

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION

IN RE

ERNIE HAIRE FORD, INC.,

Debtor.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

ERNIE HAIRE FORD, INC.,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 8:12-mc-97-T-33

Bankr. No. 8:08-bk-18672-MGW

Advs. Pro. No. 8:11-ap-01416-MGW

BENJAMIN J. ATKINSON and  
CLEARWATER AUTO EXCHANGE,  
INC.,

Defendants.

\_\_\_\_\_ /

**ORDER**

This matter comes before the Court pursuant to Benjamin Atkinson's Motion to Withdraw Reference from Bankruptcy Court to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida (Doc. # 2), filed on August 30, 2012. Ernie Haire Ford, Inc., filed a Response to Atkinson's Motion (Doc. # 4) on October 8, 2012.

The relevant Motion involves an adversary proceeding pending before the bankruptcy court in which Atkinson has filed an Answer and Demand for a Jury Trial. Atkinson expressly provides in the Motion to Withdraw Reference that he does not consent to a jury trial of the adversary proceeding in bankruptcy court. (Doc. # 2 at 4). Thus, Atkinson requests this Court to withdraw the

reference of the adversary proceeding so that the requested jury trial may be conducted before this Court instead.


Upon consideration, the Court declines to withdraw the reference. The Court concludes that permitting this adversary proceeding to remain in bankruptcy court for the disposition of all pretrial matters, including any dispositive motion, (1) advances uniformity of bankruptcy administration, (2) decreases both the likelihood of confusion and the opportunity to gain an advantage by forum shopping, (3) promotes the economical use of the parties' resources by limiting the bulk of the action to a single forum, and (4) facilitates the efficient administration of the debtor's estate. See In re Parklane/Atlanta Joint Venture, 927 F.2d 532, 536 (11th Cir. 1991). "[T]he bankruptcy judge is 'fully equipped' with the necessary judicial skills to determine and resolve all legal issues arising in this case prior to trial." Hvide Marine Towing, Inc. v. Kimbrell, 248 B.R. 841, 845 (M.D. Fla. 2000).

Accordingly, it is now

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED, and DECREED** that:

Defendant's Motion to Withdraw Reference from Bankruptcy Court to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida (Doc. # 2) is **DENIED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** to the extent that the parties may re-assert the request for withdrawal upon the conclusion of all pre-trial matters. The Clerk is directed to **CLOSE** this case.

**DONE** and **ORDERED** in Chambers, in Tampa, Florida, this 11th day  
of October, 2012.

  
VIRGINIA M. HERNANDEZ COVINGTON  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

Copies to:

Counsel of Record

Clerk, Bankruptcy Court