

FEB 02 2021

UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

DON AND LAURIE SCHNECK  
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January 25, 2021

The Honorable Judge Peter Messitte  
United States District Court, District of Maryland, Southern Division  
6500 Cherrywood Lane, Suite 475A  
Greenbelt, MD 20770

FILED  
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RECEIVED

JAN 28 2021

AT GREENBELT  
CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
DISTRICT OF MARYLAND

DEPUTY

In Re: Sanctuary Belize/The Reserve Civil Case – Case No. 18-cv003309-PJM  
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2016  
CLAIM NO. 582 OF 2016  
BETWEEN STEVE MINOR, FRASER IAN LOCKWOOD, ROD WELCH AND DON SCHNECK,  
CLAIMANTS  
\*AND\*  
SITTEE RIVER WILDLIFE RESERVE, ECO FUTURES, BELIZE LIMITED, AND SANCTURY BELIZE  
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, DEFENDANTS

Dear Judge Messitte,

On January 22, 2021 we received the proposed Reserve Sanctuary Belize – Consumer Redress Plan from the Receiver Robb Evans & Associates, LLC which was submitted by Jonathan Cohen, Counsel to Plaintiff Federal Trade Commission. After careful review, the proposed redress plan treats every previous or current lot owner the same, regardless of situation. Specifically, it failed to recognize our valid Court Order by the Supreme Court of Belize (Claim 582 of 2016) which is still in effect against the Defendants and obtained a full two-years prior to intervention by the FTC.

As mentioned in our communication received by your Honor on August 18, 2020, we referenced a lengthy phone conversation with Mr. Cohen in November of 2019. Paraphrasing, he said he felt for our situation but would not give any weight to our Court Ordered Judgment in Belize, the highest court in the land where the jurisdiction lays, in any disbursement decision related to funds recovered from the assets of the Defendants. He stated the FTC’s position would be to oppose us receiving any larger settlement than any other current or former lot owner who had not pursued a legal remedy, and, while he recognized our Court Order with the Supreme Court of Belize, he would oppose us in recovering any monies outside of the overall FTC Redress Plan. Mr. Cohen’s redress plan clearly maintains this position. We were hopeful he had reconsidered his position when he grouped our filing in a response to Your Honor in an email regarding other topics related to the case where he said, “the FTC disputes most of what these submissions contain” which included “a lot purchaser’s objection to the FTC’s as-yet-unfiled redress plan.”

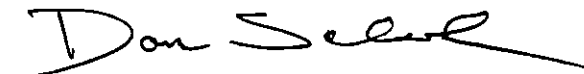
In a Memorandum dated August 25, 2020, Your Honor indicated that our correspondence would be addressed at a later date. Now that the FTC has submitted the proposed Reserve Sanctuary Belize – Consumer Redress Plan, we are asking for your consideration to direct the Receiver to uphold the legal obligation and monetary refund we fought so hard to achieve against the Developer and Defendants. We feel it is unjust to take such a complex case, make it into a one size fits all solution and throw out a legal judgement that preceded the intervention by the FTC. In our previous correspondence to Your Honor, we offered a compromise regarding the remaining monies owed to us by the Developer (a copy is attached for your convenience). Please note these figures do not include the \$20,000 + plus spent on legal fees, cost of trips to Belize for court appearances, etc.

On the FTC website under FAQ's, it states that "The Receiver does not control, and therefore, cannot sell the interests of individual lot owners. The Receiver has control of unsold lots and areas of the development that do not belong to individual people. Your lot is not part of the Receivership". The FTC and Receiver acknowledge they have no control over the actual sold lots; yet claim that they have the right to ignore our Belizean Court Order that was obtained prior to the current FTC action and directly tied to our lot (land).

As a side note, the FTC stated that they would not step foot in Belize due to security concerns. We as the Claimants in the above referenced case did so – despite physical, legal and financial threats from the Defendants. Precautions were taken when we traveled to Belize for the trial; we did not accept random ride offers at the airport, our party never separated over the three days spent in Belize, and we used the same driver every day who was a very friendly 6'4" Belizean (with a large machete under his seat). Not all lot owners are the same ... some pursued justice at personal risk.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,



Don and Laurie Schneck

