# FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL

VOL. 84 MAY 15, 2021 NO. 20



### **FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL**

The FAYETTE LEGAL JOURNAL is published weekly by the Fayette County Bar Association, 45 East Main Street, Suite 100, Uniontown, Pennsylvania 15401, 724-437-7994. Legal advertisements should be submitted online at www.fcbar.org no later than 12:00 noon on Friday for publication the following Saturday. No date of publication is promised, however. Legal notices are published exactly as submitted by the advertiser. Copyright 2001 Fayette County Bar Association. All rights reserved.

Co-Editors: Garnet L. Gordon and Melinda Deal Dellarose

Cover Design by Marvin R. Mayle, 207 Lick Hollow Road, Hopwood, PA

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The Ethics Hotline provides free advisory opinions to PBA members based upon review of a member's prospective conduct by members of the PBA Committee on Legal Ethics and Professional Responsibility. The committee responds to requests regarding, the impact of the provisions of the Rules of Professional Conduct or the Code of Judicial Conduct upon the inquiring member's proposed activity. All inquiries are confidential.

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### ESTATE NOTICES

Notice hereby given that letters testamentary or of administration have been granted to the following estates. All persons indebted to said estates are required to make payment, and those having claims or demands to present the same without delay to the administrators or executors named.

### **Third Publication**

### BEVERLY ASPINALL, a/k/a BEV

ASPINALL, late of North Union Township,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Administratrix: Michele D. Swink

250 Crowe Road

Acme, PA 15610

c/o 140 South Main Street #301

Greensburg, PA 15601

Attorney: John Cochran

### JEFFREY W. BASINGER, late of

Connellsville, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Paul Banko

c/o Davis & Davis

107 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Gary J. Frankhouser

### EVELYN BUNTING a/k/a EVELYN B. BUNTING, late of Dunbar Borough, Fayette

County, PA (3)

Personal Representative:

Salene Ann Callahan

c/o Watson Mundorff, LLP

720 Vanderbilt Road

Connellsville Pennsylvania 15425

Attorney: Robert A. Gordon

### JOHN WINTHROP BURKLAND, a/k/a JOHN W. BURKLAND, late of Lemont

Furnace, Fayette County, PA (2)

Administratrix: Patricia Burkland

c/o 11 Pittsburgh Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Thomas W. Shaffer

#### LOUIS A. COLETTI, late of Redstone

Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Joanne Coletti

c/o Davis & Davis

107 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: James T. Davis

### LEROY WILSON J. FRANTZ, JR., late of

Uniontown, Fayette County, PA (3)

Administrator: Andrea Frantz

233 Tryron Drive

Blairsville, PA 15717

c/o France, Lint & Associates, P.C.

308 Fallowfield Avenue

Charleroi, PA 15022

Attorney: David N. Lint

### RICKY E. HULL, a/k/a RICK E. HULL, a/k/a RICKY HULL, late of Springfield

Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Executrix: Martha Richter

392 Clinton Road

Normalville, PA 15469

c/o 201 North Chestnut Street

P.O. Box 342

Scottdale, PA 15683 Attorney: James Lederach

#### CHARLES KOZY, JR., late of Masontown,

Favette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative:

Charlene Ann DeCarlo

c/o Davis & Davis

107 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Michael A. Aubele

### RICHARD JAMES LONG, a/k/a RICHARD J. LONG, a/k/a RICHARD LONG, late of

South Union Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Co-Executors: Daniel A. Long and

Linda Gail Collins

c/o John & John

96 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Simon B. John

### THOMAS H. LUCAS, JR., late of North

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative:

Thomas H. Lucas, III

c/o 902 First Street

P.O. Box 310

Hiller, PA 15444

Attorney: Herbert G. Mitchell, Jr.

### DENNIS ALLAN ONDREJKO, a/k/a DENNIS ONDREJKO, late of Washington

Township, Fayette County, PA (3)

Executrix: Darlene Helen Ondrejko

921 McClintock Avenue

Belle Vernon, PA 15012

c/o Shire Law Firm

1711 Grand Boulevard Park Centre

Monessen, PA 15062

Attorney: Mark Shire

### WILLIAM J. TROUT, a/k/a WILLIAM JOSEPH TROUT, late of Georges Township,

Fayette County, PA (3)

Personal Representative: Susan Arnold

c/o Davis & Davis

107 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Jeremy J. Davis

### Second Publication

### THOMAS S. ADDIS, JR., a/k/a THOMAS SEARIGHT ADDIS, JR., late of Masontown,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Administrator: Tonya L. Halbert

124 Hillman Street

Greensboro, PA 15338

c/o 189 West High Street

Waynesburg, PA 15370

Attorney: Gregory C. Hook

### PAUL MCKINLEY CARROLL, a/k/a PAUL M. CARROLL, late of New Salem, Fayette

County, PA (2)

Executrix: Roxanne J. Gmutza

P.O. Box 614

New Salem, PA 15468

c/o 1725 Washington Road, Suite 503

Pittsburgh, PA 15241

Attorney: Betty Dillon

### EDWARD D. DAVIS, late of Uniontown,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative: Ann Breech

c/o Davis & Davis

107 East Main Street

Uniontown, Pa 15401

Attorney: Gary J. Frankhouser

### EUGENE STANLEY EDWARDS, a/k/a EUGENE S. EDWARDS, a/k/a EUGENE EDWARDS, late of Uniontown, Fayette

County, PA (2)

Personal Representative: Lottie Edwards

c/o George & George

92 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Joseph M. George, Sr.

#### JAMES HAMMACK, late of Point Marion,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Administrator: Rich Hammack

5 Allamong Lane

Morgantown, WV 26508

### ROSALIE HAMMACK, late of Point Marion,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Administrator:

Christopher Dwayne Hammack

42 Broadway, Apt.#1

Hagerstown, MD 21740

#### DOROTHY D. HUGHS, late of Fairchance,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Executor: Larry B. Wilson

c/o 11 Pittsburgh Street

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Thomas W. Shaffer

### LILA KRUKOWSKY, a/k/a LILA R. FERENCY KRUKOWSKY, late of

Perryopolis, Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative:

Robert Krukowsky

c/o Higinbotham Law Offices

45 East Main Street, Suite 500

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: James Higinbotham

### FRANCES LIVINGSTONE, a/k/a FRANCES E. LIVINGSTONE, late of Washington

Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Personal Representative:

James C. Livingstone

c/o 902 First Street P.O. Box 310 Hiller, PA 15444

Attorney: Herbert G. Mitchell, Jr.

### GRACE L. NICHOLS, a/k/a GRACE T. NICHOLS, late of Washington Township,

Fayette County, PA (2)

Executor: Carl L. Trader

115 Beach Drive Charleroi, PA 15022

c/o 300 Fallowfield Avenue

Charleroi, PA 15022

Attorney: Richard C. Mudrick

#### CAROL SHULTZ, late of South Union

Township, Fayette County, PA (2)

Executrix: Georgina Herilla

c/o Adams & Adams

55 East Church Street, Suite 101

Uniontown, PA 15401

Attorney: Jason Adams

### KAREN L. WISE, late of Monessen, Fayette

 $County,\ PA\ \ (2)$ 

Administratrix: Stacey Madzey

1435 Lincoln Street

Monessen, PA 15062 c/o 300 Fallowfield Avenue

Charleroi, PA 15022

### **First Publication**

### NANCY DONLEY, late of Hopwood, Fayette

County, PA (1)

Executor: Starlet Nestor

5 Route 21 Estates Carmichaels, PA 15320

c/o Fieschko & Associates, Inc.

Suite 2230 436 7th. Avenue

Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Attorney: Joseph Fieschko

### EDGAR J. ROSENBERRY, late of Springfield

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Personal Representative:

Joseph E. Rosenberry

c/o Watson Mundorff, LLP

720 Vanderbilt Road

Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Robert A. Gordon

### MARGARET SALANSKY, a/k/a MARGARET H. SALANSKY, late of North

Union Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executrix: Carol Zackal

c/o Proden & O'Brien

00 Fact Main Street

99 East Main Street

Uniontown, PA 15401 Attorney: Wendy L. O'Brien

### TIMOTHY J. SEDLAK, SR., a/k/a TIMOTHY JAMES SEDLAK, SR., late of

Belle Vernon, Fayette County, PA (1)

Executrix: Kimberly Ann Sedlak Hart

189 Naugle Drive

Falls Creek, PA 15840

c/o Fiffik Law Group, PC

661 Andersen Drive

Foster Plaza 7, Suite 315

Pittsburgh, PA 15220

Attorney: Matthew A. Bole

### IRIS L. STEYER, late of Springfield

Township, Fayette County, PA (1)

Co-Executors: Ray Steyer and

Frances Collins

c/o P.O. Box 760

Connellsville, PA 15425

Attorney: Carolyn W. Maricondi

### NANCY WAYNE, late of Markleysburg,

Fayette County, PA (1)

Administratrix: Leah Stemple

c/o 2944 National Pike Road P.O. Box 245

r.O. box 243

Chalk Hill, PA 15421 *Attorney*: Charles C. Gentile

### LEGAL NOTICES

#### NOTICE

The Albert Gallatin Area School District will receive sealed bids for the purchase of a vacant parcel of ground located in Point Marion Borough. The property is an estimated land area of 0.63 acres, located on Union Street, Point Marion Borough, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. This property is designated by the Fayette County Assessment office as Parcel ID No. 29-02-0279.

Bids must be received on or before 3:00 p.m., June 1, 2021. Bids shall be submitted to Vincent M. Belczyk, Business Manager, at the Gallatin Area School Albert Administrative Offices, 2625 Morgantown Road, Uniontown, Pennsylvania, 15401-6703. Bids will be publicly opened at said time and place. Sealed bids must be submitted on bid forms provided by the School District. Copies of the sale conditions and bid forms may be obtained by contacting Mr. Belczyk at the Administrative Offices, or at (724) 564-7185 Ext. 8112 or vincent.belczyk@agasd.org. The Albert Gallatin Area School District reserves the right reject and all bids. to any

Vincent M. Belczyk, Business Manager

(2 of 3)

### NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a Certificate of Organization was filed with the Pennsylvania Department of State, on February 11, 2021, for a Limited Liability Company, organized under the Limited Liability Company Law of 1994, as from time to time amended. The name of the Company is Bliss Beauty Room, LLC, having an address of 305 Jefferson Avenue, Masontown, Pennsylvania, 15461.

James E. Higinbotham, Jr., Esq. HIGINBOTHAM LAW OFFICES 45 East Main Street, Suite 500 Uniontown, PA 15401 Telephone: 724-437-2800

### NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to the provisions of Act 295 of December 16, 1982, P.L. 1309, that a Certificate was filed in the Office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, on or about April 12, 2021, to conduct a business in Fayette County, Pennsylvania, under the assumed or fictitious name of Garletts Excavating with the principal place of business at: 823 Furnace Road, Dunbar, Fayette County, PA 15431.

The name or names and addresses of persons owning and interested are: Mark D. Garletts, 823 Furnace Road, Dunbar, Fayette County, PA, 15431 and Steven R. Garletts, 811 Furnace Road, Dunbar, Fayette County, PA, 15431.

Robert Gordon, Esquire Watson Mundorff, LLP 720 Vanderbilt Road Connellsville, PA 15431

### **SHERIFF'S SALE**

Date of Sale: July 22, 2021

By virtue of the below stated writs out of the Court of Common Pleas of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, the following described properties will be exposed to sale by James Custer, Sheriff of Fayette County, Pennsylvania on Thursday, July 22, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom Number Five at the Fayette County Courthouse, Uniontown, Pennsylvania.

The terms of sale are as follows:

Ten percent of the purchase price, or a sufficient amount to pay all costs if the ten percent is not enough for that purpose. Same must be paid to the Sheriff at the time the property is struck off and the balance of the purchase money is due before twelve o'clock noon on the fourth day thereafter. Otherwise, the property may be resold without further notice at the risk and expense of the person to whom it is struck off at this sale who in case of deficiency in the price bid at any resale will be required to make good the same. Should the bidder fail to comply with conditions of sale money deposited by him at the time the property is struck off shall be forfeited and applied to the cost and judgments. All payments must be made in cash or by certified check. The schedule of distribution will be filed the third Tuesday after date of sale. If no petition has been filed to set aside the sale within 10 days, the Sheriff will acknowledge and before the Prothonotary a deed to the property sold. (1 of 3)

> James Custer Sheriff Of Fayette County

Brock & Scott, PLLC

No. 2400 of 2019 GD No. 62 of 2021 ED

## FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION v. RYAN LEE BUCHHEIT

By virtue of a Writ of Execution No. 2400 of 2019 GD

FREEDOM MORTGAGE CORPORATION

v.

RYAN LEE BUCHHEIT

owner(s) of property situate in the CITY OF UNIONTOWN, FAYETTE County,

Pennsylvania, being 100 BAILEY AVENUE, UNIONTOWN, PA 15401

Tax ID No. 38-04-0588

 $\begin{array}{ccc} & Improvements & thereon: & RESIDENTIAL \\ DWELLING & & \end{array}$ 

Judgment Amount: \$76,562.73

No. 2109 of 2020 GD No. 66 of 2021 ED

21st MORTGAGE CORPORATION, assignee of Tammac Holdings Corporation, Plaintiff

ORVILLE HIGINBOTHAM, JR., and LANA HIGINBOTHAM, Defendants

and

### UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, Defendant

ALL THAT CERTAIN lot or piece of ground situate in the Township of Nicholson, County of Fayette and Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, being Lot No. 2 in the Orville Higinbotham Plan No. 1 which plan is recorded in the Recorder's Office of Fayette County, Pennsylvania, in Plan Book Volume 64, page 48, being more fully bounded and described therein.

BEING designated as part of Parcel No. 24-04-0068.

BEING part of the same property that Orville Higinbotham and Maxine R. Higinbotham, husband and wife conveyed to Orville Higinbotham, Jr. and Lana Higinbotham, husband and wife by deed dated January 4, 2007 and recorded on January 4, 2007 in the

Recorder's Office of Fayette County, Pennsylvania in Instrument No. 200700000205.

McCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, LLC 123 South Broad Street, Suite 1400 Philadelphia, PA 19109 (215) 790-1010

> No. 831 of 2019 GD No. 68 of 2021 ED

### LSF8 Master Participation Trust Plaintiff

Cynthia L. Johnson, in her Capacity as Executrix and Devisee of the Estate of Sylvia Jane Sealy a/k/a Sylvia J. Sealy, Evelyn Potchynok, in her capacity as Heir of Sylvia Jane Sealy A/K/A Sylvia J. Sealy, and

ALL that certain lot or parcel of ground situate in the Sixth Ward, Brownsville, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, bounded and described as follows:

FRONTING 30 feet on the Northerly side of Front Street and extending back therefrom between property now or formerly of Saul Cazen on the Easterly side and property now or formerly of Jacob H. Sherrard on the Westerly, a distance of 90 feet, more or less, to property now or formerly of the Acklin Estate, upon which is erected a two story frame dwelling, having two apartments.

All that certain piece or parcel or Tract of land situate Brownsville Township, 6th Fayette County, Pennsylvania, and being known as 419 Front Street, Brownsville, Pennsylvania 15417.

Being known as: 419 Front Street, Brownsville, Pennsylvania 15417

Title vesting in Cynthia L. Johnson, in her Capacity as Executrix and Devisee of the Estate of Sylvia Jane Sealy a/k/a Sylvia J. Sealy, Evelyn Potchynok, in her capacity as Heir of Sylvia Jane Sealy A/KIA Sylvia J. Sealy, and Unknown Surviving Heirs of Sylvia Jane Sealy a/k/a Sylvia J. Sealy by deed from Richard Sealy and Sylvia Jane Sealy, husband and wife, dated October 31, 1983 and recorded November 9, 1983 in Deed Book 1329, Page 636.

Tax Parcel Number: 02-06-0258

No. 2112 of 2010 GD No. 49 of 2021 ED

### FAIRPORT ASSET MANAGEMENT LLC Plaintiff,

vs. CHRISTY A. KING, Defendant.

ALL that tract of land situate Perry Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania, known as 133 Cemetery Road, Vanderbilt, Pennsylvania 15486 having erected thereon a dwelling house.

PARCEL BEING KNOWN AND DESIGNATED AS TAX MAP 27-16-0085-010

BEING the same premises which CMF Industries, Inc., by their Deed Dated December 31, 1987 and recorded in the Recorder's Office of Fayette County on January 25, 1988 in Deed Book Volume 381, Page 114, granted and conveyed unto Christy A. King, the grantor herein.

Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 133 Gaither Drive, Suite F Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054 Phone: (855) 225-6906 Fax: (866) 381-9549

> No. 1364 of 2020 GD No. 64 of 2021 ED

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY DBA CHRISTIANA TRUST, NOT INDIVIDUALLY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR NYMT LOAN TRUST I Plaintiff

DAVID MIHALSKY, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEIR OF WALTER R. MIHALSKY; CARMEL TASSONE, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEIR OF WALTER R. MIHALSKY; EDWARD MIHALSKY, JR., IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEIR OF WALTER R. MIHALSKY; UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS AND ALL PERSONS, FIRMS OR ASSOCIATIONS CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER WALTER R. MIHALSKY

Defendant(s)

ALL THOSE CERTAIN LOTS OR PIECES OF GROUND SITUATE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF GERMAN, FAYETTE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA:

BEING KNOWN AS: 233 WATER STREET FOOTEDALE, PA 15468 BEING PARCEL NUMBER: 15170010

IMPROVEMENTS: PROPERTY

RESIDENTIAL

Brock & Scott, PLLC

No. 1213 of 2019 GD No. 56 of 2021 ED

### WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

ERNEST RUGGIERI, IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEIR OF MARY KAY RUGGIERI, DECEASED; UNKNOWN HEIRS, SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL PERSONS, FIRMS, OR ASSOCIATIONS CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER MARY KAY RUGGIERI, DECEASED

By virtue of a Writ of Execution No. 1213 of 2019 GD WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

v.

ERNEST RUGGIERI, IN HIS CAPACITY AS OF MARY KAY RUGGIERI, HEIR DECEASED: UNKNOWN HEIRS. SUCCESSORS, ASSIGNS, AND ALL ASSOCIATIONS PERSONS, FIRMS, OR CLAIMING RIGHT, TITLE OR INTEREST FROM OR UNDER MARY KAY RUGGIERI, DECEASED

owner(s) of property situate in the CONNELLSVILLE, FAYETTE County, Pennsylvania, being 411 N PITTSBURGH STREET, CONNELLSVILLE, PA 15425

Tax ID No. 05-06-0176

Improvements thereon: RESIDENTIAL DWELLING

Judgment Amount: \$50,071.84

### STERN & EISENBERG PC ANDREW J. MARLEY, ESOUIRE

No. 296 of 2020 GD No. 60 of 2021 ED

U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for BNC Mortgage Loan Trust 2007-2 Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2007-2

Plaintiff

**X**7

Marsha Shaffer Defendants

SITUATE IN THE TOWNSHIP OF CONNELLSVILLE, COUNTY OF FAYETTE AND COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA, BEING KNOWN AS 825 North Jefferson Street, Connellsville, PA 15425.

PARCEL NO. 06-07-0003

IMPROVEMENTS- RESIDENTIAL REAL ESTATE

SOLD AS THE PROPERTY OF-MARSHA SHAFFER

Brock & Scott, PLLC

No. 156 of 2020 GD No. 57 of 2021 ED

## WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A. v. JASON SOMMERFELDT

By virtue of a Writ of Execution No. 156 of  $2020 \; \text{GD}$ 

WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.

JASON SOMMERFELDT

owner(s) of property situate in the WASHINGTON, FAYETTE County, Pennsylvania, being 118 CONNELLSVILLE RD, FAYETTE CITY, PA 15438

Tax ID No. 41-16-0026

Improvements thereon: RESIDENTIAL DWELLING

Judgment Amount: \$51,732.55

\*\*\* END SHERIFF'S SALES \*\*\*

### JUDICIAL OPINION

## IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS OF FAYETTE-COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

### CIVIL DIVISION

IN RE: UPSET TAX SALE OF TAX

DELINQUENT PROPERTIES : No. 2005 of 2020

OCTOBER 19, 2020 : Honorable Judge Steve P. Leskinen

### OPINION AND ORDER

Leskinen, J. April 8, 2021

Before the Court is the Objectors' PETITION FOR EXCEPTION TO DISAP-PROVE, SET ASIDE, OR VOID THE UPSET TAX SALE OF OCTOBER 19TH, 2020. After careful review of the evidence and applicable law, the Court hereby GRANTS the Petition.

### Factual Background

The testimony given at the Hearing on Exceptions on January 19th, 2021 established the following facts: The Objectors, James and Theresa Gibson, are the owners of real property located at 270 Keeney Row, New Salem, Luzerne Township, Fayette County, Pennsylvania. They have owned the property since August 5th, 1993. The Objectors have made various improvements on the property, including the construction of their residence: their primary and only home. Objector Theresa Gibson lost her employment in 2019 and Objector James Gibson, who previously owned a tree trimming and removal service, suffered a stroke and has not been able to provide any meaningful income for over one year. Furthermore, the Objectors have no vehicle and rely upon third parties to provide transportation. The Objectors owe approximately \$3,800.00 to the Fayette County Tax Claim Bureau for the tax years of 2018 and 2019. The Objectors' home was posted by a commercial posting company on July 3rd, 2020. Notices were mailed in June, 2020 by certified mail, all of which were returned to the Tax Claim Bureau as "undeliverable" by the United States Postal Service. A ten-day notice was mailed to the Objectors, by first-class mail. The notice was not returned. No further efforts were made by the Tax Claim Bureau to notify the Objectors.

The Objectors had made diligent efforts to pay their taxes. Objector Teresa Gibson testified that she had the cash to pay the 2018 taxes, which would have removed their property from the Upset Tax Sale, but that she encountered difficulty, confusion, and conflicting information regarding access to the courthouse during the pandemic. The Objectors also attempted to pay the taxes online, but were impeded by technical problems which were overwhelmingly confusing to them. In addition, the Objectors did not have a car and had to rely on third parties for transportation, which only exacerbated their problems, especially in the context of the pandemic.

The Upset Tax Sale was originally scheduled for September 21st, 2020 and was to

be held in Courtroom No. 1 of the Fayette County Courthouse. Due to health concerns as well as county and state regulations brought about by the pandemic, the Upset Tax Sale was postponed and relocated. The Upset Tax Sale took place on October 19th, 2020 at the Fayette County Fairgrounds, where the Objectors' home was struck down at auction.

### Legal Standard

72 P.S. § 5860.601(a)(3) states:

No owner-occupied property may be sold unless the bureau has given the owner occupant written notice of such sale at least ten (10) days prior to the date of actual sale **by personal service** by the sheriff or his deputy or person deputized by the sheriff for this purpose unless the county commissioners, by resolution, appoint a person or persons to make all personal services required by this clause... If such personal service cannot be served within twenty-five (25) days of the request by the bureau to make such personal service, the bureau **may petition the court of common pleas to waive the requirement of personal notice for good cause shown**. Personal service of notice on one of the owners shall be deemed personal service on all owners.

emphasis added.

72 P.S. § 5680.102 defines "Owner Occupant" as:

The owner of a property which has improvements constructed thereon and for which the annual tax bill is mailed to an owner residing at the same address as that of the property.

The purpose of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law is not to punish, but to obtain payment. Because the General Assembly believed it to be of the utmost importance to give owner occupants greater protection than non-owner occupants, it included Section 601 (a)(3) of the Real Estate Tax Sale Law to protect them from losing the properties wherein they reside. In Re Petition to Set Aside Upset Tax Sale, 218 A.3d 995, 999 (Cmwlth. Ct. 2019).

#### Conclusions of Law

Neither Objector was personally served with written notice of the past due tax amount and the Upset Tax Sale by the Fayette County Sheriff or anyone else. A property owner who resides in a residence upon land exposed to an upset tax sale is entitled to personal service, in addition to mailings, postings, and publications under 72 P.S. § 5860.601(a)(3)

The Objectors were entitled to personal service and did not receive such. The Tax Claim Bureau failed to seek court approval to waive the requirement of personal service. There is no evidence that the Objectors attempted to evade service of the certified mailings.

WHEREFORE, the Court issues the following Order:

#### ORDER

AND NOW this 8th day of April, 2021, upon consideration of the Objectors' PETITION FOR EXCEPTION TO DISAPPROVE, SET ASIDE, OR VOID THE UPSET TAX SALE OF OCTOBER 19th, 2020, it is hereby ORDERED and DECREED that it is GRANTED, and the purported sale is hereby VOIDED, with all sums deposited to be returned to the high bidder forthwith.

BY THE COURT: STEVE. P. LESKINEN, JUDGE

ATTEST: PROTHONOTARY

### **WARMAN ABSTRACT & RESEARCH LLC**

JOHN F. WARMAN
518 Madison Drive
Smithfield, PA 15478
724-322-6529
johnfranciswarman@gmail.com

COMMERCIAL/RESIDENTIAL/CURRENT OWNER/MINERAL TITLE

A DECADE OF EXPERIENCE <u>E&O INSURED</u> <u>WILL TRAVEL</u> <u>ACCEPTING NEW CLIENTS</u>

### **LUNCH & LEARN SERIES**

The Fayette County Bar Association's next presentation in its Lunch & Learn Series will be:

- Date: Wednesday, May 19th from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
- Location: Courtroom No. 1 of the Fayette County Courthouse
- Discussion topics: Searches & Seizures
- Presenters: Richard Bower, Fayette County District Attorney, Susan Harper, Fayette County Public Defender, and the Honorable Judge Steve P. Leskinen

### **CLE Credit**

1.5 hours of Substantive CLE credit for the program. The fees are as follows:

Members of the FCBA

- No charge for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$10 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

Attorneys admitted to practice in Pennsylvania after January 1, 2016

• No charge for attendance with CLE Credit

Non-members of the FCBA

- \$10 fee for attendance without CLE Credit
- \$40 fee for attendance with CLE Credit

\*\* All fees to be paid at the door \*\*

A light lunch will be provided.

### RSVP

If interested in attending, please call Cindy at the Bar office at 724-437-7994 or by email to cindy@fcbar.org on or before Monday, May 17th.

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# Gismondi

& ASSOCIATES

412-281-2200

www.gislaw.com

700 Grant Bldg., 310 Grant St., Pgh., PA 15219