

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
No. 142, Original

STATE OF FLORIDA,)
)
Plaintiff,)
)
v.)
)
STATE OF GEORGIA,)
)
Defendants.)

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE before SPECIAL MASTER

RALPH I. LANCASTER, held at the law offices of Pierce
Atwood, LLP, at Merrill's Wharf, 254 Commercial Street,
Portland, Maine, on March 13, 2015, commencing at
10:00 a.m., before Claudette G. Mason, RMR, CRR, a
Notary Public in and for the State of Maine.

APPEARANCES:

For the State of Florida: ALLEN WINSOR, ESQ.
OSVALDO VAZQUEZ, ESQ.
CHRISTOPHER M. KISE, ESQ.
DONALD G. BLANKENAU, ESQ.
THOMAS R. WILMOTH, ESQ.

For the State of Georgia: CRAIG S. PRIMIS, ESQ.
K. WINN ALLEN, ESQ.
SARAH HAWKINS WARREN, ESQ.
BRITT GRANT, ESQ.

Also Present: JOSHUA D. DUNLAP, ESQ.

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Could you speak up a little bit so the
reporter can get that, please.
MS. GRANT: I'm sorry. This is Britt
Grant here in Atlanta for Georgia. And the
Kirkland team is in D.C. I'll let Craig
Primis introduce them.
MR. PRIMIS: Good morning, your Honor.
This is Craig Primis from Kirkland & Ellis
for the State of Georgia. And I have Sarah
Warren and Winn Allen with me.
SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: And,
Mr. Primis, will you be the principal
spokesperson for Georgia?
MR. PRIMIS: Yes, sir, with substantial
assistance from Ms. Grant.
SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: All right.
Thank you.
First, let me begin by an apology. I
was in trial, and I thought it was going to
end on Monday. Unfortunately, it didn't; and
equally unfortunately, the judge didn't think
that this Master was special enough for a
recess. So we're here on Friday. And I
appreciate everyone coming together at this
date.

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PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Good morning,
counsel.
MR. WINSOR: Good morning.
MS. GRANT: Good morning.
SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: This is
Ralph, and Josh Dunlap and Claudette Mason
are with me.
Let's start with appearances. First,
for Florida?
MR. WINSOR: Good morning, your Honor.
This is Allen Winsor along with Chris Kise
and Osvaldo Vazquez here in Tallahassee for
Florida. And I believe Don Blankenau and Tom
Wilmoth are also on the line.
SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: And,
Mr. Winsor, will you be the principal person
speaking for Florida?
MR. WINSOR: I'll be doing a good bit of
it, your Honor, with some help from Mr. Kise.
SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
MS. GRANT: Good morning. This is Britt
Grant here in Atlanta for Georgia.
SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: I'm sorry.

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We have reviewed the status reports.
Let me, again, compliment you all on your
attempts to cooperate and the progress that
you have made. Is there anything to be added
to the status reports?
Florida?
MR. WINSOR: There have been some
updates, your Honor. There have been some
additional subpoenas served since the --
since the status report was filed Friday.
There have been -- Florida and Georgia, as I
think we both indicated in the status reports
that we were about to do, have jointly issued
some discovery requests to some federal
agencies. And Florida has also produced just
this week some continued document production.
The second and third document productions
were served this week.
SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?
MR. PRIMIS: No, your Honor. You have
the status in the report from Georgia. And
as Mr. Winsor just said, there were
cooperative efforts this week to serve all
that discovery on the United States
Government.

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1 And I would just note and underscore
2 that the parties did that jointly. And so we
3 worked together to have unified and a single
4 set of requests for agencies to facilitate
5 that for the U. S. Government and to have one
6 set of document requests for them to contend
7 with instead of inconsistent or competing
8 ones for both states.

9 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, then I
10 think our conference today is going to be
11 relatively brief.

12 I did note that Governor Deal had sent a
13 letter to Governor Scott. Has there been any
14 response to that?

15 MR. WINSOR: Yes, your Honor. This is
16 Allen Winsor again.

17 The letter that was referenced we just
18 received this week. I'm not sure what
19 happened with the delivery; but at any rate,
20 it did make its way to the governor this
21 week. And he responded just yesterday, as a
22 matter of fact, and has indicated that he's
23 willing to meet.

24 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Well, that's
25 one of the first major positive things I have

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1 heard in a long time. And I would encourage
2 them to talk.

3 And as you will recall, there was an
4 offer by the United States to mediate. And
5 even if the United States' offer is not
6 acceptable, mediation may be a good thing to
7 explore.

8 I would suggest that -- and I'm sure you
9 have all seen the Court's decision in Kansas
10 versus Nebraska. I would suggest that you
11 might want to give copies to Governor Deal
12 and Governor Scott because it's certainly an
13 indication -- although the issues were
14 different, several opinions indicate just
15 what the possibilities are and the fact that
16 the history of Kansas versus Nebraska is a
17 good roadshow for them to understand.

18 As I have said before, that this thing
19 is going to cost millions, if not billions of
20 dollars before we're finished. And while
21 it's against -- probably considered against
22 my own personal interests to urge a
23 settlement, I have said before and I will
24 continue to say until you're sick and tired
25 of hearing it that I think that the best

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1 possible result is a settlement between the
2 two states.

3 So let me ask; is there anything else
4 from Florida?

5 MR. WINSOR: I don't believe so, your
6 Honor.

7 Allen Winsor, again.

8 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Georgia?

9 MR. PRIMIS: No, your Honor.

10 Craig Primis for Georgia. We're good.

11 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: Let me just,

12 as a postscript, if I may, suggest that
13 deadlines are deadlines. But you don't have

14 to wait until midnight on the deadline date

15 to take the action. And that's just my
16 personal preference. The sooner you can get

17 things done, as we move this matter along,
18 the better off we'll be.

19 Josh, have I left out anything?

20 MR. DUNLAP: I don't believe so.

21 SPECIAL MASTER LANCASTER: I think we're
22 finished then until the next time.

23 Thank you very much, counsel.

24 MR. WINSOR: Thank you.

25 MR. PRIMIS: Thank you.

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1 MS. GRANT: Thank you, your Honor.
2 (The telephone conference was concluded
3 at 10:06 a.m.)
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CERTIFICATE

I, Claudette G. Mason, a Notary Public in and for the State of Maine, hereby certify that the foregoing 8 pages are a correct transcript of my stenographic notes of the above-captioned proceedings.

I further certify that I am a disinterested person in the event or outcome of the above-named cause of action.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I subscribe my hand this 16th day of March, 2015.

Notary Public

My Commission Expires
June 9, 2019.

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