

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF FLORIDA

Case No.: SC19-385

STEVEN YOUNKIN,

Petitioner,

v.

NATHAN BLACKWELDER,

Respondent

_____ /

PETITIONER'S NOTICE OF FILING
SUPPLEMENTAL AUTHORITY

Petitioner STEVEN YOUNKIN, by and through undersigned counsel and pursuant to Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.225, submits as supplemental authority the decision by the Fifth District Court of Appeal in Routhier, M.D., and St. Augustine Surgical, LLC v. Barnes, et al., No. 5D20-1862 (Fla. 5d DCA Nov. 6, 2020), a copy of which is attached. The supplemental authority is pertinent to the certified question of great importance in the instant case.

RECEIVED, 11/09/2020 01:09:29 PM, Clerk, Supreme Court

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

WE HEREBY CERTIFY that a copy of the foregoing was served via EPORTAL to: **George H. Anderson, III Esq.**, Dutch.Anderson@newlinlaw.com; Anderson.pleadings@newlinlaw.com; Dan Newlin & Partners, 7335 W Sand Lake Road, Orlando, FL 32819; **Mark A. Nation, Esq.**, and **Paul W. Pritchard, Esq.**, bhirt@nationlaw.com, mnation@nationalw.com, ppritchard@nationlaw.com, The Nation Law Firm, 570 Crown Oak Centre Drive, Longwood, FL 32750; **Amanda E. Wright, Esq.**, OrlandoLegal@Allstate.com, Law Offices of Robert J. Smith, 390 North Orange Avenue, Suite 895, Orlando, FL 32801-1635; **Jason Gonzalez, Esq.**, **Amber Stoner Nunnally, Esq.**, Shutts & Bowen, LLP, 215 S. Monroe St. Suite 804, Tallahassee, FL 32301, jasongonzalez@shutts.com, anunnally@shutts.com; **William W. Large, Esq.**, Florida Justice Reform Institute, 201 S. Monroe St., Tallahassee, FL 32301, william@fljustice.org; **Bryan S. Gowdy, Esq.**, 865 May Street, Jacksonville, FL 32204, bgowdy@appellate-firm.com, filings@appellate-fim.com; **Elaine D. Walter**, Boyd Richards Parker Colonnelli, 100 S.E. 2nd Street, Suite 2600, Miami, FL 33131, ewalter@boydlawgroup.com, **Andrew S. Bolin, Esq.**, **Chizom Okebugwu, Esq.**, Bolin Law Group, 1905 E. 7th Avenue, Tampa, FL 33605, asb@bolin-law.com, cjo@bolin-law.com; **Douglas Eaton, Esq.**, Eaton & Wolk, P.L., 2665 So. Bayshore Drive, Suite 609, Miami, FL 33133, deaton@eatonwolk.com, cgarci@eatonwolk.com; this 9th day of November, 2020.

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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

CHRISTINE M. ROUTHIER, M.D.,
AND ST. AUGUSTINE SURGICAL, LLC,
A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY,

Petitioners,

v.

Case No. 5D20-1862

TONIA L. BARNES, RICHARD T. BARNES
AND U.S. BARIATRIC ST. AUGUSTINE, LLC,
A FLORIDA LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY,

Respondents.

_____ /

Opinion filed November 6, 2020

Petition for Certiorari Review of Order
from the Circuit Court for St. Johns County,
R. Lee Smith, Judge.

Michael R. D'Lugo, of Wicker Smith O'Hara
McCoy & Ford, P.A., Orlando, for
Petitioners.

Robert L McLeod, II and Leslie H. Morton,
of the McLeod Firm, St. Augustine, for
Respondents Tonia L. Barnes and Richard
T. Barnes.

No Appearance for Respondent, U.S.
Bariatric St. Augustine, LLC, a Florida
Limited Liability Company.

PER CURIAM.

Petitioners, who are defendants in a medical malpractice suit filed below, seek certiorari relief from a discovery order entered by the trial court that essentially compels their counsel and his law firm to disclose the amount of money that it has paid to its retained trial experts in this case over the last three years.

In *Younkin v. Blackwelder*, 44 Fla. L. Weekly D549 (Fla. 5th DCA Feb. 22, 2019), we denied certiorari relief regarding a substantially similar discovery order. We observed there that while the disclosure of this type of financial information was both consistent with our earlier decision in *Vazquez v. Martinez*, 175 So. 3d 372, 373–74 (Fla. 5th DCA 2015), and furthered the “truth-seeking function and fairness of the trial,” see *Springer v. West*, 769 So. 2d 1068, 1069 (Fla. 5th DCA 2000), it also appeared to us that the law in this area was not being applied in an even-handed manner to all litigants. *Younkin*, 44 Fla. L. Weekly at D549; see also *Worley v. Cent. Fla. Young Men’s Christian Ass’n*, 228 So. 3d 18, 23 (Fla. 2017) (holding that a law firm representing a plaintiff in personal injury litigation that refers its clients to a specific physician for treatment is not required to disclose the extent of its referral or financial relationship with the physician because “[f]irst, and most obviously, the law firm is not a party to the litigation”).

Accordingly, consistently with our decision in *Younkin*, we deny the instant petition. However, as we did in *Younkin*, we certify the following question to the Florida Supreme Court as one of great public importance:

WHETHER THE ANALYSIS AND DECISION IN *WORLEY* 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

COMPULSORY MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS UNDER
FLORIDA RULE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE 1.360?¹

PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI DENIED; QUESTION CERTIFIED.

EVANDER, C.J., LAMBERT and TRAVER, JJ., concur.

¹ The Florida Supreme Court accepted jurisdiction in *Younkin, Younkin v. Blackwelder*, Case No.: SC19-385, 2019 WL 2180625 (Fla. May 21, 2019), and held oral argument in the case on September 10, 2020. To date, the court has not released its opinion.