MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
WESTERN DISTRICT

DEMETRIA TRUNNEL

RESPONDENT,

v.

MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN AUTHORITY

APPELLANT.

DOCKET NUMBER WD84114

DATE: September 21, 2021

Appeal From:

Boone County Circuit Court
The Honorable Jeff Harris, Judge

Appellate Judges:

Division Four: Cynthia L. Martin, Chief Judge, Presiding, Gary D. Witt, Judge and W. Ann Hansbrough, Special Judge

---

Attorneys:

John A. Hirth, Columbia, MO, for respondent.

Clifford A. Godiner, St. Louis, MO, for appellant.

MISSOURI APPELLATE COURT OPINION SUMMARY

MISSOURI COURT OF APPEALS
WESTERN DISTRICT

DEMETRIA TRUNNEL, RESPONDENT,
v.
MISSOURI HIGHER EDUCATION LOAN AUTHORITY, APPELLANT.

WD84114 Boone County

Before Division Four Judges: Cynthia L. Martin, Chief Judge, Presiding, Gary D. Witt, Judge and W. Ann Hansbrough, Special Judge

Missouri Higher Education Loan Authority ("MOHELA") appeals from the trial court's order denying its motion to compel arbitration. MOHELA challenges the trial court's determination that no valid arbitration agreement existed with Demetria Trunnel because MOHELA never extended an offer to be bound by an arbitration process that Trunnel could accept.

AFFIRMED.

Division Four holds:

MOHELA did not extend a written offer to be bound by its ADR Process that Trunnel could unequivocally accept because the language in an Acknowledgment of Receipt document summarily states that an agreement to submit to an arbitration process exists, but lacks any provisions which would justify another person in understanding that his or her assent to the provisions is invited and will conclude it. that is particularly so where the signature line on the document is expressly qualified to note that signature reflects only an acknowledgment of receipt of the document. The trial court did not err in denying MOHELA's motion to compel arbitration because no valid arbitration agreement exists.

Opinion by: Cynthia L. Martin, Judge September 21, 2021

****

This summary is UNOFFICIAL and should not be quoted or cited.