

THE HON. MARSHA J. PECHMAN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

A.B., by and through her next friend CASSIE
CORDELL TRUEBLOOD, *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES, *et al.*,

Defendants.

No. 14-cv-01178-MJP

DECLARATION OF DINO SEPE

I, Dino Sepe, declare as follows:

1. I am over the age of eighteen, have personal knowledge of the matters stated herein, and am competent to testify thereto.

2. I am an attorney with the Pierce County Department of Assigned Counsel, where I have worked since 1998.

3. I currently represent Jonte Willis, a local boxing legend who, as a result of his boxing career, has a provisionally diagnosed traumatic brain injury.

4. Mr. Willis has no prior criminal convictions. He was arrested this year for assaulting his girlfriend while he was in a delusional state. I understand that his girlfriend called 911 in an effort to get him help.

1 5. Mr. Willis was booked into the Pierce County Jail on July 23, 2014, where he
2 mentally deteriorates by the day. Attached as Exhibit A is a true and accurate copy of the
3 Tacoma News Tribune article written on November 23, 2014, about Mr. Willis' prolonged
4 detention in Pierce County Jail.

5 6. My understanding is that Mr. Willis gets no mental health treatment, no
6 medication, and no counseling at the jail. *Id.*

7 7. Due to the severity of his mental incapacity and traumatic brain injury, Mr. Willis
8 is unable to assist in his own defense and I have been unable to proceed with defending his case.

9 REDACTED

10 REDACTED

11 8. On August 27, 2014, Mr. Willis was court ordered to be admitted to WSH for
12 restoration. Attached as Exhibit C is a true and accurate copy of the court's order for
13 competency restoration services from Western State Hospital ("WSH").

14 9. On October 3, 2014, I reached out to Pierce County Jail to determine when my
15 client was going to be transported from jail to WSH. Attached as Exhibit D is a true and
16 accurate copy of the email exchange.

17 10. The response was that Mr. Willis would not be going to WSH until the end of
18 November. *Id.*

19 11. I filed motion for contempt on October 9, 2014. Attached as Exhibit E is a true
20 and accurate copy of my motion, brief, and declaration.

21 12. The judge signed the contempt order on October 21, 2014. The order sanctioned
22 WSH \$500 per day starting on October 21, 2014 and totaled approximately \$ 17,500 in all up to
23

1 November 26, 2014. Attached as Exhibit F is a true and accurate copy of the court order finding
2 contempt.

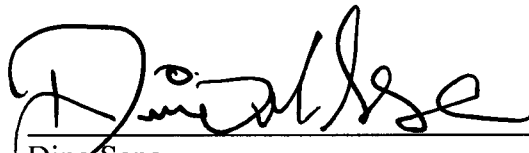
3 13. Mr. Willis waited approximately 90 days for admission to WSH for restoration
4 services. He was finally taken to WSH on November 26, 2014. Attached as Exhibit G is a true
5 and accurate copy of the email from WSH.

6 14. For the last three months he was in jail, Mr. Willis was held in solitary
7 confinement at Pierce County Jail for at least twenty-three hours a day while waiting for
8 admission to WSH for the restoration services he has been court-ordered to receive. Because of
9 his location in the jail, Mr. Willis has not seen his children since being incarcerated at Pierce
10 County Jail.

11 15. The length of time my clients like Mr. Willis wait for competency evaluation and
12 restoration services is a long-standing problem that only seems to be getting worse. I've never
13 been more frustrated in all my years of doing this work. We're dealing with human beings.
14 We're dealing with people who are mentally ill, people who need help — and they aren't getting
15 the help they desperately need.

16 I declare under penalty of perjury under 28 U.S.C. § 1746, that the forgoing is true and
17 accurate.

18 DATED this 5th day of December, 2014, at Tacoma, Washington.

19
20
21 
22 Dino Sepe
23 WSBA # 15879

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on December 5, 2014, I electronically filed the foregoing with the Clerk of the Court using the CM/ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the following:

- John K McIlhenny (JohnM5@atg.wa.gov)
- Nicholas A Williamson (NicholasW1@atg.wa.gov)
- Sarah Jane Coats (sarahc@atg.wa.gov)
- Amber Lea Leaders (amberl1@atg.wa.gov)

DATED: December 5, 2014, at Seattle, Washington

/s/La Rond Baker

La Rond Baker

Attorney for Plaintiffs