

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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SANG LAN, :

Plaintiff, :

-against- :

AOL TIME WARNER, INC., et al., :

Defendants. :

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FRANK MAAS, United States Magistrate Judge.

ORDER

11cv2870-AT-JCF

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X. Bing Zu and Thomas Johnson ("Movants") seek to withdraw from any further representation of plaintiff Sang Lan ("Plaintiff") in this action. (ECF No. 255). In support of that motion, they have publicly filed heavily-redacted papers, (see ECF Nos. 274, 275), but have furnished the Court with unredacted copies.

The Defendants do not oppose the motion to withdraw, but maintain that they should be given any non-confidential redacted information that is relevant to whether the claims raised in the Plaintiff's Fourth Amended Complaint and her declarations are well-founded. (ECF No. 280). Because the Movants fear that a review of their papers by a judge associated with Plaintiff's case might prejudice her, I have been asked to decide the motion rather than Judge Francis, to whom this case has been referred.

The Defendants disclaim "any interest in learning the specifics of an[y] fee dispute between Plaintiff and [her] [c]ounsel." (Id. at 2). They also are aware that the Movants have maintained, in connection with a different motion, that "if [her] [c]ounsel has violated Rule 11, it was due solely to representations made by Plaintiff and her refusal to withdraw the claims as advised by counsel and her insistence upon continuing the lawsuit." (Id. at 3 (citing ECF No. 270 at 1) (emphasis omitted)).

As requested, I have reviewed the Movants' ex parte submissions. In light of the Defendants' concession, as well as the information they already have, I have determined that any further disclosures concerning the factual basis for the Movant's application contained in the Movants' ex parte submission to the Court would be surplusage. There consequently is no need to furnish the Defendants with any such information.

Accordingly, the Movants' application to withdraw as counsel for Plaintiff, (ECF No. 255), is granted, and the Defendants' application to unseal portions of the Movants' papers in support of that application, (ECF No. 280), is denied.

SO ORDERED.

Dated: New York, New York
March 3, 2016



FRANK MAAS
United States Magistrate Judge

Copies to all counsel via ECF