St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court

Valerie Garrow,	)	
Petitioner	)	**DECISION AND ORDER**
	)	
	)	**Case No.: 14-CIV-00022**
	)	
	)	
	)	

Procedural History

On September 4th, 2014, Valerie Garrow filed a petition seeking to be named administrator of her husband's, Robert W. Garrow, estate. It should be noted that neither the plaintiff nor the decedent is a direct relative of Judge Garrow.

In a hearing on December 12, 2014, Mrs. Garrow provided the Court with Mr. Garrow's death certificate. He died on July 23, 1993. Mrs. Garrow informed the Court she was attempting to obtain unclaimed funds in Mr. Garrow's name from New York's Office of the State Comptroller. No other items of Mr. Garrow's estate remained.

Given the length of time since the decedent's death, that the plaintiff is the decedent's wife, and only unclaimed funds from New York were at issue, the Court waived notice to any of decedent's children and granted Mrs. Garrow the Letters of Administration on January 22, 2015.

On April 16, 2015, Mrs. Garrow submitted a request to withdraw her complaint. Mrs. Garrow informed the Court that the Letters of Administration had been accepted by the New York Office of the State Comptroller.

Jurisdiction

The Tribal Court has original jurisdiction over cases, matters or controversies arising under the laws, ordinances, regulations, customs and judicial decisions of the Tribe.[1] The Court possesses civil jurisdiction over disputes arising in, connected with, or substantially affecting Mohawk Indian Country.[2] Given that the probating of an estate is a civil issue that substantially affects Mohawk Indian Country and there is no SRMT law limiting the Court's jurisdiction,[3] the Court assumes jurisdiction of this probate case.

Conclusion

[1] The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court and Judiciary Code § V.1. (2012).
[2] SRMT Civil Code § II.A. (2008).
[3] The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribal Court and Judiciary Code § V.1. (2012).

Given that the remaining item in the Estate has been distributed, the Estate is now closed.

Order

It is hereby ORDERED that Valerie Garrow is relieved from her duties as administrator and the Estate of Robert W. Garrow is now closed.

Signed by my hand this 15 day of May 2015

Carrie Garrow, Associate Judge St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Court