# **INDUSTRIAL TRIBUNAL**

COURT #2 FREEPORT INSURANCE CENTER, 21B WEST MALL & POINCIANA DRIVE, FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA, COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS

# Before MRS. HELEN J. ALMORALES-JONES (VICE-PRESIDENT) (SITTING ALONE)

JUSTIN KNOWLES	APPLICANT
ENDEAVOR DEVELOPMENT INTERNATIONAL LTD.	RESPONDENT
ORDER ON DIRECTIONS	

# **APPEARANCES**

For the Applicant

Pro se

Freeport, Grand Bahama

The Bahamas

For the Respondent

Wallace R. Allen, Esquire Cambridge Law Chambers

Holding brief for Ernie E. Wallace, Esquire

Wallace Law Chambers Freeport, Grand Bahama

The Bahamas

### WHEREAS:

- 1) On the 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, **Justin Knowles** ("the Applicant") filed a **Report of a Trade Dispute** against **Endeavor Development International Limited** with The Department of Labour in Grand Bahama, The Bahamas, which stated, inter alia, that the <u>issues relevant to the dispute</u> were *Wages owed, Vacation pay, Unfair Dismissal, Wrongful Dismissal, Breach of contract, Termination pay* and *Severance pay*;
- 2) By a **Certificate of Referral** dated the 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 (received on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023), the Honourable Minister of Labour & Immigration referred the trade dispute between the Applicant and **Endeavor Development International Ltd.** ("the Respondent") to the Industrial Tribunal, Northern Region, ("the Tribunal");
- 3) The Tribunal served the **Applicant** with notice of the referral on the 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2023;
- 4) On the 7<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, the **Applicant** filed a **Form A** (Originating Application) which stated, inter alia, that:-
  - the <u>Grounds for his application</u> were that *he was not paid for work done from* 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2022, to 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2022; on numerous occasions, he asked and was told that the money is coming, but never received the funds; and
  - the <u>Reason for his dismissal</u> (in his opinion) was that the funds were never paid to him and constant promises were paid; and he was fired without warning or even given a termination letter,
- 5) On the 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, the Tribunal served a copy of the **Form A** (Originating Application) together with a **Form C** (Notice of Originating Application) and a **Form D** (Notice of Appearance) on the **Respondent**;
- 6) On the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, the **Respondent** filed a **Form D** (Notice of Appearance), which did not indicate whether or not it intended to resist the application and stated that the name of the Respondent was *Wallace Law Chambers, Ernie E. Wallace*;
- 7) On the 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2023, the **Respondent** filed a **Form E** (Defence) which stated, inter alia, that:-
  - the name of the Respondent was Endeavor Dev. Int. Ltd.;
  - · the Applicant was not dismissed;
  - the dates the Applicant gave as to his period of employment were not correct;
  - the details of remuneration stated by the Applicant were not correct; and

- the Respondent intends to resist the application on the grounds that the Respondent never hired the Applicant, who was hired in Abaco by persons who were not agents of the Respondent;
- 8) The **Respondent's President** gave written authorization for *Wallace R. Allen, Esquire* and the Respondent's Communications Director, *Peter Adderley*, to represent the Respondent, in the absence of its Counsel, *Ernie E. Wallace, Esquire*;
- The parties agreed that 2 conciliation meetings were held at The Department of Labour (virtually) and none of the issues relevant to the dispute were resolved;
- 10) The **Applicant** advised that:- the Respondent owes him 6 weeks' pay; he had asked *Superintendent Macquel McDonald* about it; and *Michael Campian* told him that it was coming;
- 11) The Tribunal directed that the **Applicant** provide the Respondent's Counsel with particulars of his claim for *Unfair Dismissal* within 4 weeks;
- 12) The **Respondent's Counsel** advised that the Respondent was only the agent for a U.S. Company called "*Btree*", which was the Applicant's employer;
- 13) The **Applicant** to decide whether or not to file a **Form M** (Notice of Joinder of Parties) applying to join *Btree* as a party to the proceedings;
- 14) The Tribunal directed that within 2 weeks, the **Respondent's Counsel** provide the Tribunal with *Btree's* corporate name, e-mail address and the name & address of its registered office;
- 15) The **Respondent's Communications Director**, *Peter Adderley*, advised that the Respondent may settle the matter before the trial date;
- 16) Pursuant to **Section 58(1)(a)** of **The Industrial Relations Act**, **Cap. 321**, the Tribunal remitted the issues to the parties for further consideration, with a view to settling or reducing it;
- 17) The **Applicant** advised that he will testify on his behalf;
- 18) The **Respondent's Counsel** advised that the Respondent will call about 2 witnesses in its defence;
- 19) The Tribunal decided to have the witnesses give viva voce testimony;

- 20) The Tribunal estimated that the trial may last 1 day;
- 21) The **Tribunal** directed that the parties file their **List of Documents** and **Bundle of Documents** by the end of October 2023; and
- 22) The **Tribunal** advised the parties that **The Industrial Relations (Tribunal Procedure) Rules, 2010**, require that they file any **Brief/Skeleton Arguments** [pursuant to **Rule 3(5)**] or **Written Representations** [pursuant to **Rule 3(6)**] at least 7 days before the trial date;

## IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:-

- The Respondent's Counsel provide the Tribunal and the Applicant's Counsel with Btree's corporate name, e-mail address and the name & address of its registered office by Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> September, 2023;
- The Applicant provide the Tribunal and the Respondent's Counsel with particulars of his claim for *Unfair Dismissal* by Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2023;
- The parties file their List of Documents and Bundle of Documents with the Tribunal by 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2023, and at the same time serve a copy thereof on the other party;
- The parties file their Brief/Skeleton Arguments (if any) with the Tribunal by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2023, and at the same time serve a copy thereof on the other party; and
- The trial be done at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2023;

The J. Amendon The

DATED: This 4<sup>th</sup> day of September, A.D., 2023.

Her Honor, Helen J. Almorales-Jones,

Vice-President