



HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

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Details of Filing

File Number: C4/2024
File Title: His Honour Judge Salvatore Paul Vasta v. Mr Stradford (a pseu
Registry: Canberra
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Important Information

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IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA
CANBERRA REGISTRY

No C4 of 2024

BETWEEN: **HIS HONOUR JUDGE SALVATORE PAUL VASTA**
Appellant
and
MR STRADFORD (A PSEUDONYM)
First Respondent
and
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
Second Respondent
and
STATE OF QUEENSLAND
Third Respondent

APPELLANT'S CHRONOLOGY

Part I:

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

Part II:

Date	Event	Reference
From 1 Jan 2015	Judge Vasta a Judge of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.	SOAF ¹ [3] (JCAB² 66)
7 Apr 2017	Mr Stradford filed proceedings in the FCCA seeking property adjustment orders.	PJ ³ [18] (JCAB 261); SOAF [7] (JCAB 67)
19 Jun 2018	Directions hearing before Judge Spelleken; orders made for filing of further evidence and listing the matter for final hearing on 10 Aug 2018.	PJ [20] (JCAB 262); SOAF [8] (JCAB 68); Orders (JCAB 72)

¹ Statement of Agreed Facts dated 22 June 2021 at Joint Core Appeal Book 66 – 71.

² Joint Core Appeal Book filed 14 March 2024.

³ Primary Judgement: *Stradford (a pseudonym) v Judge Vasta* [2023] FCA 1020 (**JCAB 243 – 467**).

10 Aug 2018	The matter came before Judge Vasta. Issues remained about the adequacy of Mr Stradford’s disclosures. Judge Vasta made orders, inter alia, that Mr Stradford make full and frank disclosure and adjourned the matter for mention on 26 Nov 2018.	PJ [22] – [24] (JCAB 262 – 253); SOAF [9] (JCAB 67); transcript (JCAB 74 - 109); Orders (JCAB 111 – 113)
2 Nov 2018	Mr Stradford filed an affidavit in compliance, or purported compliance, with the 10 Aug 2018 orders.	PJ [25] (JCAB 263); SOAF [10] (JCAB 67); affidavit (JCAB 114 – 116)
12 Nov 2018	Mrs Stradford filed an affidavit containing her evidence as to Mr Stradford’s noncompliance with some of the 10 Aug 2018 orders.	PJ [26] (JCAB 263); SOAF [11] (JCAB 67); affidavit (117 – 128).
26 Nov 2018	Judge Turner identified categories of Mr Stradford’s asserted noncompliance with the 10 Aug 2018 orders and adjourned the matter to 6 Dec 2018 “for hearing of the contempt application”.	PJ [27] (JCAB 264); SOAF [12(a) – (e)] (JCAB 68); transcript (JCAB 129 – 134); Orders (JCAB 136)
6 Dec 2018	<p>The contempt matter returned before Judge Vasta shortly after 10.00 am.</p> <p>Judge Vasta briefly adjourned the matter to allow Mr and Mrs Stradford to explore an amicable resolution.</p> <p>Mr and Mrs Stradford did not reach a resolution and Judge Vasta proceeded with the contempt hearing and delivered an ex tempore judgment and made orders sentencing Mr Stradford to imprisonment.</p>	<p>PJ [29] – [36] (JCAB 264 - 266); transcript (JCAB 137 – 147)</p> <p>PJ [33] (JCAB 265)</p> <p>PJ [34] – [38] (JCAB 265 – 267); Reasons for Judgement⁴ (JCAB 154 – 160)</p> <p>PJ [39] (JCAB 267; 161)</p>

⁴ *Stradford & Stradford* [2018] FCCA 3890.

	<p>Judge Vasta signed a Warrant of Commitment.</p> <p>Guards employed by MSS Security, contracted by the Commonwealth of Australia to provide security at the courthouse, took Mr Stradford into custody.</p> <p>Officers of the Queensland Police Force took Mr Stradford to the Roma Street Watchhouse.</p>	<p>PJ [40] (JCAB 268)</p> <p>PJ [44] (JCAB 268)</p>
10 Dec 2018	Mr Stradford was transferred from the Roma Street Warehouse to the Brisbane Correctional Centre.	PJ [46] (JCAB 268)
11 Dec 2018	Mr Stradford filed a Notice of Appeal in the Family Court.	PJ [49] (JCAB 269)
12 Dec 2018	Mr Stradford (through his lawyer) made an oral application to Judge Vasta to stay the 6 Dec 2018 orders. Judge Vasta conceded he had erred, granted the application, ordered Mr Stradford's forthwith release, and Mr Stradford was released the same day.	PJ [49] – [52] (JCAB 269 – 271); Orders (JCAB 165); transcript (JCAB 166 – 192); Reasons for Judgement (stay) ⁵ (JCAB 196 – 198 ; SOAF [22] – [23] (JCAB 69 - 70))
15 Feb 2018	The FamCA Full Court (Strickland, Murphy and Kent JJ) unanimously allowed Mr Stradford's appeal.	PJ [56] – [57] (JCAB 271 – 272)
7 Dec 2020	Mr Stradford commenced proceedings in the Federal Court against Judge Vasta, the Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Queensland.	PJ [8] (JCAB 259); JCAB 232 ; Amended Statement of Claim (JCAB 20 – 29)

⁵ *Stradford & Stradford (No 2)* [2018] FCCA 3961.

6 – 15 Dec 2021, 24 May 2022	Trial before Wigney J.	JCAB 251
30 Aug 2023	Judgment given by Wigney J.	JCAB 243 – 467
28 Sep 2023	Judge Vasta filed an appeal to the Full Court of the Federal Court from orders 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Federal Court given on 30 August 2023.	JCAB 472 – 475; 478 – 481; 483 – 486
8 Feb 2024	The High Court made orders removing the whole of the cause into the High Court of Australia (Gageler CJ, Gordon, Edelman, Steward, Gleeson, Jagot and Beech-Jones JJ).	

Dated: 27 March 2024



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