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FEATURED

Court filings accuse Reditus CEO of 'pillaging' company, demand testimony

Kade Heather

Mar 24, 2022



Reditus CEO Dr. Aaron Rossi is shown.

JUSTIN HURT, FOR THE PANTAGRAPH

Kade Heather

PEKIN — One of the latest filings in a lawsuit brought by the business partner of Reditus Laboratories CEO Dr. Aaron Rossi alleges that threats have been made against witnesses who spoke against Rossi's "pillaging" of the company.

The lawsuit, filed in February 2021 by Rossi's business associate, Dr. James Davie of Texas-based Davie and Associates Dermatopathology, accuses Rossi of using Reditus Labs money for personal and family use, and attempting to push Davie out of the company without paying him his share.

Rossi, 39, of Bloomington, also **was indicted last week** on federal tax fraud charges.

William Kelly, a lawyer representing Rossi, said in a court hearing Wednesday that Davie is conducting a "media campaign" to cause harm to Reditus Labs.

Reditus Labs, which opened in June 2019 and added PCR testing for infectious disease in December 2019, quickly became one of the state's largest providers for COVID-19 testing, particularly in Central Illinois. It employs more than 300 workers.

The company has amassed more than \$220 million in state contracts to provide COVID-19 testing, according to state records. Davie's lawyers accuse Rossi of spending part of that money and "all his newfound Covid riches ... on every imaginable luxury item that he or his family desire."



Rossi

Lawyers for Reditus Labs have previously agreed to remain neutral in the case. The company is represented by Mark Rossi and Janaki Nair; however, Nair filed a motion to leave Wednesday.

Another lawyer is expected to replace Nair, if the motion is granted.

Davie's lawyers, who include Scott Lucas and Peter Lubin, have asked Rossi to testify; Rossi's attorneys responded with an attempt to quash that motion.

In a related filing Wednesday, Lucas said that "someone' on behalf of Rossi is using 'unknown' likely burner phones to contact and threaten witnesses with employee retaliation," Wednesday morning.

"Tread lightly when throwing daggers. Your exposed. Didn't take too long," reads a text message attached as an exhibit to the court filing.

Also in Wednesday's filing, attorneys alleged Rossi's cocaine use and that he is "heading out for 'vacation' this week on a private jet, which Davie's lawyers say was paid for with Reditus Labs money.

Federal Aviation Administration records show one Mystere Falcon 900 airplane registered to Pekin-based RLL Aviation LLC, a company Rossi owns, according to Illinois Secretary of State records.

Davie's lawyers have said in court documents that Reditus financial documents are incomplete and falsely reported; however, they said the business records show "dozens of pages of 'loans' to Rossi for company paid purchases to finance his nouveau riche over the top lifestyle."

The plaintiff's second amended complaint has been filed confidentially because of an agreed protective order established in May 2021. But Davie's new lawyers, who entered their appearance in the case in January, are requesting that the protective order be lifted and argue that doing so would reveal the company's financial records.

“Keeping financial matters secret and out of public record simply because they are embarrassing is plainly contrary to Illinois law and the United States and Illinois constitutions,” Davie’s lawyers wrote in their motion to lift the protective order.

Wednesday’s filing said a witness reported Rossi spent at least \$250,000 to purchase two albino turtles to breed for future sales. It does not note the source of the funding, but lawyers said it “must have come from Reditus Labs.”

Tazewell County Judge Chris Doscotch set a series of deadlines and hearings during Wednesday’s hearing.

Kelley was given a week to respond to Davie’s lawyer’s motion to lift the protective order, and the plaintiff’s response to that would be due a week after.

A case management conference hearing is set for April 14. Another hearing is scheduled for May 2.

Rossi also is scheduled to appear in federal court April 7 for an arraignment in a separate case charging him with tax fraud.

READ THE LAWSUIT

(Note: Below is the initial complaint. The most recent complaint was filed under seal)

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FILED
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS
TAZEWELL COUNTY

DAVIE AND ASSOCIATES
DERMATOPATHOLOGY, P.A.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

REDITUS HEALTHCARE, LLC, AARON
ROSSI, and REDITUS LABORATORIES,
LLC,

Defendants.

2021-L-000019
Case No. 21-L-_____

THIS CASE IS SET FOR A MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
ON August 5, 2021, 20
AT 9:15 a.m. AM PM IN COURTROOM 308
OF Tazewell County Courthouse in Pekin, IL
IF THE DEFENDANT(S) ANSWER(S) MORE THAN 35 DAYS
BEFORE THIS DATE, THEN THE PARTIES SHALL
SCHEDULE A CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE WITHIN
35 DAYS OF THE DATE THE ANSWER'S PLED.

COMPLAINT

Now comes Plaintiff, DAVIE AND ASSOCIATES DERMATOPATHOLOGY, P.A., by its attorneys, QUINN JOHNSTON, and for its Complaint against Defendants, REDITUS HEALTHCARE, LLC, AARON ROSSI, and REDITUS LABORATORIES, LLC, states as follows:

Background

1. DAVIE AND ASSOCIATES DERMATOPATHOLOGY, P.A. ("DAAD"), is a Texas Professional Corporation with its primary office in Plano, Texas, from which it operates a pathology medical practice and laboratory.

2. DR. JAMES DAVIE ("Dr. DAVIE" or "DAVIE") is resident of Texas, and he is a physician licensed to practice medicine in the State of Texas and Illinois, with Board Certifications in Clinical Pathology, Anatomic Pathology, and Dermatopathology. He also holds a Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and has experience in establishing and directing pathology laboratories, including those performing podiatric and molecular diagnostic (PCR) testing. Dr. DAVIE is the sole owner of DAVIE AND ASSOCIATES DERMATOPATHOLOGY, P.A.

Photos: Guardsmen use new test to self-test for COVID-19 before deploying