

# Appendix A

Decision of Third Circuit Court

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UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

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No. 23-3255

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ZEMIRAH EL,  
Appellant

v.

BERNARD MOORE,  
doing business as ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

---

On Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
(D.C. Civil No. 2-22-cv-04062)

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**SUR PETITION FOR REHEARING**

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Present: CHAGARES, *Chief Judge*, JORDAN, HARDIMAN, SHWARTZ, KRAUSE,  
RESTREPO, BIBAS, PORTER, MATEY, PHIPPS, FREEMAN,  
MONTGOMERY-REEVES and CHUNG, *Circuit Judges*

The petition for rehearing filed by Appellant in the above-captioned case having been submitted to the judges who participated in the decision of this Court and to all the other available circuit judges of the circuit in regular active service, and no judge who concurred in the decision having asked for rehearing, and a majority of the judges of the circuit in regular service not having voted for rehearing, the petition for rehearing by the panel and the Court en banc is denied.

By the Court,

s/ Arianna J. Freeman  
Circuit Judge

Dated: October 28, 2024  
JK/cc: Zemirah El, All Counsel of Record

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

\_\_\_\_\_  
No. 23-3255  
\_\_\_\_\_

ZEMIRAH EL,  
Appellant

v.

BERNARD MOORE, doing business as ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
On Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
(D.C. Civil Action No. 2:22-cv-04062)  
District Judge: Honorable Mia R. Perez  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submitted Pursuant to Third Circuit LAR 34.1(a)  
September 19, 2024

Before: SHWARTZ, RESTREPO, and FREEMAN, Circuit Judges

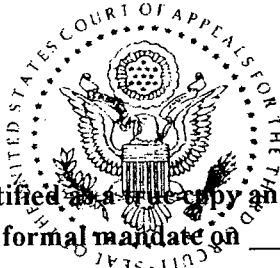
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**JUDGMENT**  
\_\_\_\_\_

This cause came to be considered on the record from the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and was submitted pursuant to Third Circuit LAR 34.1(a) on September 19, 2024. On consideration whereof, it is now hereby ORDERED and ADJUDGED by this Court that the judgment of the District Court entered December 14, 2023, be and the same is hereby affirmed. Costs taxed against the appellant. All of the above in accordance with the opinion of this Court.

ATTEST:

s/ Patricia S. Dodszuweit  
Clerk

Dated: September 26, 2024

 Certified as a true copy and issued in lieu  
of a formal mandate on 11/05/2024

Teste: Patricia S. Dodszuweit  
Clerk, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

NOT PRECEDENTIAL

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT

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No. 23-3255

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ZEMIRAH EL,  
Appellant

v.

BERNARD MOORE, doing business as ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK

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On Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
(D.C. Civil Action No. 2:22-cv-04062)  
District Judge: Honorable Mia R. Perez

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Submitted Pursuant to Third Circuit LAR 34.1(a)  
September 19, 2024  
Before: SHWARTZ, RESTREPO, and FREEMAN, Circuit Judges

(Opinion filed: September 26, 2024)

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OPINION\*

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PER CURIAM

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\* This disposition is not an opinion of the full Court and pursuant to I.O.P. 5.7 does not constitute binding precedent.

Zemirah El appeals pro se from an order of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania granting a motion to dismiss filed by Senior Judge Bernard Moore of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas. We will affirm.

El filed a pro se civil rights complaint, raising claims related to a civil ejectment proceeding over which Judge Moore presided.<sup>1</sup> She named Judge Moore as the sole defendant, seemingly suing him in his official and individual capacities. El sought monetary damages and injunctive relief. Judge Moore filed a motion to dismiss the complaint for insufficient service of process and failure to state a claim. El filed a response in opposition to that motion. The District Court granted the motion and dismissed the complaint with prejudice. Citing Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(5) and 12(b)(6), the District Court held that dismissal was proper because Judge Moore was not properly served within ninety days, see Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m), and that, in any event, El's claims failed because Judge Moore was entitled to immunity. The District Court also denied El's requests for a default judgment and her motion for an expedited ruling. El timely appealed.

We have jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. § 1291, and we exercise de novo review over the District Court's grant of a motion to dismiss. See Newark Cab Ass'n v. City of

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<sup>1</sup> As the District Court noted, the complaint is "somewhat difficult to understand, as . . . El uses language common to suits filed by those who identify as sovereign citizens and Moorish Americans." Cf. United States v. Sterling, 738 F.3d 228, 233 n.1 (11th Cir. 2013) (noting that so-called "sovereign citizens" are individuals who believe they are not subject to courts' jurisdiction and that courts have summarily rejected their legal theories as frivolous).

Newark, 901 F.3d 146, 151 (3d Cir. 2018). To survive dismissal, “a complaint must contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true,” to show that its claims are facially plausible. Ashcroft v. Iqbal, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). We may affirm on any basis supported by the record. See Murray v. Bledsoe, 650 F.3d 246, 247 (3d Cir. 2011) (per curiam).

The District Court properly determined that Judge Moore is entitled to immunity. To the extent that El sued Judge Moore in his individual capacity for money damages, the claims are barred by absolute immunity.<sup>2</sup> See Stump v. Sparkman, 435 U.S. 349, 355-57 (1978) (holding that a judge is immune from liability for all actions taken in her judicial capacity, unless such action is taken in the absence of all jurisdiction); Azubuko v. Royal, 443 F.3d 302, 303 (3d Cir. 2006) (per curiam). El appeared to challenge Judge Moore’s actions in presiding over the state court ejectment proceedings. Such actions plainly were “function[s] normally performed by a judge.” Gallas v. Supreme Ct. of Pa., 211 F.3d 760, 768 (3d Cir. 2000) (quotation marks omitted). Although El alleged that Judge Moore lacked jurisdiction over her because she is a sovereign citizen, that claim is not plausible. See United States v. Benabe, 654 F.3d 753, 767 (7th Cir. 2011) (explaining that a person claiming to be a “sovereign citizen” is “not beyond the jurisdiction of the

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<sup>2</sup> Although “absolute judicial immunity extends only to claims for damages,” Larsen v. Senate of the Commonwealth, 152 F.3d 240, 249 (3d Cir. 1998), “in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer’s judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable.” 28 U.S.C. § 1983. Nothing in El’s complaint suggests that this exception applies.

courts,” and that “[t]hese theories should be rejected summarily, however they are presented”). To the extent that El sought to bring official-capacity claims against Judge Moore as an employee of a judicial district, such claims are essentially against the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, which is entitled to Eleventh Amendment immunity because it is an entity of the state of Pennsylvania. See Benn v. First Jud. Dist. of Pa., 426 F.3d 233, 240 (3d Cir. 2005); see also Haybarger v. Lawrence Cnty. Adult Prob. & Parole, 551 F.3d 193, 195 (3d Cir. 2008) (“Pennsylvania’s judicial districts are arms of the state entitled to Eleventh Amendment immunity.”).

El also challenges the District Court’s denial of her requests for a default judgment, which we review for abuse of discretion. See Chamberlain v. Giampapa, 210 F.3d 154, 164 (3d Cir. 2000). El has not shown any prejudice from the denial of her requests and, as explained above, Judge Moore had a litigable, and, in fact, meritorious defense. See id. (discussing factors to consider in reviewing refusal to enter default judgment). Thus, the District Court did not abuse its discretion in denying the requests for a default judgment. In addition, the District Court did not abuse its discretion in denying her motion to expedite consideration of the case. See In re Fine Paper Antitrust Litig., 685 F.2d 810, 817 (3d Cir. 1982) (explaining that, as a general rule, “matters of docket control” are within the discretion of the District Court).

For the foregoing reasons, we will affirm the judgment of the District Court.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> El’s Motion for Joinder of Parties is denied.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

PATRICIA S. DODSZUWEIT

**UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS**

TELEPHONE

CLERK

FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT  
21400 UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE  
601 MARKET STREET

215-597-2995

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19106-1790

Website: [www.ca3.uscourts.gov](http://www.ca3.uscourts.gov)



November 5, 2024

Mr. George V. Wylesol  
United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania  
James A. Byrne United States Courthouse  
601 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

RE: Zemirah El v. Bernard Moore  
Case Number: 23-3255  
District Court Case Number: 2-22-cv-04062

Dear District Clerk

Enclosed herewith is the certified judgment together with copy of the opinion in the above-captioned case(s). The certified judgment is issued in lieu of a formal mandate and is to be treated in all respects as a mandate.

Counsel are advised of the issuance of the mandate by copy of this letter. The certified judgment shows costs taxed, if any.

Very Truly Yours,

s/ Patricia S. Dodszuweit  
Clerk

By: s/ James King  
Case Manager  
Direct Dial: 267-299-4958



cc: Zemirah El,  
Nicole A. Feigenbaum, Esq.

# Appendix B

Decision of the Pennsylvania Eastern District Court

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ZEMIRAH MELODY CAROL  
RUTH EL TR,

v.

BERNARD MOORE

CIVIL ACTION

No. 22-cv-4062

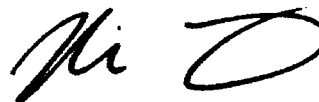
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**ORDER**

AND NOW, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2023, in consideration of Defendant's Motion to Dismiss (ECF No. 18) and Plaintiff's responsive filings (Nos. 19 & 21), it is **ORDERED** that Defendant's motion is **GRANTED**. It is further ordered as follows:

1. Plaintiff's Complaint (No. 1) is hereby **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE**.
2. Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment (No. 25) is **DENIED**.
3. Plaintiff's Motion for Preference by Claimant to Expedite Ruling (No. 33) is **MOOT**.

BY THE COURT:



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Hon. Mia R. Perez

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ZEMIRAH MELODY CAROL  
RUTH EL TR,

v.

BERNARD MOORE

CIVIL ACTION

No. 22-cv-4062

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**MEMORANDUM**

Perez, J

December 14, 2023

*Pro se* Plaintiff, Zemirah Melody Carol Ruth El, Tr, (“Plaintiff El”) brings this suit against Defendant Senior Judge Bernard Moore (“Judge Moore”) of the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas under numerous constitutional provisions and federal statutes.<sup>1</sup> This matter comes before the Court on Defendant’s Motion to Dismiss. (Doc. No. 18). Having reviewed Plaintiff’s Response in Opposition (Doc. No. 21), Plaintiff’s multiple Motions for Default Judgment and subsequent support motions (Doc. Nos. 19, 25, 28), and Defendant’s Reply (Doc. No. 27), for the reasons set forth below the Defendant’s Motion is GRANTED.

**I. BACKGROUND**

This case appears to arise out of a civil ejectment proceeding in the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas presided over by Judge Moore in December of 2021 and February of 2022. (Compl. at 2). The Complaint is somewhat difficult to understand, as Plaintiff El uses

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<sup>1</sup> Plaintiff El lists the following as her rights at issue: 18 U.S.C. § 242; Article IV of the Constitution; 5th Amendment of the Constitution; UCC Article 9 (Secured Transactions); USC Title 17 (Copyright Law); 25 C.F.R. § 163.29 (Trespassing – Native American Forest Land); Articles 22 and 25 of the “Treaty of Peace and Friendship” between the U.S. and Morocco from 1836.

language common to suits filed by those who identify as sovereign citizens and Moorish Americans. Plaintiff El appears to claim that Judge Moore did not have jurisdiction to hear her matter on diversity grounds due to her claimed citizenship of “Aboriginal Indigenous Foreign National of Al Maghrib Al Aqsa, Northwest Amexum.”<sup>2</sup> (Compl. at 2, 4-5). This alleged lack of jurisdiction and subsequent ejectment order deprived Plaintiff El of her “[c]onstitutional right to own and possess property.” (Compl. at 2). It is unclear whether Plaintiff El is suing Judge Moore in his official or individual capacity, as she makes reference to both. (See Doc. No. 21 at 4 (“Bernard Moore is being sued in his personal capacity . . .”); ECF 23-2960 Doc. No. 1 at 2 (Plaintiff El filed a Writ of Mandamus with the Third Circuit and referenced suing Moore “in his official and personal capacity.”)).

As relief, Plaintiff El has requested monetary damages contained in a “Trust Fee Schedule” which includes over a quintillion dollars in gold, forceful ejection of the current owners of the property, adjustment of property records, immediate housing and board, and a public apology. (Compl. at 5-7). Judge Moore is the only named Defendant in the Complaint; however, her requested relief concerns many other parties such as the Montgomery County Sheriff and the current owners of the property in question. (*Id.*).

Plaintiff El filed her Complaint on October 7, 2022. (Doc. No. 1). Plaintiff El then filed a Motion for Service by U.S. Marshals on October 27, 2022 (Doc. No. 9), which was denied on November 22, 2022. (Doc. No. 15). Plaintiff El sent summons to Judge Moore via certified mail

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<sup>2</sup> To the extent that Plaintiff El grounds her case in her claimed sovereign citizen or Moorish American status, the Court notes that such reliance is facially frivolous. *See El Ameen Bey v. Stumpf*, 825 F. Supp. 2d 537, 558 (D.N.J. 2011) (noting that Treaties with Morocco have no relevance for civil suits “raising claims based on the events that occurred within what is the United States’ geographical territory” including claims related to foreclosure or eviction proceedings); *Owens v. City of Philadelphia*, No. 18-CV-4522, 2018 WL 5281779, at \*1 n.3 (E.D. Pa. Oct. 23, 2018).

on November 17, 2022, and provided receipts for such in a Motion for Declaratory Judgment filed on December 20, 2022. (Doc. No. 16). This Motion for Declaratory Judgment was denied on January 11, 2023. (Doc. No. 17). Judge Moore then filed a Motion to Dismiss on January 18, 2023 on grounds of improper service, judicial immunity, and failure to state a claim. Plaintiff El has since filed several other motions, primarily for Default Judgment and Expedition. (Docs. 19, 25, 30, 31, 32, 33).

## II. LEGAL DISCUSSION

### A. Dismissal Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(5) – Insufficient Service of Process

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(5), an action may be dismissed on the basis of insufficient service of process. “Service of process, under longstanding tradition in our system of justice, is fundamental to any procedural imposition on a named defendant.” *Murphy Bros., Inc. v. Michetti Pipe Stringing, Inc.*, 526 U.S. 344, 350 (1999). A court generally does not have jurisdiction over a defendant if there has been insufficient process or service of process. *Id.* “A district court’s power to assert *in personam* authority over parties defendant is dependent not only on compliance with due process but also on compliance with the technicalities of Rule 4.” *Grand Entm’t Group, Ltd.*, 988 F.2d 476, 492 (3d Cir. 1993) (“Proper service is still a prerequisite to personal jurisdiction.”).

In resolving a motion under Rule 12(b)(5), the party making service has the burden of demonstrating its validity when an objection to service is made. *Reed v. Weeks Marine, Inc.*, 166 F. Supp. 2d 1052, 1054 (E.D. Pa. 2001) (citing *Grand Entm’t*, 988 F.2d at 488-89). A plaintiff “is responsible for having the summons and complaint served within the time allowed by Rule 4(m).” Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(c)(1). Rule 4(m) requires that service be completed within 90 days after the complaint is filed or the court must dismiss the case without prejudice. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m).

In addition to the time limits for service of process, Rule 4 sets forth the specific requirements for the manner of service which differ depending on the entity sued.

Here, a number of service rules are implicated based on how Plaintiff El has framed her Complaint. Rule 4(j) requires that state and local government entities be served by delivering a copy of the complaint and summons to the entity's chief executive or by complying with applicable state laws for service. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(j)(2)(A)-(B). The applicable state service rule is Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 422. Rule 422 requires that service of suits against officers of the Commonwealth be served personally to the defendant and to the office of the Attorney General. Penn. R. Civ. P. 422(a).

Alternatively, Rule 4(e)(2) requires individuals to be served by delivering the summons to the individual, or by leaving a copy at the individual's home with an adult who lives there, or delivering the copy to the individual's agent authorized to receive service of process. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(e)(2)(A)-(C). Individuals may also be served by following applicable state rules of civil procedure for the "state where the district court is located or where service is made." Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(e)(1). The applicable state rule is Pennsylvania Rule of Civil Procedure 402. Rule 402 requires that individuals be served by hand delivering a copy to the defendant, an adult family member at the defendant's residence, a clerk or hotel manager at a boarding house which the defendant resides at, or to the defendant's agent at their usual place of business. Penn. R. Civ. P. 402(a)(1)-(2)(iii).

The Court finds that dismissal is proper under Rule 12(b)(5). The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas is considered a state agency. *See Callahan v. City of Philadelphia*, 207 F.3d 668, 672 (3d Cir. 2000) ("All courts and agencies of the unified judicial system, including the Philadelphia Municipal Court, are part of 'Commonwealth government' and thus are state

rather than local agencies.”). Therefore, if Judge Moore is being sued in his official capacity as a judicial officer, proper service must comply with either Federal Rule 4(j) or Pennsylvania Rule 422. Alternatively, if Plaintiff El is suing Judge Moore in his individual capacity, proper service must comply with either Federal Rule (e)(2)(A)-(C) or Pennsylvania Rule 402. Service by certified mail, the only service attempted in this case, is not appropriate under any of these rules.

While service via certified mail is appropriate under a single federal rule and a few state rules,<sup>3</sup> none of these apply to this case. Moreover, even though Judge Moore has notice of the lawsuit against him, actual notice to the defendant is not the equivalent of proper service of process. *Ayres v. Jacobs & Crumplar, P.A.*, 99 F.3d 565, 569 (3d Cir. 1996) (“Notice of a claim is not sufficient.”).

If proper service of a summons and Complaint is not made within 90 days of filing the complaint, the action is subject to dismissal, without prejudice, or the court may “direct that service be effected within a specified time . . . .” Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(m). When dismissing a case under Rule 4(m), courts ordinarily should determine whether good cause exists for granting an extension of time to effectuate proper service. *Id.*; see also *Petrucelli v. Bohringer & Ratzinger*, 46 F.3d 1298, 1305–06 (3d Cir. 1995). However, as Plaintiff El’s case ultimately fails on subject matter jurisdiction grounds under doctrines of judicial immunity that cannot be cured, the Court need not conduct a good cause analysis.

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<sup>3</sup> Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 4, service via certified mail only is allowed for the United States and its agencies, corporations, officers, and employees. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4(i). In Pennsylvania, service via certified mail is appropriate for: service outside the Commonwealth [Rule 404(2)]; certain real property actions [Rule 410(c)(3)]; actions for support [Rule 411]; actions for custody, divorce, and annulment [Rule 412].



**B. Dismissal Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) – Doctrines of Judicial Immunity**

Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 12(b)(6) requires the court to determine whether the plaintiff's complaint contains "sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009) (quotations omitted). "[M]ere conclusory statements do not suffice." *Id.* When evaluating such a motion, "courts accept all factual allegations as true, construe the complaint in the light most favorable to the plaintiff, and determine whether, under any reasonable reading of the complaint, the plaintiff may be entitled to relief." *Fowler v. UPMC Shadyside*, 578 F.3d 203, 210 (3d Cir. 2009) (quoting *Phillips v. Cnty. of Allegheny*, 515 F.3d 224, 233 (3d Cir. 2008)). However, "if the court determines at any time that it lacks subject-matter jurisdiction, the court must dismiss the action." Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(h)(3).

As Plaintiff El is proceeding pro se, the Court construes her allegations liberally. *Higgs v. Att'y Gen.*, 655 F.3d 333, 339 (3d Cir. 2011) (noting that liberal construction of pro se pleadings is "driven by the understanding that '[i]mplicit in the right of self-representation is an obligation on the part of the court to make reasonable allowances to protect pro se litigants from inadvertent forfeiture of important rights because of their lack of legal training.'" (quoting *Triestman v. Fed. Bureau of Prisons*, 470 F.3d 471, 475 (2d Cir. 2006))).

As previously discussed, this Court is not clear on whether Judge Moore is being sued as a state official acting within the scope of his official duties, or as an individual. Plaintiff El mentions both in her various filings. In either case, Judge Moore advances two meritorious theories of judicial immunity: Eleventh Amendment Immunity and Absolute Judicial Immunity.

Under the Eleventh Amendment, states and state agencies are entitled to sovereign immunity from suit and liability. *Lombardo v. Pennsylvania*, 540 F.3d 190, 194-96 (3rd Cir.

2008) (noting that this immunity can only be waived by an appropriate act of Congress or state voluntary invocation of federal jurisdiction). “Eleventh Amendment Immunity” is considered helpful shorthand for state sovereign immunity; however, a state’s sovereign immunity from suit and liability is a fundamental element of the federal system and therefore not constrained by the text of Eleventh Amendment itself. *Id.* at 195 (citing *Alden v. Maine*, 527 U.S. 706, 713 (1999)). In Pennsylvania, “the Commonwealth enjoys sovereign immunity unless the General Assembly ‘specifically waives sovereign immunity.’” *Id.* (see 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 8522) (showing applicable exceptions). No such exception exists for ejectment orders.

State actors acting and sued in their official capacity are protected by this immunity unless the plaintiff is seeking “prospective relief to end an ongoing violation of federal law.” *Christ the King Manor, Inc. v. Sec. U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services*, 730 F.3d 291, 318 (3d Cir. 2013). Accordingly, suits for damages or equitable retroactive relief are barred. *Id.*; *Blanciak v. Allegheny Ludlum Corp.*, 77 F.3d 690, 697 (3d Cir. 1996) (“[R]elief that essentially serves to compensate a party injured in the past by the action of a state official, even though styled as something else, is barred by the Eleventh Amendment.”).

Courts of Common Pleas, which are a part of the Pennsylvania Unified Judicial System, are considered state agencies entitled to Eleventh Amendment Immunity. *Callahan v. City of Philadelphia*, 207 F.3d 668, 672 (3d Cir. 2000). The Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas is therefore entitled to Eleventh Amendment Immunity. Additionally, Plaintiff El is not seeking the type of prospective relief for an ongoing violation which would negate this immunity. Plaintiff El’s requested relief is extreme monetary damages and retrospective changes to the deed and status of her old home. Accordingly, Judge Moore is protected from suit in his official capacity and the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction in that regard.

This Court also lacks jurisdiction over Judge Moore in his individual capacity under the doctrine of Absolute Judicial Immunity. Judges have absolute immunity from suit and the assessment of damages in their individual capacity. *Mireles v. Waco*, 502 U.S. 9, 11 (1991). There are only two situations where Absolute Judicial Immunity does not apply: actions not taken in their judicial capacity and/or actions taken in “complete absence of all jurisdiction.” *Id.* Actions are considered to be within a judge’s official capacity when the act itself is “a function normally performed by a judge.” *Id.* Actions taken in the absence of all jurisdiction are those where the judge clearly had no jurisdiction over the subject-matter – such as a probate judge with authority only over wills and estates presiding over a criminal case. *Bradley v. Fisher*, 80 U.S. 335, 352 (1871). Legal errors by judges are not sufficient to overcome this broad absolute immunity. *Stump v. Sparkman*, 435 U.S. 349, 359 (1978) (“A judge is absolutely immune from liability for his judicial acts even if his exercise of authority is flawed by the commission of grave procedural errors.”).

The Pennsylvania Courts of Common Pleas have “unlimited original jurisdiction of all actions and proceedings” that are not otherwise vested in a different state court by statute. 42 Pa. Cons. Stat. § 931(a). Civil ejectment actions are handled by the county court where the land in question is located. Pa. R. Civ. P. 1052. Therefore, a Court of Common Pleas judge granting a motion regarding civil ejectment actions within their county would be acting both within his jurisdiction and carrying out a function normally performed by a judge. Accordingly, Absolute Judicial Immunity applies to Judge Moore.

#### **IV. CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Defendant's Motion to Dismiss is granted and the Plaintiff's complaint is dismissed with prejudice as she cannot cure the issues of judicial immunity. An appropriate Order to follow.

## Appendix C

ORDER DEFAULT JUDGMENT REFERRED TO CLERK OF  
COURT

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ZEMIRAH MELODY CAROL RUTH EL,  
TR,

Plaintiff,

v.

BERNARD MOORE d/b/a  
ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK,

Defendant.

CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 22-4062

ORDER

AND NOW, this 6th day of January 2023, upon consideration of Plaintiff's Motion for Default Judgment (Doc. No. 16), it is **ORDERED** as follows:

1. The Motion (Doc. No. 16) is **DENIED**.
2. The Request that the Clerk of Court enter default judgment against Defendant Bernard Moore pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 55(a) is **REFERRED** to the Clerk of Court.

BY THE COURT:

/s/ Joel H. Slomsky  
JOEL H. SLOMSKY, J.

**Additional material  
from this filing is  
available in the  
Clerk's Office.**