

Supreme Court

No. 2023-344-M.P.

In the Matter of James S. Lawrence. :

ORDER

On December 19, 2023, this Court entered an Order appointing the Honorable Michael A. Silverstein as Special Master of Accounts and Marshalling Assets in this matter.

The Special Master has filed a petition seeking approval of his proposed claims process to be utilized by past and present clients of James S. Lawrence.¹

This Court hereby grants the Special Master's petition. The Special Master is authorized to act as follows:

1. The Special Master will cause to be mailed to known past and present clients of Mr. Lawrence a proof of claim form in the form of Exhibit A to this Order. The mailing of the proof of claim form shall include instructions setting a date by which such proofs of claim must be filed (which date shall be determined by the Special Master), indicating what information and/or documents must be included with the proof of claim form, and explaining the process by which the proofs of claim shall be evaluated and determined.
2. The Special Master will cause a notice in the form of Exhibit B to this Order to be published in the Providence Journal once a week for two consecutive weeks for the purpose of notifying any client (past or present) of Mr. Lawrence who does not receive the mailing provided for in Paragraph 1 above that they may obtain a copy of: (1) the proof of claim

¹ For the purposes of this Order, any reference to James S. Lawrence or Mr. Lawrence shall be deemed to include the Law Firm of Lawrence and Associates (aka Lawrence and Associates, LLC).

form; (2) the Special Master's petition seeking approval of the claim process; and (3) this Order approving that process. The published notice also shall provide notice of the final date for filing proofs of claim (which date shall be determined by the Special Master) and indicate that any claim filed after said date will be disallowed. Further, the notice shall direct any interested party to the Rhode Island Judiciary website at www.courts.ri.gov, specifically on the Disciplinary Board webpage, where the proof of claim form, the Special Master's petition seeking approval of the claim process, and this Order approving that process may be found and from which copies may be printed out.

3. Following the date by which such claims must be filed, the Special Master will evaluate each such claim by:
 - A. Reviewing such records as may be available to him from any source.
 - B. Conferencing with the claimants if the Special Master deems it necessary.
4. Following his evaluation of the claims, the Special Master shall notify the claimant or claimants that he intends to:
 - A. Approve the claim in full;
 - B. Approve the claim only in part and disapprove the claim as to the balance; or
 - C. Disapprove the claim in full.
5. To the extent that a claim is not to be approved in full the aggrieved claimant or claimants may, within *fourteen (14) days* of notification of full or partial disapproval, request a hearing before the Special Master. At such hearing, the aggrieved claimant or claimants may be represented by counsel. The hearing shall be recorded stenographically. Following such hearing, the Special Master may modify his prior disapproval in whole or in part.

After all hearings have been completed, the Special Master shall prepare a final report with respect to all claims and circulate a copy to all claimants.

6. In connection with the approval in full or in part or the disapproval in full or in part by the Special Master, in his final report, the Special Master shall make:
 - A. Findings of fact which shall be binding unless clearly erroneous; and
 - B. Conclusions of law.
7. Within *ten (10) days* of receipt of such final report, any aggrieved claimant or claimants may seek review of the Special Master's final recommendation as to that aggrieved claimant or claimants' claim by filing a miscellaneous petition with the Rhode Island Supreme Court. The miscellaneous petition shall be filed with a hardcopy in the Supreme Court Clerk's Office and no filing fee will be required.
8. The Rhode Island Supreme Court shall issue an order indicating its decision with respect to any miscellaneous petitions filed pursuant to this Order. It shall direct a copy of any such order to the Special Master who shall modify his final report accordingly and file the modified final report with the Rhode Island Supreme Court with a copy to all claimants.

Entered as an Order of this Court this *24th* day of *May 2024*.

By Order:

/s/ Meredith A. Benoit
Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Proof of Claim must be filed by close of business on 2024
(The Bar Date) or claim will be disallowed.

PROOF OF CLAIM IS TO BE FILED WITH SPECIAL MASTER

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

IN THE MATTER OF JAMES L. LAWRENCE¹:

Case No. 2023-344-M.P.

PROOF OF CLAIM FORM

Please Type or Print in the Boxes Below

FOR SPECIAL MASTER'S USE ONLY

Claim No.: _____

Date of Claim: ___/___/___

PART I: CLAIMANT IDENTIFICATION:

Name of Individual (Last, First) or Entity Making this Claim

**If Entity, Name (Last, First) of Individual Completing Form on behalf of Entity
Title**

Street Address

City

State

Zip Code

¹ This form should be used for claims against James L. Lawrence and/or Lawrence and Associates (aka Lawrence and Associates, LLC).

EXHIBIT A

Telephone Number (Primary)

____ - ____ - ____
____ - ____ - ____

Telephone Number (Alternate)

____ - ____ - ____
____ - ____ - ____

Email Address

PART II: CLAIM:

AMOUNT OF CLAIM: _____	DATE CLAIM INCURRED (IF KNOWN): _____
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Please identify, by checking the appropriate box, the Person or Entity against whom this claim is asserted:

<input type="checkbox"/>	James L. Lawrence
<input type="checkbox"/>	Lawrence and Associates

Specific Grounds for Claim (attach additional sheet(s), if necessary). _____ _____ _____
Please indicate the number of additional sheets attached _____ _____ _____
If Legal Action Pending, Date Commenced, Court Name, and Case No.: ____ / ____ / ____
Has a claim been filed with the Rhode Island Bar Association Client Reimbursement Fund? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

EXHIBIT A

If yes: (a) In what amount? \$ _____
(b) Has claim been paid? Yes No

In what amount? \$ _____
(c) When paid? _____

Has a claim been filed with the Massachusetts Clients' Security Board? Yes No

If yes: (a) In what amount? \$ _____
(b) Has claim been paid? Yes No

In what amount? \$ _____
(c) When paid? _____

Claim Status.

- Check box if you are aware that anyone else has filed a Proof of Claim Form with the Special Master relating to Your Claim. (Attach statement giving particulars.)
- Check box if the address entered on this form differs from the address on the envelope sent to you by the Special Master (if you received this form via mail).

Check here if this Proof of Claim:

- Amends
- Replaces
- Supplements a previously filed Proof of Claim Form, dated: _____

VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS: All Proof of Claim Forms submitted are subject to verification by the Special Master and approval by the Supreme Court. It is important to provide complete and accurate information to facilitate this effort. Claimants must be willing to submit to an interview and may be asked to supply additional information to complete the claims process.

CONSENT TO JURISDICTION: By submitting your Proof of Claim Form, you consent to the claims process approved by the Rhode Island Supreme Court, a copy of the approved Claims Process has been furnished to the undersigned who acknowledges receipt thereof. The undersigned agrees to be bound for all purposes by the process and determinations as to the validity and amount of Claims filed by or on behalf of the undersigned. In submitting your Proof of Claim Form, you agree to be bound by the claims process even if that means your Claim is limited or denied.

EXHIBIT A

DECLARATION AND CERTIFICATE OF TRUTHFULNESS: I, the undersigned, hereby certify that all of the information provided in this Proof of Claim Form, including all Schedules and attachments to the Proof of Claim, is true and correct and that the undersigned is authorized to make this Claim. I further certify that I have received a copy of the Claims Process approved by the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

(Signature)

(Date)

(Type or print your name here)

(Capacity of person(s) signing)

If signing for an entity

(Name of entity)

Submit your Proof of Claim Form and supporting documentation to the Special Master addressed to the Special Master c/o Disciplinary Counsel, Room 1083, 222 Quaker Lane, Warwick, RI 02886.

Reminder Checklist:

1. Please sign the above declaration.
2. Remember to attach copies of supporting documentation, if available.
3. Keep a copy of your claim form and all original supporting documentation for your records.
4. If your contact information changes, please send the Special Master updated information.

INSTRUCTIONS:

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION: Please attach to your Proof of Claim Form only documents (including copies of emails and other electronic data) that support your Proof of Claim Form. **DO NOT SEND ORIGINAL DOCUMENTS.** If such documentation is not available, please attach an explanation of why the documents are not available.

EXHIBIT B

RHODE ISLAND SUPREME COURT

Case No. 2023-344 M.P.

In the Matter of James L. Lawrence¹

To all past and present clients of James L. Lawrence, please take notice that a process for filing claims has been approved by the Rhode Island Supreme Court.

See:

- (i) Petition to Approve Claim Process;
- (ii) The Supreme Court Order approving the same; and
- (iii) A copy of the Proof of Claim Form

which are available on the Rhode Island Judiciary website at www.courts.ri.gov, on the Disciplinary Board webpage.

PLEASE NOTE that a Bar Date after which no claims will be accepted has been established. That Bar Date is _____.

For further information, contact the Office of the Disciplinary Counsel, 222 Quaker Lane, Warwick, R.I., phone: (401) 823-5710.

¹ Which includes clients of Lawrence and Associates (aka Lawrence and Associates, LLC).