

Amicus Curiae Letter

Dear Your Honor,

My name is Alvin Mason, and I am a former attorney. I have not practiced law (litigation) in over 12 years. I assisted Mr. Rich in this complaint and with your permission I will be the point of contact for Mr. Rich with the court. It is necessary for the plaintiff to have a permanent point of contact since his housing situation is so unstable.

I first became involved in what I call the Matter of Glen Rich when I was the Director of the Brethren Nutrition Program, a soup kitchen located within the (defendant's) Church of the Brethren, a church I had been a member of for approximately seven (7) years.

During that time I shared an office with (defendant) He told me on several occasions that a blind man (plaintiff Glen Rich) lost his house because he gave his money to my predecessor Fred for the purpose of paying his mortgage and Mr. kept his money.

When I saw Fred confronted him about the blind man's house. He said, "that wasn't me Alvin, that was (defendant). When I asked the blind man (Glen Rich) he told me that defendant was the person who played a part in his misfortune.

I investigated and I reported to the church governing council. They did nothing. They would not even investigate. Defendant Alice was and still is the pastor and the plaintiff had previously told her what happened.

co-chair of the Administrative Council, said the church was not responsible. I told her that I once had been a lawyer and there was potential liability.

Part of the church's thinking is that charitable immunity would prohibit them from liability. That thinking is erroneous based on the landmark case President and Directors of Georgetown College v. Hughes, 130 F.2d 810 (D.C. Cir. 1942). That case has not been overturned in the District of Columbia. The church also does not want to admit that Chaplain (defendant) was an agent/employee of the church.

Mr. Rich has not been able to get assistance from legal aid (that organization does not sue for tort claims). I feel he should be heard. Lawyers that I know would publicize this case and money would be their primary objective. I fear the institution of the church could be harmed by publicity.

I am helping Mr. Rich without compensation. However, I have written into a Power of Attorney Statement that should Mr. Rich die and his heirs continue this lawsuit that the court determine a just compensation for my work. Otherwise, all that I do is for the glory of God.

I investigated this matter and there is wrongdoing and conspiracies to cover up wrongdoing. Your Honor, the defendants need to know that their game is over. Then maybe they will sit down and talk and we will not have to waste the court's time.

Mr. Rich is willing to have a jury trial or a trial by judge. However, Mr. Rich does not want any alternative dispute resolution that will not include penalties for perjury. It is because of lies that this lawsuit is necessary.

I am preparing Mr. Rich for the initial appearance. If this goes to trial this case might be transferred to an attorney or a civil litigation clinic at a law school. It is also

possible that lawyers for the National Federation for the Blind might assist Mr. Rich. As a last resort I will enroll in an area law school civil litigation clinic and handle this case under Rule 101(e) District of Columbia Rules of Court. However, since I am a material witness acting as an attorney in court would be awkward.

However, I cannot stand by idly and do nothing since I am personally outraged that a church I was a member of and worshipped at for so many years could condone such behavior, being more concerned about liability than righteousness.

I am so sure that Mr. Rich has been injured by the negligence and wrongdoing of the defendants and that the wrongdoing is so reprehensible in that a church helped facilitate a blind man's injury as to shock the consciousness of the court. I respectfully request that if Mr. Rich does not prove wrongdoing that you hold me, Alvin F. Mason in contempt of court.

I have already prayed for wisdom knowing that my ultimate judgment from God will include how I behaved in this matter before the court.

Respectfully and regrettably,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alvin F. Mason".

Alvin F. Mason