



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

NOTICE OF FILING

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Details of Filing

File Number: C3/2024
File Title: Commonwealth of Australia v. Mr Stradford (a pseudonym) &
Registry: Canberra
Document filed: Form 27B - Appellant's chronology
Filing party: Applicant
Date filed: 28 Mar 2024

Important Information

This Notice has been inserted as the cover page of the document which has been accepted for filing electronically. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties and whenever the document is reproduced for use by the Court.

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA REGISTRY**

NO C3 OF 2024

BETWEEN: **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**
Appellant

AND: **MR STRADFORD (A PSEUDONYM)**
First Respondent

HIS HONOUR JUDGE SALVATORE PAUL VASTA
Second Respondent

STATE OF QUEENSLAND
Third Respondent

NO C4 OF 2024

BETWEEN: **HIS HONOUR JUDGE SALVATORE PAUL VASTA**
Appellant

AND: **MR STRADFORD (A PSEUDONYM)**
First Respondent

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Second Respondent

STATE OF QUEENSLAND
Third Respondent

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA
SYDNEY REGISTRY**

NO S24 OF 2024

BETWEEN: **STATE OF QUEENSLAND**
Appellant

AND: **MR STRADFORD (A PSEUDONYM)**
First Respondent

HIS HONOUR JUDGE SALVATORE PAUL VASTA
Second Respondent

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Third Respondent

COMMONWEALTH'S CHRONOLOGY

PART I CERTIFICATION

1. This chronology is in a form suitable for publication on the internet

PART II LIST OF PRINCIPAL EVENTS LEADING TO THE LITIGATION

Date	Event	References
7 Apr 2017	Mr Stradford brings an application in the Federal Circuit Court of Australia (FCC) seeking property adjustment orders under the <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> (Cth) in respect of matrimonial assets owned by him and Mrs Stradford	CAB 21, 67, 261 J [18]
19 Jun 2018	The matter comes on for directions before Judge Spelleken, where her Honour lists the matter for final hearing on 10 Aug 2018	CAB 72-73, 262 J [20]
10 Aug 2018	The matter comes on for final hearing before Judge Vasta, where his Honour effectively adjourns the proceeding and makes orders including for disclosure of Mr Stradford's financial information, and a notation that if, at the next mention, "the Court is of the opinion that [Mr Stradford] has not made full and frank disclosure ... he is to be dealt with for contempt of those orders"	CAB 74-113, 262-263 J [21]-[24]
26 Nov 2018	The matter comes on for directions before Judge Turner and, following claims by Mrs Stradford that Mr Stradford had failed to disclose certain information, her Honour relists the matter "for hearing of the contempt application"	CAB 129-136, 264 J [27]-[28]
6 Dec 2018	At the contempt hearing, Judge Vasta: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a declaration that Mr Stradford was in contempt of the disclosure orders; • orders that Mr Stradford be sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment, to be served immediately (for release 	CAB 137-150, 161, 267-268 J [38]-[39]

Date	Event	References
	<p>on 6 May 2019, with the balance of the sentence to be suspended for two years); and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signs a Warrant of Commitment directing the Marshal, and all officers of the Australian Federal Police and State and Territory police forces, to take and deliver Mr Stradford to the Commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services, and directing the Commissioner to keep Mr Stradford in custody in accordance with the imprisonment order 	
6 Dec 2018	Guards employed by MSS Security Pty Ltd , which was engaged by the Commonwealth to deliver security-related services at the FCC at Brisbane, take custody of Mr Stradford for approximately 30 minutes following Judge Vasta's orders	CAB 268 J [40]-[44]
6 Dec 2018	Mr Stradford is delivered by MSS into the custody of the Queensland Police Service	CAB 268-271 J [44]
11 Dec 2018	Mr Stradford files an appeal against Judge Vasta's orders of 6 Dec 2018	CAB 200
12 Dec 2018	The matter is listed before Judge Vasta to hear an oral application for a stay of the 6 Dec 2018 orders, and Judge Vasta delivers an <i>ex tempore</i> judgment in which he stays the imprisonment order and orders that Mr Stradford be released pending the hearing of the appeal	CAB 165-192, 269-270 J [50]-[51]
12 Dec 2018	Mr Stradford is released from Queensland's custody	CAB 271 J [52]
10 Jan 2019	Judge Vasta's reasons for making the orders on 12 Dec 2018 are published	CAB 154-160

Date	Event	References
15 Feb 2019	The Full Court of the Family Court of Australia allows Mr Stradford's appeal and sets aside the declaration and order sentencing him to imprisonment	CAB 200-229, 271-272 J [56]-[57]
7 Dec 2020	Mr Stradford commences proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia by way of originating application and statement of claim, seeking damages for false imprisonment and collateral abuse of process against Judge Vasta, the Commonwealth and Queensland	CAB 5-9, 19-39
6-15 Dec 2021 and 4 May 2022	Hearing before the Federal Court (Wigney J)	CAB 251
30 Aug 2023	Wigney J delivers judgment and orders holding Judge Vasta, the Commonwealth and Queensland liable to Mr Stradford for false imprisonment	CAB 253-254, 274-290
28 Sep 2023	Judge Vasta, the Commonwealth and Queensland each file a Notice of Appeal in the Full Court of the Federal Court (NSD1091/2023, ACD54/2023 and NSD1092/2023) against the whole or part of the judgment of Wigney J	CAB 471-486
21 Nov 2023	Queensland files an application in this Court seeking that its appeal in the Full Court of the Federal Court be removed into this Court	
12 Dec 2023	The Commonwealth files applications in this Court seeking that both its appeal and Judge Vasta's appeal in the Full Court of the Federal Court be removed into this Court	

Date	Event	References
8 Feb 2024	Gageler CJ, Gordon, Edelman, Steward, Gleeson, Jagot and Beech-Jones JJ make orders removing into the High Court each of the Appellants' appeals under s 40(1) of the <i>Judiciary Act 1903</i> (Cth)	CAB 487-495

Dated: 28 March 2024



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