

CANDACE GRAY

NO. 14-CA-934

VERSUS

FIFTH CIRCUIT

THE MARRERO LAND AND  
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION LIMITED

COURT OF APPEAL

STATE OF LOUISIANA

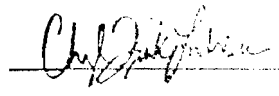
ON APPEAL FROM THE TWENTY-FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
PARISH OF JEFFERSON, STATE OF LOUISIANA  
NO. 721-649, DIVISION "F"  
HONORABLE MICHAEL P. MENTZ, JUDGE PRESIDING

March 25, 2015

COURT OF APPEAL  
FIFTH CIRCUIT

FILED MAR 25 2015

**HANS J. LILJEBERG**  
JUDGE

  
Cheryl Quirk Landreaux

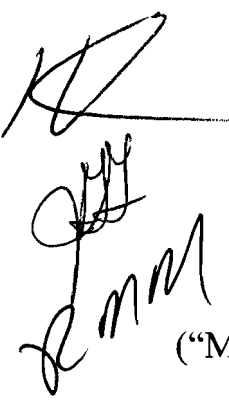
Panel composed of Judges Jude G. Gravois,  
Robert M. Murphy, and Hans J. Liljeberg

JOEL A. LEVY  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
7577 Westbank Expressway  
Marrero, Louisiana 70072  
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF/APPELLEE

HARRY E. FORST  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
639 Loyola Avenue  
Suite 1830  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70113  
COUNSEL FOR PLAINTIFF/APPELLEE

LAWRENCE B. FRIEMAN  
BRADLEY P. NACCARI  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
330 North New Hampshire Street  
Covington, Louisiana 70433  
COUNSEL FOR DEFENDANT/APPELLANT

**APPEAL DISMISSED;**  
**CASE REMANDED**



Defendant, The Marrero Land and Improvement Association Limited  
("Marrero Land"), seeks appellate review of the trial court's denial of its motion for summary judgment. Finding that the judgment before us is interlocutory and not appealable, we dismiss the appeal and grant Marrero Land 30 days from the rendition of this opinion to apply for supervisory writs.

Plaintiff, Candace Gray, filed suit against Marrero Land asserting that she suffered personal injuries when she fell in a parking lot owned by Marrero Land. She asserts that a speed bump in the parking lot was defective and unreasonably dangerous, causing her to fall and sustain injuries. After filing an answer, Marrero Land filed a motion for summary judgment, seeking dismissal of the claims against it. In its motion, Marrero Land asserted that there are no genuine issues of material fact in dispute and that Ms. Gray's deposition testimony establishes that she cannot meet her burden of proof to establish that Marrero Land is liable for her damages.

After a hearing on this matter, the trial court denied Marrero Land's motion for summary judgment, finding that there are genuine issues of material fact as to whether Ms. Gray can prove her case. In its written judgment, the trial court included a certification that its ruling denying the motion for summary judgment

was final and appealable, pursuant to La. C.C.P. art. 1915. Marrero Land thereafter filed the present appeal with this Court.

Appellate courts have the duty to examine subject matter jurisdiction *sua sponte*, even when the parties do not raise the issue. *McGehee v. City/Parish of E. Baton Rouge*, 00-1058, p. 3 (La. App. 1 Cir. 9/12/01), 809 So.2d 258, 260. In the present case, we find that we are without jurisdiction to consider this appeal.

La. C.C.P. art. 968 provides that “[a]n appeal does not lie from the court’s refusal to render any judgment on the pleading or summary judgment.” Thus, the denial of a motion for summary judgment is not a final and appealable judgment. *Short v. Ochello*, 01-1358, p. 4 (La. App. 5 Cir. 2/26/02), 811 So.2d 1009, 1010. Because a judgment denying a motion for summary judgment is interlocutory in nature, it cannot be certified as immediately appealable under La. C.C.P. art. 1915(B). *Id.*; *Granger v. Guillory*, 00-363, pp. 1-2 (La. App. 3 Cir. 4/26/00), 762 So.2d 640, 641; *Strain v. Williams*, 01-2157 (La. App. 1 Cir. 9/27/02), 835 So.2d 618, 620, n. 2. Accordingly, the trial court’s certification that its denial of Marrero Land’s motion for summary judgment is a final and appealable judgment is without effect.

Accordingly, we must dismiss the instant appeal and remand to the trial court for further proceedings. However, because Marrero Land relied on the trial court’s declaration that the ruling was final and appealable, we grant Marrero Land 30 days from the rendition of this opinion to file an application for supervisory writs with this Court. *See Short*, 01-1358 at 4, 811 So.3d at 1010.

**APPEAL DISMISSED; CASE REMANDED**

SUSAN M. CHEARDY  
CHIEF JUDGE

FREDERICKA H. WICKER  
JUDE G. GRAVOIS  
MARC E. JOHNSON  
ROBERT A. CHAISSON  
ROBERT M. MURPHY  
STEPHEN J. WINDHORST  
HANS J. LILJEBERG

JUDGES



FIFTH CIRCUIT  
101 DERBIGNY STREET (70053)  
POST OFFICE BOX 489  
GRETN, LOUISIANA 70054  
[www.fifthcircuit.org](http://www.fifthcircuit.org)

CHERYL Q. LANDRIEU  
CLERK OF COURT

MARY E. LEGNON  
CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

SUSAN BUCHHOLZ  
FIRST DEPUTY CLERK

MELISSA C. LEDET  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL STAFF

(504) 376-1400  
(504) 376-1498 FAX

**NOTICE OF JUDGMENT AND  
CERTIFICATE OF DELIVERY**

I CERTIFY THAT A COPY OF THE OPINION IN THE BELOW-NUMBERED MATTER HAS BEEN DELIVERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH **Uniform Rules - Court of Appeal, Rule 2-20** THIS DAY **MARCH 25, 2015** TO THE TRIAL JUDGE, COUNSEL OF RECORD AND ALL PARTIES NOT REPRESENTED BY COUNSEL, AS LISTED BELOW:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Cheryl Q. Landrieu".

CHERYL Q. LANDRIEU  
CLERK OF COURT

**14-CA-934**

**E-NOTIFIED**

JOEL A. LEVY

**MAILED**

LAWRENCE B. FRIEMAN  
BRADLEY P. NACCARI  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
330 NORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE STREET  
COVINGTON, LA 70433

HARRY E. FORST  
ATTORNEY AT LAW  
639 LOYOLA AVENUE  
SUITE 1830  
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70113