



90CIV4391 (CSH), 2002 WL 14364, at \* 4 n. 5 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 3, 2002); *United Parcel Serv. v. The Net, Inc.*, 185 F. Supp. 2d 274, 280 (E.D.N.Y. 2002) ("[T]he sole owner of [a sole-proprietorship] can represent [his company] in federal court."). Defendant represents, and Plaintiff does not dispute, that the Lexington Law Firm is a sole proprietorship owned by the Defendant, Victor Lawrence. Therefore, Mr. Lawrence may proceed *pro se* and the Court denies Plaintiff's motion [**doc. #99**].

Plaintiff also raised the issue of possible ghost writing of a number of Defendant's discovery requests. Courts condemn the practice of ghost writing *pro se* pleadings. See *Durran v. Carris*, 238 F.3d 1268, 1272 (2d Cir. 2001). This is because ghost writing not only "affords [the *pro se* litigant] the benefit of [a] court's liberal construction of *pro se* pleadings" but it "also inappropriately shields [the ghost writing attorney] from responsibility and accountability for his actions as counsel." *Id.* In this case, these concerns are somewhat mitigated. Mr. Lawrence, while appearing *pro se*, is a licensed attorney and the Court has not construed his pleadings using the liberal standard typically afforded to *pro se* litigants in the past; nor is the Court inclined to do so in the future. Nevertheless, an attorney who authors a pleading owes a duty of candor to the Court that requires the attorney to acknowledge his contribution to the submission by signing his name. The Court reminds Mr. Lawrence that if he wishes to continue to appear *pro se*, he is obligated to comply with the rules governing *pro se* pleading.

Finally, the parties have requested clarification of the Court's oral ruling on December 23, 2004, regarding deadlines for completing discovery. It was the Court's intent to allow all discovery commenced by **December 31, 2004**. Thus, Plaintiff shall respond to Defendant's requests that were served on or before December 31, 2004, no later than **February 15, 2005**.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ Mark R. Kravitz  
United States District Court

Dated at New Haven, Connecticut: **January 26, 2005.**