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**CODE \$2515** CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ. KOZAK LAW FIRM Nevada State Bar #11179 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115 Reno, Nevada 89502 (775) 322-1239 Fax (755) 800-1767 chuck@kozaklawfirm.com ATTORNEY FOR GARY SCHMIDT FILED

2014 SEP 12 PM 4: 57

JUEY ORDUNA HASTING 生/ectronically Filed 648201411:34 a.m. Träcie K. Lindeman Clerk of Supreme Court

# IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

# IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

BEN KIECKHEFER; AND DOES 1-100

Case No. CV14-01227

Plaintiff/Counterfendants,

Dept. 3

VS.

GARY SCHMIDT,

Defendant/Counterclaimant.

# **NOTICE OF APPEAL**

Gary Schmidt hereby appeals, to the Supreme Court of Nevada, the Order Granting Temporary Restraining Order entered June 6, 2014 and the Order Denying Special Motion to Dismiss entered September 5, 2014.

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# **AFFIRMATION**

The undersigned does hereby affirm, pursuant to NRS 239B.303, that this document and any attachments thereto do not contain personal information as defined in NRS.603A.040 about any person.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of September 2014.

State Bar No. 11179

3100 Mill Street, Suite 115

Reno, Nevada 89502

775 322-1239

chuck@kozaklawfirm.com

**ATTORNEY FOR GARY SCHMIDT** 

# CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, NAN ADAMS, certify that 1 am an employee of Kozak Law Firm whose business location is 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115, Reno, Nevada 89502 and that on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014, I caused to be delivered by prepaid postage U.S. Mail a true and correct copy of the within document: **NOTICE OF APPEAL**, Case #CV14-01227, addressed as follows:

MICHAEL A. PAGNI, ESQ. McDONALD CARANO WILSON 100 W. Liberty, 10th Floor Reno, Nevada 89505

NAN ADAMS

3100 Mill Street, Suite 115 Reno, Nevada 89502

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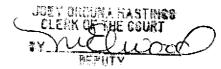
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CODE 2610-CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ. KOZAK LAW FIRM Nevada State Bar #11179 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115 Reno, Nevada 89502 (775) 322-1239 Fax (755) 800-1767 chuck@kozaklawfirm.com

FILED

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# IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

# IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

BEN KIECKHEFER; AND DOES 1-100

Case No. CV14-01227

Plaintiff/Counterfendants,

ATTORNEY FOR GARY SCHMIDT

Dept. 3

VS.

GARY SCHMIDT,

Defendant/Counterclaimant.

# CASE APPEAL STATEMENT

- 1. The Appellant filing this Case Appeal Statement is Gary Schmidt.
- 2. The Honorable Patrick Flanagan and Honorable Jerome Polaha are the Judges whose Order Granting Temporary Restraining Order and Order Denying Special Motion to Dismiss are those from which this Appeal is being made.
- The only Appellant involved in this Appeal is Gary Schmidt who is represented by Charles R. Kozak, Esq. of Kozak Law Firm located at 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115, Reno, Nevada 89502.
  - 4. The only Respondent to this Appeal is Ben Kieckhefer who is currently represented

by Adam Hosmer-Henner and Michael Pagni of the McDonald Carano Wilson law firm located at 100 W. Liberty Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Reno, Nevada 89501.

- 5. Appellant's counsel and Respondent's current counsel, as identified above, are each licensed to practice in Nevada.
- Appellant Schmidt was represented at the District Court by Charles R. Kozak, Esq. of Kozak Law Firm located at 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115, Reno, Nevada 89502.
- 7. Appellant Schmidt is represented by retained counsel Charles R. Kozak, Esq. for the purpose of this Appeal.
- 8. Currently, Appellant Schmidt has not been granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis.
- 9. The initial Complaint was filed by Respondent Kieckhefer on June 6, 2014. Kieckhefer then filed his Ex Parte Motion for Temporary Restraining Order immediately thereafter on June 6, 2014. Appellant Schmidt filed his NRS 41.660 Special Motion to Dismiss on August 4, 2014.
- 10. Schmidt was a Republican candidate who ran for Nevada State Senate District 16 in the 2014 primary election against incumbent Ben Kieckhefer. On June 4, 2014, Schmidt began airing a television advertisement, a portion of which stated that Kieckhefer "endorsed and supported Harry Reid for Senate in 2010." Schmidt based his ad on an October 31, 2010 newspaper article published by the *Las Vegas Sun*.

At 2:50 p.m. on Friday, June 6, 2014, Kieckhefer filed his Complaint in CV14-01227 with his Ex Parte Motion for Temporary Restraining Order/Preliminary Injunction filed immediately thereafter. The filings came a mere four days before the primary election and were intended to generate negative publicity about Schmidt in an attempt to sway voters

toward Keickhefer. The Complaint claimed "Defamation" alleging Schmidt's television advertisements aired during the campaign "falsely assert that Senator Kieckhefer 'endorsed and supported Harry Reid in 2010". The Ex Parte Motion sought a TRO and Preliminary Injunction to "restrain and enjoin Mr. Schmidt and any person or entity acting in concert with Mr. Schmidt from publishing any statement expressing or implying that Senator Kieckhefer has endorsed or supported Harry Reid".

With little more than an hour's notice by the Court, Schmidt attended the 5 o'clock hearing on Kieckhefer's Motion Friday afternoon June 6, 2014. Although CV14-01227 was assigned to Judge Polaha in Department 3, Kieckhefer's Motion was heard by Judge Flanagan in Department 7. Due to such short notice, Schmidt had no time to prepare or obtain counsel. Kieckhefer on the other hand appeared through counsel McDonald/Carano/Wilson. Declaring that "Kieckhefer is likely to suffer irreparable injury to his career and reputation from Defendant's television advertisement in the absence of injunctive relief," Judge Flanagan granted the TRO sought. The TRO comprised an Unconstitutional Prior Restraint and the Complaint a SLAPP.

On August 4, 2014, Schmidt filed his Special Motion to Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.660. The Motion proceeded to hearing before Judge Polaha on August 13, 2014. Although Judge Polaha found Schmidt provided his burden under NRS 41.660 3(a), he ultimately denied the Motion when determining Kieckhefer had established by clear and convincing evidence a probability of prevailing on his claim in accordance with NRS 41.660 3(b). Pursuant to NRS 41.670(4), Schmidt may appeal the Order denying his Special Motion.

11. This case has never been the subject of any other Appeal or Writ proceeding in the Supreme Court of Nevada.

- 12. This Appeal does not involve child custody or visitation.
- 13. There is no possibility of settlement in this civil case.

# **AFFIRMATION**

The undersigned does hereby affirm, pursuant to NRS 239B.303, that this document and any attachments thereto do not contain personal information as defined in NRS.603A.040 about any person.

Respectfully submitted this 12th day of September 2014.

CHARLES R. KOZÁK, ESQ

State Bar No. 11/17/9

3100 Mill Street, Suite 115

Reno, Nevada 89502

775 322-1239

chuck@kozaklawfirm.com

ATTORNEY FOR GARY SCHMIDT

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, NAN ADAMS, certify that I am an employee of Kozak Law Firm whose business location is 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115, Reno, Nevada 89502 and that on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014, I caused to be delivered by prepaid postage U.S. Mail a true and correct copy of the within document: **CASE APPEAL STATEMENT**, Case #CV14-01227, addressed as follows:

MICHAEL A. PAGNI, ESQ. McDONALD CARANO WILSON 100 W. Liberty, 10th Floor Reno, Nevada 89505

> NAÑ ADAMS 3100 Mill Street, Suite 115

Reno, Nevada 89502

# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT STATE OF NEVADA COUNTY OF WASHOE

Case History - CV14-01227

Case Description: BEN KIECKHEFER VS GARY SCHMIDT (D3)

Case Number: CV14-01227 Case Type: TORTS-DEFAMATION (LIBEL/SLAND) - Initially Filed On: 6/6/2014

	Parties			
Party Type & Name	Party Status			
JUDG - JEROME M. POLAHA - D3	Active			
PLTF - BEN KIECKHEFER - @1259968	Active			
DEFT - GARY SCHMIDT - @1259969	Active			
ATTY - Adam Hosmer-Henner, Esq 12779	Active			
ATTY - Michael A. Pagni, Esq 6444	Active			
ATTY - Charles R. Kozak, Esq 11179	Active			
Disposed Hearings				

1 Department: D7 -- Event: HEARING... -- Scheduled Date & Time: 6/6/2014 at 16:45:00

Event Disposition: D425 - 6/6/2014

2 Department: D7 -- Event: PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION -- Scheduled Date & Time: 6/18/2014 at 13:30:00

Event Disposition: D844 - 6/11/2014

3 Department: D3 -- Event: PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION -- Scheduled Date & Time: 6/18/2014 at 13:30:00

Event Disposition: D845 - 6/16/2014

4 Department: D3 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 8/7/2014 at 16:46:00

Extra Event Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S NRS 41.660 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS (NO PAPER ORDER PROVIDED)

Event Disposition: S200 - 8/13/2014

Department: D3 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 8/7/2014 at 16:46:00

Extra Event Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S NRS 41.660 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS (NO PAPER ORDER PROVIDED)

Event Disposition: S200 - 8/13/2014

6 Department: D3 -- Event: Request for Submission -- Scheduled Date & Time: 8/12/2014 at 15:00:00

Extra Event Text: MOTION TO STRIKE Event Disposition: S200 - 9/15/2014

7 Department: D3 -- Event: HEARING... -- Scheduled Date & Time: 8/13/2014 at 09:00:00

Extra Event Text: ON MOTION TO DISMISS Event Disposition: D355 - 8/13/2014

#### Actions

Filing Date - Docket Code & Description

1 6/6/2014 - COC - Evidence Chain of Custody Form

No additional text exists for this entry.

2 6/6/2014 - COV - \*\*Civil Cover Sheet

No additional text exists for this entry.

3 6/6/2014 - PAYRC - \*\*Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of -\$260.00 was made on receipt DCDC457727.

4 6/6/2014 - \$1425 - \$Complaint - Civil

Additional Text: VERIFIED COMPLAINT

5 6/6/2014 - 1670 - Ex-Parte Mtn...

Additional Text: EX PARTE MOTION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER AND REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION HEARING EXHIBIT 1 DVD GIVEN TO EVIDENCE CLERK

6 6/6/2014 - 4090 - \*\* Summons Issued

No additional text exists for this entry.

7 6/6/2014 - 4170 - Temporary Restraining Order

Additional Text: Transaction 4467101 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-06-2014:18:21:28

8 6/6/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4467102 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-06-2014:18:22:17

9 6/9/2014 - 2610 - Notice ...

Additional Text: NOTICE OF POSTING CASH BOND

10 6/9/2014 - TRO - \*\*TRO Cash Bond

No additional text exists for this entry.

11 6/9/2014 - 2520 - Notice of Appearance

Additional Text: CHARLES KOZAK, ESQ. / GARY SCHMIDT - Transaction 4468636 - Approved By: MCHOLICO: 06-10-2014:10:37:26

12 6/9/2014 - 1137 - Answer and Counterclaim

Additional Text: Transaction 4469075 - Approved By: MFERNAND: 06-10-2014:10:07:57

13 6/9/2014 - \$1560 - \$Def 1st Appearance - CV

Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT - Transaction 4469075 - Approved By: MFERNAND: 06-10-2014:10:07:57

14 6/10/2014 - PAYRC - \*\*Payment Receipted

Additional Text: A Payment of \$213.00 was made on receipt DCDC458026.

15 6/10/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4469541 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-10-2014:10:08:56

16 6/10/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4469700 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-10-2014:10:38:29

17 6/12/2014 - MIN - \*\*\*Minutes

Additional Text: HEARING IN RE: TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER - 06-06-14 - Transaction 4475012 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-12-2014:16:23:50

18 6/12/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4475016 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-12-2014:16:24:40

19 6/18/2014 - 1067 - Affidavit of Service

Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT SERVED ON 6/9/14 - Transaction 4481510 - Approved By: MCHOLICO : 06-18-2014:10:33:42

20 6/18/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4481751 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 06-18-2014:10:34:43

21 7/8/2014 - A120 - Exemption from Arbitration

Additional Text: Transaction 4506712 - Approved By: YLLOYD: 07-08-2014:09:34:38

22 7/8/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4506832 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-08-2014:09:37:00

23 7/9/2014 - 1137 - Answer and Counterclaim

Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S ANSWER AND FIRST AMENDED COUNTERCLAIM - Transaction 4509142 - Approved By: YLLOYD: 07-09-2014;13:04:21

24 7/9/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4509316 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 07-09-2014:13:05:21

25 8/1/2014 - 2315 - Mtn to Dismiss ...

Additional Text: MOTION TO DISMISS OR IN THE ALTERNATIVE FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT - Transaction 4544475 - Approved By: MFERNAND: 08-04-2014:08:41:04

26 8/4/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4544641 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-04-2014:08:43:42

27 8/4/2014 - 2490 - Motion ...

Additional Text: NRS 41.660 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS: GARY SCHMIDT - Transaction 4546308 - Approved By: YLLOYD: 08-05-2014:09:38:28

28 8/5/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4546761 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-05-2014:09:39:25

29 8/6/2014 - 2610 - Notice ...

Additional Text: NOTICE OF ERRATA TO NRS 41.660 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS - Transaction 4551098 - Approved By: MCHOLICO : 08-07-2014:11:45:33

30 8/7/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4551821 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-07-2014:11:46:25

31 8/7/2014 - 3860 - Request for Submission

Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S NRS 41.660 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS (NO PAPER ORDER PROVIDED) - Transaction 4552260 -

Approved By: MCHOLICO: 08-07-2014:16:40:26 PARTY SUBMITTING: CHARLES KOZAK, ESQ.

DATE SUBMITTED: 8/7/14 SUBMITTED BY: MCHOLICO DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE:

32 8/7/2014 - 2075 - Mtn for Extension of Time

Additional Text: Transaction 4552644 - Approved By: MCHOLICO: 08-08-2014:09:44:48

33 8/7/2014 - 2475 - Mtn to Strike...

Additional Text: Transaction 4552650 - Approved By: MCHOLICO : 08-08-2014:09:45:12

34 8/7/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4552845 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-07-2014:16:41:25

35 8/8/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service

Additional Text: Transaction 4553334 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-08-2014:09:45:31

36 8/8/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 4553337 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-08-2014:09:46:02 37 8/8/2014 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ... Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S OPPOSTION TO MOTION TO STRIKE - Transaction 4554757 - Approved By: MCHOLICO: 08-11-2014:10:33:26 8/11/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 38 Additional Text: Transaction 4555393 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-11-2014:10:34:29 39 8/11/2014 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ... Additional Text: OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S NRS 41.660 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS - Transaction 4555453 - Approved By: YLLOYD: 08-11-2014:13:00:23 40 8/11/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 4555836 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-11-2014:13:01:24 8/12/2014 - 3795 - Reply... 41 Additional Text: REPLY IN SUPPORT OF MOTION TO STRIKE - Transaction 4557679 - Approved By: MFERNAND: 08-12-2014:14:40:15 42 8/12/2014 - 3860 - Request for Submission Additional Text: MOTION TO STRIKE - Transaction 4558181 - Approved By: AZION: 08-12-2014:14:50:57 DOCUMENT TITLE: MOTION TO STRIKE PARTY SUBMITTING: ADAM HOSMER-HENNER ESQ DATE SUBMITTED: 08-12-14 SUBMITTED BY: AZION DATE RECEIVED JUDGE OFFICE: 8/12/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 43 Additional Text: Transaction 4558211 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-12-2014:14:41:10 8/12/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service Additional Text: Transaction 4558277 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-12-2014:14:53:41 45 8/12/2014 - 3790 - Reply to/in Opposition Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S REPLY TO OPPOSITION TO NRS 41.660 SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS - Transaction 4558988 -Approved By: AZION: 08-13-2014:08:52:13 8/13/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 46 Additional Text: Transaction 4559189 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-13-2014:08:53:16 47 8/13/2014 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet No additional text exists for this entry. 8/13/2014 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet 48 No additional text exists for this entry. 49 8/19/2014 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ... Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION FOR EXTENSION - Transaction 4567490 - Approved By: MCHOLICO: 08-19-2014:13:12:04 8/19/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service 50 Additional Text: Transaction 4567869 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-19-2014:13:12:50 51 8/21/2014 - 4185 - Transcript

Additional Text: 8-13-14 HEARING ON MOTION TO DISMISS - Transaction 4571846 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-21-2014:13:42:58

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52
      8/21/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
            Additional Text: Transaction 4571850 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-21-2014:13:43:58
53
      8/27/2014 - 4301 - Withdrawal of Motion
            Additional Text: NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME - Transaction 4579277 - Approved By: ADEGAYNE:
            08-27-2014:11:26:11
      8/27/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
54
            Additional Text: Transaction 4579977 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 08-27-2014:11:27:14
55
      9/5/2014 - 2645 - Opposition to Mtn ...
            Additional Text: GARY SCHMIDT'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS/MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT - Transaction 4592197 -
            Approved By: MFERNAND: 09-05-2014:10:21:10
56
      9/5/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
            Additional Text: Transaction 4592950 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-05-2014:10:22:51
      9/5/2014 - 2840 - Ord Denying ...
57
            Additional Text: SPEICAL MOTION TO DISMISS - Transaction 4593469 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-05-2014:13:02:13
58
      9/5/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
            Additional Text: Transaction 4593471 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-05-2014:13:03:01
      9/12/2014 - $2515 - $Notice/Appeal Supreme Court
59
            No additional text exists for this entry.
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      9/12/2014 - 1310 - Case Appeal Statement
            No additional text exists for this entry.
61
      9/12/2014 - PAYRC - **Payment Receipted
            Additional Text: A Payment of -$34.00 was made on receipt DCDC470140.
      9/12/2014 - SAB - **Supreme Court Appeal Bond
62
            No additional text exists for this entry
      9/12/2014 - 4105 - Supplemental ...
63
            Additional Text: SUPPLEMENT TO GARY SCHMIDT'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS/MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT -
            Transaction 4605394 - Approved By: MCHOLICO: 09-15-2014:09:48:53
64
      9/12/2014 - 2610 - Notice ...
            Additional Text: NOTICE RE: ORDER ENTERED 9/5/14 - Transaction 4605400 - Approved By: MCHOLICO: 09-15-2014:09:57:48
65
      9/12/2014 - 2610 - Notice ...
            Additional Text: NOTICE OF ERRATA TO GARY SCHMIDT'S OPPOSITION TO MOTION TO DISMISS/MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
            - Transaction 4605401 - Approved By: MCHOLICO: 09-15-2014:09:58:32
      9/15/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
66
            Additional Text: Transaction 4605864 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-15-2014:09:50:03
67
      9/15/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
            Additional Text: Transaction 4605917 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-15-2014:09:58:57
68
      9/15/2014 - NEF - Proof of Electronic Service
            Additional Text: Transaction 4605919 - Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-15-2014:09:59:36
      9/15/2014 - S200 - Request for Submission Complet
69
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No additional text exists for this entry.

- 70 9/15/2014 2540 Notice of Entry of Ord
  - Additional Text: Transaction 4607458 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-15-2014:17:06:40
- 71 9/15/2014 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
  - Additional Text: Transaction 4607459 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-15-2014:17:07:40
- 72 9/15/2014 3795 Reply...
  - Additional Text: REPLY MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES Transaction 4607479 Approved By: YLLOYD: 09-16-2014:09:39:50
- 73 9/15/2014 3860 Request for Submission
  - Additional Text: Transaction 4607480 Approved By: YLLOYD: 09-16-2014:09:40:15
- 74 9/16/2014 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
  - Additional Text: Transaction 4607947 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-16-2014:09:40:50
- 75 9/16/2014 NEF Proof of Electronic Service
  - Additional Text: Transaction 4607952 Approved By: NOREVIEW: 09-16-2014:09:43:17
- 76 9/16/2014 1350 Certificate of Clerk
  - Additional Text: CERTIFICATE OF CLERK AND TRANSMITTAL NOTICE OF APPEAL Transaction 4608831 Approved By: NOREVIEW : 09-16-2014:13:54:50

FILED Electronically 2014-06-06 06:20:54 PM Joey Orduna Hastings Clerk of the Court Transaction # 4467101

**CODE \$4170** 1

MICHAEL PAGNI (#6444) McDonald Carano Wilson LLP 100 West Liberty Street. 10th Floor

Reno, NV 89501

Telephone: (775) 788-2000 Facsimile: (775) 788-2020

Email: mpagni@mcdonaldcarano.com

Attorney for Plaintiff

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SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

CASE NO .:

DEPT. NO.:

BEN KIECKHEFER, an individual,

Plaintiff.

GARY SCHMIDT, an individual, and DOES

1-10, inclusive,

VS.

Defendant.

# ORDER GRANTING TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Plaintiff Ben Kieckhefer's EX PARTE MOTION FOR **TEMPORARY** RESTRAINING ORDER AND REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION HEARING, was filed on Friday, June 6, 2014. The Court, having considered the Motion, and finding that Ben Kieckhefer is likely to suffer irreparable injury to his career and reputation from Defendant's television advertisements in the absence of injunctive relief, and good cause appearing therefore.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's Motion for Temporary Restraining Order is GRANTED.

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DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

**CODE 2840** 

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MCDONALD CARANO WILSON I 100 WEST LIBERTY STREET, 10" FLOOR • RENO, NEADA 89501 PHONE 775-788-2000 • FAX 775-788-2020

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# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

BEN KIECKHEFER, an individual,

Plaintiff/Counterdefendant,

VS.

GARY SCHMIDT, an individual, and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendant/Counterclaimant.

CASE NO.: CV14-01227

DEPT. NO.: 3

# [PROPERTY] ORDER DENYING SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

The Court has reviewed and considered Defendant GARY SCHMIDT's ("Schmidt") Special Motion to Dismiss filed in this matter on August 4, 2014. Plaintiff BEN KIECKHEFER ("Sen. Kieckhefer") filed an Opposition on August 8, 2014 and Schmidt filed a Reply on August 12, 2014. A hearing was held in Department 3 on August 13, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. where Sen. Kieckhefer and Schmidt were both represented by counsel. Having fully considered the parties' pleadings, points and authorities and all exhibits attached thereto, having heard and carefully considered all proffered evidence and the arguments of counsel, and deeming itself fully advised of the matter and applicable law, the Court hereby enters the following Decision and Order:

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Sen. Kieckhefer and Schmidt were political opponents in the 2014 Republican primary election for Nevada State Senate District 16. Shortly before the primary election, Sen. Kieckhefer and his campaign became aware on June 5, 2014 that Schmidt was airing television campaign advertisements stating that Sen. Kieckhefer "endorsed and supported Harry Reid in 2010." Sen. Kieckhefer's campaign notified Schmidt that these statements were false, but Schmidt did not pull the advertisements. Consequently, on June 6, 2014, Sen. Kieckhefer filed a Complaint asserting claims of defamation and defamation per se against Schmidt for making the false statement that Sen. Kieckhefer endorsed and supported Senator Harry Reid.

On August 4, 2014, Schmidt filed a Special Motion to Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.660(2). If a special motion to dismiss is filed, the Court must, by statute, conduct a two-part inquiry to determine if dismissal is warranted. First, pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(a), the Court must determine whether Schmidt has established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the claims in the Complaint were based upon a good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern. The Court finds Schmidt has shown, by a preponderance of the evidence, the statements in question were made in the course of a political campaign and therefore satisfy the definitions contained within NRS 41.637 and NRS 41.660.

Second, under NRS 41.660(3)(b), the Court must determine whether Sen. Kieckhefer can establish by clear and convincing evidence a probability of prevailing on the claims for defamation and defamation per se. The general elements of a defamation claim require a plaintiff to prove "(1) a false and defamatory statement by [a] defendant concerning the plaintiff; (2) an unprivileged publication to a third person; (3) fault, amounting to at least negligence; and (4) actual or presumed damages." Pegasus v. Reno Newspapers, Inc., 118 Nev. 706, 718, 57 P.3d 82, 90 (2002). If the defamatory communication also imputes a "person's lack of fitness for trade, business, or profession, or tends to injure the plaintiff in his or her business, it is deemed defamation per se and damages are presumed." Clark Cnty. Sch. Dist. v. Virtual Educ. Software, Inc., 125 Nev. 374, 385, 213 P.3d 496, 503 (2009) (citations omitted).

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Based on the evidence, including Sen. Kieckhefer's sworn denial and contrasting lack of credible evidence from Schmidt, the Court finds there is clear and convincing evidence that Sen. Kieckhefer has a probability of showing the claim that Sen. Kieckhefer "endorsed and supported Harry Reid in 2010" was false.

The Court further notes that the statements by Schmidt were made in the context of a heated political campaign, and an analysis of those statements requires the Court to examine the atmosphere of the political situation as it existed prior to the primary election and from the perspective of a political conservative. The unrefuted evidence in the record indicates that the statement in question could be harmful to the reputation of a Republican politician. Accordingly, the Court finds there is clear and convincing evidence that Sen. Kieckhefer has a probability of showing the statements by Schmidt were defamatory.

Furthermore, the Court notes that these statements may damage Sen. Kieckhefer by way of loss of political capital, harm to political relationships, or loss of electoral support. The evidence also shows the statements affected Sen. Kieckhefer's trade, business, or profession and therefore damages may be presumed under the defamation per se analysis. Thus, the Court finds there is clear and convincing evidence that Sen. Kieckhefer has a probability of establishing damages and/or prevailing on the defamation per se claim. The Court also finds that Schmidt's statements were published to third parties via television stations and that there is no evidence in the record that these statements were privileged.

The Court does find Sen. Kieckhefer to be a public figure and therefore he is required to demonstrate actual malice in order to prevail on a claim for defamation. The evidence showed that Schmidt's only support for the allegation that Sen. Kieckhefer endorsed or supported Senator Harry Reid was an October 31, 2010 newspaper article from the Las Vegas Sun, entitled "Reid endorsement may put Raggio on the outs in GOP," attached as Exhibit 1 to the Special Motion to Dismiss. The Court finds that Schmidt misread the article, which does not support a conclusion that Sen. Kieckhefer endorsed or supported Senator Harry Reid. Therefore, the Court finds that Sen. Kieckhefer has a probability of showing that Schmidt's statements were made with knowledge of or reckless disregard for their falsity.

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The Court finds, after considering all available evidence and arguments, that Sen. Kieckhefer has established by clear and convincing evidence a probability of prevailing on his claims for defamation and defamation per se. The Court does not find that Sen. Kieckhefer's lawsuit was meritless, frivolous, or vexatious.

Nevertheless, the Court does not have a sufficient basis to find that the Special Motion to Dismiss was brought frivolously or vexatiously and therefore does not award fees or costs to Sen. Kieckhefer under NRS 41.670.

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**CODE 2540** 1 MICHAEL PAGNI (NSBN #6444) 2 ADAM HOSMER-HENNER (NSBN #12779) McDonald Carano Wilson LLP 100 West Liberty Street, 10th Floor 3 Reno, NV 89501 Telephone: (775) 788-2000 4 Facsimile: (775) 788-2020 5 Email: mpagni@mcdonaldcarano.com Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterdefendant 6

# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

BEN KIECKHEFER, an individual,

Plaintiff/Counterdefendant,

VS.

CASE NO.: CV14-01227

DEPT. NO.: 3

GARY SCHMIDT, an individual, and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendant/Counterclaimant.

# NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on the 5<sup>TH</sup> day of September, 2014, the Court entered an Order Denying Defendant's Special Motion to Dismiss, in the above-entitled matter, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto.

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The undersigned does hereby affirm that this document does not contain the Social Security number of any person.

DATED: September 15, 2014.

# McDONALD CARANO WILSON LLP

# /s/ Adam Hosmer-Henner

MICHAEL PAGNI (NSBN #6444) ADAM HOSMER-HENNER (NSBN #12779) McDonald Carano Wilson LLP 100 West Liberty Street. 10th Floor Reno, NV 89501

Telephone: (775) 788-2000 Facsimile: (775) 788-2020

Email: mpagni@mcdonaldcarano.com Attorneys for Plaintiff/Counterdefendant

# MCDONALD-CARANO-WILSON 100 WEST LIBERTY STREET, 10" FLOOR: RENO, NEWARA, 89501

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE** 

Pursuant to N.R.C.P. 5(b), I hereby certify that I am an employee of McDONALD CARANO WILSON LLP and that on September 15, 2014, I served the within **NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS** on the parties in said case by filing the document electronically with the above-entitled court, and by causing the documents to be electronically served via the court's electronic filing system to the following attorneys associated with this case:

CHARLES R. KOZAK, ESQ. KOZAK LAW FIRM 3100 MILL STREET, SUITE 115 RENO, NEVADA 89502

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed September 15, 2014, at Reno, Nevada.

By /s/ Jill Nelson
An Employee of McDonald Carano Wilson LLP

**CODE 2840** 

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MCDONALD CARANO WILSON I 100 WEST LIBERTY STREET, 10" FLOOR • RENO, NEADA 89501 PHONE 775-788-2000 • FAX 775-788-2020

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# SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

BEN KIECKHEFER, an individual,

Plaintiff/Counterdefendant,

VS.

GARY SCHMIDT, an individual, and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendant/Counterclaimant.

CASE NO.: CV14-01227

DEPT. NO.: 3

# [PROPERTY] ORDER DENYING SPECIAL MOTION TO DISMISS

The Court has reviewed and considered Defendant GARY SCHMIDT's ("Schmidt") Special Motion to Dismiss filed in this matter on August 4, 2014. Plaintiff BEN KIECKHEFER ("Sen. Kieckhefer") filed an Opposition on August 8, 2014 and Schmidt filed a Reply on August 12, 2014. A hearing was held in Department 3 on August 13, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. where Sen. Kieckhefer and Schmidt were both represented by counsel. Having fully considered the parties' pleadings, points and authorities and all exhibits attached thereto, having heard and carefully considered all proffered evidence and the arguments of counsel, and deeming itself fully advised of the matter and applicable law, the Court hereby enters the following Decision and Order:

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On August 4, 2014, Schmidt filed a Special Motion to Dismiss pursuant to NRS 41.660(2). If a special motion to dismiss is filed, the Court must, by statute, conduct a two-part inquiry to determine if dismissal is warranted. First, pursuant to NRS 41.660(3)(a), the Court must determine whether Schmidt has established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the claims in the Complaint were based upon a good faith communication in furtherance of the right to petition or the right to free speech in direct connection with an issue of public concern. The Court finds Schmidt has shown, by a preponderance of the evidence, the statements in question were made in the course of a political campaign and therefore satisfy the definitions contained within NRS 41.637 and NRS 41.660.

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Nevertheless, the Court does not have a sufficient basis to find that the Special Motion to Dismiss was brought frivolously or vexatiously and therefore does not award fees or costs to Sen. Kieckhefer under NRS 41.670.

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CASE NO. CV14-01227

### BEN KIECKHEFER vs. GARY SCHMIDT

DATE, JUDGE OFFICERS OF

COURT PRESENT APPEARANCES-HEARING

06/06/14 HEARING IN DETEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

CONTINUED TO

06/06/14 HONORABLE

PATRICK FLANGAN HEARING IN RE: TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

Michael Pagni, Esq., and Adam Hosmer-Henner, Esq., were present

in Court on behalf the Plaintiff, who was not present.

Defendant Gary Schmidt was present in Court, acting In Proper

DEPT. NO. 7 Persona

K. Oates

(Clerk)

S. Koetting (Reporter)

4:54 p.m. – Court convened with Court, Plaintiff's counsel and Defendant present.

The Court addressed and advised the parties that he was in receipt

of, and reviewed the Complaint and Ex Parte Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Request for Preliminary Injunction Hearing. Counsel Pagni addressed the Court and argued in support of the issuance of a Temporary Restraining Order to include restraining and enjoining Defendant Schmidt, or anyone acting on his behalf, from making statements, expressing or implying, that the Plaintiff, Senator Kieckhefer, has endorsed or supported Senator Harrry Reid. Further, counsel argued that the Plaintiff has a reasonable probability of succeeding on the merits, and should the conduct of the Defendant continue, the Plaintiff is likely to suffer irreparable harm. Further, counsel argued that the sworn Affidavit of Senator Kieckhefer clearly states that his client never endorsed or supported Harry Reid and that any such support could potentially be detrimental to Senator Kieckhefer's campaign as a Republican candidate.

The Court inquired of counsel Pagni, who in turn responded that they are seeking relief to include removing any statements from the television advertisements wherein it is stated that Senator Kieckhefer endorses Senator Reid. Further, counsel advised that the other statements contained in the advertisement are "traditional campaign smear, and his client will accept striking only the Senator Reid statements.

Defendant Schmidt addressed the Court on his own behalf and argued that this is political rhetoric, he could bring his own action with respect to slanderous statements to include his political affiliation and his Reindeer Lodge residence. Further, Defendant Schmidt argued that this lawsuit violates his first amendment rights, is an abuse of process and he is missing two campaign events tonight in order to

CASE NO. CV14-01227

# BEN KIECKHEFER vs. GARY SCHMIDT

# Page Two

DATE, JUDGE OFFICERS OF

COURT PRESENT

# APPEARANCES-HEARING

CONTINUED TO

06/06/14 HONORABLE PATRICK FLANGAN DEPT. NO. 7 K. Oates (Clerk)

S. Koetting

(Reporter)

HEARING IN RE: TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER attend this Hearing, and may also be late filing his campaign expense report.

COURT ORDERED: The Court finds that the Plaintiff will suffer irreparable harm if the Temporary Restraining Order is denied and further finds that the Plaintiff has a reasonable probability of succeeding on the merits, and therefore, the <a href="Ex Parte">Ex Parte</a> Motion for Temporary Restraining Order and Request for Preliminary Injunction Hearing is GRANTED as to the television advertisements wherein it is stated that Senator Kieckhefer endorses Senator Reid. It is further ordered that the Temporary Restraining Order is effective as of 6:02 p.m. tonight and counsel Pagni is ordered to post a bond in the amount of \$1,000.00 on Monday morning, June 9, 2014. Counsel Pagni will prepare the proposed order. It is further ordered that a Preliminary Injunction Hearing is set for June 18, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. 6:07 p.m. — Court stood in recess.

\*\*\* After Session \*\*\*

Temporary Restraining Order prepared, executed and filed at 6:20 p.m.

FILED
Electronically
2014-09-16 01:54:15 PM
Joey Orduna Hastings
Clerk of the Court
Transaction # 4608831

Code 1350

IN THE SECOND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF WASHOE

BEN KIECKHEFER; AND DOES 1-100,

Plaintiff/Counterdefendants,

Case No. CV14-01227

vs. Dept. No. 7

GARY SCHMIDT, an individual, and DOES 1-10, inclusive,

Defendant/Counterclaimant.

# CERTIFICATE OF CLERK AND TRANSMITTAL - NOTICE OF APPEAL

I certify that I am an employee of the Second Judicial District Court of the State of Nevada, County of Washoe; that on the 16th day of September, 2014, I electronically filed the Notice of Appeal in the above entitled matter to the Nevada Supreme Court.

I further certify that the transmitted record is a true and correct copy of the original pleadings on file with the Second Judicial District Court.

Dated this 16th day of September, 2014

JOEY ORDUNA HASTINGS CLERK OF THE COURT

By /s/ Yvonne Viloria
Yvonne Viloria
Deputy Clerk

94-169/1212 1186 CHARLES R KOZAK, ATTORNEY AT LAW 3100 MILL ST. STE 115 RENO. NV 89502 PAY TO THE Nevada Supreme Cf.

Two hundred fifty 2nd 100 US bank. All of us serving your July 4 Cal MEMO Schmidt CV14-01227 1:1212016941: 153755778989#1186