

Garcia-Guzman v 200 E. 16th St. Hous. Corp.

2024 NY Slip Op 34342(U)

December 11, 2024

Supreme Court, New York County

Docket Number: Index No. 157512/2022

Judge: Denise M. Dominguez

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This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK COUNTY**

PRESENT: HON. DENISE M DOMINGUEZ PART 35M

Justice

-----X

INDEX NO. 157512/2022

HUGO GARCIA-GUZMAN,

MOTION SEQ. NO. 004

Plaintiff,

- v -

200 EAST 16TH STREET HOUSING CORPORATION,
CUPSOU, LLC, ORSID REALTY CORP, BRUNI ELECTRIC,
INC, PURE GENERAL CONTRACTING, LLC,

**DECISION + ORDER ON
MOTION**

Defendants.

-----X

CUPSOU, LLC

Third-Party Plaintiff,

Third-Party
Index No. 595292/2023

-against-

PURE GENERAL CONTRACTING, LLC

Third-Party Defendant.

-----X

CUPSOU, LLC

Second Third-Party Plaintiff,

Second Third-Party
Index No. 595266/2024

-against-

COLOSSAL DESIGN LLC, ROLANDO MECHANICAL CORP,
ROLANDO MECHANICAL OF NY CORP., SPIROS
KATSONOPOLOS

Second Third-Party Defendants.

-----X

CUPSOU, LLC

Third Third-Party Plaintiff,

Third Third-Party
Index No. 595406/2024

-against-

KATSONOPOLOS IN HVAC, INC.

Third Third-Party Defendant.

-----X

The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 004) 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99

were read on this motion to/for JUDGMENT - DEFAULT

Upon reading the above listed documents, Defendant/Second Third-Party Plaintiff CUPSOU, LLC's ("CUPSOU") motion for default judgment pursuant to CPLR §3215, against Second Third-Party Defendant SPIROS KATSONOPOLOS. ("KATSONOPOLOS") is denied.

This matter arises out of a June 6, 2022 incident that occurred at a work site located at 165 3rd Avenue in Manhattan when the Plaintiff alleges to have fallen from a ladder, sustaining various personal injuries. (NYSCEF Doc. 1, 91).

Plaintiff commenced this action on September 2, 2022 (NYSCEF Doc. 1) and CUPSOU answered on October 25, 2022 (NYSCEF Doc. 11). CUPSOU then commenced multiple third party actions. The second Third-Party action was commenced on April 17, 2024 against KATSONOPOLOS (NYSCEF Doc. 94).

To establish entitlement to a default judgment against a non-appearing party pursuant to CPLR §3215, the movant must show proof of service of the summons and complaint and proof of the facts constituting the claim, the default and the amount due. (*see* CLPR §3215(f); *Gantt v. N. Shore-LIJ Health Sys.*, 140 A.D.3d 418 [1st Dept 2016]). In support of the within motion, CUPSOU submits an attorney affirmation (NYSCEF Doc. 91), an affirmation of merit by Maria Psoni, a member of CUPSOU (NYSCEF Doc. 98), pleadings (NYSCEF Doc. 93-94), the purported affidavit of service on KATSONOPOLOS (NYSCEF Doc. 95) and a copy of the default letter sent to KATSONOPOLOS (NYSCEF Doc. 96). Upon review, CUPSOU has not established entitlement to default judgment against KATSONOPOLOS at this time.

It is unclear from the within motion whether KATSONOPOLOS is an individual or company. KATSONOPOLOS is described in the complaint, as a resident of New York; however, KATSONOPOLOS, is also described as the general contractor or subcontractor for the work at

the subject premises. Thus, at this time, it is unclear whether substituted service upon KATSONOPOLOS was proper (NYSCEF Doc. 95).

However, even if KATSONOPOLOS was properly served, CUPSOUL has not established the facts constituting its claims against KATSONOPOLOS as per CPLR §3215(f). Although a party in default is “deemed to have admitted all factual allegations contained in the complaint and all reasonable inferences that flow from them” (*Woodson v. Mendon Leasing Corp.*, 100 N.Y.2d 62, 70–71 [2003]), the movant must still set forth the facts constituting a viable cause of action against the defaulting party (*see State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. AK Glob. Supply Corp.*, 203 A.D.3d 556 [1st Dept 2022]).

With respect to the breach of contract cause of action, the Psoni affirmation does not assert that CUPSOUL and KATSONOPOLOS entered into any contract or other agreement, nor is a copy of any contract or agreement between these parties submitted. (*see Giordano v. Berisha*, 45 A.D.3d 416 [1st Dept 2007]). Thus, there is insufficient evidence showing a viable breach of contract claim. With respect the causes of action for contribution or common law indemnification, it has generally been held that default is not warranted until liability is established in the main action. (*see IMP Plumbing & Heating Corp. v. 317 E. 34th St., LLC*, 89 A.D.3d 593, 594 [1st Dept 2011], *citing Multari v. Glalin Arms Corp.*, 28 A.D.2d 122 [2d Dept 1967], *appeal dismissed* 23 N.Y.2d 740 [1968]). Thus, based upon the evidence submitted, default judgment as to contribution and common law indemnification is not warranted at this time.

Accordingly, it is hereby

ORDERED that Defendant/Second Third-Party Plaintiff CUPSOUL, LLC’s motion for default judgment pursuant against Second Third-Party Defendant SPIROS KATSONOPOLOS is denied without prejudice.

ORDERED that, within 20 days from the entry of this order, movant shall serve a copy of this order with notice of entry on all parties and upon the Clerk of the General Clerk's Office.

This constitutes the decision and order of the court.

12/11/2024

DATE


DENISE M DOMINGUEZ, J.S.C.

CHECK ONE:

CASE DISPOSED

NON-FINAL DISPOSITION

GRANTED

DENIED

GRANTED IN PART

OTHER

APPLICATION:

SETTLE ORDER

SUBMIT ORDER

CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:

INCLUDES TRANSFER/REASSIGN

FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT

REFERENCE