

GJR/DA
667-82153

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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ADRIAN SCHOOLCRAFT,

Plaintiff,

-against-

THE CITY OF NEW YORK, DEPUTY CHIEF
MICHAEL MARINO, Tax Id. 873220, Individually
and in his Official Capacity, ASSISTANT CHIEF
PATROL BOROUGH BROOKLYN NORTH
GERALD NELSON, Tax Id. 912370, Individually and
in his Official Capacity, DEPUTY INSPECTOR
STEVEN MAURIELLO, Tax Id. 895117, Individually
and in his Official Capacity CAPTAIN THEODORE
LAUTERBORN, Tax Id. 897840, Individually and in
his Official Capacity, LIEUTENANT JOSEPH GOFF,
Tax Id. 894025, Individually and in his Official
Capacity, SGT. FREDERICK SAWYER, Shield No.
2576, Individually and in his Official Capacity,
SERGEANT KURT DUNCAN, Shield No. 2483,
Individually and in his Official Capacity,
LIEUTENANT CHRISTOPHER BROSCART, Tax
Id. 915354, Individually and in his Official Capacity,
LIEUTENANT TIMOTHY CAUGHEY, Tax Id.
885374, Individually and in his Official Capacity,
SERGEANT SHANTEL JAMES, Shield No. 3004,
AND P.O.'s "JOHN DOE" #1-50, Individually and in
their Official Capacity (the name John Doe being
fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown)
(collectively referred to as "NYPD defendants"),
JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER, DR.
ISAK ISAKOV, Individually and in his Official
Capacity, DR. LILIAN ALDANA-BERNIER,
Individually and in her Official Capacity and
JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER
EMPLOYEE'S "JOHN DOE" # 1-50, Individually and
in their Official Capacity (the name John Doe being
fictitious, as the true names are presently unknown),

Defendants.
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**VERIFIED ANSWER TO
AMENDED COMPLAINT**

Civil Action No.:
10 CIV 6005 (RWS)

**JURY TRIAL
DEMANDED**

Defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER, by its attorneys, MARTIN
CLEARWATER & BELL LLP, answers the plaintiff's amended complaint as follows, upon
information and belief:

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

1. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "1", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

2. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "2".

JURISDICTION

3. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "3", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

VENUE

4. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "4", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

JURY DEMAND

5. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "5", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

PARTIES

6. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "6", "7", "8", "9", "10", "11" and "12".

7. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "14", except admits that at all relevant times herein, THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER is a private hospital duly licensed to operate under the laws of

the State of New York and operates a facility located at 8900 Van Wyck Expressway, Jamaica, New York.

8. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "15", except admits that at all relevant times herein, THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER is a private hospital duly licensed to operate under the laws of the State of New York and operates a facility located at 8900 Van Wyck Expressway, Jamaica, New York and begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

9. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "16" and "18", except admits that defendants DR. ISAK ISAKOV and DR. LILIAN ALDANA-BERNIER were, and still are, duly licensed to practice medicine in the State of New York.

10. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "17" and "19", except admits that defendants DR. ISAK ISAKOV and DR. LILIAN ALDANA-BERNIER were, and still are, associated with the defendant Hospital.

11. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "20".

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

12. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "21", "22", "23", "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47", "48", "49", "50", "51", "52", "53", "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77", "78", "79", "80", "81", "82", "83", "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "100", "101", "102",

“103”, “104”, “105”, “106”, “107”, “108”, “109”, “110”, “111”, “112”, “113”, “114”, “115”, “116”, “117”, “118”, “119”, “120”, “121”, “122”, “123”, “124”, “125”, “126”, “127”, “128”, “129”, “130”, “131”, “132”, “133”, “134”, “135”, “136”, “137”, “138”, “139”, “140”, “141”, “142”, “143”, “144”, “145”, “146”, “147”, “148”, “149”, “150”, “151”, “152”, “153”, “154”, “155”, “156”, “157”, “158”, “159”, “160”, “161”, “162”, “163”, “164”, “172”, “173”, “199”, “206”, “207”, “208”, “209”, “210”, “212”, “213”, “214”, “215”, “216”, “217”, “218”, “219”, “220”, “221”, “222”, “223”, “224”, “225”, “226”, “227”, “228”, “229”, “230”, “231”, “232”, “233”, “234”, “235”, “236”, “237” and “238”.

13. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated “165”, “167”, “170” and “197”, except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

14. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated “166”, “168”, “181” and “182” except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

15. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated “169”, “171”, “178”, “183”, “185”, “186”, “187”, “188”, “189”, “190”, “191”, “193”, “194”, “195”, “196”, “203”, “204”, “205”, “211”, “213”, “239” and “240”.

16. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated “174”, “175”, “176”, “177”, “179”, “180”, “184” and “192”, except admits that defendant rendered certain professional services in accordance with acceptable medical standards and due care and begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

17. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated “198”, “200”, “201”

and “202”, except admits that defendant rendered certain professional services in accordance with acceptable medical standards and due care and begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

AS TO THE FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
DEPRIVATION OF FEDERAL RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

18. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated “241”.

19. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated “242”, “243”, “244”, “245” and “246”.

AS TO THE SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF
FALSE ARREST UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

20. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated “247”.

21. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated “248” and “249”.

AS TO THE THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF
MALICIOUS ABUSE OF PROCESS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

~~22. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint~~

reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "250".

23. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "251", "252", "253", "254", "255" and "256".

AS TO THE FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
EXCESSIVE FORCE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

24. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "257".

25. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "258" and "259".

AS TO THE FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
FAILURE TO INTERCEDE UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

26. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "260".

27. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "261", "262", "263" and "264".

AS TO THE SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
UNLAWFUL SEARCH AND ENTRY UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

28. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint

reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "265".

29. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "266", "267", "268" and "269".

AS TO THE SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
INVOLUNTARY CONFINEMENT UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

30. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "270".

31. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "271", "272", "273", "274", "275" and "276".

AS TO THE EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
CONSPIRACY TO VIOLATE PLAINTIFF'S CIVIL RIGHTS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

32. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "277".

33. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "278", "279", "280", "281" and "282".

AS TO THE NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
VIOLATION OF DUE PROCESS UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

34. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint

reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "283".

35. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "284".

AS TO THE TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
MUNICIPAL LIABILITY UNDER 42 U.S.C. § 1983

36. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "285".

37. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "286", "289", "293", "294" and "295".

38. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "287", "288", "290", "291", "292" and "296".

PENDANT STATE CLAIMS

39. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "297".

40. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "298", "299", "300", "301" and "302".

41. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "303".

AS TO THE FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
ASSAULT

42. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "304".

43. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "305" and "306".

AS TO THE SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
BATTERY

44. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "307".

45. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "308" and "309".

46. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "310".

AS TO THE THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
FALSE ARREST

~~47. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "311".~~

48. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "312".

49. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "313" and "314".

AS TO THE FOURTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
FALSE IMPRISONMENT

50. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "315".

51. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "316", "317", "318", "319" and "320".

AS TO THE FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
INFLECTION OF EMOTIONAL DISTRESS

52. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "321".

53. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "322", "325", "326", "327", "328" and "329".

54. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "323" and "324".

AS TO THE SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
NEGLIGENT HIRING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION/RETENTION
(Defendant City of New York)

55. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint

reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "330".

56. Denies knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "331", "332", "333", "334", "335", "336", "337", "338", "339", "340", "341", "342", "343", "344", "345", "346", "347", "348", "349", "350", "351", "352" and "353".

AS TO THE SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
MEDICAL MALPRACTICE

57. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "354".

58. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "355", "356" and "357".

AS TO THE EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF UNDER N.Y. STATE LAW:
NEGLIGENT HIRING/TRAINING/SUPERVISION/RETENTION
(Defendant JHMC)

59. Repeats and reiterates each and every denial and denial of knowledge or information sufficient to form a belief as to each of the allegations of the amended complaint reiterated and realleged by the plaintiff in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "358".

60. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraph of the amended complaint designated "359", except begs leave to refer all questions of fact to the trier of fact and all questions of law to the Court.

61. Denies each and every allegation contained in the paragraphs of the amended complaint designated "360", "361" and "362".

AS A FIRST AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

62. Defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER denies liability, but if liability is found against this defendant and the liability is found to be 50% or less of the total liability assigned to all persons liable, then this defendant invokes the limits on liability for noneconomic loss set forth in CPLR §1601.

AS A SECOND AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

63. That defendant asserts the terms, provisions, limitations and rights contained in §4545 of the CPLR.

AS A THIRD AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

64. Whatever injuries plaintiff may have sustained at the time and place alleged in the amended complaint were caused in whole or in part or were contributed to by the culpable conduct and want of care on the part of the plaintiff.

AS A FOURTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

65. That the amended complaint fails to state a cause or causes of action upon which relief can be granted against defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER.

AS A FIFTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

66. Defendant reserves its rights pursuant to CPLR 3017(c) to move to strike plaintiff's AD DAMNUM clause and all other reference to specific amounts of monetary damages in plaintiff amended complaint.

AS A SIXTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

67. Defendant objects to all punitive language, as defendant was not negligent, careless nor reckless. Defendant reserves its right to strike any and all punitive language from the amended complaint and all future pleadings.

AS A SEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

68. This Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over this action.

AS AN EIGHTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

69. Defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER is immune from suit under the doctrines of qualified and absolute immunity.

AS A NINTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

70. Defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER at all times acted in good faith and with justification.

AS A TENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

71. Defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER was and is not a state actor.

AS AN ELEVENTH AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSE

72. The actions by defendant THE JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER were privileged under Article 9 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

WHEREFORE, defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER demands judgment dismissing the amended complaint herein, together with the costs and disbursements of this action.

Dated: New York, New York
October 6, 2010

Yours, etc.

MARTIN CLEARWATER & BELL LLP

By: 

Gregory J. Radomisli (GJR-2670)
Attorneys for Defendant
JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER
220 East 42nd Street
New York, NY 10017
(212) 697-3122

ATTORNEY'S VERIFICATION

I, Gregory J. Radomisli, the undersigned, an attorney admitted to practice in the courts of New York State, state that I am an attorney with the firm of MARTIN CLEARWATER & BELL LLP, the attorneys of record for defendant JAMAICA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER in the within action; I have read the foregoing **VERIFIED ANSWER TO AMENDED COMPLAINT** and know the contents thereof; the same is true to my own knowledge, except as to the matters therein stated to be alleged on information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true. The reason this verification is made by me and not by the defendant is that defendant has its place of business outside the county where the affirmant has his office.

The grounds of my belief as to all matters not stated upon my own knowledge are as follows: review of all file materials in the offices of MARTIN CLEARWATER & BELL LLP.

I affirm the foregoing statements are true, under the penalties of perjury.

Dated: New York, New York
October 6, 2010

By: 

Gregory J. Radomisli