



State of South Carolina
The Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit

Michael G. Nettles
Judge

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Ms. Jane Shuler
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RE: Judicial Screening 2011

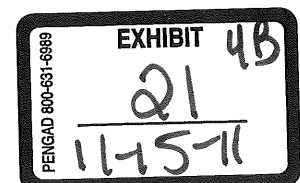
Dear Ms. Jane:

This will confirm our conversation of today's date wherein we discussed the above captioned matter.

By way of summary, I want to set forth the background of my personal situation. My wife, Donna, was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2003. She was treated for this condition and released from her local oncologist in 2008. In March of 2009, she went to her family doctor for a check-up and he noticed that she had elevated liver enzymes and ordered a CAT scan and biopsy, which revealed that the cancer had metastasized to her liver. The cancer is in both lobes and covers 75% of her liver. Her diagnosis was grim and she was told that her prognosis was a matter of months as opposed to years. We then chose to go to Duke and were fortunate enough to have been treated by a doctor who specializes in this particular field of oncology.

Donna has undergone a number of surgeries and progressive treatments that have slowed the growth of the lesions. However, the cancer is beginning to progress and Duke has given us the option of participating in a clinical trial or an aggressive form of chemotherapy, neither of which appears to be promising.

Donna and I have elected to go to M.D. Anderson Medical Center located in Houston, Texas. It took us ninety-three (93) days to get an appointment and we have completed the arduous process of gathering her voluminous medical records and forwarding them to Texas. All of this is done through a separate service from the doctor's office and we have not, and cannot, get in touch with the doctor's office to reschedule. We were instructed to buy a one way ticket to Houston because it was impossible to know when we will return.



I want to thank you for working with me in dealing with this very difficult situation. We have discussed the possibility of appearing by video conference. I have arranged with a Houston Law Firm to appear in their video conferencing center. I have also procured a computer that has this capability as a back-up. Additionally, you were gracious enough to meet with me last Saturday, wherein you posed the relevant questions to me and were to provide a summary to the Chairman and members of the Committee.

In our conversation today, you indicated that the deadline for complaints has passed and that none were filed against me. However, there still exists the possibility that the Committee could consider a late complaint under extraordinary circumstances. In the event there was a complaint, it would be necessary for me to appear in person which alleviates the possibility of a video conference. There still exists the possibility to waive the hearing but this cannot be determined until the date of the hearing because of Freedom of Information concerns.

I want to reiterate that I appreciate the necessity and the importance of this screening process in general, and particularly the public hearing. Furthermore, there is no other endeavor that could provide me with more fulfillment than the honor of being a Circuit Court Judge for the State of South Carolina. It is simply the best job in the United States of America. The only thing that takes precedence over my calling to be a Circuit Court Judge is the welfare of my wife and children. I want the Chairman and the members of the Committee to know in advance that I will be with my wife in Houston on November 15, 2011 and, unfortunately, will not be able to attend the public hearing.

I would hope that the members would consider waiving my public hearing and, if that is not a possibility, then I understand that the option exists for me to participate in the screening process in the Spring.

In order that each member of the Committee know the reason for my absence, I would like for each member to have a copy of this letter and make it a part of the record, if this is permissible.

Thank you for your kind help and concern.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Michael G. Nettles

MGN/csb

cc: J. J. Gentry