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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MARYLAND AUCTION HOUSE SLOANS & KENYON'S BANK  
ACCOUNT SEIZED TO PAY JUDGMENT**

**VALUABLE PAINTING LOST AFTER SOLD TO ART BROKER**

New Orleans, LA, April 2, 2014 - The bank account of Sloans & Kenyon and its owner, Stephanie Kenyon was seized today by New Orleans art broker and appraiser Amanda Winstead to pay a \$43,500.00 judgment Winstead obtained in October 2013 for negligence in losing a valuable oil painting it sold to Winstead in February 2013.

The lost painting depicts the iconic Lotus Fountain on the former campus of Newcomb College in the Garden District in New Orleans. The artist, Ellsworth Woodward, is renowned for establishing the progressive Newcomb Pottery enterprise for young women in the 1890s and the Newcomb Art School. Based upon her expertise in Southern art and Newcomb pottery, Winstead testified that the oil painting would be highly sought after by individual collectors, museums, and other private institutions in the mid-South.

The judge found that Winstead is the legal owner of the Woodward painting.

"Auction houses don't lose paintings," said Winstead.

"And people don't ignore judgments," added her attorney, Lisa Montgomery.

Winstead knew she had a problem when the Maryland shipper she hired shortly after the auction to collect the painting was turned away by Sloans & Kenyon. When Winstead contacted Sloans & Kenyon, she was told various and sometimes conflicting stories: the auction house had the painting; the painting was lost but they were searching for it; the painting was "mis-slotted" in the inventory and had not been stolen; they were removing a wall next to storage racks to search for the painting.

On March 20, 2013, Kenyon wrote Winstead to advise she still “expected to find the work”.

Frustrated by the lack of information and cooperation, Winstead filed suit in August 2013. Defendants were served with the lawsuit but did not respond and the matter went to trial as a default. Judge Paula Brown of the Civil District Court in New Orleans tried the case and rendered the \$43,500 judgment in favor of Winstead and against all defendants on October 31, 2013.

More than one year later, the Woodward painting is still missing.

Owner Stephanie Kenyon’s last contact with Winstead is April 2013.

The law governing auction sales in all 50 states establishes that title to the lot passes to the highest bidder at the fall of the hammer. By law, Winstead became the owner of the Woodward painting on February 17, 2013 when she entered the highest bid for the painting, and Judge Paula Brown made this finding. Although the case was filed in New Orleans where Winstead conducts her business, Winstead had to hire a Maryland lawyer to collect on the judgment since all defendants are located in Maryland.

The judgment against Sloans & Kenyon and its owner, Kenyon, is a final judgment that has been recorded in Montgomery County, Maryland. Service of the seizure was delivered April 1, 2014 to Sloans and Kenyon’s bank.

Winstead’s Maryland lawyer is Scott Bergman of the Washington, D.C. area.

**ATTACHMENT:** Color Photo of the Woodward Painting, Lot 453

### **About Amanda Winstead Fine Art, LLC**

Amanda Winstead Fine Art specializes in fine art appraisal, brokerage, and consultation. The regional firm is based in New Orleans. Winstead is an expert in Southern Regional art and Newcomb pottery.

### **About the Montgomery Law Firm**

Lisa Montgomery of the Montgomery Law Firm is engaged in a litigation practice in New Orleans where she has practiced for thirty years. Montgomery is a Tulane Law graduate. Her practice focuses on art related disputes in federal court and state court.

### **About the Law Offices of Scott N. Bergman, LLC**

Scott Bergman has over twenty years of experience in litigation matters such as business collections, contracts, consumer protection, and personal injury. Bergman, a graduate of The John Marshall Law School, is also certified as a national NFL agent. His law firm represents clients throughout the greater Washington, D.C. area in state and federal court. Mr. Bergman can be reached at 301-330-4444 or sbergman@bergmanslaw.com and at the address of 7361 Calhoun Place, Suite 205, Rockville, MD 20855.