

IN THE COURT OF APPEALS 11/14/95

OF THE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

NO. 94-CA-00601 COA

BILLY WAYNE ROBINSON

APPELLANT

v.

DR. BRENDA JOYCE RICHARDSON

APPELLEE

PER CURIAM AFFIRMANCE MEMORANDUM OPINION

THIS OPINION IS NOT DESIGNATED FOR PUBLICATION AND
MAY NOT BE CITED, PURSUANT TO M.R.A.P. 35-B

TRIAL JUDGE: HON. LEE J. HOWARD

COURT FROM WHICH APPEALED: CIRCUIT COURT OF OKTIBBEHA COUNTY

ATTORNEYS FOR APPELLANT:

JIM WAIDE

ROBBIE A. BYERS

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLEE:

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

BY: SIDNEY KELLETT MCWILLIAMS

NATURE OF THE CASE: TORT CLAIMS REGARDING TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT
CONTRACT

TRIAL COURT DISPOSITION: SUMMARY JUDGMENT GRANTED TO APPELLEE

BEFORE BRIDGES, P.J., McMILLIN, AND PAYNE, JJ.

PER CURIAM:

Wayne Robinson appeals the judgment of the Circuit Court of Oktibbeha County which granted summary judgment to Brenda Richardson (Appellee) on Robinson's claim for malicious interference with contractual relations.

Robinson argues on appeal that the trial court erred in granting Richardson's motion for summary judgment, the trial court erred in holding that Appellee's actions in discharging the Appellant were privileged and not undertaken maliciously, and the trial court erred in granting Appellee's motion to strike or in the alternative, objections to Appellant's affidavit offered as evidence.

Appellant, Wayne Robinson, was hired as a program coordinator at the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center of Mississippi State University (hereinafter "the Center"). Brenda Richardson was head of the Center and her responsibilities included the hiring and firing decisions for the Center. Richardson hired Robinson as the program coordinator, a non-contract, at-will employee. Richardson served as Robinson's supervisor. Robinson's employment was terminated by a letter dated December 17, 1991. His termination followed problems with his performance including alleged improper conduct with students, irresponsibility, and other matters.

The controlling standard on a trial court's grant of summary judgment is de novo review. *Downs v. Choo*, 656 So. 2d 84, 85 (Miss. 1995) (citation omitted). Robinson would bear the burden of proof at trial. Therefore, summary judgment is proper if Richardson has persuasively shown that Robinson has not created a record containing supportive evidence of significant and probative value. *See Daniels v. GNB, Inc.*, 629 So. 2d 595, 600 (Miss. 1993) (citation omitted).

Our review of the record and the briefs presented to this Court for consideration, satisfies us that the trial court properly granted Richardson's Motion for Summary Judgment. Mississippi has long recognized the common-law rule of terminability at will. *Empiregas, Inc. v. Bain*, 599 So. 2d 971, 974 (Miss. 1992) (citations omitted). An employee may be terminated for "a good reason, a wrong reason, or no reason" at all. *Empiregas*, 599 So. 2d at 974 (citation omitted). Thus, the trial court properly granted summary judgment in favor of Richardson. Since summary judgment was proper, we do not reach second and third issues presented on appeal.

**THE JUDGMENT OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF OKTIBBEHA COUNTY IS AFFIRMED.
THE APPELLANT IS TAXED WITH THE COSTS OF THIS APPEAL.**

**FRAISER, C.J., BRIDGES, AND THOMAS, P.JJ., BARBER, COLEMAN, DIAZ, KING,
McMILLIN, PAYNE, AND SOUTHWICK, JJ., CONCUR.**