

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
For the Fifth Circuit

No. 96-50335
Summary Calendar

In the Matter of: ELWOOD CLUCK,

Debtor.

ELWOOD CLUCK; KRISTINE A. CLUCK,

Appellants,

VERSUS

RANDOLPH N. OSHEROW, Trustee;
THOMAS WILLIAM MCKENZIE,

Appellees

Appeal from the United States District Court
for the Western District of Texas

September 20, 1996

Before HIGGINBOTHAM, DeMOSS, and PARKER, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

On April 26, 1996, Elwood Cluck, pro se as appellant signed and filed a notice of appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit from the final order and judgment of the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas,

*Pursuant to Local Rule 47.5, the Court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in Local Rule 47.5.4.

filed April 16, 1996. The district court judgment affirmed the order of the Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Texas dated September 12, 1995, which awarded attorney's fees and costs to Thomas McKenzie as attorney for Randolph N. Osherow, Trustee. The notice of appeal also named Kristine A. Cluck as a pro se appellant but was not signed by her. We treat her notice of appeal as sufficient under FRAP 3(c). However, the appellants' brief filed in this appeal was signed only by Elwood Cluck; neither Kristine A. Cluck nor any attorney purporting to act for her signed the brief. Local Rule 34.2 of this Court requires that all briefs be signed by each pro se party or by at least one attorney of record for each party. Since the appellants' brief in this appeal was not signed by Kristine A. Cluck nor by any attorney of record for Kristine A. Cluck, we deem the appeal of Kristine A. Cluck to be abandoned for failure to file a brief and we, therefore, dismiss the appeal of Kristine A. Cluck.

We have carefully reviewed the brief of appellant Elwood Cluck, the brief of appellee, the reply brief, the record excerpts and relevant portions of the record itself. The only issue in this appeal is whether the bankruptcy court abused its discretion in awarding attorney's fees and costs per its order of September 12, 1995. Awards of attorney's fees and costs are reviewable under an abuse of discretion standard. **In Re Evangeline Refining Co.**, 890 F.2d 1312, 1322 (5th Cir. 1989); **First Colonial Corp. v. American Benefit Life Ins. Co.**, 544 F.2d 1291 (5th Cir. 1977), cert. denied 431 U.S. 904. Findings of fact, whether based on oral or

documentary evidence, shall not be set aside unless clearly erroneous and due regard shall be given to the opportunity of the bankruptcy court to judge the credibility of witnesses. **In Re Bradley**, 960 F.2d 502, 506 (5th Cir. 1992), cert. denied, 507 U.S. 971 (1993). For the reasons stated by the district court in its separate order filed under date of April 16, 1996, we affirm the judgment of the district court which affirms the order of the bankruptcy court awarding attorney's fees and costs.

This appeal is one of 24 separate appeals which appellant Elwood Cluck has filed in this Court, all arising out of the same bankruptcy proceeding. This Court has previously warned Cluck that frivolous appeals could result in the imposition of sanctions. **Cluck v. Osherow**, Nos. 95-50611, 95-50613 and 95-50614 (5th Cir. June 7, 1995) (unpublished). In another appeal, this Court imposed sanctions in the amount of the appellee's costs and attorney's fees incurred during appeal. **Cluck v. Osherow**, No. 95-50797 (5th Cir. June 21, 1996) (unpublished). We find the instant appeal is frivolous. The result is obvious and the arguments of error are wholly without merit. **Coghlan v. Starkey**, 852 F.2d 806, 811 (5th Cir. 1988); see also **Clark v. Green**, 814 F.2d 221, 223 (5th Cir. 1987) (a frivolous appeal is one in which the claim advanced is unreasonable or is not brought with reasonably good faith belief that it is justified). Given the prior sanction warning and the prior imposition of sanctions and Cluck's continued prosecution of this frivolous appeal, we now impose sanctions in DOUBLE the amount of the appellee's costs and attorney's fees incurred during this

appeal. Accordingly, the appellee is directed to submit to this court its application for costs and attorney's fees incurred during this appeal, together with supporting documents. We direct the clerk to issue the mandate immediately and not accept any filing of a motion for rehearing from Cluck. We further direct the clerk to amend the mandate as to the final certification of double costs and attorney's fees as set by the sanctions herein. See Fed. R. App. P. 39(d) and 41.

Finally, Cluck is barred from filing any pro se civil appeal in this Court, or any pro se initial civil pleading in any court which is subject to this Court's jurisdiction, without the advance written permission of a judge of the forum court or of this Court; the clerk of this Court and the clerks of all federal district courts in this Circuit are directed to return to Cluck, unfiled, any attempted submission inconsistent with this bar.

The judgment of the district court is **AFFIRMED. SANCTIONS IMPOSED.**