STATE OF MICHIGAN

COURT OF CLAIMS

SOTERO M. LOPEZ III, Trustee and Executor of Succor International Ecclesiastical Foreign Non-Grantor Trust,

Plaintiff,

v

JOCELYN BENSON, in her official capacity as Secretary of State for the State of Michigan,

Defendant.
_____/

ORDER

Case No. 25-000123-MZ

Hon. Sima G. Patel

ORDER DISMISSING PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT WITHOUT PREJUDICE

Plaintiff Sotero M. Lopez III, filed this lawsuit as the Trustee and Executor of the Succor International Ecclesiastical Foreign Non-Grantor Trust (Trust). He requests declaratory and injunctive relief against defendant, Jocelyn Benson, in her official capacity as Michigan's Secretary of State, for failure to recognize a promissory note, bill of exchange, security agreements and "ecclesiastically issued Private Insurance Policies" submitted to the Michigan Department of State (MDOS) for filing under the Uniform Commercial Code (UCC). He also seeks a declaratory judgment affirming a currency issued under the "fiduciary authority of the Succor International Ecclesiastical Foreign Non-Grantor Trust" and recognizing its "ecclesiastically backed Private Auto Insurance Policy as a lawful instrument."

The Court has concerns regarding the merits of Lopez's claims; however, this complaint fails due a more fundamental flaw. In this action, Lopez seeks to vindicate a right held by the

trust. The trust, as with all corporate entities, may appear in this action only through representation of an attorney licensed to practice law. *Detroit Bar Ass'n v Union Guardian Tr Co*, 282 Mich 707, 711-712; 281 NW 432 (1938). Lopez is not a licensed attorney. This complaint must be dismissed.

IT IS ORDERED:

1. The Court DISMISSES plaintiff's complaint without prejudice.

2. This is a final order resolving all issues in this case.

Date: October 14, 2025

Sima G. Patel
Judge, Court of Claims