

In re Valdesuso

This name and gender change order was referenced in one of the earlier bar journal articles about transgender legal issues: R. Joel Tierney and Timothy M. O' Brien, *You're a Good Man Charlotte Brown or What Now My Love?*, *Hennepin Lawyer*, Nov. 1968. In this article it was mentioned that, at the time, she was a featured performer at The Gay '90's, one of the oldest gay bars in Minneapolis (still in business, in fact.) I believe that she was also featured in some issues of Lee Brewster's now-legendary 1970's publication, *Drag Magazine*.

By the time I searched the Hennepin County, Minnesota court records for this file in 2000, the petition had long since been destroyed. So, the legal theory under which this relief was sought cannot be determined (the attorney who represented Ms. Valdesuso has is also now deceased.)

Though not a published opinion, *In re Valdesuso* is of significance because it shows that American courts recognized the concept of gender transition prior to England's 1970 *Corbett v. Corbett*. Also it is legitimate precedent for all transsexuals in Minnesota seeking recognition of gender transition but who have the litany of anti-recognition trial level decisions from Ohio and New York cited against them (though, of course, no one can make any guarantee as to how any judge will weigh precedent.)

ORDER FOR CHANGE OF NAME

6.531/27

STATE OF MINNESOTA

DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF HENNEPIN

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF OSCAR EHEMENDIA Y VALDESUSO
FOR CHANGE OF NAME.

The above entitled matter came on to be heard on the 18th day of September, 1968 upon the application of the above named applicant who appeared in person and by Samuel H. Bellman her attorney, and there was no appearance in opposition to said application. The Court having examined said applicant and her witnesses as to her identity and all the files and records in said matter, finds as follows:

I.

That said applicant has resided for more than one (1) year immediately prior to the date of said application in the County of Hennepin, State of Minnesota.

II.

That the said applicant is not married.

III.

That the said applicant has no land or claims any interest or lien in any land in the County of Hennepin or the State of Minnesota.

IV.

That the said applicant has no judgments against her.

V.

That the said applicant was born in Cuba on the 22nd day of May, 1939 and immigrated to the United States on the 19th day of March, 1963. That at the time of birth, your applicant was registered as a male person and entered the United States as a male person. That your applicant mentally and physically was not adjusted to a male status and was not a perfectly formed male person.

Law Office
SAMUEL H. BELLMAN
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

VI.

That the said applicant having been thoroughly physically examined and after extensive psychiatric and socialogocial tests, was operated on and physically was converted to a female. That she is at present a fully adjusted female person and has requested that her name and being be changed accordingly.

That your applicant received in addition to the physical operation, psychiatric and socialogocial therapy and medication and has become a fully developed female of twenty-nine (29) years of age.

VII.

That the said applicant has requested the Court to change her name to Sandra Valdesuso and record her being as a female person born in Cuba on May 22, 1939 and admitted in the United States on the 19th day of March, 1963.

As conclusions from the foregoing Findings,
IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND ADJUDGED AS FOLLOWS:

I.

That said Petition of the Applicant is hereby granted and the name of said applicant be and hereby is changed so that hereafter her name shall be Sandra Valdesuso.

II.

That the applicant is hereby declared to be a female person born in Cuba on May 22, 1939 and immigrated into the United States on March 19, 1963.

III.

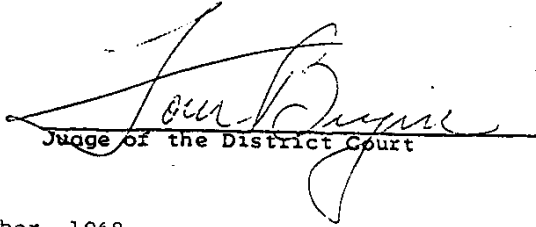
That the Clerk of Court file this Order and record it in his Judgment Book.

IV.

That the said Clerk of Court upon the payment of his fee therefor according to law, give to the applicant a

certified copy of this Judgment.

BY THE COURT:

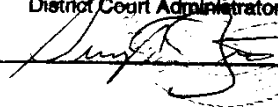

Judge of the District Court

Dated: 25 day of September, 1968.

FILED
SEP 25 1968
GERALD R. NELSON
CLERK OF DIST. CT., HENR. CO
G. R. Nelson

STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF HENNEPIN
I hereby certify this 3 page document
to be a true and correct copy of the original
on file and of record in my office.

District Court Administrator

By  Deputy

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Law Offices
SAMUEL H. BELLMAN
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.