

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
ORLANDO DIVISION

QUWANDA CANNION PHILLIPS,

Plaintiff,

v.

Case No. 6:19-cv-2137-RBD-LHP

FEDEX GROUND PACKAGE
SYSTEM, INC.,

Defendant.

ORDER

This cause is before the Court *sua sponte*. The Court previously ordered Plaintiff's Counsel, Curtis B. Lee, Esq., to show cause as to why he should not be sanctioned for failing to comply with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(b) in connection with misrepresentations he made to the Court in a motion for new trial. (See Doc. 130.) Mr. Lee has now filed a response and Defendant has filed a brief, as requested by the Court. (Doc. 143).

Mr. Lee states that his misrepresentations to the Court were unintentional, but this does not excuse his lack of reasonable diligence under the circumstances. (Doc. 131.) As a member of the Florida and Middle District Bar Associations, and officer of the Court, Mr. Lee's actions are unacceptable. It is a lawyer's responsibility to the Court, the legal profession, and the public to be diligent in

ensuring that the legal and factual contentions made are supported by the law and the evidence. Mr. Lee was on notice that the representations he made with respect to the evidence in the record were unsupported. Even so, he repeated those representations without examining the transcript or requesting the testimony of the witness in question. This disregard for his obligation for candor with the Court and parties reflects poorly upon the legal profession and is inconsistent with the sworn duty of a member of the Florida Bar and of the Bar of the Middle District of Florida. This order will be posted on the public website of the Middle District of Florida and a copy provided to the Florida Bar in the form of a public reprimand as a sanction pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11(c).

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED**:

1. Curtis B. Lee, Esq. is **SANCTIONED** in the form of this written admonishment.
2. The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to post this Order on the website for the Middle District of Florida.
3. The Clerk is **DIRECTED** to provide a copy of this Order to the Florida Bar.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Orlando, Florida, on March 3, 2023.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Roy B. Dalton Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

ROY B. DALTON JR.
United States District Judge