

STATE OF MAINE

YORK, ss.

SUPERIOR COURT
CIVIL ACTION
DOCKET NO. RE-13-117

PAF-YOR-01-05-15

US BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
TRUSTEE, CREDIT SUISSE FIRST,

Plaintiff

v.

ORDER

MARTYN J. YOUNG, et al.

Defendants

The plaintiff has filed a complaint for foreclosure in 2011 based on a 2006 note in favor of an entity called Mortgage Network, Inc. The Youngs filed an answer which included affirmative defenses that the plaintiff had not complied with the notice provisions found at 14 M.R.S. §6111 and that it did "... not have standing to bring its complaint."

The case continued with a tortured history, which included an order from the District Court in October of 2012 imposing sanctions against the plaintiff for failure to mediate in good faith. At the conclusion of mediation the case was returned to this Court and a foreclosure scheduling order issued. The parties requested and received extensions of the discovery deadline.

The case was originally placed on the trial list starting August 25, 2014. Without objection the Court granted the plaintiff's request to continue the trial because of the Law Court decision from July, 2014 in *Bank of America v. Greenleaf*, 2014 ME 89.

The case was then placed on the list starting January 5, 2015 and the plaintiff's motion for special assignment was granted when the case was set for trial on January 5, 2015.

On December 30, 2014 the Clerk received the plaintiff's expedited motion to dismiss where the plaintiff sought to dismiss the case without prejudice because of unresolved standing issues. The motion was objected to and was argued today.

Counsel for the plaintiff indicated that the original lender might still exist at a location in Massachusetts. No efforts had been made to verify whether the original lender still maintained its corporate existence or would be willing to assign the mortgage to the plaintiff. The plaintiff's request for a dismissal without prejudice will not be granted given its slow and minimal efforts to resolve the standing question.

A dismissal with prejudice or a judgment for the defendants at this time is too harsh a remedy, as it appears that a substantial sum was borrowed and has not been repaid. However, the plaintiff has been aware of its standing problem for an extended period and has yet to make any significant efforts to remedy the problem. Given that a judgment for the defendants could have been granted, the sanction imposed on the plaintiff is a measured response and is within the inherent authority of the Court.

Within 10 days counsel for the defendants shall indicate, with supporting documentation, what his total bill for the entire case has been. He should deduct the \$2,000 sanction that has already been paid. The plaintiff shall have 10 days to respond after which the Court will review the bill and any objection and issue a fee award payable in full within 30 days thereafter.

Within 60 days the plaintiff shall indicate by affidavit that it has resolved its standing issues, that it cannot resolve the issues, or that it has filed suit against the original lender.

The entry is:

The case will be stayed for 90 days.

The expedited motion to dismiss is denied.

Dated: January 5, 2015



Paul A. Fritzsche
Justice, Superior Court

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