

May 8, 2003

Charles R. Fulbruge III  
Clerk

In the  
United States Court of Appeals  
for the Fifth Circuit

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m 02-30821

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BOBBY JOE KIPER; JOHN PHILLIP DAVIS; COUSAR McMILLIAN BARRETT;  
EDWARD FRANK BRAITHWAITE, JR.; MAXWELL DANIEL;  
DIANNA BRANNON MOREAU; AND JOSEPH ALBERT SAMSON, III,

Plaintiffs-Appellants,

VERSUS

NOVARTIS CROP PROTECTION, INC., ET AL.,

Defendants,

NOVARTIS CROP PROTECTION, INC.,

Defendant-Appellee.

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Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Middle District of Louisiana  
m 00-CV-528-B

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Before SMITH, DENNIS, and CLEMENT,  
Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:\*

The plaintiffs performed engineering services under a contract designating them as independent contractors. They sued, claiming they were actually employees and were entitled to ERISA benefits, accrued vacation and bonus pay under state law, and reimbursement for overpayment of self-employment taxes. The district court denied all relief.

We have read the briefs, applicable portions of the record, and the pertinent authorities, and have heard the arguments of counsel. Finding no error in the careful explanation of the district court, we affirm, essentially for the reasons given by that court.

AFFIRMED.

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\* Pursuant to 5TH CIR. R. 47.5, the court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR. R. 47.5.4.