

INSURANCE LAW BULLETIN

Re: Plaintiff “John Doe” Ordered To Pursue Disability Claim In Real Name

The United States District Court for the District of Columbia recently granted an insurer’s motion to require a “John Doe” plaintiff to litigate his disability claim in his real name.

Plaintiff, a dentist, filed an anonymous complaint alleging disability due to anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder. According to plaintiff, use of a pseudonym was necessary because of the sensitive nature of his mental disorders and the potential adverse impact on his business and family relations.

The court rejected plaintiff’s arguments, explaining the alleged mental health conditions are insufficient to warrant use of a pseudonym. The court noted plaintiff’s alleged conditions are not uncommon and allowing plaintiff to use a pseudonym would propagate the perception that mental illness is shameful.

For further information or a copy of the court order, please contact Bryan D. Bolton or Michael E. McCabe, Jr., who represented the insurer in this matter. You can reach Bryan at 410.659.7754 or bbolton@fblaw.com and Michael at 410.659.4981 or mmccabe@fblaw.com. To learn more about our firm, or review past law bulletins, please visit www.fblaw.com.

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