

SZAFERMAN LAKIND

Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C.
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1246 South River Road
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+Certified Matrimonial Attorney
++Certified Civil and Criminal Trial Attorne
*NJ & PA Bars
**NJ & NY Bars
***NJ, NY & PA Bars

December 8, 2017

Hon. Diane Gerofsky,
Surrogate, Mercer County
Mercer County Civil Courts Building
175 South Broad Street, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Re: Estate of Doris C. Gregory, Deceased

Dear Surrogate Gerofsky:

Enclosed please find an original and one copy of Notice of Motion for Counsel Fees, Certification of Counsel Fees, Proposed Order and Certification of Service.

Also enclosed is a check in the amount of \$15.00 for filing of the above. Please return a 'filed' copy to this office in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope attached.

Very truly yours,

SZAFERMAN, LAKIND,
BLUMSTEIN & BLADER, P.C.



BRUCE M. SATTIN, ESQ.

BMS:kh
Enclosures

SZAFERMAN, LAKIND, BLUMSTEIN
& BLADER, P.C.
By: Bruce M. Sattin, Esq. ID#002691987
101 Grovers Mill Road, Suite 200
Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648
Telephone: (609) 275-0400 / Facsimile: (609)779-6068

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DORIS C. GREGORY, deceased.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
CHANCERY DIVISION-PROBATE PART
MERCER COUNTY
DOCKET NO.: 14-0196

CIVIL ACTION

**NOTICE OF MOTION FOR COUNSEL
FEES**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on Thursday, January 11, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. or as soon thereafter as counsel may be heard, the undersigned will move before the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Probate Part, Mercer County Vicinage at the Courthouse at 175 South Broad Street, Trenton, New Jersey for an Order awarding counsel fees to be paid to the Law Firm of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C. from the Estate of Doris C. Gregory.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the undersigned shall rely upon the Certification of Counsel in support of said motion. A proposed form of order is annexed hereto.

This motion is submitted to the Court pursuant to R. 1:6-2, and it is respectfully requested, unless opposition is entered, that the Court rule on the moving papers.

SZAFERMAN, LAKIND,
BLUMSTEIN & BLADER, P.C.



By: BRUCE M. SATTIN, ESQ.

Dated: 12/7/2017

SZAFERMAN, LAKIND, BLUMSTEIN
& BLADER, P.C.
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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
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PROPOSED ORDER

THIS MATTER, having been opened to the Court on the application of Bruce M. Sattin, Esq. of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C., for an Order awarding Counsel Fees, and the Court having read the moving papers, and any papers filed in opposition thereto, and for good cause shown,

IT IS on this _____ day of _____, 2018, ORDERED

1. The legal fees of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C., in the amount of \$_____ and incurred costs in the amount of \$_____ are approved and are directed to be paid by the Administrator of the Estate of Doris C. Gregory.

2. A copy of this Order shall be served upon all parties within seven (7) days of the date hereof.

Hon. Paul Innes, P.J. Ch.

SZAFERMAN, LAKIND, BLUMSTEIN
& BLADER, P.C.

By: Bruce M. Sattin, Esq. ID#002691987

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
DORIS C. GREGORY, deceased.

SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
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CIVIL ACTION

CERTIFICATION OF COUNSEL FEES

I, Bruce M. Sattin, Esq., of the Law Firm of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader,
P.C., of full age do hereby state as follows:

1. I am an attorney at law and a partner of the Law Firm of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C., and the attorney entrusted with handling this matter.
2. I am fully familiar with the facts set forth in this Certification. I submit this Certification for counsel fees in connection with my firm's representation, and as Administrator, of the Estate of Doris C. Gregory (the "Estate").
3. I was appointed as Substitute Administrator of the Estate by the Court on December 21, 2016.
4. My normal rate is \$410.00 an hour, my associate, Jason M. Sokel, Esq's. normal rate is \$175.00 an hour, and my legal assistants' normal rate is \$110.00 an hour.
5. The hourly rates set forth are customary for experienced attorneys practicing in Mercer County, New Jersey, with similar background and experiences.

6. I have been an attorney for more than forty two (42) years, having been first admitted to practice law in the State of New Jersey in 1987. I was previously admitted to practice in Pennsylvania in 1975 and New York in 1981.
7. At all times relevant to this certification I was a partner at Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C.
8. Estate administration is a regular part of my practice.
9. My associate, Jason M. Sokel has been an attorney for more than three (3) years, having been first admitted to practice law in the State of New Jersey in 2014.
10. Mr. Sokel's practice consists of general corporate work, commercial real estate, and estate planning and administration.
11. Solely for the purpose of supporting this request for fees, I have attached a true and accurate copy of this Firm's most recent outstanding invoice for legal services detailing each time entry.
12. The total legal expenses incurred by the Estate, to date since I took over as Substitute Administrator, are currently \$10,073.50, and we have incurred costs of \$191.05, for a total of \$10,264.55.
13. This firm continues to work on the process of administering the Estate with the goal of closing out the Estate shortly.
14. This Firm has performed extensive legal work to administer the Estate and as such, is entitled to an award of counsel fees to be paid by the Estate.

I certify that the forgoing statements are true. I recognize that if any statement is willfully false that I am subject to punishment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce M. Sattin", written over a horizontal line.

BRUCE M. SATTIN, ESQ.

Dated: December 7, 2017

**SZAFERMAN
LAKIND** | **TRUE
COUNSEL®**

Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C.
Quakerbridge Executive Center
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Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

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Estate of Doris C. Gregory
Attn: Harry O'Malley, Dep Surrogate
Mercer Cty Surrogate
175 S. Broad Street, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08608

Invoice# 233853 BMS
Bill Date December 01, 2017
Our file# 79238 00001
Billing through 11/30/2017

00001 Estate Administration of Doris C. Gregory

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

12/01/2016	BMS	Estate of Gregory - Telephone call to James Monahan, Esq.	0.20 hrs.	\$300.00	\$60.00
12/02/2016	BMS	Estate of Gregory - Telephone call from Anthony Destribats and Nick Pantages; e-mail to all parties	0.30 hrs.	\$300.00	\$90.00
12/12/2016	BMS	Estate of Gregory - Review Consent Order; e-mails to/from Jim Manahan	0.20 hrs.	\$300.00	\$60.00
12/28/2016	BMS	Meet Lizette Hamden at Surrogate's office - qualify as Administrator; e-mail to all counsel	0.80 hrs.	\$300.00	\$240.00
01/06/2017	BMS	E-mails to/from Anthony Destribats and Nick Pantages	0.20 hrs.	\$300.00	\$60.00
02/13/2017	DLP	Review emails/documents regarding Gregory Estate.	0.40 hrs.	\$110.00	\$44.00
03/01/2017	BMS	Estate of Gregory - Telephone call from Constance Perry - claim for home care services	0.10 hrs.	\$300.00	\$30.00
04/10/2017	JMS	reviewed file for accounting of estate	1.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$175.00
04/18/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Jim Manahan and Nicholas Pantages; Document Review of Estate File	3.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$612.50
04/19/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Kerin Coughlin; Document Review	0.30 hrs.	\$175.00	\$52.50

Make checks payable to SZAFERMAN LAKIND. Please indicate client & invoice number on your check.

Date	Initials	Description	Hours	Rate	Amount
04/26/2017	JMS	Correspondence with John Manahan; Reviewed Assets and Creditors of Estate	0.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$87.50
04/27/2017	JMS	Due Diligence Regarding Property Tax on NY Property and Chase Bank Accounts	2.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$350.00
04/28/2017	BMS	Conference with Jason Sokel re: status of probate	0.30 hrs.	\$300.00	\$90.00
04/28/2017	JMS	Reviewed File and Chase Bank Paperwork	1.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$175.00
05/01/2017	BMS	Letter to Chase re: accounts; e-mails to/from Anthony Destribats	0.20 hrs.	\$300.00	\$60.00
05/01/2017	JMS	Prepared Letters to Chase and Santander; Correspondence with Nick Pantages	1.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$175.00
05/15/2017	JMS	Reviewed Chase Bank Documents; Correspondence with Chase	0.60 hrs.	\$175.00	\$105.00
05/16/2017	JMS	Reviewed Chase Bank Docs; Prepared Letter to Santander	0.40 hrs.	\$175.00	\$70.00
06/08/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Counsel; Review of File Regarding Chase and Santander Accounts	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
06/21/2017	BMS	Telephone call from Lisa Marie Fernandez	0.70 hrs.	\$300.00	\$210.00
06/21/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Lisa Fernandez	0.70 hrs.	\$175.00	\$122.50
06/23/2017	JMS	Reviewed Documentation Recieved From Lisa	2.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$350.00
06/29/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Santander; Reviewed File to Determine Assets	0.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$87.50
07/13/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Lisa; Review of Destribates Motion; Review of File	1.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$175.00
07/14/2017	BMS	E-mails to/from Lisa Fernandez and Sobia Arshad from Chase	0.30 hrs.	\$300.00	\$90.00
07/14/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Chase; Correspondence with Lisa; Research for Homeowners Insurance Policy; Correspondence with Borden Pearlman RE Homeowners Insurance	1.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$262.50

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Date	Initials	Description	Hours	Rate	Total
07/18/2017	JMS	Correspondence RE Homeowners Insurance; Correspondence with Borden Pearlman	0.80 hrs.	\$175.00	\$140.00
07/21/2017	JMS	Research RE NY Deed on How to Inavlidate Improper Deed; Correspondence with Client	2.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$385.00
07/26/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Borden Pearlman RE Homeowners Insurance	0.30 hrs.	\$175.00	\$52.50
07/27/2017	JMS	Correspondence with NY Comptrollers Office	0.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$87.50
08/04/2017	BMS	Meeting with Chase Bank re: account	0.70 hrs.	\$300.00	\$210.00
08/09/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Lisa	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
08/10/2017	JMS	Review of File; Correspondence with Santander; Correspondence and Application with NJ Unclaimed Funds; Correspondence with Client; Correspondence with James Manahan	3.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$525.00
08/11/2017	JMS	Correspondence RE Homeowners Insurance; Correspondence with Chase; Correspondence with Destribates; Fille out Insurance Paperwork	2.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$350.00
08/14/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Kerin Coughlin; Review of File (Specifically Personal Property Memo); Correspondence w/ Lisa; Correspondence w/ Colleen Hancock	2.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$350.00
08/15/2017	JMS	Compiled and Filed Claim Paperwork for NJ Unclaimed Property; NY Deed Correction Research	1.30 hrs.	\$175.00	\$227.50
08/18/2017	JMS	Correspondence with Colleen Hancock; Scheduling Time to View Property	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
08/21/2017	KXH	Preparation of letter to Colleen Hancock forwarding check for snow removal.	0.45 hrs.	\$110.00	\$49.50
08/21/2017	JMS	Corresopndence w/ Kerin Coughlin; Pay Bills RE Colleen Hancock; Research NY Deed Tranfer; Additional Insurance Paperwork	2.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$385.00

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Date	Initials	Description	Hours	Rate	Total
08/25/2017	JMS	Reviewed Utility and Property Tax Bills	0.10 hrs.	\$175.00	\$17.50
08/28/2017	JMS	Reviewed Homeowners Insurance Policy	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
08/29/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Lisa; Correspondence w/ Kerin; Review of File	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
08/30/2017	JMS	Correspondence/Research RE NY Unclaimed Funds Matter	1.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$175.00
09/19/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Colleen Hancock; Research into property tax owed	0.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$87.50
09/22/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Colleen; Correspondence w/ Bruce RE Access to Property	0.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$87.50
09/26/2017	BMS	Inspect house at 87 Acres Drive; duplicate keys	1.30 hrs.	\$300.00	\$390.00
09/26/2017	JMS	Visit to 87 Acres Drive for Inventory and Get Copies of Key Made	1.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$175.00
09/27/2017	BMS	E-mail to Lisa Marie Fernandez re: house	0.20 hrs.	\$300.00	\$60.00
09/28/2017	BMS	E-mails to/from Lisa Maria Fernandez; telephone call from Lisa Marie; e-mails to/from Nick Pantages; review Consent Order	1.40 hrs.	\$300.00	\$420.00
10/03/2017	BMS	Telephone call from Kerin Coughlin; review personal property list	0.70 hrs.	\$300.00	\$210.00
10/03/2017	KXH	Mail out checks to Twp of Hamilton and M Sabo; preparation of draft letter Twp of Hamilton Tax Collector; finalize, fax and mail.	0.50 hrs.	\$110.00	\$55.00
10/03/2017	JMS	Review of Documents RE Codicil; Correspondence w/ Kerin	0.40 hrs.	\$175.00	\$70.00
10/09/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Kerin	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
10/13/2017	JMS	Supervised Beneficiary at 87 Acres Drive For Removal of Specifically Gifted Items; Went Through Mail/Bills	3.00 hrs.	\$175.00	\$525.00
10/16/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Inspection Agent RE Insurance Inspection for 87 Acres Drive	0.40 hrs.	\$175.00	\$70.00

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10/18/2017	JMS	House Inspection for Insurance Purposes - Provided Access to 87 Acres	0.60 hrs.	\$175.00	\$105.00
10/20/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Kerin; Correspondence w/ Lisa RE Personal Property Distribution	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
10/23/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Lisa Marie	0.10 hrs.	\$175.00	\$17.50
11/09/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Lisa Marie Fernandez; Review of File	1.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$210.00
11/14/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Kerin	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
11/17/2017	BMS	E-mails to/from Lisa Fernandez re: real estate taxes and Verizon bill	0.40 hrs.	\$300.00	\$120.00
11/17/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Verizon RE Bill Dispute	1.50 hrs.	\$175.00	\$262.50
11/21/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Borden Perlman RE Insurance; Correspondence w/ Kerin RE Personal Property	0.30 hrs.	\$175.00	\$52.50
11/29/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Borden Perlman RE Insurance Coverage	0.20 hrs.	\$175.00	\$35.00
11/30/2017	JMS	Correspondence w/ Client	0.30 hrs.	\$175.00	\$52.50
					\$10,073.50

EXPENSES

12/23/2016	SURR03, Mercer County Surrogate; Invoice # 79238.1; Filing Fees - Administration Fee - BMS/dlp			\$185.00
10/13/2017	AMEX - 09/26/2017 - MERCER ACE HARDWARE 0000 - MERCERVILLE, NJ - (Estate of Doris Gregory) - Merchandise & Supplies-Hardware Supplies - BMS			\$4.25
11/30/2017	Copying/Duplicating			\$1.80
				\$191.05

Billing Summary

Total professional services	\$10,073.50
Total expenses incurred	\$191.05
Total of new charges for this invoice	\$10,264.55
Total balance now due	\$10,264.55

** Trust account remaining balance is \$58,193.66

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SZAFERMAN, LAKIND, BLUMSTEIN
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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
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SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY
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CIVIL ACTION

CERTIFICATION OF SERVICE


I, Karen Halko, hereby certify as follows:

1. I am a legal assistant with the law firm of Szaferman, Lakind, Blumstein & Blader, P.C., attorneys for the Estate in the above-captioned matter.
2. On December 8, 2017, I sent, via Regular and Certified Mail, copies of the Fee Application of Bruce M. Sattin, Esquire and the proposed form of Order by First Class Mail to:
Lisa Marie Fernandez, 255 Hudson Street, Apt. 4A, New York, NY 10013;
James Manahan, Esq., 3131 Princeton Pike, Bldg 4, Ste 206, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648; and
Nicholas Pantages, Esq., 247 White Horse Avenue, Hamilton, NJ 08610.

I hereby certify that the foregoing statements made by me are willfully true; I am aware that if any of the foregoing statements made by me are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

SZAFERMAN, LAKIND,
BLUMSTEIN & BLADER, P.C.

Dated: December 8, 2017

By: 
Karen Halko, Legal Assistant