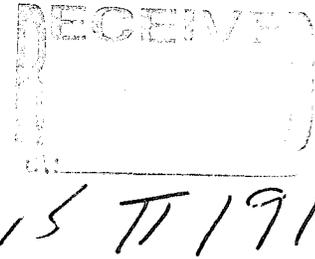


**IN THE ILLINOIS INDEPENDENT TAX TRIBUNAL
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

SHAJU JOSEPH,)
)
 Petitioner,)
)
 v.)
)
 STATE OF ILLINOIS)
 DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,)
)
 Defendant.)

No.



PETITION

Petitioner, Shaju Joseph (“Petitioner”), by and through his attorneys, The Law Office of James E. Dickett, Ltd., complains of the Defendant, the Illinois Department of Revenue (“Department”), and alleges as follows:

PARTIES

1. Petitioner is an individual who lives at 2519 Stephens Grant Drive, Sugarland, Texas, 77479, and can be reached at 847-309-2826.
2. Petitioner is represented by The Law Office of James E. Dickett, Ltd. attorney James E. Dickett, located at 600 Hillgrove Avenue, Suite 1, Western Springs, Illinois, 60558 and can be reached at 708-784-3200 or jdickett@aol.com.
3. Petitioner’s Taxpayer ID is XXX-XX-XXXX (redacted).
4. The Department is an agency of the Executive Department of the State Government and is tasked with the enforcement and administration of Illinois tax laws. 20 ILCS 5/5-15.

NOTICE

5. On July 23, 2015, the Department issued a Collection Action Assessment and Notice of Intent for a personal liability penalty (a.k.a. NPL) (“Notice”) against the Petitioner in the amount of \$90,790.56. The Notice is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

JURISDICTION

6. Petitioner brings this action pursuant to the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal Act (“Tribunal Act”), 35 ILCS 1010/1-1 to 35 ILCS 1010/1-100.

7. This Tribunal has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to Section 1-45 and 1-50 of the Tribunal Act because Petitioner timely filed this Petition within 60 days of the Notice.

BACKGROUND

8. Petitioner was a partial owner of the underlying defunct corporation, Popular Fuels Inc.

9. Petitioner was not involved in the day-to-day operations of the business nor was he ever involved in the filing, preparation, and payment of Illinois sales tax for the underlying corporation because he treated the business like an investment.

COUNT I

Petitioner is not a responsible officer who failed to pay the sales tax, penalties, and interest of the corporation.

10. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the allegation made in paragraphs 1 through 9, inclusive, hereinabove.

11. A corporate officer who does not have control, supervision, or responsibility for filing sales tax returns or making sales tax payments is not personally liable for the corporation’s unpaid sales tax, penalties, and interest. 35 ILCS 35 ILCS 735/3-7.

12. Even though Petitioner was a partial owner of the corporation, he never had control, supervision, or responsibility for filing sales tax returns or making sales tax payments and therefore is not personally liable for the corporation's unpaid sales tax, penalties, and interest.

13. Contrary to the Department's determination, Petitioner is not a responsible officer who failed to pay the sales tax, penalties, and interest of the corporation.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that the Tribunal enter an order that:

- (a) finds and declares that Petitioner is not personally liable for the unpaid sales tax, penalties, and interest of the corporation because Petitioner did not have control, supervision, or responsibility for filing sales tax returns or making sales tax payments;
- (b) enjoins the Department from taking any action to assess, lien, levy, offset, or any other way prosecute and collect the amount due on the Notice; and
- (c) enters judgment in favor of Petitioner and against the Defendants and cancels the Notice.

COUNT II

Petitioner did not willfully fail to pay the sales tax, penalties, and interest of the corporation.

14. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the allegation made in paragraphs 1 through 13, inclusive, hereinabove.

15. A corporate officer who does not willfully fail to pay the corporation's sales tax is not personally liable for the corporation's unpaid sales tax, penalties, and interest. 35 ILCS 35 ILCS 735/3-7.

16. Petitioner did not willfully fail to pay the sales tax, penalties, and interest and therefore is not personally liable for such amounts because he had nothing to do with the day-to-day operations of the business.

17. Contrary to the Department's determination, Petitioner is not a responsible officer who willfully failed to pay the sales tax, penalties, and interest of the corporation.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that the Tribunal enter an order that:

- (a) finds and declares that Petitioner is not personally liable for the unpaid sales tax, penalties, and interest of the corporation because Petitioner did not willfully fail to pay such amounts;
- (b) enjoins the Department from taking any action to assess, lien, levy, offset, or any other way prosecute and collect the amount due on the Notice; and
- (c) enters judgment in favor of Petitioner and against the Defendants.

COUNT III

The Department cannot assess a personal liability assessment for penalties and interest amounts related to unpaid corporate sales taxes.

18. Petitioner realleges and incorporates by reference the allegation made in paragraphs 1 through 17, inclusive, hereinabove.

19. The Illinois statute regarding personal liability assessments improperly defines unpaid corporate sales tax to include penalties and interest. 35 ILCS 735/3-7.

20. The intent of Illinois statute regarding personal liability assessments for unpaid corporate sales taxes is to allow the state to pursue responsible, willful corporate officers for unpaid corporate sales taxes that were collected "in trust" for the state.

21. The unpaid corporate sales tax penalties and interest contained in the Notice at issue were not collected “in trust” for the state.

22. The Department’s determination that Petitioner personally owes the unpaid penalties and interest of the corporation is not supported by law.

WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that the Tribunal enter an order that:

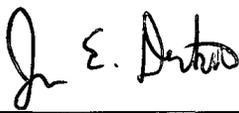
- (a) finds and declares that Petitioner is not personally liable for the unpaid penalties and interest of the corporation because such amounts were not collected “in trust” for the state;
- (b) enjoins the Department from taking any action to assess, lien, levy, offset, or any other way prosecute and collect the amount due on the Notice;
- (c) enters judgment in favor of Petitioner and against the Defendants; and
- (d) grants such further relief as the Tribunal deems appropriate.

Thank you for considering this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Shaju Joseph
Petitioner

Date: 9/15/15

By: 
One of Petitioner’s Attorneys

James E. Dickett
600 Hillgrove Avenue, Suite 1
Western Springs, IL 60558
708-784-3200 (fax 3201)
jdickett@aol.com

Collection Action
Assessment and Notice of Intent

Exhibit 1



July 23, 2015



Letter ID: L0791983632

SHAJU JOSEPH
2519 STEPHENS GRANT DR
SUGAR LAND TX 77479-2245

Taxpayer ID: XXX-XX-8962
NPL Penalty ID: 3246123



POPULAR FUELS INC
151 W SIBLEY BLVD
SOUTH HOLLAND IL 60473-1049

**We have determined you are personally liable
for a penalty of \$90,790.56.**

The penalty is equal to the amount of unpaid liability of POPULAR FUELS INC, due to your status as a responsible officer, partner, or individual of POPULAR FUELS INC.

Illinois law (35 ILCS 735/3-7) provides that any person who has control, supervision, or responsibility of filing returns or making payments for a taxpayer, and who willfully fails to do so, shall be personally liable for a penalty equal to the amount of tax due including penalty and interest.

Pay us \$90,790.56. Your payment must be guaranteed (i.e., cashier's check, money order) and made payable to the Illinois Department of Revenue. Send or bring it to us at the address below.

If you do not agree, you may contest this notice by following the instructions listed below.

- **If the amount of this liability is more than \$15,000**, file a petition with the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal within **60 days** of this notice. Your petition must be in accordance with the rules of practice and procedure provided by the Tribunal (35 ILCS 1010/1-1, et seq.).
- **In all other cases that do not fall within the jurisdiction of the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal**, file a protest with us, the Illinois Department of Revenue, and request an administrative hearing within 60 days of the date of this notice, which is **September 21, 2015**. Your request must be in writing, clearly indicate that you want to protest, and explain in detail why you do not agree with our actions. If you do not file a protest within the time allowed, you will waive your right to a hearing, and this liability will become final. An administrative hearing is a formal legal proceeding conducted pursuant to the rules adopted by the Department and is presided over by an administrative law judge. A protest of this notice does not preserve your rights under any other notice.
- **Instead of filing a petition with the Illinois Independent Tax Tribunal or a protest with us, the Illinois Department of Revenue**, you may instead, under Sections 2a and 2a.1 of the State Officers and Employees Money Disposition Act (30 ILCS 230/2a, 230/ 2a.1), pay the total liability under protest using Form RR-374, Notice of Payment Under Protest (available on our website at tax.illinois.gov), and file a complaint with the circuit court for a review of our determination.

If the debt remains unpaid and this penalty becomes final, we intend to take collection enforcement action against you personally to collect this debt. Collection action can include the seizure and sale of your assets, and levy of your wages and bank accounts.

TRACI SKEETERS
100% PENALTY UNIT
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
PO BOX 19035
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9035

For information about
› **how to pay**
› **submitting proof**
› **collection actions**

Turn page

217 782-9904 ext. 31614
217 785-2635 fax

Collection Action

Assessment and Notice of Intent



July 23, 2015



Letter ID: L0791983632

SHAJU JOSEPH
2519 STEPHENS GRANT DR
SUGAR LAND TX 77479-2245

Taxpayer ID: XXX-XX-8962
NPL Penalty ID: 3246123



This statement lists our most recent information about your unpaid balance, available credits, or returns you have not filed. A payment voucher is included so you may pay the balance due.

Sales/Use Tax & E911 Surcharge

Account ID: 5520-0885

Period	Tax	Penalty	Interest	Other	Payments/Credits	Balance
30-Jun-2009	33,542.00	6,350.00	5,911.77	-	(2,448.47)	43,355.30
31-May-2011	37,200.00	7,043.00	4,804.53	-	(2,519.12)	46,528.41
30-Jun-2011	639.00	208.00	59.85	-	-	906.85

IDOR-5P-NPL (N-03/07)

Retain this portion for your records.

Fold and detach on perforation. Return bottom portion with your payment.

Collection Action

(R-12/08) (136)



Letter ID: L0791983632
SHAJU JOSEPH

Total amount due: \$90,790.56

Write the amount you are paying below.

Mail this voucher and your payment to:
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
PO BOX 19035
SPRINGFIELD IL 62794-9035

\$ _____
Write your Account ID on your check.

000 006 007348304805 731 123199 5 0000009079056