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Subject: Lawsuit Dismissed!

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From: Paul Duke (orokduke@att.net)

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To: ;

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Date: Sunday, September 22, 2013 9:49 PM

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Dear ENA-USA Members and the Efik Community At-Large,

It is with a sense of humility and relief that I inform all of you of the “Dismissal” of the lawsuit brought against our Corporation (ENA-USA) and several members of our leadership team by the Plaintiff, Mr. Asuquo Ukpong's group.

It is noteworthy to mention the background of this 14-month long lawsuit as an ugly reminder to all of us. The petition was initially filed on July 3, 2012 , and included a sworn affidavit (signed & notarized) by Ete Augustus Edet to restrain the 2012 Efik National Convention in DC from taking place. When that effort failed and the convention was held successfully, the Plaintiff amended its petition on July 17, 2012 to “Prove Jurisdiction” with additional sworn affidavits (signed & notarized) from Ete Ekeng Henshaw, Mma Affiong Ekong and Ete Essien Cobham.

Few weeks ago, after consulting with the ENA-USA Executive Committee, I directed our Attorneys in Houston , Texas to file the Motions to dismiss the lawsuit. The oral arguments were heard on Monday, September 9, 2013 at 10 am before the presiding Judge in the 55<sup>th</sup> Judicial District, Harris County, Texas.

**The Court ruled the following Monday, September 16, 2013, that:**

**The Plaintiff's live pleading, the Plaintiff's first Amended Petition and Application for Temporary Restraining Order, stated little if any basis for Personal Jurisdiction over the Defendants. Also, each of the Defendant's Motions rebutted all Jurisdictional Grounds, and each had gone unrebutted by the Plaintiff.**

**The Court granted the Defense's Motions, and the entire lawsuit was dismissed.**

## **2014 NATIONAL CONVENTION UPDATE!!!**

As we finally begin to put this difficult past behind us, the Efik National Association USA Inc. (ENA-USA) is proud to announce that under the auspices of our new Convention Planning Chair, Chief (Prof.) Rosemary Effiong and her dedicated team, the ENA-USA has signed a contract with a Resort Hotel for the hosting of our 17<sup>th</sup> Efik National Convention from July 24-27, 2014, in Reno, Nevada at:

### **THE PEPPERMILL RESORT, SPA & CASINO**

This promises to be our most anticipated celebration to date. Please, join me and the ENA-USA Express

**Train** as we begin this new campaign season to promote and renew “The Efik Family Values and Community Activism” for the next ten months. More details will be announced soon.

Be well and stay blessed,

Chief Paul Orok Bassey-Duke  
National President  
ENA-USA