

EXHIBIT 27

EXHIBIT 27

1 **COMP**

2 JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ.
3 Nevada State Bar Number: 7575
4 THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM
5 6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100
6 Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
7 Phone: (702) 222-4021
8 Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com
9 Attorney for Plaintiffs

Electronically Filed
01/27/2017 10:03:49 AM



CLERK OF THE COURT

6 DISTRICT COURT
7 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

8 MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK)
9 LAW GROUP,)

10 Plaintiff,)

11 vs.)

12 STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA;)
13 CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER;)
14 DON WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN)
15 POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.;)
16 SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN)
17 STEELMON; and DOES I THROUGH X,)

18 Defendant.)

Case No.: A-17-750171-C

Department: XIX

Hearing Date: N/A

Hearing Time: N/A

ACTION IN TORT

ARBITRATION EXEMPTION
CLAIMED

19 **COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES**

20 **I.**
21 **INTRODUCTION**

22 1. Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and Willick Law Group ("Plaintiffs") by
23 and through their attorney of record, Jennifer V. Abrams of The Abrams & Mayo
24 Law Firm bring this action for damages based upon, and to redress, Defendant's
Intentional Defamation of the character of the Plaintiffs through libelous writings
and speech, for Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, Negligent Infliction of
Emotional Distress, False Light, Business Disparagement, Harassment, Concert of

1 Action, Civil Conspiracy and violations of RICO, all of which were perpetrated
2 individually and in concert with others by defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J.
3 Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny Spicer, Don Woolbright, Veterans in Politics
4 International, Inc., Sanson Corporation, Karen Steelmon, and Does I through X
5 (collectively "Defendants").

6
7 **II.**
8 **VENUE AND JURISDICTION**

9 2. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
10 stated herein.

11 3. Jurisdiction is proper in Nevada State court as all alleged claims were
12 transmitted to or performed in Nevada by the Defendants individually or in concert
13 with others.

14 **III.**
15 **PARTIES**

16 4. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
17 stated herein.

18 5. Plaintiff Marshal S. Willick is a natural person and an attorney licensed
19 to practice law in the State of Nevada. He practices exclusively in the field of
20 Domestic Relations and is A/V rated, a peer-reviewed and certified (and re-certified)
21 Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers, and a Certified Specialist
22 in Family Law.

23 6. Willick Law Group is a d.b.a. of Marshal S. Willick P.C., a duly formed
24 professional corporation in the State of Nevada.

25 ///

26 ///

1 7. Upon information and belief, Steve W. Sanson is a natural person, the
2 President of Veterans in Politics International, Inc., and the Treasurer and Director
3 of Sanson Corporation.

4 8. Upon information and belief, Heidi J. Hanusa is a natural person, the
5 Treasurer of Veterans in Politics International, Inc., and the President and Secretary
6 of Sanson Corporation.

7 9. Upon information and belief, Christina Ortiz is a natural person and
8 the Director of Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

9 10. Upon information and belief, Johnny Spicer is a natural person and
10 Secretary of Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

11 11. Upon information and belief, Don Woolbright is a natural person and
12 Secretary of Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

13 12. Upon information and belief, Veterans in Politics International, Inc. is
14 a duly formed Domestic Non-Profit Corporation that claims its purpose is "[t]o
15 educate, organize, and awaken our veterans and their families to select, support and
16 intelligently vote for those candidates whom would help create a better world, to
17 protect ourselves from our own government(s) in a culture of corruption, and to be
18 the political voice for those in other groups who do not have one."

19 13. Upon information and belief, Sanson Corporation is a duly formed
20 Domestic Corporation in the State of Nevada.

21 14. Upon information and belief, Karen Steelmon is a natural person and
22 is the Registrant of the Domain veteransinpolitics.org.

23 ///

24 ///

1 Assembly Bill 140 (2015) and other issues involving veterans issues in Family Law
2 (hereinafter "the Interview").

3 20. On or about December 25, 2016, Defendants published or caused to be
4 published on the veterensinpolitics.com, a website purportedly owned and
5 controlled by Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny
6 Spicer, Don Woolbright, Veterans in Politics International, Inc., Sanson Corporation,
7 Karen Steelmon, and Does I through X inclusive, a post entitled "Dr. Robin L. Titus
8 & Ron Q. Quilang to Appear on the Veterans in Politics video-talk show."

9 21. Included in this post, is a re-post of the "Interview" with the headline
10 "Veterans in Politics defense [sic] Military Veterans Service Connected Disability
11 Benefits" (hereinafter "the Defense post"). This re-post contains a link that re-
12 directs to a Soundcloud.com page with audio of the interview. This re-post also
13 contains a link to a Review-Journal article regarding Richard Crane, an employee of
14 the Willick Law Group (hereinafter "the Article").

15 22. Within the "Defense post," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law
16 firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or
17 republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across
18 state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including
19 that:

- 20 a. "This is the type of hypocrisy we have in our community. People that
21 claim to be for veterans but yet they screw us for profit and power."

22 23. On or about December 31, 2016, Mr. Sanson sent an email blast with
23 the "Interview" and the "Article" (hereinafter "the E-mail blast").

24 ///

1 24. Within the "E-mail blast," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law
2 firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements.¹

3 25. The "Defense" post and the "E-mail blast" were published, republished,
4 or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, via
5 email across multiple states, and via numerous social media sites including
6 Pinterest, Google+, Twitter, and the following Facebook pages:

7 a. steve.sanson1

8 b. steve.sanson.3

9 c. veteransinpolitics

10 d. veteransinpoliticsinternational

11 e. eye.on.nevada.politics

12 f. steve.w.sanson

13 g. Veterans-In-Politics-International-Endorsement-for-the-State-of-
14 Nevada

15 h. Veterans in Politics: groups/OperationNeverForget

16 i. Nevada-Veterans-In-Politics

17 26. On or about January 12, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be
18 published on veterensinpolitics.com, a website purportedly owned and controlled by
19 Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny Spicer, Don
20 Woolbright, Veterans in Politics International, Inc., Sanson Corporation, Karen
21 Steelmon, and Does I through X inclusive, a post entitled "Mark Amodei & Debra
22 March to appear on the Veterans In Politics video-talk show."

23 ///

24 ¹ The E-mail blast has identical language to the Defense post and so will not be repeated in the
interest of economy.

1 27. Included in this post is a link with the title "Attorney Marshall [sic]
2 Willick and his pal convicted of sexually coercion [sic] of a minor Richard Crane was
3 found [sic] guilty of defaming a law student in a United States District Court Western
4 District of Virginia signed by US District Judge Norman K. Moon." (Hereinafter "the
5 Virginia post").²

6 28. Within the "Virginia post," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and his law
7 firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or
8 republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across
9 state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including
10 that:

- 11 a. "Attorney Marshall [sic] and his pal convicted of sexually [sic] coercion
12 [sic] of a minor."
13 b. "Richard Crane was found guilty of defaming a law student."
14 c. The "Virginia post" was accompanied by pages of a legal decision by a
15 Virginia judge stating on its face that using the word "guilty" to
16 describe a judgment in a civil case for damages constitutes defamation
17 *per se*.

18 29. The "Virginia post" was published, republished, or attributed to one
19 another, or disseminated to third parties across state lines, via email across multiple
20 states, and via numerous social media sites including Pinterest, Google+, Twitter,
21 and the following Facebook pages:

- 22 a. [steve.sanson1](#)

23
24 ² The link in the "Virginia post" re-directs to *Vaile v. Willick*, No. 6:07cv00011, 2008 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 53619 (W.D. Va. July 14, 2008), a skirmish in a lengthy multi-state pursuit of Mr. Vaile, the most infamous international child kidnapper and deadbeat dad in Nevada for whom an arrest warrant is outstanding, for over a million dollars in back child support, attorney's fees, and tort damages.

- 1 b. steve.sanson.3
- 2 c. veteransinpolitics
- 3 d. veteransinpoliticsinternational
- 4 e. eye.on.nevada.politics
- 5 f. steve.w.sanson
- 6 g. Veterans in Politics: groups/OperationNeverForget
- 7 h. Nevada-Veterans-In-Politics

8 30. On or about January 14, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be
9 published on the Veterans in Politics International Facebook page, a Facebook page
10 purportedly controlled by Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina
11 Ortiz, Johnny Spicer, Don Woolbright, Veterans in Politics International, Inc.,
12 Sanson Corporation, Karen Steelmon, and Does I through X inclusive, a post
13 containing eight (8) photographs (hereinafter "VIPI Facebook post").

14 31. Within the "VIPI Facebook post," Defendants defame Mr. Willick and
15 his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or
16 republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across
17 state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including
18 that:

- 19 a. "Would you have a Family Attorney handle your child custody case if
20 you knew a sex offender works in the same office? Welcome to The
21 [sic] Willick Law Group."

22 32. On or about January 14, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be
23 published on the Veterans in Politics Facebook page, a Facebook page purportedly
24 controlled by Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny

1 Spicer, Don Woolbright, Veterans in Politics International, Inc., Sanson Corporation,
2 Karen Steelmon, and Does I through X inclusive, a post entitled "Nevada Attorney
3 Marshall [sic] Willick gets the Nevada Supreme Court Decision" to which he
4 attached 12 photos of the *Leventhal v. Lobello* decision (hereinafter "VIP Facebook
5 post #1").³

6 33. Within the "VIP Facebook post #1," Defendants defame Mr. Willick
7 and his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements
8 published, or republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third
9 parties across state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs
10 including that:

11 a. "From looking at all these papers It's [sic] obvious that Willick
12 scammed his client and later scammed the court by misrepresenting
13 that he was entitled to recover property under his lien and reduce it to
14 judgement [sic]."

15 b. "He did not recover anything. The property was distributed in the
16 Decree of Divorce."

17 c. "Willick tried to get his client to start getting retirement benefits faster.
18 It was not with [sic] 100,000 [sic] in legal bills."

19 d. "Then he pressured his client into allowing him to continue with the
20 appeal."

21 34. On or about January 14, 2017, Defendants published or caused to be
22 published on the Veterans in Politics Facebook page, a Facebook page purportedly
23 controlled by Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny

24 ³ Mr. Sanson's intent to defame, denigrate, and harm the plaintiffs is so great that he completely ignores the fact that Plaintiffs had absolutely nothing to do with the *Lobello* decision.

1 Spicer, Don Woolbright, Veterans in Politics International, Inc., Sanson Corporation,
2 Karen Steelmon, and Does I through X inclusive, a post "Attorney Marshall [sic]
3 Willick loses his appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court," to which he attached 10
4 photos of the *Holyoak* decision (hereinafter "VIP Facebook post #2").

5 35. Within the VIP Facebook post #2, Defendants defame Mr. Willick and
6 his law firm, Willick Law Group, with false and misleading statements published, or
7 republished, or attributed to one another, or disseminated to third parties across
8 state lines, false and defamatory statements directed against Plaintiffs including
9 that:

- 10 a. "Attorney Marshall [sic] Willick loses his appeal to the Nevada
11 Supreme Court."

12 36. The defamatory statements by Defendants were intended to harm
13 Plaintiffs' reputation and livelihood, to harass, and to embarrass Plaintiffs.

14 37. The defamatory statements by Defendants have caused numerous
15 negative comments to be directed against Plaintiffs.⁴

16 38. Defendants have expressed the intention to continue attempts to harm
17 Plaintiff reputation and business to whatever degree they are able to achieve.

18 39. On January 24, 2017, Defendants posted online an offer to pay "up to
19 \$10,000 for verifiable information on Nevada Family Court Attorney Marshall
20 Willick."

21 ///

22 ///

23 ///

24 ⁴ For example, a comment to the "Virginia post" states "Well well well, [sic] this always catches
up to those that try and perceive [sic] they are good [sic]."

V.
FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(DEFAMATION)

40. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

41. Defendants, and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or employees, either individually, or in concert with others, published one or more oral or written false statements which were intended to impugn Mr. Willick's honesty, integrity, virtue and/or personal and professional reputation.

42. Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group are not public figures, as some or all of Defendants have acknowledged.

43. The statements imputed by Defendants to Mr. Willick and published by Defendants are slurs on Mr. Willick's character including his honesty, integrity, virtue, and/or reputation.

44. The referenced false and defamatory statements would tend to lower the subject in the estimation of the community, excite derogatory opinions about the subject, and hold the subject up to contempt.

45. The referenced false and defamatory statements were unprivileged.

46. The referenced false and defamatory statements were published to at least one third party.

47. The referenced false and defamatory statements were published or republished deliberately or negligently by or under the authority and direction of one or more of each of the Defendants.

48. Some or all of the referenced false and defamatory statements constitute defamation *per se*, making them actionable irrespective of special harm.

7 54. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
8 stated herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group demand judgment against named Defendants for actual, special, compensatory, and punitive damages in an amount deemed by this Court to be just and fair and appropriate, in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

56. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
stated herein.

23 58. The statements made by the Defendants against Mr. Willick were made
24 with the specific intent to cause harm to Plaintiffs and their pecuniary interests,

1 and/or the Defendants published the false statements knowing their falsity or with
2 reckless disregard for the truth.

3 59. The statements made by the Defendants place Mr. Willick and the
4 Willick Law Group in a false light and are highly offensive and inflammatory, and
5 thus actionable.

6 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group
7 demand judgment against named Defendants for actual, special, compensatory, and
8 punitive damages in an amount deemed at the time of trial to be just, fair, and
9 appropriate in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

10 IX.
11 FIFTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(BUSINESS DISPARAGEMENT)

12 60. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
13 stated herein.

14 61. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or
15 employees, either individually, or in concert with others, intentionally made false
16 and disparaging statements about Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group and
17 disparaged Mr. Willick's business, the Willick Law Group.

18 62. The referenced statements and actions were specifically directed
19 towards the quality of Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group's services.

20 63. The statements and actions were so extreme and outrageous as to
21 affect the ability of Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group to conduct business.

22 64. The Defendants intended, in publishing the false and defamatory
23 statements, to cause harm to Plaintiffs and its pecuniary interests, and/or the
24

1 Defendants published the disparaging statements knowing their falsity or with
2 reckless disregard for the truth.

3 65. The false and defamatory statements by the Defendants resulted in
4 damages to Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group.

5 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group
6 demand judgment against named Defendants for actual, special, compensatory, and
7 punitive damages in an amount deemed at the time of trial to be just, fair, and
8 appropriate in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

9 X.
10 **SIXTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
(CONCERT OF ACTION)

11 66. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
12 stated herein.

13 67. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or
14 employees in concert with one another, based upon an explicit or tacit agreement,
15 intentionally committed a tort against Mr. Willick.

16 68. Defendants' concert of action resulted in damages to Mr. Willick and
17 the Willick Law Group.

18 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group
19 demand judgment against named Defendants for actual, special, compensatory, and
20 punitive damages in an amount deemed at the time of trial to be just, fair, and
21 appropriate in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

22 ///

23 ///

24 ///

XI.
SEVENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(CIVIL CONSPIRACY)

69. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

70. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or employees, either individually, or in concert with others, based upon an explicit or tacit agreement, intended to accomplish an unlawful objective for the specific purposes of harming Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group's pecuniary interests.

71. Defendants' civil conspiracy resulted in damages to Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group demand judgment against named Defendants for actual, special, compensatory, and punitive damages in an amount deemed at the time of trial to be just, fair, and appropriate in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

XII.
EIGHTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(RICO VIOLATIONS)

72. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

73. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or employees, either individually, or in concert with others, engaged in at least two crimes related to racketeering pursuant to NRS 207.360 that have the same or similar pattern, intents, results, accomplices, victims or methods of commission or are otherwise interrelated by distinguishing characteristics and are not isolated incidents.

1 74. Here, Defendants have either committed, conspired to commit, or have
2 attempted to commit the following crime(s):

- 3 a. Criminal contempt (NRS 199.340(7), publication of a false or grossly
4 inaccurate report of court proceedings).
5 b. Challenges to fight (NRS 200.450).
6 c. Furnishing libelous information (NRS 200.550).
7 d. Harassment (NRS 200.571).
8 e. Multiple transactions involving fraud or deceit in the course of an
9 enterprise (NRS 205.377).
10 f. Taking property from another under circumstances not amounting to
11 robbery. (NRS 207.360(9)).
12 g. Extortion of "contributions" by implied threat of the mounting of
13 similar defamation campaigns against candidates and officials.

14 75. Defendants comprise a criminal syndicate: Any combination of
15 persons, so structured that the organization will continue its operation even if
16 individual members enter or leave the organization, which engages in or has the
17 purpose of engaging in racketeering activity. Here, Veterans in Politics
18 International, Inc., Nevada Veterans in Politics, and Veterans in Politics are
19 organizations that has members—headed by Defendants Steve Sanson, Heidi
20 Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny Spicer, and Don Woolbright—that do come and go
21 and the organization continues on. These organizations and their principals have
22 conspired to engage in and have engaged in racketeering activity.

23 76. This group also meets the statutory definition—NRS 207.380—as an
24 enterprise:

1 Any natural person, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, business
2 trust or other legal entity; and, Any union, association or other group of
persons associated in fact although not a legal entity.

3 Here Veterans in Politics International is a registered not for profit business
4 and Nevada Veterans in Politics and Veterans in Politics are sub-units of Veterans in
5 Politics International, Inc. Each can and should be considered individual legal
6 entities.⁵

7 77. Sanson Corporation is also a separate legal entity and is a registered
8 Nevada Corporation.

9 78. Even if not all Defendants are members of Veterans in Politics
10 International, Inc., Nevada Veterans in Politics, Veterans in Politics, and Sanson
11 Corporation, they meet the "association or other group of persons associated in fact"
12 requirements under the statute as an enterprise. The statute explicitly includes both
13 licit and illicit enterprises.

14 79. Racketeering is the engaging in at least two crimes related to
15 racketeering that have the same or similar pattern, intents, results, accomplices,
16 victims or methods of commission, or are otherwise interrelated by distinguishing
17 characteristics and are not isolated incidents, if at least one of the incidents occurred
18 after July 1, 1983, and the last of the incidents occurred within 5 years after a prior
19 commission of a crime related to racketeering.

20 80. Defendants published a false or grossly inaccurate report of court
21 proceedings on numerous occasions, including, but not limited to, the "Virginia
22 post," "VIP Facebook Post #1," and "VIP Facebook Post #2." (NRS 199.340(7)).

23 ///

24 ⁵ Nevada Veterans in Politics and Veterans in Politics operate numerous social media sites
where the defamation continues.

1 81. Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Heidi J. Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny
2 Spicer, Don Woolbright, Veterans in Politics International, Inc. Sanson Corporation,
3 Karen Steelmon, and Does I through X inclusive, gave or sent a challenge in writing
4 to fight Richard Carreon and others. (NRS 200.450).

5 82. Defendants willfully stated, delivered or transmitted to a manager,
6 editor, publisher, reporter or other employee of a publisher of any newspaper,
7 magazine, publication, periodical or serial statements concerning Plaintiffs which, if
8 published therein, would be a libel. (NRS 200.550).

9 83. Defendants, without lawful authority, knowingly threatened to
10 substantially harm the health or safety of Plaintiff and, by words and conduct placed
11 Plaintiffs in reasonable fear that the threat would be carried out. (NRS 200.571).

12 84. Defendants, in the course of their enterprise, knowingly and with the
13 intent to defraud, engaged in an act, practice or course of business or employed a
14 device, scheme or artifice which operates or would operate as a fraud or deceit upon
15 a person by means of a false representation or omission of a material fact that
16 Defendants know to be false or omitted, Defendants intend for others to rely on, and
17 results in a loss to those who relied on the false representation or omission in at least
18 two transactions that have the same or similar pattern, intents, results, accomplices,
19 victims or methods of commission, or are otherwise interrelated by distinguishing
20 characteristics and are not isolated incidents within 4 years and in which the
21 aggregate loss or intended loss is more than \$650. (NRS 205.377).

22 85. Defendants posted false and defamatory material no less than 50 times
23 in 10 separate defamatory campaigns against Plaintiffs. The total value of time
24 expended by Marshal S. Willick, and the Willick Law Group staff in responding to

1 inquiries from clients and attempting to have the defamatory material removed from
2 the internet was over \$15,000 and this does not include the cost of missed
3 opportunities or time that should have been spent working on cases for paying
4 clients. (NRS 2015.377 and NRS 207.360(9)).

5 86. It was the intent of the Defendants to cause harm to Plaintiffs and the
6 aggregate costs far exceed the \$650 threshold. Each act which violates subsection
7 one constitutes a separate offense and a person who violates subsection one is guilty
8 of a category B felony.

9 87. Additionally, NRS 205.0832 defines the actions which constitute theft
10 as including that which:

11 Obtains real, personal or intangible property or the services of another
12 person, by a material misrepresentation with intent to deprive that person of
13 the property or services. As used in this paragraph, "material
14 misrepresentation" means the use of any pretense, or the making of any
15 promise, representation or statement of present, past or future fact which is
16 fraudulent and which, when used or made, is instrumental in causing the
17 wrongful control or transfer of property or services. The pretense may be
18 verbal or it may be a physical act.

19 The statute goes on to define the theft as a person or entity that "Takes, destroys,
20 conceals or disposes of property in which another person has a security interest, with
21 intent to defraud that person." Here, as Abraham Lincoln famously pointed out 150
22 years ago, time is a lawyer's stock in trade. Defendants—with malice—stole valuable
23 time from Mr. Willick. Also, the theft of Mr. Willick's and Willick Law Group's "good
24 will" by the making of false and defamatory comments and placing both Mr. Willick
and Willick Law Group in a false light has diminished the value of the business.
These are intangible thefts, but thefts nonetheless.

///

88. Defendants' illegal conduct resulted in damages to Mr. Willick and the Willick Law Group.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group, pursuant to NRS 207.470, are entitled to treble damages as a result of Defendants' criminal conduct in the form of actual, special, compensatory, and punitive damages in amount deemed at the time of trial to be just, fair, and appropriate in an amount in excess of \$15,000.

XIII.
NINTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF
(COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT)

89. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully stated herein.

90. Defendants have infringed upon Plaintiffs' photographic works owned by Plaintiff, for which copyright registration is being sought, by posting the work on social media websites, including but not limited to, Facebook, Pinterest, Google+, Twitter, and LinkedIn, without consent, approval or license of Plaintiffs and by continuing to distribute and copy the commercial without compensation or credit to the Plaintiffs.

91. As a direct and proximate result of said infringement by Defendants, Plaintiff is entitled to damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

92. Defendants' infringement of Plaintiffs' photographic works has yielded Defendants profits in an amount not yet determined.

93. Defendants' infringement has been willful and deliberate and was done for the purpose of defaming Plaintiffs and making commercial use of and profit on Plaintiffs' material throughout the country and within this Judicial District.

1 Plaintiffs are entitled to recover increased damages as a result of such willful
2 copying.

3 94. Plaintiffs are entitled to attorneys' fees and full costs pursuant to 17
4 U.S.C. § 505 and otherwise according to law.

5 95. As a direct and proximate result of the foregoing acts and conduct,
6 Plaintiffs have sustained and will continue to sustain substantial, immediate, and
7 irreparable injury, for which there is no adequate remedy at law. Upon information
8 and belief, Plaintiffs believe that unless enjoined and restrained by this Court,
9 Defendants will continue to infringe Plaintiffs' rights in the infringed works.
10 Plaintiffs are entitled to preliminary and permanent injunctive relief to restrain and
11 enjoin Defendants' continuing infringing conduct.

12 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group
13 demand that:

- 14 a. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 502(a), Defendants, their agents servants and
15 employees and all parties in privity with them be enjoined permanently
16 from infringing Plaintiff's copyrights in any manner.
- 17 b. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C § 504(b), Defendants be required to pay to the
18 plaintiff, such actual damages as the Plaintiffs may have sustained in
19 consequence of Defendants' infringement and all profits of Defendants
20 that are attributable to the infringement of Plaintiffs' copyrights.
21 Plaintiffs request Defendants account for all gains, profits, and
22 advantages derived by Defendants from their infringement.
- 23 c. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(1), Defendants be required to pay an
24 award of statutory damages in a sum not less than \$30,000.

- 1 d. The Court finds the Defendants' conduct was committed willfully.
- 2 e. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 504(c)(2), Defendants be required to pay an
- 3 award of increased statutory damages in a sum of not less than
- 4 \$150,000 for willful infringement.
- 5 f. Pursuant to 17 U.S.C. § 505, Defendants be required to pay the
- 6 Plaintiffs' full costs in this action and reasonable attorney's fees.
- 7 g. Defendants' conduct was willful or wanton and done in reckless
- 8 disregard of Plaintiffs' rights thereby entitling Plaintiffs to recover
- 9 punitive damages in an amount to be determined at trial.

10 **XIV.**
11 **TENTH CLAIM FOR RELIEF**
12 **(INJUNCTION)**

13 96. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
14 stated herein.

15 97. Defendants and/or Defendants' agents, representatives, and/or
16 employees, either individually, or in concert with others, engaged in acts that were so
17 outrageous that injunctive relief is necessary to effectuate justice.

18 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs request the following injunctive relief:

- 19 a. That all named Defendants and members of the listed organizations be
- 20 enjoined from approaching within 1000 feet, of the person of Marshal
- 21 S. Willick, his vehicle, his home, the Willick Law Group offices and all
- 22 of its employees, and their places of residence and vehicles.
- 23 b. That all defamatory writings, video, postings, or any other documents
- 24 or public display of the same, concerning Mr. Willick, the Willick Law

1 Group, and the employees of the same, be removed from public view
2 within 10 days of the issuance of the injunction.

3 c. That all innuendo of illegal, immoral, or unethical conduct that has
4 already been attributed by Defendants to Mr. Willick, must never be
5 repeated by any named Defendant or any member of any of the named
6 organizations, with generalities toward lawyers in general to constitute
7 a violation of the prohibition.

8 d. That a full retraction and apology be authored by Defendants Steve W.
9 Sanson, approved by the Court, and disseminated everywhere the
10 defamation occurred, including, but not limited to, the entirety of the
11 mailing list(s), each and every social media site (Facebook, Twitter,
12 Google+, Pinterest, LinkedIn, etc.) and anywhere else the defamatory
13 material was disseminated.

14
15 **XV.**
CONCLUSION

16 98. Plaintiffs incorporate and re-allege all preceding paragraphs as if fully
17 stated herein.

18 **WHEREFORE**, Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group respectfully
19 pray that judgment be entered against Defendants, and each of them individually, as
20 follows:

- 21 a. General damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000 for each and every
22 claim for relief;
- 23 b. Compensatory damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000 for each
24 and every claim for relief;

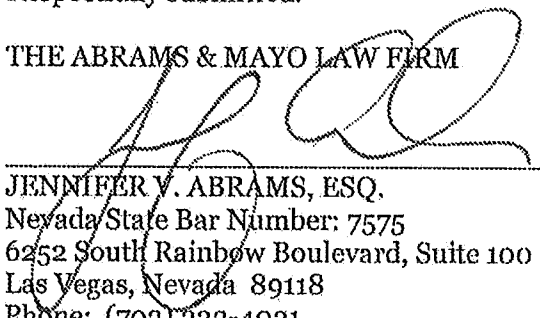
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24

- c. Punitive damages in an amount in excess of \$15,000 for each and every claim for relief;
- d. All attorney's fees and costs that have and/or may be incurred by Marshal S. Willick and the Willick Law Group in pursuing this action; and
- e. For such other and further relief this Court may deem just and proper.

DATED this 27th day of January, 2017.

Respectfully submitted:

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM



JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ.
Nevada State Bar Number: 7575
6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Phone: (702) 222-4021
Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com
Attorney for Plaintiffs

1 VERIFICATION

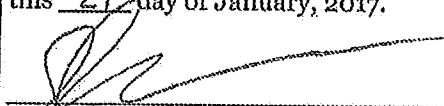
2 STATE OF NEVADA)
3) ss:
4 COUNTY OF CLARK)

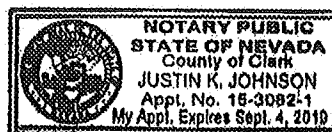
5 MARSHAL S. WILICK, ESQ., principal of WILICK LAW GROUP first being
6 duly sworn, deposes and says:

7 That himself and his business are the Plaintiffs in the above-entitled action;
8 that he has read the above and foregoing *Complaint for Damages* and knows the
9 contents thereof and that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to those
10 matters therein stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, he believes
11 them to be true.

12 
13 MARSHAL S. WILICK, ESQ.

14 SUBSCRIBED and SWORN to before me
15 this 27th day of January, 2017.

16 
17 NOTARY PUBLIC in and for said
18 County and State



1 **IAFD**

JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ.

2 Nevada State Bar Number: 7575

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

3 6252 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100

Las Vegas, Nevada 89118

4 Phone: (702) 222-4021

Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com

5 Attorney for Plaintiffs

6
7 DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

8 MARSHAL S. WILICK and WILICK LAW) Case No.:
9 GROUP,)

Plaintiff,

) Department:
)

10 vs.
11)

STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA;)

12 CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER;)

DON WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN)

13 POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.;)

SANSON CORPORATION; KAREN)

14 STEELMON; and DOES I THROUGH X,)

15 Defendant.
16)

17 **INITIAL APPEARANCE FEE DISCLOSURE (NRS CHAPTER 19)**

18 Pursuant to NRS Chapter 19, as amended by Senate Bill 106, filing fees are
19 submitted for parties appearing in the above entitled action as indicated below:

New Complaint Fee	1 st Appearance Fee
[] \$1530 [] \$520 [] \$299 [x] \$270.00	[] \$1483.00 [] \$473.00 [] \$223.00
Name: MARSHAL S. WILICK	
WILICK LAW GROUP	[x] \$30
	[] \$30

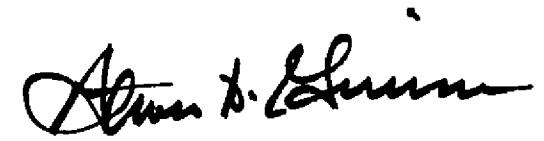
24
23
22
21
20
19
18
17
16
15
14
13
12
11
10

Respectfully submitted;

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

JENNIFER V. ABRAMS, ESQ.
Nevada State Bar Number: 7575
6552 South Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Phone: (702) 222-4021
Email: JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com
Attorney for Plaintiffs

TOTAL REMITTED: (Required)	Total Paid	\$ 300
		[] \$30
		[] \$30


CLERK OF THE COURT

NEOJ
DENNIS L. KENNEDY
Nevada Bar No. 1462
JOSHUA P. GILMORE
Nevada Bar No. 11576
KELLY B. STOUT
Nevada Bar No. 12105
BAILEY ♦ KENNEDY
8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue
Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-1302
Telephone: 702.562.8820
Facsimile: 702.562.8821
DKennedy@BaileyKennedy.com
JGilmore@BaileyKennedy.com

JENNIFER V. ABRAMS
Nevada Bar No. 7575
THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM
6252 South Rainbow Blvd., Ste. 100
Las Vegas, Nevada 89118
Telephone: 702.222.4021
Facsimile: 702.248.9750
JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com

Attorneys for Plaintiffs
Marshal S. Willick and Willick Law Group

DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW
GROUP,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA;
CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; DON
WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN POLITICS
INTERNATIONAL, INC.; SANSON
CORPORATION; KAREN STEELMON; and
DOES I through X,

Defendants.

Case No. A-17-750171-C
Dept. No. XVIII

**NOTICE OF ENTRY OF ORDER
DENYING: (i) THE VIPI DEFENDANTS'
ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL MOTION TO
DISMISS PURSUANT TO NRS 41.650 ET
SEQ.; (ii) THE WILLICK PARTIES'
COUNTERMOTION FOR
ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS**

///

///

///

1 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that an Order Denying: (i) The VIPI Defendants' Anti-Slapp
2 Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et seq.; (ii) The Willick Parties Countermotion
3 for Attorney's Fees and Costs was entered in the above-entitled action on the 30th day of March,
4 2017, a true and correct copy of which is attached hereto as Exhibit 1.

5 DATED this 31st of March, 2017.

6 BAILEY ♦ KENNEDY

7
8 By: /s/ Dennis L. Kennedy

9 DENNIS L. KENNEDY

JOSHUA P. GILMORE

10 KELLY B. STOUT

11 and

JENNIFER V. ABRAMS

12 Nevada Bar No. 7575

THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM

13 6252 South Rainbow Blvd., Ste. 100

14 Las Vegas, NV 89118

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

15 Marshal S. Willick and Willick Law Group

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I am an employee of BAILEY ♦ KENNEDY and that on the 31st day of March, 2017, service of the foregoing Notice of Entry of Order Denying: (i) The VIPI Defendants' Anti-Slapp Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et seq.; (ii) The Willick Parties Countermotion for Attorney's Fees and Costs was made by mandatory electronic service through the Eighth Judicial District Court's electronic filing system and/or by depositing a true and correct copy in the U.S. Mail, first class postage prepaid, and addressed to the following at their last known address:

ANAT LEVY
ANAT LEVY & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
5841 E. Charleston Boulevard, #230-421
Las Vegas, NV 89142

Email: alevy96@aol.com
Attorneys for Defendants
**VETERANS IN POLITICS
INTERNATIONAL, INC. and
STEVE SANSON**

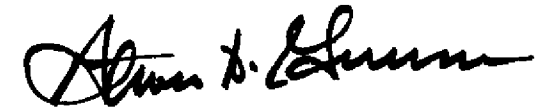
ALEX GHIBAUDO
G LAW
703 S. 8th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101

Email: alex@alexglaw.com
Attorneys for Defendants
**VETERANS IN POLITICS
INTERNATIONAL, INC. and
STEVE SANSON**

/s/ Susan Russo
Employee of BAILEY ♦ KENNEDY

EXHIBIT 1

EXHIBIT 1



CLERK OF THE COURT

1 **ORDR**

2 DENNIS L. KENNEDY

3 Nevada Bar No. 1462

4 JOSHUA P. GILMORE

5 Nevada Bar No. 11576

6 **BAILEY ♦ KENNEDY**

7 8984 Spanish Ridge Avenue

8 Las Vegas, Nevada 89148-1302

9 Telephone: 702.562.8820

10 Facsimile: 702.562.8821

11 DKennedy@BaileyKennedy.com

12 JGilmore@BaileyKennedy.com

13 JENNIFER V. ABRAMS

14 Nevada Bar No. 7575

15 **THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM**

16 6252 South Rainbow Blvd., Ste. 100

17 Las Vegas, NV 89118

18 Telephone: 702.222.4021

19 Facsimile: 702.248.9750

20 JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com

21 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

22 Marshal S. Willick and Willick Law Group

23 DISTRICT COURT

24 CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA

25 MARSHAL S. WILLICK and WILLICK LAW
26 GROUP,

27 Plaintiffs,

28 vs.

29 STEVE W. SANSON; HEIDI J. HANUSA;
30 CHRISTINA ORTIZ; JOHNNY SPICER; DON
31 WOOLBRIGHT; VETERANS IN POLITICS
32 INTERNATIONAL, INC.; SANSON
33 CORPORATION; KAREN STEELMON; and
34 DOES I through X,

35 Defendants.

Case No. A-17-750171-C
Dept. No. XVIII

**ORDER DENYING: (i) THE VIPI
DEFENDANTS' ANTI-SLAPP SPECIAL
MOTION TO DISMISS PURSUANT TO
NRS 41.650 ET SEQ.; (ii) THE WILLICK
PARTIES' COUNTERMOTION FOR
ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS; AND
(iii) THE VIPI DEFENDANTS'
MOTION TO STRIKE** (pw)

36 This matter came before the Court (the Honorable Charles Thompson presiding) for hearing
37 on the 14th day of March, 2017, at 9:00 AM, in Department 18, on (i) Defendants Steve W. Sanson
38 ("Mr. Sanson") and Veterans in Politics International, Inc.'s ("VIPI") (together, the "VIPI

1 Defendants”) Anti-SLAPP Special Motion to Dismiss Pursuant to NRS 41.650 et seq. (the “Special
2 Motion to Dismiss”); and (ii) Plaintiffs Marshal S. Willick (“Mr. Willick”) and Willick Law Group’s
3 (“Willick Law”) (together, the “Willick Parties”) Countermotion for Attorney’s Fees and Costs (the
4 “Countermotion”). Joshua P. Gilmore, Esq. of Bailey ♦ Kennedy and Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq. of
5 The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm appeared on behalf of the Willick Parties. Anat Levy, Esq. of Anat
6 Levy & Associates, P.C. appeared on behalf of the VIPI Defendants.

7 The Court, having examined the memoranda of the parties and the records and documents on
8 file, heard argument of counsel, and being fully advised of the premises, and good cause appearing,
9 hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order with regard to the
10 Special Motion to Dismiss and Countermotion (and related Motion to Strike):

11 **FINDINGS OF FACT**

12 1. On January 27, 2017, the Willick Parties filed their Complaint against the VIPI
13 Defendants (among others).

14 2. On February 17, 2017, the VIPI Defendants filed their Special Motion to Dismiss,
15 arguing that the defamatory statements at issue in the Complaint fall within the ambit of NRS
16 41.637, in part because Mr. Willick is a public figure or limited purpose public figure, and that the
17 Willick Parties lack prima facie evidence supporting their claims.

18 3. On March 7, 2017, the Willick Parties filed their Opposition to the Special Motion to
19 Dismiss, arguing that the defamatory statements at issue in the Complaint do not fall within the
20 ambit of NRS 41.637; but, even if they did, they have presented prima facie evidence supporting
21 their claims. The Willick Parties also denied that Mr. Willick is a public figure or limited purpose
22 public figure. The Willick Parties separately filed their Countermotion, requesting an award of
23 attorneys’ fees and costs pursuant to NRS 41.670(2).

24 4. On March 9, 2017, the VIPI Defendants filed their Reply in Support of their Special
25 Motion to Dismiss, together with Mr. Sanson’s Supplemental Declaration, and their Opposition to
26 the Countermotion.

1 (4) the focus of the speaker's conduct should be the public interest rather than a mere
2 effort to gather ammunition for another round of private controversy; and

3 (5) a person cannot turn otherwise private information into a matter of public interest
4 simply by communicating it to a large number of people.

5 *Id.*, at ___, 389 P.3d at 268 (citation omitted).

6 4. If the Court determines that "the issue is of public interest, it must next determine
7 whether the communication was made 'in a place open to the public or in a public forum.'" *Id.*
8 (quoting NRS 41.673(4)). Finally, the Court must determine whether the communication was
9 "truthful or [was] made without knowledge of its falsehood." *Id.* (quoting NRS 41.637(4)).

10 5. Courts do not "simply rubber stamp" assertions by a defendant that a plaintiff's
11 claims fall within the ambit of the anti-SLAPP statute. *Flatley v. Mauro*, 139 P.3d 2, 13 (Cal. 2006).
12 Rather, the defendant must establish, by a preponderance of the evidence, that each claim is based on
13 a communication as specifically defined under NRS 41.637. NRS 41.660(3)(a); *see also Century 21*
14 *Chamberlain & Assocs. v. Haberman*, 92 Cal. Rptr. 3d 249, 256 (Cal. Ct. App. 2009) (stating that
15 the defendant bears the initial burden of establishing that each cause of action in the complaint arises
16 from "activity protected by the anti-SLAPP statute").

17 6. If the defendant is unable to meet its initial burden of proof, the burden does not shift
18 to the plaintiff to establish "with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing on [each] claim."
19 NRS 41.660(3)(b); *see also Commonwealth Energy Corp. v. Investor Data Exchange, Inc.*, 1 Cal.
20 Rptr. 3d 390, 393 (Cal. Ct. App. 2003) ("The point is, if the moving defendant cannot meet the
21 threshold showing, then the fact that he or she might be able to otherwise prevail on the merits under
22 the 'probability' step is irrelevant.").

23 7. If the defendant meets its initial burden of proof, the burden shifts to the plaintiff to
24 put forth "prima facie evidence" of a probability of prevailing on each claim. NRS 41.660(3)(b). In
25 other words, the plaintiff must show that each claim has "minimal merit." *Soukup v. Law Offices of*
26 *Herbert Hafif*, 139 P.3d 30, 51 (Cal. 2006).

27 8. Based on these legal principles, the Court finds that the VIPI Defendants have failed
28 to meet their initial burden of proof with regard to their Special Motion to Dismiss, for the following
reasons:

1 a. First, having considered the *Shapiro* factors, the Court finds that the VIPI
2 Defendants have not established, by a preponderance of the evidence, that each claim in the
3 Complaint is based on a communication involving “an issue of public interest.”

4 b. Second, in light of the Nevada Supreme Court’s holding in *Doe v. Brown*, No.
5 62752, 2015 WL 3489404 (2015), the Court finds that Mr. Willick is not a public figure or
6 limited purpose public figure.

7 c. Third, upon review of the defamatory statements at issue in the Complaint, the
8 Court finds that the VIPI Defendants have not established, by a preponderance of the
9 evidence, that each was truthful or was made without knowledge of its falsehood.

10 9. Because the VIPI Defendants have failed to meet their initial burden of proof, the
11 Court need not address whether the Willick Parties have presented prima facie evidence supporting
12 their claims. *See, e.g., Stenehjem v. Sareen*, 173 Cal. Rptr. 3d 173, 191 n.19 (Cal. Ct. App. 2014)
13 (“Because we have concluded that Stenehjem did not meet his threshold showing that the activity
14 underlying the allegations of the Cross-Complaint was protected under the anti-SLAPP statute, we
15 need not consider the second prong, i.e., whether the record demonstrates that Sareen established a
16 probability of prevailing.”).

17 10. The Court does not find that the Special Motion to Dismiss was “frivolous or
18 vexatious,” and therefore, the Court declines to award fees and costs to the Willick Parties.

19 11. In light of the Court’s ruling, the Motion to Strike is deemed moot.

20 12. At the end of the March 14, 2017 hearing, the VIPI Defendants orally moved for a
21 stay of this proceeding pending an appeal, which the Court denied as premature.

22 13. Any conclusion of law set forth herein more appropriately designated as a finding of
23 fact shall be so designated.

24 ///

25 ///

26 **ORDER**

27 Based on the foregoing Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, and good cause appearing,
28

BAILEY ♦ KENNEDY
8984 SPANISH RIDGE AVENUE
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89148-1302
702.562.8820

1 THE COURT HEREBY ORDERS that the Special Motion to Dismiss shall be, and hereby
2 is, DENIED.

3 THE COURT HEREBY FURTHER ORDERS that the Countermotion shall be, and hereby
4 is, DENIED.

5 ~~THE COURT HEREBY FURTHER ORDERS that the Motion to Strike shall be, and hereby~~
6 ~~is, DENIED as moot.~~


7 IT IS SO ORDERED.

8 DATED this 29th day of March, 2017.

9
10 
11 DISTRICT COURT JUDGE

12 Submitted by:

13 BAILEY ♦ KENNEDY

14 
15 By: _____
16 DENNIS L. KENNEDY
JOSHUA P. GILMORE

17 and

18 JENNIFER V. ABRAMS
Nevada Bar No. 7575
19 THE ABRAMS & MAYO LAW FIRM
6252 South Rainbow Blvd., Suite 100

20 *Attorneys for Plaintiffs,*
21 Marshal S. Willick and Willick Law Group
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9

EXHIBIT 9

ISSUES PRESENTED

This is a de novo appeal from the District Court's denial of Defendants' Anti-SLAPP motion under NRS 41.660 (3) (a) and (b). The issues are:

1. Whether Defendants established by a preponderance of the evidence that their online written statements were made in **"good faith"** under NRS 41.660(3)(a) where they were hyperlinked to the relevant source materials for readers to independently evaluate, and either constituted non-actionable opinion, or were true statements of fact as shown by the evidence presented, or if constituted false facts, were made without knowledge of their falsity.
2. Whether Defendants established by a preponderance of the evidence that their written online statements were of **"public concern/interest"** under NRS 41.660(3)(a) and NRS 41.637(4) where each statement dealt with the legal practices or publicly stated opinions of a licensed Nevada attorney who (a) is an officer of the Court (b) is admitted to practice law by, and regulated and disciplined by, the State Bar of Nevada which in turn is controlled by the Nevada Supreme Court, an entity comprised of publicly elected officials, and (c) represents clients in courtrooms that serve the public and are open to the public as a matter of constitutional right. (Defendants maintain that Plaintiffs are also public figures, which further heightens the public concern/interest);
3. Whether Plaintiffs/Respondents are **"public figures or limited public figures"** given that they purposely interject themselves into public controversy, including by testifying before the legislature on pending legislation, writing three books and dozens of articles disseminated to the public on family law issues, serving as an expert witness on dozens of cases, and routinely appearing on television, radio, newspapers, billboards and other public media to discuss legal issues and/or to promote themselves.
4. Whether Plaintiffs/Respondents have "demonstrated with prima facie evidence a probability of prevailing" on each of their claims under NRS 41.660(3)(b): Defamation, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress, False Light, Business Disparagement, Concert of Action, Civil Conspiracy, RICO Violations, Copyright Infringement, Injunction.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

INDICATE FULL CAPTION:

MARSHAL S. WILLICK and MARSHAL S.
WILLICK LLC, d/b/a WILLICK LAW GROUP,

Plaintiffs,

vs.

STEVE W. SANSON and VETERANS IN
POLITICS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Defendants.

No. 72778

DOCKETING STATEMENT
CIVIL APPEALS

Electronically Filed
May 15 2017 09:17 a.m.
Elizabeth A. Brown
Clerk of Supreme Court

GENERAL INFORMATION

Appellants must complete this docketing statement in compliance with NRAP 14(a). The purpose of the docketing statement is to assist the Supreme Court in screening jurisdiction, identifying issues on appeal, assessing presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, scheduling cases for oral argument and settlement conferences, classifying cases for expedited treatment and assignment to the Court of Appeals, and compiling statistical information.

WARNING

This statement must be completed fully, accurately and on time. NRAP 14(c). The Supreme Court may impose sanctions on counsel or appellant if it appears that the information provided is incomplete or inaccurate. *Id.* Failure to fill out the statement completely or to file it in a timely manner constitutes grounds for the imposition of sanctions, including a fine and/or dismissal of the appeal.

A complete list of the documents that must be attached appears as Question 27 on this docketing statement. Failure to attach all required documents will result in the delay of your appeal and may result in the imposition of sanctions.

This court has noted that when attorneys do not take seriously their obligations under NRAP 14 to complete the docketing statement properly and conscientiously, they waste the valuable judicial resources of this court, making the imposition of sanctions appropriate. *See KDI Sylvan Pools v. Workman*, 107 Nev. 340, 344, 810 P.2d 1217, 1220 (1991). Please use tab dividers to separate any attached documents.

1. Judicial District Eighth Department 18
County Clark Judge Sr. Judge, Charles Thompson
District Ct. Case No. A-17-750171-C

2. Attorney filing this docketing statement:

Attorney Anat Levy, Esq. Telephone 310-621-1199
Firm Anat Levy & Associates, P.C.
Address 5841 E. Charleston Blvd., #230 (421)
Las Vegas, NV 89142

Client(s) Defendants Steve W. Sanson, Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

If this is a joint statement by multiple appellants, add the names and addresses of other counsel and the names of their clients on an additional sheet accompanied by a certification that they concur in the filing of this statement.

3. Attorney(s) representing respondents(s):

Attorney Joshua Gilmore, Esq. Telephone (702) 562-8820
Firm Bailey Kennedy LLC
Address 8984 Spanish Ridge Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89148

Client(s) Plaintiffs, Marshal S. Willick, Marshal S. Willick, LLC d/b/a Willick Law Group

Attorney Jennifer V. Abrams, Esq. Telephone (702) 222-4021
Firm The Abrams and Mayo Law Firm
Address 6252 S. Rainbow Blvd., Ste. 100
Las Vegas, NV 89118

Client(s) Plaintiffs, Marshal S. Willick, Marshal S. Willick, LLC d/b/a Willick Law Group

(List additional counsel on separate sheet if necessary)

4. Nature of disposition below (check all that apply):

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after bench trial | <input type="checkbox"/> Dismissal: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Judgment after jury verdict | <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of jurisdiction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Summary judgment | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to state a claim |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Default judgment | <input type="checkbox"/> Failure to prosecute |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of NRCP 60(b) relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of injunction | <input type="checkbox"/> Divorce Decree: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant/Denial of declaratory relief | <input type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Modification |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Review of agency determination | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other disposition (specify): <u>AntiSLAPP denial</u>
<u>NRS 41.670</u> |

5. Does this appeal raise issues concerning any of the following?

No.

- ☐ Child Custody
- ☐ Venue
- ☐ Termination of parental rights

6. Pending and prior proceedings in this court. List the case name and docket number of all appeals or original proceedings presently or previously pending before this court which are related to this appeal:

None.

7. Pending and prior proceedings in other courts. List the case name, number and court of all pending and prior proceedings in other courts which are related to this appeal (e.g., bankruptcy, consolidated or bifurcated proceedings) and their dates of disposition:

The only prior proceeding is the lower court proceeding of this action:

Marshal S. Willick et. al. v. Steve W. Sanson, et. al.
Eighth Judicial District Court
Case # A-17-750171-C

8. Nature of the action. Briefly describe the nature of the action and the result below:

Defendants/Appellants Veterans in Politics International, Inc. ("VIPI") and its President, Steve Sanson were sued by Plaintiffs/Respondents family law attorney Marshal Willick and his law firm, Willick Law Group, for defamation and a plethora of "add-on" claims (including RICO, emotional distress, copyright infringement, concert of action, etc.) arising from five statements that Sanson, in his capacity as VIPI's President, posted on the internet about plaintiffs Willick and his firm's practices.

Defendants/Appellants filed a special motion to dismiss under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statutes (NRS 41.660 et. seq.), which the District Court denied finding that Defendants did not establish by a preponderance of the evidence that (1) the statements were made in good faith, (2) the statements were of "public concern." The court also found that Plaintiffs were not public figures.

This appeal ensued pursuant to NRS 41.670(4) which states: "If the court denies the special motion to dismiss filed pursuant to NRS 41.660, an interlocutory appeal lies to the Supreme Court."

9. Issues on appeal. State concisely the principal issue(s) in this appeal (attach separate sheets as necessary):

See Exhibit 9 attached hereto.

10. Pending proceedings in this court raising the same or similar issues. If you are aware of any proceedings presently pending before this court which raises the same or similar issues raised in this appeal, list the case name and docket numbers and identify the same or similar issue raised:

I am not aware of pending proceedings before the Supreme Court that raise the same or similar issues.

11. Constitutional issues. If this appeal challenges the constitutionality of a statute, and the state, any state agency, or any officer or employee thereof is not a party to this appeal, have you notified the clerk of this court and the attorney general in accordance with NRAP 44 and NRS 30.130?

☒ N/A

☐ Yes

☐ No

If not, explain:

12. Other issues. Does this appeal involve any of the following issues?

☐ Reversal of well-settled Nevada precedent (identify the case(s))

☒ An issue arising under the United States and/or Nevada Constitutions

☒ A substantial issue of first impression

☒ An issue of public policy

☐ An issue where en banc consideration is necessary to maintain uniformity of this court's decisions

☐ A ballot question

If so, explain: Defendants/Appellants' federal and state constitutional rights of free speech are at issue. There are also considerable public policy issues involving the extent to which a lawyers' conduct regarding his law practice, overbilling clients, positions taken in court, and his publicly stated positions on legislation are issues of "public concern." There is also public policy involved in determining when a lawyer can be treated as a "public figure" for purposes of defamation law. Public policy is also involved in determining the extent to which adding hyperlinks to online statements which link to the statement's source materials, and the extent to which corrections/retractions affect a determination of "good faith."

13. Assignment to the Court of Appeals or retention in the Supreme Court. Briefly set forth whether the matter is presumptively retained by the Supreme Court or assigned to the Court of Appeals under NRAP 17, and cite the subparagraph(s) of the Rule under which the matter falls. If appellant believes that the Supreme Court should retain the case despite its presumptive assignment to the Court of Appeals, identify the specific issue(s) or circumstance(s) that warrant retaining the case, and include an explanation of their importance or significance:

This case should be presumptively retained by the Supreme Court pursuant to:

1. NRS 41.670(4) which states: "If the court denies the special motion to dismiss filed pursuant to NRS 41.660, an interlocutory appeal lies to the Supreme Court."
2. NRAP 17(10) because it involves federal and state constitutional free speech issues of first impression in Nevada: (a) whether and how hyperlinks to source materials, prompt written corrections, and opinions affect a determination of defendants' "good faith" under NRS 41.660(a); and (b) whether an attorney's law-related practices are matters of "public interest/concern."
3. NRAP 17(11): the case involves issues of statewide public importance as it deals with the extent to which free speech rights are protected under Nevada's Anti-SLAPP statutes.

14. Trial. If this action proceeded to trial, how many days did the trial last? _____

Was it a bench or jury trial? N/A

15. Judicial Disqualification. Do you intend to file a motion to disqualify or have a justice recuse him/herself from participation in this appeal? If so, which Justice?

No.

TIMELINESS OF NOTICE OF APPEAL

16. Date of entry of written judgment or order appealed from March 31, 2017

If no written judgment or order was filed in the district court, explain the basis for seeking appellate review:

17. Date written notice of entry of judgment or order was served March 31, 2017

Was service by:

☐ Delivery

☒ Mail/electronic/fax

18. If the time for filing the notice of appeal was tolled by a post-judgment motion (NRCP 50(b), 52(b), or 59)

(a) Specify the type of motion, the date and method of service of the motion, and the date of filing.

☐ NRCP 50(b) Date of filing _____

☐ NRCP 52(b) Date of filing _____

☐ NRCP 59 Date of filing _____

NOTE: Motions made pursuant to NRCP 60 or motions for rehearing or reconsideration may toll the time for filing a notice of appeal. See AA Primo Builders v. Washington, 126 Nev. ____, 245 P.3d 1190 (2010).

(b) Date of entry of written order resolving tolling motion N/A

(c) Date written notice of entry of order resolving tolling motion was served N/A

Was service by:

☐ Delivery

☐ Mail

19. Date notice of appeal filed April 3, 2017

If more than one party has appealed from the judgment or order, list the date each notice of appeal was filed and identify by name the party filing the notice of appeal:

N/A

20. Specify statute or rule governing the time limit for filing the notice of appeal, e.g., NRAP 4(a) or other

NRAP 4(a)(1)

SUBSTANTIVE APPEALABILITY

21. Specify the statute or other authority granting this court jurisdiction to review the judgment or order appealed from:

(a)

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(1)

☐ NRS 38.205

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(2)

☐ NRS 233B.150

☐ NRAP 3A(b)(3)

☐ NRS 703.376

☒ Other (specify) NRS 41.670(4): "interlocutory appeal lies to the Supreme Court."

(b) Explain how each authority provides a basis for appeal from the judgment or order:

NRS 41.670(4) specifically authorizes an interlocutory appeal to the Supreme Court if, as here, a defendant's anti-SLAPP motion is denied.

22. List all parties involved in the action or consolidated actions in the district court:

(a) Parties:

Plaintiffs/Respondents: Marshal S. Willick, Marshal S. Willick LLC, d/b/a Willick Law Group.

Defendants/Appellants: Steve W. Sanson, Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

(Plaintiffs indicated they dismissed defendants Heidi Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny Spicer, Don Woolbright, Sanson Corp., Karen Steelmon.)

(b) If all parties in the district court are not parties to this appeal, explain in detail why those parties are not involved in this appeal, *e.g.*, formally dismissed, not served, or other:

Plaintiffs indicated that they dismissed defendants Heidi Hanusa, Christina Ortiz, Johnny Spicer, Don Woolbright, Sanson Corporation and Karen Steelmon, though formal dismissals have not yet been filed. The District Court has stayed all proceedings in this case pending this appeal.

23. Give a brief description (3 to 5 words) of each party's separate claims, counterclaims, cross-claims, or third-party claims and the date of formal disposition of each claim.

Plaintiffs -- complaint claims defamation, intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress, false light, business disparagement, concert of action, RICO violations, copyright infringement and injunction.

Defendants -- Defendants have not yet filed their answers or counter-claims.

24. Did the judgment or order appealed from adjudicate ALL the claims alleged below and the rights and liabilities of ALL the parties to the action or consolidated actions below?

☐ Yes

☒ No

25. If you answered "No" to question 24, complete the following:

(a) Specify the claims remaining pending below:

This matter arises from an Order denying Defendants' Anti-SLAPP special motion to dismiss under NRS 41.660 et. seq. If the Supreme Court overturns the Order of denial, then the case may be dismissed in its entirety. If the Order is not fully overturned, then the case may proceed.

(b) Specify the parties remaining below:

Plaintiffs/Respondents: Marshal S. Willick, and Marshal S. Willick LLC d/b/a Willick Law Group

Defendants/Appellants: Steve W. Sanson, and Veterans in Politics International, Inc.

(c) Did the district court certify the judgment or order appealed from as a final judgment pursuant to NRCP 54(b)?

☐ Yes

☒ No

(d) Did the district court make an express determination, pursuant to NRCP 54(b), that there is no just reason for delay and an express direction for the entry of judgment?

☐ Yes

☒ No

26. If you answered "No" to any part of question 25, explain the basis for seeking appellate review (e.g., order is independently appealable under NRAP 3A(b)):

Order is independently appealable under NRS 41.670(4) which states: "If the court denies the special motion to dismiss filed pursuant to NRS 41.660, an interlocutory appeal lies to the Supreme Court."

27. Attach file-stamped copies of the following documents: See Exhibit 27 Attached.

- The latest-filed complaint, counterclaims, cross-claims, and third-party claims
- Any tolling motion(s) and order(s) resolving tolling motion(s)
- Orders of NRCP 41(a) dismissals formally resolving each claim, counterclaims, cross-claims and/or third-party claims asserted in the action or consolidated action below, even if not at issue on appeal
- Any other order challenged on appeal
- Notices of entry for each attached order

VERIFICATION

I declare under penalty of perjury that I have read this docketing statement, that the information provided in this docketing statement is true and complete to the best of my knowledge, information and belief, and that I have attached all required documents to this docketing statement.

Steve Sanson, Veterans in Politics Intl
Name of appellant

Anat Levy, Esq.
Name of counsel of record

May 15, 2017
Date


Signature of counsel of record

Clark County, Nevada
State and county where signed

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the 15th day of May, 2017, I served a copy of this completed docketing statement upon all counsel of record:

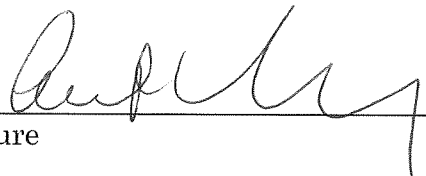
- ☐ By personally serving it upon him/her; or
- ☒ By mailing it by first class mail with sufficient postage prepaid to the following address(es): (NOTE: If all names and addresses cannot fit below, please list names below and attach a separate sheet with the addresses.)

Jennifer Abrams, Esq. -- The Abrams & Mayo Law Firm, 6252 S. Rainbow Blvd., Ste. 100, Las Vegas, NV 89118, (702) 222-4021, JVAGroup@theabramslawfirm.com

Joshua Gilmore, Esq. -- Bailey Kennedy, 8984 Spanish Ridge Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89148-1302, (702) 562-8820, gilmore@BaileyKennedy.com

Alex Ghoubedo, Esq. -- G Law, 703 S. 8th St., Las Vegas, NV 89101, (702) 924-6553, alex@alexglaw.com

Dated this 15th day of May, 2017


Signature