

Abramson Law Group, PLLC v Bucur

2026 NY Slip Op 31099(U)

March 20, 2026

Supreme Court, New York County

Docket Number: Index No. 650866/2026

Judge: Sabrina Kraus

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This opinion is uncorrected and not selected for official publication.

**SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
NEW YORK COUNTY**

PRESENT: HON. SABRINA KRAUS PART 57M

Justice

-----X

THE ABRAMSON LAW GROUP, PLLC,
Petitioner,

INDEX NO. 650866/2026

MOTION DATE 02/12/2026

MOTION SEQ. NO. 001

- v -

LILIANA BUCUR, THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF
FORMER UNITED NATIONS INTERNES AND FELLOWS,
INC.

**DECISION + ORDER ON
MOTION**

Respondents.

-----X

The following e-filed documents, listed by NYSCEF document number (Motion 001) 2, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28

were read on this motion to/for CONFIRM/DISAPPROVE AWARD/REPORT.

BACKGROUND

Petitioner commenced this proceeding to confirm an arbitration award which resolved a fee dispute between the parties regarding outstanding attorneys' fees. A previous action in Civil Court concerning the award was commenced in Civil Court and then dismissed as Civil Court lacked jurisdiction based on the amount in controversy.

For the reasons set forth, the petition is granted and the cross-motion to dismiss is denied.

DISCUSSION

Personal Jurisdiction

Respondents first argue that service of process on Liliana Bucur was not proper. Bucur submits an affidavit but does not address service. Notably, the affidavit does not deny receipt of process nor does it deny that Bucur's actual place of business was served. The papers submitted by Respondents are thus insufficient to rebut the facially valid affidavit of service. *HSBC Bank*

USA v. Gifford, 224 A.D.3d 447 (1st Dept 2024). The hearsay statement in the affidavit of service does not require a different result given Bucur's conspicuous silence on this point.

Respondents Fail to Show That any alleged Vague Claims of Malpractice were Inextricably Intertwined with the Fee Dispute

Respondents next argue the award is invalid because the Arbitrator did not allow them to present allegations regarding malpractice by counsel.

Part 137, entitled "Fee Dispute Resolution Program," sets forth the procedures for the resolution of fee disputes between attorneys and clients through arbitration and mediation (*see* 22 NYCRR 137.0). Under the program, an arbitrator "determine[s] the reasonableness of fees for professional services, including costs, taking into account all relevant facts and circumstances" (22 NYCRR 137.0). However, Part 137 expressly provides that it does not apply to "claims involving substantial legal questions, including professional malpractice or misconduct" (22 NYCRR 137.1 [b][3]; *see Lorin v. 501 Second St.*, 2 Misc.3d 646, 649, 769 N.Y.S.2d 361).

There is no detailed allegation in Respondents' papers which set forth what alleged malpractice they claim. There is a vague reference to unspecified failures. In any event it was up to the Arbitrator to decide whether any alleged claims pertaining to malpractice were so inextricably intertwined with the fee dispute to warrant a dismissal of the arbitration proceeding. *Lorin v. 501 Second St. LLC*, 2 Misc. 3d 646, 649 (Civ. Ct. 2003).

Remaining Contentions

The broad-based language in the parties retainer agreement was sufficient to constitute consent to arbitrate disputes over \$50,000.00 [*Freeman Lewis, LLP v Financiera De Desarrollo Industrial Y 172 AD3d 574* (1st Dept)]. Assuming *arguendo* the provision of the retainer agreement which had the parties waive their right to a trial *de novo* was unenforceable as a matter of law, a proposition for which Respondents submit no legal authority, Respondents time

to file for a trial *de novo* has long passed. As has the right of Respondents to take issue with other aspects of the arbitration proceeding such as the alleged failure to allow a stenographer on request.

The Court has considered Respondents remaining arguments and finds them unavailing.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, it is hereby

ORDERED the petition to CONFRIM the arbitration award is granted and the motion to dismiss this proceeding is denied; and it is further

ORDERED and ADJUDGED that the award rendered in favor of Petitioner as against Respondents is confirmed; and it is further

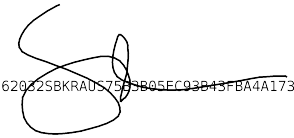
ORDERED and ADJUDGED that Petitioner, THE ABRAMSON LAW GROUP, PLLC, having an address at 570 Lexington Avenue, New York, New York 10022, recover from Respondents, LILIANA BUCUR, THE WORLD ASSOCIATION OF FORMER UNITED NATIONS INTERNES AND FELLOWS, INC., having an address at DC-2 1 UN Plaza, New York, New York 10017, the amount of \$127,000, plus interest at the rate of 9 % per annum from the date of April 4, 2025, as computed by the Clerk in the amount of \$ _____, together with costs and disbursements in the amount of \$ _____ as taxed by the Clerk, for the total amount of \$ _____, and that Petitioner have execution therefor; and it is further

ORDERED that, within 20 days from entry of this order, Petitioner shall serve a copy of this order with notice of entry on defendant, and on the Clerk of the General Clerk's Office (60 Centre Street, Room 119); and it is further

ORDERED that such service upon the Clerk shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Protocol on Courthouse and County Clerk Procedures for Electronically

Filed Cases (accessible at the “E-Filing” page on the court’s website at the address www.nycourts.gov/supctmanh).

This constitutes the decision and order of the Court.



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3/20/2026
DATE

SABRINA KRAUS, J.S.C.

CHECK ONE:

CASE DISPOSED

NON-FINAL DISPOSITION

GRANTED

DENIED

GRANTED IN PART

OTHER

APPLICATION:

SETTLE ORDER

SUBMIT ORDER

CHECK IF APPROPRIATE:

INCLUDES TRANSFER/REASSIGN

FIDUCIARY APPOINTMENT

REFERENCE