

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MIDDLESEX DIVISION

PROBATE AND FAMILY
COURT DEPARTMENT
DOCKET NO.: 02P5533AA

IN RE: ESTATE OF BENJAMIN C. THOMPSON

AFFIDAVIT OF EMILY TILDEN COOKSON

I, Emily Tilden Cookson, of 146 Shelley Drive, Mill Valley, California, hereby depose and state as follows:

(1) I knew Benjamin C. Thompson ("Ben"), who died on August 17, 2002. I have no interest in Ben's Estate. I am the daughter of MacGregor Freeman, who was a principal at Ben's company, Benjamin Thompson and Associates, Inc. ("BTA"). During the period from June 1988 to September 1990, I was secretary to Phillip Loheed, who was also a principal at BTA, and later I was a computer manager for the firm.


(2) During that time I observed the relationship between Ben and his second wife, Jane Thompson ("Jane"). From what I observed, Jane behaved in a controlling way toward Ben and some aspects of the office at BTA. For example, Jane occasionally chastised Ben impatiently in front of the staff, and criticized some of his decisions. I observed little affection between Ben and Jane.

(3) In early 1990, I was asked by Jane to retrieve some materials from her computer. The only reason I had any access to Jane's computer was that at that time, Jane was not comfortable with the computer and she needed help recovering some files that she had accidentally deleted.

(4) I retrieved the files for Jane, but she was out of the office when I finished, so I simply left her a note. Among the documents I recovered for Jane were some personal letters to Ben Wood, one the other BTA principals. The letters were personal and emotional and were not consistent with Jane's demeanor as I had observed it in the office.

(5) Later, after I had retrieved Jane's documents, Jane came and spoke to me in general terms about not disclosing what was on the hard drive of her computer. She told me that I was in a "certain position" due to my technical skills and knowledge. From that, I inferred that she knew I had read the personal letters. I felt that she was very uncomfortable that her need for help had revealed these personal letters to me.

Signed under the pains and penalties of perjury this 23rd day of May, 2003.



Emily Tilden Cookson



Witness