

### HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA

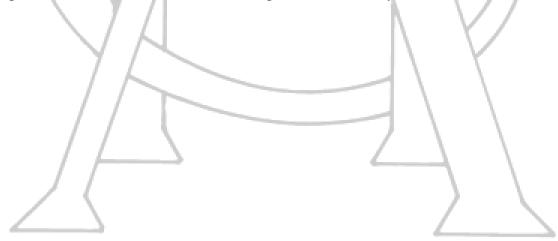
### NOTICE OF FILING

This document was filed electronically in the High Court of Australia on 28 Mar 2024 and has been accepted for filing under the *High Court Rules 2004*. Details of filing and important additional information are provided below.

|                                  | Details of Filing  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| File Number:<br>File Title:      | C4/2024<br>His Honour Judge Salvatore Paul Vasta v. Mr Stradford (a pseu |
| Registry:                        | Canberra   |
| Document filed:<br>Filing party: | Form 27B - Appellant's chronology<br>Applicant                           |
| Date filed:                      | 28 Mar 2024  |

# **Important Information**

This Notice has been inserted as the cover page of the document which has been accepted for filing electronically. It is now taken to be part of that document for the purposes of the proceeding in the Court and contains important information for all parties to that proceeding. It must be included in the document served on each of those parties and whenever the document is reproduced for use by the Court.



## IN THE HIGH COURT OF AUSTRALIA CANBERRA REGISTRY

No C4 of 2024

#### BETWEEN:

#### HIS HONOUR JUDGE SALVATORE PAUL VASTA

Appellant

and

#### MR STRADFORD (A PSEUDONYM)

First Respondent

and

#### **COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA**

Second Respondent

and

#### STATE OF QUEENSLAND

Third Respondent

#### **APPELLANT'S CHRONOLOGY**

#### Part I:

This chronology is in a form suitable for publication on the internet.

#### Part II:

| Date        | Event  | Reference  |
|-------------|--|--|
| From 1 Jan  | Judge Vasta a Judge of the Federal Circuit Court | SOAF <sup>1</sup> [3] ( <b>JCAB<sup>2</sup> 66</b> ) |
| 2015        | of Australia.                                    |  |
| 7 Apr 2017  | Mr Stradford filed proceedings in the FCCA       | PJ <sup>3</sup> [18] ( <b>JCAB 261</b> );            |
|             | seeking property adjustment orders.              | SOAF [7] ( <b>JCAB 67</b> )                          |
| 19 Jun 2018 | Directions hearing before Judge Spelleken;       | PJ [20] ( <b>JCAB 262</b> );                         |
|             | orders made for filing of further evidence and   | SOAF [8] ( <b>JCAB 68</b> );                         |
|             | listing the matter for final hearing on 10 Aug   | Orders (JCAB 72)                                     |
|             | 2018.  |  |

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Statement of Agreed Facts dated 22 June 2021 at Joint Core Appeal Book 66 – 71.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Joint Core Appeal Book filed 14 March 2024.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Primary Judgement: *Stradford (a pseudonym) v Judge Vasta* [2023] FCA 1020 (**JCAB 243 – 467**).

|            |   | C4                               |
|------------|---|----------------------------------|
| 10 Aug     | The matter came before Judge Vasta. Issues        | PJ [22] – [24] ( <b>JCAB</b>     |
| 2018       | remained about the adequacy of Mr Stradford's     | <b>262 – 253</b> ); SOAF [9]     |
|            | disclosures. Judge Vasta made orders, inter alia, | (JCAB 67); transcript            |
|            | that Mr Stradford make full and frank disclosure  | (JCAB 74 - 109); Orders          |
|            | and adjourned the matter for mention on 26 Nov    | (JCAB 111 – 113)                 |
|            | 2018.   |                                  |
| 2 Nov 2018 | Mr Stradford filed an affidavit in compliance, or | PJ [25] ( <b>JCAB 263</b> );     |
|            | purported compliance, with the 10 Aug 2018        | SOAF [10] ( <b>JCAB 67</b> );    |
|            | orders.   | affidavit (JCAB 114 –            |
|            |   | 116)                             |
| 12 Nov     | Mrs Stradford filed an affidavit containing her   | PJ [26] ( <b>JCAB 263</b> );     |
| 2018       | evidence as to Mr Stradford's noncompliance       | SOAF [11] ( <b>JCAB 67</b> );    |
|            | with some of the 10 Aug 2018 orders.              | affidavit (117 – 128).           |
| 26 Nov     | Judge Turner identified categories of Mr          | PJ [27] ( <b>JCAB 264</b> );     |
| 2018       | Stradford's asserted noncompliance with the 10    | SOAF [12(a) – (e)]               |
|            | Aug 2018 orders and adjourned the matter to 6     | (JCAB 68); transcript            |
|            | Dec 2018 "for hearing of the contempt             | (JCAB 129 – 134);                |
|            | application".                                     | Orders (JCAB 136)                |
| 6 Dec 2018 | The contempt matter returned before Judge         | PJ [29] – [36] ( <b>JCAB</b>     |
|            | Vasta shortly after 10.00 am.                     | <b>264 - 266</b> ); transcript   |
|            |   | (JCAB 137 – 147)                 |
|            |   |                                  |
|            | Judge Vasta briefly adjourned the matter to       | PJ [33] ( <b>JCAB 265</b> )      |
|            | allow Mr and Mrs Stradford to explore an          |                                  |
|            | amicable resolution.                              |                                  |
|            |   | PJ [34] – [38] ( <b>JCAB</b>     |
|            | Mr and Mrs Stradford did not reach a resolution   | <b>265 – 267</b> ); Reasons for  |
|            | and Judge Vasta proceeded with the contempt       | Judgement <sup>4</sup> (JCAB 154 |
|            | hearing and delivered an ex tempore judgment      | <b>- 160</b> )                   |
|            | and made orders sentencing Mr Stradford to        |                                  |
|            | imprisonment.                                     | PJ [39] ( <b>JCAB 267; 161</b> ) |

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Stradford & Stradford [2018] FCCA 3890.

| Judge Vasta signed a Warrant of Commitment.PJ [40] (JCAB 268)Guards employed by MSS Security, contracted<br>by the Commonwealth of Australia to provide<br>security at the courthouse, took Mr Stradford<br>into custody.PJ [44] (JCAB 268)Officers of the Queensland Police Force took Mr<br>Stradford to the Roma Street Watchhouse.PJ [44] (JCAB 268)10 DecMr Stradford was transferred from the Roma<br>Centre.PJ [46] (JCAB 268)2018Street Warehouse to the Brisbane Correctional<br>Centre.PJ [49] (JCAB 269)2018Mr Stradford filed a Notice of Appeal in the<br>centre.PJ [49] (JCAB 269)2018Family Court.2018 orders. Judge Vasta to stay the 6 Dec<br>granted the application, ordered Mr Stradford's<br>granted the application, ordered Mr Stradford's<br>forthwith release, and Mr Stradford was released<br>the same day.PJ [49] -[52] (JCAB<br>(JCAB 165); transcript<br>(JCAB 166); transcript<br>(JCAB 166) - 192);<br>Reasons for Judgement<br>(stay) <sup>5</sup> (JCAB 166 - 192);<br>(Brath 10 Junanimously allowed Mr Stradford's<br>appeal.PJ [56] -[57] (JCAB<br>271 - 272)7 Dec 2020Mr Stradford commenced proceedings in the<br>Federal Court against Judge Vasta, the<br>Commonwealth of Australia and the State of<br>Queensland.PJ [8] (JCAB 259);<br>Statement of Claim<br>QLAB 232; Amended  |             |  |   |
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| Image: constraint of the state of the sta |             | the same day.                                    | (stay) <sup>5</sup> ( <b>JCAB 196</b> – |
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| Federal Court against Judge Vasta, theJCAB 232; AmendedCommonwealth of Australia and the State ofStatement of Claim  |             | appeal.  |   |
| Commonwealth of Australia and the State of Statement of Claim  | 7 Dec 2020  | Mr Stradford commenced proceedings in the        | PJ [8] ( <b>JCAB 259</b> );             |
|  |             | Federal Court against Judge Vasta, the           | JCAB 232; Amended                       |
| Queensland. (JCAB 20 – 29)   |             | Commonwealth of Australia and the State of       | Statement of Claim                      |
|  |             | Queensland.                                      | (JCAB 20-29)                            |

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Stradford & Stradford (No 2) [2018] FCCA 3961.

C4/2024

| 6 – 15 Dec  | Trial before Wigney J.                             | JCAB 251              |
|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| 2021, 24    |  |                       |
| May 2022    |  |                       |
| 30 Aug      | Judgment given by Wigney J.                        | JCAB 243 – 467        |
| 2023        |  |                       |
| 28 Sep 2023 | Judge Vasta filed an appeal to the Full Court of   | JCAB 472 – 475; 478 – |
|             | the Federal Court from orders 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the | 481; 483 – 486        |
|             | Federal Court given on 30 August 2023.             |                       |
| 8 Feb 2024  | The High Court made orders removing the whole      |                       |
|             | of the cause into the High Court of Australia      |                       |
|             | (Gageler CJ, Gordon, Edelman, Steward,             |                       |
|             | Gleeson, Jagot and Beech-Jones JJ).                |                       |

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Dated: 27 March 2024

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