### IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS HOUSTON DIVISION

DAVE CAMPBELL and DAWN CAMPBELL,

Plaintiffs,

V.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, SINC., CLYDE ENGLE, WOODLAND LAKES TRUSTEESHIP, INC., FRANCIS OSCAR DARIAN, JR., LAWRENCE DEIS, CRAIG KINMANN, ARTHUR HURLBURT, SINCSELL RICHARDS, DEBORAH CLUTTER, PATTY EDGAR, CRYSTAL KALLANSRUD, SIMONE HATTON, LAWRENCE ANDERSON, LINDA WADE, CHERYL DAVIS, AND TOM COLYOTT.

Defendants,

C. A. No. 4:12-cv-00165

# DEFENDANTS' RESPONSE TO PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR LEAVE OF COURT TO AMEND PETITION

### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE ELLISON:

Defendants Woodland Lakes Trusteeship, Inc., Deborah Clutter, Lawrence Deis, Francis Darian, Jr., Russell Richards, Craig Kinmann, Arthur Hurlburt, Thomas Colyott, Linda Wade, Crystal Kallansrud, Patty Edgar, Simone Hatton, Cheryl Davis, and Larry Anderson respectfully request that this Court deny Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave of Court to Amend Petition and issue an order dismissing this action pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(2) for the following reasons:

## The Court lacks personal jurisdiction over Defendants.

Plaintiffs Dawn and Dave Campbell sued Woodland Lakes Trusteeship, Inc., Deborah Clutter, Lawrence Deis, Francis Darian, Jr., Russell Richards, Craig Kinmann, Arthur Hurlburt, Thomas Colyott, Linda Wade, Crystal Kallansrud, Patty Edgar, Simone Hatton, Cheryl Davis, and Larry Anderson. All of these defendants are nonresidents that lack contacts with Texas and have thus asked this Court to dismiss plaintiffs' claims against them for lack of personal jurisdiction. See Docket Entry No. 5.

### Plaintiffs' amended petition and opposition to the motion to dismiss do not meet Plaintiffs' burden to establish personal jurisdiction.

When a nonresident defendant moves to dismiss for lack of personal jurisdiction, it is the plaintiff's burden to establish a prima facie case for personal jurisdiction. Stuart v. Spademan, 772 F.2d 1185, 1192 (5th Cir. 1985); see also Ham v. La Cienega Music Co., 4 F.3d 413, 415 (5th Cir. 1993). As explained in Defendants' Motion to Dismiss, Plaintiffs did not meet this burden in their Petition. Likewise, Plaintiffs make no attempt to meet this burden in either their Amended Petition or their Opposition or Objections to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. See Docket Entry Nos. 6 & 9.

In fact, the Plaintiffs concede that "Defendants are residents of Missouri, Illinois/or Hawaii, and North Carolina." (Docket Entry No. 9 at 9-22; see also Docket Entry No. 1 at 9). And Plaintiffs cannot point to a single contact between Defendants and the State of Texas. The single piece of evidence Plaintiffs do rely upon, a website printout attached to Plaintiffs' Objections and Opposition to Defendants' Motion to Dismiss, is not relevant to the issue before the Court. As evidenced by Plaintiffs' exhibit, this website is maintained not by any of the

Plaintiffs also sued National Development Company, Inc. and Clyde Engel. The undersigned counsel believes that National Development Company no longer exists. Neither National Development Company nor Clyde Engel has been served.

defendants, but rather by the Woodland Lakes Property Owners Association. See Docket Entry No. 6. But even if this website were maintained by Defendants, it is not an interactive website through which defendants do business with Texas residents. Rather, it is a passive website which, the Fifth Circuit has decided, is "not grounds for the exercise of personal jurisdiction." Mink v. AAAA Development LLC, 190 F.3d 333, 336 (5th Cir. 1999).

### 3. Conclusion.

Since Plaintiffs cannot meet their burden of establishing a prima facie case for personal jurisdiction, Defendants respectfully request that this Court deny Plaintiffs' Motion for Leave to Amend Petition and grant Defendants' Motion to Dismiss.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Casey T. Wallace

Casey T. Wallace State Bar No. 00795827 Southern District Bar No. 20117 1221 McKinney Street, Suite 2100 Houston, Texas 77010-2007 Telephone: (713) 547-2516 Facsimile: (713) 236-5695

casey.wallace@haynesboone.com

#### OF COUNSEL:

Mike A. Stafford
State Bar No. 18996970
Southern District Bar No. 20898
mike.stafford@haynesboone.com
Katharine D. David
State Bar No. 24045749
Southern District Bar No. 576771
kate.david@haynesboone.com
HAYNES AND BOONE, LLP
1221 McKinney Street, Suite 2100
Houston, Texas 77010-2007
Telephone: (713) 547-2600
Facsimile: (713) 547-2600

ATTORNEY-IN-CHARGE FOR DEFENDANTS

### CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on this 27th day of March 2012, a true and correct copy of this motion was filed with the Court's ECF system and was served on the following parties via First Class and certified mail, return receipt requested:

Plaintiffs, Pro Se:

Dave and Dawn Campbell 109 Rainbow Drive #921 Livingston, Texas 77399

/s/ Casey T. Wallace
Casey T. Wallace

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