

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT, LAW DIVISION**

**Marcellus Long,**

Plaintiff,

v.

**CDW Government LLC,**

Defendant.

Case No. 2025L007458

Calendar W

**AFFIDAVIT OF MARCELLUS LONG IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO**  
**STRIKE AS VOID AB INITIO THE APPEARANCE CERTIFICATIONS OF ATTYS.**  
**CRAIG R. THORSTENSON AND JOEL M. ZEID**

I, Marcellus Long, being first duly sworn on oath, state as follows:

1. I am the Plaintiff, pro se, in the above-captioned action. I make this Affidavit in support of my Motion to Strike as Void Ab Initio the Appearance Certifications of Craig R. Thorstenson and Joel M. Zeid for Falsely Certifying as "Attorney for Defendants" in a Single-Defendant Action Under 735 ILCS 5/1-109, and for Default as Further Relief. I

have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein and, if called as a witness, could and would competently testify thereto.

2. I am the sole Plaintiff in this action, and CDW Government LLC is the sole Defendant. There are no other parties to this case.
3. I received each of the documents described below by U.S. mail, addressed to P.O. Box 60832, Chicago, IL 60660, which was my address of record in this action.
4. This action was filed on June 16, 2025. I retained a process server, John Pennell, a licensed private investigator, to effect service of the Summons and Complaint in this action upon Defendant. Mr. Pennell served the Summons and Complaint on June 23, 2025, seven (7) days after this action was filed. Mr. Pennell's sworn Affidavit of Service, executed under penalty of perjury pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/1-109, states that he served the Summons and Complaint upon "DEFENDANT CDW GOVERNMENT, LLC." I observed that Mr. Pennell correctly identified the single named Defendant in this action.

**The Thorstenson Certification (Filed July 18, 2025)**

5. On or around July 18, 2025, I received by U.S. mail an Appearance/Jury Demand filed by Craig R. Thorstenson of FordHarrison LLP, designated as Initial Counsel of Record, together with an accompanying Certificate of Filing and Service. The Certificate of Filing and Service states that it was electronically filed on July 18, 2025, and that I was served by U.S. mail before 5:00 p.m. on that same date.
6. Upon careful review of this Certificate of Filing and Service, I observed that Mr. Thorstenson signed the certification as follows: "s/ Craig R. Thorstenson, **Attorney for Defendants**, Craig R. Thorstenson." I further observed that the Appearance form filed on

the same date and accompanying this certification correctly identified the Litigant's Name as "CDW Government LLC."

7. I observed that this certification did not match the singular name of the Defendant as stated in the Complaint, and that no party in this case is identified as "Defendants," in the plural. I believed then, and I believe now, that this certification was incorrect.

#### **The Zeid Certification (Filed July 23, 2025)**

8. On or around July 23, 2025, thirty-seven (37) days after this action was filed, I received by U.S. mail an Appearance/Jury Demand filed by Joel M. Zeid of FordHarrison LLP, designated as an Additional Appearance, together with an accompanying Certificate of Filing and Service. The Certificate of Filing and Service states that it was electronically filed on July 23, 2025, and that I was served by U.S. mail before 5:00 p.m. on that same date.
9. Upon careful review of this Certificate of Filing and Service, I observed that Mr. Zeid signed the certification as follows: "s/ Joel M. Zeid, **Attorney for Defendants**, Joel M. Zeid." I further observed that the Appearance form filed on the same date and accompanying this certification correctly identified the Litigant's Name as "CDW Government LLC."
10. I noted at the time, and state now, that Mr. Zeid's certification, filed five days after Mr. Thorstenson's, repeated the identical defect: a sworn statement that he was "Attorney for Defendants" in an action with one Defendant.

#### **The O'Connor Certification (Filed August 21, 2025)**

11. On or around August 21, 2025, sixty-six (66) days after this action was filed, I received by U.S. mail an Appearance/Jury Demand filed by John C. O'Connor of FordHarrison LLP, designated as an Additional Appearance, together with an accompanying Certificate of Filing and Service. The Certificate of Filing and Service states that it was electronically filed on August 21, 2025, and that I was served by U.S. mail before 5:00 p.m. on that same date.
12. Upon careful review of this Certificate of Filing and Service, I observed that Mr. O'Connor signed the certification as follows: "s/ John C. O'Connor, **Attorney for Defendant**, John C. O'Connor." I observed that Mr. O'Connor used the correct singular form, without explanation or reference to the certifications that preceded it.
13. I noted at the time, and state now, that Mr. O'Connor's certification was the first sworn certification filed in this action correctly identifying the singular Defendant. It was filed more than a month after Mr. Thorstenson's initial appearance and approximately five weeks after Mr. Zeid's appearance, without any motion to amend or correct the two certifications that came before it.

## **Conclusion**

14. This action was filed on June 16, 2025. Mr. Pennell served the Summons and Complaint seven (7) days later, on June 23, 2025, correctly identifying the singular Defendant. Mr. Thorstenson's certification was filed on July 18, 2025, identifying the certifying attorney as representing "Defendants." Mr. Zeid's certification was filed thirty-seven (37) days after this action was filed, on July 23, 2025, repeating the identical "Defendants" designation. Mr. O'Connor's certification was filed sixty-six (66) days after this action was filed, on

August 21, 2025, using the correct singular “Defendant” designation for the first time. Based on my review of these documents, I observed that two sworn Certificates of Filing and Service in this single-defendant action, those of Mr. Thorstenson and Mr. Zeid, identified the certifying attorney as representing “Defendants,” a designation that corresponds to no party in this case, while a third, filed weeks later, used the correct singular form without acknowledgment of the discrepancy.

15. I make this Affidavit not from any legal training but from my own direct review of documents mailed to me as a pro se litigant in this action, and I respectfully submit it in support of the relief requested in my Motion.

**FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.**

Under penalties as provided by law pursuant to Section 1-109 of the Illinois Code of Civil Procedure, I certify that the statements set forth in this instrument are true and correct, except as to matters therein stated to be on information and belief, and as to such matters I certify that I verily believe the same to be true.

**/s/ Marcellus Long, MBA**

Marcellus Long

Affiant, Plaintiff Pro Se

Dated: June 22, 2026

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned certifies that on or around June 22, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Notice of Filing, together with the document(s) referenced herein, was served via email pursuant to Illinois Supreme Court Rule 11 upon counsel of record for Defendant at their designated service addresses.

**/s/ Mr. Marcellus Long, MBA**