

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK**

BARBARA ANN HARTKE, an individual  
on her own behalf and on behalf of the Estate  
of decedent Gilbert V. Hartke

*Plaintiff,*

v.

BONHAM'S & BUTTERFIELD'S  
AUCTIONEER'S CORPORATION, a  
Delaware Corporation; The Catholic  
University of America, a Non-Profit District  
of Columbia Corporation

*Defendants.*

**Civil Action No.: 22-3571**

**CERTIFICATION OF PLAINTIFF  
IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR  
PRELIMINARY RESTRAINTS**

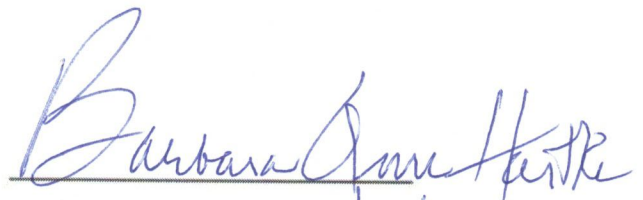
Barbara Ann Hartke certifies as follows:

1. I am the plaintiff in this action, and, as such am fully familiar with the facts asserted herein.
2. I am the only living niece of Gilbert F. Hartke (known to family and friends as Gib). My father Eugene was Gib's brother. They were very close as Eugene and Gib were the sixth and seventh children of my grandparents Emil Hartke and Lillian Hartke and only two and a half years apart. Gib's father Emil was my godfather. His sister Berenice, whom he was closest to among his siblings, was my godmother.
3. I grew up in the Chicago area as did most of the immediate family. Gib left the area in 1929 to enter the seminary and four years later was ordained a priest of the Order of Preachers (O.P.) also known as the Dominicans.
4. I was born in 1940 at which time Uncle Gib was about 33 years of age. As long as I can recall until his death in 1986 he resided at the Dominican House and taught drama at the Catholic University in Washington D.C.
5. Uncle Gib remained in very close contact with his family in Chicago for his entire life.

6. Uncle Gib would visit the Chicago area often for a lot of reasons including performances. He would often visit on Christmas and Easter would stay with his father Emil and my aunt, his sister Berniece rather than in the Dominican residence.
7. During his visits he would make the rounds and visit the family and often bring presents for me and the other children.
8. Uncle Gib was known as the prince of the family and I recall that when he visited he would tell stories about himself as well as his friends and everyone would gather around to hear them. He was acquainted with famous people from all walks of life including just about all of the presidents, numerous movie and television stars and world figures such as popes and royalty. He also had numerous close friends in the Chicago area where he grew up and kept up those relationships throughout his life during his frequent visits. He was especially close to the world famous actress Helen Hayes. Uncle Gib was himself famous nationally and I cannot do justice in a short summary how important he was to our family and to the whole country in his heyday.
9. I recall when he came home to preside at my aunt Virginia Hartke Whittingham funeral and how heartbroken Uncle Gib was at his older sister's death. His older sisters Virginia and Bernice had acted as a maternal influence after his mother had passed when Uncle Gib was in his 20's.
10. When I lived in downtown Chicago in the late 1970s and early 1980s I often met the actress and radio personality Mercedes McCambridge at the Ambassador East Hotel. Mercedes and my eighth-grade teacher, a Benedictine nun, had both attended high school and they were very close. Both Mercedes McCambridge and I were alumni of Mundelein College, Illinois last all-women's university. we had that in common. I also recall meeting with Ms. McCambridge on more than one occasion in the period after Uncle Gib died in 1986.
11. While her gift to my uncle of the dress used in the Wizard of Oz never came up, she made it clear to me how important Uncle Gib was to her and what great love she had for him. She considered him her personal priest. She had a difficult private life and had two failed marriages. She credited Uncle Gib with helping her overcome alcoholism and helped improve her relationship with her son. Though the topic never came up, I can say without reservation that McCambridge's personal relationship with my uncle was what prompted her to give such a generous gift and that Mercedes was well aware of its value even then.
12. I have no recollection of receiving any documentation by mail or otherwise pertaining to the probate of my uncle's estate. The address where I am alleged to have received such notice was not correct as I lived in an apartment in that building and probably would not have received mail not properly addressed with the apartment number 6A.
13. I recall when Uncle Gib returned to Chicago to be the keynote speaker at St. Scholastica High School, the all-girls Catholic High School in our Rogers Park neighborhood which had been Uncle Gib's neighborhood as a young man, for the High School graduation of my older sister Lillian Marie Hartke. My father, Eugene Alexander Hartke, Sr, and the rest of the extended family were all pleased and proud of Uncle Gib honoring his niece, and his older brother with his role in the event.

14. I certify the above statements are true. I realize if any of the above statements are willfully false, I am subject to punishment.

Dated: May 18, 2022

  
Barbara Ann Hartke 5/19/22 1 PM