## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF KANAWHA COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

J. F. ALLEN CORPORATION a West Virginia Corporation,

v.

Plaintiff,

MAY 2 6 2016

CIVIL ACTION NO.: 14-C-1182 VIRGINIA

JUDGE KAUFMAN

THE SANITARY BOARD OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, and BURGESS AND NIPLE, INC. an Ohio Corporation.

Defendants.

## MOTION FOR REFERRAL TO THE BUSINESS COURT DIVISION

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, J. F. Allen Corporation, by counsel, Charles M. Johnstone, II, Johnson W. Gabhart, and the law firm of Johnstone & Gabhart, LLP, and hereby moves pursuant to Rule 29.06 of the West Virginia Trial Court Rules for a referral to the Business Court Division. In support of its Motion, the Plaintiff states as follows:

- 1. The matter to be referred is an action for breach of contract involving a public works construction project providing for a series of improvements to the City of Charleston's municipal water system.
- 2. During performance a series of disputes arose between the parties that involve complex factual and legal issues related to interpretation and application of the contract documents, adequacy of notice, subsequent oral agreements affecting the relationship of the parties, and waiver of contractual provisions relating to notice, amendment, and payment for changed or extra work.
- 3. The case also involves a claim of professional negligence by the Plaintiff Contractor against the Defendant Owner's Engineer, Burgess & Niple, Inc., An Answer was filed by Burgess & Niple, Inc., more than a year ago but that claim has been on hold pending resolution of the Sanitary Board's Rule 12(b)(6) Motion.

4. The complexity of the issues to be addressed in the action are reflected in the fact that the parties have spent more than eighteen (18) months litigating Rule 12(b)(6) motions and an appeal and an answer has only just now been filed. Copies of the Complaint, Amended Complaint, Trial Court's Order Granting Defendants' Motion to Dismiss, the Decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals Reversing and Remanding, Burgess & Niple, Inc.'s Answer, and The Sanitary Board of The City of Charleston's Answer and Counterclaim are attached hereto as Exhibits A-F.

5. The Plaintiff states that there are no related actions pending, nor is there the likelihood of related actions being filed in the future.

6. For these reasons, the Plaintiff does hereby respectfully request that this matter be referred to the Business Court Division for further litigation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. ALLEN CORPORATION By Counsel:

Charles M. Johnstone, II, Esq. (WVSB #5082) Johnson W. Gabhart, Esq. (WVSB #5492)

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Post Office Box 313

Charleston, West Virginia 25321

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## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Johnson W. Gabhart, hereby certify that I served the foregoing, "MOTION FOR REFERRAL

TO BUSINESS COURT DIVISION" upon the following on the 26th day of May, 2016, by depositing a

true and exact copy in the United States mail, postage prepaid, to the following addresses:

The Honorable Tod J. Kaufman 13th Judicial Circuit Court Judge Kanawha County Judicial Building 111 Court Street

Charleston, West Virginia 25301

David A. Barnette, Esquire Jackson Kelly, PLLC P. O. Box 553 Charleston, WV 25322-0553 Counsel for The Sanitary Board of The City of Charleston, West Virginia

Business Court Division Central Office Berkeley County Judicial Center 380 W. South Street, Suite 2100 Martinsburg, West Virginia 25401

Kanawha County Circuit Clerk Kanawha County Judicial Annex 111 Court Street Charleston, West Virginia 25301

Peter T. DeMasters, Esquire Kyle T. Turnbull, Esquire Flaherty Sensabaugh Bonasso, PLLC 48 Donley Street, Suite 501 Morgantown, WV 26501 Counsel for Burgess & Niple, Inc.

Charles M. Johnstone, II, Esq. (WVSB #5082) Johnson W. Gabhart, Esq. (WVSB #5492)

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