., Finleyville, PA 15332

Attorney: Edward W. Wertman, Esq., The Chiurazzi Law Group, 101 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Falcon, Rebecca

Late of Ellsworth Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Robert Allen Falcon, 47 Garner St., Fredericktown, PA 15333 Attorney: Robin J. Marzella, Esq., R.J. Marzella & Associates, 3513 North Front St., Harrisburg, PA 17110

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Galan, Jr., Edward

Late of Langeloth Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-00856

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administratrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administratrix without delay.

Administratrix: Linda Marie Koceski, 2718 Vicksburg Ave., NW, Canton, OH 44708

Attorney: Timothy R. Berggren, Esq., Peacock Keller, LLP, 95 W. Beau St., Ste. 600, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Late of Washington Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Kimberly A. Gibbons, 627 Ravencrest Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15215 Attorney: Brocton G. Skeen, Esq., The Skeen Law Firm PLLC, 6 S. Main St., Ste. 210, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Keener, Gale A.

a/k/a Gale Ann Keener Late of North Franklin Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-23-0589

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Donald L. Keener, Jr., 401 Kruger St., Wheeling, WV 26003 Attorney: Robert J. Krall, Esq., Herndon Morton Herndon Yaeger, 83 Edgington Lane, Wheeling, WV 26003

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Knochel, Elaina S.

Late of Fallowfield Twp. Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Robert Dyky, 1016 Wilson St., Monessen, PA 15062 Attorney: Megan A. Kerns, Esq., The Law Office of Megan A. Kerns, 1747 Rostraver Rd., Belle Vernon, PA 15012 WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Nowinowski, Marjorie A.

a/k/a Marjorie Nowinowski Late of Borough of Canonsburg Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0816

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administratrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administratrix without delay.

Administratrix: Juliann Shaffer, 902 Wood St., New Eagle, PA 15067 Attorney: Timothy R. Berggren, Esq., Peacock Keller, LLP, 95 W. Beau St., Ste. 600, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Petraglia, Vincent F.

Late of Finleyville Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0871

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executrix without delay.

Executrix: Brooke A. Brenner, 816 Church Hill Rd., Finleyville, PA 15332 Attorney: Wayne M. Chiurazzi, Esq., The Chiurazzi Law Group, 101 Smithfield St., Pittsburgh, PA 15222

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Polan, Kelly Ann

a/k/a Kelly A. Polan Late of Canton Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0851

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Daryl S. Polan a/k/a Daryl Scott Polan, 218 Malone Ridge Rd., Washington, PA 15301 Attorney: Eva H. Ahern, Esq., Peacock Keller, LLP, 95 W. Beau St., Ste. 600, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Putorti, Tony

Late of Houston Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0668

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executrix without delay.

Executrix: Lisa A. McFarland, 400 W. Pike St., Houston, PA 15342 Attorney: Eva H. Ahern, Esq., Peacock Keller, LLP, 95 W. Beau St., Ste. 600, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Robinson, Charles Edward

a/k/a Charles E. Robinson Late of Washington Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0474

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Cheryl Lynn Doman, 1875 Park Ave., Washington, PA 15301 Attorney: E. J. Julian, Esq., The Julian Law Firm, 71 N. Main St., Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Simon, Dorothy E.

Late of Washington Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0877

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Charles J. Keffer, Jr., 132 High Pointe Dr., Washington, PA 15301 Attorney: James P. Liekar, Esq., 38 W. Pike St., Canonsburg, PA 15317

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Sims, Audrey R.

a/k/a Audrey Ruth Sims Late of Washington Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Steven D. Sims, 115 East Hallam Ave., Washington, PA 15301 Attorney: Matthew J. Madvay, Esq., 60 E. Beau St., Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,1,2

Williams, Marlene M.

Late of Eighty Four Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0887

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administratrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administratrix without delay.

Administratrix: Julie Lynn Martik, 200 Pine Hut Dr., Eighty Four, PA 15330 Attorney: Eva H. Ahern, Esq., Peacock Keller, LLP, 95 W. Beau St., Ste. 600, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

Late of Bentleyville Washington Co., PA File No. 63-24-1790

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Brian W. Wright, 88 Coal Center Rd., Bentleyville, PA 15314

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SECOND PUBLICATION

Bane, Daniel B.

Late of Fredericktown Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-00843

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Brandon Matthew Bane, 178 Kelly Road, McClellandtown, PA 15458

Attorney: Michael C. Cruny, Esq., Sweat Law Offices, 375 Valley Brook Road, Suite 112, McMurray, PA 15317

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Bury, Jerome J.

Late of Charleroi Borough Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: John Bury, Jr., 1308 Ridge Rd., Rostraver Twp., PA 15012

Attorney: Richard C. Mudrick, Esq., 300

Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022

WCR Vol 105 Issues 50,51,52

Laatu, Edward J.

Late of Borough of North Charleroi Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Frank DeMarco, 707 Highland Ave., N. Charleroi, PA 15022 Attorney: Mark J. Shire, Esq., Shire Law Firm, 1711 Grand Boulevard, Park Centre, Monessen, PA 15062

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Mohler, Kenneth

a/k/a Kenneth E. Mohler a/k/a Kenneth Edward Mohler Late of Robinson Twp. Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Scott Rush Kingston, 4357 Winchester Dr., Allison Park, PA 15101 Attorney: Jeffrey P. Derrico, Esq., Greenlee Derrico Posa, LLC, 60 E. Beau St., Washington, PA 15301

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Moore, Matthew Paul

Late of Daisytown Washington Co., PA File No. 63-24-0944

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Michelle D. Moore, 247 Water St., New Salem, PA 15468 Attorney: Kimberly Kovach, Esq., 9 Court St., Uniontown, PA 15401

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Mover, Dorothy Mae

a/k/a Dorothy M. Moyer Late of Ellsworth Washington Co., PA

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executrix without delay.

Executrix: Lisa J. Tabacca, 152 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen, PA 15062 Attorney: Herman J. Bigi, Esq., Bigi & Walsh, 337 Fallowfield Ave., Charleroi, PA 15022

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Ogden, Cynthia L.

a/k/a Cynthia Hackman Ogden Late of Canonsburg Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0751

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator without delay.

Administrator: Michael J. Ogden, 9 Banner Place, Morgantown, WV 26508 Attorney: Rebecca A. Bowman, Esq., 114 Aston Court, McMurray, PA 15317

WCR Vol 105 Issues 50,51,52

Povich, Olga P.

Late of Houston Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0846

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executrix or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executrix without delay.

Executrix: Taisia Z. Thomason a/k/a Taisia Zorene Thomason, 8686 Lindbergh Boulevard, Olmsted Falls, OH 44138 Attorney: Eva H. Ahern, Esq., Peacock Keller, LLP, 95 West Beau St., Ste. 600, Washington, PA 15301

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Sherman, Marilyn Lee

a/k/a Marilyn B. Sherman a/k/a Marilyn L. Sherman Late of Peters Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0742

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Brenda E. Livolsi, 230 N. Main St., Houston, PA 15342

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THIRD PUBLICATION

Hickman, Joan Darlene

a/k/a Joan D. Hickman a/k/a Joan Hickman Late of Washington Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0236

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Chad R. Hickman, P.O. Box 711, Roscoe, PA 15477; Stephanie A. Bane, 49 Berry Ave., Clarksville, PA

Attorney: E. J. Julian, Esq., Julian Law Firm, 71 N. Main St., Washington, PA 15301

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Jardine, S. Rita

a/k/a Sylvia Rita Jardine Late of Washington Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0805

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Co-Executors or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Co-Executors without delay.

Co-Executors: Juliana E. Jardine, 725 Frederick Court, Canonsburg, PA 15317; Matthew J. Jardine, 1 Sunridge Drive, Champion, PA 15622, Attorney: Eva H. Ahern, Esq., Peacock Keller, LLP, 95 West Beau St., Ste. 600, Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105 Issues 49,50,51

Kampian Jr., John Michael

a/k/a John M. Kampian Late of Smith Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-00208

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Jeffrey Kampian, 998 Midway-Candor Rd., Bulger, PA 15019 Attorney: Kurt J. Winter, Esq., Winter Associates, 1535 Main St., P.O. Box 53, Burgettstown, PA 15021

WCR Vol 105 Issues 49.50.51

Panconi, Robert E.

Late of Burgettstown Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0057

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Administrator or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Administrator.

istrator without delay.

Administrator: Ruth Beach, 33 Shady Ave., Burgettstown, PA 15021 Attorney: Kurt J. Winter, Esq., Winter Associates, 1535 Main St., P.O. Box 53, Burgettstown, PA 15021

WCR Vol 105 Issues 49,50,51

Russell, James F.

Late of Hanover Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-0769

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Robert P. Russell, 379 Harts Rd., Carmichaels, PA 15320 Attorney: Blake J. Birchmeier, Esq., 7880 Steubenville Pike, Oakdale, PA 15071

WCR Vol 105 Issues 49,50,51

Vallina, Shirley Mae

Late of Smith Twp. Washington Co., PA File No. 63-25-00570

The Register of Wills has granted Letters on the Estate of the Decedent. Notice is hereby given to request all persons having claims against the decedent to make known the same to the Executor or attorney, and all persons indebted to the decedent to make payment to the Executor without delay.

Executor: Jon Lynn Vallina, 38 Harris Rd., Langeloth, PA 15054 Attorney: Kurt J. Winter, Esq., Winter Associates, 1535 Main St., P.O. Box 53, Burgettstown, PA 15021

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TPR NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, PENNSYVLANIA ORPHANS' COURT DIVISION

IN RE: RYLEIGH WYCHE a/k/a RYLEIGH DIANA JEAN WYCHE D.O.B. July 7, 2015 PLACE OF BIRTH: Allegheny County, Pennsylvania

FEMALE CHILD OF: Rosemary Jeanette Wright a/k/a Rosemary J. Wright a/k/a Rosemary Wright a/k/a Rosemary R. Wright a/k/a Rosemary J. Truss a/k/a Rose-Mary Wright a/k/a Gloria Wright a/k/a Gloria J. Wright a/k/a RoseMary Wright a/k/a Gloria J. Green a/k/a Gloria J Barrett; and Benjamin Steinburgh Wyche Jr. a/k/a Benjamin Stein.burgh Wyche a/k/a Benjamin S. Wyche a/k/a Benjamin Wyche

NO: 63-22-0843

Take notice that a Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights of Benjamin Steinburgh Wyche Jr. a/k/a Benjamin Stein.burgh Wyche a/k/a Benjamin S. Wyche a/k/a Benjamin Wyche will be presented to the Orphans' Court of Washington County, Pennsylvania. Any person wishing to assert his/her parental rights should appear in Courtroom No. 7 of the Washington County Courthouse, Washington, Pennsylvania, for a hearing as to the same on August 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m.

You are warned that even if you fail to appear at the scheduled hearing, the hearing will go on without you and your rights to your child may be ended by the Court without your being present.

You have the right to be represented at the hearing by an attorney. You should take this notice to your attorney at once. If you do not have an attorney or cannot afford representation, contact Summit Legal Aid, 10 West Cherry Avenue, Washington, Pennsylvania, 15301, (724) 225-6170, to find out where you can obtain legal help.

You have a right to obtain a copy of the Petition for Involuntary Termination of Parental Rights prior to the hearing. To obtain a copy of the petition, contact Washington County Children & Youth Social Services Agency, Legal Department, 95 West Beau Street, Suite 300, Washington, PA 15301, Telephone: (724) 228-6884.

Cassandra Casella, Caseworker Washington County Children & Youth Social Service Agency 95 West Beau Street, Suite 300 Washington, PA 15301 Telephone: (724) 228-6884

WCR Vol 105 Issue 51

REAL PROPERTY NOTICE

Court of Common Pleas Number: CV-2025-02504 Notice of Action in Mortgage Foreclosure

PennyMac Loan Services, LLC, Plaintiff v. Lisa Lasko, Known Surviving Heir of James Klotz, Lori Smith, Known Surviving Heir of James Klotz, Jamie Reggiannini, Known Surviving Heir of James Klotz, and Unknown Surviving Heirs of James Klotz, Defendants

TO: Unknown Surviving Heirs of James Klotz. Premises subject to foreclosure: 409 2nd St, Vestaburg, Pennsylvania 15368. NOTICE: If you wish to defend, you must enter a written appearance personally or by attorney and file your defenses or objections in writing with the court. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you without further notice for the relief requested by the Plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you. You should take this notice to your lawyer at once. If you do not have a lawyer, go to or telephone the office set forth below. This office can provide you with information about hiring a lawyer. If you cannot afford to hire a lawyer, this office may be able to provide you with information about agencies that may offer legal services to eligible persons at a

reduced fee or no fee. Southwestern Pennsylvania Legal Aid Society, 10 West Cherry Ave, Washington, Pennsylvania 15301, (724) 225-6170. McCabe, Weisberg & Conway, LLC, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 1420 Walnut St., Ste. 1501, Phila., PA 19102, 215-790-1010

WCR Vol 105 Issue 51

CORPORATION NOTICES

INCORPORATION NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg, PA on June 23, 2025, with respect to a Business Corporation which has been organized under the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988.

The name of the corporation:

WOODSIDE FENCING INC.

The address of the corporation: Shawn R. Sutton 814 Woodside Dr. Houston, PA 15342-1244

WCR Vol 105 Issue 51

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the shareholders and directors of VIZZINI CREATIVE, INC., a Pennsylvania corporation (the "Corporation"), with a registered address and a current business address of 1478 Yorktown Drive, Lawrence, Pennsylvania 15055, have approved a plan and proposal that the Corporation voluntarily dissolve, and that the officers and Board of Directors of the Corporation are now engaged in winding up and settling the affairs of the Corporation under the provisions of Section 1975 of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

Colleen D. Campbell, Esq. KNOX McLAUGHLIN GORNALL & SENNETT, P.C. 120 West Tenth Street Erie, Pennsylvania 16501 Attorneys for Vizzini Creative, Inc. WCR Vol 105 Issue 51

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Article of Incorporation have been filed with the Department of State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of obtaining a Certificate of Incorporation pursuant to the Pennsylvania Nonprofit Corporation Law of 1988, as amended.

The name of the corporation is: South Strabane Parks and **Recreation Foundation**

The Articles of Incorporation (filing date) June 19, 2025.

The Mitchell Law Group, LLC. Clark A. Mitchell, Esq. 17 S. College Street Washington, PA 15301

WCR Vol 105 Issue 51

SHERIFF'S SALE—Anthony E. Andronas, Sheriff

Abstracts of properties taken in execution upon the writs shown, at the number and term shown, as the properties of the severally named defendants, owners or reputed owners, and to be sold by ANTHONY E. ANDRONAS, Sheriff of Washington County, Pennsylvania on FRIDAY, AUGUST 1 2025, at 10:00 o'clock AM - ONLINE, at https:// washington.pa.realforeclose.com. See information sheet posted on the Washington County Sheriff website and watch for news releases for more information.

CONDITIONS OF SALE: Ten (10%) percent of purchase bid (but not less than Sheriff's costs) shall be deducted from the winning bidder's account at the completion of the sale and the balance will be due on or before the following WEDNESDAY at 4:00 o'clock **P.M.** at the Sheriff's Office. If the balance of payment is not made by Wednesday following the date of sale, the property will again be put up for sale on the following FRI-DAY at 10:00 o'clock A.M., at the expense and risk of the bidder from the original sale. A schedule of distribution will be filed by the Sheriff not later than thirty (30) days from the date of the sale and distribution will be made in accordance with the schedule unless exceptions are filed within ten (10) days thereafter. (Complete descriptions of the properties are on file in the Sheriff's Office at 95 West Beau St., Suite 110, Washington, PA)

CANONSBURG

CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC

ADAM SNATCHKO, SR., Known Surviving Heir of LINDA LEE SNATCHKO, ET AL

DOCKET #: 2024-6488 JUDGEMENT: \$101,051.72

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Canonsburg Borough;

Address: 502 GIFFIN AVENUE, CAN-

ONSBURG, PA 15317 Tax #: 090-009-00-02-0034-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: McCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, (215) 790-1010

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CANONSBURG (Cont'd)

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

SAMUEL D. WILLIAMS AND PATRICIA M. BOYLE

DOCKET #: 2024-4113 JUDGEMENT: \$45,045.02

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Canonsburg Borough;

Address: 605 S CENTRAL AVENUE, CANONSBURG, PA 15317 Tax #: 110-012-00-00-0005-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attorney: BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC,

(844) 856-6646

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CENTERVILLE

THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK

JASON T. PATERNOSTER; JASON T. PATERNOSTER, JR.

DOCKET #: 2024-8619 JUDGEMENT: \$113,878.25

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Centerville Borough;

Address: 100 ALKIM DRIVE, **BROWNSVILLE, PA 15417** Tax #: 152-023-00-00-0028-07

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: THE MANLEY LAW FIRM LLC, (614) 220-5611

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

CHARTIERS

SERVBANK, SB **BRIAN K. DUNN DOCKET #: 2024-5882**

JUDGEMENT: \$398,873.87

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>Chartiers Township</u>;

Address: 370 WELSH ROAD, WASH-

INGTON, PA 15301 Tax #: 170-012-00-00-0032-17

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: THE MANLEY LAW FIRM

LLC, (614) 220-5611

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CHARTIERS (Cont'd)

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION

KRISTI SERALY AKA
KRISTI BONUS, In Her Capacity as
Executrix and Devisee of the Estate of
EDWARD J. FURMANEK
AKA EDWARD JOHN FURMANEK

DOCKET #: 2023-6290 JUDGEMENT: \$228.317.49

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Chartiers Township;

Address: 100 BELMONT AVENUE, MEADOWLANDS, PA 15347 Tax #: 170-017-05-01-0019-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC, (844) 856-6646

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

CHARTIERS (Cont'd)

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY vs

HOPE M. HAYMAN

DOCKET #: 2023-5829 JUDGEMENT: \$62,370.11

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>Chartiers Township</u>;

Address: 516 RIDGE AVENUE, CAN-ONSBURG, PA 15317

Tax #: 170-005-01-02-0007-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attornev: PURCELL KRUG & HAL-

LER, (717) 234-4178

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

DONEGAL

MORTGAGE RESEARCH CENTER, LLC D/B/A VETERANS UNITED HOME LOANS

> CHRISTINE M. LINN, In Her Capacity as Executrix of the Estate of THOMAS D. LINN

DOCKET #: 2025-100 JUDGEMENT: \$209,711.96

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Donegal Township;

Address: 202 STATE ROUTE 231, CLAYSVILLE, PA 15323 Tax #: 230-012-00-00-0042-00 & 230-012-00-00-0040-02 & 230-012-00-00-0040-03 (30

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attorney: RAS CITRON LLC, (855) 225-6906

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

DONORA

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

VICTOR R. MYERS AKA VICTOR MYERS: BARBARA RILEY

DOCKET #: 2024-6818 JUDGEMENT: \$35,286.24

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>Donora Borough</u>;

Address: 74 CASTNER AVENUE, DONORA, PA 15033

Tax #: 240-031-00-03-0006-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: THE MANLEY LAW FIRM LLC, (614) 220-5611

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

FALLOWFIELD

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

KEVIN R. WEIBLE AND TINA M. WEIBLE

DOCKET #: 2025-260 JUDGEMENT: \$110,264.67 In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>Fallowfield Township</u>;

Address: 35 TRUMAN ROAD, CHAR-LEROI, PA 15022

Tax #: 320-006-00-00-0003-09

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attorney: STERN & EISENBERG PC,

(215) 572-8111 WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

LONG BRANCH

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Trustee Of Shorebreak NPL Trust

vs GERTRUDE CURZON

DOCKET #: 2024-1669 JUDGEMENT: \$69,048.70

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>Long Branch Borough</u>;

Address: 69 HONOR STREET, COAL CENTER, PA 15423
Tax #: 390-002-00-00-0015-01

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: KML LAW GROUP, P.C., (215) 627-1322

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

MCDONALD

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES LLC vs

ROBERT W. MCCARTHY DOCKET #: 2024-8512

JUDGEMENT: \$123,725.54

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, McDonald Borough;

Address: 116 TERRACE STREET, MCDONALD, PA 15057 Tax #: 470-014-00-03-0005-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attorney: POWERS KIRN, LLC, (215)

942-2090

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

MONONGAHELA

MIDFIRST BANK vs ROBERT L. KEPICS

DOCKET #: 2024-1739 JUDGEMENT: \$8,581.65

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>City of Monongahela</u>;

Address: 206 2ND AVENUE AKA 206 SECOND AVENUE, MONONGAHELA, PA 15063

Tax #: 430-020-00-01-0008-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: KML LAW GROUP, P.C., (215) 627-1322

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

MONONGAHELA (Cont'd)

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT LLC

LARRY MARTIN, In His Capacity as Heir of ROSE MARIE LANGAN, ET AL

DOCKET #: 2021-7808 JUDGEMENT: \$123,643.75

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>City of Monongahela</u>.

Address: 500 NORTH CHESS STREET A/K/A 500 CHESS STREET, MONON-GAHELA, PA 15063

Tax #: 440-008-00-01-0004-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: RAS CITRON LLC, (855) 225-6906

MONONGAHELA (Cont'd)

PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC

CHARLES EDWARD BROWNING AND SHERI LYNN BROWNING

DOCKET #: 2024-8687 JUDGEMENT: \$287,836.30

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, <u>City of Monongahela</u>;

Address: 1320 COUNTRY CLUB ROAD, MONONGAHELA, PA 15063 Tax #: 130-011-01-02-0012-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attorney: HILL WALLACK LLP, (215)

579-7700

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

MOUNT PLEASANT

ROCKET MORTGAGE, LLC f/k/a QUICKEN LOANS, LLC

DRU C. BOWEN

DOCKET #: 2024-5017 JUDGEMENT: \$116,269.28

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Mount Pleasant Township:

Address: 102 BOWEN ROAD, MCDON-

ALD, PA 15057

Tax #: 460-019-00-00-0015-01

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attorney: STERN & EISENBERG PC. (215) 572-8111

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

NORTH FRANKLIN

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

BIGGER AND BETTER RENTAL LLC

DOCKET #: 2024-4208 JUDGEMENT: \$92,501.99

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, North Franklin Township;

Address: 120 SUGAR MAPLE CIRCLE. WASHINGTON, PA 15301

Tax #: 510-002-18-01-0014-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling Attorney: FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP,

(212) 471-5100

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

PETERS

CROSSCOUNTRY **MORTGAGE, LLC**

ALI R. HAJASSDOLAH

DOCKET #: 2024-5061 JUDGEMENT: \$308,406.94

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Peters Township;

Address: 212 SIENNA TRAIL, VENE-

TIA, PA 15367

Tax #: 540-005-00-00-0006-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: RAS CITRON LLC, (855) 225-6906

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

UNION

KEYBANK N.A. S/B/M FIRST NIAGARA BANK, N.A.

MICHAEL WOODRUFF AND LISA WOODRUFF

DOCKET #: 2024-3369 JUDGEMENT: \$83,653.23

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, Union Township;

Address: 264 MCCHAIN ROAD. FINLEYVILLE, PA 15332 Tax #: 640-003-00-00-0057-00 & 640-

003-00-00-0058-00 (2)

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: BROCK & SCOTT, PLLC, (844) 856-6646

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

WASHINGTON

WEST-AIRCOMM FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

DUSTIN EARL JONES TRUST AND CB4 HOLDINGS LLC

DOCKET #: 2025-811 JUDGEMENT: \$321,438.59

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, City of Washington;

Address: 269 NORTH MAIN STREET, WASHINGTON, PA 15301

Tax #: 720-007-00-03-0022-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: WELTMAN WEINBERG & REIS CO., LPA, (412) 434-7955

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

WASHINGTON (Cont'd)

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING

> TARA REYNOLDS A/K/A TARA HOLDEN

DOCKET #: 2023-1197 JUDGEMENT: \$23,443.33

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, City of Washington;

Address: 135 CHURCH STREET. WASHINGTON, PA 15301 Tax #: 720-008-00-03-0008-01

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: PINCUS LAW GROUP PLLC.

(516) 699-8902

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

WASHINGTON (Cont'd)

CITIBANK, N.A.

VS ELLEN P. DEUTSCH

DOCKET #: 2024-7321 JUDGEMENT: \$57,991.94

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Washington County, City of Washington;

Address: 700 SUMMERLEA AVENUE. WASHINGTON, PA 15301

Tax #: 770-012-00-02-0007-00

Improvements: Residential Dwelling

Attorney: ORLANS ASSOCIATES PC, (248) 502-1400

WCR Vol 105,106 Issues 51,52,1

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