

Expose Bk467p191

Precedence

Sale precedence, 1988

Submitted in response to
summons case 2012-13064,
on September 24, 2012, by
Anthony Miner O'Connell,
Trustee



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
Circuit Court of Fairfax County



CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

State of Virginia

County of Fairfax, to-wit:

Fiduciary No. 21840

I, WARREN E. BARRY, Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, the same being a Court of Probate and of Record and having a seal, do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office pursuant to law that ANTHONY M. O'CONNELL & HERBERT ANDERSON HIGHAM

have been duly appointed TRUSTEES under the Last Will and Testament of:
HAROLD A. O'CONNELL

and that they have duly qualified as such by taking the oath prescribed by law and by entering into and acknowledging a bond in the penalty of EIGHT HUNDRED FORTY TWO THOUSAND Dollars, ~~with surety~~/without surety.

I further certify that the said appointment and qualification is still in full force and effect and has not been revoked.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said Court hereto, at Fairfax, Virginia this 20th day of June, 19 86

WARREN E. BARRY, CLERK

By [Signature]

Deputy Clerk

EXHIBIT A



COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

Circuit Court of Fairfax County



CERTIFICATE OF QUALIFICATION

State of Virginia

County of Fairfax, to-wit:

Fiduciary No. 21840

I, WARREN E. BARRY, Clerk of the Circuit Court of the County of Fairfax, Virginia, the same being a Court of Probate and of Record and having a seal, do hereby certify that it appears of record in my office pursuant to law that ANTHONY M. O'CONNELL & HERBERT ANDERSON HIGHAM

have been duly appointed TRUSTEES of the Trust established under the will of:
HAROLD A. O'CONNELL

and that they have duly qualified as such by taking the oath prescribed by law and by entering into and acknowledging a bond in the penalty of eight hundred forty two thousand Dollars, ~~with~~ without surety.

I further certify that the said appointment and qualification is still in full force and effect and has not been revoked.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said Court hereto, at Fairfax, Virginia this 16th day of May, 1988.

WARREN E. BARRY, CLERK
By Kathy Bunch
Deputy Clerk

McGUIRE WOODS
BATTLE & BOOTHE

Transpotomac Plaza
1199 North Fairfax Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

Court Square Building
Charlottesville, VA 22901

World Trade Center
Norfolk, VA 23510

EDGAR ALLEN PRICHARD
VIRGINIA AND DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA BARS
DIRECT DIAL: (703) 712-5443

8280 Greensboro Drive
Suite 900
P.O. Box 9346
McLean, Virginia 22102

(703) 712-5000

Fax: (703) 712-5050

July 2, 1991

One James Center
Richmond, VA 23219

The Army and Navy Club Building
1627 Eye Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006

41 Avenue des Arts
1040 Brussels, Belgium

Mr. Anthony O'Connell
5641 Franconia Road
Springfield, Virginia 22150

Dear Tony:

I have looked at our file copy of your father's will and find there is nothing in the trust provisions which changes the way the sale of real estate is handled by you as Trustee. You had the power as Trustee to retain land as a part of the trust even though it yielded no income. You also had the power to sell the real estate. Upon its sale you as a fiduciary have the obligation to pay state and federal income taxes. You may pay the tax from the gross proceeds of sale. Once having paid the taxes you should reinvest the remainder of the proceeds of sale and pay the net income to your mother for life. Of course, you also have the power to distribute principal to your mother should she need it.

You will find my bill enclosed.

Sincerely yours,



E. A. Prichard

EAP:in

Enclosure

DEED OF BARGAIN AND SALE

THIS DEED, made this 21st day of April, 1988, by and between JEAN MINER/O'CONNELL, unmarried; and ANTHONY M./O'CONNELL and HERBERT A./HIGHAM, Trustees of the Trust established by the Will of the late Harold A./O'Connell, hereinafter called Grantors; and LYNCH PROPERTIES LIMITED PARTNERSHIP, a Virginia limited partnership, hereinafter called Grantee, provides:

That for \$10.00 and other valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the aforementioned Trustees hereby grant, bargain, sell and convey with Special Warranty, and the aforementioned Jean Miner O'Connell hereby grants, bargains, sells and conveys with General Warranty of title unto the Grantee, the following real estate, located in Fairfax County, Virginia, containing 3.23987 acres:

Beginning at a point marking the intersection of the Easterly right-of-way line of Frontier Drive (Route #2677) and the Southerly right-of-way line of Franconia Road (Route #644), thence with the Southerly right-of-way line of Franconia Road S 86° 51' 59" E, 369.48 feet, to a point marking a Northwesterly corner of the property of the County School Board of Fairfax County; thence with the boundary of said School Board S 00° 49' 33" W. 374.84 feet to a concrete monument; and N 89° 10' 27" W, 369.18 feet, to a point on the aforementioned right-of-way line of Frontier Drive; thence with said right-of-way line of Frontier Drive N 00° 49' 33" E, 389.72 feet to the point of beginning, containing 3.23987 acres of land.

AND BEING the same property conveyed to Harold A./O'Connell and Jean M. O'Connell, his wife, as joint tenants with the common law right of survivorship by deed recorded in Deed Book A-13 at Page 37. Whereas by Deed of Partition recorded in Deed Book 4026 at Page 454, the property was reconveyed to Harold A. O'Connell as to an undivided one-half interest and to Jean M. O'Connell, as to an undivided one-half interest, whereas, Harold A. O'Connell died testate May 26, 1975, and by his Last Will and Testament recorded in Will Book 201 at Page 96, devised his interest to his executor Anthony M. O'Connell, Trustee; whereas Anthony M. O'Connell, Trustee, could not qualify and Herbert A. Higham, Trustee, was appointed to act in his place and stead.

BK7005 0634

PC BOX 607
Springfield, VA 22150

COLUMBIA BANKIER SETTLEMENT & TITLE SERVICES, INC.
851 GREENSBORO DR. SUITE 600
MCLEAN, VA 22102

This conveyance is made subject to all recorded conditions, restrictions and easements affecting the property hereby conveyed.

The Trustee Grantors covenant that they have the right to convey such lands to the Grantee; that they have done no act to encumber such lands. Jean Miner O'Connell covenants that she has the right to convey such lands to the Grantee; that she has done no act to encumber such lands; that the Grantee shall have quiet possession of such lands free from all encumbrances; and that she will execute such further assurances of such lands as may be requisite.

WITNESS the following signatures and seals:

Jean Miner O'Connell (SEAL)
JEAN MINER O'CONNELL

Anthony M. O'Connell (SEAL)
ANTHONY M. O'CONNELL, TRUSTEE

Herbert A. Higham (SEAL)
HERBERT A. HIGHAM, TRUSTEE

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, to-wit:

I, the undersigned Notary Public, for the jurisdiction aforesaid, do hereby certify that Jean Miner O'Connell, whose name is signed to the foregoing instrument bearing date of April 21, 1988, has acknowledged the same before me in my jurisdiction aforesaid.

Given under my hand this 21st day of April, 1988.

David H. Quarter
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10 15 91

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
COUNTY OF FAIRFAX, to-wit:

I, the undersigned Notary Public, for the jurisdiction aforesaid, do hereby certify that Herbert A. Higham, Trustee, whose name is signed to the foregoing instrument bearing date of April 21, 1988, has acknowledged the same before me in my jurisdiction aforesaid.

Given under my hand this 21st day of April, 1988.

James A. Overton
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10-15-91

STATE OF VIRGINIA
CITY/COUNTY OF Fairfax, to-wit:

I, the undersigned Notary Public, for the jurisdiction aforesaid, do hereby certify that Anthony M. O'Connell, Trustee, whose name is signed to the foregoing instrument bearing date of April 21, 1988, has acknowledged the same before me in my jurisdiction aforesaid.

James A. Overton
Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 10-15-91

RECORDED W/CERTIFICATE ANNEXED

APR 22 1988

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA.

TESTE: [Signature]
CLERK

A COPY TESTE:
JOHN T. FREY, CLERK

By: [Signature]
Deputy Clerk

EDWARD J. WHITE
ATTORNEY AT LAW
118 SOUTH ROYAL STREET
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22314

TELEPHONE 836-5444

March 15, 1991

Mr. Anthony M. O'Connell
6541 Franconia Rd.
Springfield, Va. 22150

Dear Mr. O'Connell,

Subsequent to our telephone conversation this morning, I reviewed my files in the cases involving Mrs. O'Connell.

I find that I did indeed mail you a copy of the Limited Power of Attorney along with my letter to you of September 12, 1988. I am enclosing another copy of the Limited Power of Attorney and a copy of the letter I sent you. You may not have received it; however, it was not returned to me by the Post Office.

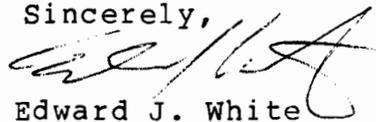
In regard to your inquiry as to why, in 1988, there came a time when I refused to deal with you on the sale, as I said, I recalled that a conceivably adverse relationship had developed between you and your mother concerning the sale. I call your attention to the sixth paragraph in your letter to her of December 8, 1987, a copy of which is enclosed. 

As to your complaint that I did not share the sale documents with you, I call your attention to my letter to you of April 16, 1988 in which the deed, note and trust were sent to you. A copy of that letter is enclosed.

On April 19, 1988 you appeared in my office and stated that you refused to settle on the next day. We did not have a happy discourse. We did discuss the sale and I asked you if you had any other questions.

I am somewhat puzzled as to why all of this is re-surfacing and after reviewing my file and my notes, am not at all comfortable with continuing the dialogue.

Sincerely,



Edward J. White

EJW/e

Encl.

Copy to: Mrs. O'Connell

Certified P 751 862 438
Sic Semper Tyrannis

Anthony M. O'Connell
6541 Franconia Road
Springfield, Virginia 22150
(703) 971-2855
September 20, 1993

Virginia State Bar
Eighth and Main Building
707 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2803
Telephone (804) 775-0500

Re: My Complaint of December 3, 1992,
Against Edward J. White
VSB Docket #93-042-0976

To Whom It May Concern:

My fourteen page complaint with forty-four enclosures was dismissed as having "no basis in fact" without allowing me the opportunity to respond. In defense of myself and future families of Virginia, I would like to offer one illustration why I feel this is unjust.

Concerning the \$1.41 million purchase agreement I made and later hired Mr. White to handle, your investigator was:

"firmly convinced that Mr. White took no part in that transaction other than to perhaps provide informal legal advice to your mother. Your letter of December 28, 1987 is insufficient as a matter to law to establish an attorney-client relationship unless there is some evidence that Mr. White did in fact undertake to handle the closing."

Mr. White's enclosed bills for services for this sale, with his initials, state:

3/18/88	Draft note & trust
4/6	PC
4/11	PC
4/14	PC atty negotiation & redraft LDPC St. Louis
4/15	Redrafting
4/16	Redrafting, Pc, Exp mail
4/18	PC
4/19	Redrafting
4/20	OV A. O'CONNELL
4/20	PC's redrafts
4/21	Settlement

Far more damaging to me than the usurped sale has been Mr. White's more than seven years of defamatory and divisive statements, preying on the uncertainties of my family. He continues this with letters referencing your "no basis in fact" approval.

This is very important to me. Please allow me a hearing within the safety of the system as I risk being sued if I ask for help elsewhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anthony M. O'Connell".

Anthony M. O'Connell

Enclosures:

- (1) Mr. White's bills for services rendered for my sale
- (2) List of my unreturned telephone calls to Mr. White. I suggest that Mr. White thought I though he was representing me at closing.



Virginia State Bar

Eighth and Main Building
707 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2803
Telephone: (804) 775-0500

Facsimile: (804) 775-0501 TDD: (804) 775-0502

February 10, 1993

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Anthony M. O'Connell
6541 Franconia Road
Springfield, Virginia 22150

Re: In the Matter of Edward James White
VSB Docket No. 93-042-0976

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

This letter is in reference to your complaint against the above-referenced attorney received in our office on December 7, 1992. In addition, I acknowledge receipt of your supplemental correspondence dated January 26, 1993, received in my office on January 29. I have concluded my preliminary investigation of your original complaint and wish to advise you that your complaint presents no basis for further investigation by this office for the reasons I shall set out below.

The Respondent did not file a written answer to your complaint. However, Mr. White is represented by counsel in this matter, David R. Rosenfeld, Esquire, and I met with Mr. Rosenfeld and his associate in Alexandria to go over all of the factual matters related to this complaint.

Your complaint alleges that the Respondent served as co-executor of your father's estate along with your mother and that the Respondent allegedly withheld certain information concerning a trust which was set up under your father's will in which you were named as a trustee.

According to your complaint, you retained the Respondent in 1987 to handle a real estate closing and you allege that the Respondent appointed himself co-trustee on the note securing that transaction. Then, the day prior to closing, Respondent allegedly informed you that he was not representing your interests in this real estate transaction. You have also claimed that the Respondent has handled your mother's estate incompetently.

With respect to your first complaint, it appears that your mother, rather than you, retained the Respondent for legal assistance in her capacity as executrix

Mr. Anthony M. O'Connell
Page 2
February 10, 1993

of your father's will. Apparently, your mother removed you from her will as a co-executor and nominated the Respondent in your place. However, none of these matters fall within the scope of the Code of Professional Responsibility particularly in view of the fact that you and the Respondent did not share an attorney-client relationship.

Your father's will poured over into a trust in which you were nominated trustee. By your own complaint, you admit that you hired another attorney to look into the funding of the trust, i.e., what distributions the estate would make to the trust. It is my understanding that you came to Virginia to qualify as a trustee. Again, in respect to that matter, there is no attorney-client relationship between you and the Respondent, Mr. White.

In the absence of an attorney-client relationship between you and Mr. White, Mr. White was under no ethical obligation to follow any of your directions or instructions nor was he obligated to communicate directly with you. His ethical duties regarding competence, promptness and communication were owed to your mother.

It is my understanding, based upon a reading of your complaint, that the Respondent and your attorney reached an agreement regarding the funding of the trust and the Respondent agreed to cooperate by providing your attorney with a draft of the final accounting of your father's estate.

Your complaint initially provoked a thought on my part as to why the father's estate remained open so long. However, as indicated in your complaint, Mr. White was not retained by your mother until 1985. Thus, while your complaint states that you were not aware of the fact that your father had appointed you as a co-trustee until 1985, and that your father passed away in 1975, the Respondent appears to have notified you of that fact after he had become involved in 1985.

You have also complained that your mother executed a codicil to her will removing you as a co-trustee and naming Mr. White in your stead. I find nothing improper about that particular matter as it was certainly your mother's prerogative to amend or modify her will and it was Mr. White's responsibility to follow her instructions in that regard.

Your second complaint involves an allegation that Mr. White undertook to represent your interests in a real estate closing in 1987. By letter dated December 28, 1987, you purportedly asked the Respondent to represent your interests in a transfer of property to the Lynch Properties Limited Partnership. You complain that the Respondent failed to notify you of the closing date which you fortuitously discovered from the purchasers just before the closing. In addition, you point out that the Respondent and another party were named as trustees on the Deed of Trust securing the purchase loan without your knowledge or consent. When you confronted Respondent about this, he advised that he did not represent your interests in this real estate

Anthony M. O'Connell
Page 2
February 10, 1993

transaction.

My investigation reveals that the Respondent did not serve as settlement attorney for this transaction. In fact, the closing was handled by Coldwell Banker, and the legal instruments for the transaction were prepared under the supervision of McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe. I have seen the real estate closing file which was delivered to Mr. Wright by the McGuire, Woods firm, and I am firmly convinced that Mr. White took no part in that transaction other than to perhaps provide informal legal advice to your mother. Your letter of December 28, 1987 is insufficient as a matter of law to establish an attorney-client relationship unless there is some evidence that Mr. White did in fact undertake to handle the closing. Finally, there is no ethical issue raised simply because Mr. White is named as a co-trustee in the Deed of Trust securing the purchase by the Lynch Properties Limited Partnership.

The third complaint involved an allegation that Mr. White allegedly withheld a \$75,000 distribution until you agreed to obtain your own legal counsel. With respect to this allegation, Mr. White, in his capacity as an administrator or executor of an estate is under no obligation by law to make a interim distribution to you. Whether an interim distribution is made is entirely discretionary and the law requires a distribution to be made only upon the filing of a final accounting. With regard to your allegations of incompetence and delay on the part of Mr. White in handling your mother's estate, I have determined that Mr. White has filed in a timely manner the inventory and first accounting for this estate. No delinquency notices or show cause summonses have been issued. The only possible area of neglect appears to be the late filing of Mrs. O'Connell's income tax return, however, I am advised that Mr. White paid one-half of the accrued interest to the IRS, and that no penalties were assessed. In addition, Mr. White timely requested an extension for filing the decedent's last income tax return and therefore no penalties were involved. As justification for the delay, Mr. White points out that he experienced some delay in obtaining the K-1 from you and your own complaint appears to concede that there was a problem with getting the K-1 to Mr. White.

Based on the foregoing, I see no basis in fact or in law to conclude that Mr. White has engaged in any misconduct in violation of the Code of Professional Responsibility. Therefore, please be advised that no further action will be taken on your complaint. By copy of this letter to Respondent's counsel, Mr. Rosenfeld, I am advising him of my determination.

Very truly yours,


for James M. McCauley
Assistant Bar Counsel

JMM/ge
cc: David R. Rosenfeld, Esquire



Virginia State Bar

Eighth and Main Building
707 East Main Street, Suite 1500
Richmond, Virginia 23219-2803
Telephone: (804) 775-0500

Facsimile: (804) 775-0501 TDD: (804) 775-0502

November 1, 1993

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Anthony M. O'Connell
6541 Franconia Road
Springfield, Virginia 22150

RE: In the Matter of Edward J. White
VSB Docket #93-042-0976

Dear Mr. O'Connell:

This letter is in response to your certified letter dated September 20, 1993, which was received in this office on September 23, 1993. As you know, the basis for my dismissal of your complaint was the absence of an attorney-client relationship between you and the Respondent. Nothing you have submitted to me under cover letter dated September 20, 1993 changes my conclusion.

The copy of Mr. White's fee statement shows an entry: "4/20 OV A. O'CONNELL." The fact that you had an office visit with Mr. White does not create an attorney-client relationship.

I note that the fee statement dated April 16, 1988 is sent to Mrs. Jean M. O'Connell and I believe that your mother is the client in this particular matter, not you.

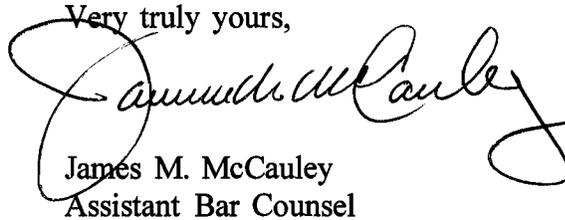
Your original complaint alleges that the Respondent handled your mother's estate incompetently. I do not believe you have standing to complain, because you are not a client of Mr. White. The second enclosure, a list of your unreturned telephone calls to Mr. White, also does not change my conclusion. Unless you can show that you are a client of Mr. White, Mr. White was under no ethical duty or mandate to return your telephone calls. This complaint also boils down to your word against Mr. White's as to whether he was representing you at the settlement on the real estate transaction. The Bar would have to prove your position by clear and convincing evidence, and I simply do not see any clear and convincing evidence that Mr. White had agreed to represent you, or that he represented you by his conduct.

Mr. Anthony M. O'Connell
Page 2
November 1, 1993

Finally, you indicate that Mr. White, over a period of seven years, has made defamatory and divisive statements which you consider to be far more damaging than the issue regarding the real estate settlement. The Code of Professional Responsibility does not proscribe defamatory statements by an attorney, and our office is not the appropriate forum to investigate or prosecute your claim. If you feel that you have been defamed or libeled by the Respondent, then your remedy is to file a civil action, but a Bar complaint is not an appropriate vehicle to resolve that issue.

I am truly sorry that I cannot advance your claims or interest, however, I must stand on my original decision to dismiss your complaint. I trust that you will appreciate my explanation, although you disagree with it.

Very truly yours,



James M. McCauley
Assistant Bar Counsel

JMM/dls

Why not ask Edward White to take an accountable position;

- (1) Who did Edward White represent and when?
- (2) What is the name of the person who wrote the deed that Edward White sent Anthony O'Connell for signature?
- (3) Who named Edward White and someone I don't know as Trustees for the deed of trust?
- (4) Where does it say in the court records that Anthony O'Connell could not qualify as Trustee?
- (5) Did Anthony O'Connell qualify or not qualify as trustee u/w of Anthony O'Connell?
- (6) Why did Edward White not respond to Anthony O'Connell's letter of December 28, 1987, or his telephone calls, or not communicate at all until Edward White's letter of April 16, 1988, that said sign the deed and return it immediately by express mail? Why refuse to communicate for 3 1/2 months and then instruct the POC for the Seller to sign and return it immediately by express mail?

From: "Lisa Overton" <LOVERTON@stewart.com>
Subject: **RE: Where does it say I could not qualify as Trustee?**
Date: June 14, 2007 10:21:09 AM MST
To: elynchjr@i95businessparks.com, "Anthony OConnell" <aoconnell@cableone.net>, "Steve Blizzard" <SBLIZZAR@steward.com>, "Lisa Overton" <LOVERTON@steward.com>
Cc: "Andy Somerville" <andy@smcconcrete.com>

Hi Bill and Mr. O'Connell:

Yes, that is me from 1988 – can't believe how old you are making me feel, and I can honestly tell you that I do not remember that specific 1988 case.

Having said that however, when I look at the documents you attach, you did in fact sign the deed as a Trustee, the qualification simply required that a

Co-trustee also sign since you were not a resident of Virginia. I do not recall which firm we were using in 1988 to prepare our deeds, we have used quite a few different firms in the past, but it looks as though in the derivation of title paragraph that you underline they simply tried to consolidate the statement of facts. Perhaps they should have been more clear and said that Mr. Higham was appointed WITH you as co-trustee and not in your place.

There is no requirement for a Trustee under a land trust to be a Virginia resident; therefore it is a non issue in this case.

*Lisa Overton
Stewart Title and Escrow Inc.
10505 Judicial Drive, #300
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
Ph: 703-352-2924
Fax: 703-991-2449
Cell: 703-447-9348
email: loverton@stewart.com*

From: Bill Lynch [mailto:elynychjr@i95businessparks.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2007 4:31 PM
To: 'Anthony OConnell'; 'Steve Blizzard'; 'Lisa Overton'
Cc: 'Andy Somerville'
Subject: RE: Where does it say I could not qualify as Trustee?

Tony –

I think the short answer is that was then, this is now.

Lisa has handled title work for the Lynch family and me since about 1980 so I am pretty sure she worked on the sale of the home in 1988. I have never had a problem at settlement when she has been involved. She is very thorough and I trust her judgment.

The operative trust agreement is dated in 1992. I don't recall what the documentation was in 1986, but all the documentation that you require to act as Trustee is of record with the 1992 Trust and the Power of Attorney.

Are there any other documents that you are aware of that are not of record?

Bill

-----Original Message-----
From: Anthony OConnell [mailto:aoconnell@cableone.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 12, 2007 2:46 PM
To: Steve Blizzard; Lisa Overton
Cc: Edwin W. Lynch, Jr.; Andy Somerville
Subject: Where does it say I could not qualify as Trustee?

Ms. Lisa Overton and Mr. Steve Blizzard;

The attached copy of Ms. Overton's letter to my mother dated April 22, 1988, shows she handled the settlement for the 1988 sale to Lynch Properties Limited Partnership. Please correct me if I am wrong.

I was surprised to be told the day before settlement of this sale that I had to sign a deed that said I could not qualify as Trustee. Where does it say in the Court records that I could not qualify as Trustee? I found six documents that show I qualified as Trustee in 1986. Copies of the six documents and the page from the deed are attached.

Please show me where it says in the Court records that I could not qualify as Trustee. I am concerned that something like this may happen again.

Anthony Miner O'Connell, Trustee