

## **Attorney jailed for indirect civil contempt of court**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © Feb. 25, 2019 at 8:39 p.m.**

**BRONSON** -- Attorney Gregory Vance "Greg" Beauchamp, 70, surrendered himself at the Levy County Jail Monday (Feb. 25), Levy County Sheriff's Office spokesman Lt. Scott Tummond confirmed late Monday afternoon.

Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Stanley H. "Stan" Griffis III had issued a writ of bodily attachment effective that day for the attorney to be taken into custody and to be placed in the Levy County Jail until such time that Attorney Beauchamp complies with the order the judge put upon him earlier in regard to a civil case.

Attorney Beauchamp is in jail on a civil matter and is not charged with a crime. He is being held for indirect civil contempt of court, according to records.

In the writ ordered today (Monday, Feb. 25), Circuit Court Judge Griffis is abundantly clear in what must take place, and other court documents show the whole string of events from the day when Connie McSwain died on Aug. 1, 2017 at the age of 71, through one of the first actions by a survivor's then-Attorney Beauchamp, showed he filed a petition on behalf of his then-client Carl W. Gadd on Aug. 11, 2017, in regard to the estate of McSwain, according to records.

The most immediate action, however, shows that Beauchamp may become a free man again only by complying with an order.

"He may be released upon the preparation of a Certificate of Compliance signed by Attorney Beauchamp and Attorney Sunshine Baynard, which will be proof of Attorney Beauchamp's compliance with the Order Holding Attorney in Indirect Contempt, entered on February 13, 2019," according to what is written in part of the order.

As of Feb. 23, Beauchamp already had run the meter up to \$6,250 in fines by not complying with court orders in this regard, according to records. The incarceration is the most recent and most stringent force levied by the judge to seek compliance by the attorney.

In the Feb. 13 action, the order holding Beauchamp in indirect civil contempt of court showed some of the history leading to this point.

The judge had ordered Attorney Beauchamp to give "... any estate documents, including notes and mortgages to the current attorney for the personal representative (of the McSwain estate), Sunshine D. Baynard, before February 1, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. and required attorney Beauchamp to complete and serve an Inventory and Verified Accounting on Attorney Baynard, and return all monies held in trust for the Estate, before February 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m."

At the hearing on Feb. 13, Beauchamp told Judge Griffis that he had not complied with the order requiring the accounting. Beauchamp said he was unable to locate two notes and mortgage, although he is certain they are in his office, according to records.

The attorney also was found to have not returned funds held in trust for the estate, according to the Feb. 13 order holding Beauchamp in indirect civil contempt of court, according to court records.

The judge ordered Beauchamp to comply with the orders before 5 p.m. on Feb. 13.

Failure to comply results in the following, according to the order: Starting on Feb. 14 through Feb. 18, Beauchamp is fined \$250 each day of noncompliance.

The fine for noncompliance increased to \$1,000 a day from Feb. 19 through Feb. 23. Hence the, fine total reached \$6,250 before he became incarcerated, according to records.

That order further noted that given that the attorney fails to comply on the 11th day of this order, then Judge Griffis will issue the writ of bodily attachment, calling upon all 67 sheriffs of Florida to take Attorney Beauchamp into custody and put him in the Levy County Jail.

"Fines will be payable to Florida Crimes Compensation Victim Fund," Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Griffis noted in his order. "Attorney Beauchamp shall send the payments to the State Attorney. Attorney Beauchamp shall pay the fines from a personal or operating account

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and shall file proof of payment with Court by filing cancelled checks.”

Court records regarding the McSwain estate show that as of Aug. 17, 2017, Attorney Beauchamp had noted the beneficiaries of this estate and of the decedent's surviving spouse were Carl W. Gadd of Old Town, a friend; Phyllis Lorraine Wise of Tyler, Texas, a daughter; Katherine Denise McSwain of Lakeland, a stepdaughter; Eddie T. McSwain III of Weatherford, Texas, a stepson; and Rick O'Donald of Chiefland, a son.

The order granting substitution of Attorney Baynard for Attorney Beauchamp for the client Carl W. Gadd, was done and ordered on Oct. 1, 2018, according to records.

On Nov. 18, 2018, Eighth Judicial Circuit Court Judge David P. Kreider ordered Beauchamp to file an inventory and final accounting in compliance with Florida Probate Rules, as well as to provide any and all estate documents in his possession to Baynard within 20 days of that order, according to records.

"Failure to file or produce the documents may result in sanctions," Circuit Court Judge Kreider noted in his Nov. 18, 2018 order.

And now, Attorney Beauchamp is in the Levy County Jail for indirect civil contempt of court, according to records, and according to the order, he will remain there until he and Attorney Baynard provide the Court with documentation that he has complied with previous commands from the Court, according to records.