

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

SAJI THOMAS,)
)
) Petitioner,)
)
) v.)
)
) STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE,)
)
) Defendant.)

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PETITION

Saji Thomas (“Petitioner”), by and through her attorneys, Romanoff & 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 811 Pony Lane, Northbrook, Illinois, 60062, and can be reached at 847-912-8172.
2. Petitioner is represented by Romanoff & 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-3928.
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 25, 2014, Petitioner received a Collection Action Assessment and Notice of Intent for a personal liability penalty (a.k.a. NPL) (“Notice”) in the amount of \$145,787.33, which covers the tax periods ending June 30, 2009 and December 31, 2009, and which is comprised of zero in net tax due, \$130,382 in penalties, and approximately \$15,000 in net interest due. 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 absentee owner of PMR BP Oil Inc. (now defunct) which was located in Rantoul, Illinois.

9. Petitioner was not involved in the operation of the business including the filing, preparation, and payment of Illinois sales tax for PMR BP Oil Inc.

10. The amount that is currently owed by PMR BP Oil Inc. is the result of a sales tax audit and criminal investigation for the tax periods 1/1/07 to 12/31/09 whereby the corporation’s daily manager (Noel Rattansay) plead guilty to misdemeanor failure to maintain books and records. The Petitioner was completely dismissed from all criminal proceedings, and Noel Rattansay continues to make criminal restitution payments pursuant to his plea.

COUNT I

**Petitioner is not a responsible officer who failed to pay the penalties and interest of PMR
BP Oil Inc.**

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

12. 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.

13. Petitioner was a corporate officer of PMR BP Oil Inc. who did not have 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 penalties, and interest because he was an absentee owner and the corporation's daily manager has already taken full responsibility for the underlying corporate sales tax debt.

14. Contrary to the Department's determination, Petitioner is not a responsible officer who failed to pay the penalties and interest of PMR BP Oil Inc.

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 PMR BP Oil Inc. because Petitioner does 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 cancels the Notice.

COUNT II

Petitioner did not willfully fail to pay the penalties and interest of PMR BP Oil Inc.

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

16. 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.

17. Petitioner was a partial absentee owner of PMR BP Oil Inc. who did not willfully fail to pay the penalties and interest and therefore is not personally liable for such amounts because the corporation's daily manager has taken full responsibility for the underlying corporate debt.

18. Contrary to the Department's determination, Petitioner is not a responsible officer who willfully failed to pay the penalties and interest of PMR BP Oil Inc.

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 PMR BP Oil Inc. 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 and cancels the Notice.

COUNT III

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

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

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

21. 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.

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

23. The Department’s determination that Petitioner personally owes the remaining unpaid penalties and interest of PMR BP Oil Inc. is not supported by law.

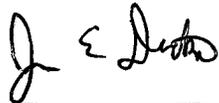
WHEREFORE, Petitioner prays that the Tribunal enter an order that:

- (a) finds and declares that Petitioner is not personally liable for the unpaid sales tax penalties and interest of PMR BP Oil Inc. 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 cancels the Notice; and
- (d) grants such further relief as the Tribunal deems appropriate.

Thank you for considering this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

Saji Thomas,
Petitioner

By: 
One of Petitioner's Attorneys

Date: 9/16/14

James E. Dickett
Romanoff & Dickett, Ltd.
600 Hillgrove Avenue, Suite 1
Western Springs, IL 60558
708-784-3200 (fax 3201)

Collection Action
Assessment and Notice of Intent

Exhibit 1



July 25, 2014



Letter ID: L0909377040

SAJI THOMAS
811 PONY LN
NORTHBROOK IL 60062-1260

Taxpayer ID: XXX-XX-3928
NPL Penalty ID: 1041051



PMR BP OIL INC
5216 MADISON ST
SKOKIE, IL 60077-2446

**We have determined you are personally liable
for a penalty of \$146,787.33.**

The penalty is equal to the amount of unpaid liability of PMR BP OIL INC , due to your status as a responsible officer, partner, or individual of PMR BP OIL 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 \$146,787.33. 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 23, 2014**. 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**



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

Collection Action

Assessment and Notice of Intent



July 25, 2014



Letter ID: L0909377040

SAJI THOMAS
811 PONY LN
NORTHBROOK IL 60062-1260

Taxpayer ID: XXX-XX-3928
NPL Penalty ID: 1041051



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: 3713-7069

Period	Tax	Penalty	Interest	Other	Payments/Credits	Balance
30-Jun-2009	163,995.00	114,920.00	16,396.09	-	(167,734.85)	127,576.24
31-Dec-2009	21,837.00	15,462.00	2,120.76	-	(21,208.67)	18,211.09
	<u>185,832</u>	<u>130,382</u>	<u>18,517</u>		<u>(188,943.52)</u>	

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: L0909377040
SAJI THOMAS

Total amount due: \$145,787.33

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 018679429927 731 123199 9 0000014578733