

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS
FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT

No. 97-60597
Summary Calendar

ANTIONETTE ABRAM, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs-Appellants,

versus

REICHHOLD CHEMICALS, INC.,

Defendant-Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court
For the Southern District of Mississippi
(2:92-CV-122 PR)

April 15, 1998

Before POLITZ, Chief Judge, DAVIS and BENAVIDES, Circuit Judges.

PER CURIAM:*

Charlotte B. Hibley, Vernon Duane Hibley, Vernon Lamar Hibley, Ida Lucretia Johnson, Jessie James Peavey, Peggy Joyce Pittman, and Hoyt Shelby Forbes appeal the summary judgment in favor of Reichhold Chemicals, Inc. For

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 R. 47.5, the Court has determined that this opinion should not be published and is not precedent except under the limited circumstances set forth in 5TH CIR.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

the reasons assigned, we affirm.

The appellants contend generally, without addressing the merits, that the district court erred in granting summary judgment without a hearing and in not considering the affidavit testimony of their expert, Dr. Jacob Savage. A party who inadequately briefs an issue is considered to have abandoned the claim.¹ Nevertheless, reviewing same we find that the appellants' contentions are without merit. Rule 56(c) does not require an oral hearing in open court.² The record reflects that the appellants were given notice and an adequate opportunity to respond to the movant's arguments, providing the requisite Rule 56(c) hearing guarantees. The record also reflects that the district court considered Dr. Savage's affidavit as if it were admissible when granting summary judgment.

Our *de novo* review of the record, briefs, and applicable law discloses no reversible error. Accordingly, we affirm the district court's grant of summary judgment for essentially the reasons adopted by the district court.

The judgment appealed is AFFIRMED.

¹ **Arkanase v. Fatjo**, 130 F.3d 657 (5th Cir. 1997).

² **Villanueva v. CNA Ins. Co.**, 868 F.2d 684 (5th Cir. 1989).