

CAUSE NO. _____

UNAUTHORIZED PRACTICE OF	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
LAW COMMITTEE,	§	
<i>Plaintiff</i>	§	
	§	
vs.	§	HARRIS COUNTY, TEXAS
	§	
BELINDA PUNTANEN	§	
<i>Defendant</i>	§	_____ JUDICIAL DISTRICT

PLAINTIFF'S ORIGINAL PETITION, APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY INJUNCTION AND PERMANENT INJUNCTION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), complaining of BELINDA PUNTANEN ("Defendant"), and for cause of action would respectfully show unto the Court the following:

I. Discovery Level

1. Plaintiff intends to conduct discovery in this case pursuant to Level 2 of Rule 190 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

II. Parties

2. Plaintiff is a standing committee of the Supreme Court of Texas created by the Texas Legislature pursuant to Texas Government Code § 81.103 and § 81.104, with its members having been appointed by the Honorable Supreme Court of the State of Texas.

3. Defendant BELINDA PUNTANEN is an individual and may be served with process at 116 S. Avenue C, Humble, Texas 77339, or at any other address at which she may be found.

III. Background Facts

4. Plaintiff would show that it is authorized to bring this action pursuant to Texas Government Code § 81.101, *et. seq.*

5. Plaintiff would show that Defendant is not a duly licensed attorney in the State of Texas nor is she a member of the State Bar of Texas, so as to allow her to appear before the courts of this State or to engage in other acts, practices, and conduct which would constitute the practice of law.

6. Plaintiff would show that Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in acts constituting the unauthorized practice of law.

7. Plaintiff would show that Defendant is prohibited by Sections 81.101 and 81.102 of the Texas Government Code from engaging in the practice of law in Texas. Nevertheless, Defendant has engaged, and continues to engage, in a persistent pattern of conduct and action constituting the practice of law. Defendant's acts and practices of which Plaintiff complains include, but are not limited to:

- a. Advising persons as to their legal rights, remedies, duties, and privileges under the law;
- b. Advising persons as to their legal rights with regard to legal proceedings;
- c. Preparing pleadings, briefs and other legal instruments for filing in legal proceedings in which she is not a party;
- d. Selecting various types of legal instruments ranging from wills to custody papers;
- e. Misrepresenting her status regarding qualifications to practice law or prepare legal documents in this state; and
- f. Collecting fees for acts constituting the practice of law which Defendant is unlicensed to practice.

8. Plaintiff will show that for over a decade Defendant has engaged and continues to engage in acts constituting the unauthorized practice of law in direct violation of the Texas Government Code § 81.101 and § 81.102, having been previously sued by Plaintiff on August 11, 2003, which such suit was dismissed as Defendant could not be located for service.

IV. Request for Temporary/Permanent Injunction

9. Plaintiff has reason to believe and does believe that, because of Defendant's pattern of practice and conduct, Defendant will, in the future, engage in a course of conduct that is similar to that course of conduct set out in the above paragraphs, which would constitute the unauthorized practice of law.

10. The public interest and protection of the public demand that legal advice and legal services be rendered only by persons duly qualified, schooled, and educated in the law and who are attorneys duly admitted to practice under the laws of the State of Texas. Public interest demands that persons receiving legal services will receive the same directly from qualified persons who are at all times subject to the ethical considerations and disciplinary rules of the State Bar of Texas and of our Courts.

11. Further, it is one of the functions of the State Bar of Texas to aid in maintaining high standards of professional conduct of attorneys and professional services and to protect the public against unqualified and unlicensed persons rendering legal services and to protect professional standards and public reputation of attorneys and the legal profession.

12. Plaintiff has no adequate remedy at law from which to prevent the activities of Defendant because the actions of Defendant, who is not an attorney, have the potential to affect the rights of the general public of the State of Texas. Plaintiff would further show that irreparable

harm would occur to the consuming public of which there would likely be no remedy and certainly no adequate legal remedy should Defendant's activities continue unabated.

13. Plaintiff seeks from this Court a temporary and permanent injunction against the Defendant enjoining the Defendant from engaging in acts or practices which constitute the unauthorized practice of law. Plaintiff is willing to post a bond.

V. Jury Demand

14. The Committee demands a jury trial and tenders the appropriate fee with this Petition.

VI. Prayer

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiff prays that Defendant be cited to appear and answer herein as required by law and that, upon final hearing hereof:

- a. A temporary injunction be issued, after notice to the Defendant and an evidentiary hearing, restraining Defendant from committing those acts as more fully set forth herein in Paragraphs 7(a)-(f) during the pendency of this action;
- b. A permanent injunction be issued, upon final trial of this matter, restraining Defendant from committing those acts as more fully set forth herein in Paragraphs 7(a)-(f);
- c. The Court award Plaintiff its costs of court; and
- d. Such other and further relief, whether regular or special, in law or in equity, as Plaintiff shows itself to be justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

COKINOS, BOSIEN & YOUNG

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Unofficial Copy Office of Marilyn Bunn District Clerk

VERIFICATION

THE STATE OF TEXAS

§

COUNTY OF HARRIS

§

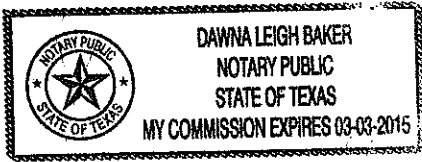
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BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared ~~AB~~ ABIE G. SPRAGUE, who, after being first duly sworn on her oath according to law, deposes and says that she makes this affidavit as a Member of the Houston Sub-Committee of the Unauthorized Practice of Law Committee of the State Bar of Texas, and that the factual allegations as set out in the foregoing pleading are true and correct.



ABBIE G. SPRAGUE

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME on this the 13th day of March 2014, to certify which witness my hand and seal of office.





NOTARY PUBLIC - THE STATE OF TEXAS

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