

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF THE STATE OF FLORIDA
FIFTH DISTRICT

NOT FINAL UNTIL TIME EXPIRES TO
FILE MOTION FOR REHEARING AND
DISPOSITION THEREOF IF FILED

ODAYWARD DHANRAJ,

Petitioner,

v.

Case No. 5D18-2330

ARELIS GARCIA,

Respondent.

_____ /

Opinion filed March 22, 2019

Petition for Certiorari Review of
Order from the Circuit Court for
Orange County, Bob Leblanc, Judge.

Kansas R. Gooden, of Boyd & Jenerette,
PA, Jacksonville, for Petitioner.

Tracy S. Carlin, of Brannock & Humphries,
Tampa, and Andrew Parker Felix, of
Morgan & Morgan, P.A., Orlando, for
Respondent.

HARRIS, J.

In this first-tier certiorari proceeding, Petitioner, Odayward Dhanraj, asks this Court to quash the trial court's discovery order compelling him to provide documents concerning the financial arrangements between his attorney, his insurance company, and his retained expert witness. Because there has been no departure from the essential requirements of law, we deny Petitioner's request. We recently addressed this identical issue. See

Younkin v. Blackwelder, 44 Fla. L. Weekly D549 (Fla. 5th DCA Feb. 22, 2019) (acknowledging that discovery of the type of financial information in this case is permissible “to assist counsel in impeaching examining physicians and other experts by demonstrating that the expert has economic ties to the insurance company or defense law firm” (quoting Vazquez v. Martinez, 175 So. 3d 372, 373–74 (Fla. 5th DCA 2015))).

However, as in Younkin, because Petitioner raised a compelling argument that the law in this area is not being applied in an even-handed manner to all litigants, we certify the following question to the Florida Supreme Court as one of great public importance:

WHETHER THE ANALYSIS AND DECISION IN WORLEY v. CENTRAL FLORIDA YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASS'N, 228 SO. 3D 18 (FLA. 2017), SHOULD ALSO APPLY TO PRECLUDE A DEFENSE LAW FIRM THAT IS NOT A PARTY TO THE LITIGATION FROM HAVING TO DISCLOSE ITS FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH EXPERTS THAT IT RETAINS FOR PURPOSES OF LITIGATION INCLUDING THOSE THAT PERFORM COMPREHENSIVE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS UNDER FLORIDA RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 1.360?

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI DENIED; QUESTION CERTIFIED.

EVANDER, C.J. and ORFINGER, J., concur.