## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

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## SECOND JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

June 27, 2022

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Re: CL22-1984: In Re: A Court of Mist and Fury & CL22-1985: In Re: Gender Queer, A Memoir

## Dear Counsel:

Mr. Anderson, at the request of the Court, has been conferring with counsel and formulating an agenda for the July 13 scheduling conference in the above matters. I have now received and read the pleadings. For the sake of judicial efficiency and guidance, I offer some thoughts as to how we might proceed at the conference.

Several constitutional issues raised in the defensive pleadings relate to the due process question of proper notice and parties before the court. It is pled that the Petitions are defective based on failure to join all necessary and indispensable parties. How is the Court

to determine all other persons interested in the sale or commercial distribution? The Court considers this to be a threshold issue and would like to hear from counsel on this point.

Once this issue is determined, the statute directs that in any hearing conducted, the court shall receive evidence to include the degree of public acceptance of the book or books of similar character within the county or city in which the proceeding is brought. Is that the standard the Court is to apply to all persons interested? Again, the Court would like to hear from counsel on this related issue.

The issue of notice can perhaps be resolved from the pleadings, statutory language, and oral argument without the necessity of briefing. Although the July 13 conference was originally set for scheduling only, I am open to addressing the notice issue prior to scheduling future matters. If counsel wished to file and exchange memorandum, I would suggest a deadline of July 8. I would also suggest that an hour of the two hours allotted on the docket be assigned for oral argument on this issue, twenty minutes to defense counsel, twenty minutes to Petitioner to respond, and five minutes for rebuttal by the defense.

If, after conferring, you wish to present other options for proceeding, I am, of course, open to considering them. Thank you for working together to present these matters as expeditiously and completely as you have been.

Very truly yours,

Pamela S. Baskervill

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