

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA,
COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

MINUTE ORDER

DATE: 09/04/2018

TIME: 10:15:00 AM

DEPT:

JUDICIAL OFFICER PRESIDING: Timothy Taylor

CLERK: Kelly Breckenridge

REPORTER/ERM: Not Reported

BAILIFF/COURT ATTENDANT:

CASE NO: **37-2017-00019692-CU-FR-CTL** CASE INIT.DATE: 05/31/2017

CASE TITLE: **Zhala Tawfiq vs Miss Middle East Beauty Pageant USA Inc [Imaged]**

CASE CATEGORY: Civil - Unlimited CASE TYPE: Fraud

APPEARANCES

Order of Recusal

Tawfiq v. Miss Middle East Beauty Pageant, Case No. 2017-19692

This is a dispute over what happened (and didn't happen) after plaintiff Zhala Tawfiq was "crowned ... 'Miss Middle East USA 2016,' [and] provided ... with a crown, sash, trophy and oversized check for \$2,000." ROA 1, paragraph 13. Plaintiff alleges the proprietor of the pageant, Mr. Kalasho, essentially pulled a "bait and switch" as to the promised prize money, and then, when she complained, posted nude pictures purporting to be her and awarded the crown to someone else. *Id.*, paragraphs 14-17. The complaint for fraud, IIED and defamation was filed May 31, 2017. The case was assigned to Judge Trapp, but plaintiff challenged her (whereupon the case was reassigned to Dept. 72). ROA 9, 11. The court has made numerous ruling over the course of the last year.

As the result of recent events in the case, and after a long weekend of reflection, the undersigned, on his own motion, hereby recuses himself from hearing or taking any further action in relation to this case, effective immediately. This decision is made pursuant to the provisions of CCP section 170.1(a)(6)(A)(iii): a person aware of the facts might reasonably entertain a doubt that the court could remain impartial.

This case is ordered processed for reassignment to another judge. The clerk is ordered to promptly serve copies of this Order on all counsel of record. Any hearings previously set are vacated, subject to being re-set before the transferee judge.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

September 4, 2018



Judge Timothy Taylor