



JON S. CORZINE
Governor

State of New Jersey
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0089
June 19, 2007

STUART RABNER
ATTORNEY GENERAL

J. FRANK VESPA-PAFALEO, ESQ.
DIRECTOR

Mr. Scott Rasmussen, President
Ocean Grove Camp Meeting
54 Pitman Avenue
PO Box 248
Ocean Grove, New Jersey 07756

**Re: Harriet Bernstein and Luisa Paster vs. Ocean Grove Camp
Meeting Association**
Docket Number: PN34XB-03008

Dear Mr. Rasmussen:

Enclosed is a formal complaint setting forth alleged discriminatory practices in violation of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination, N.J.S.A. 10:5-1, et seq., which is served upon you in accordance with Rule 13:4-2.8 of the Division on Civil Rights' Rules of Practice and Procedure.

N.J.A.C. 13:4-3 Service, Form and Content of Answers

The Rules of Practice and Procedure require that the respondents serve upon the Division on Civil Rights a written explanatory answer to the complaint within twenty (20) days after receipt of the verified complaint, (N.J.A.C. 13:4-3.1). The respondent shall serve a copy of the answer on the complainant(s) within three days of filing of the answer (N.J.A.C. 13:4-3.3).

The answer to the verified complaint shall fully and completely advise the parties and the Division as to the nature of the respondent's defenses to each claim asserted, and shall admit or deny the allegations set forth in the verified complaint. Denials shall fairly meet the substance of the allegations denied. A respondent who intends in good faith to deny only part or a qualification of an allegation shall specify so much of it as is true and material and deny only the remainder. The respondent may not generally deny all the allegations but shall make the denials as specific denials of designated allegations. Allegations in any answer setting forth an affirmative defense shall be taken as denied (N.J.A.C. 13:4-3.2).

ADDRESS REPLY TO:

- Bureau of Policy
P.O. Box 089
Trenton, NJ 08625-0089
609-034-7091
- Bureau of Prevention & Community Relations
P.O. Box 089
Trenton, NJ 08625-0089
609-292-2918
- Bureau of Enforcement
Trenton Office:
PO Box 090
Trenton, NJ 08625-0090
609-292-4605
- Atlantic City Office
26 S. Pennsylvania Ave. 3rd Fl.
Atlantic City, NJ 08401
609-441-3100
- Camden Office:
One Port Center
2 Riverside Drive
Suite 402
Camden, NJ 08103
856-614-2550
- Newark Office:
P.O. Box 48001
Newark, NJ 07102
973-648-2700
- Paterson Office
100 Hamilton Plaza, 8th Fl.
Paterson, NJ 07505-2109
973-977-4500



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Any respondent seeking an extension to file an answer or other information may request an extension of no more than 10 days from the regional manager of the office from which the complaint emanated. The request must be in writing and must be received before the original due date. Requests for a second extension must be addressed to the Director and will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances.

A respondent may submit in writing any other relevant evidence with respect to this complaint including a proposal for settlement. Such information will be made part of the file and will be considered by the Division during the course of this investigation.

Respondents shall promptly notify the Division of any change in address or other material change in status of the respondent (such as a bankruptcy filing or ceasing to operate as an on-going concern) at all times while the verified complaint is pending.

Document & Information Requests

In addition to said answer, you are required to respond to the enclosed Document & Information Request within twenty (20) days. You are also requested to retain all information pertinent to this complaint until the file is closed by the Division. Further, if requested documents and responses are not received within twenty (20) days, the Division may issue a subpoena for recovery of the information.

N.J.A.C 13:4-1 Notice of Appearance

Additionally, respondents who obtain representation are advised to inform their representative that the Division on Civil Rights requires a Notice of Appearance to be submitted to the office handling the complaint. Failure to comply with this requirement will preclude your attorney from representing your interest before this agency.

You may wish to participate in the Division's Mediation Program to resolve this complaint. Please refer to the information about the program that is enclosed.

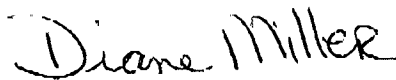
In further correspondence regarding this matter, please use the docket number set forth in the caption. Inquiries should be directed to: Diane Miller, Co-Manager, Centralized Intake Unit (Southern New Jersey), telephone number (609)984-3817.

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Docket Number: PN34XB-03008

Thank you for your prompt attention in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Diane Miller
Co-Manager, Centralized Intake Unit
(Southern New Jersey)

DM:emlc/C046

Enc:

- (x) Verified Complaint
- (x) Mediation Program Information
- (x) Document and Information Request
- (x) Method of Service of Pleadings

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
DOCKET NUMBER: PN34XB-03008

Harriet Bernstein and Luisa Pastor,)

Complainant)

-vs-)

Ocean Grove Camp Meeting)
Association,)

Respondent)

**DOCUMENT AND INFORMATION
REQUEST**

TO: Scott Rasmussen, President
Ocean Grove Camp Meeting
54 Pitman Avenue
P. O. Box 248
Ocean Grove, NJ 07756

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that you are hereby required, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-8 (i), to supply one (1) original of the following to the Division on Civil Rights:

A. RESPONDENT'S WRITTEN EXPLANATORY ANSWER TO THE VERIFIED COMPLAINT (admit or deny and set forth the defense or response to each allegation).

B. DOCUMENT REQUEST

1. Please provide a copy of Respondent's policy regarding usage of the Boardwalk Pavilion, (if one exists). If there is no written policy, please explain the policy.
2. Please provide copies of all applications for usage of Respondent's Boardwalk Pavilion during the past 12 months.



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Harriet Bernstein and Luisa Paster vs. Ocean Grove
Camp Meeting Association

3. Please provide copies of all contracts for usage of Respondent's Boardwalk Pavilion during the past 12 months.

C. INFORMATION REQUEST:

1. State whether Complainants were denied the use of Respondent's Boardwalk Pavilion for their civil union ceremony. If so, state with specificity the reason for said denial.
2. Provide the Respondent's proper business or corporate name and the name and address of Respondent's Registered Agent.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION ON CIVIL RIGHTS
DOCKET NUMBER: PN34XB-03008

Harriet Bernstein and)
Luisa Paster,)
)
COMPLAINANTS)
)
-vs-)
Ocean Grove Camp Meeting)
Association,)
)
RESPONDENT)

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Received and Recorded
Date: *JUNE 19, 2007*
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division on Civil Rights
By: *BEA - Atwood*

1. The Complainants reside at:

82 Broadway
Ocean Grove, New Jersey 07756

2. To the best of Complainant's knowledge and belief, the Respondent is known as:

OCEAN GROVE CAMP MEETING ASSOCIATION

and is located at.

54 Pitman Avenue
P.O. Box 248
Ocean Grove, New Jersey 07756

3. The above named Respondent is hereby charged with unlawful **public accommodation**

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discrimination within the meaning of the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination (N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.) and specifically within the meaning of 10:5-4, including but not limited to 10:5-12 (f), of said law because of **civil union status**.

4. PERSONAL HARM:

Complainants allege that they were denied use of Respondent's Boardwalk Pavilion because of their impending civil union status.

The charge is based on the following:

- a. Respondent maintains a facility referred to as the Boardwalk Pavilion that it permits the general public to use for weddings and other events.
- b. Complainants intend to enter into a civil union. In March 2007, Complainants completed Respondent's application in order to use the Boardwalk Pavilion on September 30, 2007 for their civil union ceremony and paid to the Respondent the \$75.00 deposit for use of the facility.
- c. Respondent contacted Complainants and advised that their application to use the Boardwalk Pavilion for their civil union ceremony had been rejected and returned Complainants' check. Upon learning of the rejection, Complainant Bernstein contacted Respondent's President, Scott Rasmussen, by email and requested that Respondent consider allowing Complainants to use the Boardwalk Pavilion for their civil union ceremony. Rasmussen replied and advised that while Respondent allows its facilities to be used for both religious and secular activities, it would not permit its facilities to be used for civil union ceremonies.

5. DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:

Complainants allege that they were denied access to Respondent's facility because of their impending civil union status.

6. Said acts of discrimination occurred in the County of Monmouth in the State of New Jersey.

- 7. The Complainants request whatever relief is provided by law including, but not limited to, compensatory damages for economic loss, humiliation, mental pain and suffering, as well as equitable relief to require Respondent to permit Complainants to use its facility for their civil union ceremony.
- 8. The Complainants have not instituted action in any court, either criminal or civil, regarding this matter.

Harriet Bernstein

 HARRIET BERNSTEIN, COMPLAINANT

Luisa R Paster

 LUISA Paster, COMPLAINANT

STATE OF NEW JERSEY)
) SS:
 COUNTY OF MONMOUTH)

Harriet Bernstein and **Luisa Paster**, of full age, being duly sworn according to law depose and say; that each is a Complainant herein; that she has read the foregoing Complaint and knows the content thereof; that to the best of her knowledge, information and belief, the facts alleged therein are true.

Harriet Bernstein

 HARRIET BERNSTEIN, COMPLAINANT

Luisa R Paster

 LUISA Paster, COMPLAINANT

Sworn to and subscribed before me
 this 19 day of June, 2007.

Eileen [Signature]

 NOTARY PUBLIC OF NEW JERSEY
 240 [Signature] 2007-11-12

ATTENTION!

INFORMATION ON MEDIATION PROGRAM

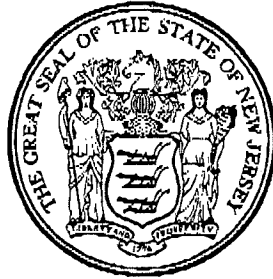
The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights (DCR) has instituted a mediation program. (See attached Mediation Fact Sheet) The DCR is making this program available to respondents and complainants as an alternative to investigation and possible litigation of complaints filed under the New Jersey Law Against Discrimination and the New Jersey Family Leave Act. **The complainant has already agreed to participate in this mediation process in an effort to resolve the allegations set out in the enclosed Verified Complaint.**

If you agree to attempt mediation, you will only be required to submit a brief written answer to the Verified Complaint. It will not be necessary to respond in any other fashion to the Verified Complaint or to the Document and Information Request at this time. If you choose not to take advantage of the invitation to mediation, you must respond to all requests for information or actions listed in the enclosed letter within the time frames indicated.

If you or your representative would like to engage in an effort to mediate this complaint, please call **Diane Miller, Intake Manager, at (609) 984-3817** within 10 days and then submit the written explanatory answer to the Verified Complaint within 20 days to:

***Diane Miller, Co-Manager, Centralized Intake Unit
(Southern New Jersey)
Bureau of Enforcement
Division on Civil Rights
PO Box 090
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0090***

After your answer is received, you will be contacted by a mediator who will schedule a mutually convenient date and time for you and the complainant to meet and begin the mediation process.



**STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION ON CIVIL RIGHTS**

Mediation Program

The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights has developed a mediation program that can provide an effective process for resolving this complaint that has been brought before the Division. This process is far less time-consuming than traditional methods of investigation, conciliation and prosecution. Mediation offers many advantages to you including:

- Voluntary participation** - This case will only be mediated if both you and the complainant agree to try to resolve the dispute through mediation.
- Use of trained and experienced mediators** - All of the mediators used in the program are trained and experienced in the latest mediation techniques and are separate from the investigative units of the Division.
- Confidentiality** - The mediator will treat all information revealed during the mediation with the strictest confidence. The mediator will transmit none of the information developed during the mediation to any other unit in the Division anytime during or after the mediation, no matter the outcome.
- Disputants control outcome** - You and the complainant have complete control in determining the outcome of the mediation. The role of the mediator is to serve as a neutral third party. The mediator can neither impose a settlement nor make judgments about the facts or merits of the case on either side.

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- High probability of settlement** - Experience shows that upwards of 65 % of disputes submitted to mediation are resolved to the satisfaction of both parties to the dispute without the need for further proceedings.
- Reduction in litigation and other expenses** - Because of the high success rate achieved through mediation, cases are resolved early in the process eliminating or reducing the expenditure of time associated with a Division investigation. Litigation is completely avoided.
- Fast Service** - In most cases, the entire mediation process is completed in less than 60 days. In this way, if the claim is not resolved, the investigation of the complaint is not delayed.

Remember:

- Your participation in mediation is completely voluntary.
- There is no charge.
- You may withdraw anytime without a penalty.
- While it is not required, you have the right to retain the services of an attorney or other person of your choosing to act as your advisor during mediation.
- You will also have the right to a reasonable amount of time to review any settlement agreement before signing it.
- If mediation is not successful in resolving the dispute, the complaint will be returned to the Enforcement Bureau of the Division for a full investigation.
- All information submitted to the mediator is considered confidential and will not be revealed by the mediator to any Division Investigator, or to anyone else involved in any proceeding following an unsuccessful attempt at mediation.

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