

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, APPELLATE DIVISION,
SECOND JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Nunez v Yonkers Racing Corp.

Nunez v. Yonkers Racing Corp., 2023 NY Slip Op 03701 (N.Y. Ct. App. 2023) · No. 2021-03888 · Decided July 5, 2023

SUMMARY

The Appellate Division, Second Department affirmed an order denying Yonkers Racing Corp.'s second motion for leave to renew its prior summary judgment motion. The court held that the affidavits submitted did not present new facts that would change the prior determination and that the defendant lacked a reasonable justification for not presenting them earlier.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Hector D. LaSalle, P.J.; Betsy Barros, J.; Valerie Brathwaite Nelson, J.; Robert J. Miller, J.
JURISDICTION	New York
DECIDED	July 5, 2023
DOCKET	2021-03888
DISPOSITION	affirmed
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Defendant Yonkers Racing Corp. appealed from an order denying its second motion for leave to renew the portions of its prior summary judgment motion addressing the false-arrest and negligent-hiring, training, supervision, and retention claims.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Whether the Supreme Court properly denied leave to renew under CPLR 2221(e), including whether the proffered facts were new, would change the prior determination, and were accompanied by reasonable justification for their prior omission.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Yonkers Racing Corp. v. Felix Nunez

TOPICS

motion for reconsideration

summary judgment

civil procedure

false arrest

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

civil procedure

torts

false arrest

negligent hiring and supervision

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court properly denied Yonkers Racing Corp.'s second motion for leave to renew portions of its prior summary judgment motion.
2. Whether the affidavits submitted with the second renewal motion constituted new facts that would change the prior determination and whether Yonkers reasonably justified its failure to submit them earlier.

HOLDINGS

1. Leave to renew was properly denied because the affidavits submitted with the second renewal motion did not present new facts that would change the prior determination, and the defendant failed to provide a reasonable justification for not presenting them on its original motion.

KEY QUOTATIONS

*“A motion for leave to renew is not a second chance freely given to parties who have not exercised due diligence in making their first factual presentation” (*2)*

*“Successive motions for the same relief burden the courts and contribute to the delay and cost of litigation. A party seeking summary judgment should anticipate having to lay bare its proof and should not expect that it will readily be granted a second and third chance” (*2)*

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Nunez alleged that on January 30, 2014, a security officer employed by Yonkers Racing Corp. falsely arrested him and used excessive force, causing personal injuries. He asserted claims including false arrest and negligent hiring, training, retention, and supervision against the corporation. Yonkers submitted two affidavits on its second motion for leave to renew, but the Appellate Division determined that the affidavits presented no new facts that had not previously been offered and that Yonkers lacked a reasonable justification for not submitting them with its original motion.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Nunez sued Yonkers Racing Corp. and an unnamed security guard for, among other claims, false arrest and negligent hiring, training, retention, and supervision. The Supreme Court denied the relevant portions of Yonkers Racing Corp.'s original summary judgment motion, denied an initial motion for leave to renew, and then denied the second motion for leave to renew. Yonkers Racing Corp. appealed from the latter order, and the Appellate Division affirmed.

DISPOSITION

affirmed

CASES CITED

- Seegopaul v MTA Bus Co., 210 AD3d 715, 716
- Dupree v Westchester County Health Care Corp., 164 AD3d 1211, 1214
- Waterfall Victoria Grantor Trust II, Series G v Philantrope, 211 AD3d 986, 987-988

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

Nunez v Yonkers Racing Corp. (2023 NY Slip Op 03701) Nunez v Yonkers Racing Corp. 2023 NY Slip Op 03701 Decided on July 5, 2023 Appellate Division, Second Department Published by New York State Law Reporting Bureau pursuant to Judiciary Law § 431. This opinion is uncorrected and subject to revision before publication in the Official Reports. Decided on July 5, 2023 SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK Appellate Division, Second Judicial Department HECTOR D. LASALLE, P.J. BETSY BARROS VALERIE BRATHWAITE NELSON ROBERT J. MILLER, JJ. 2021-03888 (Index No. 56201/18) [*1]Felix Nunez, respondent, vYonkers Racing Corp., appellant, et al., defendant.

Bleakley Platt & Schmidt, LLP, White Plains, NY (Peter F. Harrington of counsel), for appellant. Subin Associates, LLP (Pollack, Pollack, Isaac & DeCicco, LLP, New York, NY [Brian J. Isaac and Michael H. Zhu], of counsel), for respondent. DECISION & ORDER In an action, inter alia, to recover damages for false arrest, the defendant Yonkers Racing Corp. appeals from an order of the Supreme Court, Westchester County (Joan B. Lefkowitz, J.), dated May 10, 2021.

The order denied that defendant's motion for leave to renew those branches of its prior motion which were for summary judgment dismissing the causes of action alleging false arrest and negligent hiring, training, supervision, and retention insofar as asserted against it, which were denied in an order of the same court dated July 24, 2019. ORDERED that order dated May 10, 2021, is affirmed, with costs.

The plaintiff commenced this action against the defendant Yonkers Racing Corp. (hereinafter the defendant) and an unnamed security guard, alleging, inter alia, false arrest and negligent hiring, training, retention, and supervision.

The plaintiff alleges, inter alia, that on January 30, 2014, a security officer employed by the defendant falsely arrested him while using excessive force causing him to sustain personal injuries. The defendant interposed an answer denying the material allegations in the complaint and asserting various affirmative defenses.

The defendant moved for summary judgment dismissing the complaint insofar as asserted against it. In an order dated July 24, 2019, the Supreme Court, inter alia, denied those branches of the motion which were for summary judgment dismissing the causes of action alleging false arrest and negligent hiring, training, supervision, and retention insofar as asserted against it.

The defendant then moved for leave to renew those branches of its prior motion which were for summary judgment dismissing the causes of action alleging false arrest and negligent hiring, training, supervision, and retention insofar as asserted against it. By order dated August 31, 2020, the court denied the motion. Thereafter, the defendant again moved for leave to renew those branches of its prior motion which were for summary judgment dismissing the causes of action alleging false arrest and negligent hiring, training, supervision, and retention insofar as asserted against it.

By order dated May 10, 2021, the court denied that motion. The defendant appeals from the order dated May 10, 2021. We affirm. A motion for leave to renew shall be based upon new facts not offered on the prior [*2]motion that would change the prior determination (see CPLR 2221[e][2]) and shall contain reasonable justification for the failure to present such facts on the prior motion (see id. § 2221[e][3]).

A motion for leave to renew is not a second chance freely given to parties who have not exercised due diligence in making their first factual presentation (see *Seegopaul v MTA Bus Co.*, 210 AD3d 715, 716; *Dupree v Westchester County Health Care Corp.*, 164 AD3d 1211, 1214). "Successive motions for the same relief burden the courts and contribute to the delay and cost of litigation.

A party seeking summary judgment should anticipate having to lay bare its proof and should not expect that it will readily be granted a second and third chance" (*Waterfall Victoria Grantor Trust II, Series G v Philantrope*, 211 AD3d 986, 987-988 [internal quotation marks omitted]). Contrary to the defendant's contentions, the Supreme Court properly determined that the two affidavits submitted by the defendant on its second motion for leave to renew presented no new facts that were not previously offered that would have changed the prior determination, and that the defendant, in any event, failed to provide a reasonable justification for failing to present such affidavits on its original motion for summary judgment.

Accordingly, the court properly denied the defendant's second motion for leave to renew. LASALLE, P.J., BARROS, BRATHWAITE NELSON and MILLER, JJ., concur. ENTER: Maria T. Fasulo Clerk of the Court