

No. 1-07-0088

keys to defendant by March 31, 2005, for purpose of conducting the inspection. Plaintiff's subsequent motion to restrain access to the vehicle was denied. On April 11, 2005, defendant, with plaintiff present, inspected the subject vehicle for the first time. The vehicle had been parked in defendant's outdoor parking lot since the alleged stall. The inspection revealed that there was no gas in the vehicle's gas tank, but defendant and its mechanic were unable to determine any other cause of the alleged stall due to damage the vehicle had sustained during storage. Plaintiff did not inspect the vehicle nor conduct discovery pursuant to defendant's inspection.

In June 2005, defendant filed a counterclaim, seeking, *inter alia*, compensation for storage of the vehicle.

On August 3, 2005, the case proceeded to mandatory arbitration, and an award was made in favor of defendant and against plaintiff. Plaintiff rejected the award on September 1, 2005. Thereafter, the case was transferred to at least two more courtrooms. On October 20, 2005, defendant made an oral motion to withdraw its jury demand which was allowed by the trial court. Accordingly, the case was transferred to Judge Ronald Davis for trial.

On November 8, 2005, Judge Davis granted in part and denied in part defendant's motion to strike and dismiss plaintiff's complaint. The parties were allowed to conduct discovery, and trial was scheduled to proceed on March 3, 2006.

On November 3, 2005, plaintiff filed a motion for substitution of judge, to be heard on November 17, 2005. At the hearing on November 17, 2005, Judge Davis denied the motion.

For reasons that are unclear from the record on appeal, on December 8, 2005, Judge Davis transferred the matter back to the presiding judge for reassignment to another judge "on