

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWENTY-SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
McHENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

PAUL R. DULBERG, INDIVIDUALLY)
AND THE PAUL R. DULBERG)
REVOCABLE TRUST)
Plaintiffs,)
vs.)
THOMAS W. GOOCH, SABINA SERSHON,)
EDWARD X. CLINTON, JULIA WILLIAMS,) **CASE NO. 25LA360**
ALPHONSE TALARICO, GEORGE FLYNN,)
THOMAS J. POPOVICH, HANS MAST, THE)
GOOCH FIRM, CLINTON LAW FIRM,)
LLC., LAW OFFICE OF ALPHONSE A.)
TALARICO)
Defendants,)

**PLAINTIFF’S MOTION FOR ENTRY OF DEFAULT AND DEFAULT
JUDGMENT AS TO LIABILITY AGAINST THOMAS W. GOOCH AND
THE GOOCH FIRM, A/K/A GAUTHIER AND GOOCH**

NOW COME Plaintiffs, PAUL R. DULBERG, INDIVIDUALLY AND THE PAUL R. DULBERG REVOCABLE TRUST, appearing pro se, and pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-1301(d) and Illinois Supreme Court Rule 101, respectfully move this Honorable Court for entry of an order of default and default judgment as to liability only against Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH, and in support thereof state as follows:

I. PARTIES

1. Plaintiffs, PAUL R. DULBERG, INDIVIDUALLY AND THE PAUL R. DULBERG REVOCABLE TRUST, are the Plaintiffs in the above-captioned action.
2. Defendant THOMAS W. GOOCH is named as a Defendant in Plaintiffs’ Complaint and is alleged to have engaged in PRIMA FACIE NEGLIGENT CONDUCT (LEGAL MALPRACTICE), FRAUD AGAINST DULBERG, FRAUD ON THE COURT, CIVIL CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD AGAINST DULBERG AND CIVIL CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD ON THE COURT.

3. Defendant THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH, is named as a Defendant in Plaintiff's Complaint and is alleged to be liable for the acts and omissions pleaded therein.

II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY AND SERVICE

4. Plaintiffs filed the Complaint in this matter on December 4, 2025.

5. Summons was duly issued as to Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH.

6. Defendant THOMAS W. GOOCH was personally served with summons and complaint on December 23, 2025, at 10:28 a.m., at 209 S. Main Street, Wauconda, Illinois, as reflected in the Sheriff of Lake County's return on file. **(Exhibit EL-1)**

7. Defendant THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH, was personally served with summons and complaint on December 23, 2025, at 10:28 a.m., at 209 S. Main Street, Wauconda, Illinois, as reflected in the Sheriff of Lake County's return on file.

(Exhibit EL-2)

8. The Sheriff's returns constitute prima facie evidence of valid service under Illinois law.

III. FAILURE TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

9. Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH were required to file an appearance or responsive pleading within the time prescribed by Illinois Supreme Court Rule 101(d).

10. As of the filing of this Motion:

- a. Defendant THOMAS W. GOOCH has not filed an appearance and has not filed an answer or other responsive pleading;
- b. Defendant THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH, has not filed an appearance and has not filed an answer or other responsive pleading; and
- c. Neither Defendant has sought or obtained leave of court for additional time.

11. The court record reflects that Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH are in default.

IV. ENTITLEMENT TO DEFAULT AND JUDGMENT AS TO LIABILITY

12. Where a defendant has been properly served and fails to appear or plead, the Court may enter default pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/2-1301(d).

13. Plaintiff's Complaint pleads causes of action against Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH for PRIMA FACIE NEGLIGENT CONDUCT (LEGAL MALPRACTICE), FRAUD AGAINST DULBERG, FRAUD ON THE COURT, CIVIL CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD AGAINST DULBERG AND CIVIL CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT FRAUD ON THE COURT.

14. By reason of Defendants' default, the well-pleaded factual allegations of the Complaint are deemed admitted as to liability.

15. Plaintiffs seek entry of default and default judgment as to liability only, with no determination of damages at this time.

16. This Motion is directed solely to Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH. Plaintiffs' claims against the remaining defendants named in this action remain pending and are not affected by the relief requested herein.

17. Plaintiffs do not seek a determination of damages at this time. Plaintiffs request that all issues of compensatory damages, allocation of fault, and any entitlement to punitive damages be determined by the trier of fact at trial together with the remaining defendants. Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH, having defaulted as to liability, shall be bound by the damages verdict ultimately entered by the Court.

V. RELIEF REQUESTED

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court:

- A.** Enter an Order of Default against Defendants THOMAS W. GOOCH and THE GOOCH FIRM, a/k/a GAUTHIER AND GOOCH;
- B.** Enter Default Judgment as to Liability Only in favor of Plaintiffs and against said Defendants;

- C. Reserve all issues of damages, allocation of fault, and punitive damages for later determination at trial with the remaining defendants;
- D. Award Plaintiffs costs; and
- E. Grant such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

Respectfully submitted Pro se for Plaintiffs: PAUL R. DULBERG, INDIVIDUALLY
AND THE PAUL R. DULBERG REVOCABLE TRUST,

by: /s/ Paul R. Dulberg

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