Foreclosure suit on Minot Epic property heading to trial

BY WENDY REUER The Forum

MINOT — A foreclosure lawsuit against the former founder and CEO of EPIC Co., Todd Berning, that has resulted in several cross-claims by subcontractors appears to be headed to trial in early 2026.

Bravera Bank filed a suit in October against Henry Land Holding LLC, including Berning, Brian Kounovsky and William Gokey II, alleging they owe about \$3 million on a loan given to them for a development property in Minot, according to Ward County District court documents.

Court documents said a construction loan was granted to the Henry Land Holding and the three men in August 2021 to develop nine lots of Highlander Estates in southwest Minot.

Berning and the two men personally guaranteed the loan but payments have not been made since September 2024, according to the documents. Kounovsky served as vice president of Epic Companies until he resigned in May 2024. Gokey is the vice president of the Pepsi distribution Northern Bottling Co.

Also listed as defendants in the foreclosure suit are several construction subcontractors such as Dakota Underground Specialties, Minot Paving Co., and STC Flooring, which have outstanding liens on the property and have since filed cross-claims in an attempt to also recoup some payment. A trial date has been

scheduled for the foreclosure hearing on Feb. 2, 2026

Berning and EPIC Companies face two other lawsuits. In September, 7Seven Property Partners, a Minot-based limited liability company, filed suit against Berning in Cass County District Court, alleging he personally guaranteed a \$506,933 loan made to EOLA Capital LLC.

In January, Mark and Teresa McGuigan, of Williston, N.D., and WTS-ND Holdings LLC filed another suit in Cass County court against Berning and multiple defendants with ties to Epic Companies and the **EPIC**-owned businesses of Vision REIT. The second suit requests that Berning return the McGuigans' development investments of \$325,000 plus interest,

taxable court costs, and legal fees, and any other relief the court should find.

Despite attempts to locate him by sheriff's office personnel, court processors and private detectives in West Fargo, Minot and Minnesota, Berning could not be found for months.

According to court records, Berning or attorneys for Berning have now received notifications of all three lawsuits.

EPIC Companies, along with subsidiary companies Midwest LLC, EPIC Companies Midwest 2023 LLC, EPIC Employee LLC and EC West Fargo LLC, filed for bankruptcy protection in July 2024. The bankruptcy filing came after the company suddenly shut its doors the previous May.



Forum file photo A sign posted on the door of the 3140 Bluestem Drive, West Fargo, headquarters of EPIC Companies is seen May 16, 2024.

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IN DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP

1. YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition for the appointment of a guardian for the above named proposed ward has been filed in the District Court of Stutsman County, North Dakota.

2. YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Petition will be heard VIA ZOOM on the 23 rd day of June, 2025, at 10:45 a.m. of that day or at such subsequent time or other place to which said hearing may be adjourned or transferred, at which time and place you may be heard if you wish.

Any interested parties have a right to file a response to the Petition and may also want to contact an attorney to intervene if they object to the Petition. The petitioner and any interested parties intervening have a right to present evidence and to call or cross-examine witnesses.

DATED this 20th day of May, 2025.

DALSTED & RYAN, P.C. Attorneys for the Petitioner Post Office Box 1727 Jamestown, ND 58402-1727 (701) 252-6668

BY LEO A. RYAN - #05420 A member of the firm. (May. 22 & 29; Jun. 5, 2025)



STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA IN DISTRICT COURT COUNTY OF STUTSMAN SOUTHEAST JUDICIAL DISTRICT

IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF ROBERT BEAUCHAMI

Case No. 47-2025-PR-00046

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR GUARDIANSHIP

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition for the appointment of a

1. TOO ARE REFERENCE INCOMPLET that a Petition for the appointment of a guardian for the above named proposed ward has been filed in the District Court of Stutsman County, North Dakota.
2. YOU ARE HEREBY FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Petition will be heard VIA ZOOM on the 23rd day of June, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. of that day or at such subsequent time or other place to which said hearing may be adjourned or transferred, at which time and place you may be heard if you wish. Any interested parties have a right to file a response to the Petition and may also want to contact an attorney to intervene if they object to the Petition. also want to contact an attorney to intervene if they object to the Petition. The petitioner and any interested parties intervening have a right to present evidence and to call or cross-examine witnesses.

DATED this 20th day of May, 2025.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

BY LEO A. RYAN - #05420 A member of the firm (May. 22 & 29; Jun. 5, 2025)

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

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OF LARRY BARTOK

Case No. 47-2025-PR-00047

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