

DISTRICT COURT OF APPEAL OF FLORIDA, THIRD DISTRICT

Pedro Realty, Inc. v. Silva

392 So. 2d 1005 (Fla. Dist. Ct. App. 1981) · No. No. 80-2166 · Decided January 21, 1981

SUMMARY

The Florida Third District Court of Appeal holds that an order denying a motion to vacate a default is appealable under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv) because it determines liability in favor of a party seeking affirmative relief. The court denies the motion to dismiss the appeal and distinguishes decisions concerning orders granting motions to vacate defaults. Judge Schwartz dissents, concluding that the order is not within the rule's limited category of appealable non-final orders.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	District Court of Appeal of Florida, Third District
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Daniel S. Pearson; Schwartz; Baskin
JURISDICTION	Florida
DECIDED	January 21, 1981
DOCKET	No. 80-2166
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Appellant sought review of an order denying its motion to vacate a default. Appellees moved to dismiss the appeal for lack of appellate jurisdiction.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	De novo determination of appellate jurisdiction and appealability under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv).
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published precedential opinion
PARTIES	Pedro Realty, Inc. v. Jesus M. Silva, Olga Silva

TOPICS

- interlocutory appeal
- default
- appellate procedure
- motions to dismiss
- civil procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- civil procedure
- appellate procedure
- default practice

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether an order denying a motion to vacate a default is appealable under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv).

HOLDINGS

1. An order denying a motion to vacate a default is appealable under Rule 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv) because it determines liability in favor of a party seeking affirmative relief.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“We hold that such an order, because it determines liability in favor of a party seeking affirmative relief, satisfies the jurisdictional requisites of this rule and is appealable.” (1006)

“The motion to dismiss the appeal is denied.” (1006)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

A default had been entered against the defendant, and the defendant moved to vacate it. The motion to vacate was denied. The resulting order determined that the defendant could not set aside the default and was challenged on interlocutory appeal.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The lower court entered a default and later denied a motion to vacate it. Pedro Realty appealed the denial, and the appellees moved to dismiss the appeal. The District Court of Appeal denied the motion to dismiss, holding that the order was appealable under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv).

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- Caribbean Agencies, Inc. v. Agri-Export, Inc., 384 So. 2d 281 (Fla. 4th DCA 1980)
- Overholser v. Overstreet, 383 So. 2d 953 (Fla. 3d DCA 1980)
- Yates v. Roller Skating Rinks, Inc., 379 So. 2d 1333 (Fla. 5th DCA 1980)
- Praet v. Martinez, 367 So. 2d 657 (Fla. 3d DCA 1979)
- Moody v. Moody, 371 So. 2d 553 (Fla. 2d DCA 1979)

OPINION

PER CURIAM.

392 So.2d 1005 (1981) PEDRO REALTY, INC., Appellant, v. Jesus M. SILVA and Olga Silva, His Wife, Appellees. No. 80-2166. District Court of Appeal of Florida, Third District. January 21,

1981. *1006 Manuel Oliver, Hialeah, for appellant. Irma V. Hernandez and Fernando E. Heria, Hialeah, for appellees.

Before SCHWARTZ, BASKIN and DANIEL S. PEARSON, JJ. ON MOTION TO DISMISS DANIEL S. PEARSON, Judge. We are asked to decide whether an order denying a motion to vacate a default is appealable under Florida Rule of Appellate Procedure 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv).

We hold that such an order, because it determines liability in favor of a party seeking affirmative relief, satisfies the jurisdictional requisites of this rule and is appealable. We adopt the reasoning found in Judge Hersey's special concurring opinion^[1] in *Caribbean Agencies, Inc. v. Agri-Export, Inc.*, 384 So.2d 281 (Fla.4th DCA 1980).

We find some further, but slight, support in *Overholser v. Overstreet*, 383 So.2d 953 (Fla.3d DCA 1980), a case in which we specifically accepted jurisdiction under Rule 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv) of an appeal from an order denying a motion to set aside a default, but in which our jurisdiction was apparently not questioned.

We find completely distinguishable cases which hold that an order granting a motion to vacate a default is not appealable, see, e.g., *Yates v. Roller Skating Rinks, Inc.*, 379 So.2d 1333 (Fla.5th DCA 1980); *Praet v. Martinez*, 367 So.2d 657 (Fla.3d DCA 1979), since such an order does not determine liability in favor of a party seeking affirmative relief and, therefore, does not activate Rule 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv).

We find unpersuasive cases which, without any consideration or discussion of Rule 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv), hold that an order denying a motion to vacate a default is not appealable. See, e.g., *Moody v. Moody*, 371 So.2d 553 (Fla.2d DCA 1979).^[2] The motion to dismiss the appeal is denied. SCHWARTZ, J., dissents. SCHWARTZ, Judge (dissenting). I cannot agree that an order which denies a motion to vacate a default is one which, in any meaningful sense, "determines[s]... the issue of liability in favor of a party seeking affirmative relief" under Fla.R.

App.P. 9.130(a)(3)(C)(iv). It seems to me that the order "determines" only that the defendant-movant has not established his right to have a duly entered default set aside, and that the fact that this ruling has the consequential effect of foreclosing a liability defense does not bring the order within the narrowly-defined and limited class of non-final orders which are subject to interlocutory review.

I therefore concur with the decisions in *Moody v. Moody*, 371 So.2d 553 (Fla.2d DCA 1979) and *Caribbean Agencies, Inc. v. Agri-Export, Inc.*, 384 So.2d 281 (Fla.4th DCA 1980) that the rationale of *Praet v. Martinez*, 367 So.2d 657 (Fla.3d DCA 1979),^[1] holding that the granting of a motion to vacate is unappealable, applies directly to the present situation. I would dismiss the appeal.

NOTES [1] Despite being labeled a concurrence, Judge Hersey's opinion is, in fact, a dissent. [2] As Judge Hersey points out, Praet-begat Moody, and Moody begat the majority's opinion in Caribbean Agencies. Caribbean Agencies is but a continuation of Moody's misapplication of Praet.

[1] As the author of Praet, I consider Moody and Caribbean Agencies as its legitimate children, not, as note 2 of the court's opinion suggests, as offspring of another type.