Court of Appeals, State of Michigan

ORDER

JOHNSON LAW PLC V FREMONT INSURANCE COMPANY

Docket No. 379559

LC No. 24-120314-CB

Christopher M. Murray
Presiding Judge

Michelle M. Rick

Sima G. Patel
Judges

The application for leave to appeal is GRANTED IN PART, limited to Issue I raised in defendant's application for leave to appeal. In all other respects, the application for leave to appeal is DENIED for failure to persuade the Court of the need for immediate appellate review. The time for taking further steps in this appeal runs from the date of the Clerk's certification of this order. MCR 7.205(E)(3).

The motion to seal is GRANTED IN PART insofar as defendants seek to prevent public access to the documents in Attachment A-1. This Court finds good cause to seal the documents in Attachment A-1 based on the confidential nature of the attorney-client documents, and determines there are no less restrictive means to adequately and effectively protect the interest asserted. MCR 7.211(C)(9)(e). The Clerk shall disclose or provide copies of any order or opinion entered in this appeal, MCR 8.119(I)(5); MCR 7.211(C)(9)(c), but sealed pleadings or other contents of the file shall not be disclosed or made available for public viewing.

However, insofar as defendants attempt to use a motion to seal under MCR 8.119 to "maintain the status quo" and to preclude plaintiff Johnson Law, PLC's access to documents, the motion is DENIED. MCR 8.119 governs public access to records. See *Jenson v Puste*, 290 Mich App 338, 342; 801 NW2d 639 (2010). As a party to this case, plaintiff's right to discovery of the documents in question is governed by the trial court's discovery order, and this Court's decision to grant leave does not stay the effect of that order. See MCR 7.209(A).

The Clerk is directed to forward a copy of this order to the Clerk of the Supreme Court and to the State Court Administrative Office. MCR 8.119(I)(7); MCR 7.211(C)(9)(c).

Christopher Murray

Presiding Judge

A true copy entered and certified by Jerome W. Zimmer Jr., Chief Clerk, on

April 22, 2026
Date

Jerome W. Zimmer Jr.
Chief Clerk