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Exhibit A

Transcript of April 24, 2012 District Court Hearing (Motion to Intervene Arguments)

Case: 12-12462 Date Filed: 05/30/2012 Page: 2 of 19

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA PENSACOLA DIVISION

BAYOU LAWN & LANDSCAPE SERVICES, et al.,)))
Plaintiffs,))
) Case No. 3:12cv183/MCR
vs.	<pre>Pensacola, Florida Pensacola, Florida 2:05 p.m.)</pre>
HILDA L. SOLIS, et al.,))
Defendants.))

TRANSCRIPT OF MOTION PROCEEDINGS
BEFORE THE HONORABLE M. CASEY RODGERS
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
(Pages 1-100)

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for a nationwide injunction. Well, that's an issue that I have to consider in this case is whether that is too broad, but that is what's before me. I don't know that I can alter the Plaintiffs' claim here for purposes of this discussion. So unless Mr. Charrow is willing to concede something, I don't think I can -- again, I can't alter his claim or narrow it.

MR. FORNEY: Okay. I'd like to seek leave to contact your chambers hopefully by noon your time tomorrow.

THE COURT: All right.

MR. FORNEY: And I'll communicate with your clerk or with the courtroom deputy --

THE COURT: Call my chambers at 850-435-8448 and speak either to Ms. Rock, R-O-C-K, or Ms. Klotz -- and this is Ms. Klotz here, my law clerk, Amy Klotz, K-L-O-T-Z. You could speak to either one of them.

And Mr. Forney, I appreciate you doing that. And if the answer is that they will not agree to it, we'll go ahead and start our research and see if that's absolutely necessary. If the case law doesn't support it and they don't agree, I'll have something out. It may not be as thorough as I would like it to be, but I will certainly analyze it. And I might have to incapsulate my reasoning in the written order, but it will be there for appellate review.

Okay. We have the Motion to Intervene. I've indicated that I would hear that if we had time, but I do want

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to stress that I only want to hear something that is new. So if it's not new -- I mean, this isn't a motion to reconsider. You have that issue before the Eleventh Circuit in the Bayou I case. If I'm wrong, legally incorrect, they will tell me that and send it back.

And otherwise, I mean, if there's something distinguishable about this case for purposes of the Motion to Intervene, then I'll hear you on that. And then also on the Motion to Transfer, if there's something distinguishable as well. And I think there may be on the Motion to Transfer. Go ahead.

MS. GRAUNKE: With respect to the Motion to

Intervene -- and I do want to be solicitous of the Court's time
in this regard, and I know that we have briefed this in Bayou I.

I think it's important to point out that the far reaching implications of enjoining this rule really do implicate the interest of the workers who are attempting to intervene in this lawsuit in some very significant ways.

The Plaintiffs have been talking about this case as though it's just about the landscaping industry, but it affects many industries, the hospitality industry among them. And some of the new intervenors in this case are hospitality workers who are speaking about the effects that these new regulations would have on their jobs.

This isn't just the Wage Rule. There's a number of

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tangible benefits being afforded to them by these rules, including, for example, the recruitment provisions, which unemployed U.S. workers have a very strong interest in seeing exist for the purposes of knowing that these jobs are available, as well as the rights that would go to workers in corresponding employment with H-2B workers, the U.S. workers who are doing the same jobs as H-2B workers.

I think we remain very concerned about the issue of the Rule 65(c) security. I believe we have briefed that to some extent before, so I won't go into a lot of detail here. But here there is a quantifiable harm that is going to be caused to workers if this rule is enjoined, and that's particularly exemplified in the case of H-2B workers who, under the regulation, would be entitled to reimbursement for travel expenses at the midpoint of the contract.

The DOL, for example, estimated that at being approximately \$900 per worker that would be paid, and so that provides sort of a sum by which this Court can calculate security. So workers — the workers that we represent applicants for intervention seek to protect these very tangible benefits that are conferred by the statute through the mechanism of 65(c), if an injunction is granted, but regardless, that is the strong compelling interest here.

THE COURT: I guess I still am of the view that what's at issue in this case -- solely what's at issue in this case is

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this agency's rulemaking authority and their compliance with the APA and the RFA.

It is -- that is not an interest that you all have. I mean, this, in terms of what's at issue by this Plaintiff and this Defendant, I do not see the intersection of your clients' rights with what's at issue in this case.

I understand you see a benefit to your clients or your clients feel that they have a benefit to enforcement of the rule against these Plaintiffs, but that doesn't give you a right to intervene in this lawsuit.

MS. GRAUNKE: Well, Your Honor, if I may, I think the Chiles v. Thornburgh case and the Army Corps of Engineers cases which are cited in our brief are very important. And unfortunately -- and I apologize -- I'm not sure that we did as good a job as we should have in terms of presenting the relevant Eleventh Circuit authority in Bayou I, and I certainly apologize to the extent that we fell down on the job a bit there. But I think Chiles is relatively instructive.

For example, in *Chiles*, the Eleventh Circuit held that detainees at an immigrant detention facility in Florida had a right to intervene into a lawsuit that was between a U.S. senator who was challenging the federal government's administration of this detainee prison. And he was not doing it on behalf of the detainees; he was not representing their interest. His was representing his interest as a United States

04:16:07PM	1	senator who
04:16:07PM	2	THE COURT: What legally protected right did the
04:16:10PM	3	plaintiffs have that was at issue in that case?
04:16:13PM	4	MS. GRAUNKE: In Chiles the Court discussed the issue
04:16:15PM	5	of how the detainees were being affected by the way the prison
04:16:19PM	6	was being run deficiently.
04:16:20PM	7	THE COURT: Constitutionally?
04:16:21PM	8	MS. GRAUNKE: Yes, and that they had potential
04:16:24PM	9	complaints that arose from the problematic conditions at the
04:16:28PM	10	detention facility which were separate from, but still legally
04:16:29PM	11	enforceable, but they were separate from those that were
04:16:31PM	12	presented by Senator Chiles in his complaint.
04:16:34PM	13	His concern was with the safety effects of the prison
04:16:36PM	14	being located in that community and improper staffing leading to
04:16:39PM	15	things like riots and prison escapes. The detainees were
04:16:44PM	16	themselves nonviolent immigrant detainees who were concerned
04:16:46PM	17	about being preyed upon by violent prison detainees excuse
04:16:50PM	18	me immigrant detainees there. So there was this concern
04:16:54PM	19	about harm that was really separate from what was being
04:16:56PM	20	presented by Senator Chiles.
04:16:56PM	21	THE COURT: Not just harm, though. Those were
04:16:59PM	22	Constitutional rights that those plaintiffs had.
04:17:01PM	23	MS. GRAUNKE: That's right.
04:17:03PM	24	THE COURT: Excuse me that those intervenors had.
04:17:05PM	25	MS. GRAUNKE: Yes. And there are legal rights that

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our clients have -- that applicants for intervention have with respect to the H-2B guestworker regulation. They can enforce those through contracts just as any employee can enforce the guarantee through an employment contract against an employer who has breached. So that's one.

There are also administrative rights that the workers have within this system to make complaints with the Wage and Hour Division of Department of Labor, for example, if the H-2B regulations are not being respected.

And finally, there are the rights that the workers have under the APA. And I think if this Court were to find that there were no rulemaking authority on the part of DOL, one of the options I think CATA and PCUN would have to consider, going to their 2008 case involving the 2008 regs, is whether they would want to challenge the validity of the 2008 rule, for example, that was dealt with by the Court in that case.

THE COURT: I didn't -- with what case?

MS. GRAUNKE: I'm sorry. This is the CATA case in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. So the issue of DOL rulemaking, you know, our clients as well have rights to sue under the APA as aggrieved individuals, and so we have sort of similar rights to challenge regulatory actions, whether that's --

THE COURT: But you're not intervening as plaintiffs here.

04:18:29PM	1	MS. GRAUNKE: That's true.
04:18:30PM	2	THE COURT: You're intervening as defendant.
04:18:33PM	3	MS. GRAUNKE: That's true. But what I'm saying is
04:18:35PM	4	that there is a legally protected right based on their status as
04:18:38PM	5	aggrieved persons in relation to the APA.
04:18:41PM	6	THE COURT: Right, but you have to set that out in a
04:18:44PM	7	pleading what you've done in an answer in this case.
04:18:46PM	8	MS. GRAUNKE: Right, yes.
04:18:46PM	9	THE COURT: So that's what I'm looking at is what
04:18:49PM	10	you've set forth in your answer that gives you a right to
04:18:52PM	11	intervene.
04:18:53PM	12	MS. GRAUNKE: Yes.
04:18:53PM	13	THE COURT: And I don't think that was set forth as
04:18:57PM	14	far as you're not challenging you haven't raised your rights
04:19:02PM	15	under the APA in this case, your clients' rights.
04:19:06PM	16	MS. GRAUNKE: No. But what I'm trying to refer to is,
04:19:08PM	17	in cases like Chiles and the Army Corps of Engineers case, which
04:19:12PM	18	is also cited in our brief, it wasn't necessary that the
04:19:15PM	19	specific legal right that was being asserted by the intervenors
04:19:18PM	20	be at issue in the case in which they sought to intervene.
04:19:21PM	21	Rather, the important thing is that they had legal rights that
04:19:24PM	22	could be affected by the outcome of these proceedings.
04:19:26PM	23	THE COURT: Okay. I guess the one thing that stands
04:19:31PM	24	out in my mind here is that at least most of the cases that I
04:19:35PM	25	reviewed that you all cited stressed that the regulation or rule
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                or law at issue controlled or governed the party.
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                           In this case that's not the case. The regulations at
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                issue control these individuals, not your clients.
                           MS. GRAUNKE: We respectfully disagree, Your Honor.
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                They do, in fact, regulate our clients.
04:20:02PM
                           THE COURT: I didn't say impact. I said controlled or
04:20:04PM
           6
                governed. I didn't say impact.
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04:20:07PM
                           MS. GRAUNKE: But, for example, the regulations set
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                forth -- a good example is the three-quarter guarantee, Your
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                Honor. Normally if an employee enters into a contract with an
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                employer for a specific amount of work, that employer would be
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                obligated to provide that work if it was a contractual promise.
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                           Here, with the three-quarters guarantee, the
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                regulation is setting the maximum amount that a worker can
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                expect to be compensated -- have a quarantee of being
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                compensated for during their working contract. They don't have
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                the power to negotiate above that.
                           And so these regulations are setting certain
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                nonnegotiable terms and conditions that govern the employee's
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                rights and regulate the employee's work experiences and
                conditions.
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                           THE COURT: But your clients don't have the right for
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                any of these employers to participate in the program.
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                           MS. GRAUNKE: That's correct that our -- I mean -- I'm
          24
04:21:02PM
          25
                sorry -- that intervenors do not have the right to --
04:21:06PM
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04:21:10PM	1	THE COURT: I mean, you don't have the right if one
04:21:13PM	2	of your clients worked for one of these plaintiffs in this case,
04:21:17PM	3	you don't have any right for them to stay in the program, drop
04:21:21PM	4	out of the program, right? I mean, employers can drop out of
04:21:26PM	5	the program.
04;21;28PM	6	MS. GRAUNKE: That's true. It would be up to the
04:21:29PM	7	employer, you know, as approved by the, obviously, DOL and DHS
04:21:36PM	8	whether they could participate in this program. It's not up to
04:21:40PM	9	our clients, that's correct.
04:21:40PM	10	THE COURT: And you don't have any employment right
04:21:42PM	11	with those employers.
04:21:43PM	12	MS. GRAUNKE: But the regulations do set out certain
04:21:46PM	13	employment rights for U.S. workers, and one of the main thrusts
04:21:49PM	14	of these regulations is obviously to make sure that these
04:21:52PM	15	opportunities are first available to U.S. workers, especially
04:21:55PM	16	given the unemployment crisis in this country.
04:21:58PM	17	And so they do workers do have specific rights that
04:22:01PM	18	are laid out under these recruitment regulations and access to
04:22:05PM	19	those opportunities.
04:22:06PM	20	THE COURT: If the employer participates in the
04:22:08PM	21	program.
04:22:09PM	22	MS. GRAUNKE: That's right, yes, that's right. And I
04:22:13PM	23	understand you know, it sounds like the Court is still
04:22:16PM	24	harboring doubts about intervention of right, and I would again
04:22:20PM	25	just say I think we did a better job briefing it this time, and

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I would certainly ask for the Court's consideration of our arguments raised there.

I know we're running short on time. I want to point to something that's different from the perspective of considering permissive intervention.

One of the issues with respect to permissive intervention, Your Honor felt that the involvement of the intervenors would delay things, would slow things down, would cause a burden because the intervenors were seeking class certification in Bayou I. We are not seeking that here.

And we really feel that -- and I hope -- we've done our best at this argument today to show that we only intend to supplement and to represent the specific interests that workers have in these regulations which directly regulate their working conditions and work opportunities, but that we don't intend to bog down the proceedings.

And I think that this -- in this case the fact that we're not seeking class certification, it doesn't inject that element of delay.

So those are -- that's one of the main distinctions

I'd like to point out in terms of thinking about the permissive intervention issue, which would be an option for Your Honor in this case.

THE COURT: All right. I do -- or did note that distinction so I appreciate you addressing that.

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04:23:48PM	1	MS. GRAUNKE: Excuse me, Your Honor, if I may?
04:23:51PM	2	THE COURT: All right.
04:23:53PM	3	(Conference between Mr. Graunke and Mr. Schell.)
04:24:00PM	4	MS. GRAUNKE: If Your Honor doesn't have particular
04:24:03PM	5	questions about the Motion to Intervene, would we be able to
04:24:08PM	6	discuss our Motion for Transfer?
04:24:10PM	7	THE COURT: Let me ask, what is the common question of
04:24:16PM	8	law or fact that you believe you share your clients share
04:24:21PM	9	with the Department here?
04:24:24PM	10	MS. GRAUNKE: Well, this question of rulemaking
04:24:26PM	11	authority, for one. We're representing our clients' interest in
04:24:30PM	12	ensuring the DOL can issue rules because in the experience of
04:24:35PM	13	the applicant intervenors the rules are something that's
04:24:39PM	14	important.
04:24:40PM	15	Obviously, if this rule is invalidated, they will not
04:24:42PM	16	be receiving these benefits and these rights and these mandated
04:24:46PM	17	contract terms, if the rule is completely invalidated for lack
04:24:52PM	18	of rulemaking authority.
04:24:53PM	19	THE COURT: Why doesn't the Department of Labor
04:24:57PM	20	adequately represent that issue in this case?
04:25:00PM	21	MS. GRAUNKE: Okay. I mean, I think that that's most
04:25:03PM	22	clearly shown by the fact that the Department of Labor has
04:25:06PM	23	failed to request the security that is required by Rule 65(c) in
04:25:10PM	24	this case, and that would be the monetary security that would be
04:25:13PM	25	required to be fronted by the parties who are seeking an

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injunction in order to protect the workers' tangible interests in what the benefits would be providing them -- excuse me -- the regulations would be providing them.

So I think that's the key issue here. I don't think

-- also, it sounds as though Mr. Forney was beginning to argue

that he may also be addressing the standing issue. But one of

the things we have done is discussed at great length raising the

issues of associational standing and the defects to

associational standing in the case.

And again, that links up with this issue of the mandatory relief under Rule 65 that, you know, these organizations — these employer associations cannot provide the security that's required. Individual parties are required to come forward and provide that security.

And for them to be asking for a nationwide injunction when they don't actually have parties before this Court who can put up this security is problematic. So that would be another issue as well.

And finally, we are also raising this issue of transfer and the first-to-file problems that we see and the question of the authority of the CATA court who, in fact, directed DOL to go back and engage in legislative rulemaking.

THE COURT: Haven't I ruled on this? I mean, is this any different than the prior Motion to Transfer?

MS. GRAUNKE: I do believe it presents somewhat

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different facts, Your Honor, because of this first-to-file question, and I can turn to discussing that more specifically. But the fact that in the Western District of Louisiana case, Louisiana Forestry, which was then transferred to Eastern District of Pennsylvania, that is the issue being raised in that case, whether DOL has rulemaking authority. That is now on summary judgment briefing before the Court in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

THE COURT: It's actually in the Bayou I case as well.

MS. GRAUNKE: That's correct. But it is -- my understanding is that the summary judgment briefing has not occurred in the Bayou I case, and that the claim in the Western District of Louisiana case, which was then transferred to the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, the Louisiana Forestry case, was raised before then.

THE COURT: Right, but in addressing that issue in Pennsylvania, that Court will be applying circuit law that's very different potentially than the law that will govern me in my consideration of the issue.

MS. GRAUNKE: Well, I think that if it were dealing -it seems like from the arguments that we are dealing with an issue that hasn't been addressed specifically, so I'm not certain that there is a great deal of circuit precedent in either circuit that speaks directly to this issue.

THE COURT: But that's not a reason for me to defer

04:28:00PM	1	ruling to some other court somewhere else in the country. I
04:28:03PM	2	mean, at any given time there could be a number of courts that
04:28:07PM	3	are looking at, you know, similar or identical nearly
04:28:11PM	4	identical issues, legal issues.
04:28:15PM	5	MS. GRAUNKE: Well, Your Honor, the First-to-File Rule
04:28:18PM	6	at least creates a presumption that the case ought to be
04:28:22PM	7	transferred.
04:28:22PM	. 8	THE COURT: But what it's not we don't have the
04:28:25PM	9	same parties. I don't understand your
04:28:26PM	10	MS. GRAUNKE: We do have the same defendants, Your
04:28:30PM	11	Honor. Secretary Solis and Deputy Secretary Jane Oates are also
04:28:36PM	12	defendants in the Louisiana Forestry case, which is now in the
04:28:39PM	13	Eastern District of Pennsylvania.
04:28:41PM	14	THE COURT: They're probably defendants all over the
04:28:46PM	15	country in different cases. I guess I don't see I do not see
04:28:47PM	16	the
04:28:47PM	17	MS. GRAUNKE: It is the exact same legal issue. And
04:28:50PM	18	again, the first-to-file cases discuss this and the importance
04:28:54PM	19	of respecting that there is this decision-making process that is
04:28:57PM	20	taking place in another court against these same defendants on
04:29:00PM	21	the precise same legal issue.
04:29:01PM	22	There's also a very serious issue of conflicting
04:29:04PM	23	orders, particularly given the breadth of the injunction that
04:29:07PM	24	Plaintiffs are seeking in this case. It's a nationwide
04:29:10PM	25	injunction that they're asking for. What if the District Court

04:29:13PM	1	in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania decides differently?
04:29:16PM	2	What is DOL then supposed to do?
04:29:19PM	3	There would be a lot of confusion and conflict
04:29:21PM	4	potentially brought out by conflicting decisions, which would
04:29:24PM	5	cause a lot of disruption for H-2B employees, similarly situated
04:29:29PM	6	U.S. workers, and employers, frankly.
04:29:31PM	7	THE COURT: So the Eastern District Judge Drell's
04:29:35PM	8	case was filed prior to Bayou I?
04:29:40PM	9	MS. GRAUNKE: That's my understanding, yes. And I
04:29:42PM	10	apologize because I wasn't involved in the Louisiana Forestry,
04:29:45PM	11	and that's why I'm checking with co-counsel here.
04:29:48PM	12	THE COURT: All right. Thank you.
04:29:50PM	13	MS. GRAUNKE: Thank you for your time.
04:29:51PM	14	THE COURT: All right. If you want to respond, Ms.
04:29:53PM	15	Klaus?
04:29:54PM	16	MS. KLAUS: Just briefly, Your Honor. The issues
04:30:04PM	17	raised by the Motion to Intervene here are no different than the
04:30:09PM	18	issues that were raised in Bayou I.
04:30:12PM	19	The interests that the intervenors have alleged here
04:30:15PM	20	is in their Motion for Leave to Intervene at page 6, and it is
04:30:19PM	21	the same interests that this Court found in Bayou I. There the
04:30:23PM	22	intervenors state: "The applicants' interest is solely in the
04:30:26PM	23	preservation of the wages and benefits of the workers who are
04:30:29PM	24	affected by this challenge." That is a purely economic
04:30:32PM	25	interest. That's what the Court found in Bayou I, and that

04:30:36PM 1 2 04:30:40PM 04:30:41PM 3 4 04:30:45PM 5 04:30:49PM 04:30:53PM 6 7 04:30:59PM 04:31:02PM 8 9 04:31:05PM 10 04:31:10PM 04:31:13PM 11 04:31:16PM 12 13 04:31:20PM 04:31:24PM 14 04:31:25PM 15 16 04:31:28PM 04:31:33PM 17 04:31:38PM 18 19 04:31:42PM 04:31:47PM 20 21 04:31:48PM 22 04:31:52PM 23 04:31:56PM 04:32:00PM 24 25

04:32:04PM

interest hasn't changed, and the basis in their motion hasn't changed.

Second: With respect to the potential for undue delay, that, too, has not changed. Notwithstanding the absence of a request for class certification, the intervenors do propose to inject new issues into this case. The Rule 65(c) security issue is one of those issues. The transfer is another. seek to inject a wide range of collateral issues that are specified in their answer and in their request for affirmative relief and in their new materials.

They say at the motion -- at their motion on page 7 that they intend to raise these issues, among others, if they're granted intervention. And so they are injecting new issues and they are causing delay.

And finally, with respect to the Rule 65(c), the case law is fairly clear that the Court has discretion. And where the imposition of a security would preclude the parties from actually raising an APA challenge, then the Court has the discretion to not enter a 65(c) order or to enter a minimal amount.

Very briefly on the transfer and the notion that this is a first-to-file issue. It's not a first-to-file issue. But the theory that the intervenors seem to be advocating is that the first court that deals with any particular issue becomes the only court that can deal with that issue.