



TRI-STATE AMBULANCE, INC.

22-BCD-09

Plaintiff,

v.

GROW FILE

WHEELING HOSPITAL, INC.,

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS, INC.,

HEALTHTEAM CRITICAL CARE TRANSPORT, LLC,

and

HEALTHNET AEROMEDICAL SERVICES, INC.,

Defendants.

Ohio County Circuit Court Civil Action No. 20-C-155 (Judge: Hon. Michael J. Olejasz)

## PLAINTIFF'S REPLY MEMORANDUM TO WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS, INC.'S MOTION TO REFER CASE TO BUSINESS COURT DIVISION

COMES NOW, Plaintiff Tri-State Ambulance, Inc.(hereinafter "Plaintiff") by and through its counsel, Robert J. D'Anniballe, Jr., Esq. of the law firm of Pietragallo Gordon Alfano Bosick & Raspanti, LLP and, pursuant to West Virginia Trial Court Rule 29.06(a)(4), submits the within reply memorandum to the *Motion to Refer Case to Business Court Division* filed by Defendant, West Virginia University Hospitals, Inc. (hereinafter "WVUH").

- 1. Plaintiff is replying to the motion of WVUH pursuant to West Virginia Trial Court Rule 29.06(a)(4), which provided twenty days for any affected party to state its position.
- 2. Plaintiff strongly objects to, and will vigorously challenge, certain characterization contained in the motion of WVUH, which are as follows:

"Possible regulatory violations or unlawful conduct by a medical transport company; valuation of medical transport company's West Virginia operations and alleged damages to same."

"The principal claims involve matters of significance to the transactions between Plaintiff and Wheeling Hospital, based on contract, and between Wheeling Hospital/West Virginia University Hospitals, Inc. and Health Team Critical Care and HealthNet based on Plaintiffs inability or unwillingness to fulfill the terms of its contract with Wheeling Hospital."

"Plaintiff's inability or unwillingness to provide services as outlined in its contract with Wheeling Hospital resulted in significant and costly delays in Wheeling Hospital being able to discharge patients and unnecessarily extended patients' length of stay in the hospital."

"Wheeling Hospital was forced to seek alternatives to Plaintiff's medical transport services and eventually ended its contract with Plaintiff due to Plaintiff's material breaches of the same."

"Specialized treatment of the commercial issues presented by this dispute is likely to improve the expectations of a fair and reasonable resolution of the controversy because of the need for expertise in the subject matter of contracts, tortious interference with business relationships, as well as the defenses to an alleged breach of contract."

- 3. The case involves claims of (1) breach of contract; (2) breach of implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing; and (3) tortious interference with business relationship.
- 4. Plaintiff does not oppose the transfer and agrees that a transfer to the Business Court Division is appropriate.

/s/Robert J. D'Anniballe, Jr.

Robert J. D'Anniballe, Jr., WV Bar #920

/s/ Anthony S. Caliguire

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Counsel for Tri-State Ambulance, Inc.

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

TRI-STATE AMBULANCE, INC.

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

Service of the foregoing PLAINTIFF'S REPLY MEMORANDUM TO WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS, INC.'S MOTION TO REFER CASE TO BUSINESS COURT DIVISION was made upon the following by electronic filing to counsel of record on this 6<sup>th</sup> day of July 2022.

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## **COPIES ALSO MAILED TO:**

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/s/Robert J. D'Anniballe, Jr.

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/s/ Anthony S. Caliguire

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