



Connect2Court CEO Drew Maggard (second from right) with some of the homeless people he recruited to file dispossessories at the Fulton County Magistrate Court.

The CEO of a company who enlisted a "parade" of homeless people to file dispossessor actions in the Fulton County Magistrate Court to circumvent daily limits on the number of cases one person can file has abandoned the practice after the court cracked down.

But [Connect2Court](#) CEO Drew Maggard is continuing his legal fight over what he says is a deliberate court effort to drag out the processing of cases not filed through the competitor that replaced his operation, [FivePoint Solutions](#).

Maggard, whose company provided bulk-filing services for the Fulton Magistrate Court from 2012 to 2016, said his business was somewhat affected when the court began using the eFileGA portal for filings but that he adapted to the system, which is also used by the state and superior courts.

The process took a bit longer than the same-day service he had provided, Maggard said, but dispossessories—the initial action in having a tenant evicted—were still processed in about 48 hours or less.

Early this year, even dispossessories filed through eFileGA were taking seven to 10 days while filings channeled through FivePoint were immediately processed, he said.

In April, Court2Court filed a mandamus [action](#) against Superior and Magistrate Court Clerk Tina Robinson and Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk, accusing them of deliberately sitting on dispossessor filings not filed through FivePoint. The company asked the offices to process the filings in the order they're received.

The Magistrate Court also allows the public to use free terminals at the courthouse to file dispossessories and other documents without paying eFileGA's \$7 per filing fee. Late last year, Chief Magistrate Judge Cassandra Kirk issued an order prohibiting anyone from filing more than three cases a day at those terminals.

Frustrated by the delays in processing his dispossessories, Maggard came up with a novel solution: Using the remote eFileGA portal, he would file clients' cases electronically, then hire members of the homeless community to go into the courthouse and ask the clerk's staff to process them.

"We'd file these things, then write down three different case numbers on a Post-It note, and they'd walk in and hand it to the clerk," said Maggard. "The homeless guy's task was only to walk up to the window and ask them to process it."

The Fulton County Courthouse's location near the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Central Presbyterian Church, which provide homeless services, ensured a steady supply of temps willing to make \$5, Maggard said.

Hundreds of dispossessories were processed during five days using the technique, Maggard said.

The irony of using homeless men and women to file dispossessory actions is not lost on Maggard, who said the short-term hires were grateful for the work.

"These guys were great," Maggard said. "We'd bring them in six at a time, give them the numbers, then I'd give them five bucks. Almost every one of them said, 'Thanks, now I can eat today,' or 'Now I can buy my medicine.'"

Maggard said 87 dispossessories were processed on Monday, June 5—the day a senior staff member in the office of Superior and Magistrate Court Tina Robinson pulled the plug on the scheme, saying that dispossessories filed through the public terminals could only be processed for "anonymous" accounts.

- [11](#)
- [21](#)
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