

**SUPERIOR COURT OF ARIZONA
MARICOPA COUNTY**

IN THE MATTER OF PROHIBITING
JASON LEE HARRIS FROM FILING ANY
LAWSUIT IN MARICOPA COUNTY
WITHOUT OBTAINING PRIOR
PERMISSION FROM THE COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
No. 2017 - 029

This matter was referred to me by the Honorable Randall H. Warner, Presiding Judge of the Civil Department, to consider issuing an administrative order declaring Jason Lee Harris a vexatious litigant. Upon review of other matters filed in this Court, and considering all the matters presented, including Mr. Harris' memorandum to the Court as to why he should not be declared a vexatious litigant, the Court makes the following findings and orders.

Pursuant to A.R.S. § 12-3201, the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court may designate a pro se litigant a vexatious litigant. In addition, courts "possess inherent authority to curtail a vexatious litigant's ability to initiate additional lawsuits." *Madison v. Groseth*, 230 Ariz. 8, 15, 279 P.3d 633, 639 (App. 2012). The filing excesses of vexatious litigants interfere with the orderly administration of justice by diverting judicial resources from those cases filed by litigants willing to follow court rules and those meritorious cases that deserve prompt judicial attention. See *Acker v. CSO Chevira*, 188 Ariz. 252, 934 P.2d 816 (App. 1997). Filing abuses are normally controlled by rules of professional responsibility applicable to attorneys and by imposition of attorney fees and other monetary sanctions. Unfortunately, these tools are ineffective when dealing with an indigent, pro per plaintiff.

Mr. Harris is currently serving a prison term with the Arizona Department of Corrections. A review of the filings by Mr. Harris in Maricopa County Superior Court reveals that Mr. Harris has filed 44 cases in Superior Court since 2011, including 12 cases in 2016, 8 cases in 2015, and 10 cases in 2014. The defendants in these cases are various governmental employees and entities, including criminal prosecutors, criminal defense attorneys, county jail and state prison officials and employees, police officers, courts, judges, and even civil attorneys representing government agencies in some of Mr. Harris' other civil suits. Below is a summary of some of the cases filed by Mr. Harris in recent years:

- On October 17, 2014, Mr. Harris filed a suit against Maricopa County Superior Court for failing to find him incompetent in one of his criminal cases. He sought \$100 billion in damages. CV2014-013196.

- On June 9, 2015, Mr. Harris filed a suit against various unknown Department of Corrections employees, alleging they took his legal files. He sought \$700 billion in damages. CV2015-007130.
- On August 21, 2015, Mr. Harris filed suit against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office alleging an employee failed to mail one of his pleadings. He sought \$4 trillion in damages. CV2015-010203.
- On April 4, 2016, Mr. Harris filed suit against two judges on the Arizona Court of Appeals for failing to provide him relief sought in his criminal cases. He sought \$6.5 billion in damages. CV2016-091338.
- On May 20, 2016, Mr. Harris filed suit against the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals for failing to grant him relief sought in his criminal cases. He sought \$28 billion in damages. CV2016-006226.
- Also on May 20, 2016, Mr. Harris filed suit against Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich for removing one of his other civil suits to federal district court. He sought \$21 billion in damages. CV2016-006228.

Nearly every lawsuit filed by Mr. Harris has been either dismissed or removed to federal court. A number of the lawsuits were never served. Many are an attempt to seek relief in civil tort actions for his criminal convictions. Based on a review of the cases filed by Mr. Harris in Maricopa County Superior Court, the Court finds Mr. Harris to be a vexatious litigant.

The Court may issue an order limiting such a litigant's ability to file future lawsuits, motions, and requests for relief to the extent necessary to curtail the improper conduct. The Court finds the orders set out below to be the least restrictive orders that will adequately address Mr. Harris' established pattern of abuse. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

1. Mr. Harris may not file any new causes of action after the date of this order without leave of the Civil Presiding Judge or his/her designee.
2. Mr. Harris may not file a new pleading, motion, or any other document in any non-criminal case in which judgment concluding the case has been entered without leave of the Civil Presiding Judge or his/her designee.

Any motion for leave to file shall be captioned "Application Pursuant to Court Order Seeking Leave to File." Mr. Harris must either cite this order in his application, or attach as an exhibit a copy of this order.

If approval for filing a new action is granted, the Clerk of Court may accept subsequent filings in that cause number from Mr. Harris.

Dated this 9th day of March, 2017.

/s/ Janet E. Barton

Honorable Janet E. Barton
Presiding Judge

Original: Clerk of the Superior Court

Copies: Hon. Michael K. Jeanes, Clerk of Superior Court
Hon. Joseph Welty, Associate Presiding Judge
Hon. Randall Warner, Civil Department Presiding Judge
Raymond L. Billotte, Judicial Branch Administrator
Peter Kiefer, Civil Court Administrator
Jason Lee Harris