

## SHORT FORM ORDER

## SUPREME COURT - STATE OF NEW YORK

Present: HON. THOMAS P. PHELAN,

Justice.

**Plaintiffs** 

Nationwide General Insurance Company,

TRIAL/IAS PART 2 NASSAU COUNTY

Index No. 012425/11

-against-

Linwood Bates III, Dwayne Bryan, Christina Robles, Jabes Nunez, Christopher Morales, Jaime Joseph, Kareem James, Miguel Ortiz, Elizabeth Sellers, Allen Sellers, Edward Richardson, Tristian McCall (Individual Defendants), MOTION SEQUENCE #002 ORIGINAL RETURN DATE: 03/02/12

SUBMISSION DATE: 03/02/12

-and-

5S & A Rehab Physical Therapy, PC, Active Care Medical Supply, Corp., Arcadia Imaging, PC, Baron Lea, Inc., Big Apple Chiropractic, PC, Bronx Boulevard Medical, PC, Bronx Modern Medical Pavillion, PC, Brooklyn Anesthesia Group, PC, Community Medical Care of NY, PC, Diagnostid Chiropractic Services, PC, Dynamic Pro Physical Therapy, PC, East Tremont Medical, PC, East Tremont Medical Center, Eastchester Precision Medical, PC, Expert Massage Therapy, PC, Five Boro Psychological and Licensed Social Master Social Work Services, PLLC, FYZ Acupuncture, PC, Garden Medical Diagnostics, PC, Heights Chiropractic Services, PC, Heights Surgicare AKA The Heights Surgicare, Hu Nam Nam, Jadwiga Pawlowski, Lemonti Medical, PC, M. Sadees, MD, PC, Mobility Experts Medical, PC, Power Supply, Inc., Quest Supply, Inc., RB Chiropractic Care, PC, Richard M. Seldes, MD, PC, Socrates Medical Health, PC, Southern 788 Medical, PC, St. Lukes Roosevelt Hospital, Star Medical & Diagnostic, PLLC, Steven Struhl, MD, PLLC, Supreme Health Chiropractic, PC, Ultimate Health Products, Inc., Wellcare Chiropractic, PC, Zion Acupuncture, PC (Provider Defendants)

Collectively, the Defendants.

The following papers read on this motion:

Notice of Motion	1
Stipulation	

Plaintiff moves for an order granting judgment by default, pursuant to CPLR 3215, and for an inquest on reimbursement against the following defendants:

Jabes Nunez, Jaime Joseph, Miguel Ortiz, Elizabeth Sellers, Allen Sellers, Edward Richardson, Tristian McCall, 5S & A Rehab Physical Therapy, Arcadia Imaging, PC, Baron Lea, Inc., Bronx Boulevard Medical, PC, Brooklyn Anesthesia Group, PC, Bronx Modern Medical Pavillion, PC, Community Medical Care of NY, PC, Diagnostid Chiropractic Services, PC, Dynamic Pro Physical Therapy, PC, East Tremont Medical, PC, East Tremont Medical Center, Eastchester Precision Medical, PC, Expert Massage Therapy, PC, FYZ Acupuncture, PC, Garden Medical Diagnostics, PC, Heights Chiropractic Services, PC, Heights Surgicare AKA The Heights Surgicare, Jadwiga Pawlowski, Lemonti Medical, PC, M. Sadees, MD, PC, Mobility Experts Medical, PC, Power Supply, Inc., Quest Supply, Inc., RB Chiropractic Care, PC, Richard M. Seldes, MD, PC, Socrates Medical Health, PC, Southern 788 Medical, PC, St. Lukes Roosevelt Hospital, Star Medical & Diagnostic, PLLC, Steven Struhl, MD, PLLC, Supreme Health Chiropractic, PC, Wellcare Chiropractic, PC, Zion Acupuncture, PC

(the "Defaulting Defendants"). The court notes from the outset that this action is for a declaratory judgment and that no relief has been sought for reimbursement. Accordingly, that branch of plaintiffs' motion for an inquest on reimbursement is denied. Plaintiff also seeks an order granting an extension of time to effectuate service, pursuant to CPLR 306-b, as to defendants Christina Robles, Christopher Morales, Dwayne Bryan, Hu Nam Nam, Kareem James and Linwood Bates III.

By Stipulation dated February 22, 2011, the action was discontinued as to Arcadia Imaging, PC and Socrates Medical Health, PC only. Accordingly, the caption of the action is amended to delete Arcadia Imaging, PC and Socrates Medical Health, PC as defendants.

Plaintiff brings this action seeking a declaratory judgment that plaintiff has no duty

to provide liability coverage or no-fault or uninsured motorist benefits or to defend or indemnify any of defendants with respect to the underlying incidents of September 14, 2010, October 5, 2010, and December 1, 2010, under the policies of insurance issued to defendant Lindwood Bates III.

All of the Defaulting Defendants were served with the Summons and Verified Complaint. Counsel for plaintiff states that the Defaulting Defendants have failed to appear or otherwise move with respect to the complaint.

In support of plaintiff's claim, it submits an affirmation of counsel and an affidavit of Kari Francisco, Claims Specialist III of plaintiff, as well as a copy of the verified complaint (Ex. A).

Ms. Francisco avers that the claimants willfully caused the subject losses in an attempt to commit insurance fraud. With regard to the September 14, 2010, loss EUOs were requested of defendants Christina Robles, Jabes Nunez and Christopher Morales but only Jabes Nunez appeared (Francisco Aff. ¶17). It became apparent during Mr. Nunez' EUO that the subject incident was not an accident but a caused loss (Id. ¶20).

With regard to the October 5, 2010, incident EUOs were requested of defendants Miguel Ortiz, Joseph Jaime and Kareen James but only Miguel Ortiz appeared (Francisco Aff. ¶ 27). It became apparent during Mr. Ortiz' EUO that the subject incident was not an accident but a caused loss (Id. ¶30).

With regard to the December 1, 2010, incident EUOs were requested of defendants Tristian McCall, Elizabeth Sellers, Allen Sellers and Edward Richardson, all of whom failed to appear (Francisco Aff. ¶ 40). Failure to attend an EUO is a breach of the insurance contract (Id. ¶49).

Ms. Francisco avers that "[n]o party to [these losses] has furnished any proof to demonstrate that the subject [losses were] in fact an <u>accident</u> as opposed to one of a series of intentional acts designed to defraud Nationwide and the public" (Francisco Aff. ¶24, 34, 48).

The Individual Defendants purportedly sought treatment from the Provider Defendants for the injuries alleged to have been sustained as a result of the alleged

accidents.

Based upon all of the foregoing, plaintiff's motion for a default judgment is granted as against all of the Defaulting Defendants, with the exception of Arcadia Imaging, PC and Socrates Medical Health, PC.

Submit judgment.

Plaintiff's unopposed motion for an order, pursuant to CPLR 306-b, extending the time in which to serve defendants, Christina Robles, Christopher Morales, Dwayne Bryan, Hu Nam Nam, Kareem James and Linwood Bates, III, is granted.

Plaintiff has adequately demonstrated its attempts at service upon defendants, Christina Robles, Christopher Morales, Dwayne Bryan, Hu Nam Nam, Kareem James and Linwood Bates, III. The court, therefore, extends plaintiff's time to serve defendants, Christina Robles, Christopher Morales, Dwayne Bryant, Hu Nam Nam, Kareem James and Linwood Bates, III, "upon good cause shown" (CPLR 306-b) for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of this order. Service may be made pursuant to CPLR 308(2) or (4). In the event plaintiff is unable to effectuate service pursuant to those methods, an order of publication may be submitted.

To insure the expeditious completion of disclosure in this action, a Preliminary Conference shall be held. Counsel are directed to appear on May 30, 2012, at 9:30 a.m. in the Preliminary Conference area, lower level of this courthouse, to obtain and fill out a Preliminary Conference Order.

This decision constitutes the order of the court.

Dated: <u>Uprul 30,2012</u>

THOMAS P. PHELAN, J.S.C.

ENTERED

MAY 01 2012

NASSAU COUNTY
COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE

## **Attorneys/Parties of Record:**

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and

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Dwayne Bryan Defendant 1069 Teller Avenue, Apartment 3B Bronx, New York 10456

Christina Robles
Defendant
659 West 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apartment6
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Jabes Nunez
Defendant
155 West 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apartment 3B
Bronx, New York 10452

and

1555 West 162<sup>nd</sup> Street, Apartment 3B Bronx, New York 10452

Christopher Morales
Defendant
1126 Underhill Avenue, Apartment 2
Bronx, New York 10472

and

1025 Freeman Street New York, New York 10459

Jaime Joseph Defendant 890b Union Avenue Bronx, New York 10459

Kareem James Defendant 2557 Radcliff Avenue Bronx, New York 10469

Miguel Ortiz
Defendant
2375 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue
New York, New York 10035

and

2375 1st Avenue, Apartment 8G New York, New York 10035

Elizabeth Sellers Defendant 285 East 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment 14C Bronx, New York 10451

Allen Sellers
Defendant
285 East 156<sup>th</sup> Street, Apartment 14C
Bronx, New York 10451

Edward Richardson Defendant 1760 Story Avenue, Apartment 5D Bronx, New York 10473 Tristian McCall
Defendant
1762 Story Avenue, Apartment 7B
Bronx, New York 10473

5S & A Rehab Physical Therapy Defendant 1656 East 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Second Floor Brooklyn, New York 11229

and

446 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street Bronx, New York 10455

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Baron Lea, Inc., Defendant 79-25 - 150<sup>th</sup> Street, #C23 Flushing, New York 11367

Bronx Boulevard Medical, PC Defendant 4256-2 Bronx Boulevard Bronx, New York 10466

Brooklyn Anesthesia Group, PC Defendant c/o Evans Crevecoeur 565 Conway Road Elmont, New York 11101

Bronx Modern Medical Pavillion, PC Defendant 446 East 149<sup>th</sup> Street Bronx, New York 10455 Community Medical Care of NY, PC Defendant 11 Heather Lane Muttontown, New York 11753

Diagnostic Chiropractic Services, PC Defendant 629 West 185<sup>th</sup> Street New York, New York 10033

and

451 Grandview Avenue Flushing, New York 11385

and

c/o Allen Kaplun, Esq. 40 Exchange Place, Suite 2010 New York, New York 10005

Hu Nam Nam Defendant 627 Chestnut Street Union, New York 07083

Dynamic Pro Physical Therapy, PC Defendant 1440-1 Outlook Avenue Bronx, New York 10465

East Tremont Medical, PC Defendant 491 East Tremont Avenue Bronx, New York 10457

East Tremont Medical Center Defendant 491 East Tremont Avenue Bronx, New York 10457

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Eastchester Precision Medical, PC Defendant 2540 Eastchester Road Bronx, New York 10469

Expert Massage Therapy, PC Defendant 788 Southern Boulevard Bronx, New York 10455

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FYZ Acupuncture, PC Defendant 200-14 - 144<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Second Floor Bayside, New York 11361

Garden Medical Diagnostics, PC Defendant 350 Old Country Road, Suite 106 Garden City, New York 11530

Heights Chiropractic Services, PC Defendant c/o Dr. Andrew Garcia 190 Schweitzer Lane Bardonia, New York 1954

Heights Surgicare AKA The Heights Surgicare Defendant 629 West 185<sup>th</sup> Street, Fifth Floor New York, New York 10033

Jadwiga Pawlowski Defendant 41-37 - 74<sup>th</sup> Street Elmhurst, New York 11373 Lemonti Medical, PC Defendant 3098 Arm Street Baldwin, New York 11510

M. Sadees, MD, PC Defendant 1615 East 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Brooklyn, New York 11230

Mobility Experts Medical, PC Defendant 22 Coleridge Street Brooklyn, New York 11235

Power Supply, Inc.
Defendant
737A Myrtle Avenue
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Quest Supply, Inc.
Defendant
24-16 - 34 Avenue
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RB Chiropractic Care, PC Defendant 1780 - 77<sup>th</sup> Street, 2F Brooklyn, New York 11214

Richard M. Seldes, MD, PC Defendant 95 University Place, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor New York, New York 10003

Southern 788 Medical, PC Defendant 788 Southern Boulevard Bronx, New York 10455 St. Lukes Roosevelt Hospital Defendant 111 Amsterdam Avenue New York, New York 10025

Star Medical & Diagnostic, PLLC Defendant 2747 Coney Island Avenue Brooklyn, New York 11235

and

2747 Coney Island Avenue, Second Floor Brooklyn, New York 11235

Steven Struhl, MD, PLLC Defendant 57 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 1406 New York, New York 10019

Supreme Health Chiropractic, PC Defendant 375 South End Avenue, Apartment 24N New York, New York 10280

Wellcare Chiropractic, PC 4256 Bronx Boulevard Bronx, New York 10466 Defendant

Zion Acupuncture, PC Defendant 37-06 Prince Street, #3A Flushing, New York 11354