

Questions for Harry Howe, Judge Mata's father:

Did you attend the hearing on June 10, 2024, in *Laura Owens v. Clayton Echard*, Maricopa County Superior Court No. FC2023-052114?

Yes.

If so, did you attend that June 10, 2024 hearing to support either Laura Owens or Clayton Echard?

No. I had no real understanding of who these people were.

If so, who were you at the hearing to support?

Did Judge Mata invite you to attend the June 10, 2024 hearing?

No. The day prior to the hearing, she had told me that she had an interesting hearing approaching that was a paternity matter. She said it had received a lot of publicity, that they were having to engage additional security, and that if I wanted, I could watch it on a live stream, or come to the Court. In the past, if I was at the Northeast Judicial courthouse, generally for filing documents, I would stick my head into her courtroom. She told me that if I came to the court, I may not get into the courtroom.

If so, how and when did that invitation occur?

At any time, did you discuss the *Laura Owens v. Clayton Echard* case with Judge Mata?

I never discussed anything substantively or evidentiary about the case with Judge Mata. Immediately after the hearing, she texted me and asked if I was at the courthouse. I responded that I was, and she sent a staff member to get me. I went back to her offices, where she introduced me to two sheriff's deputies. Her court staff was also there. I told them that the overflow room had a certain "party atmosphere," and that a woman whose name was "Dani" had insisted on giving me a copy of a pretrial statement. I don't know if it was a joint pretrial statement, or unilateral, but I looked at it briefly and later threw it away.

If so, what did you discuss with Judge Mata?

If you discussed the *Laura Owens v. Clayton Echard* case with Judge Mata, did any discussion with her occur prior to July 9, 2024?

The discussion set forth above occurred immediately following the hearing in Judge Mata's outer office. Sometime later, no doubt prior to July 9, she told me that Mr. Gingras was making some allegations against me, but we never at any point discussed anything substantive or evidentiary about the case.

If so, what did you discuss with Judge Mata prior to July 9, 2024?

Following the June 10, 2024 hearing, did you discuss with social media content creators in the courthouse parking lot the *Laura Owens v. Clayton Echard* case or Laura Owens or Clayton Echard's claims in the case?

No. As I was leaving the courthouse, I observed that there was a canopy with quite a few people beneath and around it. There was also what appeared to be a catering truck. I walked a wide angle around the canopy walking toward my truck. As I was approaching my vehicle, which was parked a good distance from the canopy, a lady with a hat on came up to me and called me by name. I did not know her and had never spoken to her. It was not the lady who had given me the pretrial statement. She asked me if I was going to come up to the canopy where a blogger was broadcasting. I told her that I was not, and that I was heading for home. With that, I got into my truck and left.

If so, what did you tell the social media content creators?