E. G. RICKARBY, JR.



POPPE BUILDING
FOLEY, ALABAMA

August 6, 1936.

Judge Francis Hare, Circuit Judge, Monroville, Alabama.

Dear Judge Hare: In re; Smith v. Cooney In Equity #96.

This cause was submitted to you under Chancery Rule 74 on a motion to quash the summons and subpeona as to Johm N. Allen, Esq., and Mrs. Mary Cooney Smith, and an demurrers by the Respondents Thomas J. Cooney, et al, the Executors of the estate of P. J. Cooney, Deceased.

We had been waiting to file our breif in response to the breif of the Movant and demurrant but as that has not reached our hands as yet and there are a few authorities that might aid the court in deciding the case I am writing this letter.

First as to the motion to quash, so far as Mr. Allen is concerned individually, I have carefully looked over the petition and can not find in it any think that I could construe as making him individually a party, therefore I conclude that he was made a party inadvertantly through some clerical error in the office of the Clerk or Sheriff's office. We do not want him as a party and consent to the court quashing the summons and subpoena as to him.

As to Mrs. Mary Cooney Smith's motion to quash we feel that she is entitled to notice of these proceedings and that they would be void without her being in court in the matter. The whole nature of the petition is to deprive her of an interest that she has in a cause of action. In the case of weaver v. Cooper 73 Ala. 318 the court said-

"The only necessary party defendant to the petition, of an attorney seeking to establish a lien on funds of his client, the party for whose benefit the services were rendered, having appeared and answered, notice of the petition was thereby dispensed with."

Does Mrs. Smith contend that she should not be made a party to a proceeding where her claim is being subjected to a charge that she put on it?

As to the demurrers we wish to call the Court's attention to the fact that we are not proceeding under the common law remidy but under the statute Code Section 6262 subsection 2-

Judge Francis Hare, page 2, Smith v. Cooney.

"Upon suits, judgements, and decrees for money, they shall have a lien superior to all liens but taxeliens, and no person shall be at liberty to satisfy said suit, jusgment or decree, until the lien or claim of the attorney for his fee is fully satisfied; and attorneys at law shall have the same right and power over said suit, judgments and decrees, to enforce their liens, as their clients had or may have for the amount due thereon to them."

This in my opinion disposes of the first three grounds of demurrer and as to the fourth ground:

The petition does pray and notice was given to the Respondents in the dase of Mary Cooney Smith v. Thomas J. Cooney, et al as executors. Service was had on them by notice on John N. Allen, Esquire, their attorney of record in the cause. Furthermore code section 9420 provides-

*When there are two or more executors or administrators of an estate, service or summons on one is sufficient."

With the law in this all statutory and all the statutes plain we feel that the Court will be able the dispose of these demurrers and motions in time to allow issue to be joined on the petition by the next term of the Equity court.

Thanking you for your consideration in this matter, I am,

E/K.

Yours respectfully,

SOLICITOR NO PETE SOLER

A carbon copy of this letter is this day sent to John N. Allen, Esq., Solteitor of record for Respondent's Thomas J. Cooney, et al.

E. G. RICKARBY, JR.

LAWYER

POPPE BUILDING FOLEY, ALABAMA

August 12, 1936.

Honorable F. W. Hare, Circuit Judge, Monrosville, Allebama.

Dear Judge: - IN RE: MARY C. SMITH V. THOMAS J. COONEY, ET AL.

Now that you have received Mr. Allen's brief in the above and as he has studied over our petition and pointed out to all the points that he thinks necessary to have you look into to have you properly decide this case I will answer his objuctions on this page to save your time. If you would like to satisfy your mind about the other questions that you raised when you did not think that he was contesting this petition you look over the other pages of this letter.

As you see by Mr. Allen's letter his only contention is that the intervenior has no lien for his fee until it has been judicially ascertained what his fee is. He cites no cases to sustain his position and the Code section 6262 certainly do not bear him out in this.

Therefore this brings us back to your idea that 6262 of the code has no application as 6261 governs the administration of trust estates in the probate and chancery courts.

My contention is that 6261 only authorizes the judge to fix the fee of counsel and tax it against the costs in the case when the attorney renderes a service to the estate as a whole as distinguished from a service to one particular heir. Graham v. Graham 207 Ala. 648. It conferes nothing on attorney's who just get their clients their rights out of an estate.

Therefore as 6261 allowed the judge to reward attorneys when in the performance of their duty to their client they cannich or benefit an estate. It does not seem to us that this would nulify an absolute right given by the law which gives an attorney a right to and a part in the claim of their client to secure their fees for work done on that claim, especially as this right was given to the attorney under the law before the statute was passed.

Perhaps the reason that we are having to litigate our rights in this case is bacause the Court and the opposing counsel do not understand exactly what we are fighting for. For this reason I am making this statement of the matter and hope that it will clear up some of the difficulties.

This petition of intervention is filed for two purposes.

First: Under 6261 showing that the petitioner transfered this estate from the Probate Court where it had lain dormant for about five years without anything being done to protect the interests of the heirs or even let them know of what the estate consists, except the executors statement that the estate was valued at \$50,000.00, into the Chancery Court. In the cases of Bidwell v. Johnson 195 Ala 547, 70 SO 685 and Exp McLendon 212 Ala. 403 102 So. 696 this has been held to be a benefit to the estate and as such the Court is authorized to fix the fees of counsel and tax them as part of the costs in the case.

Second: Under 6262 showing that the petitioner has as the attorney of record for Mrs. Smith showed her suit against the executors and as such attorney become entitled to a lien on her distributive share in the estate asked to be allowed to carry the matter to a conclusion so as to determin his fee. We are in this position we can not sue at law for our fee for it is under contract the amount to be determined by the amount that Mrs. Smith is to get from the estate. It seems only fair to us that the court allow us to have the Executor show the money that he owes to Mrs. Smith and then have him give us the money she owes us out of the money that the estate owes her.

Regarding the necessity to the order of court authorixing a petition of intervention: We feel that the Court could better rule on the matter if the whole petition of intervention were put before it and then if the opposing counsel desired to have the application for the order we could file the application on his objection. He makes no paint of this but to make the record complete we are now filing one with the clerk. As the Court will notice Mr. Allen has joined issue of law on the right to the interveniors lien. I am also asking the Clerk to send to the court the papers that show that Mr. Allen is attorney of record for Mrs. Smith now.

We agree with the Court that it would be anomalous for an attorney just to collect a fee to take charge of the administration of an estate, but if the Executors will not obey the orders of the court the law certainly gives the power to the court to remove them. However I have only asked that the Court again order them to file an accounting (although an order has been made in this cause requiring them to show cause why they should not be removed and

Removed and then determin our fee. We do not ask that it be paid right now but that it be ordered paid unless it works a hardship on the estate. In that case we shall wait for its payment but we do ask that the executors be put nuder bond for the faithfull performance of their duties to save any further litigation in this matter.

We respectfully submit that it has never been the intention of this petitioner to oust the executors and take charge of the estate, and if that was the intention a motion could have been filed to that effect when the petitioner first took charge of the case for the reason that the executors have not made yearly accountings. Up until Mrs. Smith decided she wanted to go no further in the case the record in the case will show that the petitioner was asking for a sister what her brothers wheredoing with her father's estate in which she had an interest and only because they refused to give any infomation did he take any action to have them removed.

We feel as you do that Cooney's know the property and should be able to handle the estate so as to get the most out of it. On the other hand what you'd you do if you were employed by a party to get a one sixth share of an estate of her father's which her brothers valued at fifty thousand dollars but refused to give her any infomation either personally, throught her attorney or through the courts as to the assets?

Furthermore would not you feel that your rights were trampled on if the opposing counsel, after you had worked hard on the matter, pulled out an order from your elient discharging you. We submit that we have both the law and justice on our side and respectfully request the court to look to the objections that Mr. Allen has made and decide the case on them.

As to the petition not stateing the facts more fully we wish to point out that Mr. Allen has not been able to point out any necessary allegation that we should have put in.

Respectfully submitted,

E.G. Kickarlyn.

E/R.

Cc. Mr. John N. Allen, Van Antwerp Building. Mobile, Alabama. MARY COONEY SMITH,

Complainant,

Reapondents.

THOMAS J. COONEY, et al, as Executors,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN

COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY NUMBER 96

Comes John N. Allen, individually, and Mary Cooney Smith, by John N. Allen as her solicitor, and moves the Court to quash the summons and subpena issued in connection with the petition for intervention filed in this matter by Elliot G. Rickarby, upon the following grounds.

1. Because said summons, issued to and served on the said John N. Allen and Mary Cooney Smith, who are not parties to this proceeding.

John N. Allen, individually and as

Solicitor for Mary Cooney Smith.

R. S. DUCK

Register and Clerk of the Circuit Court, Baldwin County BAY MINETTE, ALA.

AUGUST 3,1936

Judge F. W. Hare

Monroeville, Alabama

Dear Judge:

Enclosed please find the file in the case of Patrick J. Cooney, requested by Mr./ Rickarby that I mail to you. I am not sure that the attorneys would like to appear in person and argue these demurrers, but in the event that they do, they probably will make arrangements with you to do so.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Duck, Clerk Circuit Court.

RSD:MLF Encl. MARY C. SMITH.

Complainant,

VS.

THOMAS J. COONEY, ET AL.,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA.

IN EQUITY.

This cause coming on to be heard is submitted on petition for intervention, wherein the petitioner, Elliott G. Rickarby, claims an attorney's fee of Mrs. Mary Cooney Smith, one of the distributees of the Estate of Patrick J. Cooney, deceased. In effect, the petition asks that the estate be administered solely for the purpose of fixing and paying this attorney's fee which is claimed for services rendered in transferring the estate from the Probate Court to the Chancery Court.

I am of the opinion that such claim as the attorney may have against Mrs. Mary C. Smith for services rendered should be established by a suit at law, and then enforced by appropriate action against her interest in the estate.

The Register will enroll the following

DECREE

This cause coming on to be heard is submitted for decree upon demurrer to the petition of intervention, and upon a consideration thereof, I am of the opinion that said demurrer is well taken, and should be sustained.

IT IS THEREFORE, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED by the Court that said demurrer to the petition of intervention be, and the same hereby is, sustained.

This 13th day of February, 1937.

Judge Judge

MARY COONEY SMITH,

Complainant,

-VS-

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN

COUNTY, ALABAMA

IN EQUITY NUMBER 96

THOMAS J. COONEY, et al, as Executors,

Respondents.

Comes the Respondent, Thomas J. Cooney, and demurs to the petition of intervention in this matter upon the following several and separate grounds, Viz;

- 1. Because said petition is without equity.
- 2. Because said petition is without equity in that it appears from the allegations thereof that petitioner was discharged as the attorney in this matter by Mary Cooney Smith, one of the legatees and devisees of Pat. J. Cooney, prior to the filing of this petition.
- 3. Becausesaid petition is without equity in that it affirmatively appears from the allegations thereof, and as a matter of record in this Court, that petitioner was discharged as attorney by Mary Cooney Smith prior to the filing of this petition.
- 4. Because said petition does not contain prayer requesting that notice of the filing thereof be given to either or both of the executors of this estate.

Solicitor for Thomas J. Cooney, et al.

MRS. MARY C. SMITH.

Complainant.

-Vs-

THOMAS J. COONEY, et al, Executors of the estate of P. J. Cooney, Deceased,

Respondents.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA, IN EQUITY.

CASE #96.

PETITION FOR ORDER OF COURT ALLOWING ELLIOTT G. RICKARBY TO INTERVENE AND ESTABLISH CLAIM FOR FEES FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO THE COMPLAINANT AND TO THE ESTATE.

Comes ELLIOTT G. RICKARBY and shows the following facts to the court:

First that the record in this cause shows that Petitioner did act as attorney for the complainant in this cause and as such did perform services for her in the preperation of this her suit against the above named respondents.

Second that the record further shows that he as her attorney did render service to the estate in having the estate transfered from the Probate Court to the Circuit Court in Equity and as such did benefit the estate.

Third petitioner further shows that this complainant did discharge him as her attorney with paying him for his services in her behalf although he was duly employed by her.

Wherefore petitioner prays that this court will allow him to interven by petition now on file in this cause to establish his claim and lien for services remdered in this cause.

AS SOLICITOR FOR PETITIONER.

STATE OF ALABAMA. COUNTY OF BLADWIN.

Before me, the undersigned notary public in and for said state and county, personally appeared Elliott G. Rickarby, who being by me first duly sworn deposes and says that the facts contained in the foregoing petition are true.

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this the 15 day of August, Ellist & Ristary 1936.

Notary Public in and for

county, Alabama.

SMITH

The State of Alabama, Circuit Court of Baldwin County, In Equity. Baldwin County.

To Any Sheriff of the State of Alabama--GREETING:

	JOHN N. ALLEN and MRS. MARY COONE
	
of Baldwin County, exercising Chancery jurisdi	to be and appear before the Judge of the Circuit Court iction, within thirty days after the service of Sumut oath, to a Prince Count oath, to a Prince Count for Intervention
ELLIOTT G. RICKARBY	
	•
against saidJOHN N. ALLEN and MR	S. MARY COONEY SMITH
``	

N. B.—Any party defendant is entitled to a copy of the bill upon application to the Register.

TATESTAL AND A CONTRACTOR

Poley, Alanepe July 15th, 1936

John N. Allen, Seq. Solicator for P. J. Gooney, et al Van Antwerp Building Mobile, Alabama

Bonr Gir.

Floase take notice that under the provisions of Chancery Emile 74 I have asked the Register of the Cipolit "ours or Baldwin County to submit to the Judge of all Court for ruling in vecation the demurrers filed by you to the petition of Elliott C. Rickerpy for leave to intervene in this causa.

I enclose copy of my request to the Register and the date named is after the two days notice of said proposed submission given you herewish by registered mail. To said request I was attaching a popy of this.

Yours truly,

Solicitor for Potition of

MARY COONEY SMITH, Complainant.

THOMAS J. COONEY, et al, as Executors, Estate of Respondents.

PARKICK J. COUNTY, Deceased

CASE #96

EQUITY CIRCUIT COURT OF

BALDWIN COUNTY, ALABAMA

To Robert S. Duck, Esq. Register.

You are hereby requested to submit to the Judge of This Court at his office in Monroeville, Alabama on August 5th next, for ruling thereon in vacation the demurrers hereto filed by Patrick J. Cooney, et al to the petition of Elliott G. Rickarby for the right to intervene in his own behalf in this case. Under the provisions of Chancery Rule 74 ten days notice of the proposed submission has been given John N. Allen, Esq., Solicitor for Respondents by letter sent him by registered mail, copy of which is attached.

Solicator for Petitioner.

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RECORDED 6-383.

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Clerk-Register

Certifical copies railed

Decree on Demurrer

R. S. Duck Cantillagister



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 - di du d mi maidoò amedais si moidideg bissonsmool .D efficentively appears grow the allogation thereon, and he a making of record in this Sourt, that not it were tildcheryod da attourcychyr hary Coney Smith orier to the filling . Roitides will be
 - 4). restate citature den soob risiditan bijas-saassa 4. od morth or icoroda paditit ald to opidon dada gatitically either or both of the executors of this section.

MARY C. SMITH

48

MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE

INTERVENING PETITION

SERVE ON MARY COONEY SMITH, CRECLA, ALABAMA.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, Recorded in Vol. Circuit Court of Baldwin County THOMAS J. COONEY, ET &L, as Executors, MARY COONEY SMITH JOHN N. ALLEN, VAN ANIWERP BLDG., MOBILE, ALABAMA 6.382 SUMMONS VS. Solicitor for Complainant by leaving a copy of the within Summons with Received in office this -Executed this -BALDWIN COUNTY may Deputy Sheriff Defendant 1936 SHERIFF day of

REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION ON DEMURERS TO PETITION FOR

IN TER VENTION.

MAY COMEY DRIFTH.

Compleinent.

T'S##

THOMAS J. CHOMEY, et al. so Executors.

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IN THE CLICILL GOINT OF INLINEAR

COTTOY: ALARAMA.

IN MOREY MOREST 96

FITTING INCOVERIOR.

Comes MAJORT G. MIGRARDI and by this his position of intervention respectfully shows the facts to this Court which give him his right to intervene in this cause under section 6261 and 6262 of the Gode of Alabama are as follows:

FIRST: Thet he was amployed by Mrs. Mary Goomey Smith, one of the mix hoirs of the late fatrick J. Goomey upon whose estate letters executory issued on the twenty-seventh day of November, 1928 to Thomas J. Goomey and Fatrick J. Goomey, Jr., as alleged in the bill of complaint in this cause to occurs her interest in this estate and his authority is evidenced by a letter which reads as follows:

Elliott G. Hiemrby, Asq.. Mobertsdale, Alebana.

November 28, 1955.

Door Stra

This will be your authority to represent me in all matters portaining to securing my interest in the estate of my interestation. Patrick J. Cooney, and to take what ever stope are necessary for the purpose. It is understood that you have full authority to set in my name in this matter and for compensation are to receive a sum equal to twenty-five per cent of the amount secured by you for me, payable when my share reaches my hands.

WITHERED (W. A. DeLONG) (SIGNED) MES. MARY COORDY BEITH.

SECOND: That persuent to this authority this Petitioner examined the records of the administration of the estate in the Probate Court and found the estate was valued by the Executors at Fifty Thousand Dollars and that although the letters had been issued for over five years no inventory had been filed and no yearly accounting had been made, and there was nothing of record showing that any effort had been made to distribute the assets of the estate. And that this Petitioner is an attorney at law.

qHIRD: That this retitioner then took the matter up with the Executor, ratrick J. Gooney, Jr., but getting no satisfactory infomation from him, his attorney or agent, had the estate transferred to this Court of Equity by filling the bill of complaint in this cause in the name of Mary Cooney Smith in which he appeared as Solicitor of record for her and notice of which was duly served on the Sespondents. Then he secured an order requiring the Executors to file an accounting in the estate under section 5919 of the Code of Alabama.

FOURTH: That upon the Axecutors' refuseal or neglect to obey the orders of the Court this Petitioner did obtain from this Court an order requiring the Executors to show cause why they should not be removed for failure to obey the order of Court.

On this motion to remove the Executors for failure to abide by the orders of Court the Solicitor for the Executors etated that this Petitioner was acting without authority in this cause. Thereupon the Court ordered that Monday, April the twenty-seventh, 1936 be espectably set as a time to escertain the fact as to whether or not the Solicitor and Petitioner herein was acting with authority from Mary Cooney Smith.

SIGH: That on this day the Complainant Mrs. Mary Cooney Smith had a statement filled in Court stating that ahe wished the proceedings dropped and ordering this Petitioner to take no further a steps to cause an accounting and ordered him dismissed from her cause. Thereupon this Petitioner called to the attention of the Executor the fact that the Complainant's muit was satisfied before his fees as the atterney of record was paid and endevered to satisfy the lien without taking this proceeding, but meet with no success.

SEVERTH: That this retitioner has done much work in this cause and the amount of his fee is contingent on the emount to be recovered and his fees have not been paid.

THE PREMISES CONSIDERED Potitioner prays that this potition

be set for a hearing that the parties, both Complement and Respondent be given due notice thereof so that they may show cause if any there be why this petition should not be granted.

Petitioner further prays that the Court will edjudge that he has a lien for his services as Solicitor of record for the Complainant and order the original bill be continued so as to ascertain his fee. And that the Court order a reference be held to ascertain a suitable amount to be allowed Petitioner out of the corpus of the estate as compensation for his services in transferring the administration thereof into this Court from the Probate Court where it has lain domaint for five years, Same being to the interest of the estate. And when so reported the Court will order it paid.

coutors to file an accounting, charging themselves with all of the assets that have come into their hends as such and crediting themselves with all proper payments made in the behalf of the estate and to the heirs and list all sumpaid claims taxes and judgments against the estate and when the accounting is made then determine the Complainant's share in the estate at the time that the Potitioner became her Solicitor of record and this Petitioner's fee for his services rendered at the request of Complainant and order that it be paid unless it would work a hardship on the estate, in which case Setitioner as a party in interest prays that the Executors be required to give bond for the assets in their hands or chargeable against themsunder section 5790 of the Code of Alabean.

Potitioner further prays for such other, furtheror different relief as to Equity may seem meet.

E. G. Rickarby, Jr.

STATE OF ALABAMA. BALDRIN GOOMT.

Defore me the undersigned Notary Public in and for said state and county personally appeared MLIGTT O. RICHARD who being by me first duly sworn deposes and says that the facts contained in the foregoing petition are true.

Elliott G. Rickarby

Subscribed and sworn to before on this the 9 day of May, 1936.

Eulelie T. Fell Malavin County, Alabera.

Wetowas Connection the bane.

John M. Allen, Asquire, the Solicitor for the Sespondents can be found in the Van Antworp Building, Mobile, Alabama.

MARY COONEY SMITH.

Complainant,

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BALDWIN

COUNTY. ALABAMA.

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Ŧ 2 IN EQUITY NUMBER 96

THOMAS J. COONEY, et al, as Executors,

Respondents.

PETITION OF INTERVENTION.

Comes ELLIOTT G. RICKARBY and by this his petition of intervention respectfully shows the facts to this Court which give him his right to intervene in this cause under section 6261 and 6262 of the Code of Alabama are as follows:

FIRST: That he was employed by Mrs. Mary Cooney Smith, one of the six heirs of the late Fatrick J. Cooney upon whose estate letters executory issued on the twenty-seventh day of November, 1928 to Thomas J. Cooney and Patrick J. Cooney, Jr., as alleged in the bill of complaint in this cause to secure her interest in this estate and his authority is evidenced by a letter which reads as follows;

Elliott G. Rickarby, Esq., November 28, 1933. Robertsdale, Alabama.

Dear Sir:

This will be your authority to represent me in all matters pertaining to securing my interest in the estate of my late father, Patrick J. Cooney, and to take what ever steps are necessary for the purpose. It is understood that you have full authority to act in my name in this matter and for compensation are to receive a sum equal to twenty-five per cent of the amount secured by you for me, payable when my share reaches my hands.

Yours truly, WITNESSED (W. A. DeLONG) (SIGNED) MRS. MARY COONEY SMITH.

SECOND: That persuant to this authority this Petitioner examined the records of the administration of the estate in the Probate Court and found the estate was valued by the Executors at Fifty Thousand Dollars and that although the letters had been issued for over five years no inventory had been filed and no yearly accounting had been made, and there was nothing of record showing that any effort had been made to distribute the assets of the estate. And that this Petitioner is an attorney at law.

be set for a hearing that the parties, both Complainant and Respondent be given due notice thereof so that they may show cause if any there be why this petition should not be granted.

Petitioner further prays that the Court will adjudge that he has a lien for his services as Solicitor of record for the Complainant and order the original bill be continued so as to ascertain his fee. And that the Court order a reference be held to ascertain a suitable amount to be allowed Petitioner out of the corpus of the estate as compensation for his services in transferring the administration thereof into this Court from the Probate Court where it has lain dormant for five years, Same being to the interest of the estate. And when so reported the Court will order it paid.

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Petitioner further prays for such other, furtheror different relief as to Equity may seem meet.

SOLICITOR FOR PETITIONER.

STATE OF ALABAMA, BALDWIN COUNTY.

Before me the undersigned Notary Public in and for said state and county personally appeared ELLIGHT G. RICKARBY who being by me first duly sworn deposes and says that the facts contained in the foregoing petition are true.

Subscribed and sworn to before on this the g day of May, 1936.

Baldwin county, Alabama.

Mrs found at Creola, Alabama.

John N. Allen, Esquire, the Solicitor for the Respondents can be found in the Van Antwerp Building, Mobile, Alabema,



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