

Former NBA star helps Hanes celebrate Champion Day



Jalen Rose, sports analyst for ABC/ESPN, hosts the Champion Day fashion show at the HanesBrands headquarters in Winston-Salem on Friday, Oct. 9.



John Marsh, president of Activewear, introduces Jalen Rose during the Champion Day fashion show on Friday, Oct. 9.

BY TEVIN STINSON
THE CHRONICLE

Former Michigan great Jalen Rose, one of the coveted "Fab Five," introduced new brand apparel to more than 200 Hanesbrands employees.

The retired NBA star turned-sports-analyst made a stop at the Hanesbrands headquarters here to host the Champion Brand Fashion Show.

He spent 13 years in the NBA. However, he is best known for being on the first team in NCAA history (1991) to start five freshmen.

During his visit, Rose said he started working with Champion because the brand is well known and has been making quality products for years.

Since 1919 Champion athletic wear has offered a full line of innovative ath-

letic apparel for men and women. Hanesbrands athletic wear focuses on performance, lifestyle, and team athletics.

The company has been credited with inventing the sports bra, cotton football practice jerseys, reversible T-shirts and hooded and reversed-weave sweatshirts.

"Champion is a legendary brand," said Rose. "From the V-necks to the

hoodies to the sweatshirts." He also said that he has always been a fan of the brand.

During "Champion Day," employees took advantage of discounted shopping opportunities, food trucks, music and a live artist. They also were able to get a peek at Champion gear that is only sold in other countries.

Hanesbrands activewear president John

Marsh said he was excited to have Rose host the fashion show.

"We are extremely excited to have Jalen a part of Champion Day and host our first fashion show," he said. "Jalen's successful career embodies Champion's commitment to authentic and innovative apparel."

After the event, Rose held a meet-and-greet session, signing autographs

and taking photos with employees.

A number of employees talked about how they felt about Champion Day.

"This event was a great idea," attendees expressed. "Events like this make you enjoy coming to work. It lets us employees know that the work we do doesn't go unnoticed."

Attorney alleges fraud in clerk's office

Fraud

from page A1

attorney Thompson was responsible for managing the ward's over \$1.4 million in liquid and real estate assets. But in the Oct. 20 lawsuit, attorney Alston, representing Calvin Brannon — Mary Thompson's brother and the estate administrator representing next of kin — maintained that attorney Thompson had no legal right to oversee the estate because there was never any evidence of the ward's incompetence presented (which is required in order for an estate guardian to be appointed by the Clerk in North Carolina), a key element in determining the legal reason for a guardian.

Without that evidence, attorney Thompson should never have been appointed, the lawsuit contends. But in addition, the orders issued by the Clerk's Office declaring Mary Thompson as incompetent, and attorney Thompson as her legal estate guardian, were never officially filed into the court record via time stamp, as legally required.

"The order is devoid of any stamp-file or other marking necessary to indicate a filing date, and therefore it was not entered," ruled the N.C. Court of Appeals in a February 4, 2014, decision.

And in addition, as attorney Alston contends in the lawsuit, attorney Thompson's May 1, 2007, appointment as estate guardian came before the Clerk's May 3, 2007, Order of Incompetence, which could not stand given that the ward had to be legally determined incompetent first before any guardian could be assigned.

Forsyth County Clerk of Superior Court Susan Frye apparently took that February 2014 appellate court ruling to heart. On April 9, 2014, she issued a "Findings of Fact" in the Mary Ellen Thompson case, acknowledging per the appellate decision that "... the orders were not properly entered..." thus creating "... an inadvertent defect..."

However Frye, who was re-elected to her second-term in November 2014, decided she could

deal with that 7-year-old "inadvertent defect" by simply declaring that the orders could be belatedly entered per the legal principle of nunc pro tunc, which is Latin for "now for then," meaning that if a court makes a mistake in a previous order, it can correct it subsequently.

She ordered all of the orders to be re-entered under their original dates nunc pro tunc, except the order authorizing attorney Thompson to become the ward's estate guardian. On that one, realizing the conflict of dates, she had that changed from May 1, 2007 to May 3, 2007, to match the original date of the incompetency order.

But the ward's estate attorney, Reginald Alston, apparently already aware that Clerk Frye would attempt to dodge the appel-

of fraud and collusion by Clerk Theresa Hinshaw and Bryan Thompson in regards to this special proceeding and estate and other similar cases in Forsyth County."

Alston further said in his motion that Clerk Frye "refused to accept the documents marked for trial as Exhibit H and consisting of a listing of [over 40] Estate matters in which Bryan Thompson was handling the estate."

Attorney Alston went on to state that "... as part of my investigation of the alleged fraud, I pulled the Estate files for several individuals whose estates had been handled by Bryan Thompson..." Each case had a special proceeding regarding an estate where Bryan Thompson was appointed, Alston continued, and, "That none of the cases had a filed-stamped order of incompetence nor filed-stamped order appointing anyone guardian of the Estate or Person."

Alston went on to list four cases by file numbers that he personally reviewed

to document his allegation, and then stated a reason he believed the pattern even existed.

"...[C]ounsel believes the failure to file stamp the Orders was utilized as a means to prevent removal of the guardians and facilitate Bryan Thompson ... to fraudulently maintain the position of guardian without properly filed Orders authorizing [his] actions."

In a previous motion before the court dated March 31, 2014, attorney Alston was blunt, stating, "That the issuance of letters to Brian Thompson by [Clerk] Theresa Hinshaw without a properly filed Order of Incompetence was not an error or unique circumstance, but an act of fraud that has been repeated in other special proceedings in Forsyth County and evidences a pattern and practice of fraudulent activity by the Clerk's Office."

Months later, in October 2014, Mary Ellen Thompson, who had been in ill health, died. But even though it had been clearly

established before her death that Bryan Thompson's estate guardianship was in controversy, no relief was forthcoming.

"Between May 1, 2007 and October 2, 2014, Bryan Thompson did not return the assets that he took by fraud from Mary Thompson valued at \$1,486,415.49," attorney Alston alleges in the estate's Oct. 20 lawsuit.

The suit seeks compensatory and punitive damages from, "... the Clerk's bond in the amount of all property value that [the ward] lost due to Bryan Thompson's acts and the regulatory failures of the Clerk of Courts in an amount that exceeds \$25,000."

The lawsuit also seeks compensatory and punitive damages from two insurance companies on the bond issued to protect

Mary Thompson's assets as required by law; and two other attorneys for their alleged roles in what the suit maintains was a case of fraud.

Finally, the suit seeks all of Mary Thompson's assets returned to the estate, and to hold attorney Bryan Thompson liable.

Defendants had not responded to the Mary Thompson estate lawsuit by press time.



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